

2023 Seventh-day Adventist
CHURCH MEMBER SURVEY

South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church



**Descriptive Analysis Report
prepared by**

**Peter Beamish PhD
Faculty of Education and Science
Avondale University**

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Background to the Study

Every five years the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists undertakes a world member survey (GCWMS). The 2021-2023 GCWMS measures progress of church members in three aspects reflected in the *IWG 2020-2025: Mission, Spiritual Growth, and Leadership*, laying a foundation for the development of a new strategic plan for the global Seventh-day Adventist Church. Locally, the South Pacific Division is also keen to better understand member engagement with the concept of Discipleship, the role of Church education, as well as the role of spirituality and worship in the diverse cultures that make up the South Pacific Division.

The Church Member Survey was used to collect data throughout the South Pacific Division in 2021 - 2022. This document is the first written report coming out of this research and provides a descriptive analysis of the data regarding faith, values, and commitment of a selective sample of Adventist church members throughout the South Pacific Division. The research was sponsored by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

The South Pacific Division of Seventh-day Adventists

The South Pacific Division of Seventh-day Adventists is made up of more than 20 nations and territories with a total land area of 8.5 million square kilometres, scattered across 40 million square kilometres of ocean. Countries include Australia, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, Fiji, Vanuatu, French Polynesia, Samoa, Kiribati, Tonga, Wallis and Futuna, Niue, Cook Islands, American Samoa, Tuvalu, Nauru, Tokelau, and Pitcairn. Populated island territories include Christmas Island, Norfolk Island, Cocos, and Coral Sea Islands.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific has divided its territory into four unions: The Trans-Australia Union, the Papua New Guinea Union Mission, the trans-Pacific Union Mission, and the New Zealand Pacific Union.

The Trans-Australia Union covers the nation of Australia and includes a number of small island territories, divided into nine conferences: North Australia, South Queensland, North New South Wales, Greater Sydney, South New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia, and Western Australia.

The Papua New Guinea Union Mission, that includes the mainland territory of that nation plus the many islands within its international boundaries is divided into nine missions and a conference: Bougainville, Central Papua Conference, Eastern Highlands and Simbu, Morobe, Madang-Manus, New Britain–New Ireland, North East Papua, South-West Papua, Sepik Mission, and Western Highlands.

The Trans-Pacific Union Mission is made up of eleven nations divided into six separate missions and an attached church. They are the missions of Fiji, Kiribati-Nauru, Niue Attached Church, Samoa- Tokelau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

Finally, the New Zealand Pacific Union comprises New Zealand, Cook Islands, Pitcairn Island, and the French territories of French Polynesia New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna.

The Study

The 2021 Church Member Survey was used to measure the progress of church members in three aspects reflected in the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan: Mission, Spiritual Growth, and Leadership. The Survey Instrument was developed by the GC Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research and distributed to each Division. Upon receiving the instrument, there was a process of working with the GC team to ensure the survey reflected the cultural and linguistic particularities of the South Pacific Division. The survey was divided into seven sections. The sections are listed below:

SECTION 1: PERSONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

SECTION 2: DEMOGRAPHICS (HOUSEHOLD/RELIGIOUS IDENTITY)

SECTION 3: RELIGIOUS BEHAVIOUR/ROLES

SECTION 4: RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES AND EXPERIENCES

SECTION 5: WELL-BEING

SECTION 6: BELIEFS

SECTION 7: HEALTH

The instrument was translated into several different languages for the study. The South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist church is comprised of thirteen nations and hundreds of languages and cultures. Australia has multiple cultures as does New Zealand while the South Pacific Islands fall into roughly three dominant cultures, Melanesian, Polynesian and Micronesian. Although English is widely spoken throughout the South Pacific, Pidgin English is used throughout much of Melanesia, and the Polynesian islands have their own local languages although English and French are widely understood.

After doing an analysis of the countries to be surveyed, and the languages that they speak, it was decided to use an English version, a simple English version, and a French version of the survey to collect the data. A paper-based version of the 2021 World Church Member Survey was used to collect data in the South Pacific Division. Surveys were mostly printed in the local mission or conference, or suitable local printshop.

Avondale University requires that all research be approved by the Research and Ethics Committee. This approval was gained and all participants were given details of the study via an information sheet that formed the front page of the survey. Participants were informed that their participation is voluntary and they were free to withdraw at any time.

A stratified geographic sampling technique was used to select respondents. There are large numbers of urban dwellers in Australia and New Zealand and in some places of Papua New Guinea but for the most part rural life is the norm throughout the island nations. Data was

collected from both urban and rural settings to ensure appropriate representation in the sample of SDA church members of both genders, and representatives of major ethnic and age groups in the South Pacific Division.

The data was collected by people who were on the research team and primarily by the principal investigators: Dr Peter Beamish and Dr David Tasker.

In most cases a member of the research team took the surveys to a church or meeting and worked with the local pastors to coordinate the completion of the survey by church members. Completed surveys were then collected and most data entry from surveys was done locally, using portable scanners. Once scanned, data was entered into SPSS by using Remark software, and then analysed. The analysis for this initial report has been undertaken by Dr Peter Beamish and is descriptive in nature although it also does contain some comparative analysis.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF RESULTS

INTRODUCTION

The GCWMS report is comprised of seven sections:

SECTION 1: PERSONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

SECTION 2: DEMOGRAPHICS (HOUSEHOLD/RELIGIOUS IDENTITY)

SECTION 3: RELIGIOUS BEHAVIOUR/ROLES

SECTION 4: RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES AND EXPERIENCES

SECTION 5: WELL-BEING

SECTION 6: BELIEFS

SECTION 7: HEALTH

This Executive Summary of Results highlights the key findings from each of these sections of the study.

SECTION 1: PERSONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Just over half of the people who participated in the study were male (52%) and the average age of all participants was 47. Just over a quarter (26%) indicated that they had a disability, and 34% said that they had worked, or are working, for the Adventist church. About 30% indicated that they are University or College graduates and just over half (53%) reported that they had attended Adventist schools and Universities.

SECTION 2: DEMOGRAPHICS (HOUSEHOLD/RELIGIOUS IDENTITY)

Just under half (45%) of the respondents grew up in the Church and have been connected to the Church since birth and the large majority (92%) state that they would likely, or very likely, attend an Adventist Church for the rest of their lives. Over half (57%) of the respondents report holding a church office and nearly two thirds (62%) report that they are baptized.

Members live in a number of different marital circumstances with 50% reporting that they are married and living with their spouse. Nineteen percent are single/never married and 7% are divorced and single or separated. Over half (57%) of survey respondents grew up in a family comprised of two biological/adoptive parents or other guardians, and 44 % of members report that they are raising their own children in their home. The majority of members (57%) who have children in their home are raising them as a Seventh-day Adventist.

Most often, the participants' churches are located in a small city or suburb with nearly two thirds (62%) attending churches with between 100 and 300 members. Adventist institutions play a significant role in church members' lives, with 42% of respondents living near an Adventist educational institution, such as a school or university, and another third residing close to an Adventist administrative office while 21% reside near an Adventist medical institution.

SECTION 3: RELIGIOUS BEHAVIOUR/ROLES

The study participants engage with their church regularly with the majority (57%) attending church in-person weekly. On average members attend a small group meeting organised by the church almost every week, however, the average attendance at Sabbath School is less than once a month.

Study participants also reported that they engage in a personal devotional life. More than half (52%) read their Bibles daily, have morning or evening worship with members of their family daily (44%) and pray every day at times other than meals (66%). On average, members study the Sabbath School lesson about once a week, but spend time thinking about Jesus' life at multiple times during the week.

Members in the study responded that they did not read Adventist publications regularly. Only 50% read *Adventist World* magazine or access the *Adventist World* website only once a month or less and 38% use the *Adventist Review* magazine or website or do so less than once a month and 48% of respondents are likely to read a magazine or newsletter from their local union or conference.

In a similar trend, study respondents seldom listen to Adventist radio, with 55% never tuning into an Adventist radio broadcast, and Adventist TV, with 47% of respondents never watching Hope Channel programming.

The vast majority of participants (91%) engage in tithing either through the official tithe envelope (70%), distributing their tithe at their own discretion (13%), or simply placing their contributions in the offering plate (8%).

The study then investigated social media use. More than three quarters of respondents (79%) regularly use social media for a variety of purposes. The biggest church related use of social media is to study the bible (mean = 2.56 ie. weekly), followed reading or responding to posts by Adventist churches, organizations, and institutions (mean = 2.13 ie. monthly).

The study then explored member attitudes to social media. Generally, members had positive feelings about social media use, and felt that social media helps them to feel more connected to friends and family (mean = 3.06) although they did support the idea that social media can be a distraction (mean = 1.9).

SECTION 4: RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES AND EXPERIENCES

Survey participants demonstrate high levels of engagement with their local church. For example:

- 75% report attending church in person almost every week.
- 67% state that they are very satisfied or satisfied with their local church.
- 77% agree that their pastor cares about them.
- 77% agree that their Sabbath School teachers care about them.
- 84% feel proud of the local church and its role and reputation in my community.

- 73% agree that they attend a church that plans activities for everyone in the family.

On average response of 3.70 (scale 1-5) was reported on the Church Experience items indicating that members have a positive church experience at their local Adventist church.

Respondents, on average, feel that their church needs to increase its overall evangelistic outreach in the local community and supported the approach of Christ's method of evangelism that involves witnessing to non-Adventists in the community, spending time forming new friendships with non-Adventists in my community, and spending time meeting the needs of non-Adventists in the community. This study supports the position that, on average, respondents in the study reported a positive commitment to others.

Examining the impact of the pandemic on local church involvement, just under a quarter (22%) report that they attended their local church remotely for a period; 21% continued to meet face-to-face and 24% met face-to-face with other Adventists but not in church. Seventeen percent (17%) reported that they stopped attending church for a period of time, and 7% remotely attended an Adventist church located in a different place for a period of time. Six percent met face-to-face with other Adventists but not in a church (for example, in a home church). A very small percentage (1%) attended a non-Adventist church either face-to-face or remotely.

The pandemic did allow some positive outcomes with 37% of study participants reporting that the church started some new ministries during the pandemic. Survey respondents indicated that their church provided them with one or more methods (electronic or otherwise) that enabled them to continue give offerings and tithe during the pandemic with 55% of respondents indicated this happened for Tithe and 53% indicated this happened for offerings.

SECTION 5: WELL-BEING

The survey asked participants to consider aspects of their well-being to facilitate a greater understanding of the way that church members' religious lives contribute to their sense of overall well-being and spiritual well-being. While some church members reported positive levels of wellbeing with 29% reporting that in the last two weeks, they have never felt little interest or pleasure in doing things and 30% reporting that they have never felt down, depressed, or hopeless in the previous two weeks. However other respondents reported that in the last 2 weeks they had little interest in doing things (37%) and feeling down, depressed, or hopeless (34%) on several days. A Wellbeing measure was constructed from four items and was found to have a mean of 4.20 which is above 3 (the mid-point of the 1 – 5 scale) and indicated that on average survey participants enjoyed positive level of well-being.

On average study participants reported high levels of spiritual wellbeing with the respondents indicating that the statement 'I have grown spiritually' in the past 12 months, is mostly true for them. Respondents also indicated that the statement that 'that God loves them and cares for them' is true for them a great deal.

A Spiritual Wellbeing measure was constructed and was found to have a mean of 4.00 indicating that on average survey participants enjoyed positive level of spiritual wellbeing and that the statements on spirituality in each of the items are on average mostly true for them.

SECTION 6: BELIEFS

The study participants overwhelmingly support the fundamental beliefs of the Adventist Church. They agree that the Seventh-day Adventist Fundamental Beliefs are the teaching of the Holy Scripture. Participants consistently affirm their alignment with the fundamental beliefs of the Adventist Church as shown in their survey responses.

A Fundamental Beliefs variable was constructed and was found to have a mean of 4.12 indicating that on average survey participants agree to strongly agree with the church's fundamental beliefs.

53% of respondents indicated that the Bible is the work of people who were inspired by God and who, through expressing their message in terms of their own time and place, expressed eternal truths.

65% of respondents indicating that Ellen G white was inspired by God and though she presented God's message in terms of her own place and time, expressed eternal truths in harmony with and pointing to the bible.

SECTION 7: HEALTH

Adventist church members are committed to health with 70% of respondents indicating that they are familiar with the Adventist health message and nearly two thirds of members (62%) indicated that they follow the health message a moderate amount or a great deal.

THE FULL RESULTS OF THE DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS

An Overview of the Sample

The South Pacific Division is made up of four Unions. These include the Australian Union Conference, the New Zealand and Pacific Union Conference, The Papua New Guinea Union Conference, and the Transpacific Union Conference. Although the sample was designed to reflect the Seventh-day Adventist population in each of these unions within the South Pacific Division, the emergence of COVID impacted the data collection.

