



Christian Education and Pastoral Leadership

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A person wearing a blue hoodie and a blue beanie is seen from behind, reaching up to grasp a rope. The background is a blurred, light-colored surface, possibly a wall or a large piece of fabric.

The Human Being An Object of Redemption

According to E. G. White, sin confused the mind of Adam and Eve, because his mental and spiritual powers benumbed.

Education, Pg. 25

Knight: “Your goal is to proclaim your own autonomy”
Philosophy and Education, Pg. 212

Knight: “Humanity's main tragedy is its ignorance of its current situation.”



Pastoral Ministerial Work

“As the physician deals with physical disease, so does the pastor minister to the sin-sick soul. And his work is as much more important than that of the physician as eternal life is more valuable than temporal existence.”



The Ministry for Children

“In his charge to Peter, the Saviour first bade him, “Feed My lamb,” and afterward commanded, “Feed My Sheep.” In addressing the apostle, Christ says to all His servants, “Feed My lambs.” When Jesus admonished His disciples not to despise the little ones, He addressed all disciples in all ages. His own love and care for children is a precious example for His followers”.

PaM 318.2

Youth Who Leave

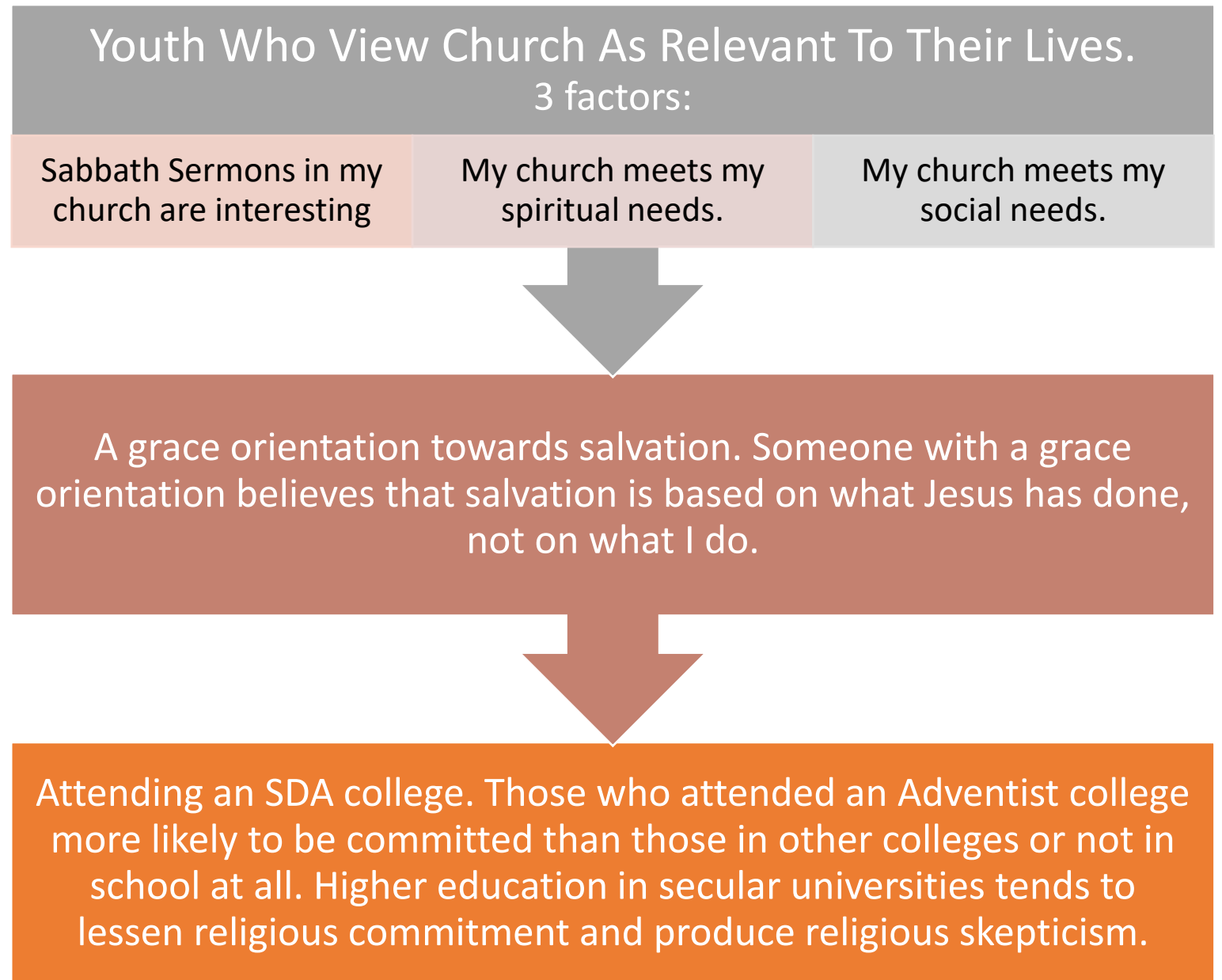
Landmark “Youth Retention” study

- 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**

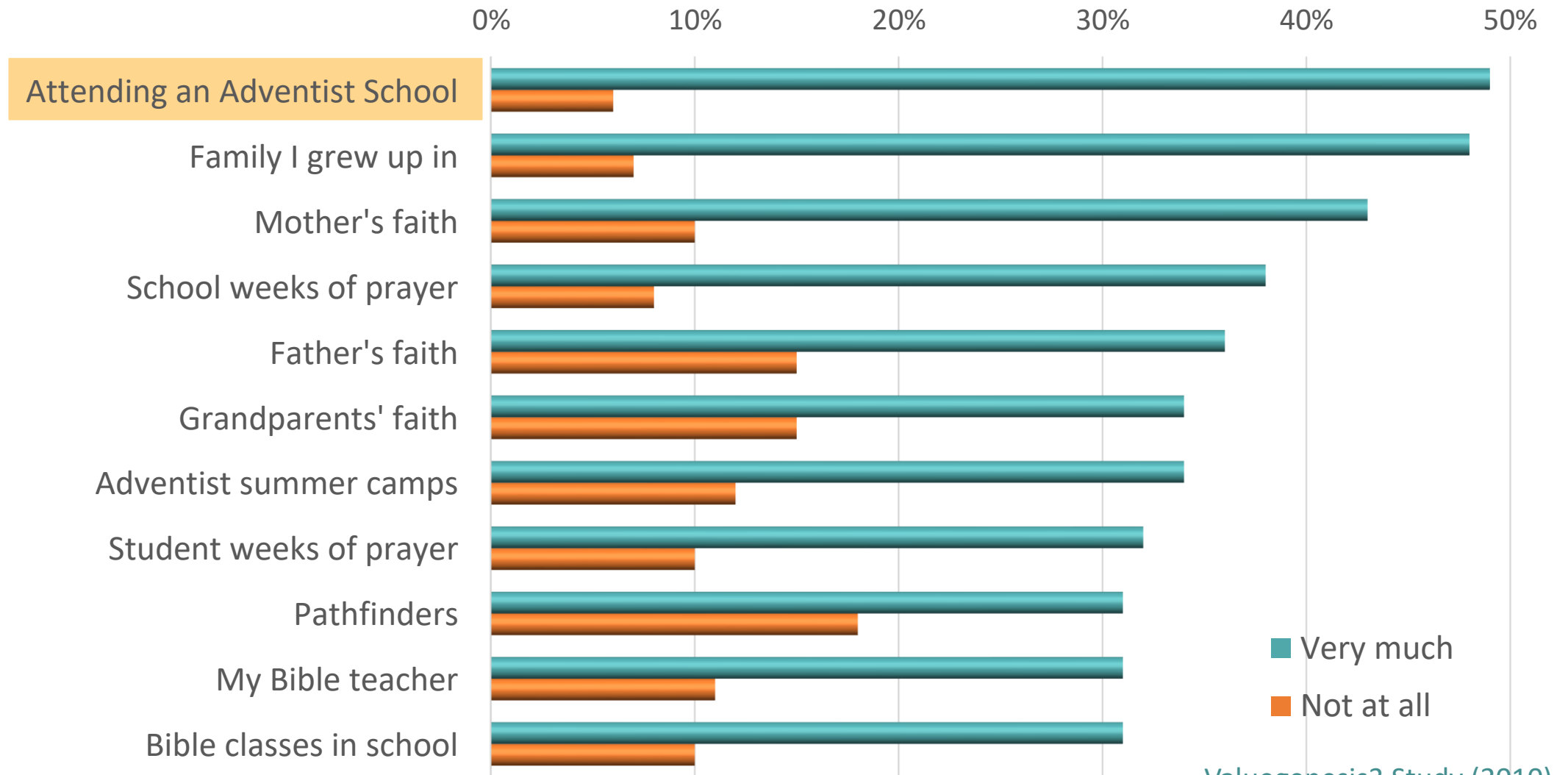
How many left the church by age 25-26?

Many demographic groups, approaching: **50%**

Three (3) Predictors Of SDA Youth Being Committed



Factors That Develop Religious Faith



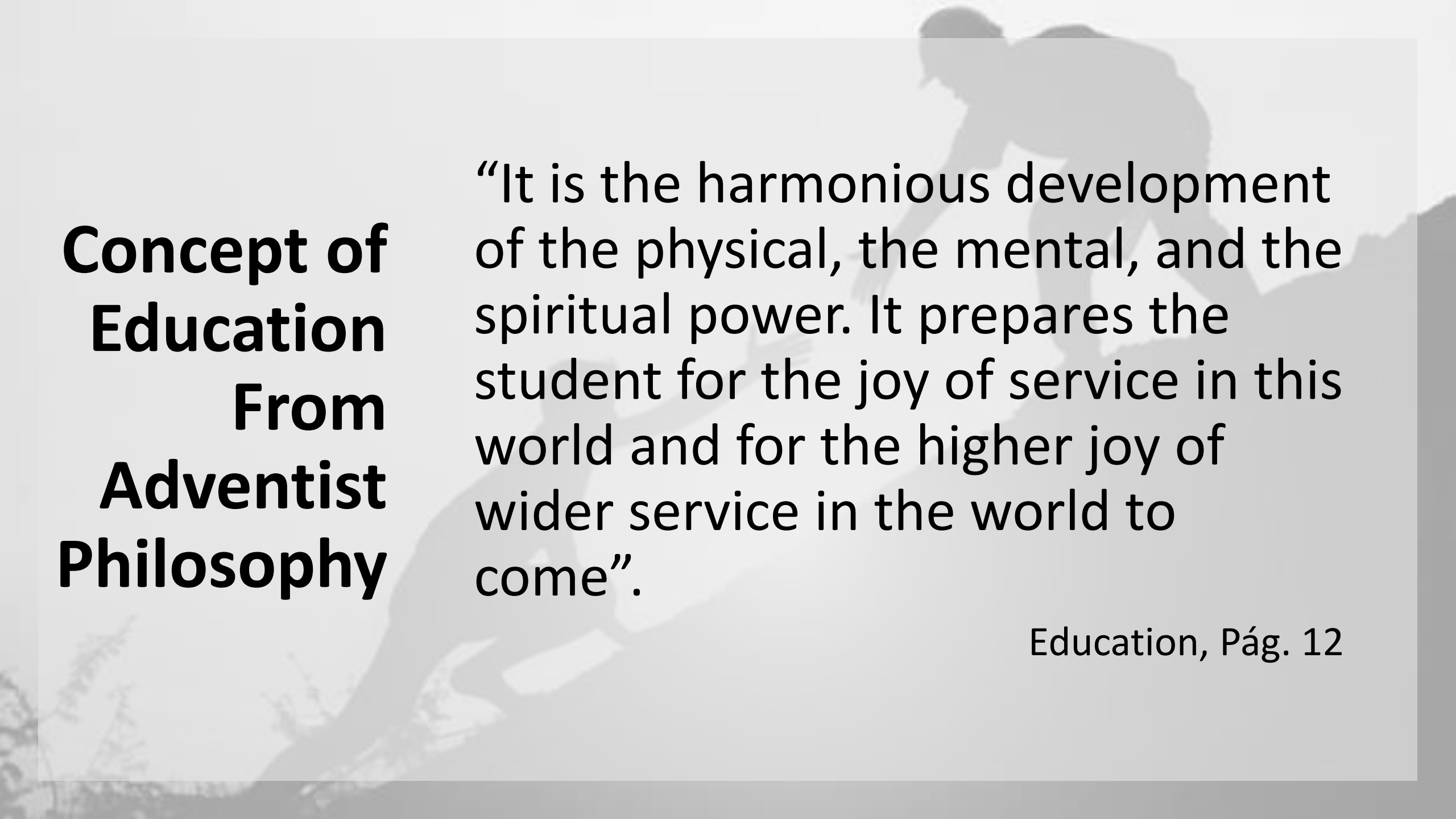
—Valuegenesis3 Study (2010)



Adventist Education Is Mission

**“The work of education
and the work of
redemption are one.”**

Education, p. 30

The background of the slide features a grayscale photograph of two individuals, likely hikers or climbers, ascending a steep, rocky mountain trail. One person is in the foreground, leaning forward in a climbing posture, while the other is slightly behind and higher up the slope. The overall tone is motivational and emphasizes physical effort and achievement.

