

## **Spiritual State of the World's Children**

**Spain**





## **Spiritual State of the World's Children A Qualitative Study**

### **Spain**

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### **ONEHOPE**

OneHope is a non-profit organization with a mission to *affect destiny by providing God's eternal Word to all the children and youth of the world.* With programs in over 125 nations OneHope has reached over 500 million children and young people with a special presentation of the life of Jesus. Committed to presenting God's Word in a format that is relevant and dynamic, research is a critical step in the development of country and age specific products and programs.



The Metadigm Group is a non-profit research organization with the goal of equipping other organizations to conduct research and improve their efficacy. Processes necessary to achieve organizational priorities and embed research skills into day-to-day organizational operations are developed through seamless processes offered in data collection, strategic planning, market profiles, and outcomes development. For more information, visit [www.metadigmgroup.com](http://www.metadigmgroup.com) or email contact [info@metadigmgroup.com](mailto:info@metadigmgroup.com).

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## **Section I: Project Overview**

### ***Convened Groups***

The following groups have been used in discovery research; however, as each region is unique these categories were reexamined in the Spain context and groups convened to maximize the information gathered.

- Government Leadership
- NGO & Missionary
- Ecclesial Leadership
- Clergy
- Youth Workers
- School Administrators & Teachers
- Students

### ***Regions for Focus Groups***

- Madrid
- Catalonia
- Galicia
- Grenada

### ***Leadership and Facilitators***

The project was contracted to the Metadigm Group by OneHope. The Metadigm Group's Executive Director, Allen Reesor, and the Director of European Research, Mindy Chandler led and co-facilitated the project with assistance from Fernando Filgueira (SEVOVAN) and Richard Luna (OneHope). Training was conducted by Dr. Allen Reesor and Mindy Chandler.

### ***Focus Group Composition***

Each focus group was comprised of a single demographic and limited to no more than eight participants of similar social parity. Some of the demographic groups were represented by several groups meeting separately. The findings of each group represented a single demographic and were consolidated into a single report for that group. Information included in the final report does not contain identifiers that might determine that name, identity or opinion of any group member.

### ***Format***

The focus group sessions were 90 minutes or less in length. The facilitators encouraged group members to describe their "lived" experience as they informally assess the needs and activities from their perspectives. Common themes were evaluated for inclusion in the final report.

### ***Schedule for Data Collection***

- The topics for focus groups were identified and finalized in meetings with ministry leadership representing various denominations and disciplines. These meetings occurred during the training and immediately prior to the focus group research.
- Focus groups were conducted from 3-5 March 2008 by Fernando Filgueira, Rode Filgueira, Antonio Pereira, David Pozo, Matias Duarte, Cesar Palomino, Alejandro Diaz, Federico Alvarez, Lucia Halouzкова, Marcos Garcia, Priscilla Suarez, Pablo Cabrera, Daniel Cabrera, and Laura Torres. The draft report was completed on March 8, 2008. This report was circulated for validation by key principles working with children and youth in Spain. Following their response, additional comments and corrections were included in this final report.

### **Data Analysis and Reporting**

The comments and findings of each focus group were transcribed by a secretary. The general discussion, main points, conclusions, and recommendations were written and read to the group for their approval at the end of the session. This information was compiled and translated by Rode Filgueira. It was evaluated for the draft report by Allen Reesor, D.Min, Mindy Chandler, MA, Fernando Filgueira, Lic., Carlos Gomez, Lic., and Matias Duarte.

This report answers the questions and issues identified as essential for decision-making, distribution planning and outcome design. It identifies common and/or recurring themes and compares these to other secondary research data.

The report was reviewed by leadership in Spain and was made available to designated focus group leaders for review prior to publication. The final report is the sole property of the Metadigm Group, OneHope, and SEFOVAN, and may only be reproduced with permission from its authorized agents.

### **Focus Group Research Questions**

1. Felt needs common to children and youth in Spain
2. Felt needs specific to and/or differing by region, gender or population density
3. Message of Christian faith to be communicated to children and youth
4. Special interests that will open access to the lives of non-Christian children and youth
5. Current state of ministry to children and youth by region, gender and population density
6. Barriers to reaching children and youth (regionally and nationally)
7. Best practices of media appeal to children and youth in Spain
8. Influences on children and youth
9. Optimal quality of material for pricing and appeal
10. Levels of collaboration and willingness to collaborate among ministries
11. Need for new print and electronic media materials to appeal to and reach children and youth
12. The degree to which youth affiliation for gaming, television, and internet impacts the need for innovative ministry design
13. Possibility of targeting specific sub populations of youth e.g. those with leadership potential
14. Evaluate whether there has been a shift from rational to experiential validation of truth
15. Evaluate changing family dynamics in Spain ie. the role and influence of parents, attitudes of parents in protecting minors, divorce, and single parent families
16. Assess the affect of immigration and the changing economic reality
17. Evaluate the impact of new legislation and Euro-secular philosophy on the thinking of parents and youth
18. Evaluate the degree to which anti-clericism prevents the credibility of the Christian message
19. Potential for children and youth reaching peers
20. Priority set on evangelism and discipleship of children and youth in churches
21. Programs and materials needed by local churches

### **Focus Group Themes**

#### **Government**

- Challenges in your work that make youth a difficult population to deal with
- Identify trends in youth culture that have occurred over the last 10 years
- Identify government programs initiated in the last 3 years that seek to address emerging needs

- Problems that occur with collaborative efforts to build strong youth programs (collaborating partnerships)

### **Clergy**

- Identify positive or negative trends of youth involvement and interest in church
- Barriers or obstacles that make it difficult to minister to children and youth
- Identify the most effective youth ministries in your community or denomination
- Identify the amount of emphasis your local congregation puts on children/youth ministry (example: discipleship/evangelism) as measured by staffing and budget

### **Youth leaders**

- Identify the most effective youth ministries in your community or denomination
- Identify the amount of emphasis your local congregation puts on children/youth ministry (example: discipleship/evangelism) as measured by staffing and budget
- Church collaboration (with other churches or para-church ministries) in outreaches to youth
- Identify serious problems that children and youth face in their day-to-day lives
- Discuss the degree to which church youth are involved as a group in community activities

### **Teachers**

- Identify the issues you deal with in the schools that make it most difficult to teach
- Other than school, children and youth get most of their information about life from...
- Identify the changes in society and family structure that affect the capacity of youth to deal with their problems
- Identify the influence of the immigrant population on the school environment
- The most pressing issues that consume the time and energy of youth and should be identified are...

### **Youth (13-18 years)**

- In a week in which you could do anything you wanted, you would probably ...
- When you think of people you admire most in the community, their characteristics that are most common are ...
- Other than school, where do youth get most of their information about life from...
- Expectations of future activities within 5 years of leaving school...
- Identify the barriers or assistance that help you achieve your aspirations
- In their free time, your friends are most likely to...
- The influence of religion in Spain on youth...

## **Section II: Executive Summary**

### ***General Information***

The 20th century brought little peace; Spain played a minor part in the [scramble for Africa](#), with the colonization of [Western Sahara](#), [Spanish Morocco](#), and [Equatorial Guinea](#). The heavy losses suffered during the [Rif war](#) in Morocco helped to undermine the monarchy. A period of authoritarian rule under General [Miguel Primo de Rivera](#) (1923-1931) ended with the establishment of the [Second Spanish Republic](#). The Republic offered political autonomy to the [Basque Country](#), [Catalonia](#) and [Galicia](#) and gave voting rights to women.

The bitterly fought [Spanish Civil War](#) (1936-39) ensued. Three years later the Nationalist forces, led by General [Francisco Franco](#), emerged victorious with the support of [Nazi Germany](#) and [Fascist Italy](#). The Republican side was supported by the Soviet Union and Mexico, but it was not supported by the Western powers due to the British-led policy of [Non-Intervention](#). The Spanish Civil War has been called the [first battle](#) of the [Second World War](#); [under Franco, Spain](#) was neutral in the Second World War though [sympathetic](#) to [the Axis](#).

The only legal party under [Franco's regime](#) was the [Falange española tradicionalista y de las JONS](#), formed in 1937; the party emphasized anti-Communism, [Catholicism](#) and [nationalism](#). Nonetheless, since Franco's anti-democratic ideology was opposed to the idea of political parties, the new party was renamed officially a National Movement ([Movimiento Nacional](#)) in 1949.

After World War II, Spain was politically and economically isolated, and was kept out of the [United Nations](#) until 1955, when due to the Cold War it became strategically important for the U.S. to foment a military presence on the Iberian peninsula, next to the Mediterranean Sea and the [Strait of Gibraltar](#), in order to protect southern Europe. In the 1960s, Spain registered an unprecedented economic growth in what was called the [Spanish miracle](#), which rapidly resumed the long interrupted transition towards a modern industrial economy with a thriving tourism sector and a high degree of human development.

Upon the death of General Franco in November 1975, [Prince Juan Carlos](#) assumed the position of king and [head of state](#). With the approval of the new [Spanish Constitution of 1978](#) and the arrival of democracy, the State [devolved](#) autonomy to the regions and created an internal organization based on [autonomous communities](#). In the Basque Country, moderate [Basque nationalism](#) coexisted with a radical nationalism supportive of the terrorist group [ETA](#).

On [February 23, 1981](#), rebel elements among the security forces seized the Cortes and [tried to impose a military-backed government](#). However, the great majority of the military forces remained loyal to King Juan Carlos, who used his personal authority and addressed the usurpers via national TV as commander in chief to put down the bloodless coup attempt.

In 1982, the [Spanish Socialist Workers Party](#) (PSOE) came to power, which represented the return to power of a leftist party after 43 years. In 1986, Spain joined the [European Community](#) (which was to become the [European Union](#)). The PSOE was replaced in government by the [Partido Popular](#) (PP) after the latter won the 1996 General Elections; at that point the PSOE had served almost 14 consecutive years in office.