Table 1 Sample Composition by Union

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
AUC	321	20.1	20.1	20.1
NZPUC	92	5.8	5.8	25.9
PNGUM	672	42.1	42.1	68.0
TPUM	510	32.0	32.0	100.0
Total	1595	100.0	100.0	

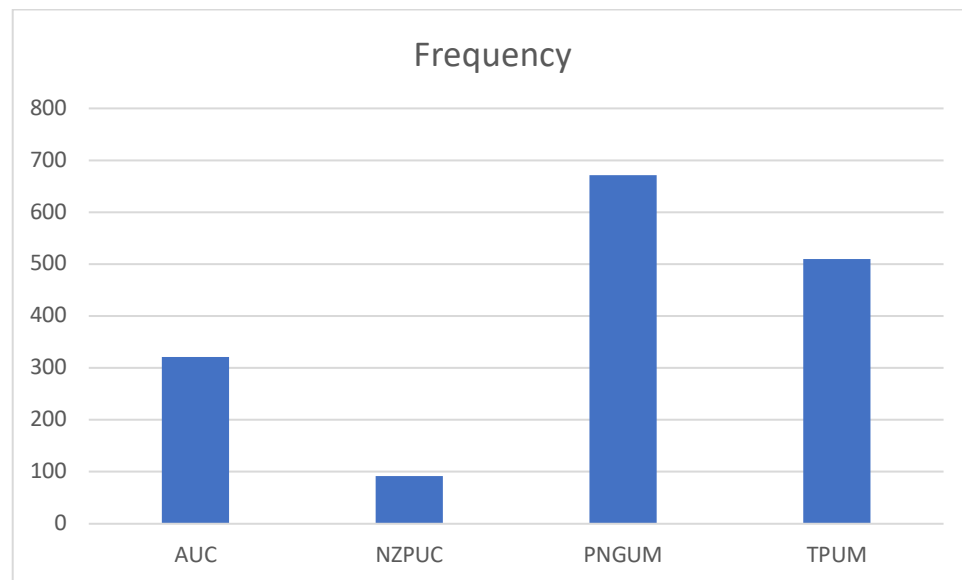


Figure 1 Sample Composition by Union

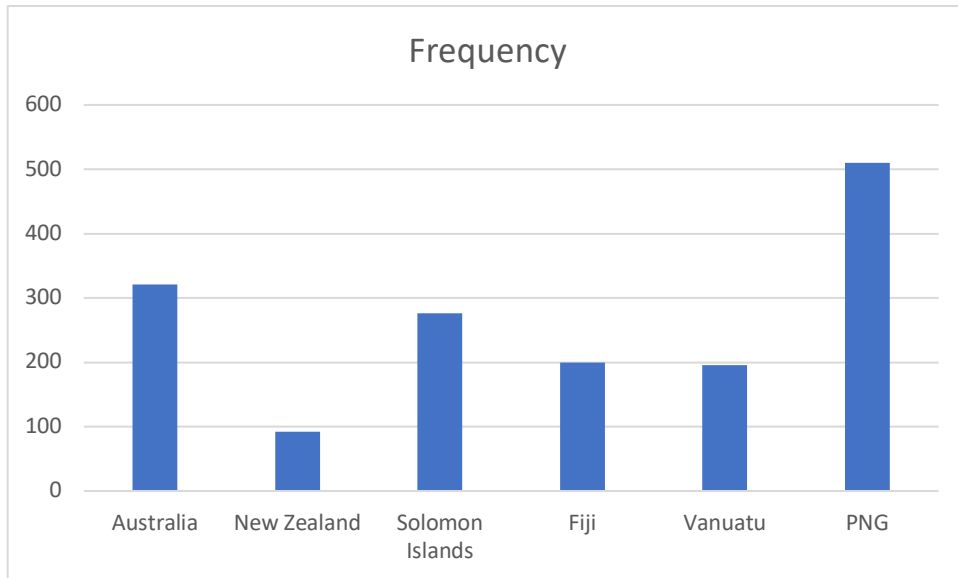


Figure 2 Data Source by Country

SECTION 1: PERSONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

1. Gender

As shown in Figure 3, 52% of the research participants were male while 46% were female.



Figure 3 Gender

2 Age

Participants were asked to indicate the year that they were born (Figure 4) and from this their age was calculated (Figure 5).

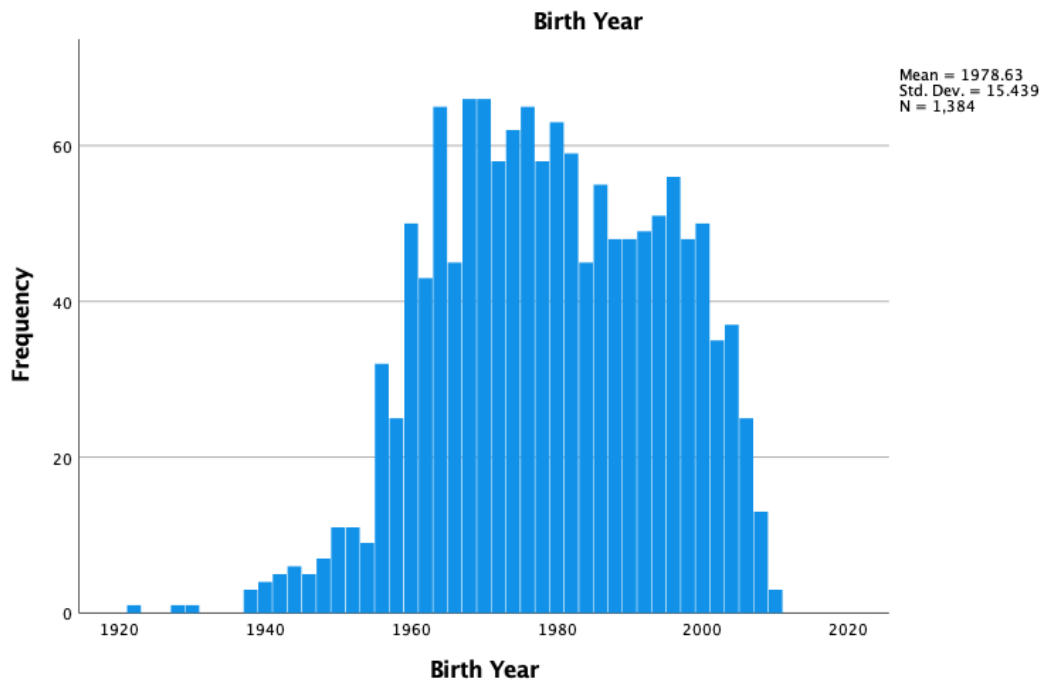


Figure 4 Birth Year

The age of participants was grouped into 15-year clusters. The 36 – 54 was the largest cluster and contained just over 39% of the survey participants. The average age was 47 with the median age of 48 indicating a nearly normal spread of ages in the survey participants.

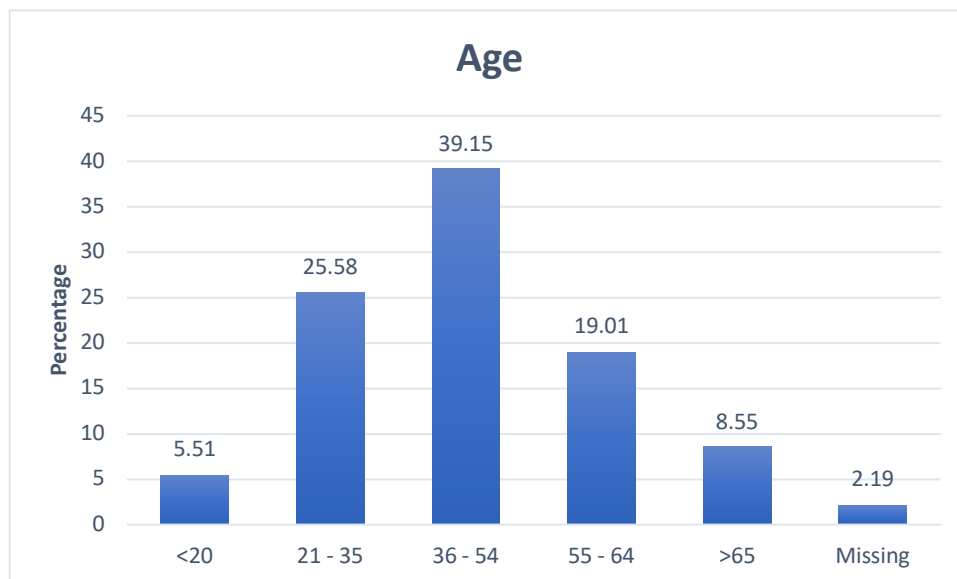


Figure 5 Age of Participants

3 Disability Demographics

Members were asked to indicate if they had a disability and 26% of study participants indicated that they had a disability.

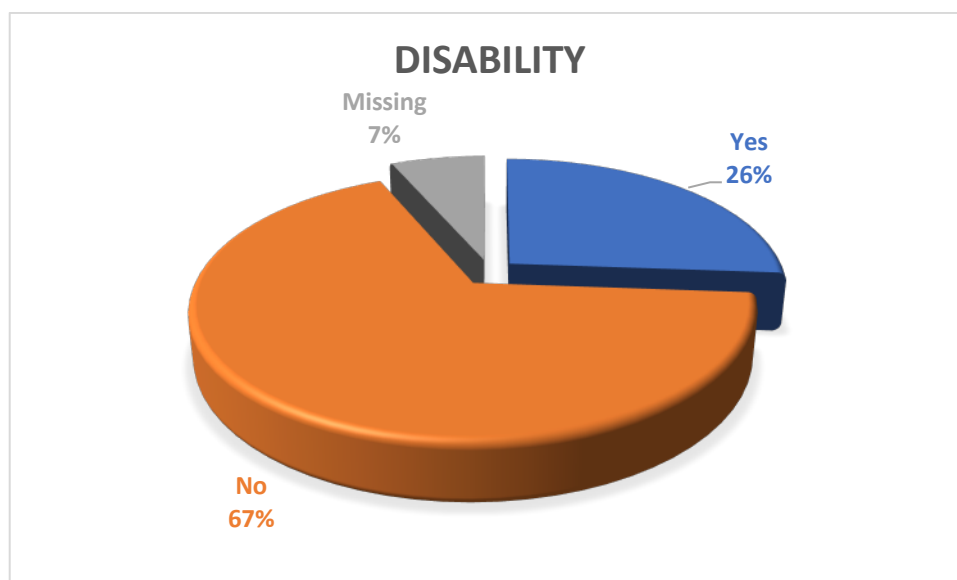


Figure 6 Disability

Members were asked to indicate if their disability impacted their church participation and 11.2% indicated that their disability sometimes impacts their church participation while 2.8% indicated that it often impacts church participation.

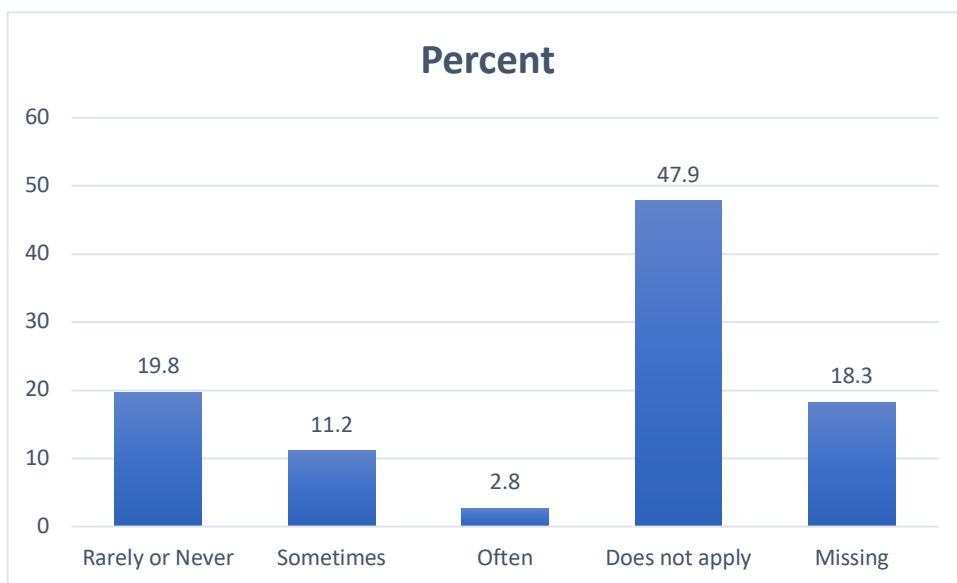


Figure 7 Does your Disability impact your church participation

4 SDA Employment

Participants indicated if their employment status with the Adventist church and 34% indicated that they are employed or had been employed by the church.