Concept of Education From Adventist Philosophy

“It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual power. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come”.

Education, Pág. 12

Seven Studies

Span 3 decades
3 studies since 2010

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, equal)
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**

Dudley, R. (1992). *Valuegenesis: Faith in the balance*.
La Sierra University Press, Riverside, CA.

Thayer, J. (2008). Valuegenesis reanalysis. Unpublished manuscript.
Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI.

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)

Youth Retention Study

- A **10-year study** of youth (N=1523), beginning at ages 15-16
- Sample was about **evenly divided** between students in Adventist schools and students in non-Adventist schools
- 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.
 - ✓ Commitment to personal Bible study.

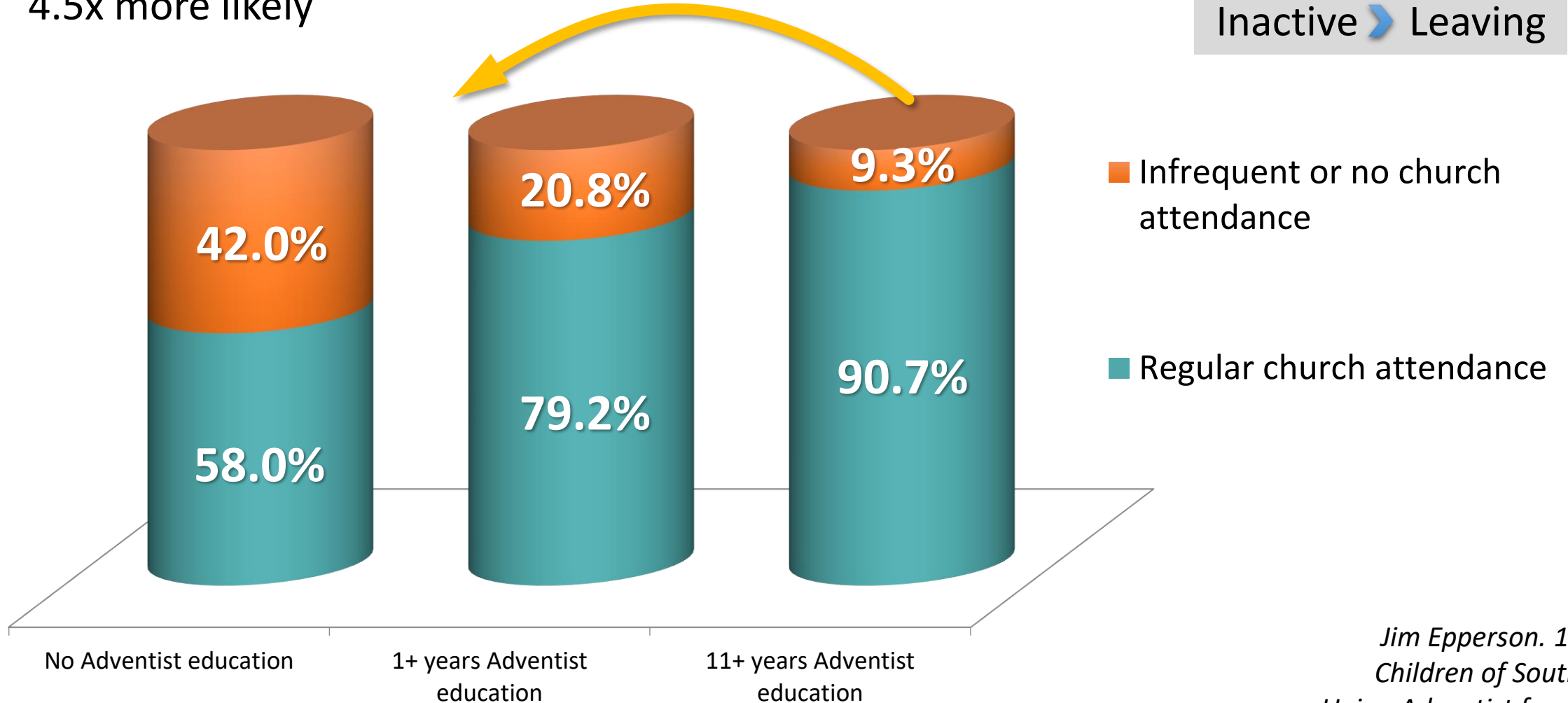


Epperson Study

3

4.5x more likely

Inactive ➤ Leaving

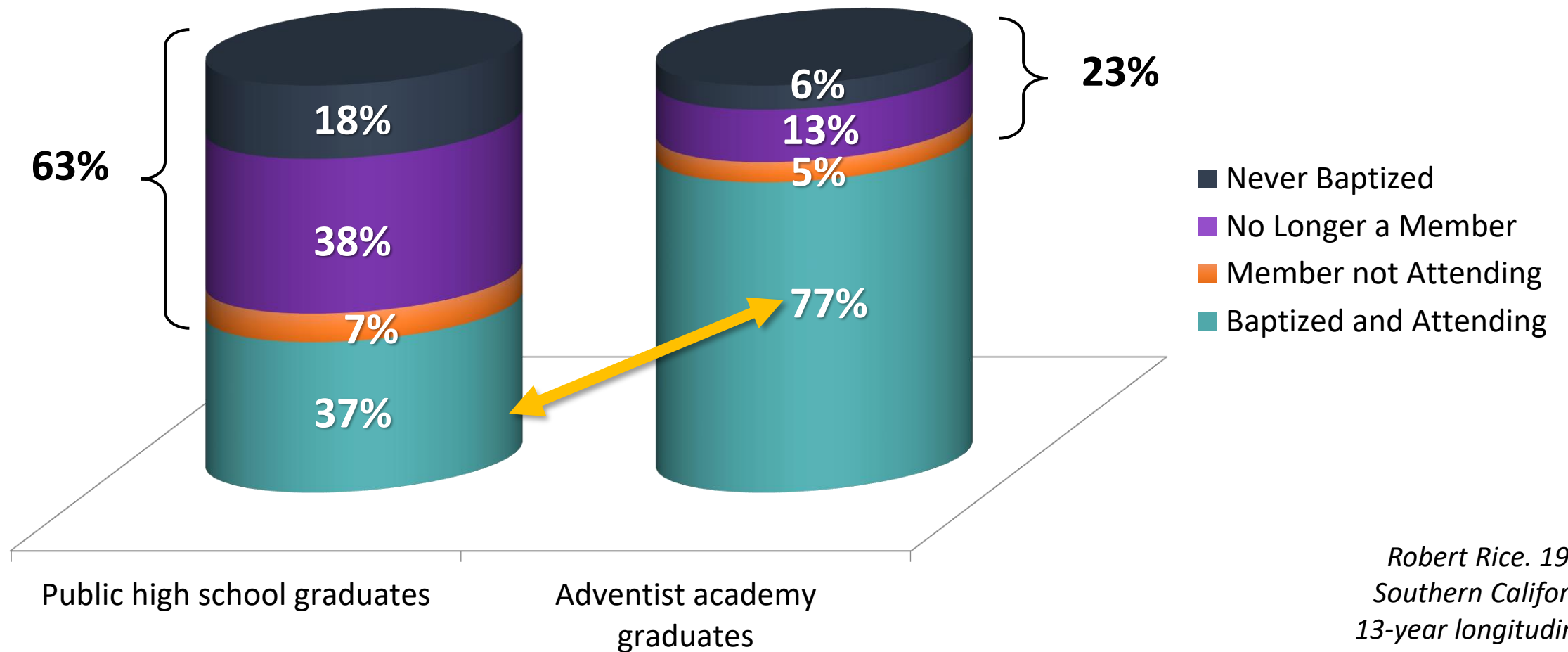


*Jim Epperson. 1990.
Children of Southern
Union Adventist families.
N=844*

Rice Study

4

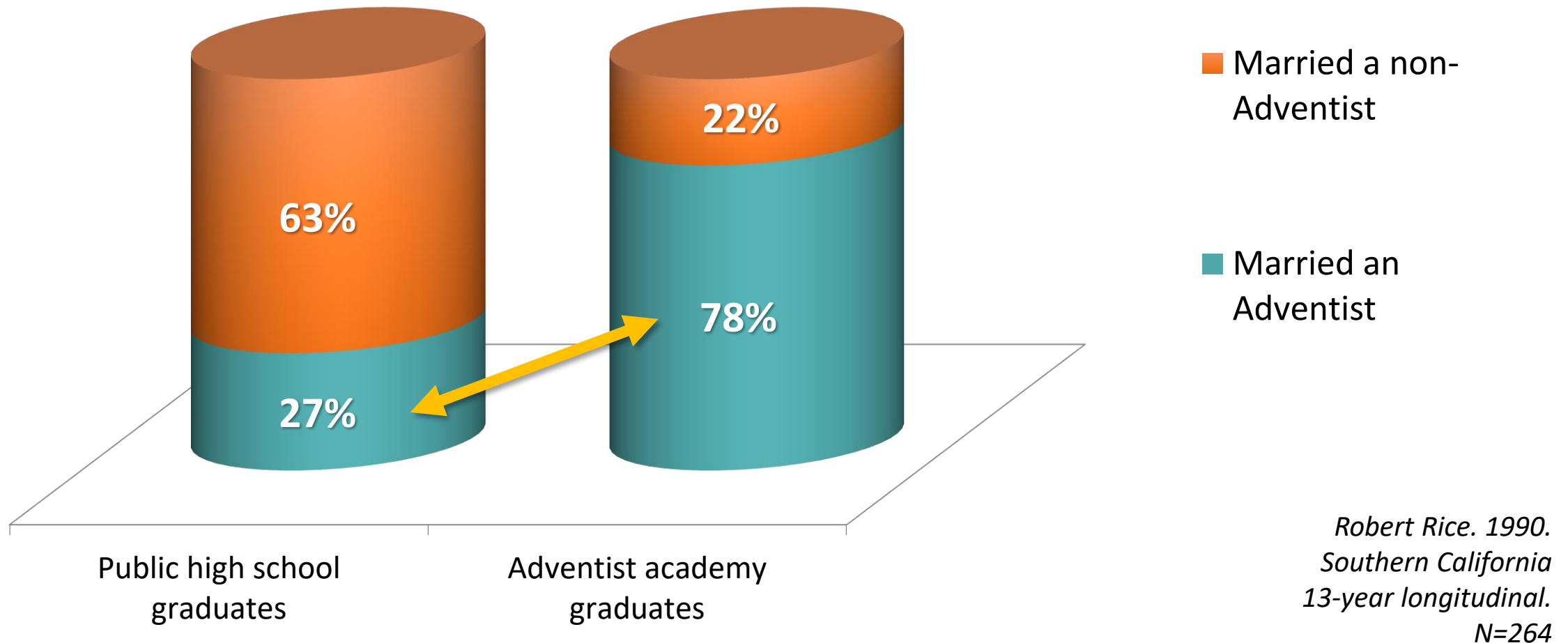
2x more likely to stay



Robert Rice. 1990.
Southern California
