

2ND AHSRA-ASIA CONFERENCE

THEME:

**I WILL GO: IMPACTING
MISSION THROUGH RESEARCH**



Research for Mission

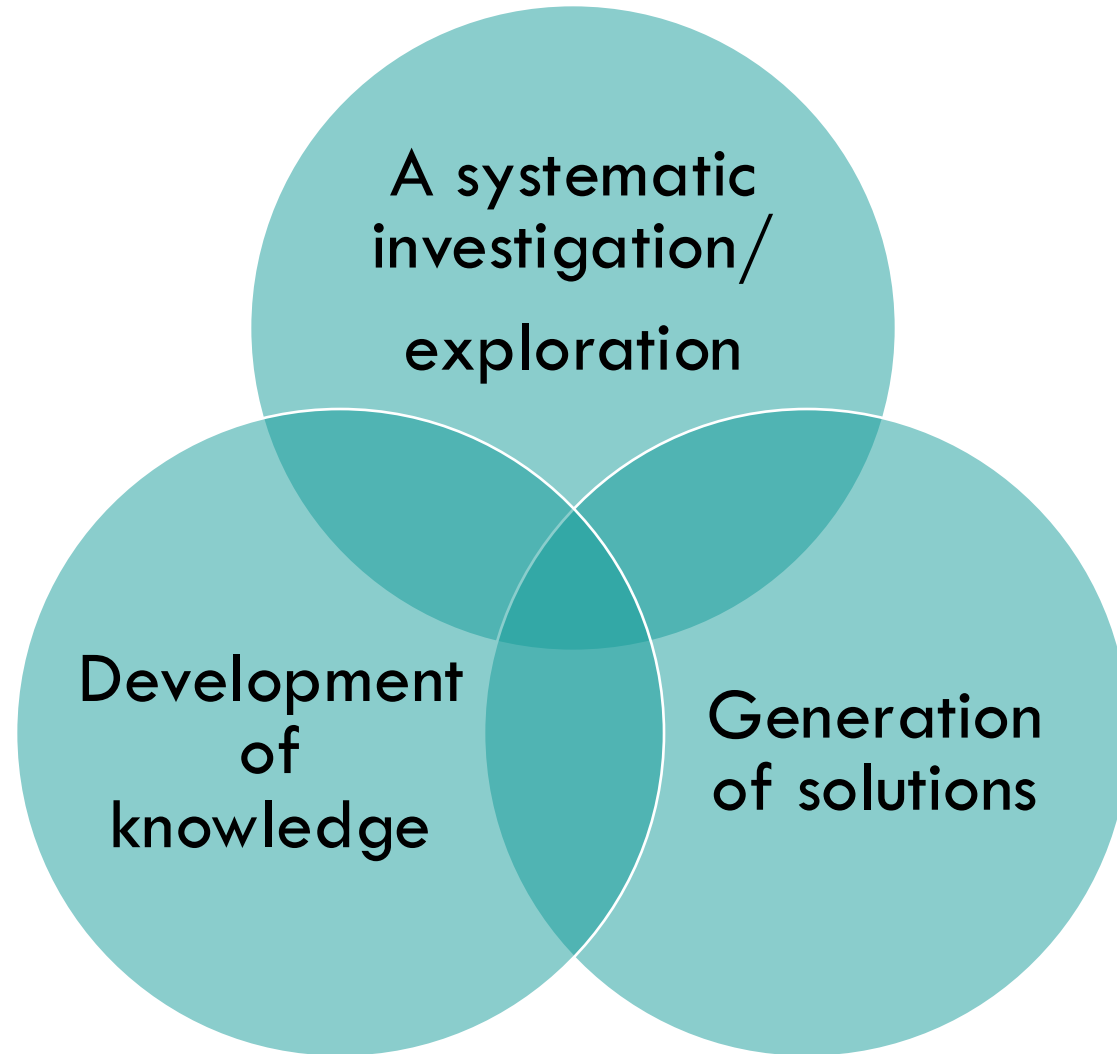
Safary Wa-Mbaleka



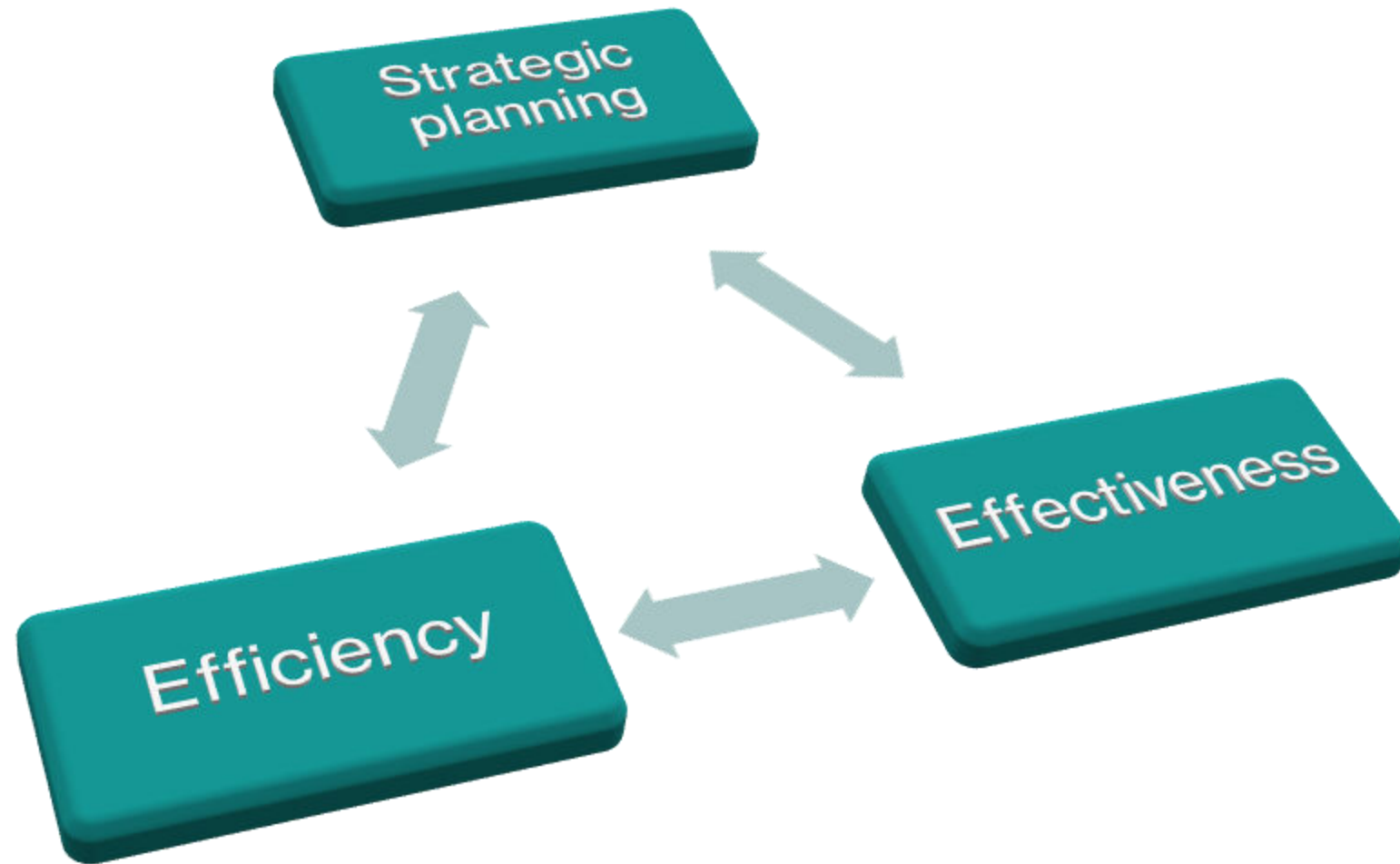
Mission: Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Research



Why Research for Mission?



Mission without research = blind faith!

Yet, God has given us the knowledge (Research).

2024

ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT

New Series, Volume 6

Report of the
General Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists'
2023 Statistics