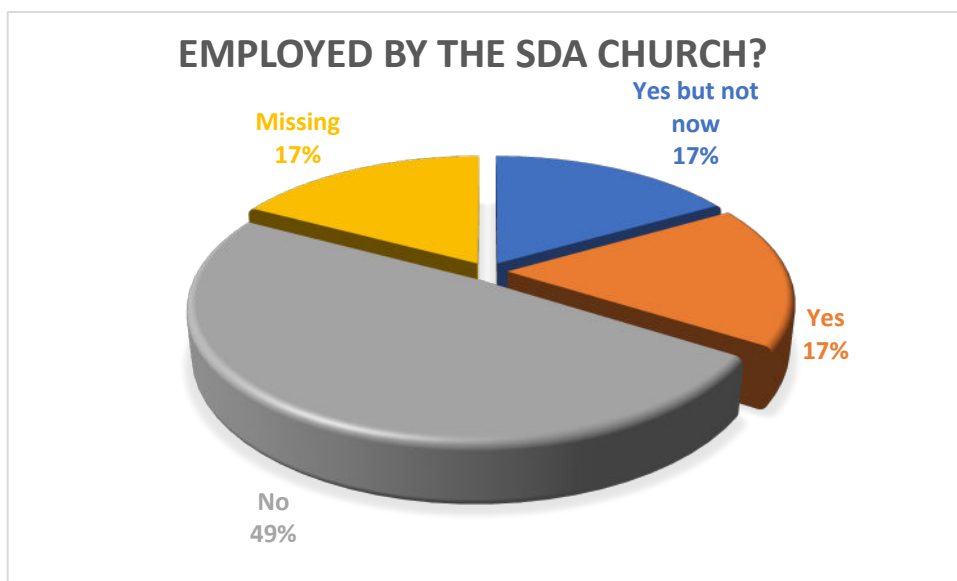


Figure 8 Church Employ

5 Education Level

Participants indicated the highest level of school that they had completed. Overall, SPD members are reasonably well educated. Nearly 80% of survey participants indicated that they had finished high school and just under 30% indicated that they had finished a university degree.

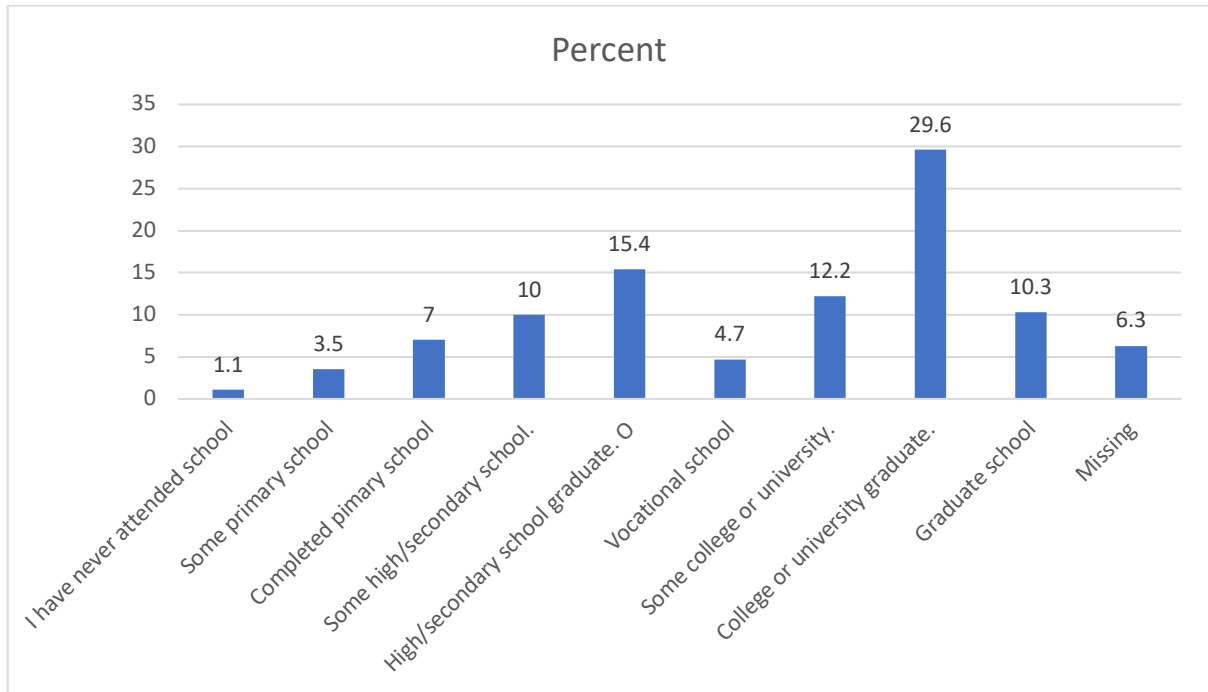


Figure 9 Education Level

6 Schooling Types

Participants then indicated where they went to school, whether they attended an Adventist School and the number of years they spent in an Adventist School. Figure 10 shows the percentage of members who have attended Adventist Schools using the types listed. Just under a third (31.5%) of members indicated that they had attended an Adventist School. Some members who attended Adventist Universities may not have seen this as a school as Figure 11 shows the percentage of members who have attended Adventist schools clustered into years. 32.3 percent indicated that they had not attended, 29% indicated they had attended between 1 and 7 years, 18.6% attended between 8 and 13 years and 5.4% attended between 14 and 19 years. This last group would have attended Adventist schools for most of their education.

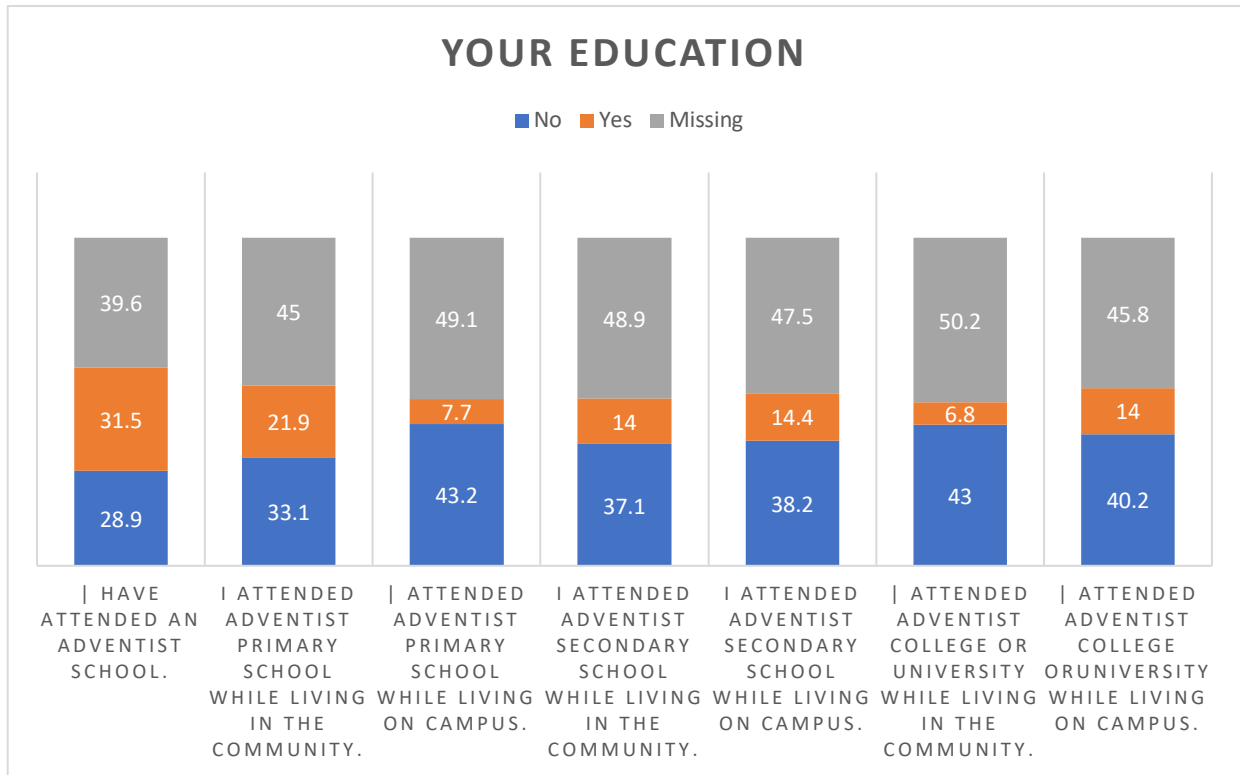


Figure 10. School Types

7 Adventist Education

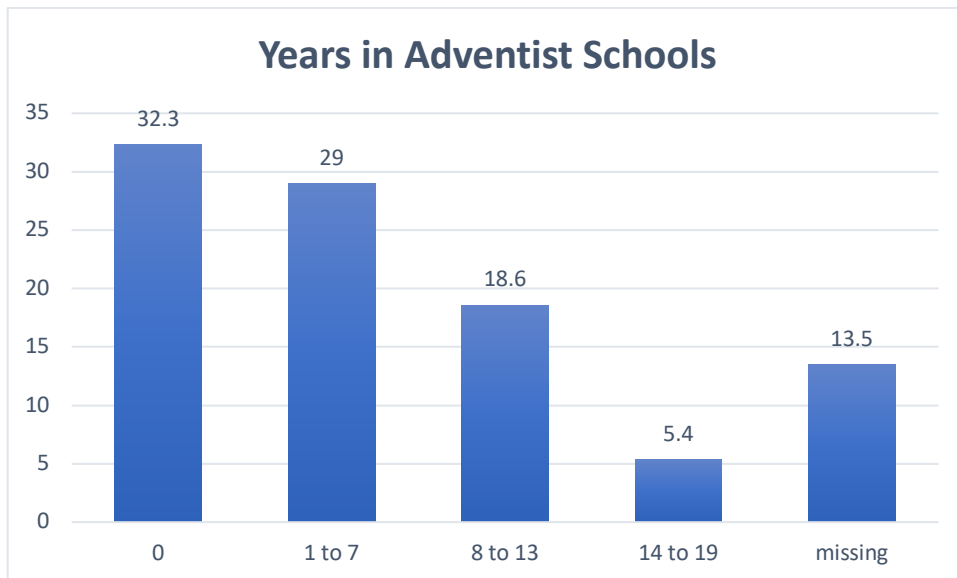


Figure 11 Years in an Adventist School

SECTION 2: DEMOGRAPHICS (HOUSEHOLD/RELIGIOUS IDENTITY)

8 Household Size

Participants indicated how many people lived in their immediate household (Item 8) and how many people in their immediate household observed the Sabbath (Item 9). On average there are 6 people living in Adventist homes across the South Pacific Division with a median number of 5 people. See Figure 12 for percentage breakdown.

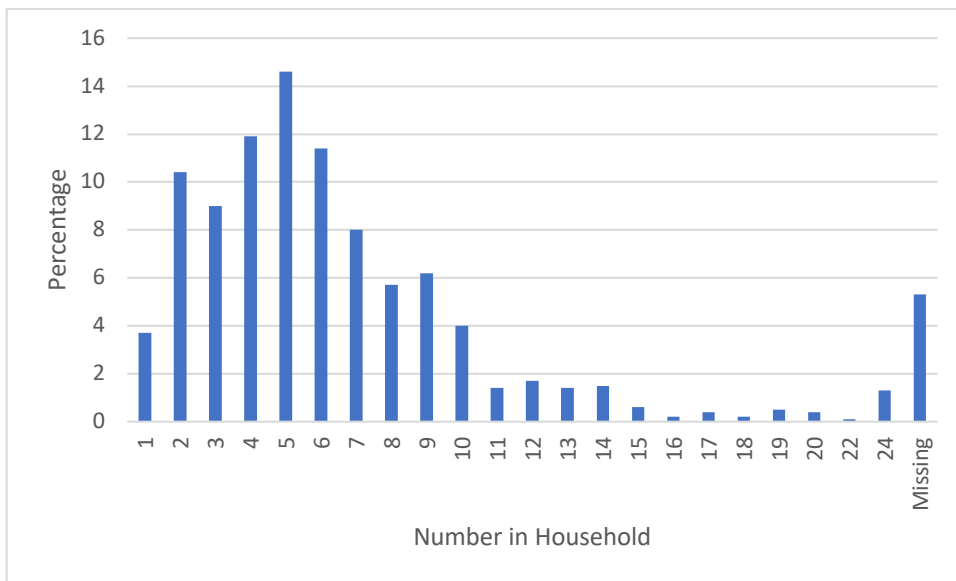


Figure 12 Household Size

9 Sabbath Observance

Many members indicate that they observe Sabbath in their home with 52% of members indicating that between 81 to 100% of their household observes Sabbath.

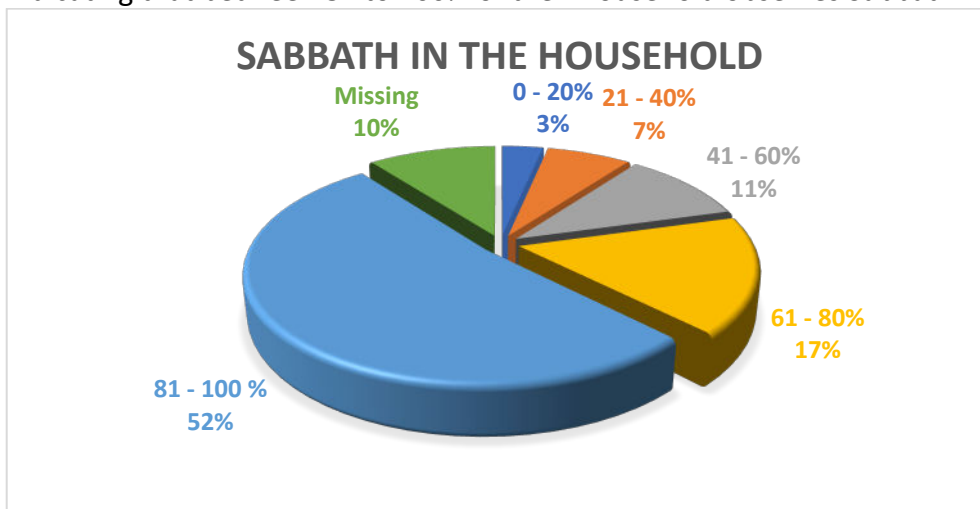


Figure 13 Percentage of Household Observing the Sabbath (Item 9).

