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Church Member Research



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1. Context

This document is the preliminary and first written report following research conducted within the Trans-European Division of Seventh-day Adventists (TED) during the second quarter of 2013. The research concerns faith, values, and commitments of a selective sample of Seventh-day Adventist church members throughout the TED. The research was sponsored by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists under the direction of the Department of Research and Archives who provided the basic analysis plan and worked closely with the John Hancock Center for Youth and Family Ministry at the H.M.S. Divinity School at La Sierra University, Riverside, CA, USA throughout the months of survey development, coordination of research teams in six Divisions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, data collection and preliminary analysis.

2. Introduction

2.1 Description

The Trans-European Division (TED) is comprised of 22 countries across Northern, Northwestern, Eastern, and South-Eastern Europe, representing a wide variety of cultures, languages and ethnic groups, making any research project of this nature rather ambitious, yet at the same time an interesting challenge.

3. Research team involvement

The TED commissioned Newbold College of Higher Education to conduct the study and report on the results. Listed here are all the members of the research team that was used to perform our data collection, management, and analysis:

- Philip Brown, Ed.D., Principal (Research Director)
- Daniel Duda, Ph.D., TED Department of Education
- John Baildam, Ph.D., Deputy Principal
- Andreas Bochmann, Ph.D., Senior Lecturer
- Michael Pearson, D.Phil., Principal Lecturer
- Bjorn Ottesen, M.Div., Lecturer

Newbold College of Higher Education obtained assistance for the technical running of the project by an independent, Seventh-day Adventist owned company, CAB-Service e.Kfr. (Germany), which developed and hosted an online version of the survey, formatted, distributed, collected and entered the data for the paper version of the survey.

4. Protocol

4.1 *Preparing the survey instrument, selecting the respondents*

Described here in a chronological manner, are the operations of the research team:

The research team was informed in January 2013 that a proposal for the research project had been sent to the TED. In March 2013 the proposal was accepted and the team consulted via email on issues around the questionnaire. Due to financial and time limitations it was decided not to have the questionnaire translated into any other language. Only minor adjustments (mainly spelling) were made to the instrument in order to maintain integrity with the worldwide study project.

In order to obtain some semblance of a representative study, a cluster sampling strategy was chosen, i.e. randomly selected churches from the TED were invited to participate with the aim of recruiting as many members of those churches selected. Contact details for the churches and their respective pastors were obtained through the Office of the Principal at Newbold College of Higher Education by contacting the various Union Conference offices, at the same time informing them about the project. No contact details could be obtained for churches in the Balkan regions of the TED, nor for Finland.

In late April 2013 invitations were sent to the selected churches via email, using an official newsletter format from Newbold College of Higher Education. Each church was given the option to participate online, use the paper version or both. Within the British Union Conference (BUC) 98 churches were invited, 35 of which (36%) signaled willingness to participate, while two churches declined participation, and 61 churches did not reply despite several reminder emails. Within the Northern and North-Western European Countries (Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands) 42 churches were invited, 16 of which (38%) signaled willingness to participate, 8 declined, 13 churches did not reply. Churches declining participation primarily gave reasons of language (no or hardly any English speaking members), size (too small) and currently too busy / in process of change of pastor. Within Hungary and Poland 19 churches were invited to participate, only one from Hungary responded.

Whereas Eastern and South-Eastern territories of the TED did not participate, the survey can only be seen as somewhat representative of the Northern European countries within the Division. Here, however, the response rate of churches willing to participate is roughly identical for all territories and can be seen as positive result. Nevertheless the intended cluster sampling strategy cannot be claimed.

4.2 *Gathering the data sets*

Churches signaling their willingness to participate were provided with access codes to the online-survey and/or PDF files for the printed form. The pastors were requested to print off the survey as needed and send the filled in forms back to CAB-Service, the independent service provider. Thus all data were collected at one central point.

As of 20 July 2013, CAB-Service obtained 80 paper versions of the survey while 301 members had participated online. No irregularities in the data, suggesting some kind of manipulation was observed. The data was combined into one data file for analysis.

4.3 Analyzing the data sets

The data was prepared using professional survey software Sphinx, statistical software SPSS, as well Excel tables.

5. Results

5.1 Types of analysis

Whereas the sample is relatively small and is not a genuinely random sample, complex analysis is not attempted at this time. The following results are descriptive in nature, with some tentative comments.

5.2 Demographics

All data came from Northern and Northwestern territories of the TED. As was expected most of the participants came from the British Union Conference (BUC). The invitation rate was higher here from the start, and the prerequisite of knowing English was fulfilled more readily. Last but not least, the BUC is by far the largest union within the TED.

	Churches	Members	%
BUC	24	259	71
Norway	6	48	13
Sweden	3	31	8
Denmark	3	20	5
Netherlands	2	12	2
Iceland	1	4	1
Hungary	1	7	0
TOTAL	40	381	100

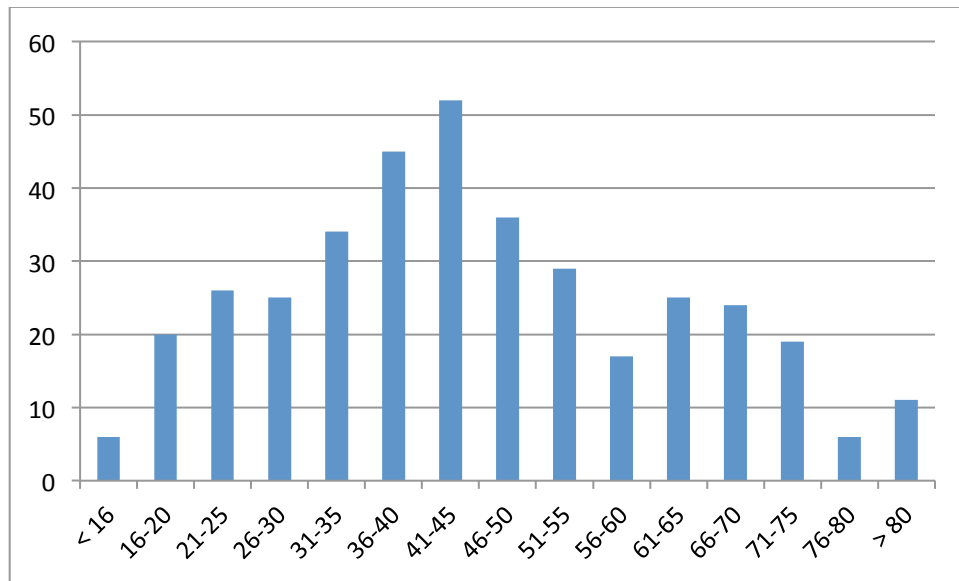
5.2.1 Gender

Of all participants 357 (94%) gave information about their gender. Of those 43% were male, 57% female. This figure suggests that males are slightly overrepresented in this survey, as the actual percentage of males within the membership of the TED should be lower. However, this bias can probably be explained by the method of data collection, being more attractive to males.

5.2.2 Age

The survey did not ask for the exact age to assure anonymity even in smaller churches. However, the distribution of age groups suggests that the sample could be fairly

representative of the church. The high participation at the upper end of the spectrum does not necessarily mean a greater than expected willingness to participate, but most likely is explained by a high number of older church members.

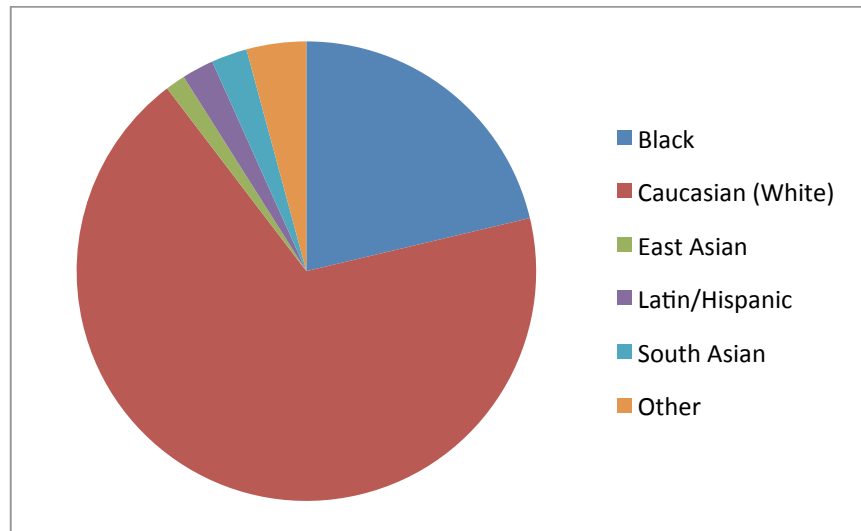


5.2.3 Ethnicity

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in the BUC, by some margin the union with the largest membership, the vast majority of members are of color. The probable ethnic proportions in the Division as a whole are only reflected to some extent in the results:

How do you describe yourself?

	No.	% cit.
Black	76	21.3%
Caucasian (White)	244	68.3%
East Asian	5	1.4%
Latin/Hispanic	8	2.2%
South Asian	9	2.5%
Other	15	4.2%
Total	357	100.0%

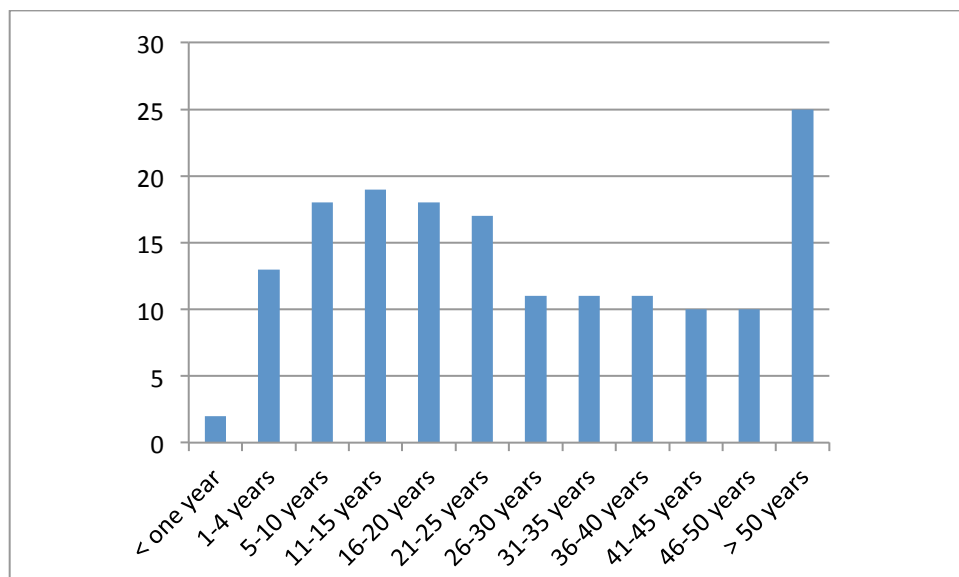


Especially in the BUC, where the Caucasian membership is estimated to be less than 20%, white participants are over-represented with more than 60%. It may well be that black churches in the UK were more reluctant to participate in the survey.

5.2.4 Membership Status

A surprising 6% of non-baptized participants chose to take the time and trouble to fill in the survey. A closer look at the data shows that about 38% of these are youth or young adults (25 years or younger). However, this still suggests a large number of friends of the Seventh-day Adventist Church who were willing to participate in the survey.

The years of membership somewhat resembles the age distribution. The more “flat” distribution can be accounted for by the variance of age of baptism. However, about one third of the participants (31.4%) reported that they were not raised as Seventh-day Adventists.



5.2.5 Education

Most Seventh-day Adventist church members in Europe appear to be well educated with almost two-thirds of the members holding some kind of degree. Considering the age of the participants, the numbers actually will be higher – but younger participants have not completed their education yet. This may be balanced to some degree by the fact that people with less education may have been more reluctant to participate in this study.

What is the highest level of education you have completed?

	No.	% cit.
Elementary school only	9	2.5%
Elementary school and some high school	29	7.9%
High school graduate	43	11.7%
Some college or university	51	13.9%
College or university graduate	160	43.6%
Graduate school or professional school graduate	75	20.4%
Total	367	100.0%

The Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) education system in Europe is by far less developed than is the case in the United States. Most countries represented here have few primary schools (elementary schools), and only one Adventist boarding school (academy), and no college. Thus figures of attendance of Seventh-day Adventist institutions of education are expected to be fairly low. All the more surprising is the result that more than 52% of the participants did have at least some schooling within the SDA educational system.

Have you attended a Seventh-day Adventist school, college or university?

	No.	% obs.
No SDA schooling	181	47.5%
Some SDA elementary	27	7.1%
Completed SDA elementary	46	12.1%
Some SDA junior high school	44	11.5%
Some SDA high school	83	21.8%
Seventh-day Adventist college or university	106	27.8%
Seventh-day Adventist graduate school or professional school	26	6.8%
Total (number of participants)	381	

5.2.6 Church Employment

The majority of the participants (86%) reported that the Seventh-day Adventist Church or one of its institutions does not employ them. Nevertheless, church employees (14%) are still over-represented in this study. This is probably due to pastors participating – if only to set an example for their congregation, as well as Newbold Seventh-day Adventist Church participating – with a good number of church employees in their midst.

5.3 About church life / church relationships

A number of items in the questionnaire can help to determine the relationship of the participants with their local Seventh-day Adventist church. These will be presented here.

