Reaching the World: How did we do?
The Global Church Member Survey 2018
David Trim
... lots of data! Results from each division shared with officers

Today: just sharing key findings
2013 n = 26,343 in 9 divisions – margin of error = ±3%

2018 n = 63,756 in 13 divisions

Almost 2.5 times larger sample
n = 63,756
Every question had many “no answers”
But answers to every question = 50K+

Margin of Error = +/- 1%
VITAL SPIRITUAL-LIFE PRACTICES
Sabbath School Lesson

(Q26.03) Personal & family religious activities (how often most of the time): Study the Sabbath School lesson

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Valid Respondents</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bible: 59782</td>
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<tr>
<td>Devotions: 58009</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lesson: 58007</td>
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</tbody>
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OBJECTIVE

#1.1A

Valid Respondents:
Bible: 59782
Devotions: 58009
Lesson: 58007
Family Worship

(Q26.05) Personal & family religious activities (how often most of the time):
Have morning or evening worship with members of my family

- Never
- Less than Once a Month
- About Once a Week
- More than Once a Week
- Daily or More than Once a Day

Small Group Worship

(Q25.03) Social religious activities (how often last 12 months): Attended a small group organized through my church

- Never
- Only Once or Twice
- At Least Once a Quarter
- Once a Month
- Almost Every Week
- Every Week
- More than Once a Week

OBJECTIVE

#1.1B
#1.1C

Valid Respondents:
Family Worship: 56850
Small Group: 56239
Personal Prayer

Think About Jesus’ Life

Commitment to Christ

Valid Respondents:
Personal Prayer: 58285
Think: 51507
Commitment: 58086

OBJECTIVE
#4
Church Attendance

(Q25.01) Social religious activities (how often last 12 months): Attended church services

- Never: 18%
- Only Once or Twice: 42%
- At Least Once a Quarter: 29%
- Once a Month: 0%
- Almost Every Week: 0%
- Every Week: 0%
- More than Once a Week: 0%

Sabbath School Attendance

(Q25.02) Social religious activities (how often last 12 months): Attended Sabbath School

- Never: 19%
- Only Once or Twice: 56%
- At Least Once a Quarter: 12%
- Once a Month: 0%
- Almost Every Week: 0%
- Every Week: 0%
- More than Once a Week: 0%
Church attendance 2013 vs 2018

- **2013**
  - 78% None
  - 13% Once per month
  - 6% 2-3 times per month
  - 2% 4+ times per month
  - 2% A few times last year

- **2018**
  - 71% None
  - 18% Once per month
  - 6% 2-3 times per month
  - 3% 4+ times per month
  - 2% A few times last year
Church attendance
2013 vs 2018

At least weekly is **down 7%** on 2013

This is a recent trend: one to reverse
Bible Reading
(Q26.01) Personal & family religious activities (how often most of the time): Read the Bible

Personal Devotions
(Q26.02) Personal & family religious activities (how often most of the time): Engage in personal devotions

Sabbath School Lesson
(Q26.03) Personal & family religious activities (how often most of the time): Study the Sabbath School lesson

Personal Prayer
(Q26.04) Personal & family religious activities (how often most of the time): Study the Sabbath School lesson

Read the Writings of Ellen White
(Q26.06) Personal & family religious activities (how often most of the time): Have personal prayer

Family Worship
(Q26.05) Personal & family religious activities (how often most of the time): Have morning or evening worship with members of my family
DAILY BIBLE STUDY

2013

- Daily or more than once a day: 42%
- More than once a week: 32%
- About once a week: 17%
- Less than once a month: 7%
- Never: 2%

2018

- Daily or more than once a day: 49%
- More than once a week: 28%
- About once a week: 13%
- Less than once a month: 7%
- Never: 3%

Several times weekly = 74%

Several times weekly = 77%
To involve Adventist members in regular Bible study: Personal study

Trend in Percentage of members (NAD/World) studying Bible daily
To involve Adventist members in regular Bible study: Personal study

• **An alarming trend has been reversed.**

• **However**, in effect what we have done is to get members who are *already frequent* Bible readers to increase to *daily*.