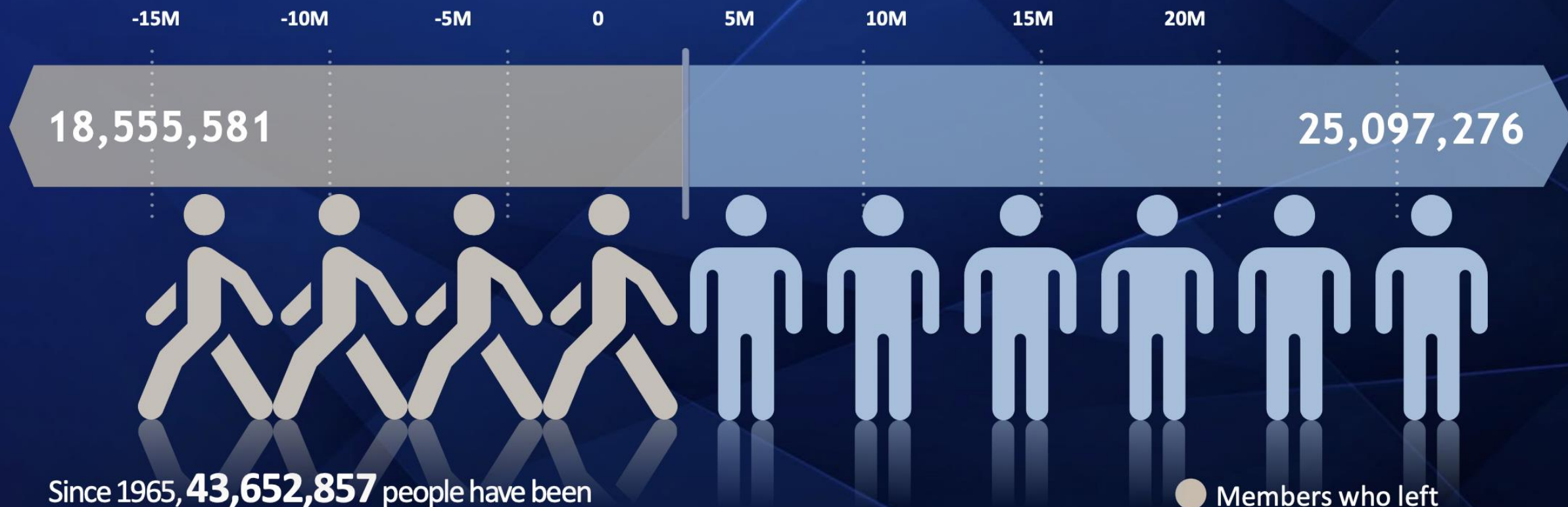
Seventh-day
Adventist® Church

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP BY WORLD DIVISIONS

Table 4

Division/Attached Fields	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
East-Central Africa.	4,395,892	4,518,003	4,666,780	4,928,940	5,307,907
Euro-Asia	106,466	104,387	101,493	59,267	58,338
Inter-American	3,708,308	3,675,689	3,661,426	3,679,938	3,705,040
Inter-European	178,887	178,790	178,566	179,772	181,586
North American.	1,262,927	1,265,754	1,271,642	1,234,397	1,257,884
Northern Asia-Pacific	285,711	287,255	285,664	287,673	356,203
South American	2,546,914	2,568,201	2,568,560	2,612,639	2,679,791
South Pacific.	567,139	609,868	612,590	622,985	650,632
Southern Africa-Indian Ocean. .	4,307,726	4,242,121	4,184,684	4,036,948	4,213,158
Southern Asia.	1,140,612	1,141,332	1,149,871	1,162,016	1,161,806
Southern Asia-Pacific.	1,627,397	1,688,247	1,749,036	1,868,258	1,594,150
Trans-European	88,583	88,533	88,507	89,196	90,510
West-Central Africa	862,027	873,579	905,667	940,203	998,383
Attached to the General Conf:					
Chinese Union Mission. . .	472,292	476,047	481,052	484,226	482,615
Middle East and North Africa Un. .	5,120	5,375	5,789	6,426	6,852
Ukrainian Union Conf	...	...	...	40,693	39,502
Israel Field	836	811	834	829	838
Totals	21,556,837	21,723,992	21,912,161	22,234,406	22,785,195

MEMBERS WHO LEAVE



Since 1965, **43,652,857** people have been members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

