Statistics and Key Data on Adventist Youth

David Trim
HOW MANY YOUTH ARE THERE?

• We don’t know for sure

• Source 1: Membership systems = actual numbers but adoption incomplete, so need to extrapolate

• Source 2: Surveys — not actual numbers but global
Church membership systems (2018)

- Children (12 and below) = 3.96%
- Teenagers (13–17) = 9.38%
- Young Adults (18–29) = 26.91%
- Senior Young Adults (30–35) = 11.39%
Church membership systems (2018)

UNDER 18 = 13.34%

ALL YOUTH = 51.6%
Global Church Member Survey (2018)

UNDER 18 = 8.4%

ALL YOUTH = 43.6%
Global Church Member Survey (2018)

• Children (12 and below)  
  = 0.92%
• Teenagers (13–17)  
  = 7.48%
• Young Adults (18–29)  
  = 21.01%
• Senior Young Adults (30–35)  
  = 14.18%
Membership Systems:
  Children = 4%
  Teenagers = 9.3%
  Young Adults = 27%
  Sen. Y Adults = 11.3%

Median age:
  38 years, 2 months

Global Surveys:
  Children = 1%
  Teenagers = 7.5%
  Young Adults = 23%
  Sen. Y Adults = 14%

Median age:
  40 years, 9 months
But *are* we passing it on??
Are we passing it on??

Youth and young adults play an important role in decision-making in my local church.

According to the survey results, 65% agree/strongly agree, which is less than two-thirds.
Are we passing it on??

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

Just over two-thirds agree.
Are we passing it on??

Church Programs

My local church has a program for preparing young people to become leaders

Conference/Mission

My conference/mission has a program for preparing young people to become leaders
Young Adults and Senior Young Adults

- **My conference/mission has a program for preparing young people to become leaders**
  - Strongly Agree: 26%
  - Agree: 40%
  - I Am Not Sure: 7%
  - Disagree: 4%
  - Strongly Disagree: 4%

- **My local church has a program for preparing young people to become leaders**
  - Strongly Agree: 22%
  - Agree: 39%
  - I Am Not Sure: 13%
  - Disagree: 20%
  - Strongly Disagree: 7%

- **Youth and young adults are actively involved in carrying out the mission of my local church**
  - Strongly Agree: 24%
  - Agree: 46%
  - I Am Not Sure: 18%
  - Disagree: 9%
  - Strongly Disagree: 4%

- **Youth and young adults play an important role in decision-making in my local church**
  - Strongly Agree: 22%
  - Agree: 44%
  - I Am Not Sure: 21%
  - Disagree: 10%
  - Strongly Disagree: 3%
Youth and young adults play an important role in decision-making in my local church

Youth and young adults are actively involved in carrying out the mission of my local church

My local church has a program for preparing young people to become leaders

My conference/mission has a program for preparing young people to become leaders
What are we passing on??
Children and Teenagers: Reading the Bible

- **Never**: 4%
- **Less than Once a Month**: 14%
- **About Once a Week**: 21%
- **More than Once a Week**: 29%
- **Daily or More than Once a Day**: 33%
Young Adults and Senior Young Adults: Read the Bible

- 41% Never
- 16% Less than Once a Month
- 9% About Once a Week
- 32% More than Once a Week
- 3% Daily or More than Once a Day
Young Adults and Senior Young Adults: Have personal prayer

- 59% Never
- 21% About Once a Week
- 10% More than Once a Week
- 7% Daily or More than Once a Day
- 4% Less than Once a Month
Children and Teenagers: Personal Prayer

- 52% Never
- 20% Less than Once a Month
- 11% About Once a Week
- 9% More than Once a Week
- 7% Daily or More than Once a Day
Children and Teenagers: Although I am religious, it does not affect my daily life

Agree/Strongly Agree = 42%

Strongly Disagree: 14%
Disagree: 17%
I Am Not Sure: 21%
Agree: 28%
Strongly Agree: 36%
Young Adults/Senior Young Adults: Although I am religious, it does not affect my daily life

Agree/Strongly Agree = 42%
Passing it on...

• Adventists are fond of saying things like:

• *Our young people aren’t the future of the church, they are the church*

• We should be glad that they aren’t, because if they were, the church wouldn’t be in a good place
Passing it on...

• But children & teenagers *do* mature

• People in their 20s and 30s develop their thinking and their spiritual life patterns with experience

• (Middle-aged people do that, too)

• People can & do change
If we want these data to change, we need to do better at passing on our values.
If our youth are to develop into the Church we want for tomorrow, we need to intentionally involve them in leadership now.
We need to do better at Passing It On