10 Marital Status

Members live in a number of different marital circumstances with 50% reporting that they are married and living with their spouse while 19% are single/never married and 7% are divorced and single or separated.

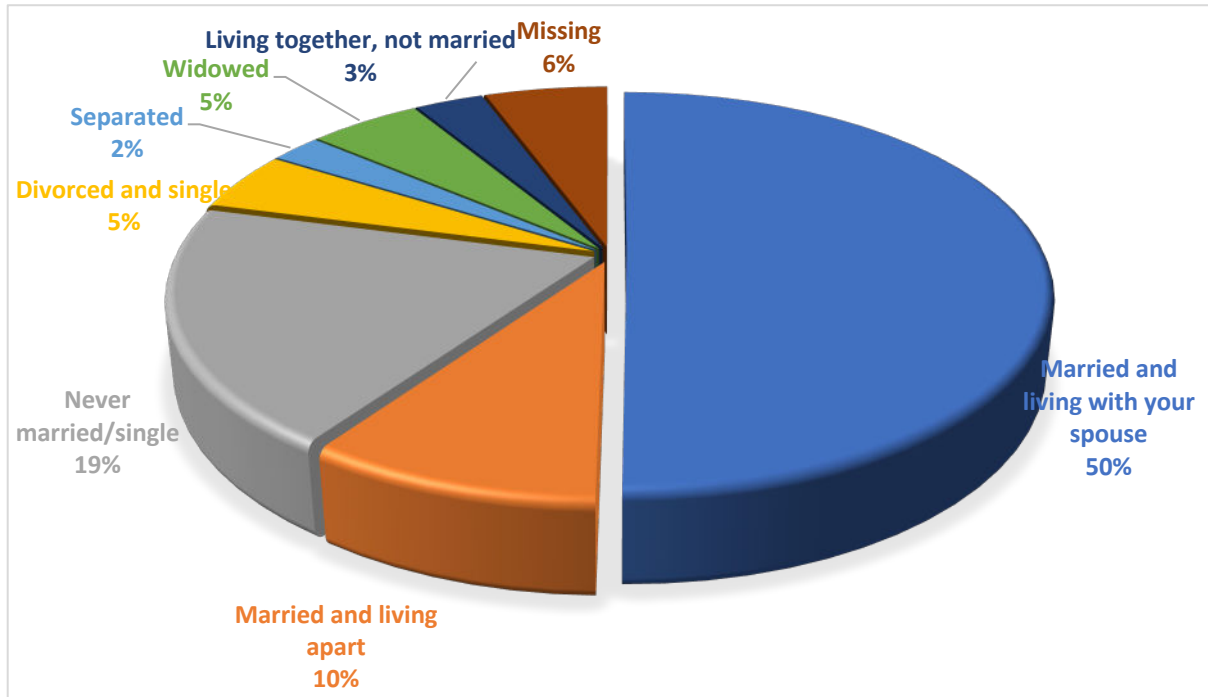


Figure 14 Marital Status (Item 10)

11 Children at Home

44 % of members report that they have their own children in their home while 33% report that they have children other than their own in their home.

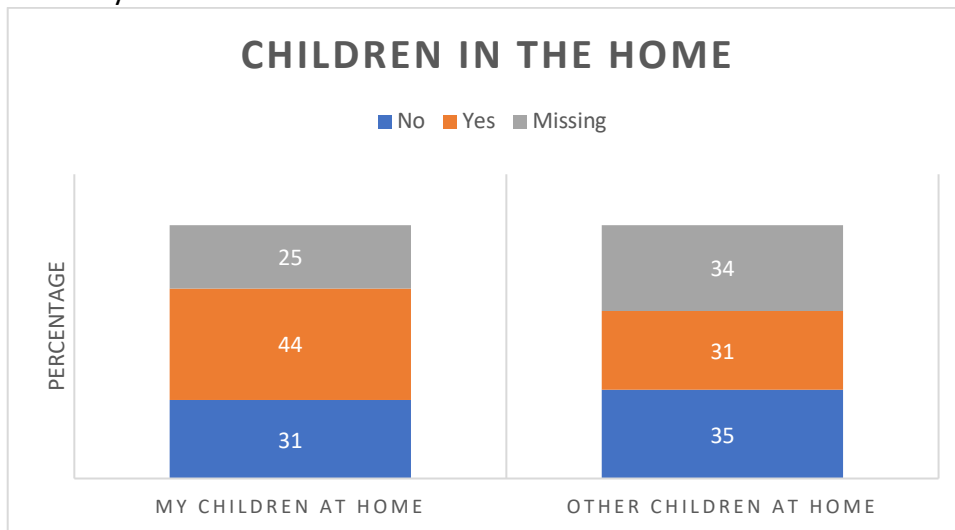


Figure 15 Children at Home

12 SDA Children

The majority of members (57%) who have children in their home are raising them as a Seventh-day Adventist. This equates to 47% of all respondents as shown in the chart below (Figure 9). 14% of respondents report that at least one of their children has left the church and 9% report that all their children have left the church.



Figure 16 Percentage of Children in Households being Raised SDA

13 Family History with The SDA Church

Figure 17 shows family history with the SDA church. Forty-five percent of respondents report that at least one of their parents was an Adventist, 38% report that at least one of their grandparents was an Adventist, and 28% report that at least four continuous generations of their family have been members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. However, almost a third (32%) of respondents claim to be first-generation Adventists, and 15% share that they are unsure of their family's full history with the Adventist Church.

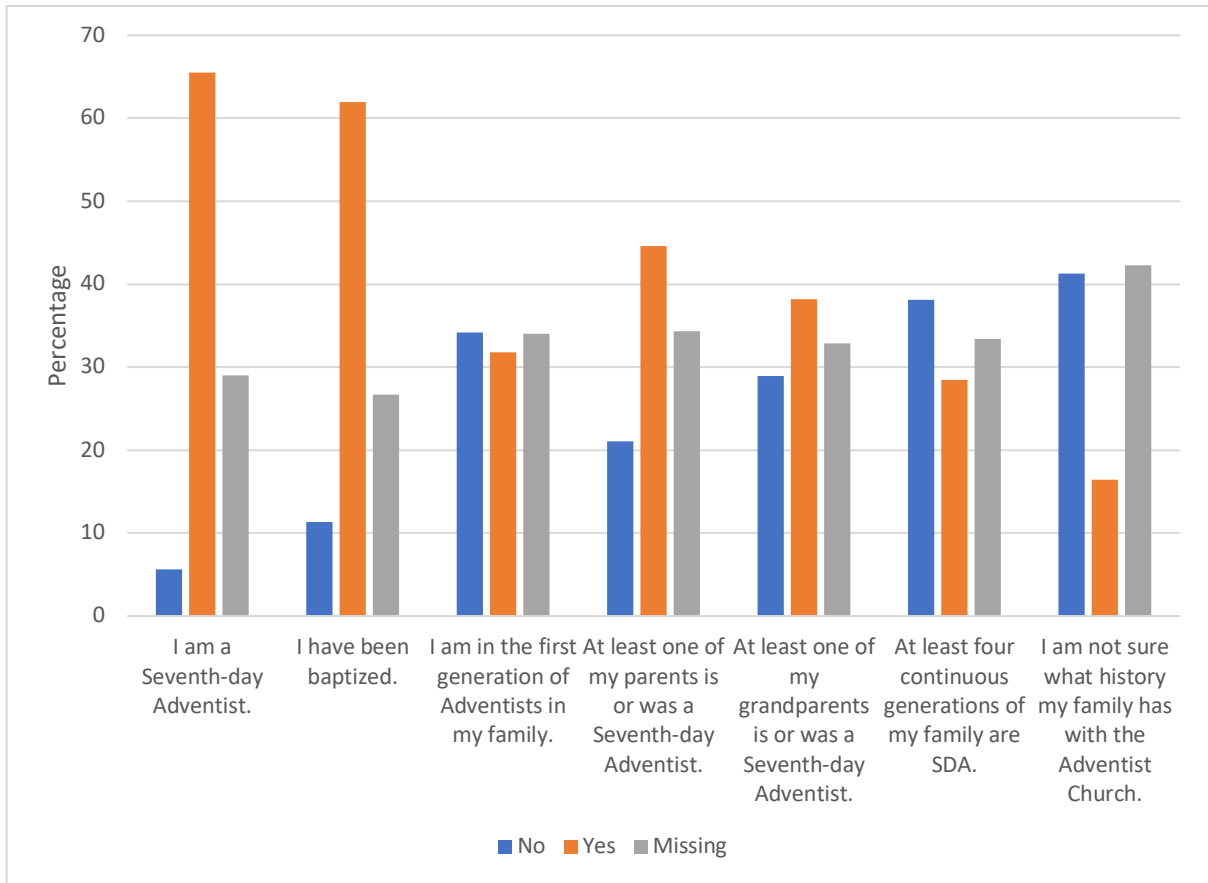


Figure 17 Family history with the Seventh-day Adventist church

14 Are You a Baptised SDA?

Figure 18 shows the percentage of respondents baptised each decade.

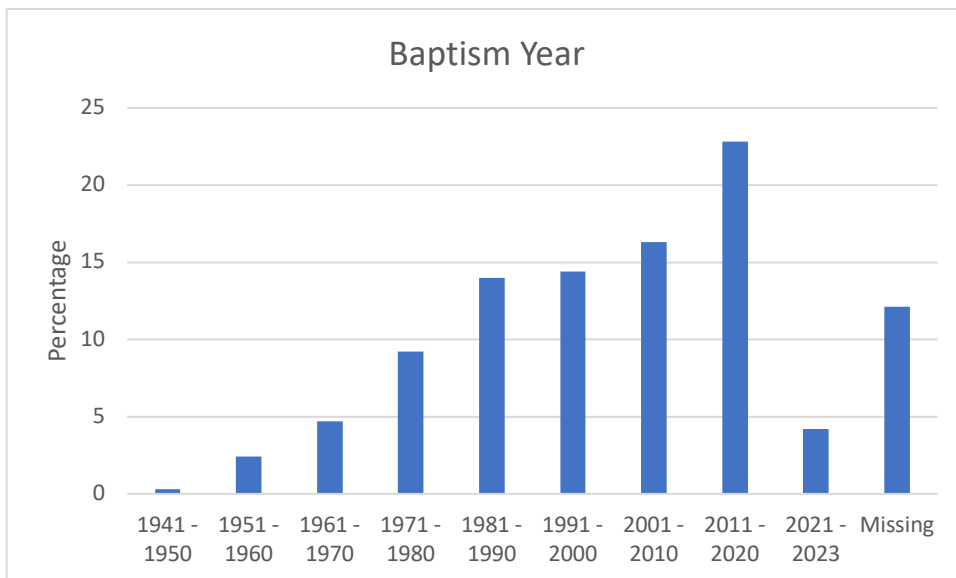


Figure 18 Baptism Date by Decade

15 Personal History

A little under half (45%) of respondents grew up in the Church and have been connected to the Church since birth, while 5% joined the Adventist Church with their immediate family before they reached the age of 13. Less than one in ten (7%) did not grow up in the Church but joined between the ages of 13 and 20, while a quarter (25%) joined as an adult over the age of 20. Eight percent grew up in the Church but left for a while before returning (one or more times).