The Government of Spain has been involved in a long-running campaign against the terrorist organization [ETA](#) ("Basque Homeland and Freedom"), founded in 1959 in opposition to Franco and dedicated to promoting Basque independence through [violent](#) means. They consider themselves a [guerrilla](#) organization while they are listed as a [terrorist](#) organization by both the European Union and the United States on their respective watch-lists. The current nationalist-led Basque Autonomous government does not endorse ETA's nationalist violence, which has caused over 800 deaths in the past 40 years.



On [January 1, 2002](#), Spain terminated its historic [peseta](#) currency and replaced it with the [euro](#), which has become its national currency shared with 15 other countries from the [Eurozone](#). This culminated the first phase of a period of economic growth, which has kept the Spanish economy growing well over the EU average, but concerns are growing that the extraordinary property boom and high foreign trade deficits of recent years may bring this to an end.<sup>1</sup>

On [March 11, 2004](#), a [series of bombs exploded](#) in commuter trains in Madrid, Spain. The bombings were claimed by [al Qaeda](#), whereas after a five months trial in [2007](#) it was concluded that the bombings were perpetrated by a local Islamist militant group inspired by al-Qaeda, but without direct links to that organization. The bombings killed 191 people and wounded more than 1800, and it has been claimed that the intention of the perpetrators was to influence the outcome of the [Spanish general election](#), held three days later on [March 14](#). Although initial suspicions of responsibility for the bombings focused on the Basque group ETA, evidence soon emerged indicating possible [Islamist](#) involvement. Because of the proximity of the election, the issue of responsibility quickly became a source of political controversy, with the main competing parties PP and PSOE crossing accusations over the handling of the aftermath. A couple of days later, at the [March 14](#) elections, [PSOE](#), led by [José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero](#), obtained a [relative majority](#), enough to form the new cabinet with Rodríguez Zapatero as the new *Presidente del Gobierno* or prime minister of Spain, thus succeeding the former [PP](#) administration.

**Population:** 40, 397,842

**Population % by Age:**

0-14 (14.34%)

15-64 (69.19%)

**Population Ratio males to females:** 0.9500

**Estimated Female Population:** 20,651,697

**Estimated Male Population:** 19,764,145

**Gross Domestic Product per capita:** \$24,766

**% Employment by sector:** Agriculture 5.3%, Industry 29.7%, Services 65%

**% Adult Literacy:** 97.9%

**Religions:** Roman Catholic 94%; Various other 6%

**Languages:** Castilian Spanish, Catalan, Galician, Euskera (Basque), Valencian, Majorcan

### ***Focus Groups and Meetings***

Over the dates of March 3-5, 2008, thirty-four focus groups and interviews were scheduled and organized by SEFOVAN and the Metadigm Group. A research team of fourteen members assisted in conducting focus group sessions, as well as gathering and collating data throughout Spain.

Focus groups and interviews included ecclesial leaders, representatives of NGOs/missionaries involved in youth services, clergy, youth workers, teachers and students between the ages of 13 and 18. Additionally, interviews with NGO/missionaries and government officials were conducted.

### ***Key Issues***

#### **Strengths & Opportunities**

- Youth may be willing to consider answers that encourage experiential encounters with faith and spirituality.
- Youth are willing to be involved in community action that addresses genuine need.
- Youth are looking for role models. They perceive most role models, including parents and public figures, as flawed.
- Youth are in need of help in setting personal and social long-term goals and priorities.

- Youth are looking for mentors and group affiliation due to the disintegration of the family unit.
- There is high value on relational experience and the development of friendships.
- Youth respond favorably to interactive events and entertainment.
- Development of values-based video games and internet activities, the most popular past-time for all youth, may offer access.

The opportunity to develop a contemporary and relevant expression of Christian life exists in light of the impression that religion is divisive and lacks trust and cooperation.

#### **Weaknesses & Threats**

- The Church has not committed adequate resources or personnel to youth ministry, leaving it under-emphasized and poorly resourced.
- There is a lack of specialized training for youth and children's ministry.
- Better youth and children's programs are not being transferred to most churches.
- The Church is perceived as irrelevant and disconnected from the social reality of Spain. It does not offer personal ways of understanding the Gospel, nor does it address current issues facing youth and/or adults.
- The current social structures and institutions oppose organized religion in all its forms.
- The Church has generally been unable to offer credible role models for youth to follow.
- The Church must compete with a very materialistic response to most crises of personal identity and peer group pressure. This will be difficult as consumerism and materialism is embedded in the youth mentality.

The organized Church has a reputation of lacking trust and cooperation that marginalizes its response to most community issues that are experienced by youth.

## **Responses to Research Questions/Areas**

### **1. Felt needs, fears, and hopes common to children and youth in Spain**

Children and youth have a significant need for credible role models. They fear commitment and responsibility. When thinking of the future, they are uncertain and they prefer to live “in the moment” in part due to this uncertainty. With the exception of isolated cases, they are significantly isolated from established institutions and in many cases disconnected from their parents. In response to this reality, there is a high level of engagement with peer groups that are usually headed by peer-aged leadership. There is a felt need for affection, warmth, friendship, and love.

### **2. Felt needs specific to and/or differing by region, gender or population density**

Girls are more concerned with relational issues, marriage, and future. Boys are more engaged with electronic media, and play a more passive role. It is possible that urban youth spend less time with their families than rural.

### **3. Message of Christian faith to be communicated to children and youth**

Any message couched as a religious message is going to be ignored or resisted. There is an interest in acquiring skills for success. The youth need to understand responsibility and consequences in the context of both long-term enjoyment and success in life.

### **4. Special interests that will open access to the lives of non-Christian children and youth**

Youth are interested in sports, music, television, internet, and socializing. Any event that allows them to improve relationships and experience fun will be popular. Media that is entertaining and seems to support and emerge from the Spanish context will be more widely accepted than any media that appears to impose external values.

### **5. Current state of ministry to children and youth by region, gender and population density**

Churches, both Catholic and Protestant, are losing their youth. Children from non-Christian homes are rarely engaged in a meaningful way by the Church. Most church services and activities are designed by adults and respond to a reality that no longer exists. They are often not interesting to youth. There are some congregations that are allowing and encouraging youth events that would not have been permitted in church a few years ago. Churches are focused on ministry to children and youth in the church but few resources are allocated to this goal. A study cited in the Catalonian region showed that very few churches had specific programs for children and youth. Most of the youth are isolated in very small groups, and national fellowship conferences and camps do not offer frequent opportunities. There is a significant scarcity of trained workers for youth or children’s ministry.

### **6. Barriers to reaching children and youth (regionally and nationally)**

Spanish culture is very secular, and has a high level of animosity toward both present representation of Christian faith by organized religion and historic expressions of Christian faith. Parents shield younger children from all but the most orthodox religious influences, and then only to shape moral behaviors not to speak to matters of spirituality. The youth culture is dominated by immediate gratification and the Church is perceived to oppose every activity that satisfies this preoccupation. Churches are not perceived to be a part of the functioning community, and Christianity is perceived to be a personal preference practiced primarily by those who are out of touch with the “real world.” The relevance of any religious teaching is rejected without consideration. School systems are dominated by a progressive moral-relativistic (Euro-secular) philosophy that leaves no room for God or the perceived intolerance of alternative lifestyles. The fragmentation of the Christian community even within the Protestant expressions of faith and the absence of partnerships creates a challenge when doing youth ministry. Without sufficient participation by enough partners, a credible impact cannot be achieved and so models that can be adapted or adopted for effective or efficient youth ministry do not exist.

### **7. Best practices of media appeal to children and youth in Spain**

Interactive video games, social events, parties on the macro-level, and television watching on the micro-level, all speak to the interests of youth in anything that promotes socialization. Some events and youth

gatherings have drawn groups of Christian youth for training and fellowship, and could be made more widely available across the various regions. There are initiatives to develop music that is particularly Spanish for worship. However, overall no one has developed a more successful approach to evangelism than one-on-one relational methods.

#### **8. Influences on children and youth**

Family systems and cultural affiliations vary significantly by geography, culture, language, and economics. The rural areas are more focused on families and resistant to change, and the urban areas are more open to alternatives.

#### **9. Optimal quality of material for pricing and appeal**

Material must be first world market. Graphics, paper, and color must be first rate. It was noted that the animation/media/film need to employ the latest styles to be appealing.

#### **10. Levels of collaboration and willingness to collaborate among ministries**

There are significant barriers to collaboration although the most fruitful and progressive ministries are open to partnerships. Amongst the more fruitful ministries, there is a great deal of networking, sharing of ideas, and methods; this may stop short of shared or joint programs in most cases. There are several associations that are regional and national.

#### **11. Need for new print and electronic media materials to appeal to and reach children and youth**

Most of those who have programs expressed the need for continuous development of appealing and updated materials. There are probably very few populations that would respond positively to outdated materials or programs.

#### **12. The degree to which youth affiliation for gaming, television, and internet impacts the need for innovative ministry design**

Youth engage in free-time activity most of the weekend, and some avoid school work in order to entertain themselves throughout the week. High levels of free-time are committed to television and to the internet to identify appropriate responses encountered in day to day life. The role of video games in developing attitudes and responses to life is cited by several groups and leaders. When questioned about new media that might be effective, video games were suggested more often than would be expected.

#### **13. Possibility of targeting specific sub-populations of youth e.g. those with leadership potential**

Other than the idea of mentoring leadership youth for peer-to-peer ministry there are few sub-populations targeted by church activity. Special emphasis on gypsy and Latin American outreaches are the most common.

#### **14. Evaluate whether there has been a shift from rational to experiential validation of truth**

Youth appear not to be looking for answers, but rather looking for experiences that allow them to deduce their own conclusions about life and decision-making. The idea of experiential learning surfaced with many different groups. It is possible that the recent experience of totalitarian government in both the political and Ecclesial circles of influence has created a strong aversion to being told what to believe, how to think, or appropriate ways of acting.

