

Teach Them The TRUTH

*This month's YouthLine is a real treat! This exhortation to Bible teaching and not just entertainment in youth ministry is right on the money. These thoughts come to us from **Eric Mock**, VP of Ministry Operations for **Slavic Gospel Association**. Eric is a good friend of mine and I wanted to share his thoughts with you as they were a great encouragement to my heart. Eric, though working with SGA in the Former Soviet Union, is also, by God's grace, a church planter with **Midwest Church Extension** and is planting a church, **Rivers Edge Bible Fellowship**, in the small rural town of Pecatonica IL, outside of Rockford. Many of us think we are busy, and we are, but Eric transcends us in this area and deserves to be heard. Please read his thoughts and take courage in our culture as you preach the word not just the topics! - TH*

In the midst of difficult times, we often find ourselves praying to be spared from these trials. Yet it is in these times



that our Lord God refines and purifies a people after His own possession and to His own glory. We must praise God for these challenging times, as in the midst of them we can see His hand at work in all of our lives. I have found the best antidote when I get tired is to add another ministry. In this case, we evaporate all opportunity to reflect on our own condition as we are immersed in service of our Lord. One of these ministries we added is a Bible study for teens that has captivated my heart.

We are in a difficult and confusing time in our country, and our response remains the same as it has been in recent years. It is to find ways to ease our pain, and please the senses. Rather than being confronted with the depth of our own sin through trials, we seek therapy and consolation for our condition. The product of post-modern thinking is an adult generation that arrives at church expecting an encouraging, light hearted message rather than an encounter with the Truth. One would expect that the product of such adult thinking is a generation of teens lost with no answer in sight. And this is absolutely

the truth! Surrounded by broken homes, fractured marriages and hypocrisy there are no hand holds for them to grab onto in the journey towards maturity. Yet in this tragic situation God has raised up a generation of teens zealous for Truth, real Truth from people who really care about them and live this Truth in their lives. This generation, called by some a post Christian generation, are being raised up by God hungry for answers. I have thirty teens in a town of 2000 people that come every Sunday night to our home, not for pizza or video games, but to learn about the one True God and His Word, and experience godly fellowship.

On Sunday morning these teens are taking pages of notes, pouring through their Bibles with every Scripture referenced. These teens are our modern day Bereans. Rather than passing off the job of working with the teens to those that will entertain, teach your teens the Truth that they might be the witnesses to the adult lost and their communities. In the former Soviet Union, it is the teens who are in passionate service of our Lord in communities, in orphanages, to those in need and even to those parents under which they suffered years of abuse. I understand that 85% of those children claiming Christ at an early age in America walk away from their faith before leaving high school. This stands to our shame, as far too long we have been teaching religion rather than biblical Truth and what it means to be truly saved through Christ, our living God and only hope.



I offer these words as a corrective in our day. Rather than constantly adapting churches to meet the

needs of a therapeutic generation, let us boldly teach the Word of God, with conviction and love, to a generation that is ready to be ambassadors in the service of our Lord. These difficult times are producing a generation of teens raised up by God to be life changers! There is nothing wrong with the seed - broadcast it to the glory of God!