5.3.1 Church Attendance

More than 92% of the participants attend a Seventh-day Adventist church on a regular basis (twice a month or more), 74% even four times a month. Especially considering the age structure of this sample, which suggests a decreasing ability to attend worship services, these are very encouraging figures. While the survey may have missed out on a lot of non-attendees, the figures do not appear to be overly optimistic for those churches that participated. Smaller churches tend to have a higher percentage of attendance – and most churches participating are fairly small.

The issue of church attendance was crosschecked by another item in the survey that further underlines the above finding. The very slight discrepancy to the above figures can be explained by the qualifier “local”; there may be a little bit of “church hopping” going on.

How often do you attend worship services at your local church?

	No.	% cit.
A few times a year or less	15	4.0%
Once every month or two	22	5.9%
Two or three times a month	58	15.5%
About once a week	219	58.7%
More than once a week	59	15.8%
Total	373	100.0%

When it comes to the desired church attendance, a cross tabulation showed that the more elderly members had a strong desire to attend church more frequently, while younger age groups more often wished less frequent attendance for themselves. While this is not surprising, a post-modern lack of commitment to the church may be one, but an insufficient explanation. More detailed investigation as to the satisfaction with the church experience might be helpful here.

5.3.2 Activity level

Most participants in the study are active Seventh-day Adventist church members – underlining the fact that the sample is not really fully representative – though as expected. Active Seventh-day Adventist church members are more likely to participate in a study like this.

How do you consider your involvement in your local church?

	No.	% cit.
I do not participate at all in church activities	18	4.8%
I consider myself an observer	20	5.3%

I consider myself a casual participant	88	23.3%
I consider myself an active participant	164	43.5%
I consider myself a leader in my church	87	23.1%
Total	377	100.0%

5.3.3 Satisfaction and Loyalty

More informative is the satisfaction with church experience. While there may be some social desirability may play a role at the top end of the following scale, there is an alarming amount of dissatisfaction – not reflected in the church attendance above. More than a quarter of the participants of the study (and they are the more active church members!) are not satisfied with their church. It appears reported loyalty is higher than satisfaction.

How satisfied are you with the local church you attend?

	No.	% cit.
Very dissatisfied	12	3.2%
Dissatisfied	29	7.8%
Neutral	55	14.7%
Satisfied	197	52.7%
Very satisfied	81	21.7%
Total	374	100.0%

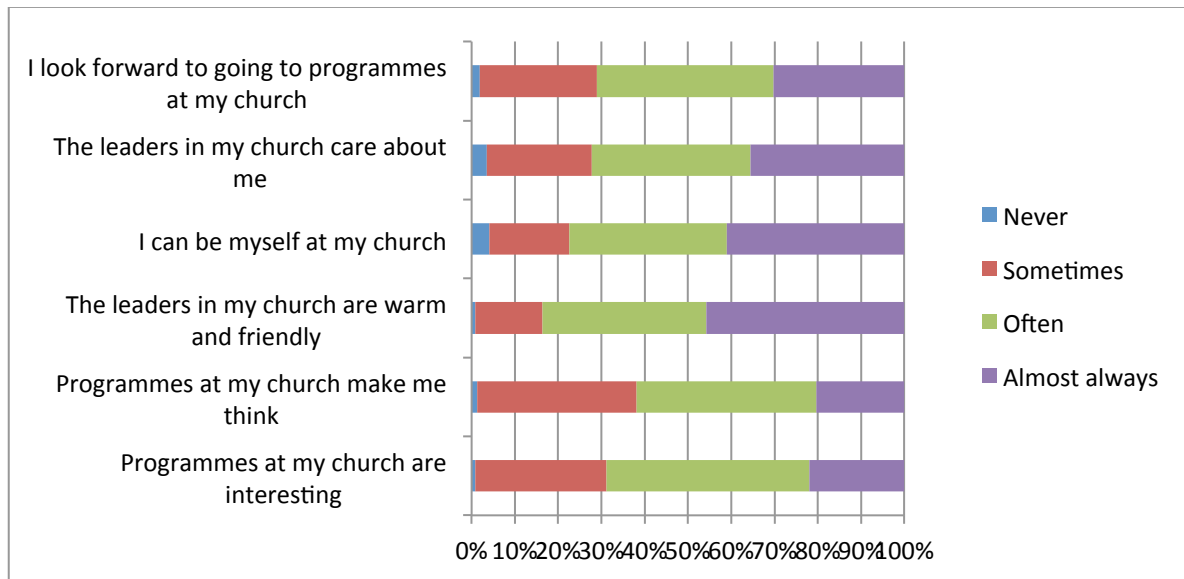
Thus it is worthwhile to understand what exactly is satisfying / dissatisfying in the church members' experience – and what entails the loyalty. There were three hypothetical questions asking why a member might consider leaving his or her local Seventh-day Adventist church for another denomination, for another Adventist church, or worshipping at home. Unfortunately there was some ambiguity (it is not clear, who would be “no longer in agreement with the beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church”). But it is reasonable to assume that most participants understood the question to refer to their own belief. The primary reason for changing denominational membership would be doctrinal (40.4%), while a changing membership to another Seventh-day Adventist congregation would most likely occur, if the local church would be “cold and unfriendly” (39.1%).

In other words, the loyalty to the church appears to be based on doctrinal agreement, while there is a strong need to feel at home “warm and friendly”. Worshipping at home rather than going to church is triggered primarily by a “cold and unfriendly church”, followed by a “meaningless worship service”. The quality of sermons on the other hand plays a subordinate role.

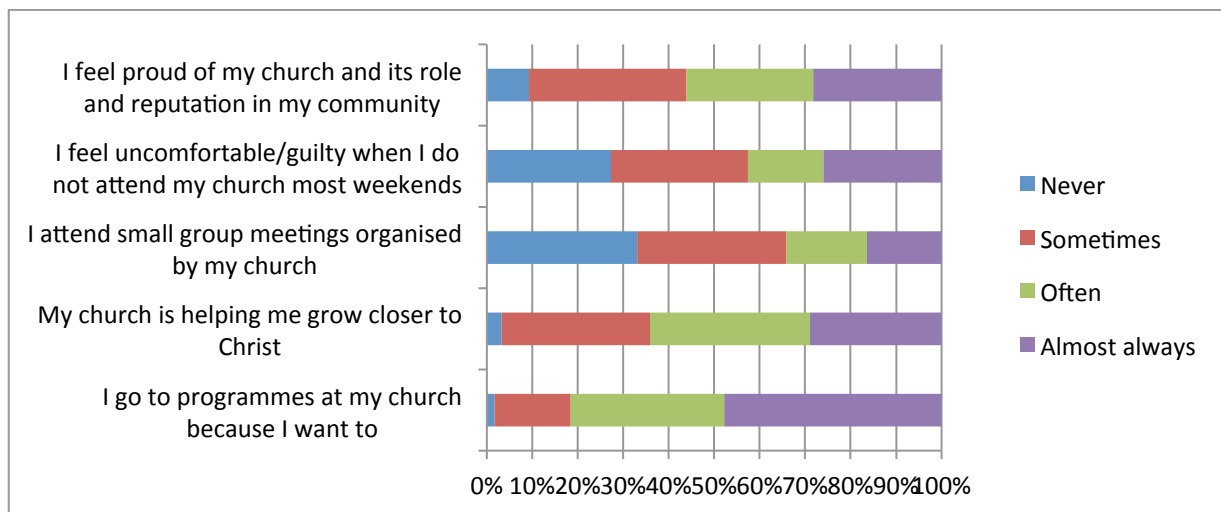
To know and be known well in a church is a sign of closeness. While members feel, their Sabbath School teacher knows them significantly better than the pastor, the result for both groups are encouraging, with 63.5% saying their pastors knows them well or very well, and 71% claiming the same for their Sabbath School teacher.

The following items further underline the importance of personal closeness. Most church leaders are described as warm, friendly and caring, allowing most members to be

themselves, while the expectation in the programs of the church (I look forward to...) is not quite matched by the actual experience. From an educational viewpoint it is noteworthy that church as a thought stimulating experience receives the lowest mark.



The overall identification with the church is strong, even though attending small group meetings is still the exception.



A factor analysis and reliability analysis confirmed that the above items belong together, except the item “I feel uncomfortably/guilty when I do not attend church”, which correlates with $-.06$ with other items (i.e. does not have any impact, even if reversed). With this item dropped Cronbach’s Alpha is a $.87$ well justifying summarizing these items into one scale for further analysis. This satisfaction scale has a theoretical minimum of 10 (all items answered with “never”) and a theoretical maximum of 40 (all items answered

with “almost always”). The actual minimum is 14, the actual maximum 40 with a mean of 29.32 and a standard deviation of 5.78, the distribution is close to normal.

There is no significant difference in satisfaction based on gender, age, Union Conference or ethnic group. While a Oneway ANOVA shows a significant difference for education, it does not produce a meaningful pattern or trend. In other words, demographics do not influence satisfaction. There is, however, a highly significant correlation between church attendance and satisfaction.

5.3.4 Financial support

Tithe and offerings traditionally have played an important role in the Adventist church, often viewed as a kind of spiritual gauge. Thus it can be seen as encouraging that 92% of the participants support the church financially. However, a closer look does provide a more realistic view. Only 70% pay tithe regularly (always or often), while 17% seldom or never pay tithe. Nevertheless, tithe still has the highest ranking, followed by regular support for the church budget (66%), mission programs of the church (46%) and evangelistic projects (39%). A special 13th Sabbath School offering is given regularly by 26%, while financial support for the local church school (13%) and financial support through trusts and will (7%) are less of an option. This ranking does not provide any insight into the amount of money donated, nor does it consider the existence of a local Seventh-day Adventist church school (an exception in the TED), but basically confirms expectations.

5.3.5 Pastor and Church Leadership

Even though the survey asks a number of questions on the topic, it is difficult to estimate the actual satisfaction with pastors and church leadership from the data, as there is no external point of reference. However, here is the ranking of qualities of pastors (summarizing the two top ratings for pastors:

	% agree
Enthusiastic about ministry	79.3
A good preacher	79.2
Helpful in times of need	75.1
Receptive of new ideas	73.7
Thorough in pastoral duties	72.8
Shows true spiritual leadership in our church community	71.8
Inspiring	71.1
Sensitive to the needs of others	68.5
Occasionally visits members of the church in their home	56.4

The ranking for local church leaders unfortunately cannot be compared to that of pastors. Not only were the questions very different, the items used a very different Likert scale to express agreement/disagreement. Overall there appears to be a high satisfaction with church leadership.

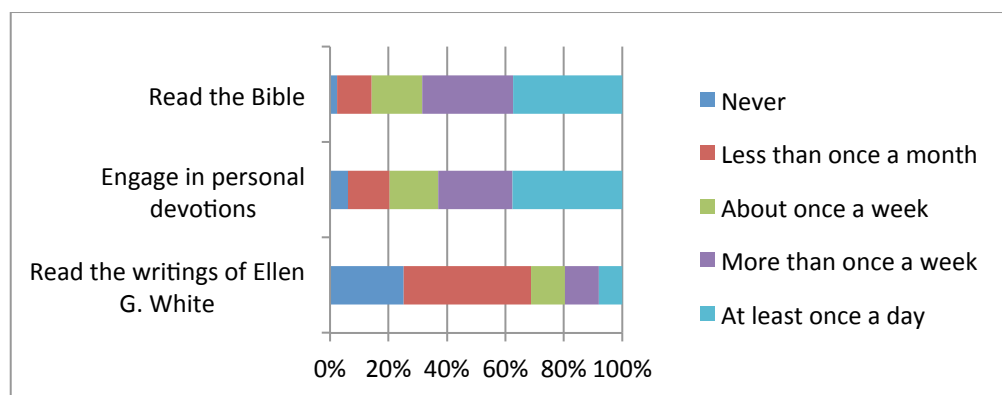
	%agreement
... is active in assisting our local church	85.6
... is supportive of involving young people in worship services	85.0
... is easy to talk with	84.2
... clearly communicates the mission of the Church	75.3
... is creative	73.6
... is open to new ideas	73.0
... is responsive to local community needs	63.7
... is doing enough to engage members in mission	59.8
...is supportive of our local or conference school	46.5
... is out of touch with our local church needs	29.5

5.4 About Religious life

While the final item on the survey, asking whether a participant is spiritual or religious, both or neither, is virtually impossible to interpret – as there are very different understandings and definitions of the term in the literature, let alone among church members, there are other, rather potent indicators of religious life among participants in the survey. Some of the more external indicators – like church attendance, activity level and tithe paying – have already been discussed above.