#### **15. Evaluate changing family dynamics in Spain ie. the role and influence of parents, attitudes of parents in protecting minors, divorce, and single parent families**

Due to shifting economic patterns, women working, sexual freedom, and rapid divorce processes, the family unit has come under a great deal of pressure. The historic two-parent family is perceived in some circles as archaic and the concept of family has been replaced with a liberal alternative family definition that includes single parent, homosexual, adoptive families as more modern Euro-secular expressions of what a family might be. Parents do not have time to spend with their children, and the role of the mother in the home has completely changed within one generation. Children exert inordinate levels of influence, power, and rights in the home, and parents feel obliged to serve the children.

**16. Assess the affect of immigration and the changing economic reality**

Spain has accommodated one-third of the immigration into Europe. This altered reality has deep social implications, particularly if there is an economic downturn. It is also put stress on the educational, social service, and law enforcement sectors. The immigration has also influenced the life of the Evangelical Church. Most church growth appears to be primarily through receiving into fellowship Latin American and Eastern European Evangelical Christians. It is has been suggested that this change will make the evangelization of cultural Spaniards even more difficult as the church may become ostracized as an institution for foreigners.

**17. Evaluate the impact of new legislation and Euro-secular philosophy on the thinking of parents and youth**

Formation of character has been delegated to the educational system without giving teachers authority or resources to manage this unofficial obligation. Schools systems are further undermined by frequent legal changes that redirect their function and priorities. The legalization of homosexual marriage and adoption are significant concerns for both Catholic and Protestant churches. Other legislation that has impacted family systems is the access to abortion by young girls (beginning at the age of 12) without parental consent and quick divorce.

**18. Evaluate the degree to which anti-clericism prevents the credibility of the Christian message**

Particularly with regards to the Evangelical Church, the media emphasizes those aspects of church relations that are most divisive and embarrassing. The history of association between religion and oppressive systems of economic and political power continues to discredit the voice and solutions that the Church might offer.

**19. Potential for children and youth reaching peers**

Mentoring is being practiced at some level, and has been considered to be a viable option for reaching out to un-churched children and youth. Committed Christian youth seem to be open to responding to questions from their un-churched peers and youth tend to affiliate with groups that have peer leaders. This would be an area in which there should be further research. Most peer-to-peer evangelism occurs informally through opportunities for youth to invite un-churched youth to special events or cell groups.

**20. Priority set on evangelism and discipleship of children and youth in churches**

Special activities or programs are hampered by the lack of volunteers and specific allocation of resources to youth ministry. Most of the work that is being done with youth and children is both instigated and facilitated by volunteers.

**21. Programs and materials needed by local churches**

Support for discipleship and mentoring ministries should involve both programs and materials prepared for the needs of reaching and discipling youth in Spain. For more effective program development, churches should invest time in partnership and collaboration. Promote and make more widely available materials that have already been developed.

### **Section III: Synopsis of Data and Findings**

#### ***Synopsis of Government Leaders Focus Group***

Government leaders recognize the challenges in providing activities for youth due to the rapid change in youth interests and preferences. Sometimes initiating new programs can be risky because if it fails, the failure may have consequences. However, some of the programs are working very well with an emphasis on developing life skills and interests in the community and environment. Some of the big changes are that children prefer to meet in small groups and more in their homes than outside as was the case in the past. Older youth treat their homes like hotels and spend a lot of time at parties and going out. They do not always have all the information they need to make good decisions regarding sex, drugs, alcohol, etc. Sometimes there is not enough budget to do programs that are most necessary.

#### ***Synopsis of NGO & Christian Ministry Leadership Focus Groups & NGO Interviews***

NGOs find it difficult when they are identified as religious organizations. The media has ensured that religious programs are rejected. The government does not provide enough programs. Many times people promise that they will help or work together, but it does not often come to fruition. Youth have changed and seem to be interested only in immediate gratification. They do not have enough information to make good decisions, and are beginning to have sex at an age where they do not understand any consequences. They are not taught about consequences either in their homes or in the schools. Sex education tends to focus on the mechanics of the sexual act rather than its moral and social implications. Often programs that are involved in community and social development are better funded than those that try to focus on character development.

#### ***Synopsis of Pastors' Focus Groups***

Working with the youth as a Church is challenging. There is a resistance to religious ideas and God is not seen as important in the community. There is also a lack of leadership and resources for children and youth work. The Evangelical Church does not really know how to develop programs. Youth are interested in opportunities, but are impatient in waiting for them to develop. Often they are just expected to do what the adults tell them. Communication between children and youth is not good, and often the Church and parents do not work well together. The Church does provide activities such as camps, events, sports, and youth meetings, but there needs to be more resources for these to be really effective and young people are hard to please. If youth are allowed to make mistakes and be creative, they will more likely be interested in the programs the Church has to offer.

#### ***Synopsis of Teachers' Focus Groups***

It is becoming more difficult to work with children and youth in the schools because the school is not valued by the children and often not by the families. There is a loss of respect and a loss of authority. The school system puts pressure on the children to succeed and on the teachers by changing the education process. Family structure has changed a lot. Mothers work and do not have time to help their children. Parents do not read to their children. The family disintegration is also an excuse for youth not to confront their problems. Parents who are separated also have a negative impact on their children. Often children are left at home alone or are cared for by grandparents. The school system is not always consistent in the way it punishes and there is not a good connection between education and future employment.

Immigration has created both positive and negative influences. In their early years, students understand cultural diversity, but it also puts distress on the school system because they require more attention in teaching. If immigrants become isolated, it creates problems and they do not integrate into the culture and society.

Outside of school, young people get most of their information from the television, internet, magazines, and friends. They are less likely now than in the past to use a library, or do research into what is really true.

***Synopsis of Students' Focus Groups***

The pressures of making decisions as to how to use their time and expendable income have increased and young people find themselves making decisions about life at earlier ages with fewer resources to help them make good decisions. This is particularly true of decisions about the management of financial resources, sex and relationships, and how to spend their free time. Non-Christian youth are interested in entertainment and recreation, such as playing sports, partying, dancing, going out with friends, drinking, and organized outdoor activities. While Christian youth are also interested in a good time, they seem to have a higher social conscience and sense of responsibility toward family and church. Although youth have aspirations for long-term careers, they see these as challenges to be dealt with later on, and admit that many of their friends will not achieve their stated goals.

Relationships are seen as being very important, but are often characterized by short-term relations with peers, often involving sex and almost non-existent positive relations with adults. Young people struggle with education and find school difficult, and often feel that teachers and parents are either unable or uninterested in helping them.

Role models tend to be people who are either involved in sports or entertainment. While many will admit that these are not necessarily good role models, they also do not see positive role models of the adults to whom they have access. The ideal role model is similar for both Christian and non-Christian youth, and characterized by positive traits that exhibit confidence, personal respect for others, and humility. All youth are looking for someone with whom they can have a genuine relationship, although Christian youth seem to be more positive about that possibility. Overall, young people do not see their parents as good role models. Youth tend to get their information about life from media, such as television and the internet, but discover the applications of that information from their friends and their own experience. Generally, authority figures such as teachers, parents, and religious leaders are not the primary source of information for children and youth. This tends to be increasingly true as for those who are older.

Youth indicate that their home life is something of a struggle between not having enough time with parents and resenting their parents' attempt to direct their activities and priorities. Youth indicate that parents do not have much moral authority, as they see their parents doing many of the things they are told not to do. Most of the time in their homes there is little consistent discipline, and they feel that they are able to get around their parents to get their own way. When they are at home, they tend to spend their time watching television, on the internet, playing video games, or sleeping. Most indicated that they did not have many responsibilities around the home, but are expected to study and get good grades.

Christian youth do not feel that there are many opportunities for them to change the opinions of their friends who are not believers. They feel they must be defensive and that if they invite friends to church, they would probably find it uninteresting. They do express a clear understanding of their own faith, although some admit that they are primarily attending church because they are expected to. They feel that the Church would appeal more to non-Christian youth if it was more relevant and interesting.

## **Section IV: Raw Data from Focus Groups and Interviews**

### ***Government Leaders***

#### **Challenges in your work that make youth a difficult population to deal with**

- We do not know very much about the activities that are going on or what is being done, and fear to get involved in them as we do not know if people will like them or not.
- Youth lack the information about activities, in some cases because the schools do not inform youth about them.
- There are a lot of obstacles in doing interesting activities for youth.
- It is a total challenge to work for the youth. It's an area where we need to invest more effort, and where society can provide, as possible, activities which are attractive and satisfying, where youth feel happy and with a desire to participate actively in society, without having to go to other cities to look for a more favorable environment.

#### **Identify trends in youth culture that have occurred over the last 10 years**

- Youth relate less than before.
- They prefer to be in small groups and to do things by their own.
- Today youth play more in the home than outside. It is not usual for them to go out (forest, camps...); they prefer to play games in the computer, videogames.
- They do not have the right information about sex, drugs, alcohol, etc.
- Youth drink more and go parties till later than years ago.
- Youth live at home like in a hotel; they are only home to eat, sleep, and shower.

#### **Identify government programs initiated in the last 3 years that seek to address emerging needs**

- They do camps with interesting activities.
- They play traditional games (petanca, bowling...).
- They teach that with a few things one can do a lot.
- They do activities to stimulate partnership ie. crafts, formation classes about drugs and sex.
- Some associations collaborate together but it is difficult to reach youth.
- They have done walks in the nights, camps, go on trips, etc.
- We do videogames with groups of people, etc.
- We have oriented our programs to the styles created by youth, ex. providing the (drunken) parties which are popular in order to provide a controlled environment.

