

ADVENTIST RESEARCH

AFRICAN CONTINENT

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ADVENTIST RESEARCH



FOUNTAIN OF KNOWLWDGE



**UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN AFRICA, BARATON
RESEARCH TEAM**

**SPIRITUAL LIFE PATTERNS,
ATTITUDES AND BELIEFS OF
ORDINARY CHURCH MEMBERS
IN THE AFRICAN CONTINENT**

**Commissioned/Funded by the
General Conference of Seventh-
day Adventist**

- ★ **Dynamic leadership requires listening, learning, and taking action.**
- ★ **An objective understanding of the church climate, the PULSE of the church members, is an asset for a church leadership to effectively lead and manage change.**

☆ A survey is a listening tool that can give the leadership a baseline view of reality.

☆ Conducting a church member survey is a tangible step that church leadership must take that they may be given direction towards staying focused on areas that should be the highest priorities in strategic planning.

POPULATION

DIVISIONS	UNIONS/ ATTACHED TERRITORIES	ADMINISTRATIVE FIELDS
East-Central Africa	11	52 (11 countries)
Southern Africa-Indian Ocean	10	38 (15 countries)
West-Central Africa	6	38 (22 countries)

SAMPLING DESIGN

➤ Stratified

- Church size (membership)
- Location (urban or rural)

SAMPLING DESIGN

➤ Random

- Selection of churches in terms of size and location

SAMPLING DESIGN

➤ Convenience

- Participation of church members who are available during data collection and who are willing to participate

Obtained contacts (e-mail addresses)
of executive secretaries

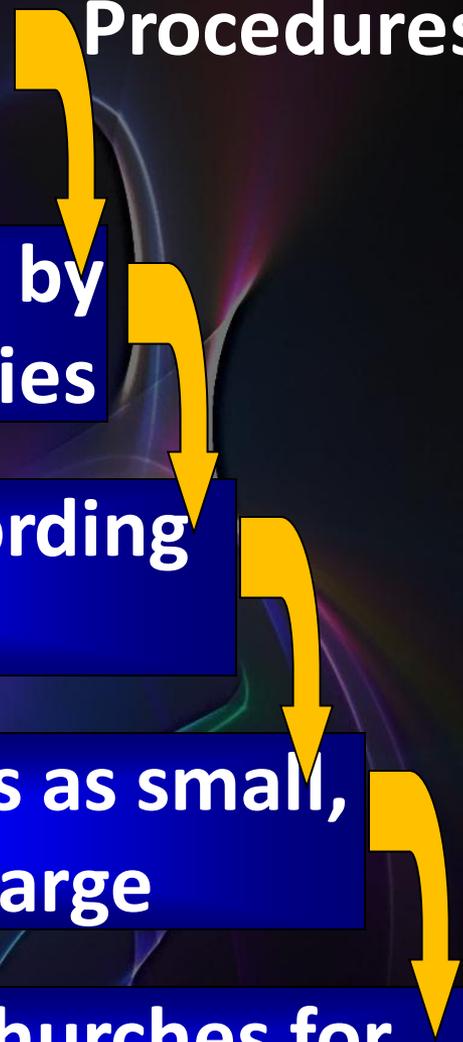
**Sampling
Procedures**

Church information provided by
administrative field secretaries

Churches ranked according
to membership

Classified churches as small,
medium, or large

Shortlisted churches for
random sampling



SHORTLISTING PROCEDURES

NUMBER OF CHURCHES	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
500 or more	20	20	20
100 to 499	10	10	10
50 to 99	10	10	10

RANDOM SAMPLING

NUMBER OF CHURCHES	LARGE		MEDIUM		SMALL	
	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL
500 or more	2	2	2	2	2	2
100 to 499	1	1	1	1	1	1
50 to 99	1		1		1	
10 to 49	1		1		1	
less than 10	Largest church					

SAMPLE SIZE

- ❖ Large church – 50 members
- ❖ Medium church – 30 members
- ❖ Small church – 10 members

SAMPLE SIZE

DIVISION	CHURCHES	MEMBERS
East-Central Africa	274	8,300
Southern Africa- Indian Ocean	199	5,990
West-Central Africa	137	4,210
TOTAL	610	18,500