5.4.1 Reading and Devotions

The devotional life of church members is often measured against an “ideal”. There always could be more prayer, more Bible reading etc. This may be misleading the evaluation of the following responses as to the devotional readings of church members. Some general statistics from Europe (Allensbach 2005) will help to gain a different perspective. In the general population above the age of 16 only 4% read the Bible “frequently” (which does not imply “daily”), 9% from time to time, 25% rarely and 62% never.¹ It is in this tension between Adventist ideals and secular reality that the results below ought to be interpreted:

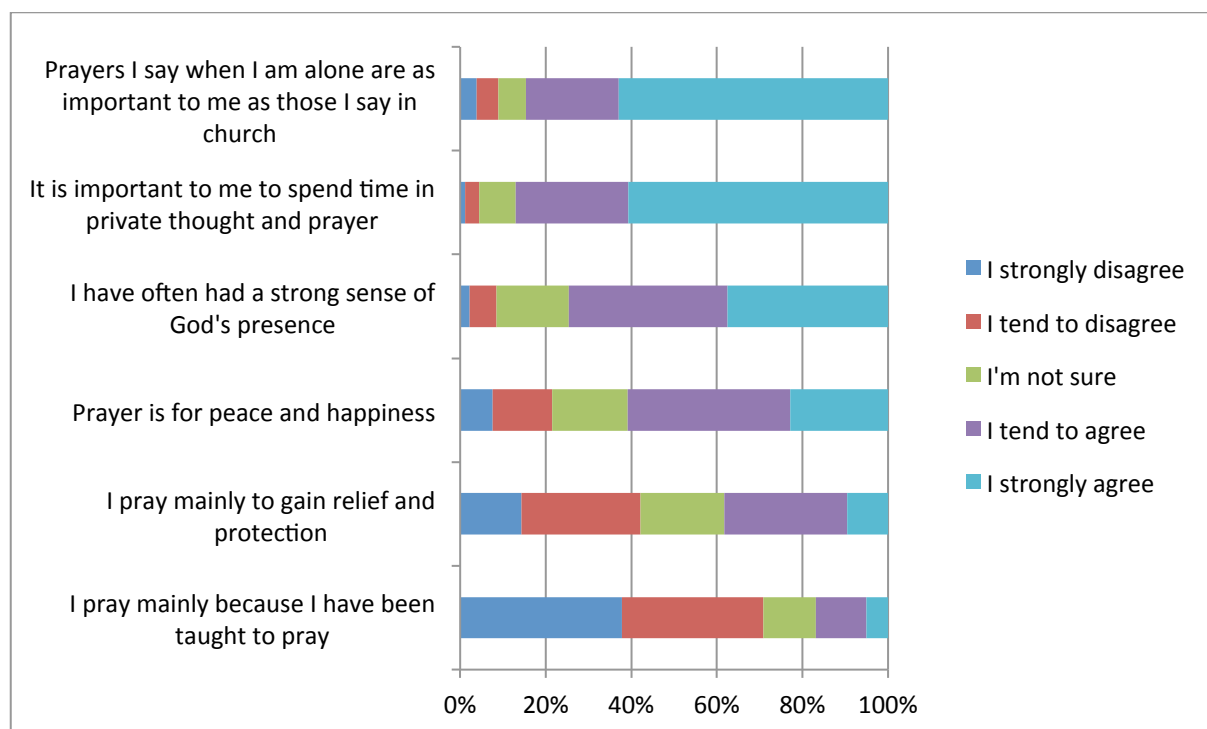


¹ Forschungsgruppe Weltanschauung (Allensbacher Meinungsforschungsinstitut) (2005) Bibellektüre – Befragte ab 16 Jahre. (9. 12. 2005; accessed at http://fowid.de/fileadmin/datenarchiv/Bibellektuere_2005.pdf, 22nd July 2013)

Cross-tabulations with chi-square tests showed some significant differences in regards to gender, age groups and ethnic groups. Males are reading Ellen White more frequently ($p=.08$). Younger people read the Bible less regularly ($p=.01$). The very young (under 20) and the older members read Ellen White more regularly than the middle age groups – though the distribution is somewhat diversified ($p<0.01$). When it comes to ethnic groups the only significant difference can be seen in the importance of Ellen White ($p=0.01$). Daily or several times a week her literature is read by 50% of Latin/Hispanic members, by 31% of the Black, but only 15% of the Caucasian members.

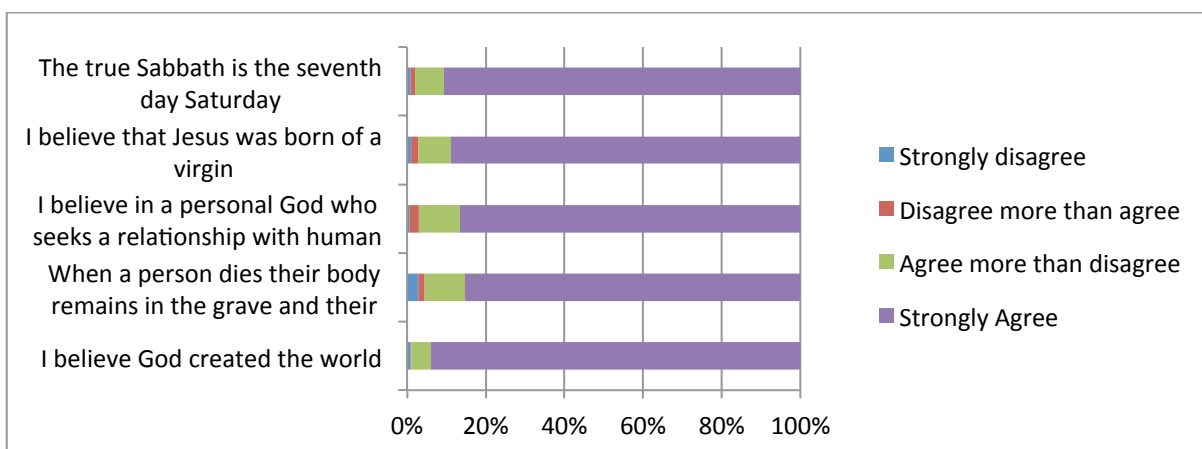
5.4.2 Prayer

While the following table needs to be looked at in some greater detail, a first glance suggests that prayer is an important part in the lives of Seventh-day Adventist Church members – not because it was learned or as a moral obligation, but as an expression of personal piety.

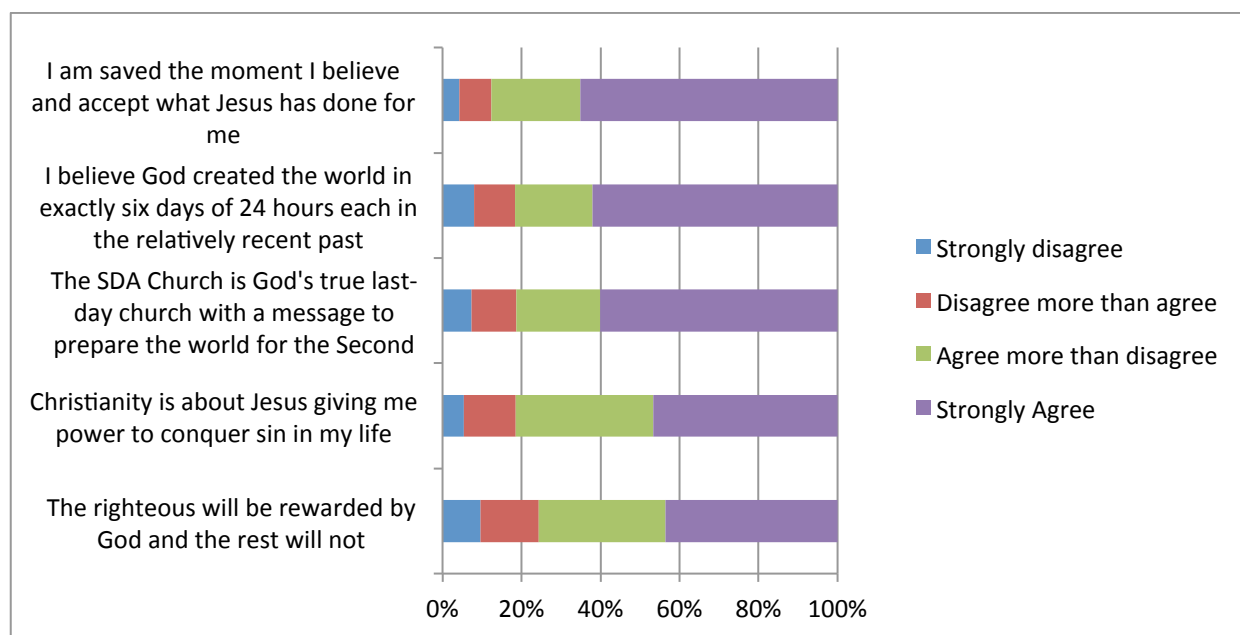


5.5 Identifying beliefs

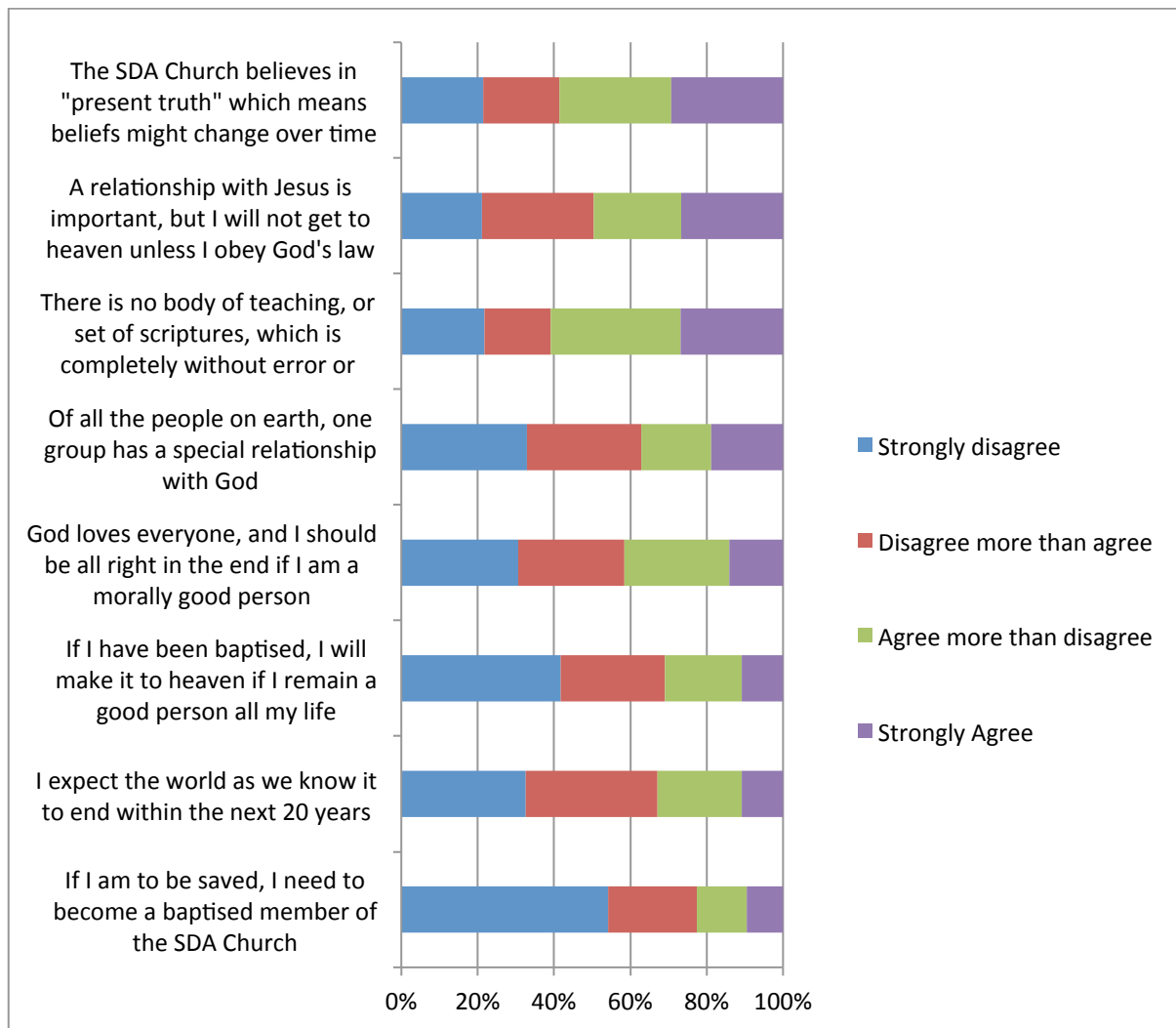
The survey asked about consent to a long list of doctrines, some of which are clearly Christian, some of which are distinctly Adventist, some of which are not in accordance with Adventist beliefs. This list provides insight into personal beliefs of church members, but also can be an indicator of the importance of certain doctrinal points. The strongest assent is given to the following doctrines (with fewer than 10% of the members dissenting):



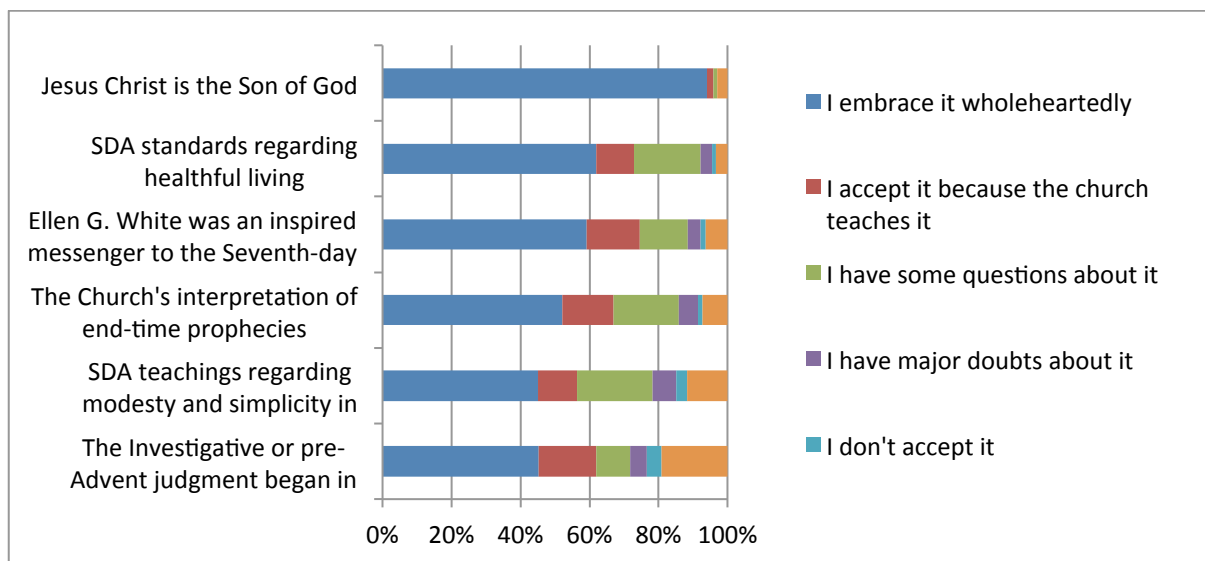
In the next set of doctrines an overall agreement can be found, but also moderate dissent ranging between 12% and 25% of the membership.