#### **Problems that occur with collaborative efforts to build strong youth programs (collaborating partnerships)**

- There is a good relationship between the city council and the city's youth department. There is good information and respect.
- To work with other institutions as the Delegation of Madrid or authorities of autonomous region of Castilla y Leon is more difficult.
- Budget does not come.
- There are not very many activities together.
- Youth are at times unpredictable and to develop program where they all feel comfortable and cooperate is difficult. Of course cooperation with other groups helps to unite efforts, but we



see that the model changes year to year. What we did a few months ago, is old for today. Even so, youth maintain continuity through the years, want to be surrounded by people, and if it is with music, even better.

### ***NGOs & Missionaries***

#### **Challenges in your work that make youth a difficult population to deal with**

- Anything that smells of religion is not acceptable.
- In Media, religion is rejected.

#### **Identify trends in youth culture that have occurred over the last 10 years**

- People look for the pleasure/satisfaction right now (ex. hedonism, narcissism)
- Youth are starting to have sex earlier.
- Wrong information given in schools about sex (ex. promiscuity is even taught in some schools in Barcelona; schools have published a book that teaches children how to masturbate themselves)
- Nobody teaches about consequences (ex. in schools it is allowed that a child who fails four subjects can pass to the next level without problems).

#### **Identify government programs initiated in the last 3 years that seek to address emerging needs**

- There are no programs.

#### **Problems that occur with collaborative efforts to build strong youth programs (collaborating partnerships)**

- A lot of people promise to do things for youth and children, but they are only (empty) promises.

### ***Pastors and Clergy***

#### **Identify positive or negative trends of youth involvement and interest in church**

- The Church does not know how to adapt to the present; we are not answering the needs of youth.
- There is a generational gap; four generations has been lost due to bad leadership and the lack of vision to approach youth.
- Some said there is a lack of leadership and there is a need to emphasize this issue.
- Youth are suffocating in tradition.
- They do not have time nor interest.
- There is a lack of involvement.
- There is a lack of commitment.
- We are not worrying about them, and we are not taking care of them.
- For a lot of parents, God is not important in their lives.
- There is a lack of personal relationship with God.
- There are young people who believe that they are Christian, but they are not.
- Youth do not value older people nor do they want anything to do with them. They believe that they are better than older people ("What could an elderly man teach me?"). There is more interest by the older people to help than for the youth to be helped.
- A lot of them believe that because they have education (university careers) they are better and know everything.
- It is subject to the governance of the church.

### **Barriers or obstacles that make it difficult to minister to children and youth**

- Generational shock.
- Expenses and budgets.
- There is no time or dedication (interest).
- We are too worried about work and not investing time in them.
- There are cross cultural differences.
- There is no respect for older people.
- Lack of communication between youth and older people, not enough time for them.
- In general, the Spanish society does not respect anybody.
- There is an exaggerated trend towards music.
- The major obstacle is that the church and the parents are not capable of working together towards the same objective.
- Parents tolerate tradition.
- Youth in church have are focused on forms (attendance to get allowance) rather than substance (living faith). We churches concentrate on the former instead of the latter.
- There is a wide age difference (12-30) in what is considered “youth.”
- Young people do not have money, but they try to get it in order to reach their goals.
- Young people need opportunities, but they usually want things fast due to their impatience.
- Youth are expected to accept and practice the ideas of church leaders.

### **Identify the most effective youth ministries in your community or denomination**

- There are only a few that they thought were effective (generally, they are not effective with youth).
- Camps.
- Music.
- Sports.
- Personal discipleship - everybody should be open, those who have more time and those who have not; time with disciples makes the difference.
- Work, training and spend time.
- Live by example.
- Keep our houses open to youth.
- Weekly youth meetings.
- Youth-led meetings.
- Informal meetings where we encounter them in personal ways.
- Excursions with adolescents and different youth activities.
- Evangelism amongst children in plazas, concerts, movies.
- There is a little participation allowed for young people inside church, their ideas do not fit the rest of people ideas, they feel left aside and excluded from general church feelings.
- Some think there should be a balance between allow them a wide space to act, still keeping in mind their immaturity.

- Young people move impulsively, however with maturity, patience, trust and listening they can be approached.
- Young people need to make mistakes and get hit in order to grow up. Now we should face our responsibilities to our youth regarding our own mistakes to facilitate their maturity.
- Be creative in activities, change the old ways and routines established years ago. Systematic studies for most youth are boring. However, if they can be taught systematic studies in a creative attractive way, they will become thirsty for them.
- Provide support and balance.

**Identify the amount of emphasis your local congregation puts on children/youth ministry (example: discipleship/evangelism) as measured by staffing and budget**

- There is no investment.
- There are no people to work with them.
- Only some people in the church help with youth as volunteers.
- We do not have a specific pastor for them.
- We do not work with a budget for them.
- There was an idea of creating a general fund from all churches designated to youth and projects for them.
- GRENADA only: High degree of emphasis. Youth are encouraged to participate. There is an interest in the development and formation of youth through a strong youth group.

**Teachers**

**Identify the issues you deal with in the schools that make it most difficult to teach**

- When you make an effort for something it is not valued.
- Perseverance is despised.
- There is a lot of authority.
- Youth and children do not respect anybody or anything.
- Mothers are now working so they do not have time to help and inform their children.
- Materialism and our comfort are destroying children and youth.
- The lack of interest and motivation by the students and teachers.
- The application of new models of teaching; we are not yet adapted to the new times.
- Students that do not allow you to share in class.
- Parental separation has a negative influence (though not in all children).
- Parents' habits (ex. parents that read influence their children to be curious).

**Other than school, children and youth get most of their information about life from...**

- Internet (it is defining a lot of things in their lives).
- Youth magazines.
- TV.
- Friends.

- New technologies which result in the lack of consultation of dictionaries, books, libraries...lack of research.
- Textbooks.
- Videogames.

**Identify the changes in society and family structure that affect the capacity of youth to deal with their problems**

- Families are broken.
- Family disintegration (which is often used by the youth as an excuse for not confronting problems).
- Extra activities after school.
- TV.
- The lack of sharing family work between men and women; there is no education in the sharing of responsibilities.
- Parental separation has a negative influence (though not in all children).

**Identify the influence of the immigrant population on the school environment**

- It is eroding the educative process.
- When immigrants come with lower levels of education, they disrupt the rhythm of the class, and the more advanced kids lose time.
- It influences the acceptance of others.
- A positive experience exists in the early years; as students continue their studies, protective barriers against external ideas are created. They become isolated and problems arise.
- Immigrant population has a positive influence due to cultural diversity.

**The most pressing issues that consume the time and energy of youth and should be identified are...**

- The teacher's own initiative.
- Children/youth being left alone in homes and their needs denied because both parents are working.
- Many children are being cared for by their grandparents.
- Excessive academic requirements after class; the educational system does not involve the student, thus results do not meet expectations.
- The lack of connection between the employment requirements and family (breakdown). In order to go against this current, family salaries must be sacrificed. If salaries cannot be sacrificed, children suffer loneliness creating greater pressure.
- Lack of criteria in establishing absurd punishments.

***Young People/Students***

**In your free time, you are most likely to...**

**Non Christian**

- Vacation.
- Going out with friends.

- Party.
- Dance.
- Concerts.
- Write.
- Sing.
- Read.
- Go for tapas.
- Go to the beach/park.
- Go to the mountains.
- Travel.
- Buy clothes.
- Movies.
- Video Games.
- Time with boyfriend/girlfriend.
- Hang out on the street.
- Doing what you feel like.

### **Christian**

- Time with family.
- Go out with friends.
- Go out to the movies.
- Go out to eat.
- Play games at home.
- Go to the park/beach.
- Go to the bar and talk.
- Cyber-chat.
- I would like to stay at church more and hang out with the youth.
- I would love to do an evangelistic campaign.
- Travel.
- Homework/study.
- Lounging around.

### **Who are role models for youth?**

#### **Non-Christian**

- Sports people (ie. Football) – treated as idols.
  - The problem is that the examples used have drug problems. Even sports models go from drugs to drugs, women to women, parties, etc.
- Singers.
- Famous actors.
- People they see on TV.
  - They see that everything is cool on TV, but they don't know what their lives are like in their real lives behind their happy face.

- Older siblings.
- People they see in magazines.
  - They allow people to identify with someone that has lead a life of suffering; they create their own drama in their head and they become a character in a novel. They don't realize that they are looking at a soap opera.
- People who have money.
- Effort.
- Intelligent.
- Courage.
- Dedication.
- Pride.
- Dignity.
- Secure.
- Successful.
- Humility.
- Calculating.

### **Christian**

- To laugh with them, and that they would be sincere with me.
- Happy people that do things for the Lord with a (happy-good) face.
- Seek to help others.
- Humility.
- Sincerity.
- Commitment to God.
- They are intelligent.
- Fun.
- Kind.
- Character.
- Clear ideas (thoughts).
- Marked personality.
- Sincere.
- Responsible.
- Encouraging.
- Respectful.
- With you in the bad moments.
- Not hypocritical.
- Tell you things as they truly are.
- They know how to keep a secret.
- Pleasant.
- My friends are "freaky".
- Cyberspace friends.

- My grandpa.
- Missionaries.

### **Other than school, from where do youth get most of their information about life?**

#### **Non-Christian**

- Newspapers.
- Magazines.
- TV.
- Internet (ex. Wikipedia, Encarta).
- Lazy corner (video games).

#### **Christian**

- Internet (chats, web-pages, messenger).
- Parents (relationships).
- School (drugs).
- Observe others (girl/boyfriend).
- We ask.
- Older brother or sister.
- Relationships at school are not ones to emulate.
- Movies.
- TV.
  - The younger they are, the more adult they want to be; before you had to be responsible to be an adult; now you have to do more things.
- On the street.
- What the government teaches in school.
  - If everything is legal and cool then that's what we become and its lead by the adults who permit all this.
- Friends.
  - 12 year old girls are sleeping with boys; I used to play with dolls at that age.
  - What they feel at the moment (conflict from the home) is transmitted in school.
  - Friends can influence you for the bad; sometimes you think it's cool and then you realize that it's a deceiving cool. Today people live day to day, but they don't want to work or pay rent.
  - One thing that once was abnormal is becoming so normal. My friends say it's abnormal to be heterosexual.
- Youth meetings.
- Christian books.
- The Bible.
- Internet devotionals.