THE QUESTIONNAIRE

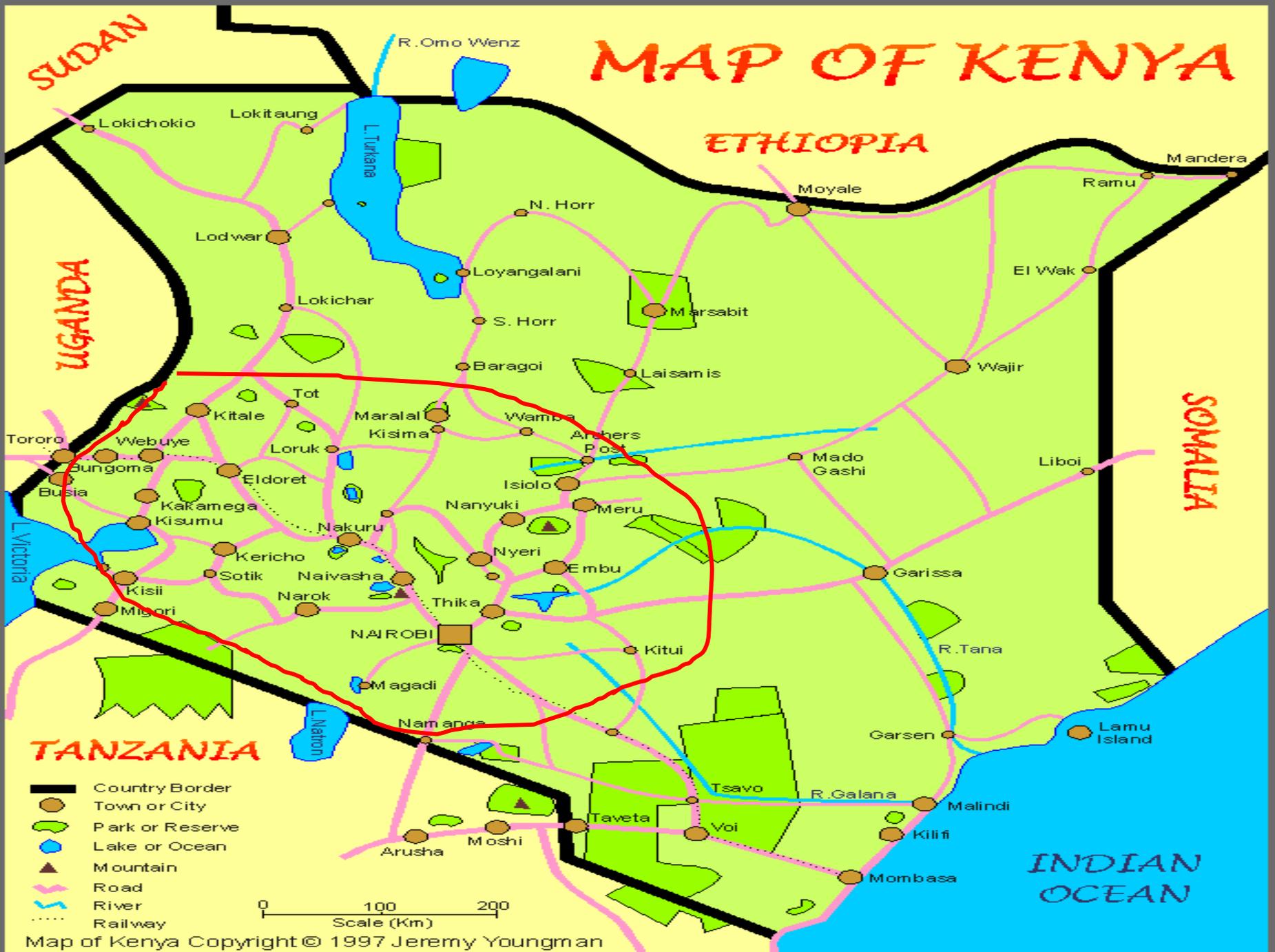
- I. Your Information
 - II. About Your Church
 - III. Your Religious Life
 - IV. About What You Believe
- Developed by Dr. Bailey Gillespie and team
 - Translated in major languages