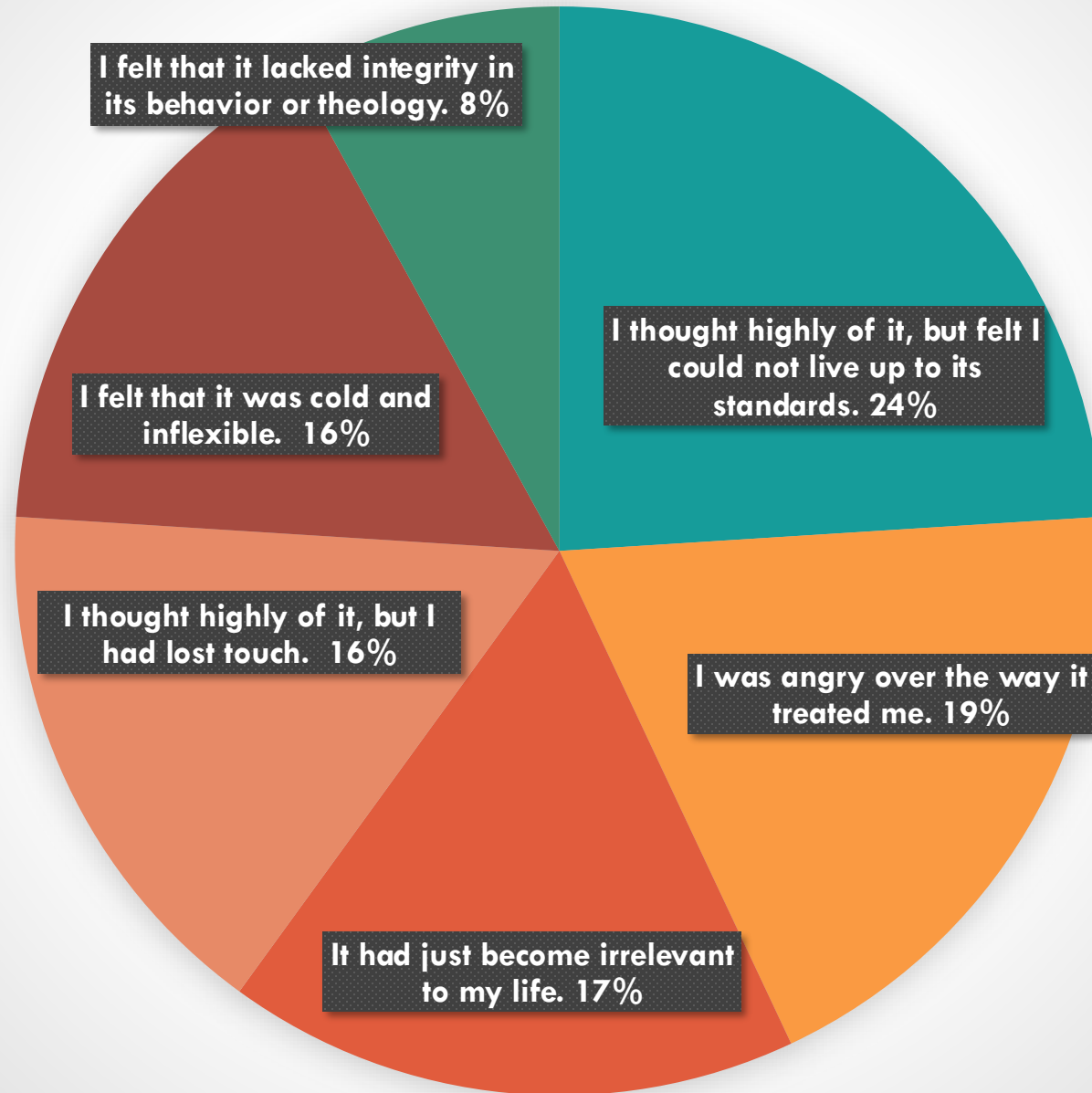
Of those, **18,555,581** have chosen to leave.

Our net loss rate is 42.5%.

