Global Church Member Research and Adventist Young People

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Acknowledgements

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2018 Global Church Member Survey Samples & Young People Subsamples

Total sample: N=63,756
21-35 years of age: N=17,970
Up to 20 years old: N=7,490
Adventist Kids, Youth, & Young Adults around the World (as of 2017)

Adventurers – ages 4-9
Pathfinders – 10-15
Ambassadors – 16-21
Young adults – 21-30+
Outline

• Some demographics
• Devotional life
• Church attendance, location, & climate
• Involvement in church life and community outreach
• Views on some doctrines
• Commitment
• Conclusions
• Potential future research
A significant number of young people around the world have not had Adventist education.
Generations of Adventists

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Generation</th>
<th>Up to 20</th>
<th>21-35</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st generation</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th &amp; 5th generation</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Relationship with the Adventist Church

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Generation</th>
<th>Up to 20</th>
<th>21-35</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baptized</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adventists</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Devotional Life

How Often do you Engage in these Activities? [Daily or more often than once a day]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Daily or more often + more than once a week:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sabbath School:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Up to 21: 46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21-35: 57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGW writings:</td>
<td>Up to 20: 23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21-35: 32%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Up to 20</th>
<th>21-35</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal prayer</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal devotions</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read the Bible</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study the SS lesson</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read EGW's writings</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Family Worship

- Daily or more than once a day: 32%
- Several times a week: 17%
- Never: 23%

Young Adults:

- 47% are married
- 44% have children
- 42% have at least one child or teenager living at home
- 86% whose children are all Adventists, and 14% whose children are not all Adventists
- 4% of youth have children living with them at home
Differences in Responses in Different Cultural Contexts

Responses on reading the Bible daily and Disagree or strongly disagree with
“Although I am religious, it does not affect my daily life”
Ages: 15-35

* “Americas” include Inter and South America; “Secular” context includes North America, Europe, and part of Australia
Church Attendance, Location, & Climate

OVERALL 21-35

Church Location:
- Large city center (downtown): 23%
- Elsewhere in a large city: 14%
- A smaller city that is next to a larger city (a suburb): 13%
- A smaller city: 17%
- A town or village: 60%

A rural area: 24%
Church attendance during the Last 12 Months

- **Attended church services**
  - Every week or more than once a week: up to 20 - 66%
  - Almost every week: up to 20 - 19%
  - Every week or more than once a week: 21-35 - 69%
  - Almost every week: 21-35 - 19%

- **Attended Sabbath School**
  - Every week or more than once a week: up to 20 - 66%
  - Almost every week: up to 20 - 20%
  - Every week or more than once a week: 21-35 - 66%
  - Almost every week: 21-35 - 21%
How Satisfied are you with your Local Church?

- Very satisfied with my local church: 50%
- Somewhat satisfied: 23% (Up to 20) vs. 27% (21-35)
When I am at Church, I ...

At Church I ... (responses for “Very true”)

- Feel free to be who I am
- Able to use my spiritual gifts
- Feel loved & cared
- Can voice my opinion
- Feel closeness & unity
- Able to help and serve people
Involvement in Church Ministry during the Last 12 Months (Every week or more than once a week)

- Helped with a church ministry on Sabbath:
  - Up to 20: 28%
  - 21-35: 35%

- Helped with a church ministry during the week:
  - Up to 20: 22%
  - 21-35: 27%

Involvement in Church Ministry during the Last 12 Months (Every week or more than once a week) Ages: 15-35

- Asia:
  - On Sabbath: 39%
    - Up to 20: 33%
    - 21-35: 31%
  - During the week: 35%
    - Up to 20: 34%
    - 21-35: 27%

- Americas:
  - On Sabbath: 31%
    - Up to 20: 24%
    - 21-35: 27%
  - During the week: 34%

- Africa:
  - On Sabbath: 35%
    - Up to 20: 27%
    - 21-35: 29%
  - During the week: 34%

- Secular:
  - On Sabbath: 35%
    - Up to 20: 16%
    - 21-35: 16%
  - During the week: 34%
Youth and Young Adults Play an Important Role in Decision-Making in My Local Church

Involvement of young people in decision-making
Ages: 15-35

- **Asia**: 72%
- **Americas**: 60%
- **Africa**: 71%
- **Secular**: 49%

21-35:
- Strongly agree: 22%
- Agree: 44%
- Not sure: 21%
- Disagree: 9%

Up to 20:
- Strongly agree: 24%
- Agree: 41%
- Not sure: 23%
- Disagree: 8%

Legend:
- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Not sure
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Role in decision-making
Youth and Young Adults are Actively Involved in Carrying out the Mission of my Local Church (cultural context)

Involvement of Young People in Local Church Mission
Ages: 15-35

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Not sure</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secular</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ages: 15-35

- **Total**: 22% strongly agree, 46% agree, 19% not sure, 9% disagree, 4% strongly disagree
- **21-35**: 24% strongly agree, 46% agree, 18% not sure, 9% disagree, 3% strongly disagree
- **Up to 20**: 25% strongly agree, 44% agree, 21% not sure, 7% disagree, 4% strongly disagree
Do you hold a Church Office at your local Church?

