

December 2, 2008

Dear pastor/leader,

This past January a specially invited group of 100-plus Canadian leaders from across our nation gathered in Calgary. Each person was a key representative of ministry to youth and young adults in their setting. They represented over 90 denominations, youth-serving organizations and educational institutions. The Forum was facilitated by the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Roundtable of The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada.

As representatives of those who minister to youth, we want to apologize to the Canadian church and to the next generation for failing, in many cases, to release and empower young people into their God-given dreams. During the course of our time together a theme began to emerge, a strong realization that if we, the Canadian church, continue to do life and ministry as normal we would lose the next generation. The statistics that we have access to suggest that a sizable portion of the youth and young adults in our churches discontinue their church attendance after high school or university; some abandon their faith in Jesus Christ altogether.

As the different groups of leaders debriefed their sessions the common thread of relational mentoring began to rise to the surface. Each affinity group came back with a strong sense that the way for the church to break out into a place of growth and health was to:

- Actively listen to youth and young adults
- Invite them into our lives and ministries
- Intentionally train/disciple young leaders
- Commission them and give them some of our authority, just as Moses did with Joshua
- Release them into new ways of the ancient practice of taking Jesus to Canadian and global culture
- Champion them as they forge into the new
- Advocate and care for them as they face a world that we as a church struggle to understand

As we prayed through how to respond to this clarion call to the next generation, we wanted to invite the Canadian church to join us in this journey of discovery.

We would like to ask that you:

- Incessantly pray for the next generation
- Send us, as youth ministry leaders, your insights and words
- Open the doors to the new and allow those young leaders to begin to run!

In January 2009, our Youth and Young Adult Ministry Roundtable will be working towards a call to action based on commonly held values. **Please tell us what you think by December 15** (by emailing the Roundtable, care of Ruth McClure, (ruthm@efc-canada.com) – and pray for a Canadian church, bursting with the lives of the generations to come.

Signed by participants in the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Forum, held January 2008 in Calgary Alberta (see sheet attached) and the members of the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Roundtable.

Dion Collins
Andy Harrington
Darcy McAlister
Marv Penner
Geri Rodman
Dave Steeves
Aileen Van Ginkel
John Wilkinson, Chair
Dale Winder

Signatories to the Letter from the Youth and Young Adult Ministries Forum

**Patricia Allison
Rod Alm
Mark Anderson
Brett Andrews
Rebecca Bailey
Murray Baker
Rick Bartlett
John Berard
Abe Bergen
Roger Berrington
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Ben Erbacher
Beth Fellingner
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**Tim McCoy
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Marv Penner
George Porter
Ron Powell
Paul Racine
Paul Robertson
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Tom Sopwith
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