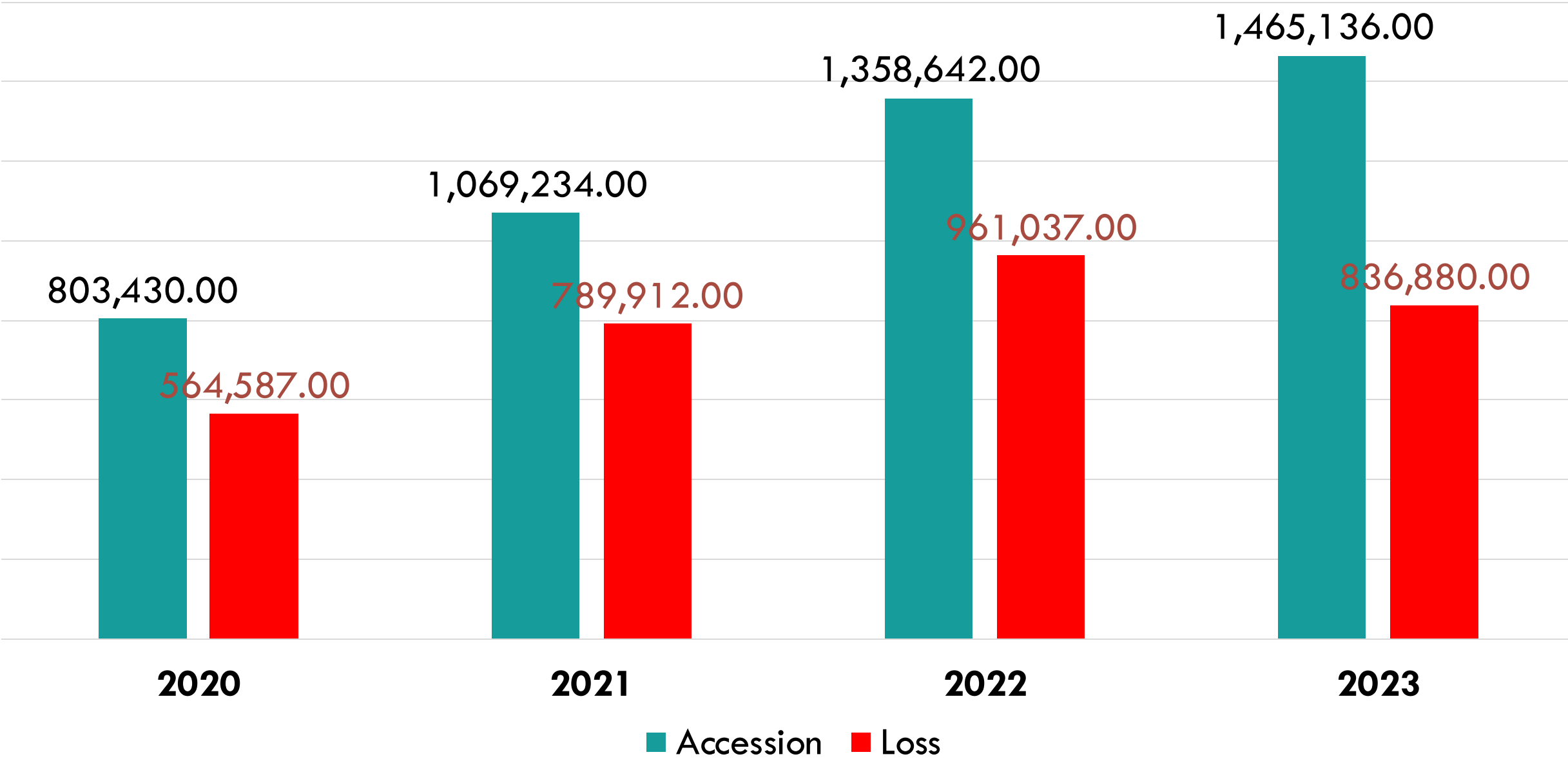
In effect, more than **4 of every 10** church members are slipping away.