### **How do youth think about or treat their teachers?**

#### **Christian about Non-Christian**

- They don't respect their teachers; they provoke them.

- There's nothing that teachers can do about it; students say "give me a bad grade, I don't care".
- I have a friend who is always sleeping in class; he just lives to be with his friends.
- There are some students that are respectful and do know how to behave.
- Total disrespect with teachers; if they are this way with parents, they will do whatever they want with their teachers.
- They insult them.
- Much rebellion.
- They don't have the respect that people used to have; now-a-days when they are in the bad mood, they take it out on the teachers, parents, or brothers.
- At that time, who's the coolest? Whoever tells off the teacher, he's the coolest.
- If people think he's a social misfit he will act that way to prove how cool he is. He tries to convert his friends; he's like an invisible person with no sense.

### **Expectations of your friends' future activities?**

#### **Non-Christian**

- To be in a relationship.
- To be independent and live on their own.
- To have good sexual but stable relationships.
- Girls talk about the future; the boys don't worry about it.
- Don't believe in marriage because commitment gives them fear.
- They think of short term relationships.
- They want to study but don't really do well, so they don't know what they want to do.
- My friends want to study but the majority will work in some menial job.
- My friends have less school; they stopped school and work at a menial job already.
- My friends want to go to university.
- They think they are going to do bad so they don't want to think much of the future.
- Get a car.
- Work temporarily in a disco.
- Travel.
- Improve my English.
- Learn another language.

#### **Christian**

- Expect to have a serious relationship (not necessarily married).
- I want to be married.
- I want to study in the university.
- I want to be in my house with my parents because I won't be able to afford anything.
- I want to be in Barcelona.
- I don't know what I'll study.
- I'll be doing something related to:
  - Film
  - Audio visual



- Physics or Chemistry
- Systems
- Communications
- Psychology
- My (chef) courses
- Magistrate
- Children

### **What commitments do your friends have now?**

#### **Christian**

- Commitments only when it's going to give them independence from their parents.
- Commitments only to things that interest them.
- To go out 2-3 times a month; they'll do whatever it takes to buy new clothes to go out in.
- Friends are sometimes responsible and irresponsible.

### **Identify the barriers or assistance that help you achieve your aspirations**

#### **Non-Christian**

- The grades to have a career. Help: Teachers could help me.
- Ego. Help: Self success.
- Myself. Help: Encouragement of people that appreciate me.

#### **Christian**

- I am too young to have obstacles, little or none thanks to God. Perhaps not finishing ESO - I get along well with everyone.
- To serve without doubting God...all the obstacles that the devil brings... discouragement.
- It would help to know that people that love you.

### **What is the relationship like between youth and their parents?**

#### **Non-Christian**

- Parents try to stop them from partying and to have discussions because they came in late.
- Youth find any reason to fight their parents; if the parents don't let them do things, they rebel.
- Many youth's parents live the same life (they go party together).
- Parents believe the students should be raised by the school; if they ask *why do you smoke?* students say "you do it" – there is no moral authority. Everything because you do it.
- Parents are working and not spending time with their kids and the child grows alone (they don't have parameters or any sense of right or wrong) – no authority figure. Children don't see parents as parents.
- Parents don't speak to their children; there are communication taboos. But if they don't talk to them, they'll learn from the streets. Parents need to teach consequences, but since this is not being taught, this is why things are amiss. Children are rebellious and do what they want.
- Parents don't give children love, so children become more rebellious so that they get the love they did not receive.
- Parents are deceived and dumb; they have no idea what their children are like.
- If parents don't show them, this is the way they will be. They don't see any future; when they are older, they may realize but for now they just want to live their life.

**Christian**

- Christian parents want a normal family, but today there is no normal family.

**The influence of religion in Spain on youth...****Non-Christian**

- None.
- To control the minds of people that are ignorant or persuasive.
- It helps to lean on something, but also isolates you from people that are not like you.

**Christian**

- Youth can only talk about religion, church, and God between themselves at church; they cannot develop or use ideas about their faith in their subjects at school.
- Youth are not interested in any way; they want to do what they want.
- The majority don't want to listen because they like the freedom of not having norms.
- Mock religion.
- They say "I have to see to believe".
- Some say things but do not live it.
- If you don't have it, it's hard to have faith – they think religion is in someone's head (literally almost like brainwashing).
- They are suspicious of sects.
- They say "you make yourself believe in God so that you have explanations – it's a world that you've created, an invention in your head".
- If they don't believe in God because the Church has created a bad image (ex. why do you have to give to the Church?).
- I think everyone believes in God at some level; they have to have someone or something to believe in...
- God is religion; they say "I believe in God but not religion. I believe in the Bible but not in religion".
- These days I have had to live, well, alone. The youth of my age discriminate against people that believe in something. It causes me to puke to see people ask for God to help them when something happens to them that they don't like.
- I am facing discouragement from people that say they are believers but then live like anyone in the world. Religion is something ancient, a friend tells me.
- None, zero.

**To the Christians Only****What do you look for in a girl/boyfriend?**

- A lot of the things we talked about in a friend.
- Must be a friend.
- Not one with a different girl every week; we would have different relations.

**Why is the religious experience in Spain different for you?**

- We are in a different environment and are taught different values.
- You experience and observe what's the best way to live your life.

- They make us feel that it's good to exist and that we are loved.
- Your questions change – it's no longer does he live or does he not live?

### **How do you share your faith with your non-believer friends?**

- When they ask or the theme comes up.
- When I give my opinions on themes of sex or homosexuality, and they ask *why do you think this way?*
- With my friends who are non believers I speak with more liberty because we know each other. I have a friend who is very close and she was going through a hard time; I told her that I was praying for her. With a normal friend, I probably wouldn't have said that.
- It's very tough – I changed schools and they called me an evangelist instead of an evangelical. They mocked me and tell me that I've been brainwashed. They respect me until they find a reason to mock me.
- When you explain something, you see that that person is receptive; I start at the lowest common element and explain my experiences and how God has changed my life.
- They question why there is ugliness in the world if there is such a wonderful thing, why so much hunger, etc? I told them rather than question God for answers, why don't you say *I don't know if you exist, but I have these questions...* Sometimes I say this and they understand.
- You have to share with love and you have to ask God to speak through me.
- I told them *Love is not something you can hold; it's something invisible. You feel your husband's love by the feeling you have not the kisses you have.*
- People question God about poverty and why He doesn't take away hunger; I ask them if *they've* done anything to help the poor. I say *if the people at the top don't feed the poor, it's their fault not God's.* Regardless of if God exists or not, people want everything to be given to them.
- My friends sometimes want to believe but they fear being mocked by people.
- I tell them a story about the barber cutting hair (God is the barber – people's hair grow and must be cut. We see them with cut hair but someone has to cut it).

### **What would/does that conversation look like?**

- There's a friend who's always been a friend and she was having sex and talking with other friends about what they thought. Some said it was fine and others said it was normal as it is something that has to happen. In this situation I can give my opinion and say why I don't think its correct. I'd say something like *I believe that sex is for marriage because God says it for our good so that we are protected.* I wouldn't speak too much about God, but they would listen to my opinion.
- Sometimes it's Monday and you are in the yard and people are talking about what they did on the weekend and who they were with. They tell me that sex is beautiful and wonderful; when they ask me to go and I tell them no, I tell them *it's not that I'm boring but I just don't think it's correct to be out with someone for that long.* I don't say "because God doesn't want you to" because they would look at me funny.
- My friends give their opinion and then I give mine; I make it very natural and they accept/respect it. Sometimes they say things like "I believe in evolution". When we start talking about it, I talk about how more logical Creation is; not only that but that people have

spoken about these things throughout history. Sometimes we talk about the Commandments and sin.

- I speak to them about everything and they don't react. I don't give my testimony in public but I do it one on one. If I do it in a group, I will be eaten alive.
- My friends in college know that I'm a Christian and I tell them about going to church. I can speak with liberty without them saying anything. Sometimes I ask and they don't respond. It's easier alone, especially if people are argumentative. In a group, someone always goes against you and others follow. It's better to go alone.
- What I see is that most kids think that everything is okay as long as it works for you. According to your experience, do what's best for you. They need to see that this works for you (to observe your life). They don't give authority to things that come from others; they value personal experience. If they hear that something worked for someone, they will accept it.

#### **Could you bring your peers to Church?**

- No, to put them in church is tough.
- They speak too spiritual.
- To my friends, the best way to show God is if you have theatre or good music (events); they think church is boring (little by little they become attracted).
- See how you can have a good time without drinking?

#### **How can the Church help you reach your friends?**

- The message is for us as believers; non-Christians look at you like they don't know what is going on.
- Creative dramas are good in the services; if they don't see it as formal they will see us as different.
- If they see that your life is not boring and your services are cool (true for Christian youth as well).
- Pastors have to become more excited; they need to change with the times (vocabulary, etc.)
- They need to recycle like a service that would be good for youth and older people – maybe even the older ones would come. Sometimes they are the only ones that come and they make the rules. People need to recycle – society advances.
- They should go home with a sense that it was worth it, not that they have wasted their time. If they see a church that moves, it draws their attention.
- If you just go to church just to warm the bench, it's not fun. Our youth groups should reflect what we want. If we don't like it, how will others?

#### **If we wanted to give something to your friends, what form would it be in?**

- CD - I gave a friend a CD with Christian reggae-tone. He was surprised and liked it. He thought everything was to be holy.
- If you give them a big Bible, they would freak out. A CD with good words would be good because they'd learn the words.
- You could give them a more relevant Bible.
- Stories of the Bible that are based on real life (stories that connect to today).
- Words of encouragement.

