

The Lowedown

An update on the life and ministry of Dave & Jennifer Lowe

A Reminder of Why We Minister to Young Adults

In March Jen and I made a quick trip to Houston to be with other Cru staff who minister to Young Adults in other parts of the U.S. It was great to be with our colleagues, many of whom we hadn't personally been with for 18 months.

During our conference, some leaders from Alpha Ministries were there to share some of the latest data and research on the state of Young Adults globally. Though the information was not surprising, it provided another reminder of why our work with Young Adults is so important.



The Cru Embark (Young Adults) staff at our conference in Houston.

The information was based on the latest research by Barna Research Group, who, in conjunction with World Vision and Alpha ministries, conducted an extensive survey of Young Adults globally.

The research showed that Young Adults are:

CONNECTED BUT ALONE - this current generation of youth are the most digitally connected group of people in the history of the world. Through smart phone technology and social media, they have more information at their fingertips than perhaps every generation that has come before them combined. And yet Young Adults consistently remark on how alone they feel. Only 1 in 3 Young Adults surveyed said that they feel known and deeply cared for by those around them.

SPIRITUALLY OPEN - Young Adults are very open to spirituality. This is both good and bad. It's good that they're open to developing the spiritual aspect of their lives, yet, they're open to all forms of spirituality, including Eastern religions, New Age philosophies and esoteric psychic ideologies.

ANXIOUS ABOUT LIFE - this younger generation is gripped by worry. They're uncertain about the future, fearful of failure, and feel extreme pressure to succeed. Mental health issues among today's youth are spiraling out of control.

LOOKING FOR ANSWERS - though Young Adults are open spiritually, there are some barriers to belief. 1 in 3 Young Adults say that hypocrisy among Christians causes them to doubt the spiritual dimension. Science and human suffering are also barriers that cause many to have doubts.

LONGING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE - Young Adults are extremely concerned about global problems such as

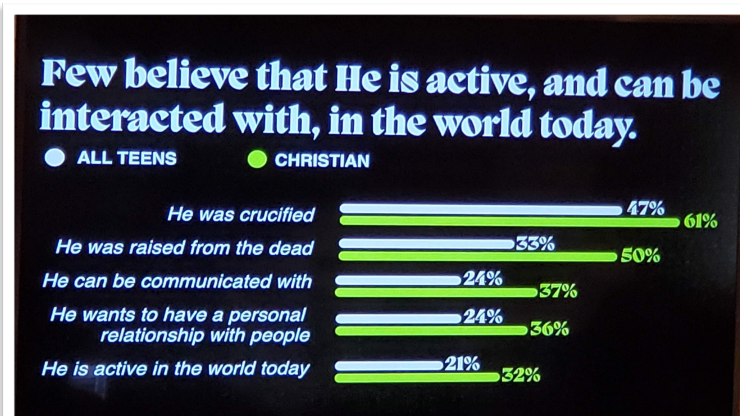
corruption, racism, climate change and extreme poverty. Young people want to be more than just bystanders. It's not surprising then to see that many Young Adults are very oriented to social justice causes.

What's concerning about the research is some of the theological views of those who identify as Christians. Only 61% of those who identified as Christian believe that Jesus was crucified and only 50% believe he was resurrected.

Let that sink in. Half of all Young Adults who identified as Christian believe that Jesus was NOT resurrected.

Even more concerning is that even a smaller percentage (around a third of those surveyed) believe that Jesus is active in the world, can be communicated with and wants to have a personal relationship with people.

It makes one wonder exactly what kind of Christianity today's Christian Young Adults are identifying with.



To read more about Barna's Global study findings, go to:
<https://bit.ly/BarnaYA>

Clearly there is a discipleship problem in the church today with our youth and Young Adults.

As you can see from the group picture, there are very few of us working in this Young Adult space with Cru. Though there were a few people who didn't make this conference, that picture represents the entirety of our Cru staff focused on Young adults. And there is a dearth of Young Adult ministries within the church as well.

Ministering to Young Adults is a wide open mission field with very few workers.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to this audience and we are extremely grateful for your partnership, which enables us to continue ministering to Young Adults, despite the many challenges.

*Love,
Dave & Jen*