



Reaching Out: Mobilizing the Millennials

By Karin L. Semler

Have you heard what's being said about *the millennial generation*? Those who study teens and children born from 1982 to the present have identified some very noteworthy traits: Millennials

- are globally oriented;
- enjoy working in groups or as a team;
- believe that they can make a difference in the world;
- are service-minded and eager to volunteer;
- have a genuine desire to develop spiritually.

A number of Christian mission agencies find that members of the millennial generation possess specific characteristics that can be creatively applied as God reaches to the ends of the earth with the Good News of Jesus Christ!

As you teach these students, consider how you can mobilize them to carry out the Great Commission. Their positive traits can be directed to make an eternal difference for God's kingdom. Here are just a few ideas:

- Equip these children to witness to their classmates, siblings, and friends—many of whom may hold postmodern beliefs.
- Expose them to global concerns. Encourage them to pray for these issues whenever they hear about them at school or on TV.
- Encourage your church to include children in the evangelism and mission projects and committees. Their "millennial generation" eyes will often see new opportunities that can make a difference.

- Provide “millennials” with opportunities to serve others with kind words and loving actions. Arrange a visit to a nursing home, a children’s hospital, or shut-ins.
- Ask them how they would like to be involved in God’s mission. Perhaps they would enjoy raising funds for mission work, hosting a welcome dinner for international students, or leading weekly prayers for missionaries or missionary kids.
- Challenge these computer savvy children and teens to do (supervised) mission research on the Internet. Develop a mission-focused electronic scavenger hunt! Examples: What country has the largest Muslim population? (Indonesia.) Name an LCMS missionary family in Togo. Hint: visit **www.lcmsworldmission.org** for oodles of mission-related information!

Consider the many ways that you can help inspire kids under 20 with a vision for spreading the Gospel to all people, both at home and at the ends of the earth. Pray that God would uniquely work in your students, blessing them with talents and interests that can be used to extend His kingdom. Pray that this generation would answer God’s call to bring in the harvest!

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