The remaining doctrines in this survey have a dissent rate of about 40% and higher. While truth cannot be determined by majority vote –there clearly is no general consent for these doctrines. In fact with some of the statements presented, theologians might be disappointed to see any assent. Some of these statements are couched in traditional Adventist language, thus potentially misleading some participants. Yet clearly the issue of how to better educate church members needs to be addressed.



In a second set of questions the attitude to some specific Adventist doctrines was crosschecked, using a very different type of Likert scale. The decreasing assent in the ranking is clearly associated not so much with doubts of dissent, but with a increasing sense of irrelevance (this question is not important to me).



One item was asking about the hermeneutical assumption of the participant. Even though this probably was the most nuanced and difficult to differentiate item in the survey, about 91% answered in a way that theologically reflects an Adventist position. Only 5.3% of the participants held to an understanding of verbal inspiration, and less than 5% demonstrated a more liberal understanding of inspiration.

	No.	% cit.
The Bible contains no more truth or wisdom than do the religious books of other world religions	1	0.3%
The Bible is the work of people who collected stories that had been created to explain the mysteries of life. It contains a great deal of wisdom about the human experience	2	0.6%
The Bible is the work of people who genuinely loved God and who wanted to share their understanding of God's activity in the world	14	3.9%
The Bible is the work of people who copied what God told them word for word, and who wrote without being influenced by their own place and time	19	5.3%
The Bible is the work of people who were inspired by God and who represented God's message in terms of their own place and time	68	19.0%
The Bible is the work of people who were inspired by God and who, though expressing their message in terms of their own time and place, expressed eternal truths	254	70.9%

Last but not least one set of questions dealt with the attitudes towards Ellen G. White. Here a couple of results are noteworthy. First of all verbal inspiration of Ellen White is assumed by at least 50% more participants than verbal inspiration of the Bible. This raises serious concerns as to the perceived superiority of Ellen White over the Bible. Secondly the 81% of participants who say Ellen White was inspired by God does not quite match a previous finding, which only suggested 60% “wholeheartedly embracing”. This suggests that careful attention to the wording of the items needs to be given. While the

terminology below has a somewhat distant, doctrinal tone, the previous question was more personal in outlook.

	No.	% cit.
I don't know who Ellen G. White is	6	1.7%
Ellen G. White was a person who created stories of supernatural guidance in order to explain the mysteries of life. Her writings contain a great deal of wisdom about the human experience	16	4.5%
Ellen G. White's writings contain no more truth or wisdom than do the religious works written by leaders of other denominations	19	5.3%
Ellen G. White copied what God told her word for word, and wrote without being influenced by her own place and time	28	7.9%
Ellen G. White was inspired by God and presented God's message in terms of her own place and time	287	80.6%

6. *Conclusions/observations*

The results have to be interpreted with caution. The low response rate, ethnic distribution, and regional limitations suggest that the data might not be representative and therefore should not be generalized. Nevertheless the study does provide some significant insight into the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North- and Northwestern regions of the Trans-European Division and ought to be analyzed beyond this preliminary report.

First of all it needs to be noted that there appears to be a great sense of loyalty to the church. Church attendance and financial support is high – even if needs are not met as well as would be desirable. Overall members are happy with their pastors, though their public ministry (especially preaching) gets higher marks than their personal ministry (especially visitation).

To evaluate personal spirituality of members is difficult. Not only could it be perceived as judgmental, but more importantly there simply is no point of reference. Participants obviously are somewhere between an unattainable ideal that we would strive for and a general (secular) practice of spiritual disciplines, such as reading the Bible. Overall there is little difference between gender, age and ethnic groups when it comes to spiritual practices, the strongest differences showing for the reading of Ellen White (highly significant differences in regards to age and ethnic group).

Doctrinally the church members show some diversity. This is to be expected. Not all doctrines of the church have the same level of acceptance and importance for church members. While there are many reasons to question a “conservative – progressive - spectrum”, it might help to illustrate the overall findings. Doctrinally there seems to be both a conservative and a more progressive fringe of about 5-10% at both ends of the spectrum.

Further steps in analyzing the data should try to form reliable scales from the individual items (using factor analysis and reliability analysis) and continue with more detailed looks

at gender, age and ethnic groups, as well as the impact of education. This should be a concerted effort with the John Hancock Center, so as to be able to compare results beyond the regional level.

7. Appendix

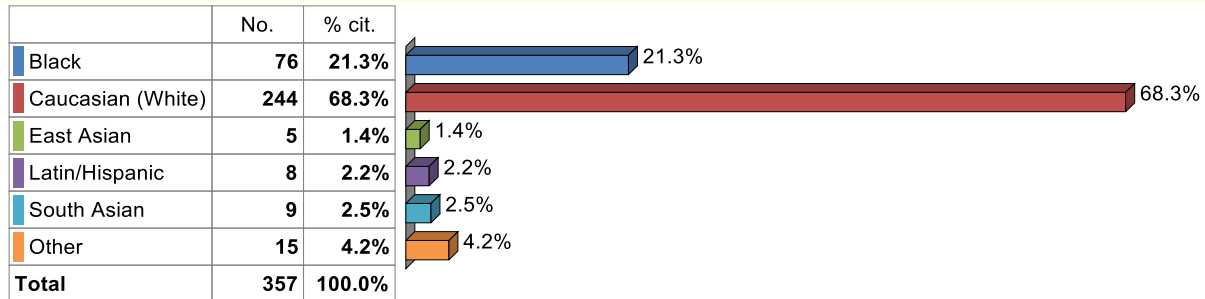
7.1 Raw Data

381 observations

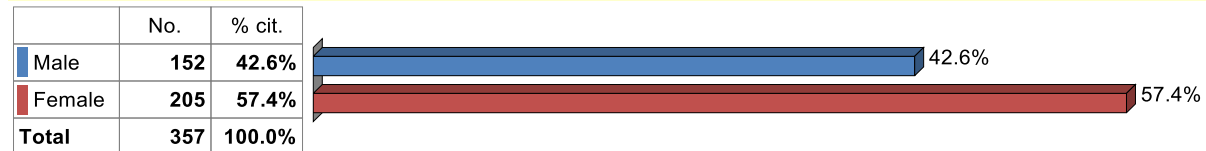
Total sample

YOUR INFORMATION

How do you describe yourself?



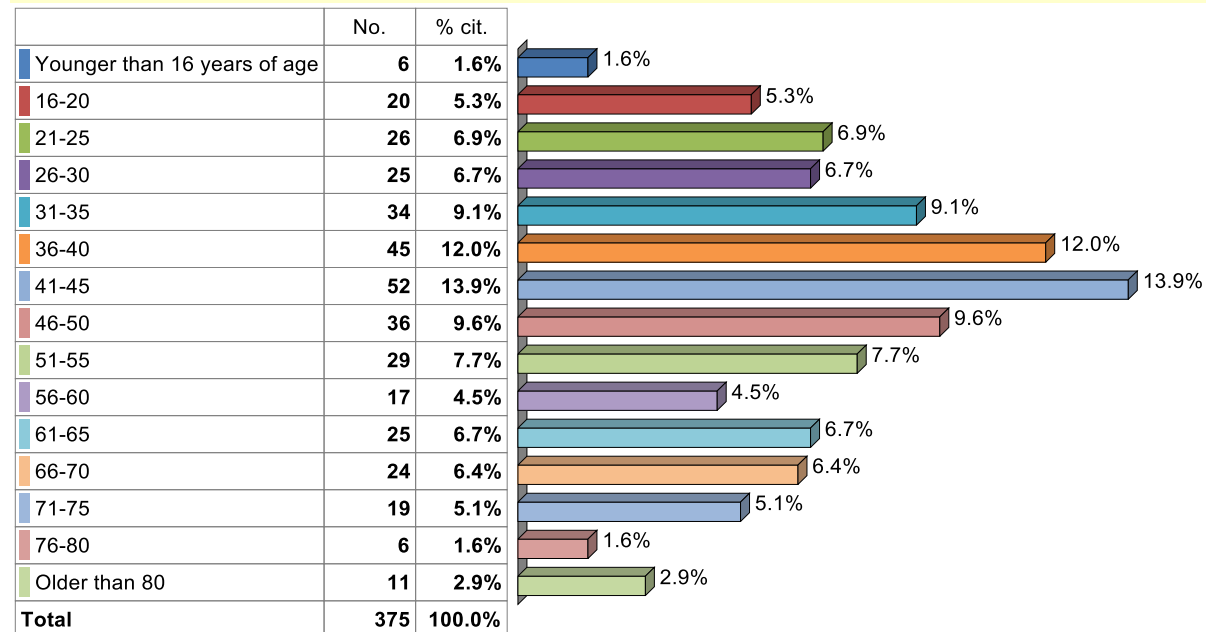
What is your Gender?



Are you a baptised member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church?

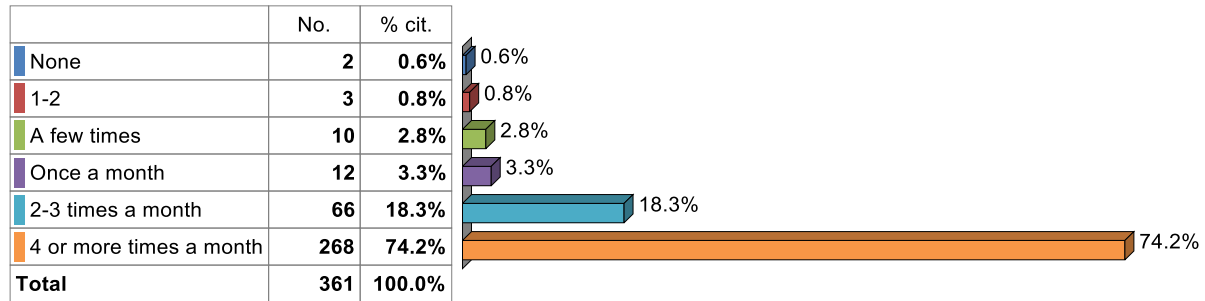


How old are you?

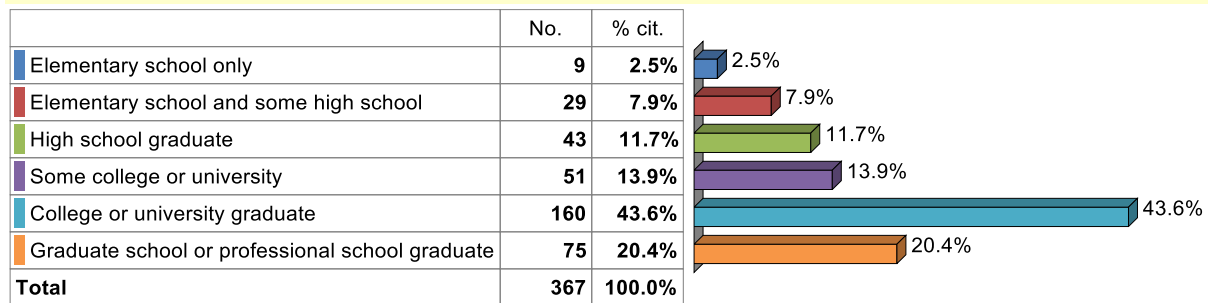


381 observations
Total sample

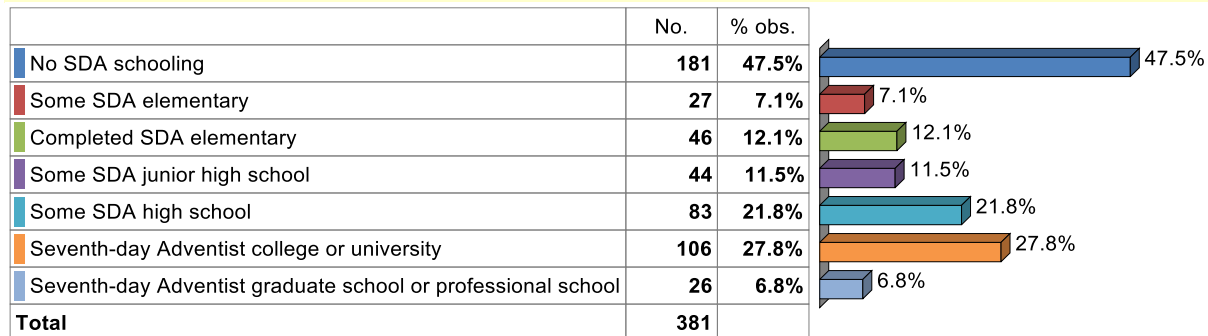
How many times have you attended church services during the last year?