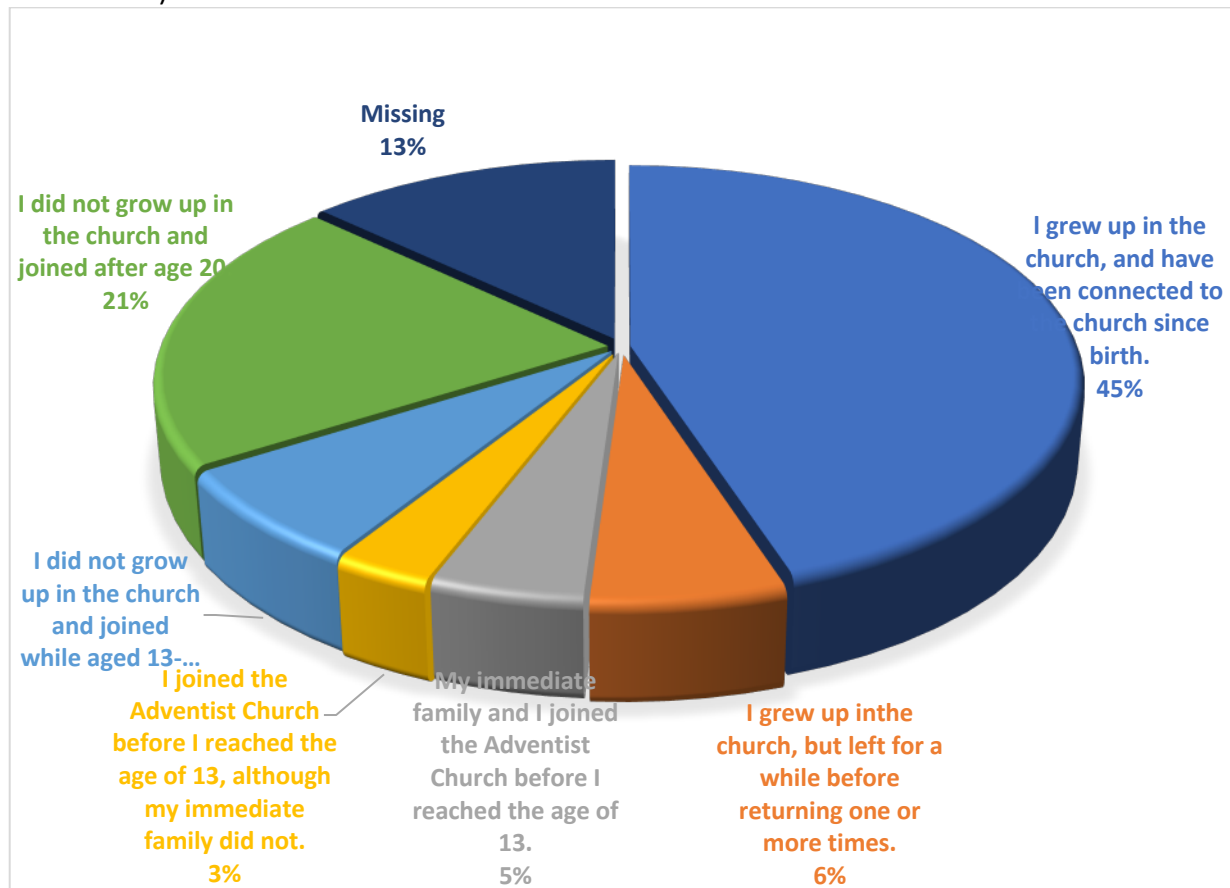


Figure 19 Personal History with the SDA church.

16 Church Office

The majority of respondents (57%) hold a church office as shown in Figure 20. Respondents worship in churches of different sizes as shown in Figure 21. The average church size was reported in the 151 – 200 size bracket.

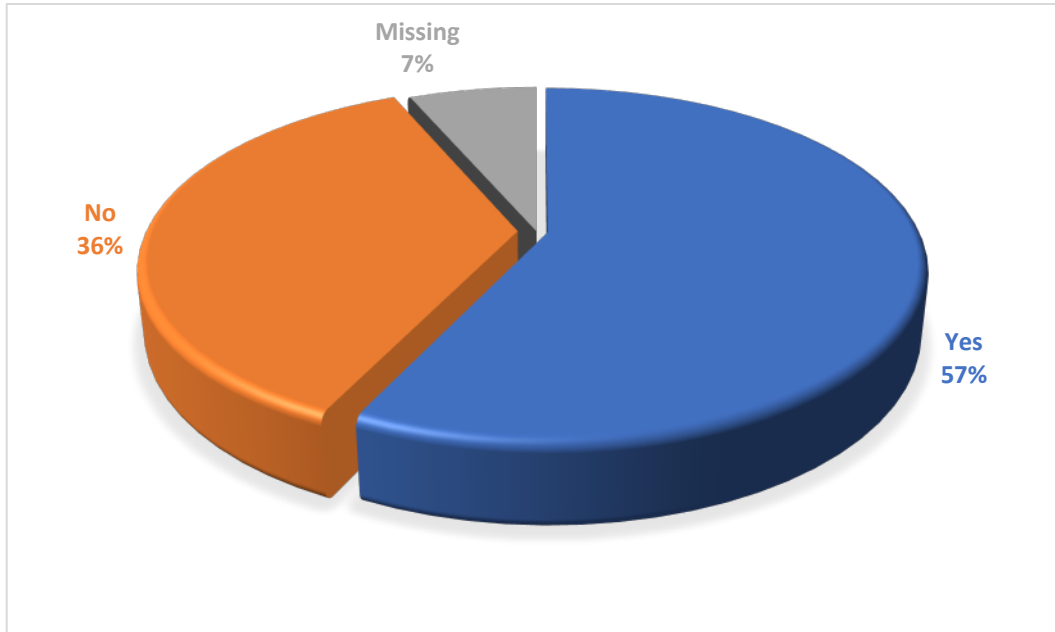


Figure 20 Percentage who hold Church Office

17 Church Attendance

Following is the percentage of people who attend the various size Seventh-day Adventist Churches in the South Pacific Division on a typical Sabbath.

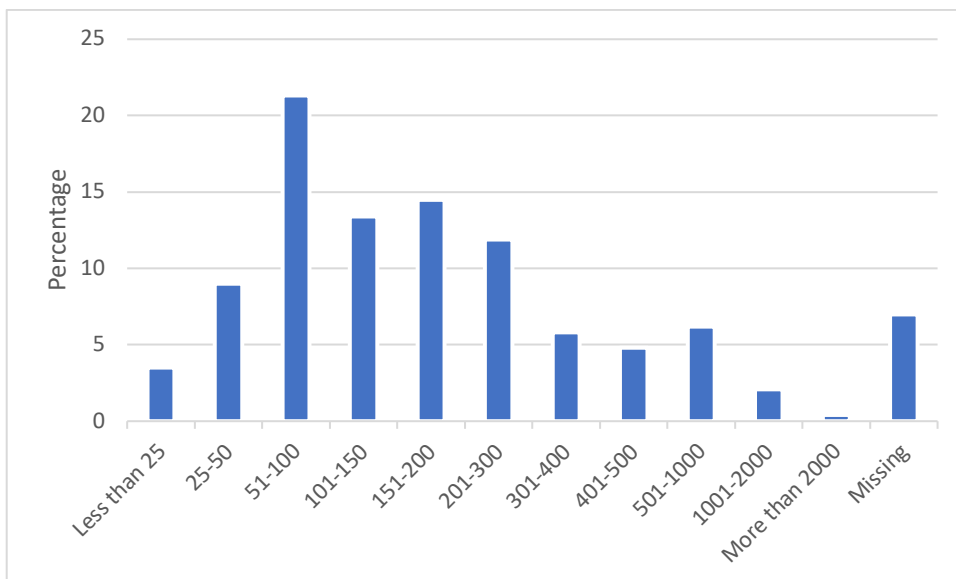


Figure 21 Church Attendance on a Typical Sabbath

18 Church Membership

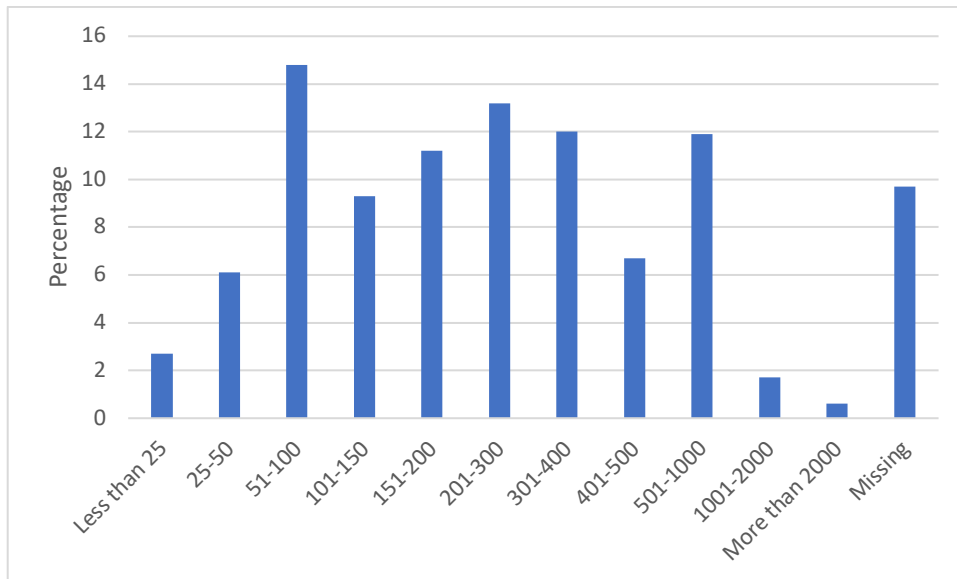


Figure 22 Church Membership Size

From the estimated church attendance and estimated church membership size it is possible to calculate the percentage of church attendance. On average, church attendance is numerically 115% of the membership, meaning that on average, more people than just members attend SDA churches in the South Pacific Division each sabbath.

19 Church Location

Churches in the South Pacific Division are situated in a number of different locations as shown in Figure 23 with the largest group of respondents (38%) reporting that they attend a church in a suburb of large city.

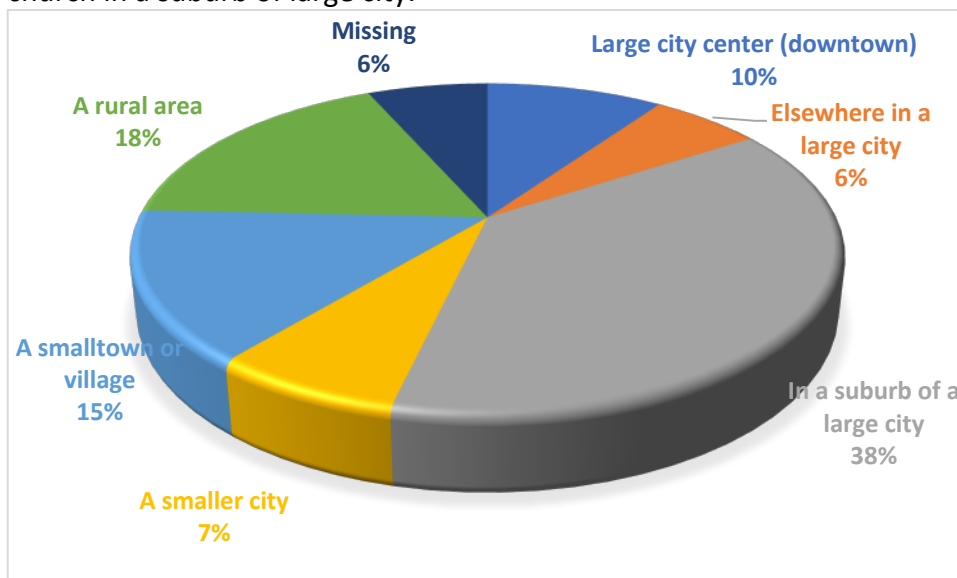


Figure 53 Church Location

An analysis of variance did indicate that there is a significant difference in the location of churches between the four unions in the South Pacific Division ($F(3,1486)=293.26, p = 0.00$). A Tukey post-hoc test revealed that Australia and New Zealand had similar church locations and the PNGUM and TPUM had similar church locations.

20 Church Location near Adventist Institutions

Seventh-day Adventist churches are sometimes located near other Adventist institutions as shown in Figure 24. For example, 42 % of respondents indicated that their church was located near and Adventist educational institution such as a school or university.

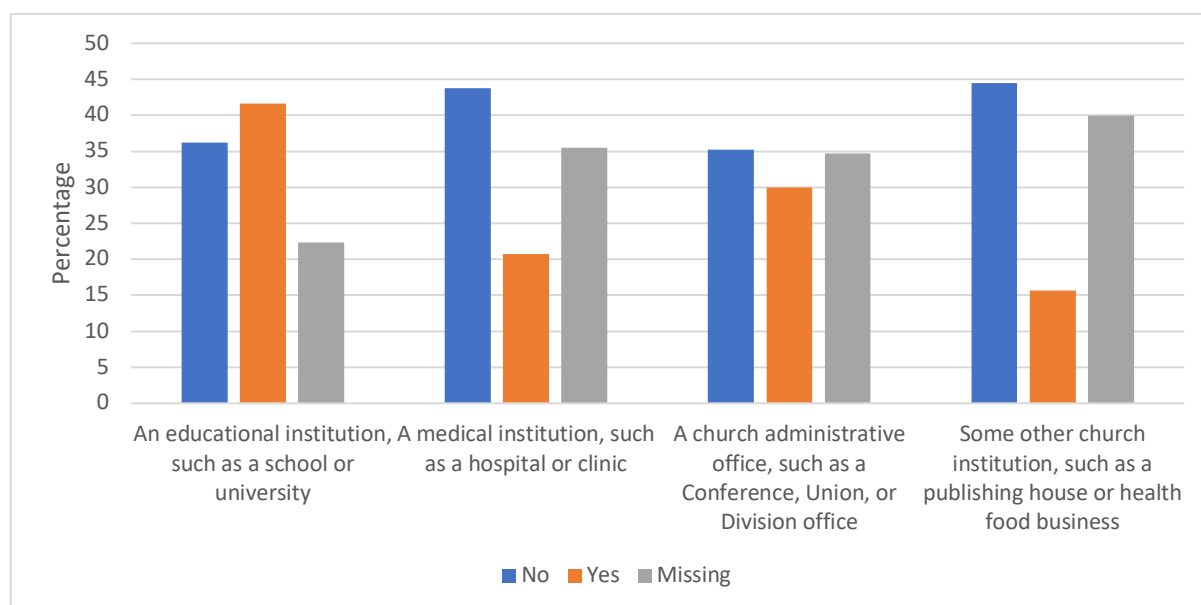


Figure 24 Churches and Other Adventist Institutions

21 Types of Adventist Families

Over half (57%) of survey respondents grew up in a family comprised of two biological/adoptive parents or other guardians as shown in Figure 25. Another 14% grew up in a family with one biological/adoptive parent or other guardians. The remaining 4% grew up in an alternate situation. Most often, respondents (39%) recall that their parents made decisions for them when they were teenagers on issues of media use, friends, and bedtime. About a quarter (23%) report that they made decisions together with their families, and one-third (33%) of respondents made decisions for themselves.