**Up to 20**
- Yes: 63%
- No: 37%

**21-35**
- Yes: 59%
- No: 41%
Evangelism [once a week or more often]

- 20% met needs of non-Adventists
- 24% formed new friendship
- 27% witnessed to non-Adventists

Ages: 15-35

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Witnessed to non-Adventists</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secular</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

21-35
- 19% met needs of non-Adventists
- 24% formed new friendship
- 27% witnessed to non-Adventists

Up to 20
- 18% met needs of non-Adventists
- 20% formed new friendship
- 32% witnessed to non-Adventists
My Church Has a Program for Preparing Young People to Become Leaders (strongly agree or agree)

Local church programs for young leaders

- Asia: 72%
- Americas: 46%
- Africa: 75%
- Secular: 27%

- Up to 20
- 21-35
- Total sample
Church Doctrines—Support

- Sabbath: 97%
- God created the universe: 95%
- My body is a temple of the HS: 94%
- EGW's writings - Spirit of Prophecy: 91%

93% 91% 89% 86%
Some More Results on Doctrines

- **62%** up to 20 years: Jesus will return in my lifetime
- **59%** 21-35 years: Church interpretation of end-time prophesies

- **53%** up to 20 years: Before Christ returns, God will decide who is saved & lost
- **56%** 21-35 years: Pre-Advent judgment began in 1844

- **63%** up to 20 years: Church interpretation of end-time prophesies
- **59%** 21-35 years: Pre-Advent judgment began in 1844
- **57%** up to 20 years: Before Christ returns, God will decide who is saved & lost
- **45%** 21-35 years: Pre-Advent judgment began in 1844
Doctrines: Salvation

- Salvation & Health message: 51% for up to 20, 50% for 21-35
- Salvation & obedience to the Law: 67% for up to 20, 68% for 21-35
- Salvation & SDA membership: 58% for up to 20, 61% for 21-35
- Sinful nature: 53% for up to 20, 64% for 21-35
- Solus Christus: 91% for up to 20, 96% for 21-35

Legend: [Blue] Up to 20, [Orange] 21-35
**Doctrines: State of the Dead**

- **Righteous dead are in heaven**: 28% (Up to 20), 21% (21-35)
- **No consciousness or activity**: 82% (Up to 20)
- **Soul lives after death**: 39% (Up to 20), 36% (21-35)
- **Christians may go to witch doctors**: 21% (Up to 20), 15% (21-35)
- **Dead can communicate with living**: 16% (Up to 20), 13% (21-35)
Is there a difference between cultural contexts and SDA education in acceptance of non-Adventist beliefs on the state of the dead?

(Results for strongly disagree or disagree)

Ages 15-35

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>SDA Education</th>
<th>No SDA Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secular</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How Likely is it that you will Be Attending a Seventh-day Adventist Church for the Rest of your Life?

- Very likely:
  - Up to 20: 73%
  - 21-35: 80%
- Somewhat likely:
  - Up to 20: 14%
  - 21-35: 12%
Conclusions

Faith development happens in the context of home, church, school, and culture; each plays its role. What role?

Room for Improvement:

1. Home: Personal and family devotional life
2. Local churches: young people’s satisfaction, safe and friendly climate, young leaders’ training especially in Inter and South Americas and secular context, young people’s involved in decision making process especially in Inter and South Americas and secular context
3. Local churches: in all contexts intentional involvement of 21-35 age group (Millennials) in ministry with their spiritual gifts on Sabbath and during the week
4. Intentional discipleship of high school and college students in all aspects of their spiritual life, involvement, and service
5. Adventist education: is not available everywhere; not only its presence is important but the content addressing cultural beliefs in local context and doctrinal issues young people are struggling with
6. Special attention to such doctrines as the state of the dead, salvation by grace, sinful nature, pre-advent judgment
7. Application of religious principles by young people to their daily life especially in cultural contexts in Asia, Inter and South America, and Africa
Potential Future Research

• Young people attitudes and spiritual practices in different divisions & different cultural contexts

Any questions?