• We are having little/no impact on *infrequent* Bible readers

• That should be a focus of attention in the future
Family Worship

Multiple times per week **down** from 58% to 54%

2013

- never: 36%
- less than once a month: 16%
- about once a week: 12%
- not daily, but more than once a week: 22%
- daily or more than once a day: 14%

2018

- never: 37%
- less than once a month: 21%
- about once a week: 13%
- not daily, but more than once a week: 17%
- daily or more than once a day: 12%
Family worship is foundational.

Reversing this trend should be a priority.
Data on some key doctrines
Fundamental beliefs: The true Sabbath is the seventh day (Saturday).

Valid Respondents: 57187
2013: Uncertainty about the State of the Dead

Question: When a person dies their body remains in the grave and their soul sleeps until the resurrection

- Strongly agree: 79%
- Agree more than disagree: 8%
- Disagree more than agree: 3%
- Strongly disagree: 10%
2013: Uncertainty about the State of the Dead

Five divisions = 10+% strong disagreement
State of the Dead

Dualism/Immortal Soul

Spiritualism

(Q42.11) Fundamental beliefs: When people die, their bodily remains decay and they have no consciousness or activity until they are resurrected.

(Q42.03) Fundamental beliefs: The soul is a separate, spiritual part of a person and lives on after death.

(Q42.23) Fundamental beliefs: The dead have powers to communicate with and influence the living.

Valid Respondents:
State of the Dead: 56809
Dualism: 55997
Spiritualism: 56568
State of the Dead

(Q42.11) Fundamental beliefs: When people die, their bodily remains decay and they have no consciousness or activity until they are resurrected.

Witch Doctors

(Q42.10) Fundamental beliefs: Christians may go to witch doctors or spiritual healers for protection or healing.

Prayer in Jesus’ Name

(Q42.22) Fundamental beliefs: Prayer in the name of Jesus is the only way to defeat evil powers and demonic spirits.

Valid Respondents:
State of the Dead: 56809
Witch Doctors: 56660
Prayer: 56859

OBJECTIVE #2.1B
2013: Apparent Skepticism about imminence of 2\textsuperscript{nd} Advent

Question statement: \textit{i expect the world to end within the next twenty years}
End-Time Prophecies

(Q45.05) Belief acceptance: The Church’s interpretation of end-time prophecies.

- I don’t accept it
- I have major doubts about it
- I have some questions about it
- I accept it because the church teaches it
- I embrace it wholeheartedly

Second Coming Very Near

(Q42.09) Fundamental beliefs: Fulfillment of prophecy and events in the world indicate that Christ’s coming is very near.

Second Coming in Lifetime

(Q42.21) Fundamental beliefs: I am confident that Jesus Christ will return in my lifetime.

Valid Respondents:
- Prophecies: 54572
- Very Near: 57247
- Lifetime: 56280

OBJECTIVE

#2.1D

General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists World Divisions

- North American (NAD)
- Inter-American (IAD)
- South American (SAD)
- Trans-European (TED)
- Inter-European (EUD)
- Middle East & North Africa (MENA)
- West-Central Africa (WAD)
- East-Central Africa (ECD)
- Southern-Africa & Indian Ocean (SID)
- Euro-Asia (ESD)
- Northern Asia-Pacific (NSD)
- Southern Asia-Pacific (SSD)
- South Pacific (SPD)

Valid Respondents:
- Prophecies: 54572
- Very Near: 57247
- Lifetime: 56280

51
2013: Uncertainty about a recent and literal creation week as described in Genesis 1–2

I believe God created the world in 6 days of 24 hours each, in the relatively recent past

“Disagrees” come to 13%
2013: Uncertainty about a recent and literal creation week as described in Genesis 1–2
God is Creator

(Q42.17) Fundamental beliefs: I believe God created the universe.

- 2.4% Strongly Disagree
- 15% Disagree
- 80% Agree
- 2.4% Strongly Agree

Recent Creation

(Q42.05) Fundamental beliefs: I believe God created the world in six days of 24 hours each in the relatively recent past.

- 8% Strongly Disagree
- 7% Disagree
- 21% I'm Not Sure
- 65% Agree
- 8% Strongly Agree

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- Southern Asia (SUD)
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Valid Respondents:
God is Creator: 57018
Recent Creation: 56104
2013: Uncertainty about the Sanctuary Doctrine and the Investigative Judgment

The Investigative or pre-Advent Judgment began in 1844.
2013: Uncertainty about the Sanctuary Doctrine and the Investigative Judgment

The Investigative or pre-Advent Judgment began in 1844
Sanctuary Doctrine

(Q42.28) Fundamental beliefs: The sanctuary doctrine is vital to Adventist theology.