EAST-AFRICAN UNION

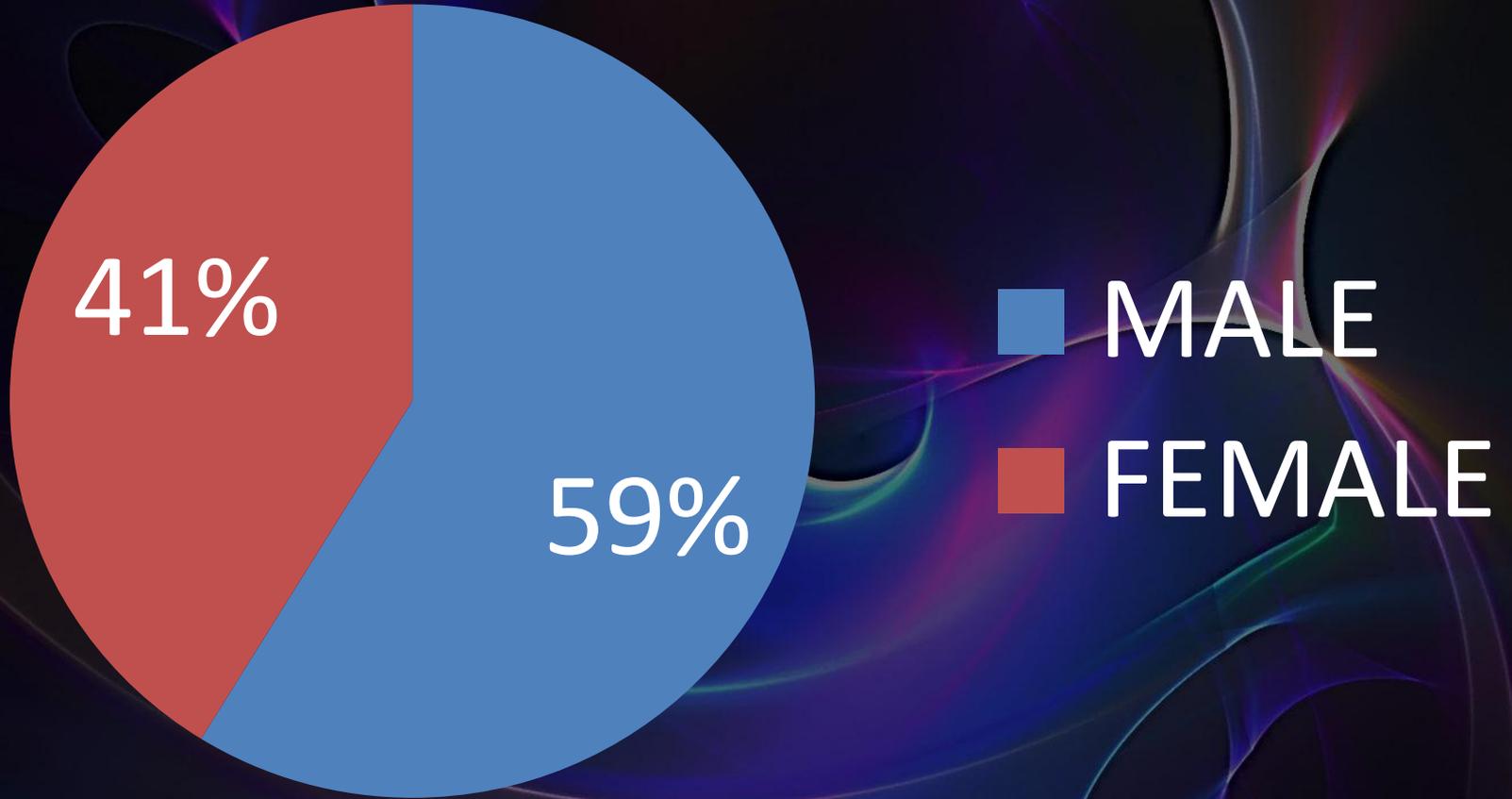
MISSION: Partial Results

- Kenya
 - 6 conferences; 2 fields
 - 84 churches
 - 2,520 members
- Somalia
- Djibouti

