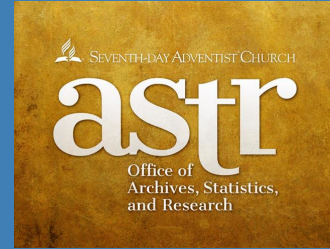


ASTR Research Newsletter

May 4, 2016
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Dropouts' Beginning Experiences in the Seventh-day Adventist Church



Dear Colleagues,

The General Conference Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research (ASTR) is very pleased to launch a new Research Newsletter, which is intended to share with church leaders around the world, and with Adventist scholars, some of the most important findings of the research projects that have been commissioned, supervised and facilitated by ASTR. These research projects were all commissioned by the executive officers of the General Conference or by standing committees at the World Headquarters.

We are delighted to share key findings with you. We know that you are very busy and probably don't have time to read a standard newsletter. So we have selected for you some of the most significant data and developed short blogs. Twice a month, we will send you an email with a short description of the latest blog - if it deals with a subject that interests you and/or is important in your territory, click on the link and go to the blog, which is short, but informative and will usually be illustrated by one or two relevant charts. If you want to know more, links at the end of each blog will take you to the relevant complete research reports, so you can dig deeper.

If the email subject isn't of interest, just delete - hopefully one will come soon that is relevant to you! And if the blog gives you enough information, you can stop there. How much you explore, or even whether you explore, is up to you, and a decision you can make quickly.

We hope this service makes available important data, with the potential to improve the mission effectiveness of Seventh-day Adventist Church administration, quickly and accessibly. We welcome your feedback and suggestions. We also kindly request you to pass this information on to colleagues, pastors, teachers, or researchers who would be interested in it.

We thank God for the opportunity to make these reports available online.

Yours in Christ,
David Trim, Ph.D., Director of Archives, Statistics, and Research
Galina Steele, D.Min., Research and Evaluation Manager

The Leaky Bucket: Examining Church Dropouts

Have you ever carried a leaky bucket? One that, no matter how cautiously you carried it or how carefully you patched it up, just won't stop dripping? If so, then you can relate to the situation in which the church finds itself currently – members leaking out at an alarming rate. According to a recent study, 39.25% of all members over the last 50 years have left the Church (Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research, 2015). What were these members' experiences prior to joining the Adventist Church?

For more information, click here: <http://www.adventistresearch.org/blog/2015/11/leaky-bucket-examining-church-dropouts>

First Love: Dropouts' Beginning Experiences in the Seventh-day Adventist Church

Do you remember when you fell in love for the first time? Now, do you remember when you first became a Seventh-day Adventist or how you felt after being baptized? For many people, coming to know Jesus for the first time is similar to those "first love" feelings. According to the Center for Creative Ministry, strong church doctrine, friendships, and charisma of the preacher were the top three factors that drew in new converts. They also found that many converts were initially excited about the Church and were eager to commit their lives to Christ, with 39% spending less than a year between their first contact with the Church and their baptism. When did things change – turning these passionate converts into disillusioned dropouts?

For more information, check out: <http://www.adventistresearch.org/blog/2015/11/first-love-dropouts'-beginning-experiences-seventh-day-adventist-church>

Research & Evaluation

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