- Stories with “hooks”.
- Books on today’s life.
  - *Seasoning* – it asks you questions that make you reflect
  - The vision of your life
  - Reflections on your life

## Section V: Interview Notes

### **Interview with Ecclesial Leadership – Madrid – 3 March 2008**

- The most effective ministry for the Spanish is *relational*. We use our personal relationships to invite our friends to 3 (Day of Kings, Halloween, etc.) major events a year.
- It has to be very relevant for youth; not traditional.
- The key to that has been to have a Christian to walk alongside the non-believer.
- As pastors in the church, we let the youth leaders revolutionize and there were effective results; non-Christians were reached.
- 350-400 students would attend; pamphlets would be sent out about a week prior (Find a new way to celebrate Halloween was the slogan)
- Young people are comfortable inviting friends because it is relevant and laid-back and then a consolidation group does follow-up with those that attended
- Events work, but processes are more important (ie. follow-up). There is a process from non-believer to active member in our church.
  - The first level is the unbeliever, they are not committed to God or the church; for them, we have these events. We have an evangelism group (10-20) that goes out into the community every Saturday (at 5pm); pamphlets with invitation. We challenge youth to relationally evangelize. Our goal is that they visit the church at least once.
  - The second level is attendees. The consolidation group observes the visitors and they invite them to a meeting outside the church for coffee or something.
  - The third level integrates them into a home group where they meet other believers, where they can experience God's presence. Teachings become more personalized for them.
  - The fourth level DOG, dependent on God. Here we want to develop the spiritual disciplines or habits, which are devotionals, bible memorization and study, to relate to other believers, to manage their finances, to learn how to resist temptation, and how to share the faith. Once they do this, we make them cell leaders to lead others.
  - The fifth level is leadership. We assign them to a home or specialized home group.
- We have about 170 youth, about 50 adolescents, and 150-200 children (it fluctuates).
- Effective programs might be YWAM sometimes has events where they bring evangelistic teams from the outside and adapt things to Spain (though Spaniards are not always accepting of outsiders; sometimes they reach people, but they don't reach Spaniards) on the other hand Spanish people do not connect to outsiders' events, that's why if you are thinking of bringing products to Spain, they should be Spanish.
- Film and arts are very important, we use these to explain biblical principles (30 second spots) – we use them for both evangelism and discipleship.
- Audio-visual means are important
- People in Spain are not developing much but it's a great need.
- We have a department at this church called the Systems Group (3 years now) and there are technicians that know sound and technology. Those that don't preach, use our messages and add technological aspects to them.
- There are many pastors that are waiting on these types of materials

- To get youth organizations and workers together there is a youth fraternity, the Confera (“The Frat”). There are about 700 in the monthly meeting. They are connected to a national ministry.
- Probably all of the pastors would not support a “rave” event, but a good group of us would. There was a non-Christian event over the weekend, a disco with various DJs. It was free at a central auditorium; it was a rave. It was about 5,000 people, a great success.
- Video fairs would be good for 10-14 year old kids, everything technology is good. All the big brands have technology groups, so they have big fairs where they present the newest things.
- Because Community here is relational kids get together in groups. It is only in the last 3-4 years, we have had access to DSL so there is not yet a virtual community.
- They might meet in their homes – games are at home so to go online, due to limited DSL access, only older kids would get online at internet cafes at this point.
- Outdoors – not organized games, but as friends.
- Kids make friends at School (not in church) or in the neighborhood (with the kids in the same neighborhood since they go to the same school)
- 3 types of events that might work for the 10-14 year olds:
  - Sports complex with various games available (informal and relational)
  - Bounce houses
  - Non Christian films that have applications to them (in a theatre or church) – any place that has enclosed areas
    - Chronicles of Narnia
    - Prince of Egypt
- We have offered skills-building classes, followed by a “food” time
- Kids would like to take home Video games, get into online forums (virtual world) or spend time in a Video room where technology is available to the community, even rent games to take to their homes.
- Parents are concerned that things are being imposed in Spanish society, violence in children’s lives (gang cultures were previously unknown to us in Spain), the amount of free time children have ( 2 extremes those that isolate themselves with video games at home AND the partying crowd)
- Fourteen year-olds get drunk at least once a month, and this is concerning to parents.
- If someone were to offer parents *security and change of destructive behaviors (good habit development)*, parents would be very happy.
- There is also a great concern for sects. Parents are concerned that their children would be captured by sects. There are about 500 different sects.
- Something that is contemporarily relevant without the smell of religion. Something principles and values based without religious text.
- Because the history in Spain has lots of religious domination, religion was imposed on citizens, religious people manipulated social, political, and economical power and even in some places, priests had more power than the leaders; so people are very suspicious of every religion.
- People are happy when kids are involved with humanitarian help; those that don’t have a religious or political involvement are very involved. Organizations that have some community development efforts without agendas are welcomed.

- Young people live for today – they don't think of the future because it seems hopeless.
- Because they have no responsibility there's a philosophy of "let's just enjoy life".
- Young women are now aggressive and catching men (for today only, not for long term).
- Parents surrender because they want to keep the peace and keep their children happy – so the children are parenting the parents.
- In 1981 divorce was legalized – now the divorce rate has risen 200% in two years and it affects young people. Highest rate of divorce is when parents have been married about 20 years (parents 40-45 years). The rate is highest in proportion for those that have been married only 1-3 years; whereas the law did require legal separation of a year, now it is at will. You can get an internet divorce for 400-500 Euros. With this issue, youth look to their peers to find acceptance and family (substitution for the love of their parents).
- There's no idea of saving money (rarely that they care about getting a job) – only 25% were self supported, but this doesn't mean they live on their own. This may not be the same for those in the rural areas, but it is slowly moving towards urbanized.
- Youth are very loyal to their friends, but they don't always have discernment on what kind of friends are good and this is concerning to parents. They are sincere in their search however.
- Relationships are not long-term, they are more pragmatic.
- There's always a king/queen in friendships; we are in the era of the anti-hero but it is very clear who the leader of the group is.
- Youth are increasingly isolated – particularly with video games. It's not easy to make good relationships.
- Friends do not really invite friends over to their home; rather they meet at the pub, bar, or city square. Below 14-15 years, friends are coming into the homes; after 15, this does not happen.
- They usually move in groups.
- Economy – in 2-3 years the umbrella will disappear and all of the problems will surface. Our system of economics will only work if immigrants are working (Social Security). The problem is that there is a lot of underground work that is not taxed and it is hurting our system.
- Parents are concerned about children's health, drugs (2/3 have already been in active drug use), relationships, pregnancy, future success of children and studies (the highest study possible at university) to secure good jobs.
- However, people 16-30 think "If I study, I will not have time to do things" and that someone will take care of them. Parents have to take care of the children.
- Youth might get engaged around 27-29, and have children in their 30s. Christians get married earlier.
- Normally, they cohabit until they are ready to have a child and then they get married.
- Some parents are more concerned that they get involved in sects or cults – anyone non-orthodox. They consider some Protestants to be sects. Buddhism is not considered a sect but a life philosophy/natural; alternative medicine is growing.
- Parents are generally more optimistic for their children, they think that others' children won't succeed but "mine" will.
- To win youth, who are post-modern and against institutions (political and religious),
  - Other youth have to show them how to enjoy life without sex, drugs, drinking, and violence. Groups like Hillsong and those from northern Europe etc (High Hope) have had some success.



- Social-development approaches are good as well; you appeal to the person's desire to help others.
- Eco-approaches can work too because they enjoy "doing" things outside.
- They are also looking for mystical experiences.

### **Interview with NGO & International Missionary 6 March 2008**

- There is a lot of information available - written and on the internet - and in the Catholic stuff: *Fundacion de Santa Maria* (exhaustive survey every 5 years). Javier Elzo does a lot of writing on Spanish young people.
- The social structure is a lot stronger than the US; the processes of urbanization and secularization have been slower.
- For Spanish young people their sexual values are gone; but even so 32% of young people 15-19 haven't had sexual intercourse.
- There are not enough resources; the churches are small and struggling with fewer resources; the human resource pool is extremely limited. The great crisis is that there are no volunteers; most churches have gone to 1 service a week and maybe a cell group.
- *Youth Alpha* is being effective in some places; in fact, things are effective but there is no one to do it.
- In Spain it is very clear that Christian values have a negative connotation.
- *Personal (relational) intensive ministry* is key.
- *An obstacle to youth ministry* is the *vision of pastoral leadership*.
- *Get the leaders trained* ; however it takes to get out there and convince them.
- If Christian youth don't meet Christians they will meet and marry non-Christians and you lose them. You lose about 50% of your kids in the best programs.
- For the mass distribution of scripture, the hard part is "*what do youth read that is appealing?*" The Catholic Schools are the best place for mass distribution and they don't have much in resources.
- I'd do Alpha-Courses in schools if I had the resources.
- Youth are more anti-religion here, their history has created cynicism here due to the tie of the Catholic Church with the dictator in the civil war.
- Spain is polarized politically; one group is conservative and the other is highly progressive/anti-religious. Young people tend to be in the latter part.
- *Fundacion de Santa Maria* stated in their last report that youth who felt they had no need for God rose from 25% → 32% in 5 years. What does faith have to offer? That's the big problem.
- Problems include
  - Relationship– with friends, enemies, family...
  - Self image issues (self mutilation entering)
  - School/vocation – what do I do in life? (40% failure rate; required secondary education)
  - Challenged by school problems
  - Sexuality (doesn't fit into a moral frame of reference) often shaped by TV – *Physica y Quimica*
- Mentors are a solution, they must have love, leadership abilities, communication abilities, a related degree helps such as Social Administration, experiential, recreational and active.