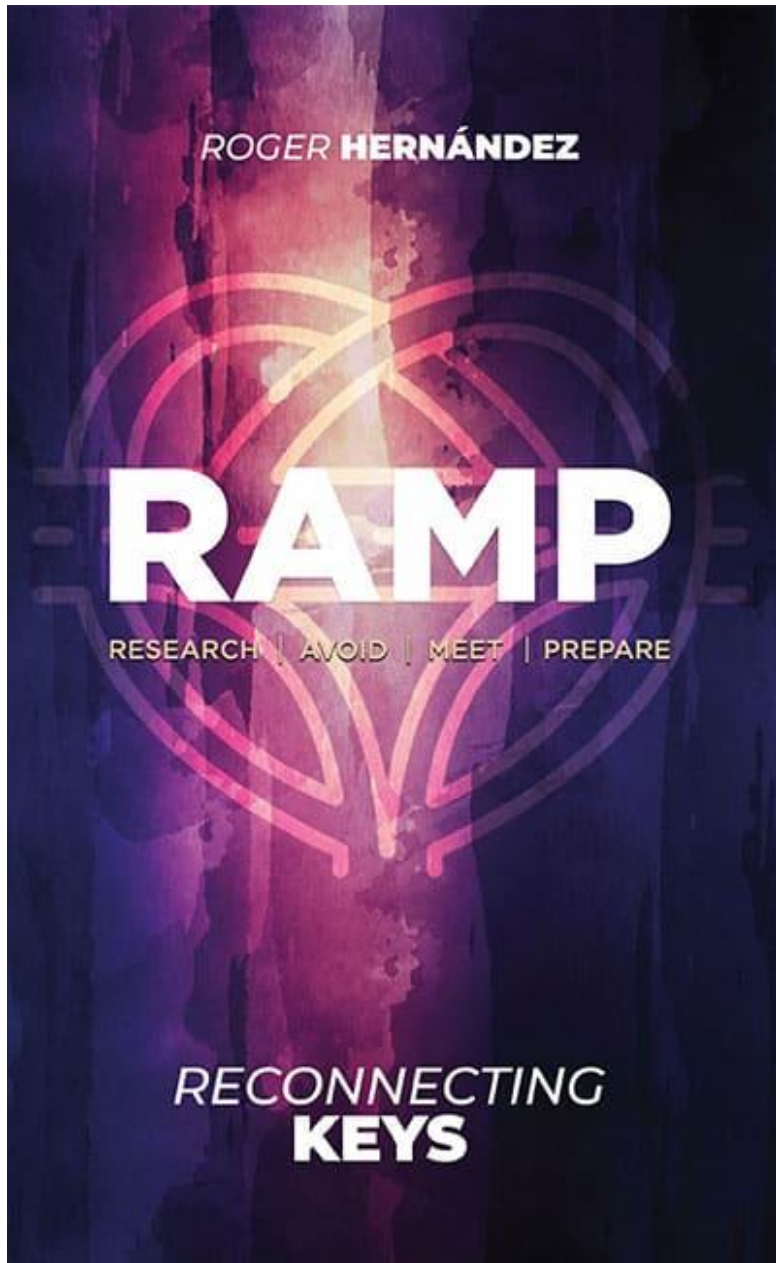
● Members who left
● Members who stayed

What did you think of the Adventist Church at the time you left it?



Recent SDA Church Growth





Research

- Why did they leave?

Avoid

- What mistake can we avoid?

Meet

- How can we meet them where they are?

Prepare

- How can we prepare to meet them?

Challenges of Today's Ministry

1. SDA = One of the fastest growing Christian denominations
2. Some ill-prepared converts
3. Limited nurture
4. Socio-cultural complexities
5. Economic complexities

➔ Need for research to support the ministry



Importance of Research in Ministry

1. Research-based strategic planning

- a. New churches
- b. New initiatives
- c. New projects

2. Research-based solutions

- a. Assessment
- b. Evaluation
- c. Performance



Where You Come in



Personal Level



Sustained
commitment to
scholarly growth

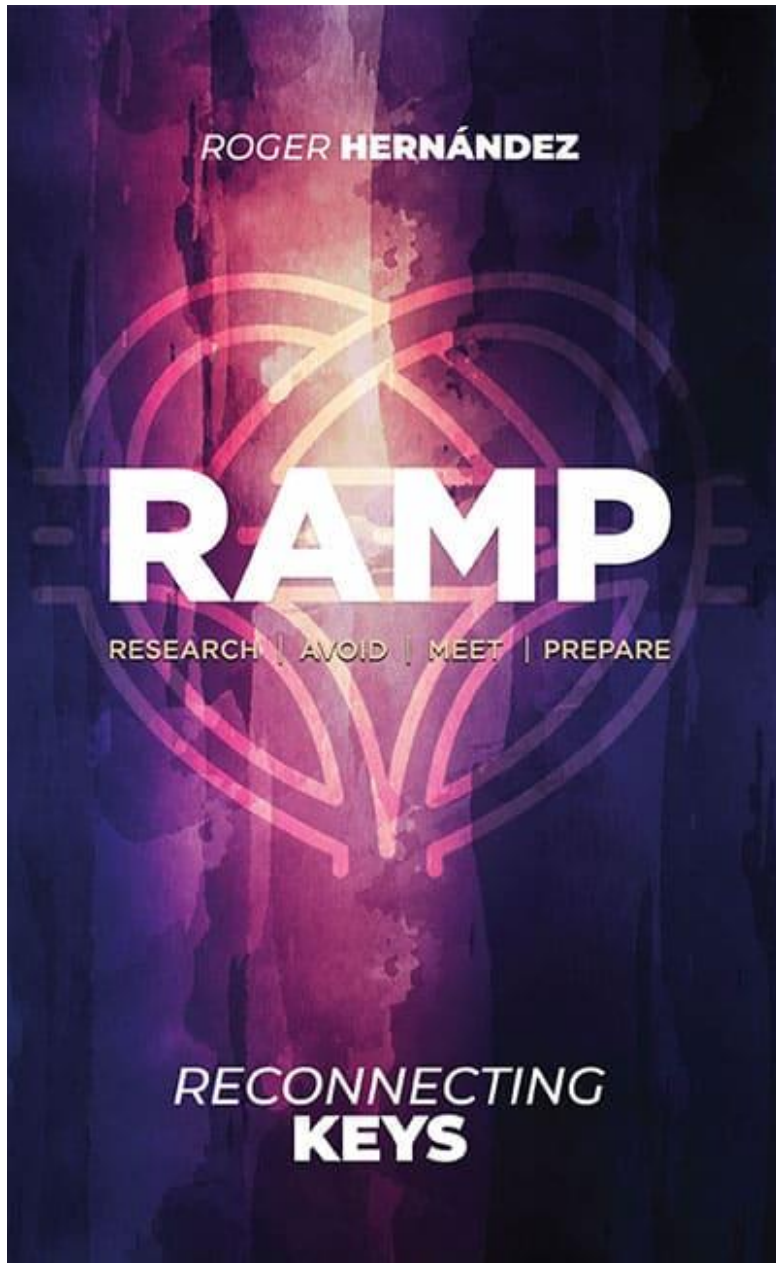
Dedication to
supporting the
ministry through
research