What is the highest level of education you have completed?

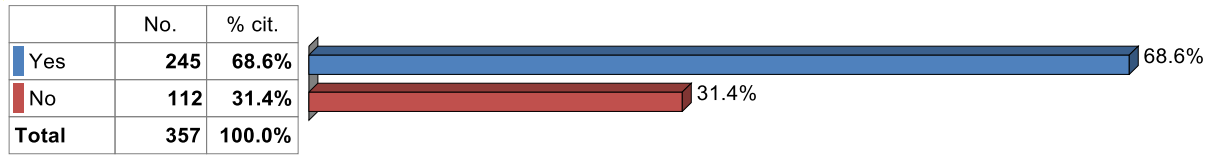


Have you attended a Seventh-day Adventist school, college or university? (Check all that apply)

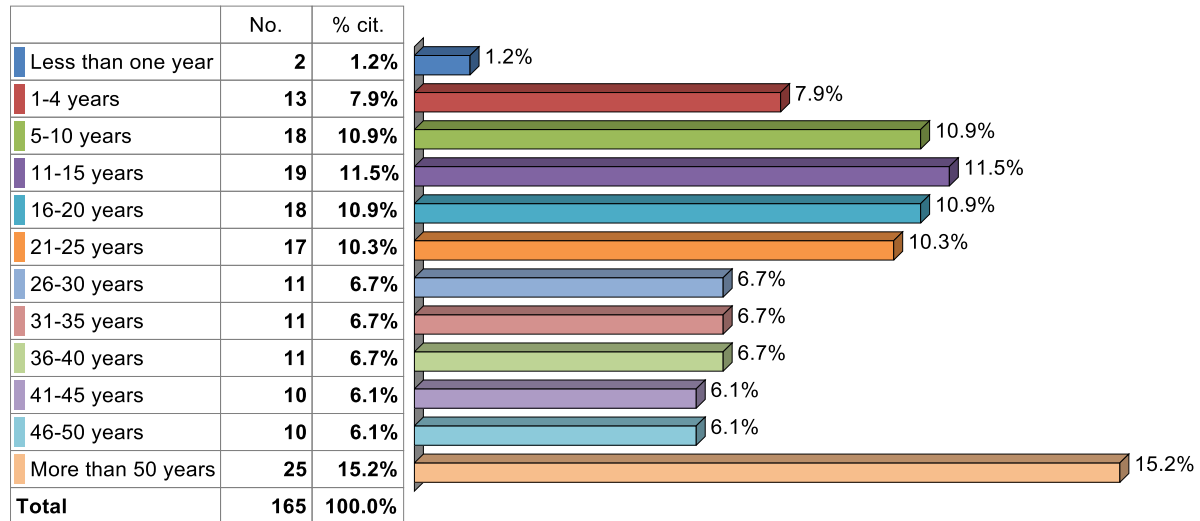


381 observations
Total sample

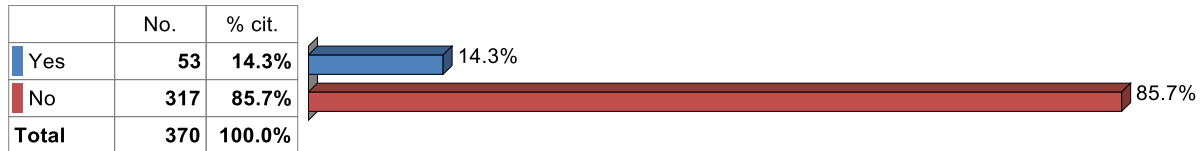
Were you raised by a Seventh-day Adventist parent/s?



If not, then for how long have you been a Seventh-day Adventist? (What answer is the best answer for you?)



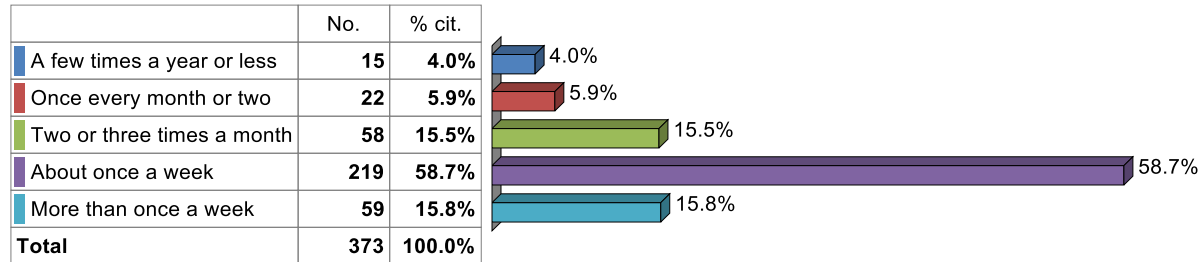
Are you employed by an institution that is owned by or affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church?



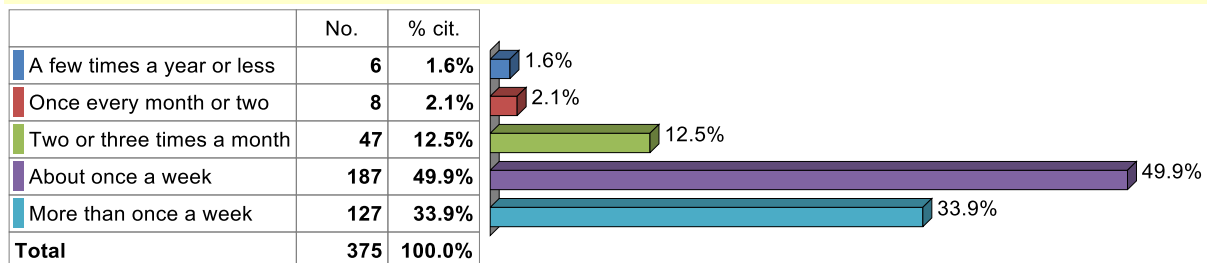
381 observations
Total sample

ABOUT YOUR LOCAL CHURCH

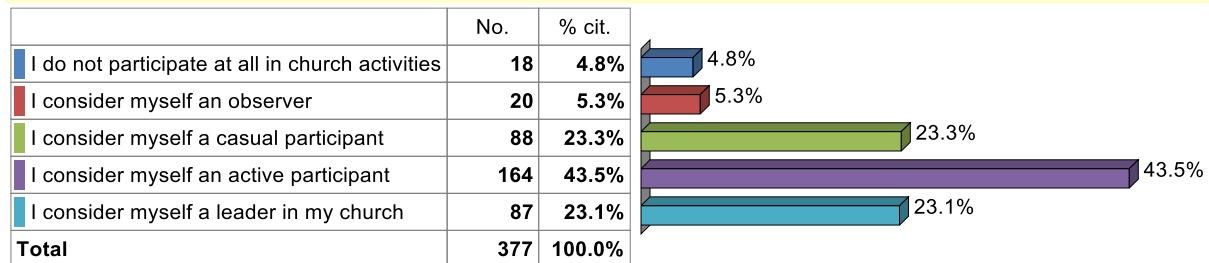
How often do you attend worship services at your local church?



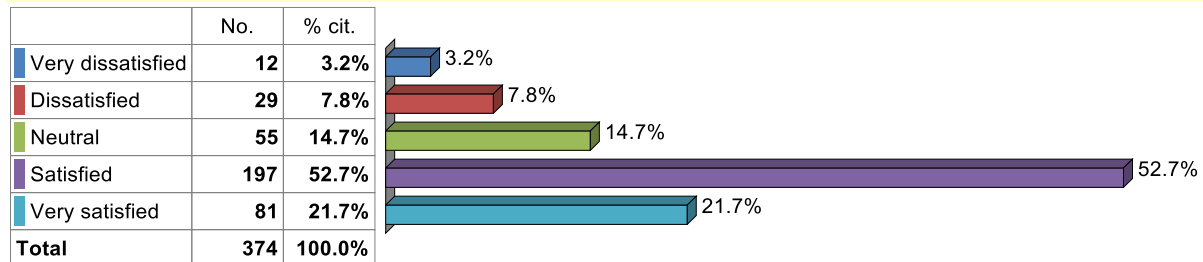
How frequently would you prefer to go to church?



How do you consider your involvement in your local church? (Mark the answer below that is the closest description of your attachment to your church)

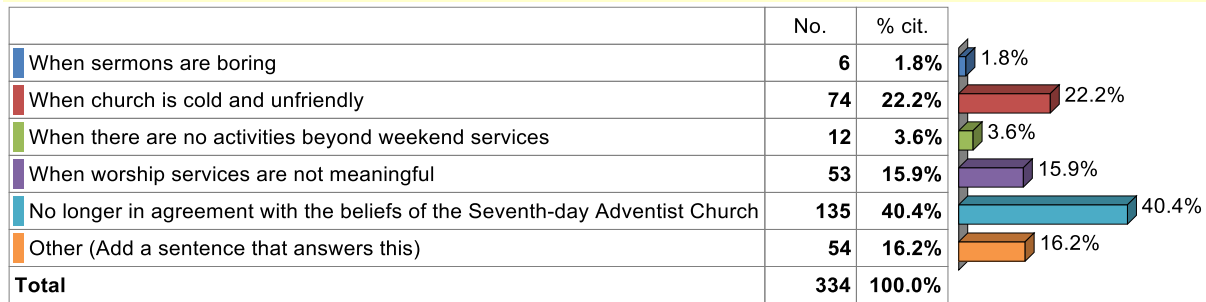


How satisfied are you with the local church you attend?

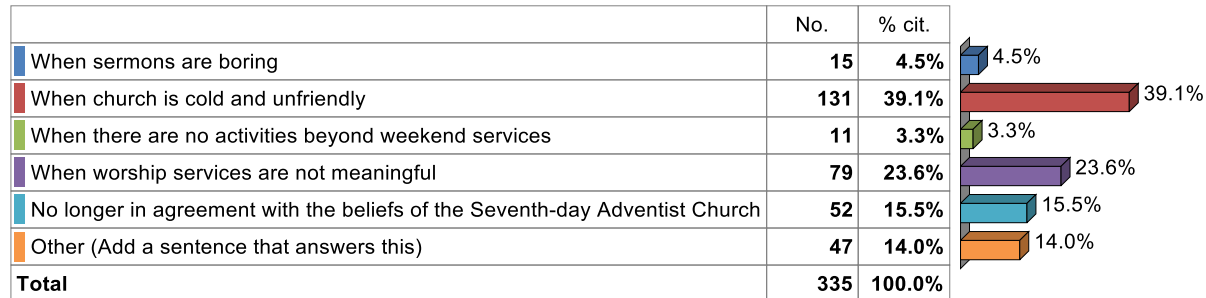


381 observations
Total sample

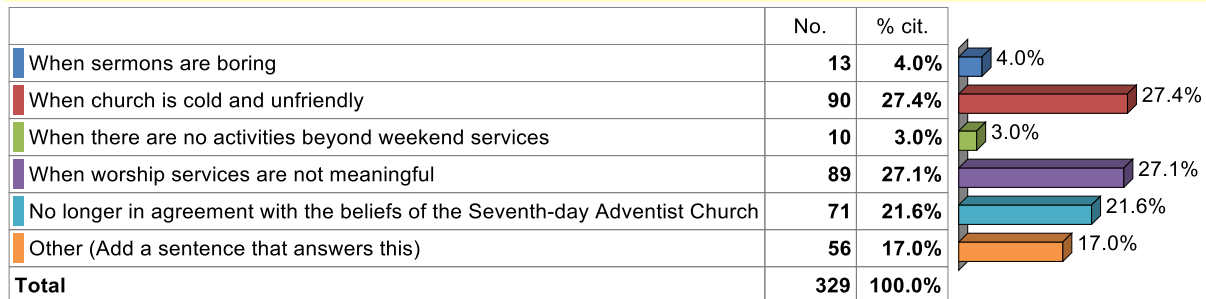
What ONE characteristic of church life would make you consider leaving your local Seventh-day Adventist Church to worship



What ONE characteristic of church life would make you consider leaving your local Seventh-day Adventist Church to worship



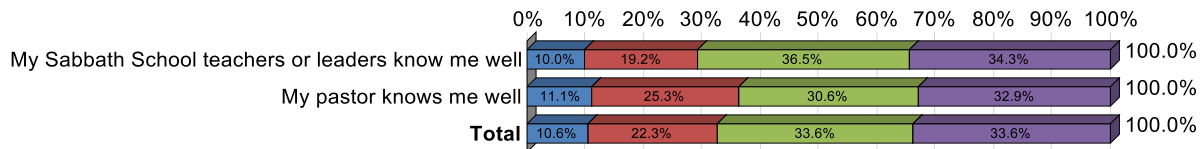
What ONE characteristic of church life would make you consider leaving your local Seventh-day Adventist Church to worship



381 observations
Total sample

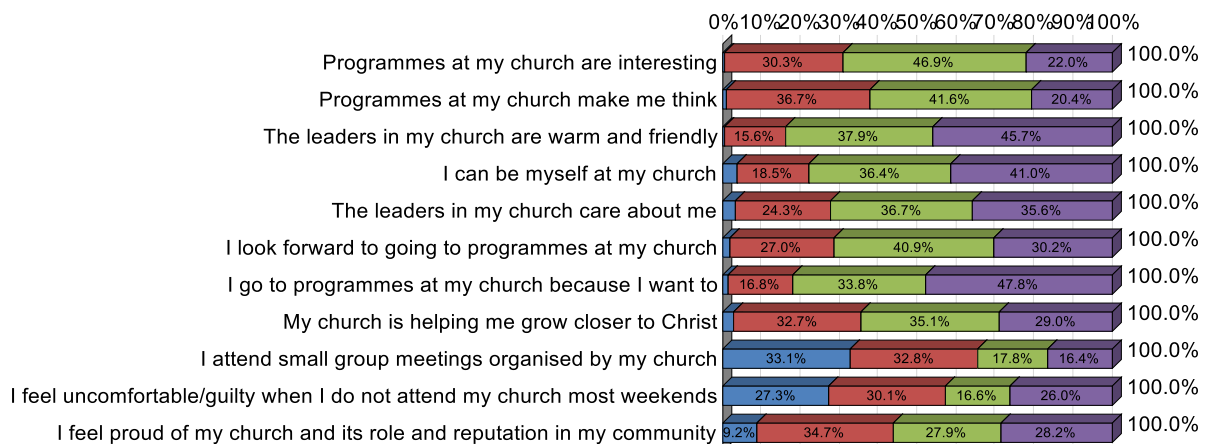
Think about your experience with your church.

