



# WHY WE PAINT

The Story Behind Crosspaint

BY

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# #intro

*"No, no, I won't take those pills! They make me go crazy..."*

These were not cries from a lunatic asylum, but from a staff room. Like a bull surrounded by bullfighters, a hyperactive boy was encouraged by teachers to take his pills. Finally, he gave in:

*"I don't need this sh\*t Ritalin ... I need a father".*

This story is true. Not only is it true, but it's happening every day. It is true for an entire generation. My generation. A fatherless generation swallowing tranquillizers like others eat candy.

What does this have to do with Crosspaint? Actually, a lot, because Crosspaint is far from just a funny idea to make bible animation videos on YouTube. It's a mission that started before YouTube existed, so before 2006, and at the same time, it is a venture which is still in its infancy. It's a journey and we expect splinters to fall, mistakes to happen and a lot of disappointments along the way. That is why we have to ask, before the "ascent to the summit": "Why are we doing this anyway?"

The answer is the crying boy with his Ritalin candy in his mouth.

Recently, I asked 70 Crosspaint friends what we should put on the FAQ page of the new website. The question that came up the most was, "*Why are you making such an effort?*", "*What is your motivation?*", "*How did Crosspaint come about?*". The question of the "why".

The answer is the silent cry of a generation after glory.

Of young people who have everything and yet are nothing. A generation that is racing towards eternity, yet still has no peace with the eternal.

I once worked as a substitute teacher in a Swiss school, where very well-heeled children tend to go. Worlds away from schools in big cities, where you have to expect certain conditions. The class schedule stated: education about smoking. So on the whole, I was supposed to discourage smoking cigarettes. So I went in and asked, "Who smokes here?". Only one hand went up. As expected. Smoking, well at least chain smoking like 20 years ago, is out. Today you smoke marijuana, or harder stuff. Oh well. But even that interested me less, but more the subject of "dependencies" as such.

Well, somehow I had the confidence of this young gang very quickly and for some reason they wanted to spill the beans.

Ben, the boy who spoke first, was 14 years old. He was probably the alpha male of the pack and asked if it would be normal for an 11 year old girl to ask him if they wanted to have sex. For his part, he thought it might be too early.

"So," I ask Ben. *"What's the normal age to become sexually active?"* "Well," he says *"14's alright. But 11..."*

OK. Then we went on. At the age of 14, Ben already knew four girls from his year level who had had an abortion. Another had to go to court the next day for drugs. Still another had broken into a property just for the heck of it. To relax they tried to give themselves tattoos, educating themselves on YouTube. Then came such a blatant statement it shook me. Of course, it was from Ben.

**"Our parents let us do what we want. They only get nervous when we are sent home as small pieces of meat in a plastic bag."**

After this hour, I had 45 minutes off and just sat in an empty classroom, praying and looking out the window. I had to think of the Ritalin boy in the staff room.

*"I do not need Ritalin. I need a father."*

You know, if you have a soul, you probably have tears in your eyes, or at least in your heart. Through this e-book, I do not just want to uncover the wounds of our generation, but to give you tools that you can use tomorrow in your circle of friends, in your youth work or in your church. I do not want to lead you into a dark tunnel, but show you the light on the other side. Yes, there is light. There is hope for this youth. My generation has fallen deeper than any other, but I believe in one God who, according to Isaiah 41:4, is "with the last the same". He is the father of the Fatherless and

I believe that those who have been much forgiven love a lot.

I've seen it myself, as teenagers from this "lazy computer generation" work day and night. I've seen teenagers put aside their favorite activities and read the bible at 6am. I've seen teenagers picking up their arms and helping the next generation get out of the hole.

Yes, our generation is going out the window. But out the window is God. There is hope. If we rethink, roll up our arms and give everything we have, we will experience things we would not have thought possible.

The next time I was at this school, I met the kids at lunch time behind a church. *They stoned.* "When are you coming back to our class?" one asked. "No idea," I said, "depends on the timetable." "I hope you'll be back soon," he said without raising his head.

"Yes," I thought to myself, "I'll be back. But not in the way you're thinking, and with reinforcements. "

I know that you may still struggle to make the link from Bible videos to these teenagers. But we'll come to that in the next few chapters of the e-book.

So, what I wanted to ask you was:

**Do You Care?**

Do you want to take a few minutes *for* this generation?



If so, please get the ENTIRE book at  
[www.crosspaint.tv/whywepaint](http://www.crosspaint.tv/whywepaint)