

ASTR Research Newsletter

May 18, 2016
2-2016



In this issue:

- The Narrow Road
- Searching For the Lost



Dear Colleagues,

The General Conference Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research (ASTR) is very pleased to circulate a 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 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 Stele, D.Min., Research and Evaluation Manager

The Narrow Road

If you were on a Sabbath afternoon hike and saw two paths – one that was well travelled and easy, the other that was more rugged and adventurous – which would you take? Are you someone who enjoys the challenges of forging a new path or do you find yourself taking the path of least resistance? If the path of least resistance is where you find yourself, you have much in common with many former and inactive Adventists. When asked what the defining event was that ended their relationship with the church, 28% of church dropouts indicated that nothing specific triggered their leaving; they simply drifted away (Center for Creative Ministry, 2013). What were other factors that caused church members to leave? Is there something that we can do to stop this heartbreaking trend?

For more information, click here: <http://www.adventistresearch.org/blog/2016/05/narrow-road>

Searching For the Lost

Have you ever lost something precious? If so, it likely that you searched tirelessly until you recovered the missing item. Is this how we are treating those who leave our church – be it quietly or with a commotion? Or are we letting them go without a struggle? In a recent study (2013) conducted by the Center for Creative Ministry, former and inactive Seventh-day Adventists were asked how the church reacted to their decisions to leave. For 40% of respondents, there was no contact made by the church. Nineteen percent

had a church member visit them, 17% had an elder visit, and 9% had their pastor visit. How can we better reach out to those who have left or are on the brink of leaving the Church?

To read more, check out: <http://www.adventistresearch.org/blog/2016/05/searching-lost>

Research & Evaluation

*The Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist Church*

Phone: (301) 680-5023

Email: research@gc.adventist.org

www.adventistarchives.org

www.adventistresearch.org

You are receiving this email because of your relationship with General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist. Please [reconfirm](#) your interest in receiving emails from us. If you do not wish to receive any more emails, you can [unsubscribe here](#).

This message was sent to marianne.kolkmann@adventist.dk by research@gc.adventist.org

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage Subscription](#) | [Forward Email](#) | [Report Abuse](#)

12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD, 20904