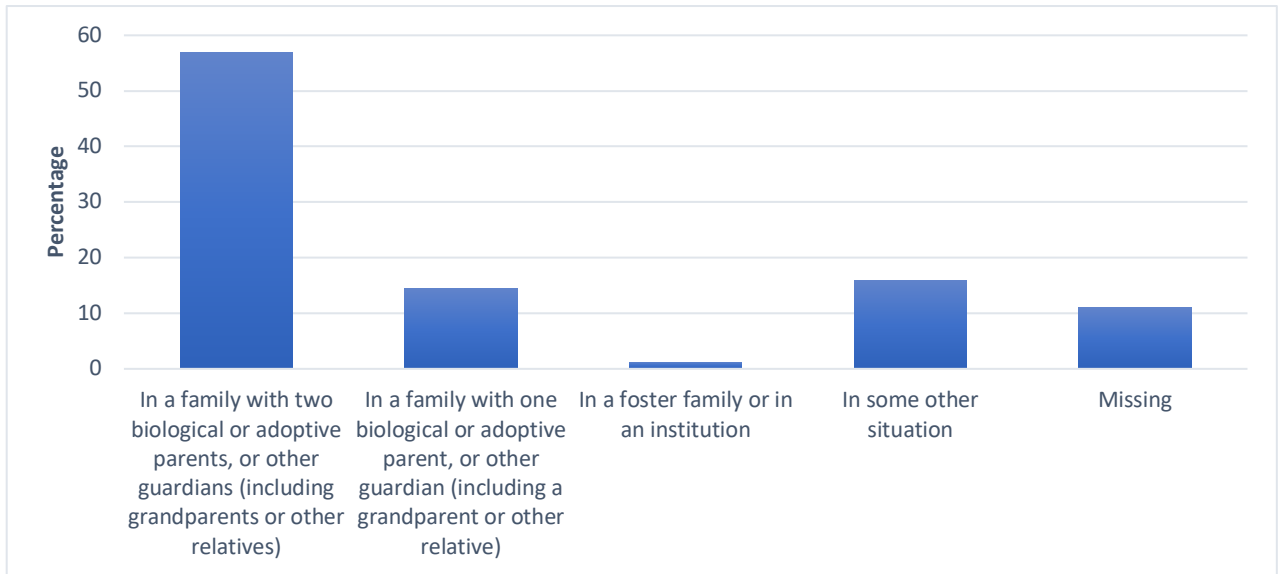


Figure 25 Churches and Other Adventist Institutions

22 Teenager Decisions

Respondents indicated their families interacted with them in several ways to help them make decisions when they were teenagers. Twenty-eight percent said that their parents made decisions for them when they were teenagers on issues of media use, friends, and bedtime. Thirteen percent reported that they made decisions together with their families, and over one-third (37%) of respondents made decisions for themselves.

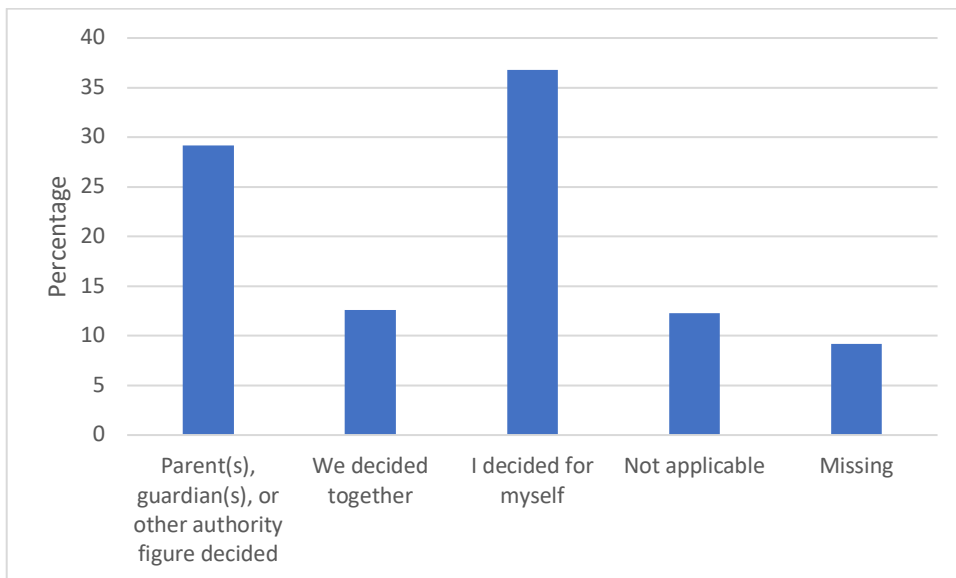


Figure 26 Family and Teenage Decisions

23 Your Church Experience During COVID

Research participants were asked to reflect on their experience during the COVID pandemic (Figure 27). They were asked to describe their involvement in their local church before the coronavirus pandemic. A quarter (25%) of respondents considered themselves active participants in their local church, just under a quarter (23%) considered themselves active leaders, 6% considered themselves casual participants, and 7% report that they attended church activities and services but rarely participated or interacted with church members. 14% of participants reported that they attended church through recorded or live-streamed audio or video but otherwise did not interact with the church before COVID; the remaining 8% did not attend church or participate at all in church activities.

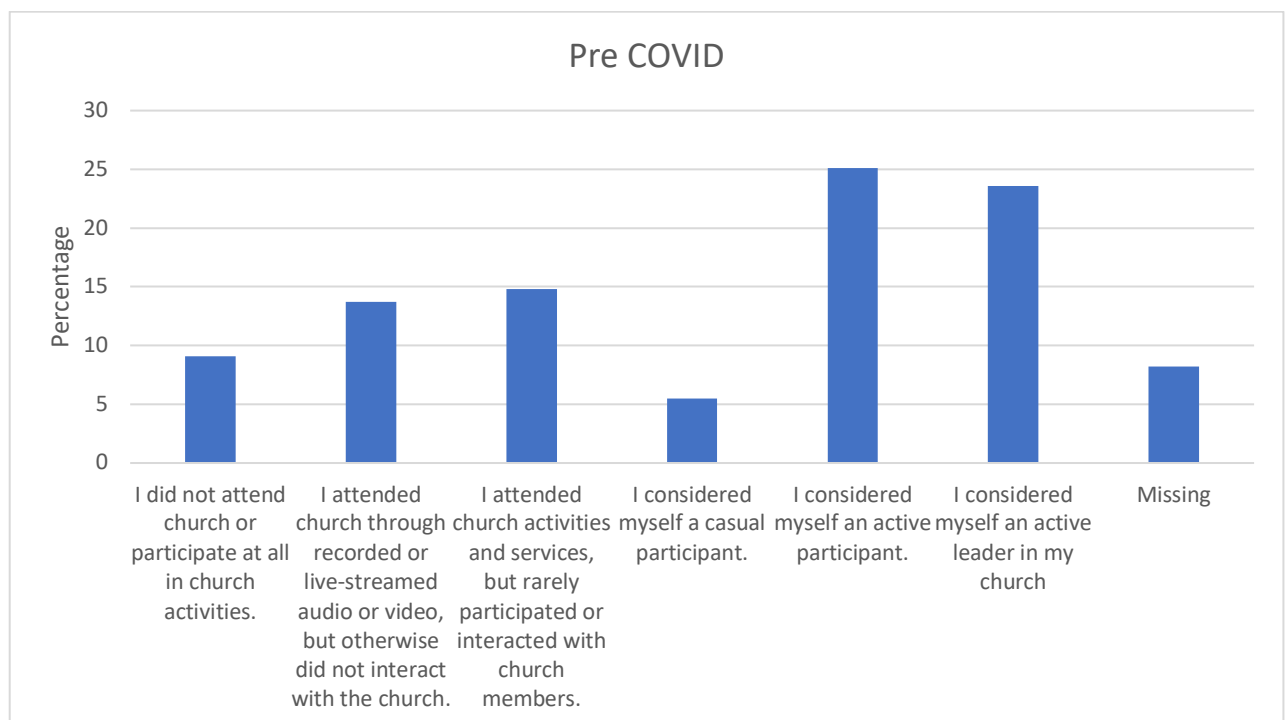


Figure 27 Churches and Other Adventist Institutions

After answering the question about their involvement in the local church pre-COVID, members were then asked to describe their current involvement in their local church (Figure 28). A third (33%) of respondents consider themselves active participants and another 27% consider themselves active leaders in their local church. Seven percent of participants currently consider themselves casual participants, and 16% report that they attend church activities and services but rarely participate or interact with church members. Four percent currently attend church through recorded or live-streamed audio or video but otherwise do not interact with the church; 5% do not attend church or participate at all in church activities. These results tend to indicate that the COVID pandemic did not greatly change members' involvement in their local church.

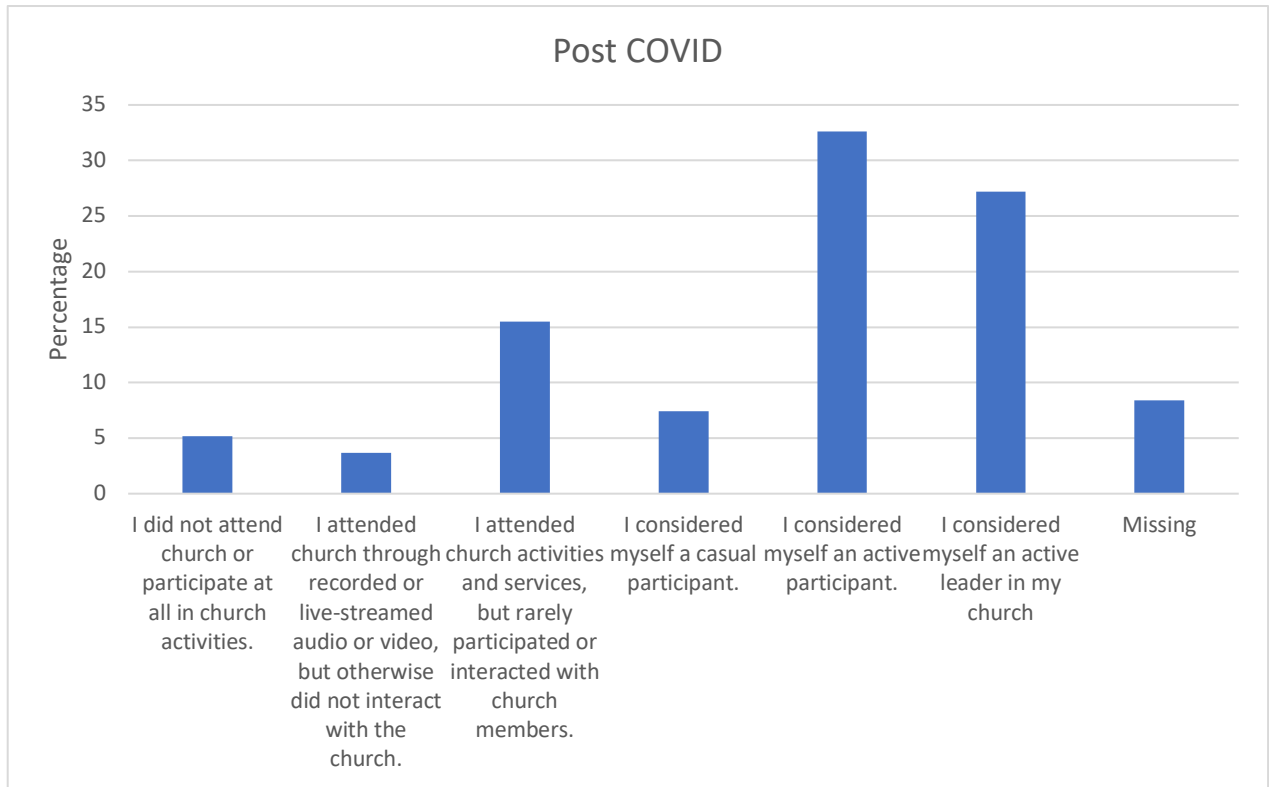


Figure 28 Current Church Involvement

Survey respondents were asked about their church worship experiences during the coronavirus pandemic (Figure 29). A majority (44%) of respondents indicated that their church met remotely for a period of time when they could not meet face-to-face. Just under a quarter (21%) respondents indicated that their church continued to meet face-to-face throughout the pandemic. Twenty-one percent (21%) report that their church closed for a period of time, and there was no remote worship option.

