JOINING & REMAINING
A Look at the Data on the Role of Adventist Education

All-important matter...
“Conversion of the students.”
Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 436

Conversion
Joining

Adventist Education
LONGEST and LARGEST EVANGELISTIC EVENT held by the Adventist Church

Duration 800 – 37,400 hours
5-9 hours/day
160-260 days/year
1-16+ years

Size

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Sites</th>
<th>Evangelists</th>
<th>Attendees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elementary</td>
<td>5,915</td>
<td>54,282</td>
<td>1,200,880</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>2,435</td>
<td>39,386</td>
<td>603,251</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training Schools</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>604</td>
<td>5,765</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colleges &amp; Universities</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>14,384</td>
<td>145,024</td>
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<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>8,514</td>
<td>108,656</td>
<td>1,954,920</td>
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</tbody>
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Adventist Education
LONGEST and LARGEST EVANGELISTIC EVENT Effective?

Baptisms in Adventist Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Baptized</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>33,766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>33,138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>40,415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>49,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>50,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>49,774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>48,604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>47,435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>43,475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>49,308</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

445,843 baptisms
A conference established each year

Children from Adventist families

- 38.3% Never joined the church
- 95.4% No Adventist Education
- 100.0% Some Adventist Education
- 0.0% 12 Grades Adventist Education
- W. E. Minder
Lake Union
N=807
Joining and Remaining: A Look at the Data on the Role of Adventist Education

**Children from Adventist families**
- 2.42 never baptized
- 8.06 baptized

**Children from Adventist families**
- 13x more likely to remain Adventist
  - 40.1% never baptized, 15.4% baptized
  - 59.9% never baptized, 84.6% baptized
  - 3.1% never baptized, 96.9% baptized

**Adventist Education Is Mission**
- "The work of education and the work of redemption are one."
  - Education, p. 30

**Adventist Education Is Mission**
- Reaffirm the central role of Adventist education in the evangelistic mission of the church

**Retention in the Church**
- The Role of Adventist Education

**Members who leave**
- Since 1965: 34,385,004 accessions
- Net loss rate: 39.95%
- Of 10 members, 4 have slipped away.

**Members who leave**
- In 2000-2012, there were 13,648,281 accessions
- Net loss rate: 43.36%

**Youth who leave**
- Landmark "Youth Retention" study
  - Over 1,500 baptized 15- and 16-year-olds
  - Representative of Adventist youth:
    - Large & small churches, small towns & big cities,
    - public schools & Adventist schools, all ethnic groups
  - Interviewed each year for the next 10 years
- How many left the church by age 25-26?
  - Many demographic groups, approaching: 50%

**Youth who leave...**
- Not just ONE lost coin...
- But HALF of the coins!
Joining and Remaining: A Look at the Data on the Role of Adventist Education

Seven Studies
Retention and Adventist Education:
1. Valuegenesis Study (multi-year)
2. Youth Retention Study (longitudinal)
3. Epperson Study (dissertation)
4. Rice Study (dissertation, longitudinal)
5. Minder Study (dissertation)
6. Center Creative Ministry Study (global, qual)
7. ASTR "Leaving the Church" Study (global)

Valuegenesis Study
Data from 2,267 12th-grade Adventist students in Adventist schools showed that the more years of Adventist schooling, the greater the person's:
- Denomination loyalty
- Adventist orthodoxy
- Intention to remain an Adventist at age 40

Youth Retention Study
- A 10-year study of youth (N=1523), beginning at ages 15-16
- Key finding: Number of years in an Adventist school was positively related to:
  - Commitment to Jesus Christ
  - My relationship with Christ is stronger now
  - Religion is important in my life
  - Personal Bible study

Factors that Develop Religious Faith

81% of all students said...

Attending an Adventist school is the most important thing that has helped me develop my religious faith.