### **Interview with Political Analyst & Writer**

**What do you see as the trends in Spain?**

- Economic crisis for at least 2-3 years in Spain
- 2 million unemployed people in the next 1-1/2 years (300,000 more unemployed in the last 3 months)
- Popular Party wins 2-3 more years of crisis
- If the Socialist party wins an optimist thinks 10-12 years of economic crisis
- A pessimist thinks Spain will experience ½% growth a year
- Third country in the world (after US and Thailand) in gambling
- Worst divorce rate in Europe (200% increase over the last year)
- Second cocaine consumer of the world
- Three months ago, we reached 1,000,000 deaths by abortion
- The only country in Europe that permits homosexual marriage and adoption
- Second term with ZP will bring the legalization of Euthanasia (the first is Holland)
- Citizenship curriculum is indoctrination ages 3 to 16 trains (families are mono-parental, homosexual, heterosexual, etc.)
- During the past 4 years the immigration has increased from 2.5% of the population to 11% of the population
- The increase in immigration comes at a time of economic downturn
- Crime is a problem with 11% of the Moroccans and 30% of Algerians committing the crimes (750,000 Algerians in 2007)

**Issues Facing Children**

- First, the structure of families
- Second, the stability of the economy (growing worse)
- Third, a policy of indoctrination through the citizenship classes

**Parental Concern About the Citizenship Law**

- Varies in parts of Spain
- Andalucía, parents are conscientious objectors and the courts are permitting this
- Catalonia, the courts don't give permits for this
- Madrid, the courts suspended the law

**Is the Gay Lobby Large?**

- A small lobby but they are making easy the fundraising of the Socialist party

**If You were to define 3 values that have been lost, what are they?**

- First, our faith in God. Now, the enemy of the world is Christianity. "Truth does not set you free...Freedom lets you know the truth"
- Second, the erosion of family
- Third the erosion of fellowship between individuals

**What strategies can be used to overcome the "High level of suspicion to anything that sounds like religion"**

- Several answers beginning in Roman Catholic Church-related groups and some Evangelical Churches.
- This is a response to a new law of religious practice. It gives power to the mayors to decide whether you can open or keep a church open. This means that we could have a parliamentary law in the Church. Forty percent of the board must be composed by women.

- My local church is having a problem with this because they want to build up a church but they want a certain amount of women or gays, etc. so that we have to reform the church constitution (if we don't, they take back the land).
- Catalonia is initiating this law to see if things work in the future; if you look at Catalonia and see the future of Spain. In that region they permit euthanasia, abortion, etc. They don't want independence; they want to rule the rest of the country – and we pay for it.

#### **Is there a coalition of the Evangelical and Catholic church?**

- No, they work completely separate and are having problems with this.
- There is not any central representation of the Evangelicals in Spain.
- Evangelical leadership (some) is being “bought”; a foundation supported by the government supports programs that are non-religious. There are 14-15 are salaried by this foundation on the Evangelical leadership. With the citizenship law, the Evangelical Alliance wrote a declaration against it but another foundation decided it was okay.
- The Catholic Church is still more compromised. The Socialist party supports a small Catholic Church group, a leftist group. They always talk in favor of the homosexual community and then receive support from the Socialist movement.

#### **Do the Catholics have a spokesperson that has the kind of voice you have for Evangelicals?**

- No. They are excluded from most media but I'm supporting them. We support Catholics and Jews. One of the accusations against me is that I'm a fundamentalist. This is one thing and that's another thing.

#### **If we were going to invest in some strategy to present to youth, is there an approach to recommend?**

- Talk to people that do this type of work like REMA. They are Pentecostal and personalized but they work a lot with this in 20 countries. They opened a small office in Miami last year. They have traction here in Spain.
- Another possibility is HATEOIR (“make you hear”); a secular group with some Catholics but they are serious in social areas – not politically but in a social way. They support education, pro-life, terrorist victims, etc.
- You can be in contact with several churches because there are several local churches that are interested in this kind of work. I can give you their phone numbers; my secretary's phone number is +34 91545 1241 her name is Assumption

#### **Have there been any strategies launched?**

- Discover for yourselves the situation; it's constantly changing. Meetings that would never have happened a few years ago are now convening pastors coming from all backgrounds. The reality is shifting and will do so more in the future.

#### **If something would happen, what would be your biggest and and obstacle?**

- I think we are going to pass through a very difficult situation, but I also think we are going to pass through a cleaning. This last Saturday in Seville, someone asked me about what the Evangelical Church must do first. I said “repent.”

#### **YOUTH STRATEGIES – BARCELONA – 5 MARCH 2008**

- The concepts of authority and evil/wrong have become mixed as a result of the recent political dictatorship; as we move to democracy, we've moved away from authority .
- Catholicism and religion are associated with Franco and authoritarian dictatorship.

- Parents educated by authoritarian parents feel it is best to educate without authority so they've lost their authority (parents, priests and teachers).
- In addition to the crisis of authority we have lost the sense/meaning of life which has been transmitted to the children.
- The first generation did transmit faith or foundations for values because it assumed these would always be there. Nationalism, Regionalism and Europeanism result in a loss of faith; there is no foundation for moral behavior so the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation does not have the security.
- Catalonia is more progressive and does not represent all of Spain.
- "Desinvulacion" describes the fragmented and lonely life within Spain - Youth are not connected and they fear commitment, not only in the Church but in everything. Youth generally do not belong to other groups: 19% sports, 7% churches, 1% political party etc. There is a need to encourage affiliations such as scouts.
- Young people believe more in witches and spiritists than in God! Youth don't believe in anything; students in religious classes lose their faith at 13 years old.
- Parents are concerned about young people but they aren't spending much time with them.
- Young people between 13-15 years old no longer care what their parents say; children are increasingly in charge of the home and live at home into their 30s.
- Youth live for the moment and do not think about the future; they live on their pleasure.
- The education system is narrowly defined within a Euro-social perspective on life and is more secular than society.
- There is a concrete and daily experience of spiritual emptiness. Conversions occur mostly in movements primarily face to face, one on one.
- Christianity at its core requires you to recognize yourself as a sinner; sociological Christians are ***perfectly established in their imperfect faith and this is lost in the recent generations.***
- The Charismatic Catholic movement has no young people; you need young people to evangelize young people – and this is not happening in Catalonia.
- Young people are not anti-belief/God, but they are very cold. Only when they've had a strong experience of pain, then you can offer them salvation... and you have to walk with them. Catalonia is especially cold.
- Non-practicing Catholics fear their children take on too much religion. Parents that are marginal Catholics want *moral formation* and *cultural values* for their children.
- Forty percent of the education is Catholic.
- The instrument of culture is filled with a worldview of a leftist progressive.
- Two issues affecting values breakdown is *immigration* and the *loss of the mother in the home* as she was the one that passes the values to her children.
- Family disintegration, particularly the loss of motherhood, and faith offer a holistic unity; today the link is ruptured and this generates poverty and loss of religious faith. You have to link these.
- The government has a new religion of progressive secularism taught in the schools and the families can't do anything; the solution is the parish.
  - We need to attract youth through a product disseminated from a culture of love
- To the non-believing culture youth there will be an appeal through music, cinema, school, etc.
- Children need an adult – a reference adult (mentor); as families dissolve; when there is no credible adult they go to peers and media; even though their *friends aren't friends - they are accomplices.*

- Kids learn from film and games (video games) they learn concepts through video games; it is a modern Aeropegus (the unknown god) and produces a life view through video games.
- Contact with nature brings out the nature of people & sports. Scouts, sports, nature, camps, etc; however, youth 13-18 years spend hours talking in internet forums.
- For leaders, a book might work. Communication techniques, training on leadership (service), good doctrine, and a good contact of web/resources (a super handbook, FAQs, etc).

### Do they blog?

- They don't write too much, but they like to post photos and instant messaging. They invent reality and discuss things online they will not discuss in person.
- They *compartmentalize*, the real and virtual worlds.

### YOUTH STRATEGIES – Barcelona – 6 March 2008

- With youth in Spain, we are dealing with a new generation with new problems; we are struggling to transmit the gospel to them even to those who come from a Christian family, they don't grasp the idea.
- *Jesus is a captive of religion and religion is a problem* in Spain; we need to find a language and stories to convey a message of spirituality that's not religious.
- Jesus was an environmentalist and enjoyed life; he also ran into problems with religion.
- However, right now the concept of Jesus doesn't work for youth inside or outside the Church, part of the problem is we are still communicating in the same way we did 20 years ago.
- The Church is not reaching youth – it is losing them.
- The church has no connection with the world so the Jesus we are introducing to them is not a relevant one.
- *The Church is not concerned with transformation; it is interested in domestication.*
- Transformation is about Christ being formed in their lives. We are losing people because they are not willing to be domesticated?
- Nominal Christians can live in a dichotomy when culture is close to church but when culture changes people desert the Church (because there has been no transformation). An example of this is many Latin Americans coming to Spain, those who had no transformation are lost to the church, culture pulls them under. The same thing will happen in Latin America; we are what their future will be like.
- If we are going to change anything we have to be incarnational –to live the gospel, people are not concerned with what we say. We do have to be really involved in the real world. The church cannot hide in its ghetto. We have to have hands-on ministry . . . transformation through relationship takes time.
- We must also be holistic; people are not attracted to a spiritual salvation but one that is holistic (emotions, relations, everything).
- We need to empower young leaders to explore new ways and ideas without having to think about church rules. The church wants young people to conform but they need to express themselves in different, relevant ways. Even if we cannot change, we need to protect the new leaders (from the Church) which can be a real obstacle to faith.
- We need to convene those who are young leaders; then encourage creative thinking . . . free from church agendas, free from organizational agendas and plans... we must be skeptical of our own

organizations and our plans since I'm not convinced that they always come from God, many of them haven't worked so why not encourage creativity?

- We need to find people with kingdom-mentality, those that are willing to cooperate in strategies, not concerned with forwarding their personal agendas. The past is not the source of wisdom and insights for the future because we face a future different from any of our pasts. The younger leaders will come up with solutions in time, if we empower them. We must empower them to think, look to God for wisdom and offer insights about the future.
- There are probably no more than 20 people like this in Spain, even if we are open to joining with the Catholic Church, a strategy I think we should explore.

