

The Legacy Imperative's NextGen Summit An Overview

WHAT

The NextGen Summit is a seven-session live seminar led by Dr. Bob Petterson from the Legacy Imperative (legacyimperative.org). It will be held at the Roseville worship center on Friday evening and Saturday morning, September 27-28, 2024.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The NextGen Summit is designed primarily for grandparents (and grand-persons) of Gen Z youth (born between 1996 and 2012) and younger.

This summit is not just for those attending Calvary; the general public is welcomed and encouraged to register and attend.

WHO

Dr. Bob Petterson is a former church pastor, author of seven books and has spoken to over two million people in 30 countries. He earned his doctorate from Fuller Theological Seminary and has been an adjunct professor at Covenant Seminary. He and his wife, Joyce, reside in Naples, FL., and they have a daughter, Rachel, who together with her and husband, Joe, have two daughters.

Co-chairs for the event at Calvary are Paul and Linda Wicklund and Glenn and Barb Martin. The designated staff member is Ralph Gustafson.

THE NEED

Many of us inherited our faith, but by many counts we are losing the next generations, the natives of what some call "Digital Land."

Consider the following:

- "One of the largest unreached people groups in the world, 152 million U.S. Millennials and Gen Z's, don't know Jesus as their Savior. They are non-religious" (Arizona Christian University, Culture Research Center Study May 28, 2024).
- Studies show that 80% of Millennials and Gen Z's love their grandparents more than anyone else (*Visit Anaheim*, 2019).
- More than 15 million self-identify as atheists (The Survey Center on American Life of the American Enterprise Institute, March 2022).
- A significant number embrace moral, sexual, gender and family fluidity (USA TODAY, Feb. 29, 2023 cited a Gallup 2022 poll showing that 31% of Millennials and Gen Zs self-identify as lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender or other. That's about 43 million people).

- 65% of Millennials and Gen Zs agreed with the statement: *“If your beliefs hurt someone or hurt their feelings, it is probably wrong.”* (Barna, 2018)
- The suicide death rate increased dramatically in adolescents (48% increase) and young adults (39% increase) between 2011 and 2021.
- Many are fatherless with over 15 million going to bed in a home without a biological father (The America First Policy Institute, May 15, 2023).

We all want our children and grandchildren to trust in Jesus, yet many of us do not speak the language or understand the culture of “Digital Land” and how to address the “hot button” topics of gender, sexuality, evil, suffering, abortion, and justice.

PURPOSE

The NextGen Summit will equip participants to effectively evangelize and disciple the next generations (Millennial and Gen Z). Specifically, it will:

- Help us understand the culture and the world of the digital generations and the chasm that separates them from older generations.
- Teach us how to communicate Biblical values in a language and manner that are relevant to young people, so that they will be motivated to pass on these same values to their friends and future families.
- Learn how to discuss “hot button” issues.
- Inspire, empower, and equip us to disciple the next generations in their own language and cultural contexts.

REGISTRATION AND COST

Participants should register in advance online at calvarychurch.us/community/adults or by calling Betty Dawson in the RV church office at 651-558-2606. Cost is \$5/person and is payable at the door. This cost includes the seminar handbook.

FOLLOW-UP RESOURCES

On-going training resources include an optional eight-session video series (Christ-centered and scripturally based) designed for interaction among viewers. These videos will help hone our newly acquired skills and provide support for one another.

Additionally, Mission Training Groups (MTG) can be established that meet regularly to pray together, share discipling successes and struggles, hold each other accountable, and learn ongoing skills.

Other follow-up activities may be planned as needed.