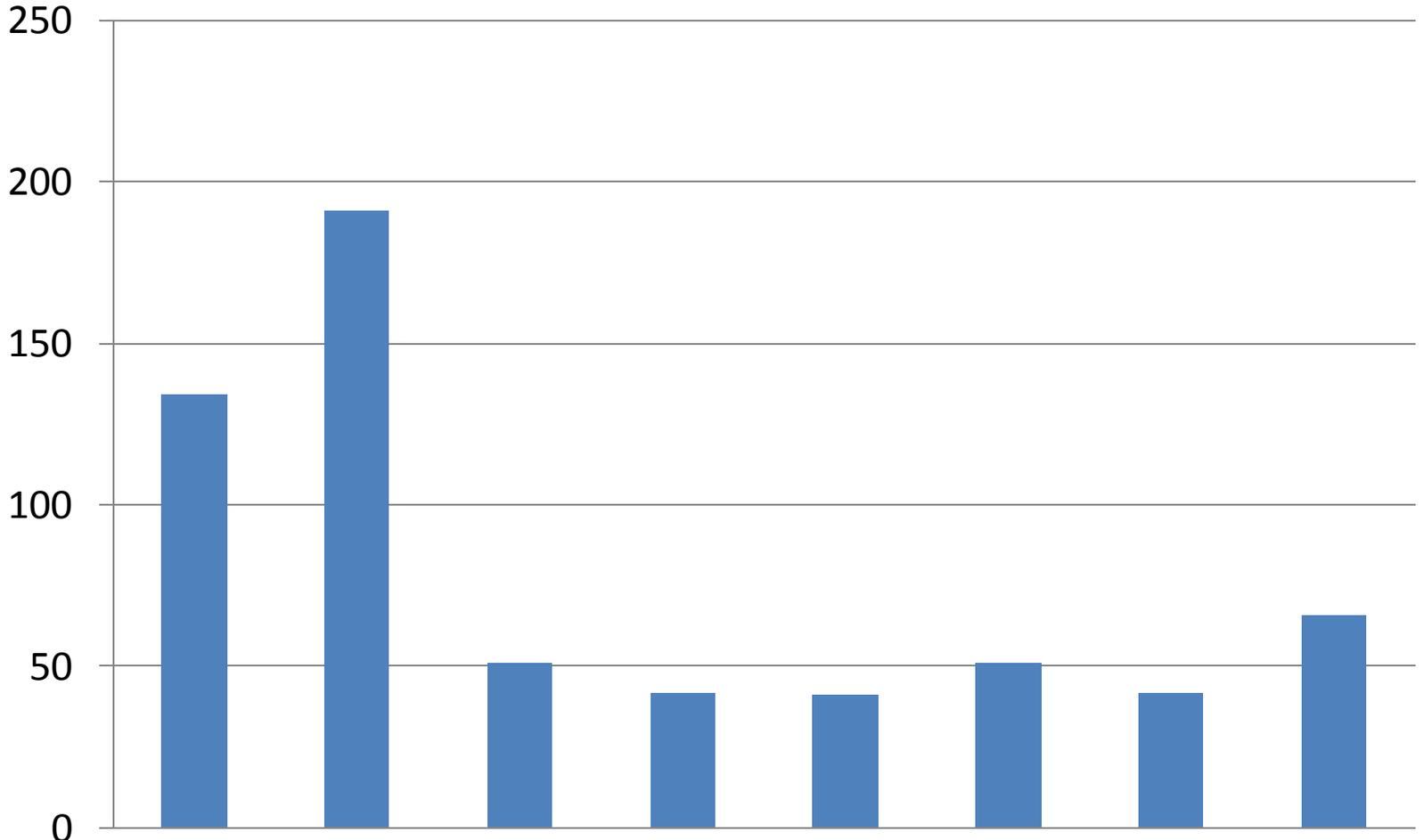
MAP OF KENYA



Gender



Age



Series1

134

191

51

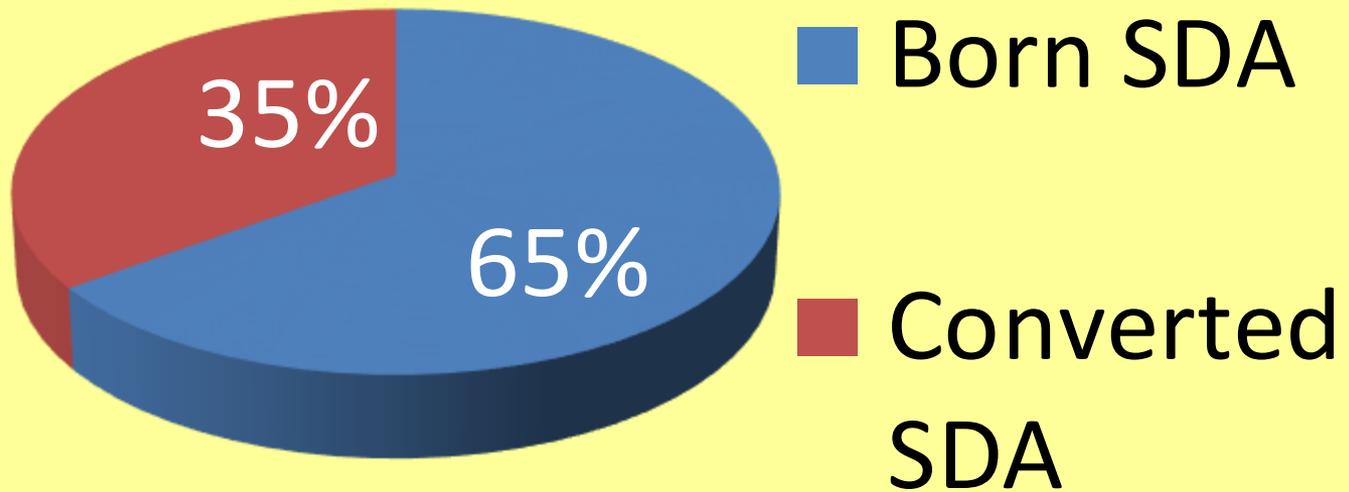
42

41

51

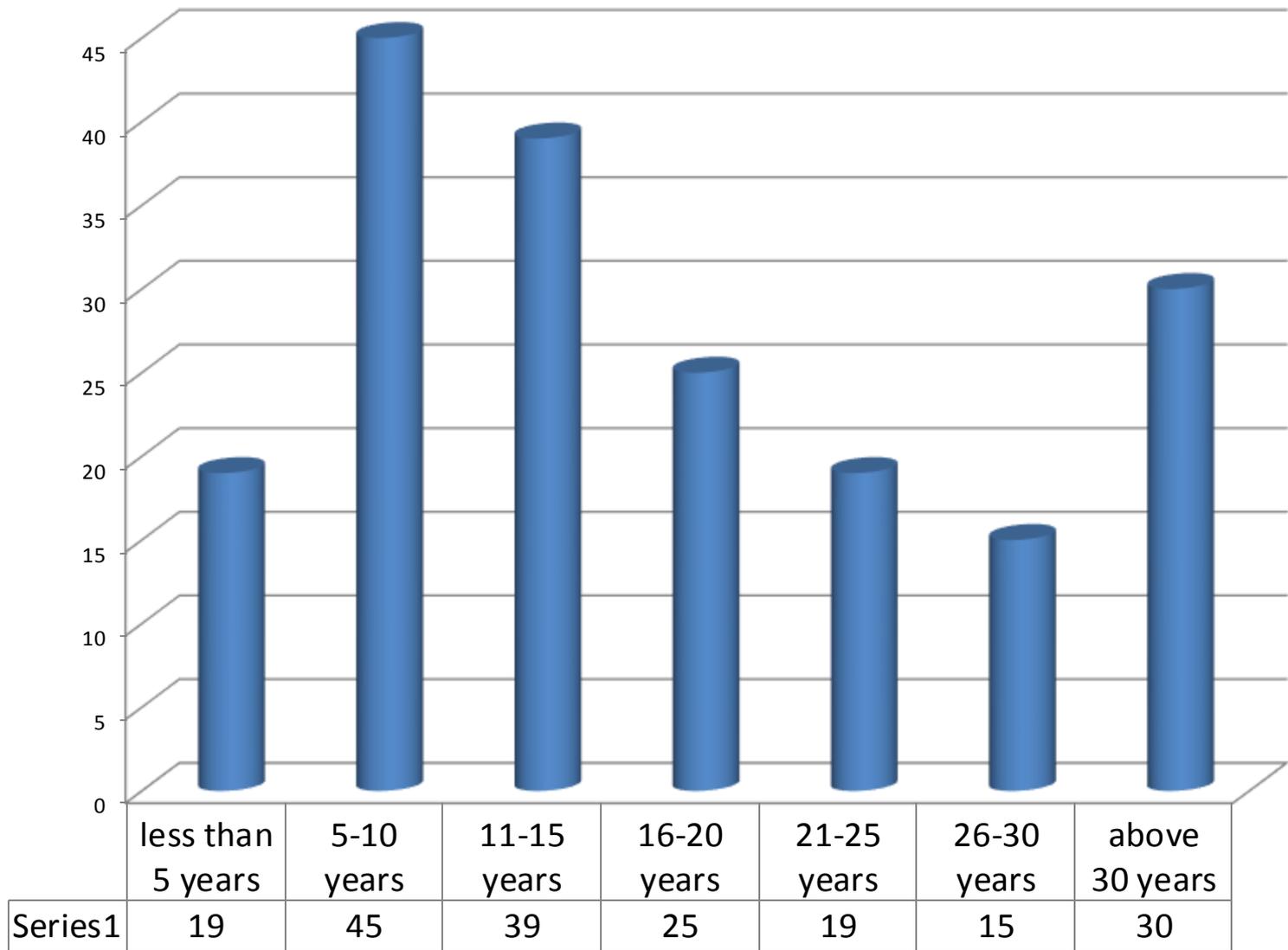
42

66

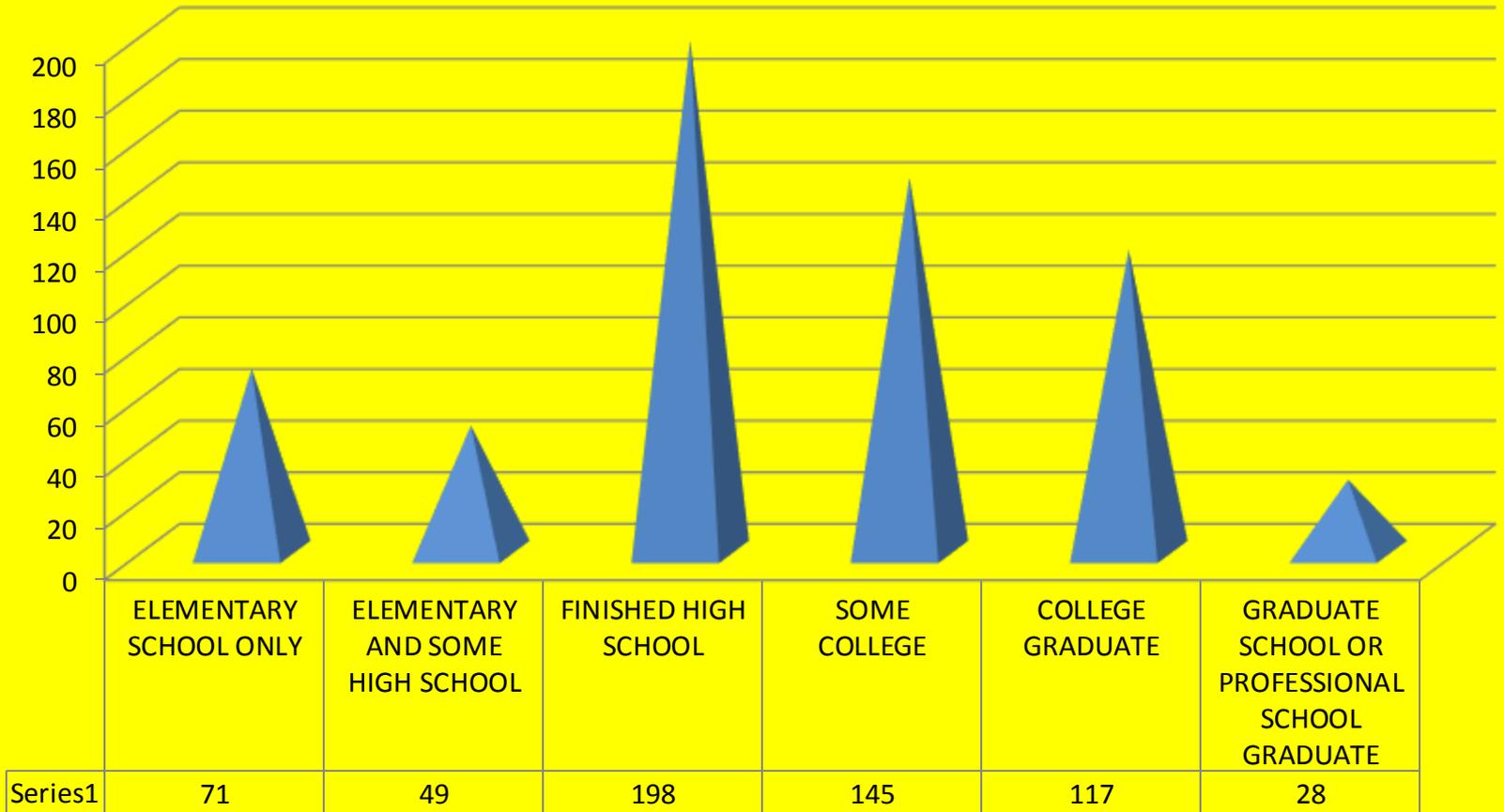