Collaboration
with other
scholars

EGW, *Our High Calling* (p. 303)

God has left to every one of us our work—not the temporal labor as planting, sowing, reaping, and gathering in the harvest, but **to build up His kingdom, to bring souls to the knowledge of the truth, and to regard this as our first and highest duty.** God has claims upon us. He has endowed us with **capabilities** and given us **opportunities**, if we will see them and **improve** them.





Local Church & Conference Level

→ surveys and interviews

Research

- Why did they leave?

Avoid

- What mistake can we avoid?

Meet

- How can we meet them where they are?

Prepare

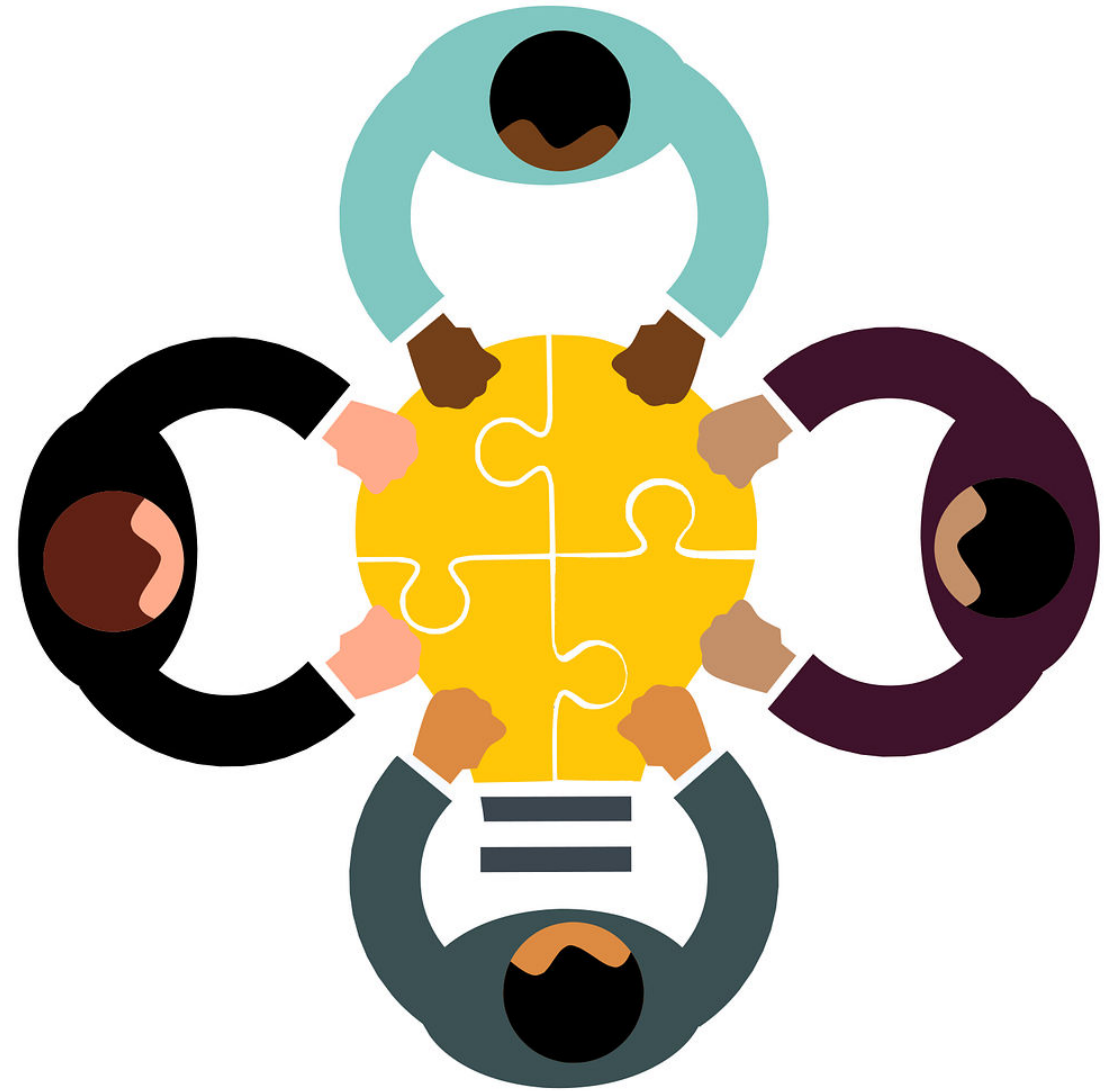
- How can we prepare to meet them?