- Strongly Disagree: 10%
- Disagree: 31%
- I'm Not Sure: 56%
- Agree: 5%
- Strongly Agree: 19%

Investigative Judgment

(Q45.02) Belief acceptance: The investigative pre-Advent judgment began in 1844.

- I don't accept it: 5%
- I have major doubts about it: 10%
- I have some questions about it: 19%
- I accept it because the church teaches it: 64%
- I embrace it wholeheartedly: 5%

Christ, Our Advocate

(Q45.03) Belief acceptance: Christ is acting as our advocate before God in the heavenly sanctuary right now.

- I don't accept it: 12%
- I have major doubts about it: 19%
- I have some questions about it: 16%
- I accept it because the church teaches it: 81%
- I embrace it wholeheartedly: 0%

Valid Respondents:
- Sanctuary Doctrine: 56023
- Judgment: 55231
- Advocate: 56300
Belief in the Trinity

**OBJECTIVE #2**

**Belief in the Trinity**

(Q45.01) Belief acceptance: There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three eternal equal Persons.

I don't accept it  I have major doubts about it  I have some questions about it  I accept it because the church teaches it  I embrace it wholeheartedly

Belief in the Trinity

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- South Pacific (SPD)

Valid Respondents: Trinity: 54295

61
(Q51.6) Health message beliefs: The Adventist Health Message emphasizes physical health (e.g. diet, exercise), mental health, emotional well-being, social support, and relationships as a part of spiritual growth.

Alcohol Use

(Q47) Alcohol use last 12 months

Tobacco Use

(Q48) Tobacco use last 12 months

### Health Message

Valid Respondents:
- Health Message: 56715
- Alcohol: 57020
- Tobacco: 56397

OBJECTIVE 

#2.2

PART 2
Diet:

- Vegan: 5%
- Vegetarian: 14%
- Pescatarian: 11%
- Meat eater once a week or less: 32%
- Meat eater a few times a week: 24%
- Meat eater most days: 14%

Live Longer:

- 6% Strongly Disagree
- 34% Disagree
- 58% I'm Not Sure
- 23% Agree
- 19% Strongly Agree

Ensures My Salvation:

- 19% Strongly Disagree
- 19% Disagree
- 15% I'm Not Sure
- 24% Agree
- 23% Strongly Agree

(Q46) Diet

(Q51.2) Health message beliefs: Following the Health Message increases the probability that a person will live longer.

(Q51.5) Health message beliefs: Following the health message ensures my salvation.

Valid Respondents:
- Diet: 56215
- Live Longer: 56966
- Salvation: 55822
**OBJECTIVE #8.1**

**Valid Respondents:**
- Commitment: 57825
- Satisfaction: 57676

**Lifetime Commitment to Adventist Church**
(Q36) How likely is it that you will be attending a Seventh-day Adventist Church for the rest of your life?

- Very Unlikely: 11%
- Somewhat Unlikely: 26%
- Neutral: 26%
- Somewhat Likely: 15%
- Very Likely: 6%

**Satisfaction with Church**
(Q35) How satisfied are you with your local church?

- Very Dissatisfied: 6%
- Somewhat Dissatisfied: 15%
- Neutral: 26%
- Somewhat Satisfied: 26%
- Very Satisfied: 48%

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Helped with Ministry During the Week

Met Community Needs

Help Others with Religion

Valid Respondents:
Helped w/ Ministry: 54874
Community Needs: 56605
Help Others: 57319
(Q25.05) Social religious activities (how often last 12 months): 
Attended a public evangelistic meeting in my area

(Q25.15) Social religious activities (how often last 12 months): 
Witnessed to non-Adventists in my community

Valid Respondents:
Attend: 55458
Witnessed: 56364

OBJECTIVE #16.3
(Q29.11) Youth and young adults play an important role in decision-making in my local church.

(Q29.12) Youth and young adults are actively involved in carrying out the mission of my local church.

Valid Respondents:
Important Role: 42,684
Involved: 54,911