64% of respondents who are SDA from birth are aged 16-25 years

ADVENTIST RESEARCH



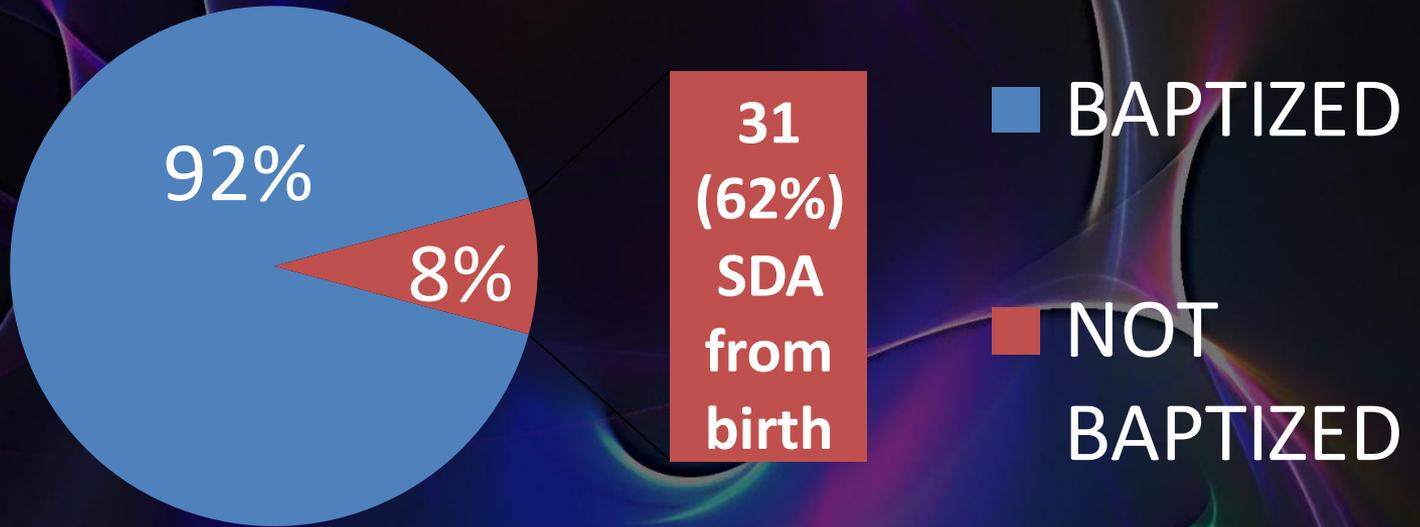
Level of Education



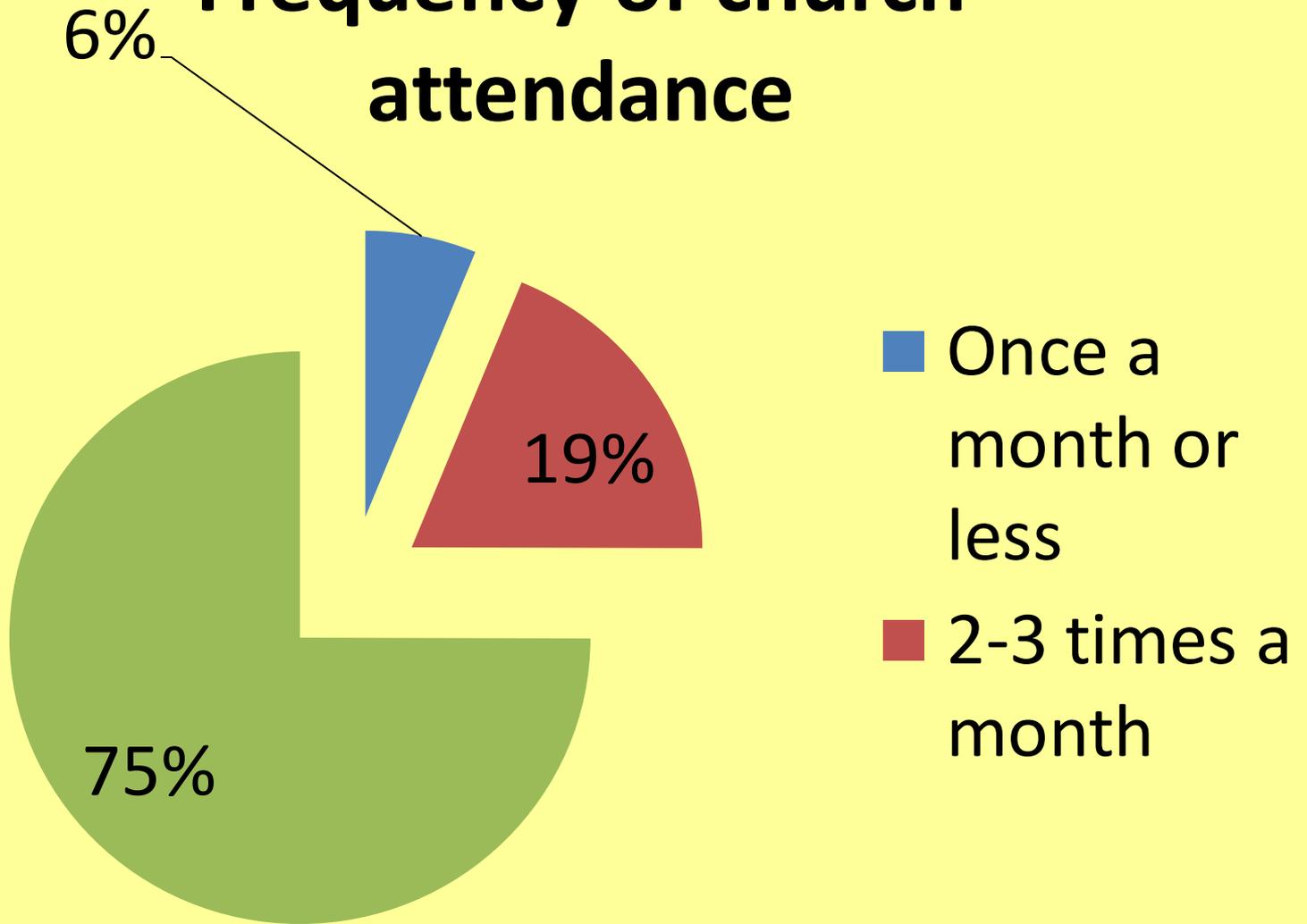
EXPERIENCE WITH ADVENTIST EDUCATION

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
NO SDA SCHOOLING	366	58.6
SOME SDA ELEMENTARY	64	10.2
COMPLETED SDA ELEMENTARY	51	8.2
SOME SDA HIGH SCHOOL	54	8.6
COMPLETED SDA HIGH SCHOOL	77	12.3
SOME SDA COLLEGE	42	6.7
SDA GRADUATE OR PROF. SCHOOL	4	0.6

