

IMB MISSIONS COLLEGE



NextGen Missions

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- What do you hope to get from this session?
- What do you think of when you think of NextGen?



Who is NextGen?

- ❖ IMB Opportunities
 - ❖ 15-29 years old
- ❖ Gen Z
 - ❖ Born between 1996 and 2010



Snapshot of Gen Z

- Global Youth Culture
 - United by the pandemic and social media
- Post-modernism
 - Your Truth/My Truth
 - Authenticity is primary importance
- Diverse and tolerant of ideas but concerned about being “canceled”



Highlight

Gen Z are wrestling with their beliefs and values—and searching for purpose. *Gen Z Volume 3* research reveals that **nearly half of Gen Z (49%) say they've personally made a commitment to Jesus that's still important in their life today.** Yet there are signs that some of Gen Z's ideas about this faith deviate from the gospel.

For instance, **73 percent of all Gen Z agree that if a person is generally good or does enough good things for others, they can earn a place in heaven.** We also see that Gen Z are decreasingly present in the pews. Today, 37 percent say they've never been to church, versus 28 percent in 2020.



Snapshot of Gen Z

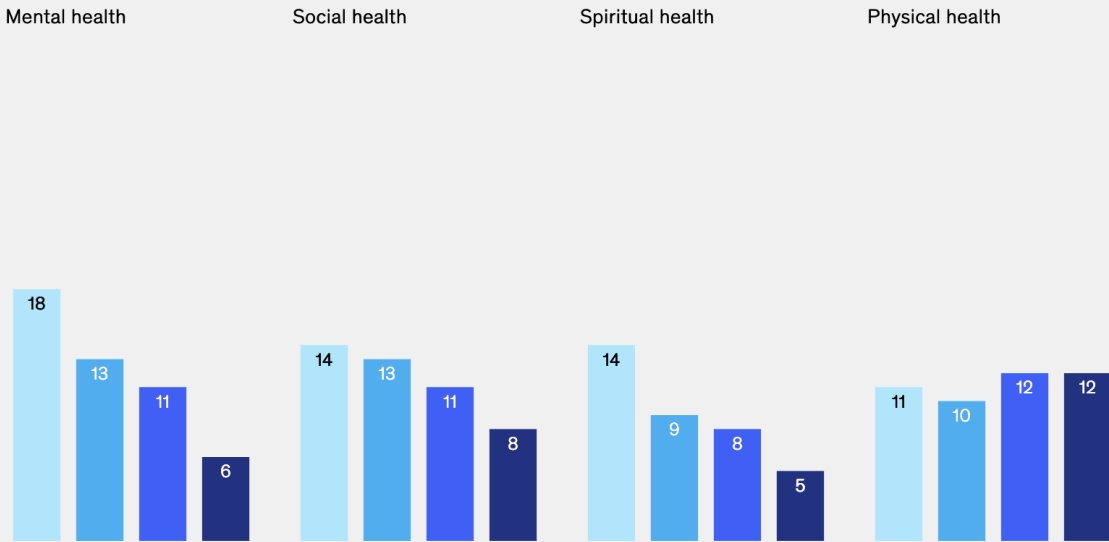
- Risk-averse and uncomfortable with ambiguity
 - Emotional, financial, and physical security
- Focus on mental health
 - Happiness is a major goal
 - Highest levels of anxiety and stress of any generation
- Desire to make a difference in the world and not just fill a role
 - How can they specifically serve?
 - What can they bring to the table?

In most surveyed countries, a higher share of Gen Z survey respondents report poor mental, social, and spiritual health compared with other generations.