- Valuegenesis3 Study (2010)

Epperson Study
4.5x more likely

Rice Study
2x more likely to stay

Rice Study
2x more likely to pay tithe

81% of all students said... "Attending an Adventist school is the most important thing that has helped me develop my religious faith."

- Valuegenesis3 Study (2010)
Joining and Remaining: A Look at the Data on the Role of Adventist Education

Rice Study
3x more likely to marry an Adventist

Minder Study

Center for Creative Ministry Study

ASTR “Leaving the Church” Study

Are the accession and the retention of children and youth in the Church associated with their participation in Adventist education?

Train up a child in the way he should go...
Proverbs 22:6, NKJV

BARRIERS TO THE REDEMPTIVE PURPOSE of Adventist Education

Yes!
Consistent
Persuasive
Joining and Remaining: A Look at the Data on the Role of Adventist Education

Barrier #1

Many children and youth from Seventh-day Adventist homes are not attending Adventist schools.

Proportion with No SDA Education by Division

“All our youth should be permitted to have the blessings and privileges of an education at our schools, that they may be inspired to become laborers together with God.”

E. G. White. Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 44.

Dismantling Barrier #1

✓ Pastors and educators proactively share with parents the positive and consistent relationship between Adventist education and the proportion of children and youth joining and remaining in the Church.

✓ Church leaders intentionally establish initiatives, in partnership with local fields and congregations, to boost the availability of Adventist education to Seventh-day Adventist children and youth.

Dismantling Barrier #1

✓ Educational institutions create viable avenues by which Adventist students of limited means may obtain a Seventh-day Adventist education.

Barrier #2

Many teachers in Adventist schools are not members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
### The mission of the Church is **evangelistic**

Adventist education **fulfill** the mission.

"If the instructors have a **religious experience** themselves, they will be able to communicate to their students the knowledge of the love of God that they have received.

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"These lessons can be given only by those who are **themselves truly converted.**"

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### To be effective...

**An evangelist must first be a believer**

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"In all our churches there should be schools, and teachers in these schools who are **missionaries.**"

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### Dismantling Barrier #2

- Church leaders at all levels establish and regularly assess **specific objectives** (with corresponding KPIs) for educational systems and schools within their territory to progressively increase the proportion of Seventh-day Adventist teachers in Adventist schools.
Joining and Remaining: A Look at the Data on the Role of Adventist Education

**Dismantling Barrier #2**
- Church leaders in collaboration with Adventist IHEs establish and strengthen teacher training programs, potentially to include special subsidies for those training as elementary and secondary teachers.

**Dismantling Barrier #2**
- Leaders of Adventist IHEs develop and implement strategic plans in order to acquire or prepare qualified Adventist educators in each academic area offered.

**Barrier #3**
- Many pastors are not aware of the evangelistic role of Adventist education, nor perhaps convinced of its efficacy.

**Pastors Believe...**
- Members who have not experienced Adventist education and their likelihood of leaving the church.

**Pastors’ Years of Adventist Education**
- One in three pastors have had fewer than five years of experience in Adventist education.
- Only ~14% of pastors have completed all of their education in Adventist institutions.

**Dismantling Barrier #3**
- Adventist Seminaries and Schools of Religion require an internship in an Adventist school of all ministerial students who have not completed at least one year of study in an Adventist primary or secondary school.

**Dismantling Barrier #3**
- Adventist Seminaries and Schools of Religion incorporate required courses in the Ministry of Christian Education in the programs of study for all students specializing in pastoral ministry, religion, or theology.

**Dismantling Barrier #3**
- Ministerial and educational leaders emphasize through publications and at meetings of Adventist pastors the evangelistic effectiveness of Seventh-day Adventist education, especially in terms of accession and retention.

**CONCLUSION**
In Adventist Education

Children and youth experience...

Accession | Retention | Redemption

“in the highest sense, the work of education and the work of redemption are one.”

Education, p. 30

All your children shall be taught by God.

And great shall be the peace of your children.

Isaiah 54:13

TAUGHT BY GOD

Seventh-day Adventist Education