ADVENTIST RESEARCH



Frequency of church attendance



BELIEF ABOUT GOD

❖ **I believe in a personal God who seeks a relationship with human beings**

✓ **Agree – 93% (Strongly agree – 83.7%)**

➤ **This percentage cuts across status**

☐ **16 – 25 years (95.1%; Strongly agree - 87.8%)**

☐ **26-40 years (95.7%; Strongly agree - 85.8%)**

☐ **41 years and above (87.3%; SA - 77.5%)**

BELIEF ABOUT GOD

❖ **God loves everyone, and I should be all right in the end if I am a morally good person**

- ✓ **Agree – 87.9% (Strongly agree – 72.8%)**
- **Converted SDAs – 88.3% (SA - 76.7%)**
- **SDAs from birth – 87.8% (SA - 70.6%)**
- ☐ **16-25 & 41 years and above – 90% (SA - 75%)**
- ☐ **26-40 years – 85.8% (SA - 70%)**

BELIEF ABOUT JESUS

❖ **Jesus Christ is the son of God**

✓ I embrace it wholeheartedly

➤ **Converted SDAs – 70.2%**

➤ **SDAs from birth – 84.4%**

✓ I accept it because the Church teaches it

➤ **Converted SDAs – 19.7%**

➤ **SDAs from birth – 10.2%**

BELIEF ABOUT JESUS

- ❖ **Christianity is about Jesus giving power to conquer sin in my life.**
- **Converted SDAs – 95.9% (SA – 81.2%)**
- **SDAs from birth – 91.8% (SA – 71.8%)**

- ☐ **16 – 25 years (91.7%; Strongly agree – 68.6%)**
- ☐ **26-40 years (92.8%; Strongly agree – 73.5%)**
- ☐ **41 years and above (95.5%; SA – 82.4%)**

BELIEF ABOUT JESUS

❖ **I believe that Jesus was born of a virgin.**

➤ **Converted SDAs – 97.4% (SA – 89.5%)**

➤ **SDAs from birth – 95.4% (SA – 89.7%)**

☐ **16 – 25 years (98.4%; Strongly agree – 93.4%)**

☐ **26-40 years (97.2%; Strongly agree – 89.4%)**

☐ **41 years and above (93.1%; SA – 87.3%)**

BELIEF ABOUT SALVATION

❖ **I am saved the moment I believe and accept what Jesus has done for me.**

➤ **Converted SDAs – 94.3% (SA – 82.3%)**

➤ **SDAs from birth – 88.8% (SA – 76.5%)**

☐ **16 – 25 years (89.9%; Strongly agree – 77.3%)**

☐ **26-40 years (90%; Strongly agree – 76.8%)**

☐ **41 years and above (92%; SA – 81.7%)**

BELIEF ABOUT SALVATION

- ❖ **A relationship with Jesus is important, but I will not get to heaven unless I obey God's law.**
- **Converted SDAs – 87.7% (SA – 77.1%)**
- **SDAs from birth – 84% (SA – 69.1%)**
- ☐ **16 – 25 years (87.4%; Strongly agree – 72.3%)**
- ☐ **26-40 years (84.4%; Strongly agree – 66.9%)**
- ☐ **41 years and above (85.9%; SA – 78.9%)**

BELIEF ABOUT SALVATION

❖ **If I have been baptized, I will make it to heaven if I remain a good person all my life.**

➤ **Converted SDAs – 82.3% (SA – 64%)**

➤ **SDAs from birth – 72.8% (SA – 52.6%)**

☐ **16 – 25 years (75.7%; Strongly agree – 55.5%)**

☐ **26-40 years (73.9%; Strongly agree – 51%)**

☐ **41 years and above (79.8%; SA – 66.1%)**

BELIEF ABOUT SALVATION

- ❖ **If I am to be saved, I need to be baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church.**
- **Converted SDAs – 74.5% (SA – 57.1%)**
- **SDAs from birth – 71.3% (SA – 50.4%)**

- ☐ **16 – 25 years (64.4%; Strongly agree – 42.4%)**
- ☐ **26-40 years (69.7%; Strongly agree – 47.9%)**
- ☐ **41 years and above (82.7%; SA – 68.3%)**

BELIEF ABOUT CREATION

❖ **I believe God created the world.**

- **No SDA schooling – 97.8% (SA – 94.7%)**
- **Some SDA schooling – 97.6% (SA – 94.8%)**

- ☐ **High school & lower (97.8%; SA – 93.8%)**
- ☐ **College & higher (97.6%; SA – 95.3%)**

BELIEF ABOUT CREATION

- ❖ I believe God created the world in exactly six days of 24 hours each in the relatively recent past.
- No SDA schooling – 81.6% (SA – 66.3%)
- Some SDA schooling – 85.5% (SA – 69.6%)
- ☐ High School & lower (80.7%; SA – 68%)
- ☐ College & higher (85.8%; SA – 66.5%)