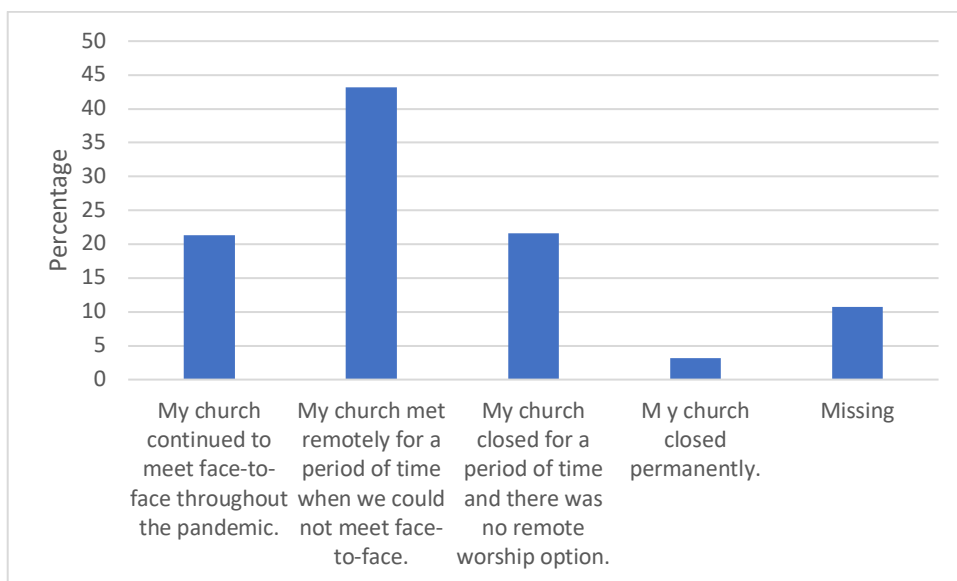


Figure 29 Worship services During COVID

Members were asked to describe their worship experiences during the COVID pandemic. Just under a quarter (22%) report that they attended their local church remotely for a period; 21% continued to meet face-to-face and 24% met face-to-face with other Adventists but not in church. Seventeen percent (17%) reported that they stopped attending church for a period of time, and 7% remotely attended an Adventist church located in a different place for a period of time. Six percent met face-to-face with other Adventists but not in a church (for example, in a home church). A very small percentage (1%) attended a non-Adventist church either face-to-face or remotely.

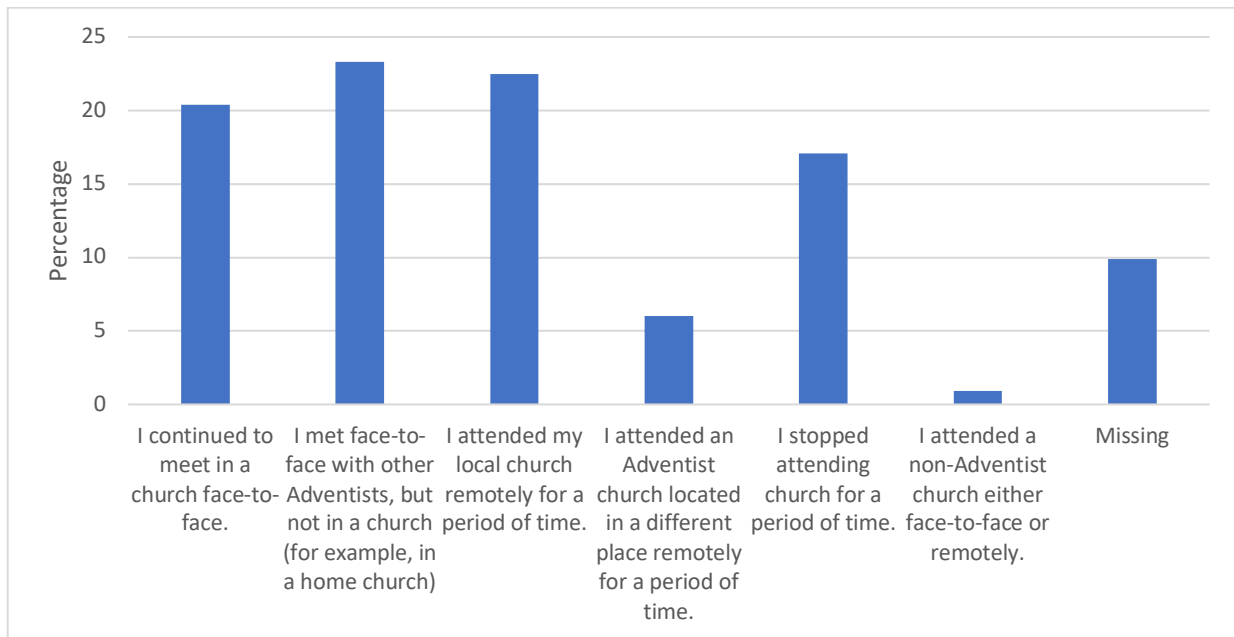


Figure 30 *Worship Experiences During COVID*

Just over a third (37%) of SPD survey participants report that their church developed new ministries during or as a result of the pandemic (Figure 31).

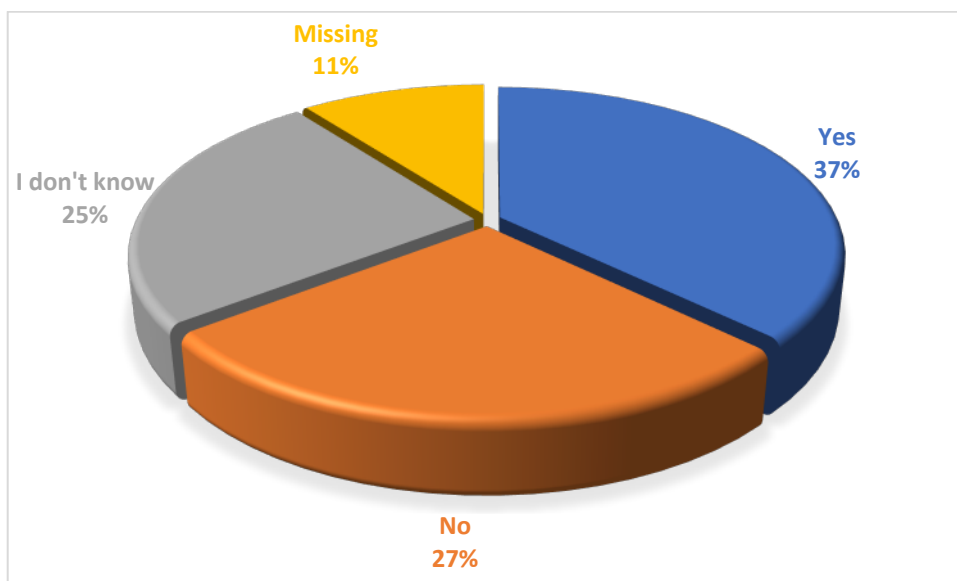


Figure 31 *New ministries during COVID as result of the Pandemic*

Just over a quarter (27%) of respondents indicated that their church did not form new ministries during COVID and the remaining 25% of respondents do not know.

Survey respondents were asked if their church provided them with one or more methods (electronic or otherwise) that enabled them to continue give offerings and tithe (Figure 32). Fifty-five percent (55%) of respondents indicated this happened for Tithe and (53%) indicated this happened for offerings.

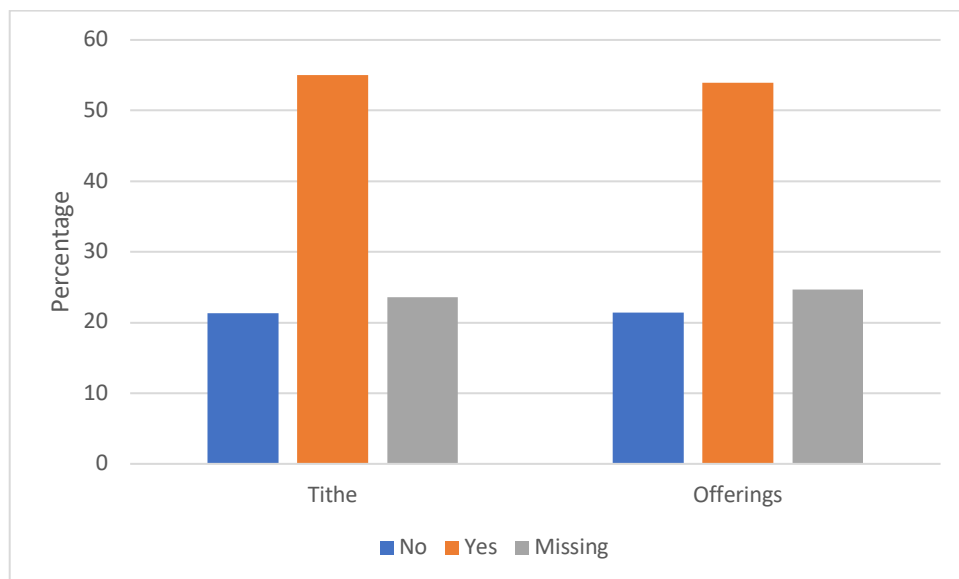


Figure 32 Tithe During COVID

SECTION 3: RELIGIOUS BEHAVIOR/ROLES

Participants were asked about their involvement in church. They responded to items using a 7-point Likert Scale with the points: 0 – never, 1 – only once or twice, 2 – at least once a quarter, 3 – once a month, 4 – almost every week, 5 – every week, 6 – more than once a week. The average responses (mean) are found below in Table 2.

Table 2 *Activities at Your Local Church*

	Item	Mean	StdDev
R1.01	Attended church services in-person.	4.04	1.71
R1.03	Attended Sabbath School in-person.	1.93	2.06
R1.05	Attended a small group organized through my church.	3.51	1.98
R1.06	attended a prayer meeting at my local church.	1.20	1.79
R1.07	attended a public evangelistic meeting in my area.	2.10	2.08
R1.08	attended a Pathfinder meeting.	2.18	2.03
R1.09	participated in communion service.	1.34	1.65
R1.10	helped with a church ministry on Sabbath.	1.53	1.84
R1.11	helped with a church ministry during the week.	2.18	1.49
R1.12	received a visit from my pastor.	2.69	1.99
R1.13	received a visit from a church elder.	2.00	1.97
R1.14	received a visit from a church member.	0.87	1.37
R1.15	witnessed to non-Adventists in my community.	0.86	1.40
R1.16	spent time forming new friendships with non- Adventists in my community.	1.49	1.67
R1.17	spent time meeting the needs of non-Adventists in my community	2.34	1.92

24 Local Church Religious Activities

A confirmatory factor analysis was conducted on the Activities at Your Local Church items, and they loaded satisfactorily (see Table 3) and the Cronbach's Alpha reliability for the eight-item scale was very good at 0.81.

A Religious Activities Church variable was constructed from the items and was found to have a mean of 2.23, and a standard deviation of 1.13, indicating that, on average, families engage in religious activities at church between once a quarter and once a month.

Table 3 Social Religious Activities Factor Loadings

Items		Factor Loadings
R1.01	Attended church services in-person.	.209
R1.03	Attended Sabbath School in-person.	.294
R1.05	Attended a small group organized through my church.	.451
R1.06	attended a prayer meeting at my local church.	.625
R1.07	attended a public evangelistic meeting in my area.	.527
R1.08	attended a Pathfinder meeting.	.532
R1.09	participated in communion service.	.535
R1.10	helped with a church ministry on Sabbath.	.615
R1.11	helped with a church ministry during the week.	.631
R1.12	received a visit from my pastor.	.627
R1.13	received a visit from a church elder.	.651
R1.14	received a visit from a church member.	.630
R1.15	witnessed to non-Adventists in my community.	.542
R1.16	spent time forming new friendships with non- Adventists in my community.	.470
R1.17	spent time meeting the needs of non-Adventists in my community	.482

Items R1.15, R1.16, and R1.17 are measures of engagement in Christ’s Method of Outreach. A confirmatory factor analysis was conducted on these items. All items loaded satisfactorily as demonstrated in the below table and were include in the Christ’s Method of evangelism Scale. The Cronbach’s Alpha reliability for the eight-item scale was good at 0.76.

