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**Global Connections Youth
Forum Presentation
January 2006**



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Bridging the Gap for the under 14's



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Why bother? – the case for mission and mission resources for the young

- ◆ It's not unbiblical
- ◆ Research tells us that mission is ok for teens and young people
- ◆ Children are 'no nonsense' evangelists

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The missionary myth

- ◆ **No one likes us, we don't care**



The perception

- ◆ Those who do it and believe in it, and those who don't
- ◆ Churched children **WILL** be influenced by the focus – or otherwise – of mission in their church or through their parents but if they don't have the opportunity, who will tell them?

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The perception

- ◆ So the perception is, if a church does not engage in mission, then its children and young people are not interested in mission
- ◆ The reality is otherwise



The research

- ◆ 82% know a missionary
- ◆ 69% want to know about different cultures
- ◆ 74% want to know about the lives of missionaries
- ◆ Top 3 mission issues that matter to churched young people:
 - war
 - street kids
 - persecution/prostitution

The research

- ◆ Examples of what they thought about missionaries:
 - normal
 - crazy
 - role models
 - friendly
 - passionate
- ◆ Examples of what mission means to them:
 - exciting
 - interesting
 - cool
 - boring
 - adventurous
- ◆ ... 78% answered in the affirmative

Our responsibility

- ◆ To provide resources for churches who have a missionary heart for their children
- ◆ To provide resources for those who don't, but who might like to if they were available