13-year longitudinal.
N=264

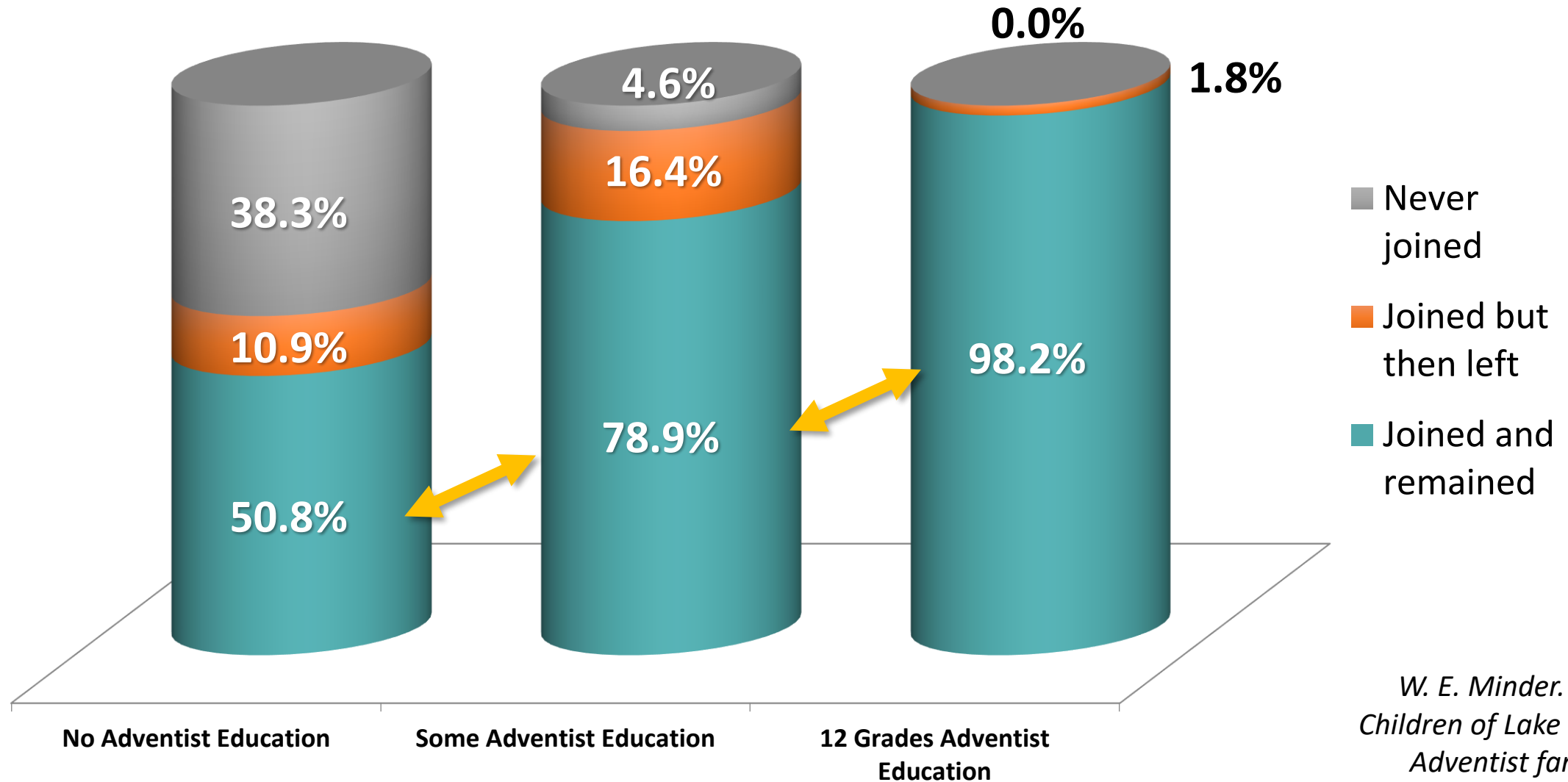
Rice Study

3x More Likely To Marry An Adventist



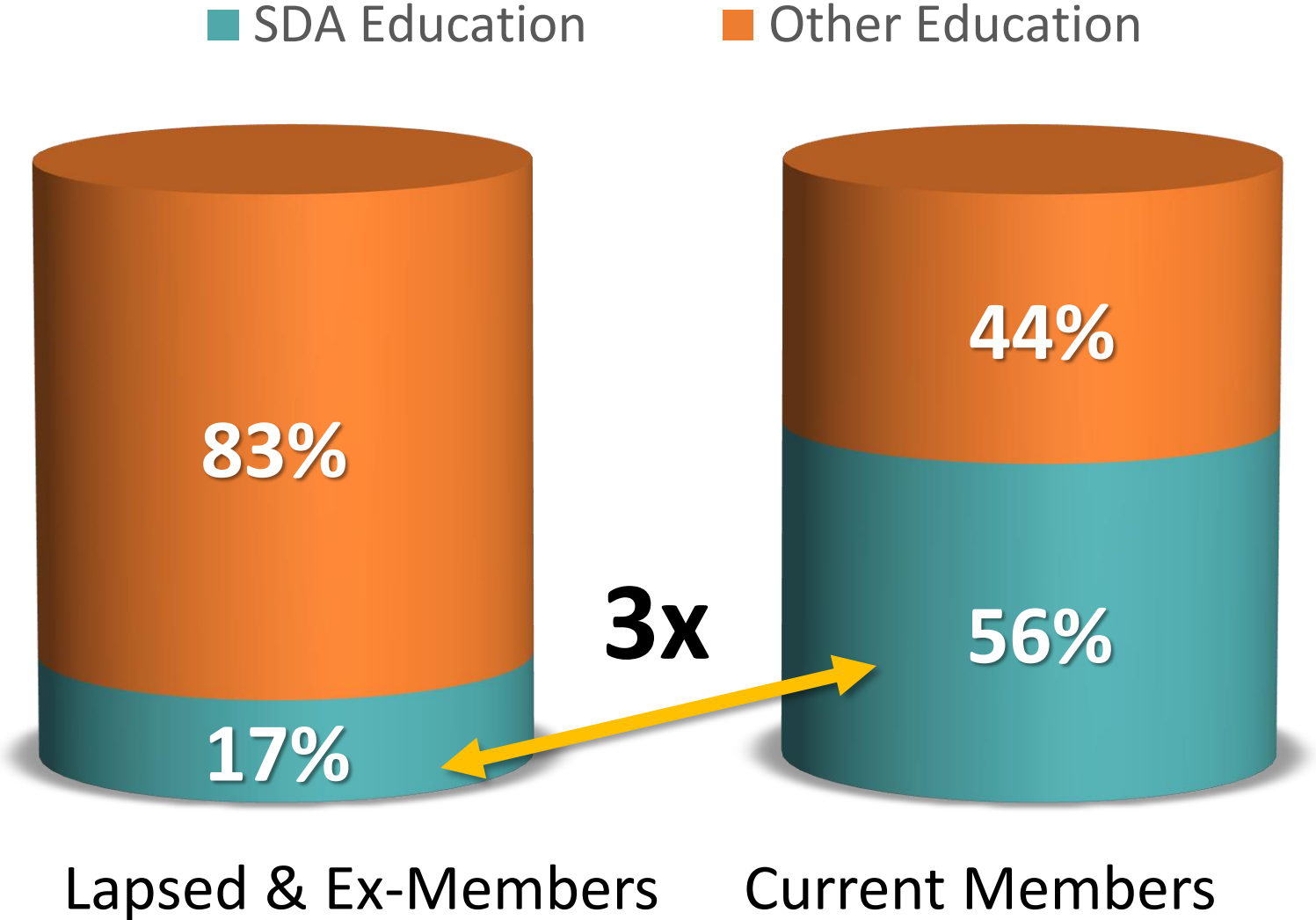
Minder Study

5



W. E. Minder. 1985.
*Children of Lake Union
Adventist families.*
N=807

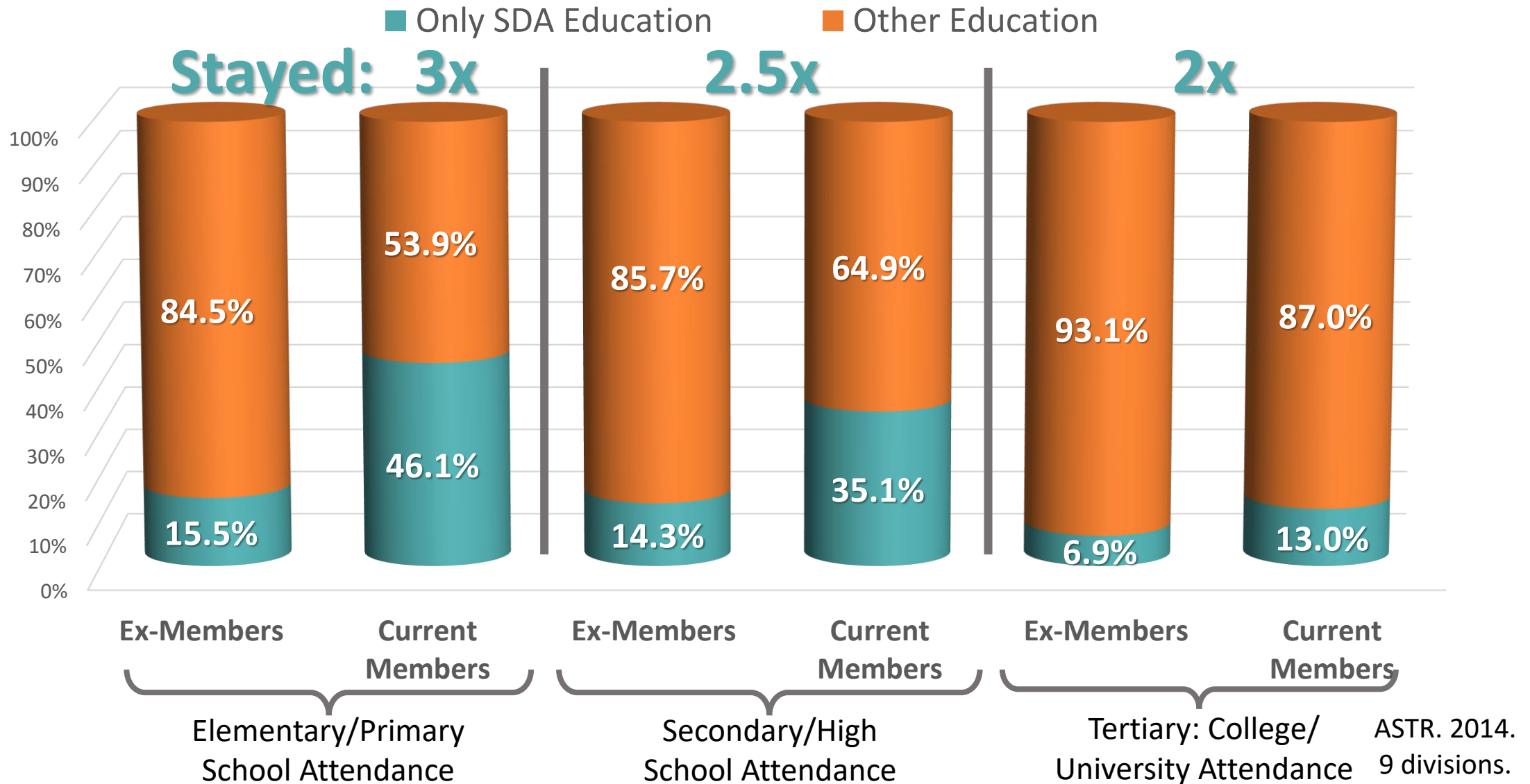
Center For Creative Ministry Study



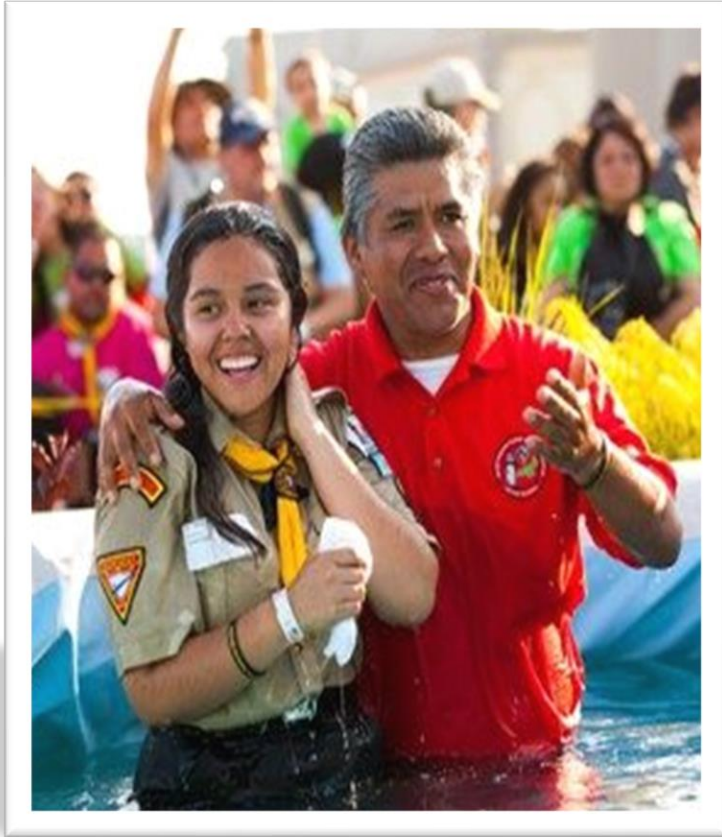
P. Richardson, 2013.
Qualitative. Global.
N=925.