#### **YOUTH STRATEGIES – BARCELONA – 6 MARCH 2008**

- The reality varies within Spain; Catalonia is cosmopolitan like Madrid but very different than Andalucía (the South).
- The church is not relevant or part of the culture. The young people think Christians are strange; like a Martian and every day this idea gains validity.
- A church must be planted as part of people's community so people can see that the church has an impact to our community and that Christians are normal.
- The media distorts the view of the Protestant church with any bad news. The media doesn't respect the church at all; this is bad for Christian young people because you should protect them. We have to do things so the church is relevant to the people.
- Our youth program is departmentalized.
- 0-3 – child-care - "I love you mom" (mom-time and people watch the children)
- 7-12 –one activity a week where we try to give values and relationships (they play play-station, go to the mountain, etc.) Sometimes if the parents are familiar with the church kids can bring friends; we are reaching maybe 5% non-believers.
- 12-18 – Goal to teach values and friendship with emphasis on a decision to follow Christ. We have a group of 40 in this age group
- 18-30 – their goal is to have talk and to share the gospel with their friends. They bring unsaved friends. Sometimes it is 50% in the group. Every Friday, we have 15-20. Everytime there are unbelievers. Since we have an activity every 2 weeks we say "if you don't have plans, come to dinner at the church."
- We have 10% non-Spaniards; Mexicans and Argentineans, a total of 18 people. They come to our church but they are unbelievers; they came because they were lonely and people suggested they go to the church.
- Then there are either Catalan or a mix of Catalan/Spanish.
- I did not propose the direction of the church to be Catalan or Spanish focused. If I had a church that was 50% Latin and 50% Spaniards, I would divide it because I want to reach Spaniards. It's very different culture; those that are unbelievers would absorb.
- Latins want to see the Latin church that they knew in South America; it is not our culture, although we have Latin songs in our worship, and these are not our culture. Most of the words are not our words; they are nice songs, but it's not ours. When Spaniards come they see words that are not our culture and may reject us.
- Mission Possible is the biggest event in Spain for young people
  - Biannual event that began 9 years ago with 300 people.

- National - youth comes from all over the country in 2007 1,200 people came; in 2009 we hope for 2000
- It is a big conference with workshops to equip the people to share the gospel.
- Most of the people come to this event because most are in small churches.
- We encourage people to write Spanish songs and to record Spanish worship in Spanish style.
- We have an internet/network community and its growing; people want to know what's happening.
- 10 leaders plan the event and 120 volunteers come through contacts.
- Youth face the difficulties that there is no work (no security)..
- Families are not at home; most families leave the house early and don't see their children.
- Children really have only a virtual family; the computer, Play Station and TV. In some areas like Andalucía, it may not be this bad.
- Mentors must be role models; it is not the message but the messenger that gives credibility
- The influence of TV is great; what the TV says youth take as true. What the media promotes is credible (there are not many Protestants in broadcast only people that have good things to say about homosexuals).

#### **TEACHER – Barcelona – 6 March 2008**

##### **How do you see the youth situation today?**

- Young people don't worry too much about their lives; we do. They just live.
- They live for the moment; if they have money, they spend it.
- We have to work in character; they have their own character and living (dressing up) because the society decides for them (ex. TV).
- There are no right models because no one is teaching; parents are scared because they know they aren't good models so they defer to educators. No role models not even in the Christian world. They are old and frustrated models that they can't believe.
- Teachers though do not have authority. The experience has told me that when you become a model to them, you have a new world to get in touch with them. When you go further than Maths and Science, you get to heart to heart. When you do things that they know they are really important to them, you have an "in."

##### **How is the church addressing their needs?**

- Spain is going through a difficult time in Spain's history.
- Our reality is that the Christian way of living is old fashioned and irrelevant.
- Churches are more focused on their own meetings and about giving good music and talks, but they are not meeting the needs of Christians at Church.

##### **What has to happen to change the reality?**

- The product is the living model.
- Relevancy – sports and music.
- If you want to be a model among the church, you need only to love them. If you love them, the doors are open wide.
- My (and others like me) fight is not to do something relevant but to be supported in my efforts (sacrifice family, funds, etc.). Christians don't want to commit – they are committed to their lives, but have no commitment to relevancy.

- The key thing is to find the right people who have the right commitment with the Lord.
- It has to happen outside the local churches. You have to see what is already working.
- We have to give them a place where they can gather and be (themselves)...act...sing...dance... They have no choices; schools decide what they learn, pastors decide what they teach, etc.
- I would do interesting/relevant things; concerts, sports activities, interesting talks (before then, you have to gain their confidence and sympathy).
- To act like one of them not a teacher (ex. sex education classes, I sat in with them to “learn”).
- Most important platforms – *have fun, be one with them. Do what they want. Just to be with them.*
- *Create a network that links one activity to another - interconnected.*
- Everyone uses computer, so *mentor through Messenger*. You don’t have to talk about the Bible, you just have to talk to them about life. To give them all this information through Messenger – *using this system to keep them up to date on everything/networked.*
- Helping parents, even through the internet - perhaps a weekly *email* that gives them an idea of how to help their families/children. The content might include: *character* – how to solve conflicts, how to choose your friends, love yourself, say no, to improve, to overcome at crossroads.

#### Topics of interest to youth:

- self image
- self discovery
- sex, drugs (they start earlier but no knowledge)
- friends
- decisions
- making personal decisions
- how to face failure
- not to compare self - understanding uniqueness of self; self worth

#### YOUTH WORKERS – BARCELONA – 5 MARCH 2008

- The history of the Catholic Church and the Dictatorship is not easily forgotten; parents don’t want their children to be involved with any Church thing, however, if you have a good personal relationship with them, they give you an opportunity.
- You have to build a relationship with the parents as well as the young people, if parents see change in their children it’s much easier to go to them.
- Friends are the best contacts for this age group, since the family falling apart and close friends are the most influential.
- When kids have a problem, they go to their friends or mentor/teacher before family.
- They aren’t used to really “seeking” – they prefer to ask someone versus asking themselves although movies and internet are influential, but less on the deeper levels.
- When something comes that is very different to what they’ve heard before (a new idea/novelty), they give more credit to it, since, Christianity is old it is not relevant. This is the attitude even towards the Catholic Church; new things have superseded it.
- Most of the university students don’t know anything about Jesus. I was recently doing surveys asking about Jesus; most of the students didn’t even think he existed.



- Most relevant is YouTube and the Internet – they are places they look for real experiences (ie. YouTube shows people’s lives as they are). This is their way to understand life.
- Getting them involved in some social project is good because it is real and gives them a chance for exposure to other realities.
- Few people search in an intellectual way; it is more experiential; they experiment, believe, and then they understand.
- Buddhism is attractive because it is a novelty; it’s something that doesn’t have a lot of experience in this country and even though it’s a religion, it’s personal; others don’t have the opportunity to be involved in your life because it’s yours. It’s more practical, more relative, more feel-good-with-myself, more introspection.
- Mysticism is attractive in general; they want to know what is behind things (and it’s something that nobody knows). In Barcelona, if you are about, you will see a lot of mystic shops. There are lots of horoscopes and the young people used to read it; some started to have contact with wicka.
- Anything that comes with pre-packaged ideas is not going to work; if something comes with questions and is exploratory, its better.
- Syncretistic religions don’t say that there is something wrong.
- Younger children younger than 14 get ideas; girls from their relationships, which are more important, and boys from the internet. Some kids spend a lot of time isolated in their rooms. Parents are satisfied because their children are at home in front of the computer, but they are not learning positive values, they have their own TV and computer, so they are on the internet all the time.
  - *Now games are part of your identity.*
  - Aggression picked up in movies and gaming is becoming a problem, as they attack the person who is playing on the other side (vs. thinking of tactic).
  - Game examples: TIVIA.
- We have bullying here. The “spiritual” boy is bullied, he is a freak. Boys need to belong to something or a group, but they don’t always achieve this. It’s less about friendship and more about finding an identity (a power system).
- Discipleship is the best way to win kids, face to face is key – hanging out in a restaurant, social projects, studying.
- Our coffee house is more of a safe place for people to meet – a common ground. Discipleship must involve everything you do with your life, it isn’t a place. For example it’s important to invite people to your house; to make them feel comfortable and show that they are important. I try to modify my agenda to have time for them. You can go to play tennis or play guitar, find activities that you both like.
- I disciple about 15 who are at different levels, and I’m trying to develop some leaders.
- To develop leaders among the youth good support material is very important.
  - Material that encourages an experience; lots of programs are focused on the knowledge and not the experience. They always think it’s more important to know the good answer than to know by experience. Both need to be linked.
  - It should be small books that could go in with the computer
  - Something that could be used in different ways, depending on the situation, you could use your computer or mobile phone.
  - Good questions help us to have good conversation.

- Multi-media like our “Sistema” or “The System”. It is an audio CD we developed with a story about a group of teenagers who need to get off of the planet; they need to find a time warp and they return to Jesus’ time and then those who hear the story can go to the internet to find out more about the characters.
  - We are developing a manga comic with a story (with Mark Fuentes). We need materials to help write the questions to develop a conversation with the young people.
- 
- *The Book of Hope* looks like there is too much text; they would not read it.
  - The title gives it away as a religious thing; rather something like “I-Life” that links something to existing marketing.
  - It also seems to give all the answers rather than encourage discovery; I think for students, it’s important to give them questions and not the answers...they need a reason to search.
  - The picture and colors are off.
  - It’s false – there’s too many people together smiling. It looks false.
  - The cartoons in it are for 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.
  - You could do something in a comic book.
  - For little kids always go through parents, so it’s important that parents see and approve materials.
  - The movie (TGM) is already a generation behind.