	Not at all	Somewhat	Well	Very well	Total
My Sabbath School teachers or leaders know me well	36	69	131	123	359
My pastor knows me well	40	91	110	118	359
Total	76	160	241	241	718



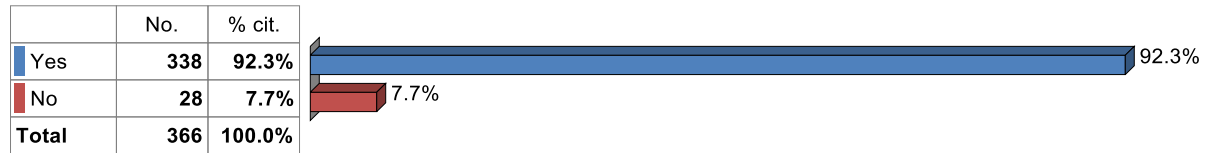
381 observations
Total sample

	Never	Sometimes	Often	Almost always	Total
Programmes at my church are interesting	3	113	175	82	373
Programmes at my church make me think	5	137	155	76	373
The leaders in my church are warm and friendly	3	58	141	170	372
I can be myself at my church	15	68	134	151	368
The leaders in my church care about me	13	90	136	132	371
I look forward to going to programmes at my church	7	101	153	113	374
I go to programmes at my church because I want to	6	62	125	177	370
My church is helping me grow closer to Christ	12	122	131	108	373
I attend small group meetings organised by my church	119	118	64	59	360
I feel uncomfortable/guilty when I do not attend my church most weekends	99	109	60	94	362
I feel proud of my church and its role and reputation in my community	34	128	103	104	369

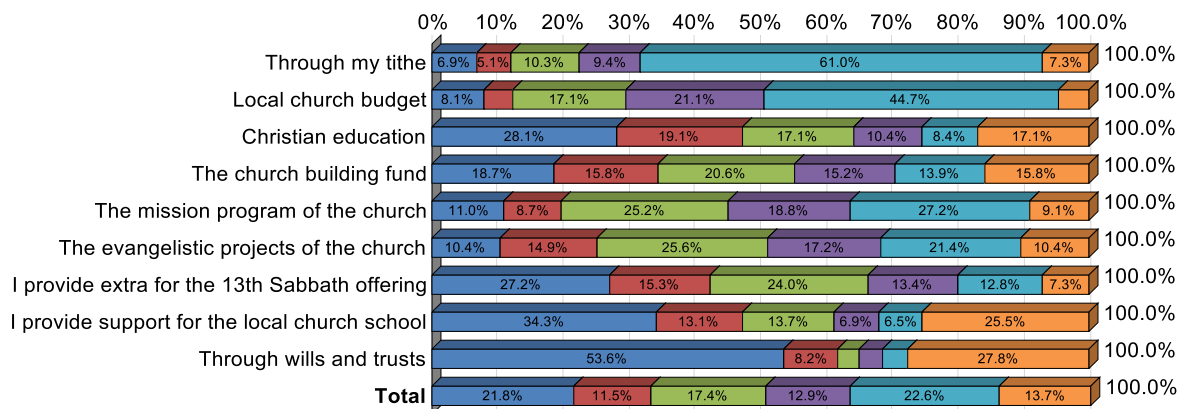


381 observations
Total sample

Do you support your church with your donations?



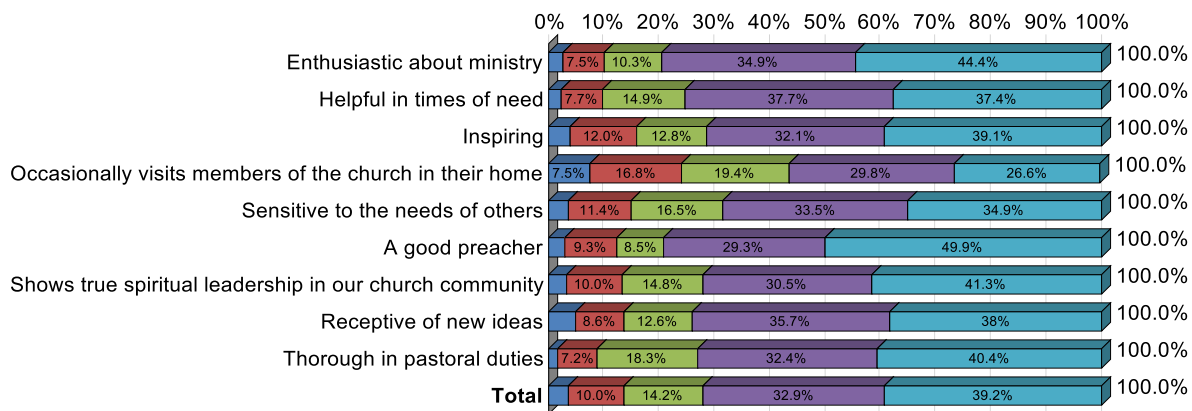
	Never	Seldom	Somet imes	Often	Always	N/A	Total
Through my tithe	23	17	34	31	202	24	331
Local church budget	26	14	55	68	144	15	322
Christian education	84	57	51	31	25	51	299
The church building fund	58	49	64	47	43	49	310
The mission program of the church	34	27	78	58	84	28	309
The evangelistic projects of the church	32	46	79	53	66	32	308
I provide extra for the 13th Sabbath offering	85	48	75	42	40	23	313
I provide support for the local church school	105	40	42	21	20	78	306
Through wills and trusts	164	25	10	11	11	85	306
Total	611	323	488	362	635	385	2804



381 observations
Total sample

How well do each of these describe your pastor?

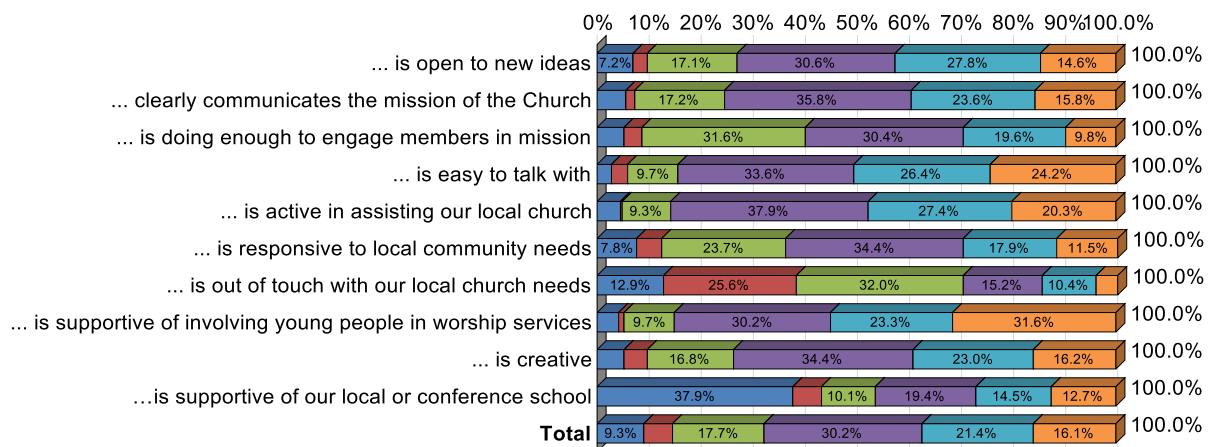
	Not at all	Some what	Undec ided	Quite a lot	Very much	Total
Enthusiastic about ministry	10	27	37	125	159	358
Helpful in times of need	8	27	52	132	131	350
Inspiring	14	41	44	110	134	343
Occasionally visits members of the church in their home	26	58	67	103	92	346
Sensitive to the needs of others	13	40	58	118	123	352
A good preacher	11	33	30	104	177	355
Shows true spiritual leadership in our church community	12	35	52	107	145	351
Receptive of new ideas	18	30	44	125	133	350
Thorough in pastoral duties	6	25	64	113	141	349
Total	118	316	448	1037	1235	3154



381 observations
Total sample

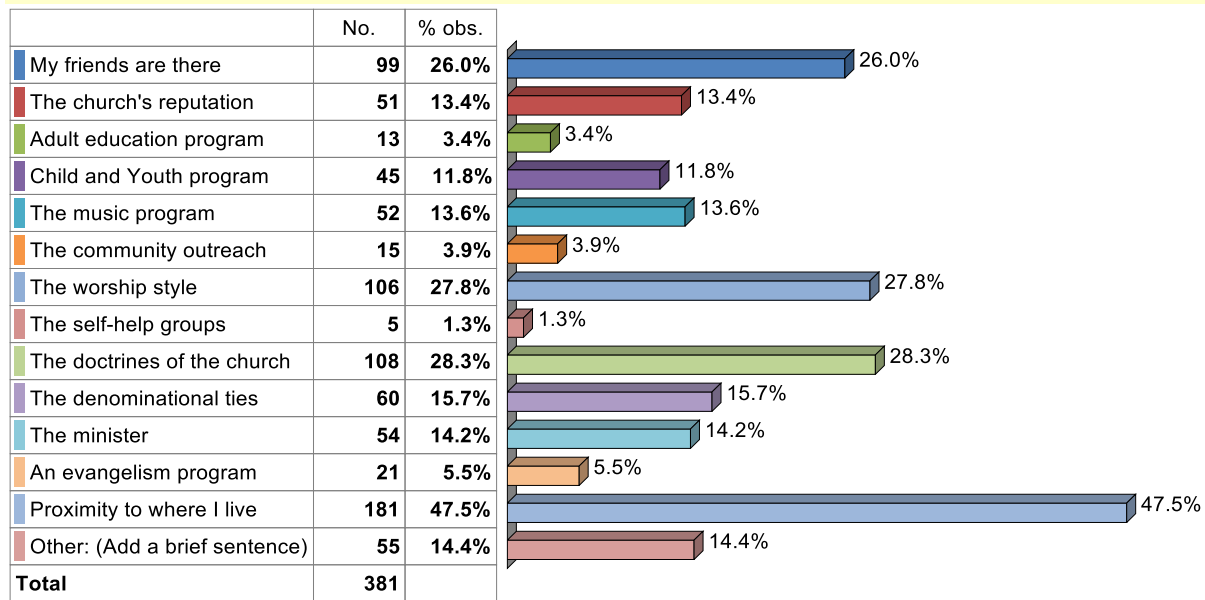
Your local church leadership

	No opinion	Never true	Rarely true	True	Often true	Always true	Total
... is open to new ideas	26	10	62	111	101	53	363
... clearly communicates the mission of the Church	20	7	62	129	85	57	360
... is doing enough to engage members in mission	19	12	113	109	70	35	358
... is easy to talk with	11	11	35	121	95	87	360
... is active in assisting our local church	16	2	33	134	97	72	354
... is responsive to local community needs	28	17	85	123	64	41	358
... is out of touch with our local church needs	46	91	114	54	37	14	356
... is supportive of involving young people in worship services	15	4	35	109	84	114	361
... is creative	19	15	59	121	81	57	352
...is supportive of our local or conference school	131	19	35	67	50	44	346
Total	331	188	633	1078	764	574	3568