ASTR “Leaving The Church” Study

7



Baptisms In Adventist Education

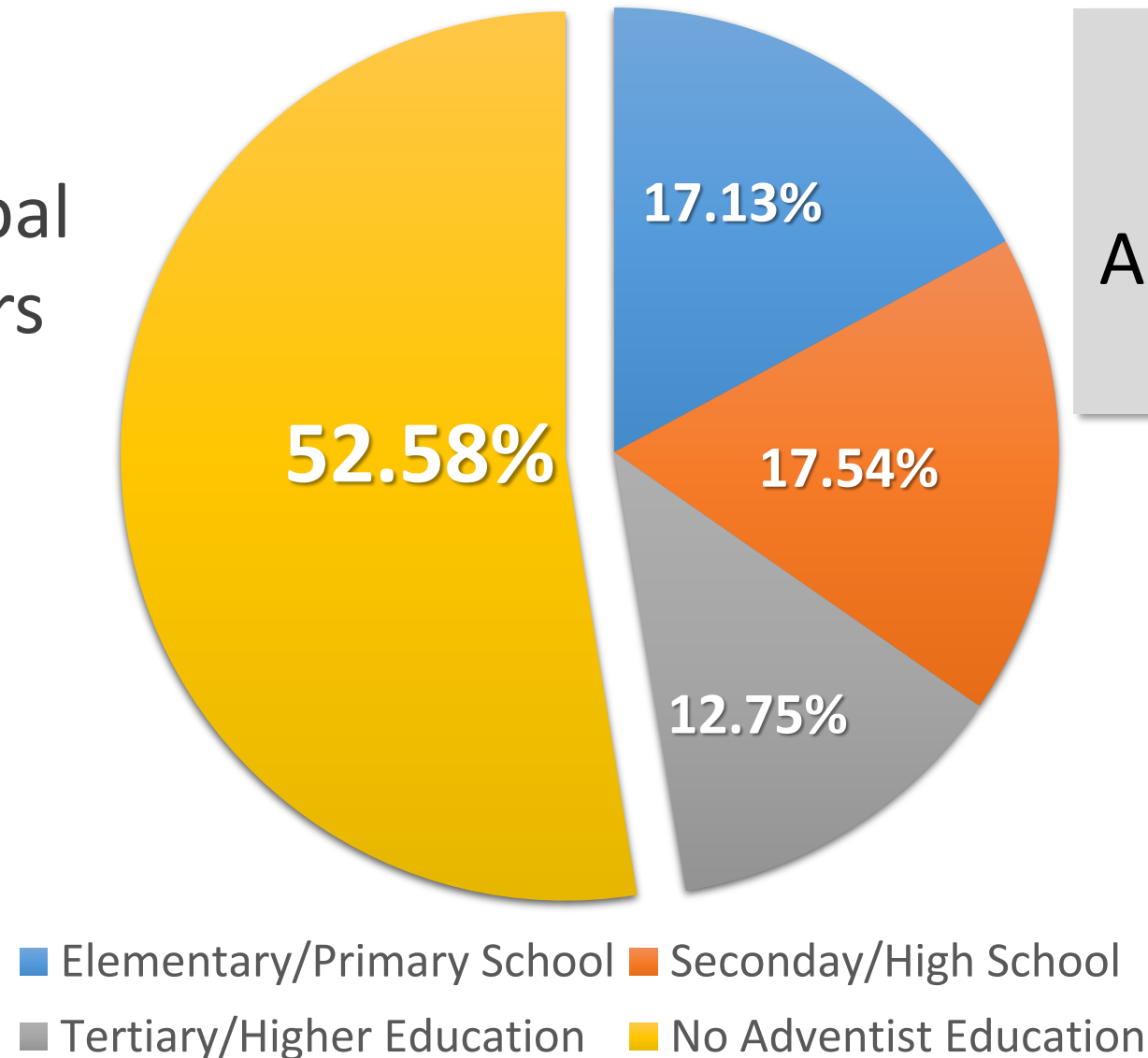


Year	Baptized
2006	30,778
2007	33,766
2008	33,138
2009	40,415
2010	49,176
2011	50,752
2012	49,774
2013	48,604
2014	47,435
2015	43,475

427,313
Baptisms
A Conference
Established
Each Year

Adventists And Adventist Education

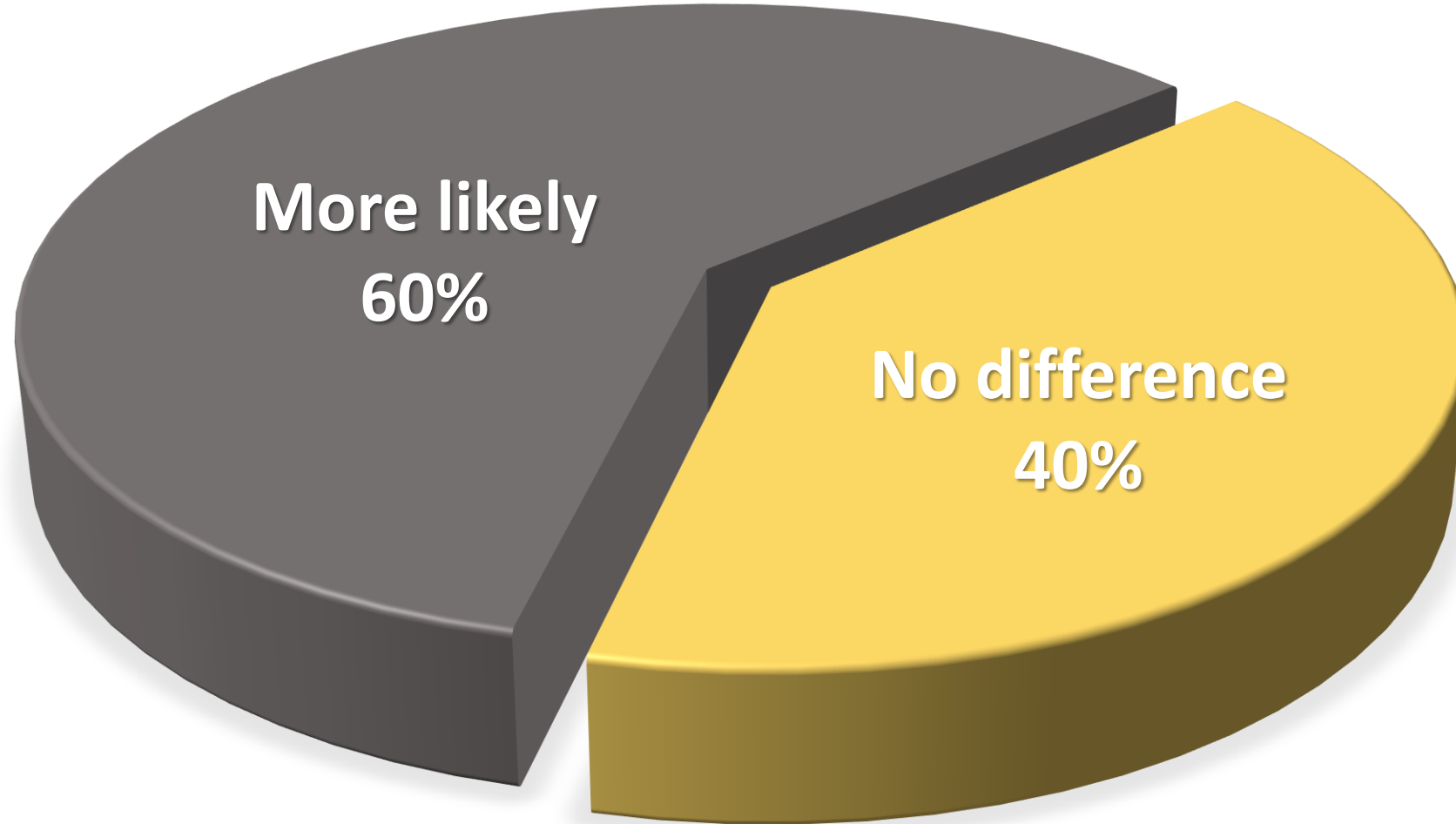
Over half of global church members report **no experience** of Adventist Education



