Joining and Remaining: A Look at the Data on the Role of Adventist Education

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

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

ACCESSION TO THE CHURCH
The Role of Adventist Education

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>Children</td>
<td>5,943</td>
<td>55,331</td>
<td>1,183,337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolescents</td>
<td>2,429</td>
<td>36,592</td>
<td>595,848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>15,053</td>
<td>156,713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>8,539</td>
<td>106,976</td>
<td>1,935,898</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Baptisms in Adventist Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Baptized</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>46,310</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

458,387 baptisms
A conference established each year

Children from Adventist families

13x more likely

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**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! 🍀
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**Where is the flock that was entrusted to you, your beautiful flock?**

*Jeremiah 13:20*

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**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)

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**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**

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**Youth Retention Study**

- **A 10-year study** of youth (N=1,523), 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

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**Factors that Develop Religious Faith**

- **Attending an Adventist School**
- Family grew up in Adventist faith
- School weeks of prayer
- Father’s faith
- Grandparents’ faith
- Adventist summer camp
- Student weeks of prayer
- Pathfinders
- Bible class in school

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**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)*

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**Epperson Study**

- **No Adventist education**
- 1+ years Adventist education
- 11+ years Adventist education

- **58.0%**
- **79.2%**
- **90.7%**

- 4.5x more likely to remain

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**Rice Study**

- **Public high school graduates**
- **Adventist academy graduates**

- **2x more likely to stay**
  - Never Baptized
  - baptized
  - Active

- **2x more likely to pay tithe**
  - Pay tithe
  - Do not pay tithe

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**13-year longitudinal study.**

**Similar findings** in Valuegenesis study and Youth Retention Study.
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**Rice Study**
- Public high school graduates: 73%
- Adventist academy graduates: 22%

**Minder Study**
- Married a non-Adventist: 38.3%
- Married an Adventist: 50.8%
- Married a non-Adventist then left: 16.4%
- Married an Adventist and remained: 16.2%

**Center for Creative Ministry Study**
- SDA Education: 83%
- Other Education: 56%

**ASTR “Leaving the Church” Study**
- Stayed: 64.5% (Only SDA students), 42.6% (Other Education)
- Lapsed & Ex-Members: 38.3% (Only SDA students), 43.7% (Other Education)
- Current Members: 53.5% (Only SDA students), 77.6% (Other Education)

**ASTR 2014**
- Stayed: 2x Elementary/Primary School Attendance, 3x Secondary/High School Attendance, 2x Tertiary: College/University Attendance
- Ex-Members: 15.5%, 0%, 6.9%
- Current Members: 75%, 100%, 64.9%

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

Yes! Consistent Persuasive

**Conclusions**

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

In Adventist Education
Children and youth experience...

“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
THROUGH

Adventist Education