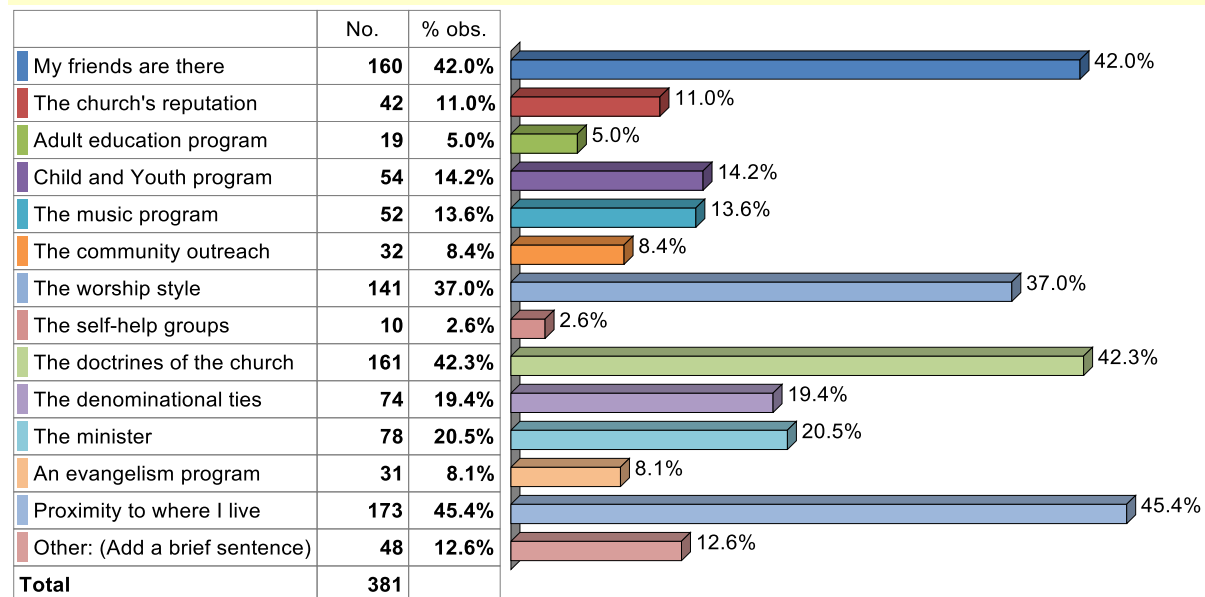


381 observations
Total sample

In thinking about what originally brought you to your local church, what originally attracted you to attend this church? (You may select more than one answer)



In thinking about what originally brought you to your local church, what is the reason you remain a part of this church? (You may select more than one answer)



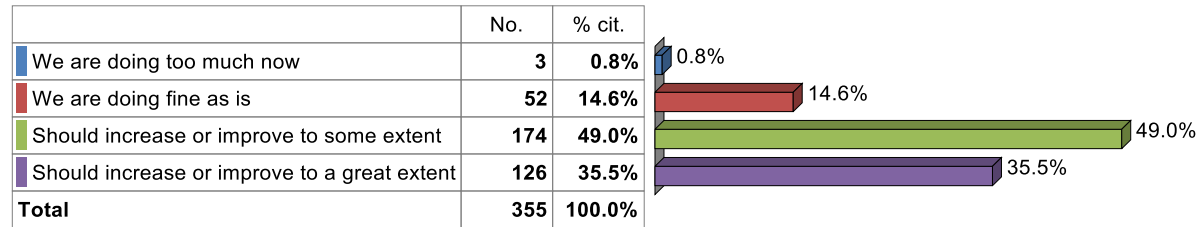
381 observations
Total sample

How important are the following personal traits in your pastoral leadership in your local church?

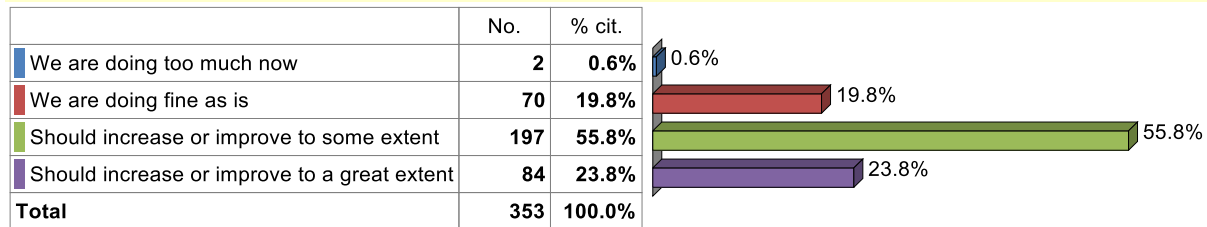
	Not important	Slightly important	Fairly important	Quite important	Very important	Total
Expertise in biblical and theological matters	8	13	53	112	173	359
Emphasis on spiritual development and growth	1	9	37	110	198	355
Thought-provoking and challenging	6	18	46	132	150	352
Comforting and reassuring	2	18	58	125	151	354
Biblical preaching and teaching	1	11	35	104	204	355
Preaching and teaching on contemporary issues	5	22	69	125	127	348
New approaches and ideas	5	25	75	137	110	352
Does things as they have always been done	118	87	62	43	35	345
Strong and decisive decision-maker	19	39	96	117	79	350
Encourages lay decision-making	11	32	89	119	98	349
Relaxed interpersonal style	10	26	82	125	102	345
Formal interpersonal style	96	80	88	52	25	341
Works hard to accomplish tasks	7	21	66	122	128	344
Places feelings of others ahead of achieving goals	7	33	114	112	78	344
Helps people figure things out for themselves	10	22	79	137	102	350
Advises people what to do	16	60	109	107	53	345
Reflective and reserved	50	87	94	74	37	342
Outgoing and socially engaging	11	29	91	136	80	347
Maintains a balanced life	4	14	77	131	121	347
Gives whole self to the church	10	43	84	112	98	347
Total	397	689	1504	2232	2149	6971

381 observations
Total sample

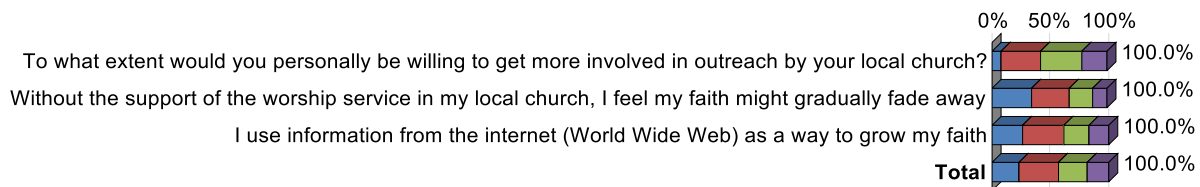
Overall, to what extent do you think your local church needs to increase or improve its efforts in outreach?



Overall, to what extent do you think your local church needs to increase or improve its efforts in caring and nurture?



	Not at all	To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Total
To what extent would you personally be willing to get more involved in outreach by your local church?	30	123	133	82	368
Without the support of the worship service in my local church, I feel my faith might gradually fade away	124	118	71	50	363
I use information from the internet (World Wide Web) as a way to grow my faith	101	129	76	59	365
Total	255	370	280	191	1096



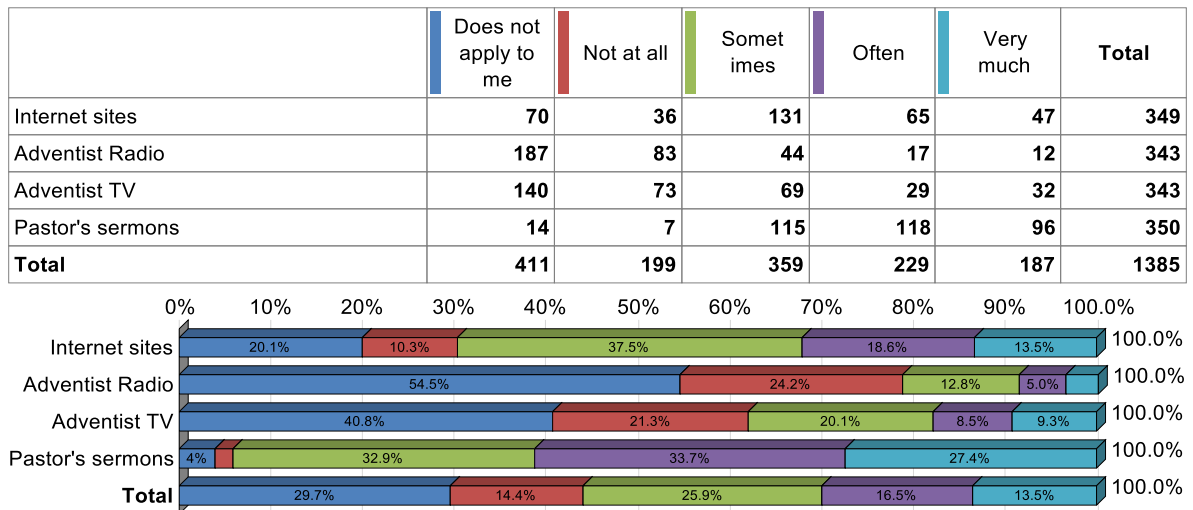
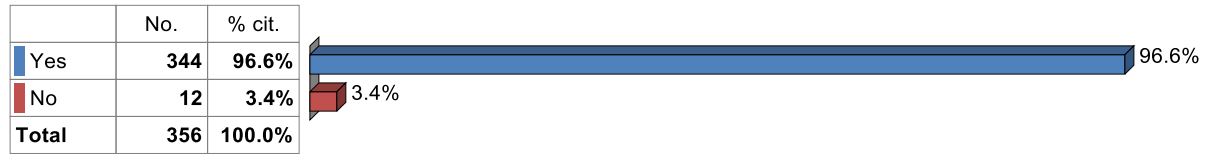
381 observations
Total sample

YOUR FAITH COMMITMENT

	Does not apply to me	Not at all	Sometimes	Often	Very much	Total
Sabbath School	47	11	87	88	136	369
Personal Bible study and prayer	16	7	80	79	184	366
Church worship services	7	5	100	149	103	364
Family worship	66	31	96	87	79	359
Prayer meetings	72	41	112	72	61	358
Weeks of Prayer at church	89	52	119	61	37	358
Church retreats	126	45	101	44	39	355
Church Community outreach	98	39	117	66	37	357
Short-term mission projects	158	43	73	48	31	353
Attending an Adventist school	181	32	55	35	49	352
Evangelistic outreach (Giving Bible studies, distributing literature, etc.)	109	53	91	54	51	358
Conference-sponsored events	105	45	117	60	28	355
The church pastor	29	40	133	90	69	361
The youth pastor	203	41	50	33	25	352
The local elders in my church	43	62	134	75	43	357
The Sabbath School quarterly	59	46	100	83	73	361
Evangelistic meetings (Public)	128	49	88	54	33	352
Small groups	100	17	97	77	62	353
Adventist publications (Union/Division paper)	85	65	123	58	24	355
Adventist publication (Adventist Review/Adventist World)	86	66	115	50	36	353
On-line church publications	110	55	108	50	32	355
Family	27	15	92	102	124	360
Friends	19	14	101	115	110	359
Total	1963	874	2289	1630	1466	8222

381 observations
Total sample

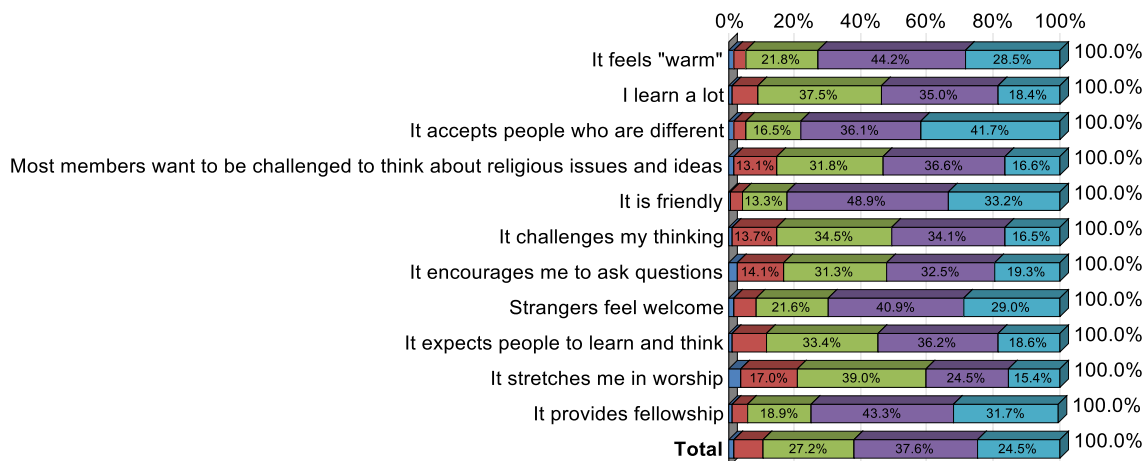
Do you attend church?