Prevent

- How can we prevent future losses?

Country Level

1. Collaboration with the union
2. Collaboration with other Adventist scholars
3. Nation-wide studies



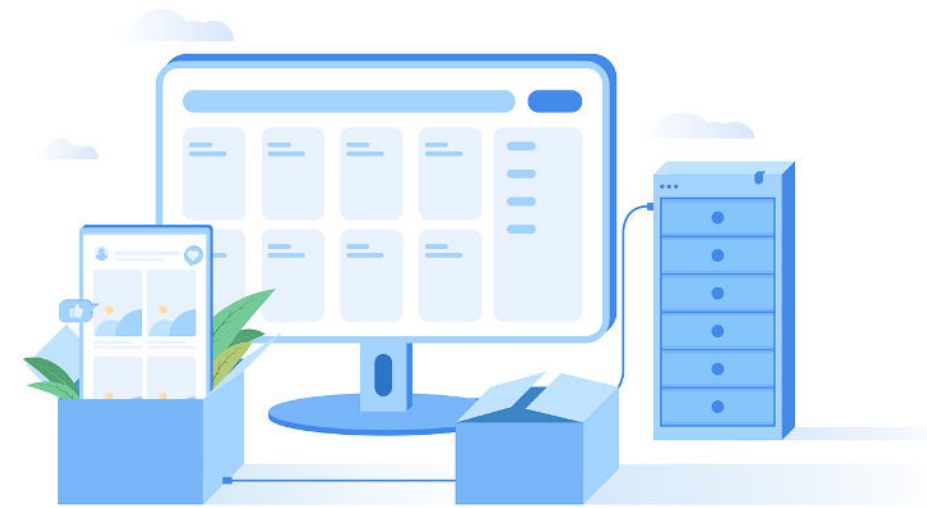
Division Level



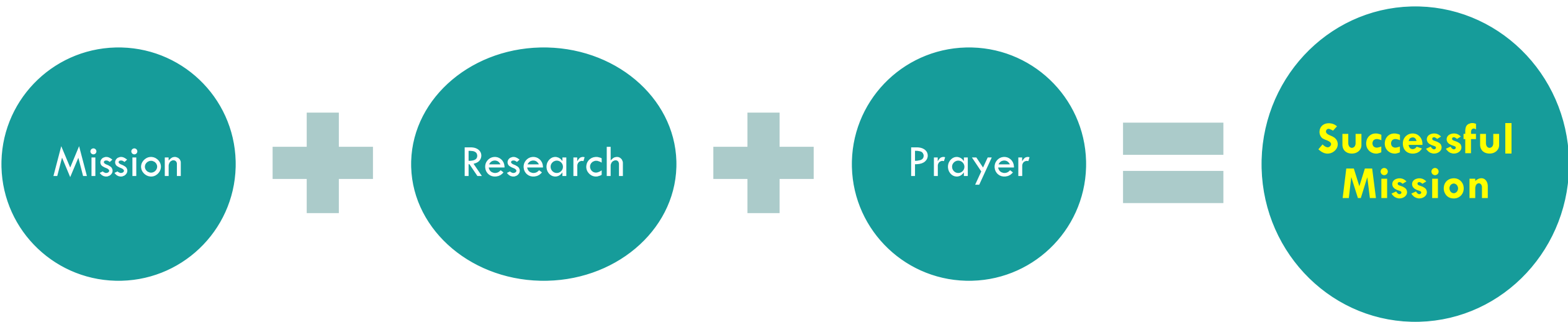
1. Team collaboration with the Division
2. Inclusion of multiple countries
3. Possible funding from Division or GC

Resources

1. Annual AHSRA conferences
2. Adventist Archives, Statistics, and Research (ASTR): www.AdventistArchives.org
3. Adventist Research:
www.AdventistResearch.info
 - Completed studies
 - Data request
 - Funding opportunities
 - Adventist Research newsletter



Final Thought





Ultimate Goal: 1 Corinthians 2:9

However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived”—the things God has prepared for those who love him—”.



Research for Mission

- **Safary Wa-Mbaleka**
- **ASTR Research & Evaluation**
- **General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventists**
- Silver Spring, Maryland, USA

www.AdventistResearch.info

astr
Office of
Archives, Statistics,
and Research

Research@gc.Adventist.org