Respondents who report their health as poor or very poor, by dimension of health, % of respondents

World

Gen Z Millennials Gen X Baby boomers



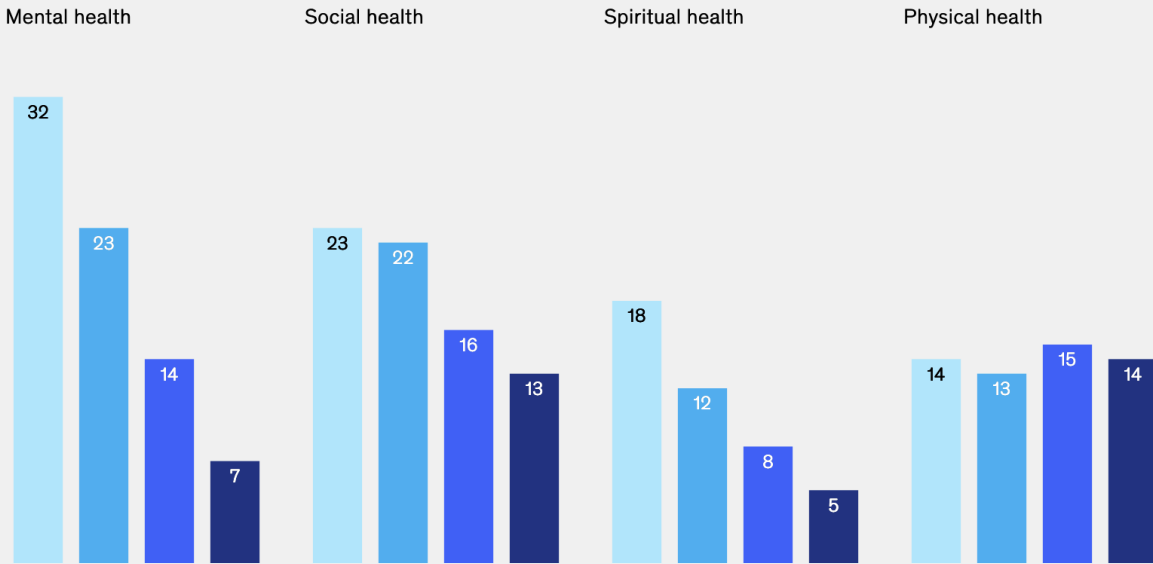
Note: Gen Z oversample; weighted by gender, age, and socioeconomic; dates fielded: May 5–June 27, 2022 for France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, Türkiye, and UK; and Aug 26–Nov 2, 2022 for other countries. Question: Please rate your health across the following dimensions: social, mental, spiritual, physical. Respondents who answered “very good,” “good,” or “neutral” are not shown. Social health represents an individual’s ability to build healthy, nurturing, genuine, and supportive relationships. People in good social health have the capacity to form meaningful connections with others, to both receive and provide social support. Spiritual health enables people to integrate meaning in their lives. Spiritually healthy people have a strong sense of purpose. They feel a broad sense of connection to something larger than themselves, whether to a community, a calling, or to a form of divinity. We note that strong spiritual health does not necessarily imply the adoption of religious beliefs, in general, or any specific dogma.
Source: McKinsey Health Institute Global Gen Z Survey (2022) (n = 41,960)

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McKinsey Health Institute
“Gen Z mental health: The impact of tech and social media”
August 28, 2023

Discussion

- ❖ How have you seen NextGen Christians serve in your local church or in missions?
- ❖ Why should they serve?



Why NextGen?



Part of the Church

The diagram features a vertical list of four items. Each item consists of a light gray circle on the left, connected by a thin line to a dark blue rectangular box on the right. The boxes have a pointed left edge that fits into the circle. The background is white with faint, light gray wavy lines. A dark blue curved shape with a green border is on the far left.

Commandment

Impact

Preparation

“We are, all of us who believe, either goers, senders, or disobedient...”

~ John Piper

What are some barriers for NextGen to pursue serving in missions?



In what ways can we help young adults navigate these barriers?



