

## **Inter-American Division Pandemic Survey Analysis**

### **The goal of this analysis is to:**

- i. Affirm the positives in the way members, and leaders of the church respond in the difficult times of the pandemic, as identified through the survey.
- ii. Identify areas that need growth as stated in the response of the members and leaders within the organization.
- iii. Make recommendations to address the areas that need attention.

### **Positive Responses:**

1. 65% said online church is an effective means of conducting the services of the church.
2. 77% were involved in praying with or for others during the pandemic and 60% spent more time in prayer.
3. 65% attended prayer meeting either weekly or often.
4. 73% attended Sabbath School either weekly or often.
5. 77% attended the preaching services either weekly or often.
6. 54% spent more time in Bible reading.
7. 74% learnt the need for a closer personal relationship with the Lord.
8. 63% were either actively or very actively involved in some mission activities of the church.
9. 44% developed a renewed urgency for the preaching of the gospel.
10. 87% were either satisfied or very satisfied with the response of their pastor to the needs of the members during the pandemic.
11. 66% of the respondents said the church provided care packages to address the social and physical needs of the members.
12. 78% indicated that the members were made aware of the protocols to be followed to deal with the pandemic, by the leadership of the church
13. 78% realized the providence of God through the pandemic.
14. 65% said family is more important than they thought.
15. 52% embraced healthy practices of exercise, etc.

### **Areas of the responses that need attention:**

1. 37% have been affected by having lost a family member or someone close by death.
2. 18% lost their income during the pandemic.
3. 30% of the members have not attended any service conducted by their local church since the pandemic. (They went to other SDA churches.)
4. 27% need motivation to attend Sabbath School weekly.
5. 23% need motivation to attend the weekly preaching services of the church.

6. 42% attended youth meetings either weekly or often.
7. 58% of the respondents feel the church is not preaching enough messages of hope.
8. 55% believe there is need to preach more sermons on preparation for the final crisis.
9. 68 % stated that there is need for greater involvement of the youth in the services of the church
10. 7% of the respondents did not demonstrate interest to participate in any of the programs or initiatives of the church.
11. 37% need motivation to become more actively involved in the mission of the church.
12. 66 % need greater urgency to proclaim the gospel to others.
13. 19% were never contacted by anyone in the leadership of the church and only 46% got occasional contacts.
14. 46% need to spend more time in Bible reading.
15. 60% need greater appreciation for fellowship with other believers.
16. 48% need encouragement to embrace a healthy lifestyle.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that each union establishes a *Post-Pandemic Rehabilitation Committee* of between three and five members with additional participants from the local fields to:

- i. Analyze and contextualize the survey results to their own field.
- ii. Address current issues arising from the pandemic affecting the members, churches and the community.
- iii. Address specific issues that are brought to the attention of leadership through the pandemic survey.

**Suggested issues to be addressed based on the responses from the survey:**

- i. Special outreach to the 2% of the members who were unable to access the church services due to inability to connect virtually or onsite.
- ii. Train members to be able to access church services through technology where available.
- iii. Train all church pastors, elders, ministry leaders and members who give leadership, to utilize technology to produce and disseminate their messages.
- iv. Special outreach by each local church to attract the attention of the 30% of their members who have lacked interest in attending the services in their local church.
- v. 7% of the respondents did not demonstrate an interest in participating in any of the programs or initiatives of the Church. If this is generalized to the membership of the Division, it is 259,000. We need a strategy to address this issue.
- vi. Greater emphasis in relating the message of the kingdom to the social, spiritual and emotional lives of the members.

- vii. Reach the 56% of members whose spiritual lives have either decreased or remained static over the period of the pandemic.
- viii. 68% expressed the desire to involve the youth more in the mission of the church. Address this.
- ix. Provide counseling or other types of emotional services for the over 35% of members who are struggling with fear and anxiety due to the pandemic.
- x. Leadership of the church should have a program to ensure that the members receive regular contacts from someone in the leadership.
- xi. The church must become more adaptable. This was suggested by 53% of the respondents.
- xii. Leaders should be more intentional in having more one-to-one conversations with the members.
- xiii. Conduct a special service to reconnect with the members of the church and reintegrate them into the fellowship as early as possible.
- xiv. Determine how the church can be instrumental in helping members of community to experience healing.
- xv. Demonstrate awareness and compassion to those who have lost their income.

*See the survey at:*

- [seld.interamerica.org](http://seld.interamerica.org)
- [Leadership.interamerica.org](http://Leadership.interamerica.org)