BELIEF ABOUT THE CHURCH

❖ **The SDA church is God's true last-day church with a message to prepare the world for the Second Coming of Christ.**

➤ **Converted SDAs – 93.2% (SA – 88%)**

➤ **SDAs from birth – 97.8% (SA – 90.4%)**

☐ **16 – 25 years (96.7%; Strongly agree – 86.9%)**

☐ **26-40 years (96.1%; Strongly agree – 90.9%)**

☐ **41 years and above (96.8%; SA – 90.2%)**

BELIEF ABOUT THE CHURCH

- ❖ **The Adventist Church believes in “present truth” which means beliefs might change over time.**
- **Converted SDAs – 59.4% (SA – 47%)**
- **SDAs from birth – 45.5% (SA – 28.9%)**
- ☐ **16 – 25 years (40.9%; Strongly agree – 29.2%)**
- ☐ **26-40 years (54.9%; Strongly agree – 36.2%)**
- ☐ **41 years and above (51.3%; SA – 38.6%)**

BELIEF ABOUT THE SABBATH

- ❖ **The true Sabbath is the seventh day Saturday.**
- **Converted SDAs – 95.8% (SA – 90.5%)**
- **SDAs from birth – 96.9% (SA – 91.2%)**
- **16 – 25 years (93.5%; Strongly agree – 86.2%)**
- **26-40 years (96.4%; Strongly agree – 92.8%)**
- **41 years and above (98.9%; SA – 91.3%)**

BELIEF ABOUT DEATH

- ❖ **When a person dies their body remains in the grave and their soul sleeps until the resurrection.**
- **Converted SDAs – 87.3% (SA – 74.1%)**
- **SDAs from birth – 80% (SA – 67.4%)**
- ☐ **16 – 25 years (78.3%; Strongly agree – 57.5%)**
- ☐ **26-40 years (82%; Strongly agree – 71.4%)**
- ☐ **41 years and above (86.9%; SA – 76.2%)**

BELIEF ABOUT WITCHCRAFT

❖ **I believe witchcraft is real, and even Christians can go to the witchdoctors for protection.**

➤ **Converted SDAs – 33.5% (SA – 22.9%)**

➤ **SDAs from birth – 26.2% (SA – 16.1%)**

□ **16 – 25 years (27.2%; Strongly agree – 16.5%)**

□ **26-40 years (33.9%; Strongly agree – 23%)**

□ **41 years and above (22.3%; SA – 13.5%)**

BELIEF ABOUT POLYGAMY

- ❖ **The fact that men of God, such as Abraham, Jacob, and Solomon, were polygamists show that God approves polygamy.**
- **Converted SDAs – 21.3% (SA – 15.4%)**
- **SDAs from birth – 16.6% (SA – 7.7%)**
- ☐ **16 – 25 years (13.3%; Strongly agree – 8.3%)**
- ☐ **26-40 years (19.6%; Strongly agree – 12.4%)**
- ☐ **41 years and above (20.4%; SA – 9.9%)**

ABOUT THE BIBLE

❖ 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

✓ 31.7%

❖ 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

✓ 54.2%

ABOUT ELLEN G. WHITE

❖ **Ellen G. White was an inspired messenger to the Adventist Church.**

✓ I embrace it wholeheartedly

➤ Converted SDAs – 68.5%

➤ SDAs from birth – 73.6%

✓ I accept it because the Church teaches it

➤ Converted SDAs – 16.6%

➤ SDAs from birth – 15.3%

ABOUT ELLEN G. WHITE

❖ I don't know who Ellen G. White is.

✓ 4.2%

❖ Ellen G. White was inspired by God and presented God's message in terms of her own place and time

✓ 68.3%

❖ Ellen G. White copied what God told her word for word, and wrote without being influenced by her own place and time

✓ 22.3%

ABOUT HEALTHFUL LIVING

❖ Adventist standards regarding healthful living.

✓ I embrace it wholeheartedly

➤ Converted SDAs – 61.6%

➤ SDAs from birth – 71.1%

✓ I accept it because the Church teaches it

➤ Converted SDAs – 24.9%

➤ SDAs from birth – 13.7%

ABOUT MODESTY AND SIMPLICITY IN DRESS

❖ **Adventist standards regarding modesty & simplicity in dress.**

✓ **I embrace it wholeheartedly**

☐ **16 – 25 years: 61.2%**

☐ **26 - 40 years: 67.7%**

☐ **41 years and above: 53.3%**

ABOUT MODESTY AND SIMPLICITY IN DRESS

❖ **Adventist standards regarding modesty & simplicity in dress.**

✓ I accept it because the Church teaches it

☐ 16 – 25 years: 11.6%

☐ 26-40 years: 14.3%

☐ 41 years and above: 23.4%

CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

CHALLENGES

- **Timing of Data-gathering**
 - **Communication with executive secretaries began in August and September when camp meetings were held**
 - **Year-end meetings began in mid-October and continued until November**
 - **December is time for annual leaves of most church workers**

CHALLENGES

- **Poor accessibility**
 - **Some sampled churches were difficult to reach (poor road network)**
- **Gathering data on Sabbath**
 - **Some church members believe that filling out questionnaires is transgressing the holy hours of the Sabbath**

OPPORTUNITIES

- **Reaching the unreached**
 - **Some churches sampled are made of mud, are located in remote areas, and have never been visited by a district pastor in years**
 - **Willingness of church members to fill out the questionnaires in church on a Sunday and to listen to a sermon before they fill the questionnaires**

ADVENTIST RESEARCH



Pray for us!