Pathways

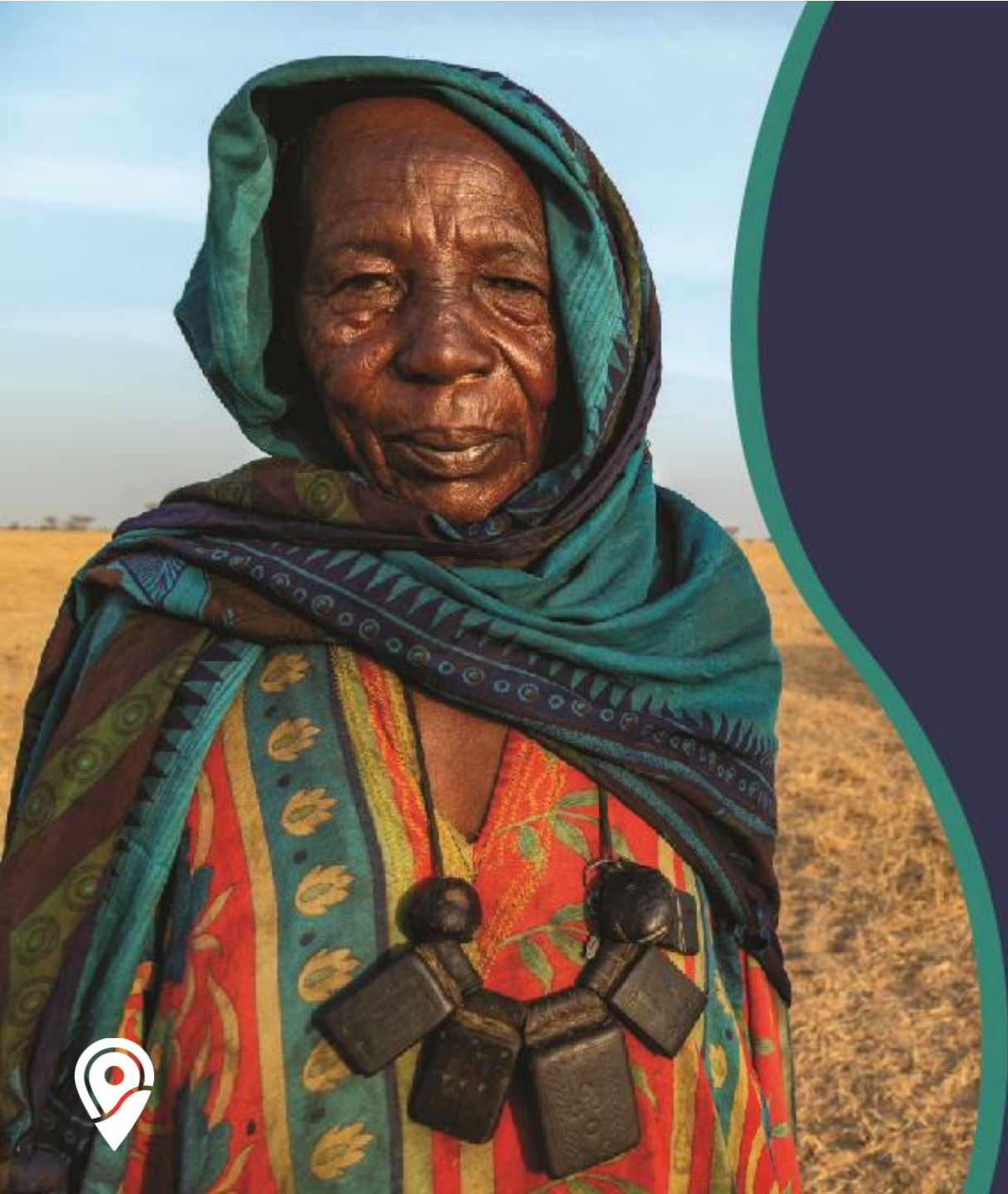
1-3 Week Trips

Go Impact
(youth groups – 1 week)