Percentages:
Highest level of
Adventist education
experienced

2014 data.
9 divisions.

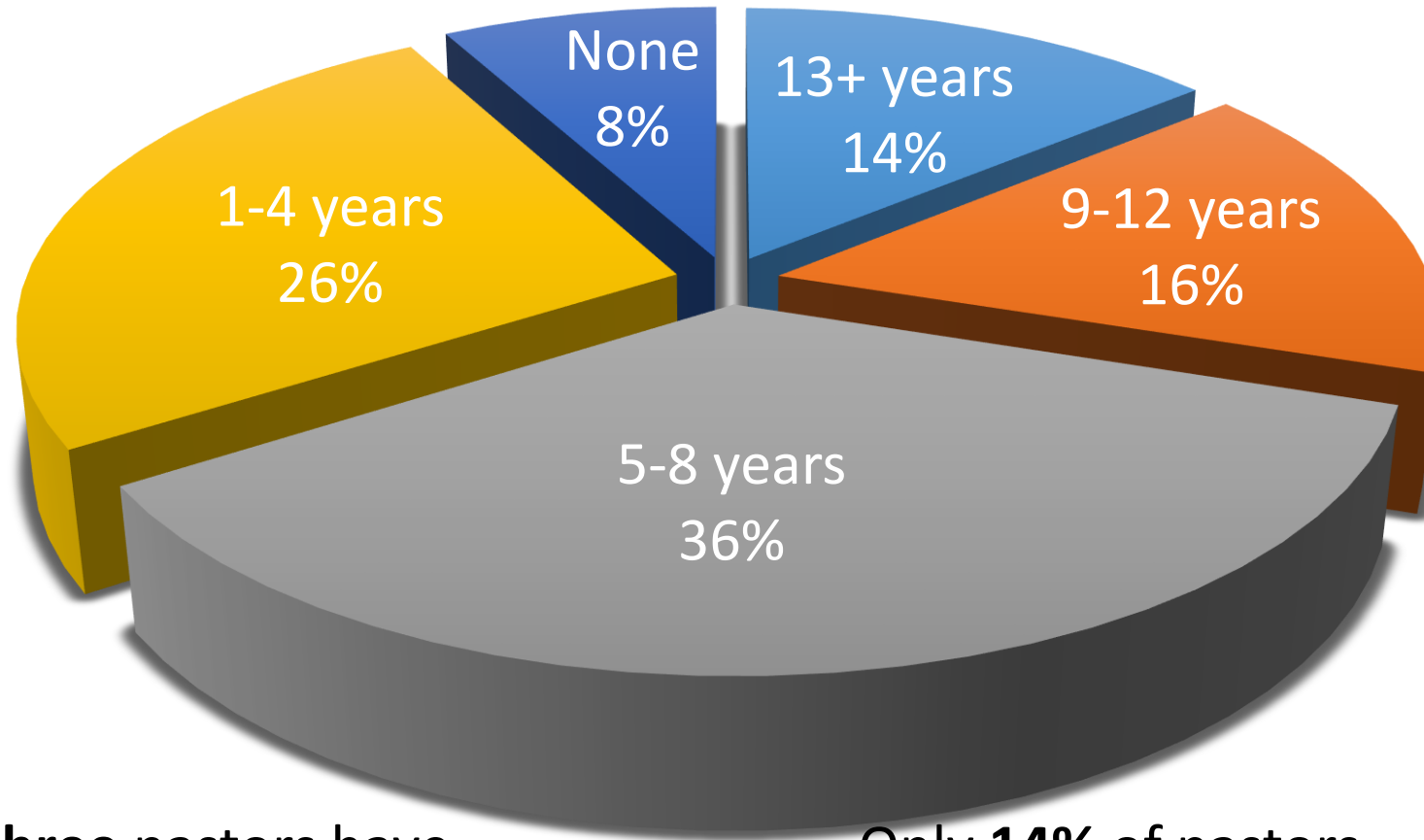
Pastors Believe...



Members who have not experienced Adventist education and their likelihood of leaving the church.

Random sample
from world divisions.
N=4260. 2013.

Pastors' Years Of Adventist Education



One in three pastors have had **fewer than five years** exposure to Adventist education.

Only **14%** of pastors have completed **all of their education** in Adventist institutions.

*Random sample from world divisions.
N=4260. 2013.*

ii Warning!!

Some SDA pastors and church leaders seem unaware of the evangelistic role of SDA Christian education, or perhaps not convinced of its effectiveness.





Suggestion

Let ministerial and educational leaders emphasize, through publications and ministerial meetings, the evangelistic effectiveness of SDA education, especially in terms of gospel gain and retention.



Commitment of the

Adventist PASTORS

with the future of Education

- **B**elieve in Adventist Christian Education.
- **P**romote Adventist Christian Education in their churches.
- **S**upporting families so that they can send their children to church institutions.
- **C**reate local plans to help children in low-income families.
- **S**upports institution's program that serves your church.



Commitment of the

Adventist ADMINISTRATORS

with the future of Education

- **E**ducational plans.
- **P**rovide financial support policies.
- **P**rovide Adventist teachers for the institutions.
- **S**upporting plans for children of low-income Adventist families.
- **W**atch for institutions quality.

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