381 observations
Total sample

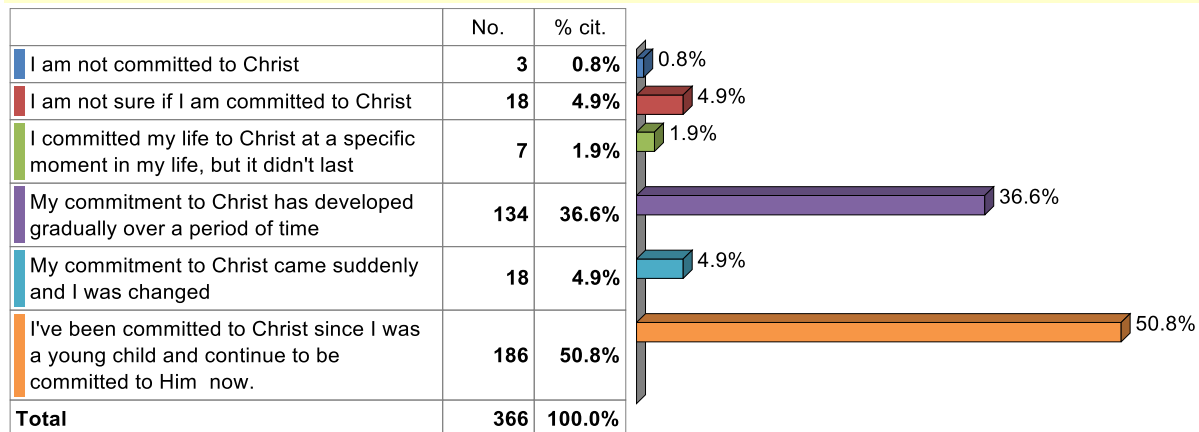
How true of your church are each of these statements? (Mark ONE choice only)

	Not at all true	Seldom true	Sometimes true	Usually true	Very true	Total
It feels "warm"	6	12	72	146	94	330
I learn a lot	4	26	124	116	61	331
It accepts people who are different	5	13	53	116	134	321
Most members want to be challenged to think about religious issues and ideas	6	41	100	115	52	314
It is friendly	3	12	44	162	110	331
It challenges my thinking	4	45	113	112	54	328
It encourages me to ask questions	9	46	102	106	63	326
Strangers feel welcome	6	22	71	134	95	328
It expects people to learn and think	5	33	108	117	60	323
It stretches me in worship	13	54	124	78	49	318
It provides fellowship	5	15	62	142	104	328
Total	66	319	973	1344	876	3578



381 observations
Total sample

Which one of the following best describes your commitment to Jesus Christ?



381 observations
Total sample

How true is each of the following statements for you personally?

	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Usually	Always	Total
I help others with their religious questions and struggles	10	34	141	111	69	365
I seek out opportunities to help me grow spiritually	5	31	110	126	87	359
I feel a deep sense of responsibility for reducing pain and suffering in the world	9	40	109	110	95	363
I give significant portions of time and money to help other people	12	52	129	110	60	363
I feel God's presence in my relationships with other people	5	28	128	127	74	362
I feel my life is filled with meaning and purpose	5	20	77	141	119	362
I show that I care a great deal about reducing poverty in my country and throughout the world	16	79	137	81	46	359
I apply my faith to political and social issues	36	53	92	115	62	358
The things I do reflect a commitment to Jesus Christ	4	14	97	172	72	359
I talk with other people about my faith	6	27	136	134	61	364
I have a real sense that God is guiding me	4	27	77	122	135	365
I am spiritually moved by the beauty of God's creation	5	6	38	107	212	368
Total	117	411	1271	1456	1092	4347

381 observations
Total sample

The following statements are about your attitude towards religion.

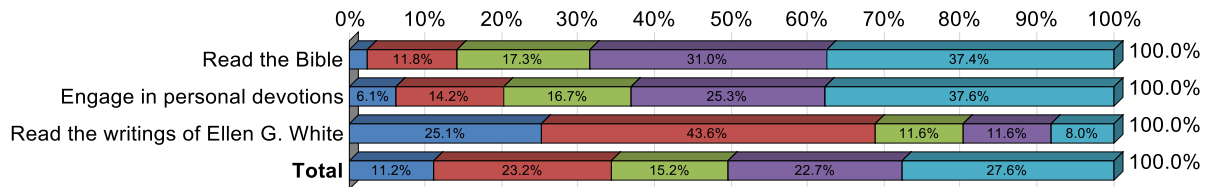
	I strongly disagree	I tend to disagree	I'm not sure	I tend to agree	I strongly agree	Total
I enjoy reading about Seventh-day Adventism	13	35	56	135	123	362
I go to church because it helps me to make friends	43	102	74	118	22	359
It doesn't much matter what I believe so long as I am good	218	88	29	20	6	361
Sometimes I have to disregard my religious beliefs because of what people might think of me	191	101	43	17	8	360
It is important to me to spend time in private thought and prayer	4	12	31	95	219	361
I have often had a strong sense of God's presence	8	23	61	134	136	362
I pray mainly to gain relief and protection	51	99	70	102	34	356
I try hard to live according to my religious beliefs	14	23	46	161	116	360
What religion offers me most is comfort in difficult times	27	73	58	132	68	358
My religion is important because it answers many questions about the meaning of life	6	11	30	134	179	360
I would rather join a Bible study group than a church social group	30	64	88	93	81	356
Prayer is for peace and happiness	27	50	63	136	82	358
Although I am religious, I don't let it affect my daily life	161	102	47	28	20	358
For quality control purposes, click on "I Strongly agree"	33	7	92	4	224	360
I go to church mostly to spend time with my friends	127	139	44	38	10	358
My whole approach to life is based on my religion	12	30	45	116	158	361
I go to church mainly because I enjoy seeing people I know there	91	120	52	74	22	359
I pray mainly because I have been taught to pray	135	118	44	42	18	357
Prayers I say when I am alone are as important to me as those I say in church	14	18	23	78	226	359
Although I believe in my religion, many other things are more important to me	128	92	50	64	25	359
Total	1333	1307	1046	1721	1777	7184

381 observations
Total sample

How often do you do any of the following?

GRUPPE Nr.9

	Never	Less than once a month	About once a week	More than once a week	At least once a day	Total
Read the Bible	9	43	63	113	136	364
Engage in personal devotions	22	51	60	91	135	359
Read the writings of Ellen G. White	91	158	42	42	29	362
Total	122	252	165	246	300	1085



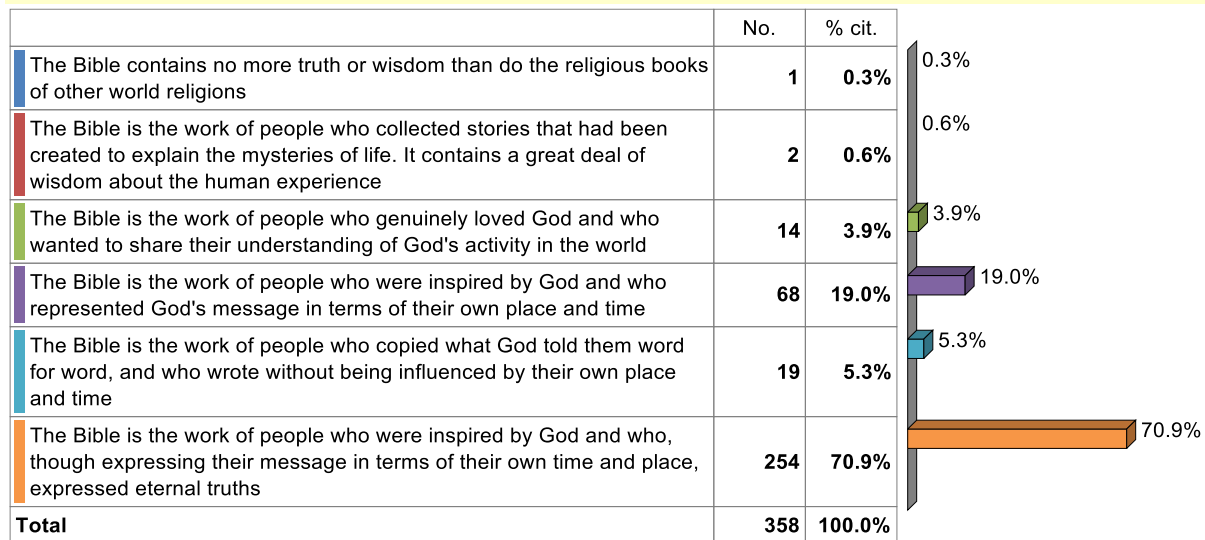
381 observations
Total sample

ABOUT WHAT YOU BELIEVE

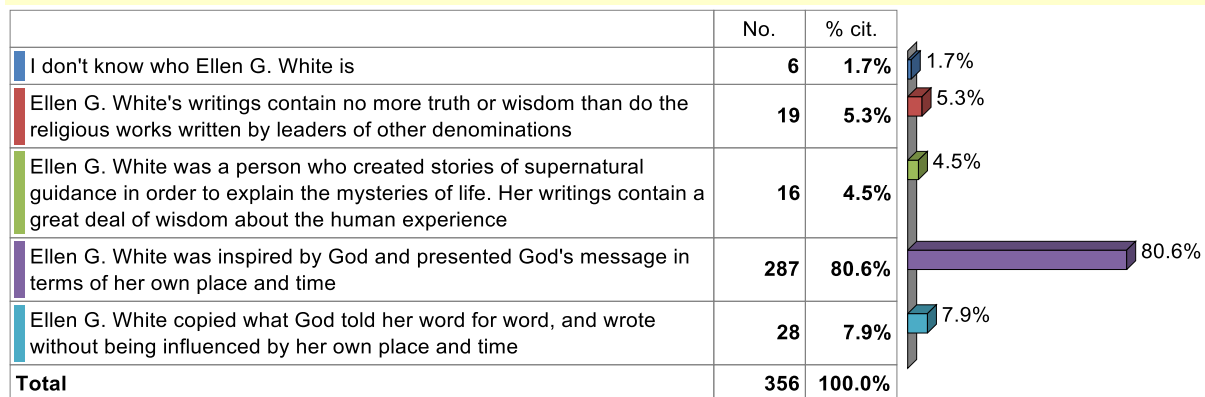
	Strongly disagree	Disagree more than agree	Agree more than disagree	Strongly Agree	Total
God loves everyone, and I should be all right in the end if I am a morally good person	109	99	98	50	356
I believe in a personal God who seeks a relationship with human beings	2	9	37	309	357
The righteous will be rewarded by God and the rest will not	33	51	110	150	344
Christianity is about Jesus giving me power to conquer sin in my life	19	46	122	163	350
I am saved the moment I believe and accept what Jesus has done for me	15	29	80	232	356
I believe that Jesus was born of a virgin	4	6	30	320	360
The Seventh-day Adventist Church is God's true last-day church with a message to prepare the world for the Second Coming of Christ	26	40	75	212	353
There is no body of teaching, or set of scriptures, which is completely without error or contradiction	74	59	116	91	340
Of all the people on earth, one group has a special relationship with God	113	103	63	65	344
A relationship with Jesus is important, but I will not get to heaven unless I obey God's law	74	102	80	93	349
I expect the world as we know it to end within the next 20 years	111	117	75	37	340
If I have been baptised, I will make it to heaven if I remain a good person all my life	146	96	70	38	350
I believe God created the world in exactly six days of 24 hours each in the relatively recent past	28	36	68	216	348
I believe God created the world	3	1	18	335	357
If I am to be saved, I need to become a baptised member of the Seventh-day Adventist	189	81	46	33	349
The Seventh-day Adventist Church believes in "present truth" which means beliefs might change over time	73	68	100	100	341
The true Sabbath is the seventh day Saturday	3	4	26	322	355
When a person dies their body remains in the grave and their soul sleeps until the resurrection	10	6	36	302	354
Total	1032	953	1250	3068	6303

381 observations
Total sample

Read the following statements carefully. Choose the one statement which is closest to your understanding of what the Bible is.

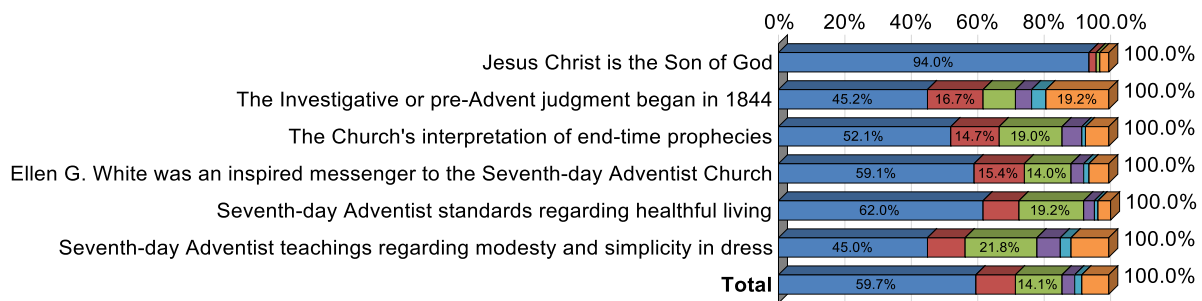


Read the following statements carefully. Choose the one statement which is closest to your understanding of the writings of Ellen G. White.



381 observations
Total sample

	I embrace it wholeheartedly	I accept it because the church teaches it	I have some questions about it	I have major doubts about it	I don't accept it	This question is not important to me	Total
Jesus Christ is the Son of God	344	7	4	0	0	11	366
The Investigative or pre-Advent judgment began in 1844	160	59	35	17	15	68	354
The Church's interpretation of end-time prophecies	184	52	67	20	4	26	353
Ellen G. White was an inspired messenger to the Seventh-day Adventist Church	211	55	50	13	5	23	357
Seventh-day Adventist standards regarding healthful living	220	39	68	12	4	12	355
Seventh-day Adventist teachings regarding modesty and simplicity in dress	161	41	78	25	11	42	358
Total	1280	253	302	87	39	182	2143



How would you describe your attitude toward religion and spirituality?

