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Key Factors of Faith Development: The Relationship Between Family and Church Factors and Faith Development of Adolescents and Young Adults in German-Speaking Europe [Dissertation Notice]

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International Leadership Institute.

The project began with an examination of the level of biblical knowledge elders and leaders possessed prior to the study. A pre-study questionnaire was given to all elders and leaders, and an open-ended interview was also conducted before the start of the study. Eight study lessons then were presented over a period of four months.

After the lessons were given, a post-study questionnaire and an open-ended interview were conducted with all the elders and leaders to determine the result of the ministry intervention. The results indicated that consistent and proper training will increase the biblical knowledge of elders and leaders and enable them to minister to God's people effectively.

Roth, Jared (2011). *The relationship between emotional intelligence and pastor leadership in turnaround churches*. Ed.D., Pepperdine University.

Preparing, selecting, and training lead pastors for established churches in the United States is a growing challenge as 84% of churches are in attendance decline or are failing to keep up with population growth in their communities. Interest in how leadership qualities influence the turnaround from a declining church into a growing church served as the impetus to explore the conceptual topics of turnaround churches and emotional intelligence (EI) competencies of lead pastors. This quantitative study compared the EI of lead pastors of Foursquare churches in the United States using the 15 competencies of the Bar-On EQ-i assessment to determine whether certain competencies were significantly different based on the church attendance pattern. Two subgroups were compared—pastors whose congregations were considered

to be in decline, and those considered to have a congregation with a turnaround or growth pattern.

Statistical analyses revealed that five EI competencies (emotional self-awareness, independence, flexibility, assertiveness, and optimism) were significantly higher among pastors of turnaround churches, suggesting that pastors with higher levels of these specific EI competencies have a stronger likelihood of improving church attendance and promoting continued growth.

Schulze, Alexander C. (2013). *Key factors of faith development: The relationship between family and church factors and faith development of adolescents and young adults in German-speaking Europe.* Ph.D., Andrews University.

Research reveals that more than two thirds of the next generation leave their congregations during their teens and early 20s; the church is losing its children. The problem addressed in this study is the continuing challenge for church leaders, educators, and administrators to provide the best possible conditions for spiritual and organizational growth in order to retain the next generation. While observation and anecdotal evidence have suggested for a long time that the faith development of adolescents and young adults is influenced by family and church factors, no actual study had been done to investigate whether these observations can be confirmed and generalized across German-speaking Europe.

This study, based on the data gathered by Valuegenesis Europe, examines if a relationship between family and church variables and the faith development of adolescents and young adults in Austria, Germany, and Switzerland can be established. Applicable items were selected from

the original Valuegenesis Europe questionnaire. In addition, four new faith development scales were constructed. These instruments were used to test a sample of 1,359 adolescents and young adults between 14 and 25 years of age in German-speaking Europe.

A thorough statistical analysis confirmed what anecdotal evidence already suggests: There are key factors of faith development in the area of family as well as in the area of church that influence the faith development of adolescents and young adults in German-speaking Europe.

Swanner, Joseph Thomas, IV (2014). *Two by two leadership: A model of Christian leadership.* D.Min., Liberty University.

A growing number of scholars are accepting the suggestion that shared leadership is preferred over individual leadership. The shared leadership model is proliferating into new fields, where it is being modified and improved. Biblically, there is a pattern of sending individuals two by two into leadership, as well. Christian leadership models of the future must also return to the two by two, co-leader ideal. There is room for strategizing the details of what this model will look like on a practical level. Utilizing a case study and surveys, this project examined the effects of this leadership model in a church plant context, with an urban small group network. This context provides insight on the details of how shared leadership might look in the modern church.

Stunkard, David R. (2014). *Organizational preference of members in historically defined homogeneous conferences of the Seventh-day Adventist Church:*

A question of organizational identity. Ph.D., Andrews University.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America has a dual-conference system, an organizational structure featuring "Black conferences" that were established for the purpose of ministering with and for Black populations and "White conferences" tasked with caring for all other populations. Since this system was instituted, however, the constituency demographics have become so racially and ethnically diversified that questions have begun to arise about the identity and necessity of this organizational structure.

This study sought to examine attitudes of constituents toward three organizational identity options: (a) a homogeneous organization, (b) a multicultural organization, and (c) a synergistic organization. A survey was developed, with input from experts and focus groups consisting of members of both types of organizations (Black and White conferences). The survey was given to a sample of members in a White conference (Georgia-Cumberland) and a Black conference (South Central). There were 433 valid responses from randomly selected participants from both conferences who represented some 24 different racial/ethnic groups.

Results showed that none of the racial/ethnic groups and none of the age segments showed a preference for a homogeneously defined organizational identity. There was also no difference between responses from smaller or larger churches in both conferences. The highest preference in every racial/ethnic group, church size, and age category was to have a synergistically defined organizational identity.