

GAP 1: THE GLOBAL AGING POPULATION

Driving Question for Collaborative Design

How might Christians in the church, parachurch, and workplace collaborate to evangelistically reach and disciple the global aging population to trust the gospel and follow Christ in the whole of life to the very end?

Description

The global aging population (60 years and older) is the fastest growing global population, increasing from 1 billion to 2.1 billion between now and 2050. This demographic shift will have significant effects on a broad range of issues including sociological, economic, and religious factors. Global aging has not been a primary global focus for Christian missions in previous decades. Furthermore, Lausanne's Perception of the Great Commission global survey responses indicated that of all age groups, the church discipled the aging population with least effectiveness – a failure which has a huge impact on the extraordinary opportunity the 60+ cohort has to engage in mission to their adult children, grandchildren, and to their peers as well as to mentor/support/disciple younger Christians for work and everyday discipleship.

As we acknowledge and prepare for this demographic shift, this conversation prayerfully explores:

Collaboration Questions

- What are specific evangelism strategies to reach an aging population?
- How might the 60+ generations be equipped and released for mission, discipling and mentoring?
- How can current mission/church organizations/workers be more prepared for this demographic change?
- What new organizations, collaborative programmes, and missional business are needed to attend to the 60+ cohorts?
- How can the church and Christian NGO's partner with local authorities for kingdom impact?

Sub-Topics

- Reaching aging populations with the gospel
- Discipleship and releasing the 60+ generations
- Partnership with the civic sector for care of the aging
- Organizational collaboration opportunities to reach an aging population

Preparation before Seoul 2024

Please read these sections of the State of the Great Commission Report:

- Introduction from the Theology Working Group
- Part I, on the State of the Great Commission globally, captured by text and graphics
- Part II, with the article on 'Aging Global Population'
- Part III for your particular region in which you primarily work or serve in church or parachurch