Short-term

Partner Trips

**Summer Sojourners &
Nehemiah Teams**
(2 months)



Pathways

**M Residency
(4-12 months)**

**Journeyman
(2 years)**

Mid-term

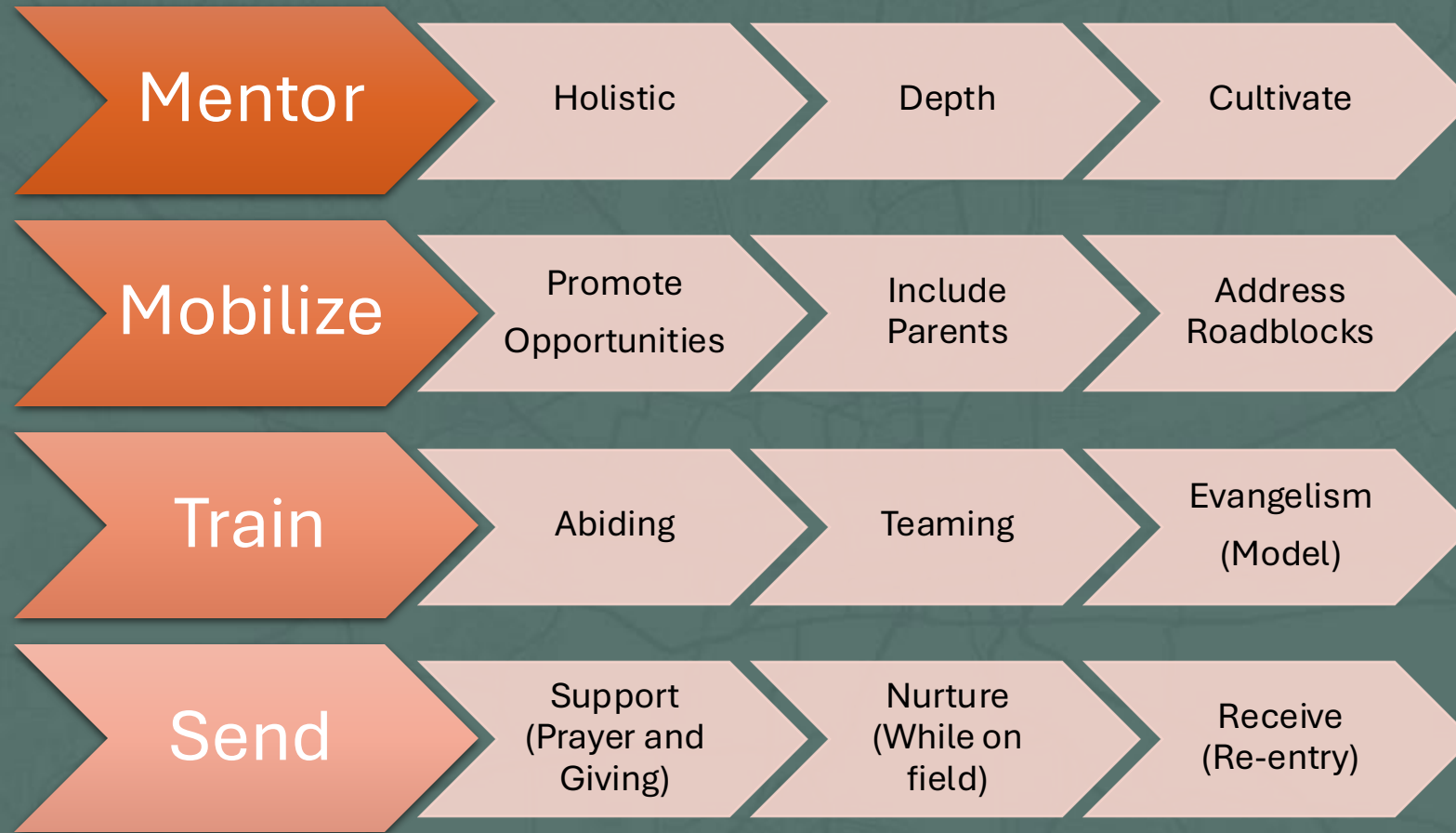
**Project 3000
(2 years)**

Team Associate

How has your church prepared and mobilized
NextGen to be a part of God's mission?



The Church's Role



Training Resources

- imb.org/training
- *Foundations*
- *God's Heart for the Nations* by Jeff Lewis
- *Holy Ambition* by John Piper
- *Returning Well* by Melissa Chaplain



REACHING
THE NATIONS,
TOGETHER.



INTERNATIONAL
MISSION BOARD