Table 4 Factor Loads for Christ's Method of Evangelism Scale

R1.15.	Witnessed to non-Adventists in my community.	.763
R1.16.	Spent time forming new friendships with non- Adventists in my community.	.855
R1.17.	Spent time meeting the needs of non-Adventists in my community.	.844

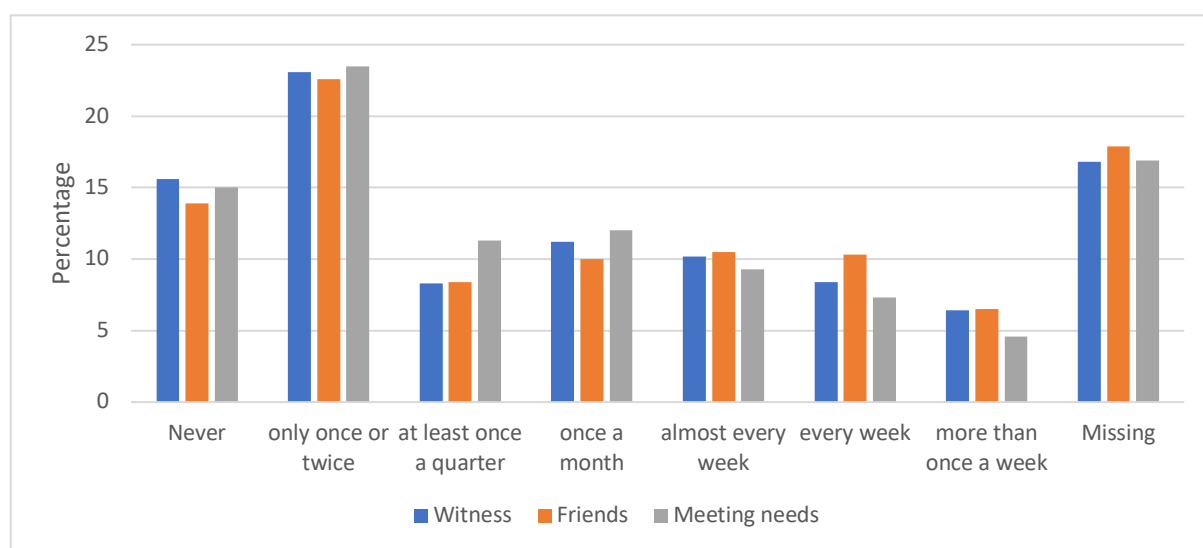


Figure 33 Christ's Method of Evangelism

A mean of 2.35 (St Dev=1.57) indicates that on average families engage in Christ’s method of evangelism between once a quarter and once a month.

25 Personal & Family Religious Activities

Study participants were then asked about their involvement in religious activities that are often done alone or with their family. They responded using a 6-point Likert Scale with the points: 0 – never, 1 – less than once a month, 2 – once or a few times a month, 3 – about once a week, 4 – more than once a week, 5 – daily or more than once a day. The average responses (mean) are found below in Table 5.

Table 5 Items that make up the Personal and Family Religious Activities Scale

Item	Mean	St Dev
R2.01. Read the Bible.	4.03	1.297
R2.02. Study the Sabbath School lesson.	3.42	1.716
R2.03. Read the writings of Ellen G. White.	2.12	1.725
R2.04. Have morning or evening worship with members of my family.	3.34	1.900
R2.05. Have personal prayer (at times other than meals).	4.23	1.314
R2.06. Read <i>Adventist World</i> magazine or website	1.38	1.493
R2.07. Use the <i>Adventist Review</i> magazine or website.	1.01	1.343
R2.08. Read a magazine or newsletter from my local union or conference.	1.24	1.361
R2.09. Listen to an Adventist radio broadcast.	1.49	1.740
R2.10. Watch Hope Channel programming.	1.41	1.688
R2.11. Watch other Adventist television channels or programming.	1.50	1.712
R2.12. Spend time thinking about Jesus’ life.	4.11	1.263

A confirmatory factor analysis was conducted on the Personal and Religious Activities items. All items loaded satisfactorily as demonstrated in the below table and were include in the Religious Activities Personal Scale.

Table 6 Personal and Family Religious Activities Factor Loadings

R2.01. Read the Bible.	.637
R2.02. Study the Sabbath School lesson.	.639
R2.03. Read the writings of Ellen G. White.	.643
R2.04. Have morning or evening worship with members of my family.	.489
R2.05. Have personal prayer (at times other than meals).	.451
R2.06. Read <i>Adventist World</i> magazine or website	.686
R2.07. Use the <i>Adventist Review</i> magazine or website.	.693
R2.08. Read a magazine or newsletter from my local union or conference.	.628
R2.09. Listen to an Adventist radio broadcast.	.495
R2.10. Watch Hope Channel programming.	.578
R2.11. Watch other Adventist television channels or programming.	.579
R2.12. Spend time thinking about Jesus’ life.	.549

The Cronbach's Alpha reliability for the eight-item scale was very good at 0.82. A Religious Activities Personal variable was constructed from the above items and was found to have a mean of 2.54 and a standard deviation of 1.03 indicating that on average members engage in personal religious activities between less than and once or a few times a month and about once a week.

26 Tithe

Respondents were asked about the practice of giving tithe. The majority of members (62%) specify that they specify it as tithe on the envelope (see Figure 34).

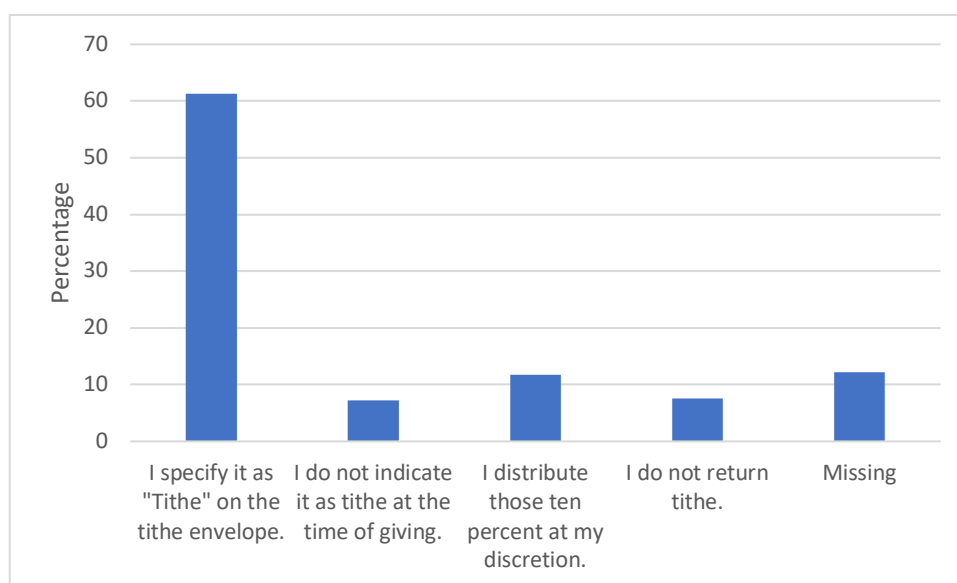


Figure 34 Tithe

27 Social Media

Study participants were asked about their use of social media. They responded using a 6-point Likert Scale with the points: 0 – never, 1 – less than once a month, 2 – once or a few times a month, 3 – about once a week, 4 – more than once a week, 5 – daily or more than once a day. The average responses (mean) are found below in Table 7.

Just over a fifth of respondents (21%) indicated that they do not use social media meaning that the majority do use social media. The biggest church use is to study the bible (mean = 2.56), followed reading or responding to posts by Adventist churches, organizations, and institutions (mean = 2.13).

Table 7 Social Media Items

Item	Mean	St Dev
R4.01. for any purpose.	3.20	2.013
R4.02. to read or respond to posts by Adventist churches, organizations, and institutions.	2.13	1.906
R4.03. to read or respond to posts by other Christian churches, organizations, and institutions.	1.79	1.839
R4.04. to study my Bible.	2.56	2.029
R4.05. to share about prayer requests and answered prayer.	2.00	1.874
R4.06. to pray with others.	1.93	1.902
R4.07. to learn about the life of Ellen G. White.	1.43	1.664
R4.08. to read and connect to the writings of Ellen G. White.	1.50	1.702
R4.09. to help advance the mission of the Seventh- day Adventist Church.	1.80	1.794
R4.10. to learn about religious topics that pastors or Sabbath School teachers have not talked about.	1.94	1.762
R4.11. to share Bible studies with family, friends, or other people in my social network.	1.87	1.863
R4.12. to attend church.	1.94	1.933
R4.13. to worship with other believers (other than for a church service).	1.40	1.738
R4.14. as a distraction from other activities that I should be doing.	1.90	1.913

A confirmatory factor analysis was conducted on the Social Media items. All items loaded satisfactorily as demonstrated in the below table and were include in the Social Media Scale. The Cronbach's Alpha reliability for the 14-item scale was very good at 0.90.

Table 8 Social Media Item Factor Loadings

R4.01. for any purpose.	.318
R4.02. to read or respond to posts by Adventist churches, organizations, and institutions.	.654
R4.03. to read or respond to posts by other Christian churches, organizations, and institutions.	.649
R4.04. to study my Bible.	.741
R4.05. to share about prayer requests and answered prayer.	.771
R4.06. to pray with others.	.749
R4.07. to learn about the life of Ellen G. White.	.744
R4.08. to read and connect to the writings of Ellen G. White.	.733
R4.09. to help advance the mission of the Seventh- day Adventist Church.	.805

R4.10.	to learn about religious topics that pastors or Sabbath School teachers have not talked about.	.748
R4.11.	to share Bible studies with family, friends, or other people in my social network.	.801
R4.12.	to attend church.	.318
R4.13.	to worship with other believers (other than for a church service).	.654
R4.14.	as a distraction from other activities that I should be doing.	.649

A Social Media variable was constructed from the above items and was found to have a mean of 2.01 and a standard deviation of 1.28 indicating that while members use social media weekly, on average members engage in church related social media activities about once or a few times a month.

The study then explored member attitudes to social media (see Table 9). Participants responded using a 6-point Likert scale: 0 – I do not use social media, 1 – Strongly Disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – I am not sure, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly Agree. Generally, members had positive feelings about social media use, and felt that social media helps them to feel more connected to friends and family (mean = 3.06) although they did support the idea that social media can be a distraction (mean = 1.9).

Table 9 Attitude to Social Media Items

When I use social media...

Item	Mean	St Dev
R5.01.	2.19	1.516
R5.02.	2.52	1.545
R5.03.	3.06	1.738
R5.04.	1.82	1.477
R5.05.	2.34	1.653
R5.06.	2.65	1.750

Table 10 Attitude to Social Media Items

When I cannot use social media...

Item	Mean	St Dev
R5.07.	2.75	1.719

28 Seventh-day Adventist Church Program Awareness

There are several specific programs and initiatives that have been developed by the Seventh-day Adventist church. The following table shows the percentage of members in the study for each area of involvement.

Table 2 Program Awareness (%)

Item	I have not heard of this program	I have heard about but not participated	I have participated
R6.01. I Will Go Strategic Focus 2020-2025.	21.5	19.6	42.4
R6.02. Total Member Involvement.	18.6	18.8	41.9
R6.03. Revival and Reformation.	21.6	22.3	34.8
R6.04. Mission to the Cities.	29.0	26.5	21.2
R6.05. Comprehensive Health Ministry	29.1	27.7	20.4
R6.06. Believe His Prophets	33.4	21.1	24.8
R6.07. 10 Days of Prayer	16.6	18.4	46.2
R6.08. Adventist Possibility Ministries	36.4	20.7	22.7
R6.09. Annual Week of Prayer	15.4	22.7	41.3
R6.10. Global Mission	17.7	29.6	31.7
R6.11. End it now	27.6	21.6	30.9

Study participants responded to how they receive information about church programs using a 6-point Likert Scale with the points: 0 – never, 1 – only once or twice, 2 – at least once a quarter, 3 – once a month, 4 – almost every week, 5 – every week. The average responses (mean) are found below in Table 12.

Table 32 Program Communication

	Mean	St Dev
R7.1 By word of mouth	2.00	1.683
R7.2 At church	2.50	1.704
R7.3 At a seminar or meeting	1.44	1.533
R7.4 By reading a church publication	1.67	1.648
R7.5 On the television or radio	1.15	1.640
R7.6 By reading a website	1.36	1.700
R7.7 On social media	1.77	1.855

SECTION 4: RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES AND EXPERIENCES

29 Church Experiences

Participants were asked about their experiences at church. They responded using a 5-point Likert scale: 1 – Strongly Disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – I am not sure, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly Agree. Their average responses are shown in Table 13.

Table 4 *Items that contribute to the Church Experience Scale*

Item		Mean	St Dev
A1.1	My Sabbath School teachers or leaders care about me.	3.87	0.941
A1.2	My pastor cares about me.	3.98	0.902
A1.3	Other people in my church care about me.	3.96	0.831
A1.4	I feel proud of my local church and its role and reputation in my community.	4.13	0.834
A1.5	I attend a church that plans activities for everyone in my family.	3.80	1.025
A1.6	I attend a church that makes worship services available online.	3.26	1.397
A1.7	Youth and young adults play an important role in decision-making in my local church.	3.74	1.018
A1.8	Youth and young adults are actively involved in carrying out the mission of my local church.	4.01	0.904
A1.9	My local church has a program for preparing young people to become leaders.	3.90	1.007
A1.10	My conference/mission has a program for preparing young people to become leaders.	3.86	0.946
A1.11	My local church has a program for preparing new members become leaders.	3.62	0.995
A1.12	I currently provide financial support for children (mine or others) to attend a Seventh-day Adventist school.	3.07	1.350
A1.13	I apply what I learn from the Bible to my daily life.	4.14	0.817
A1.14	I apply what I learn from Sabbath School lessons to my daily life.	4.05	0.837
A1.15	I apply what I learn from Ellen White's writings to my daily life.	3.72	1.032
A1.16	Although I am religious, it does not affect my daily life.	2.89	1.310
A1.17	My local church has the ability to communicate across cultures, clans, tribes, and religion.	3.69	1.016
A1.18	My local church offers training on conflict resolution and reconciliation.	3.11	1.116
A1.19	My local church offers training on nurture and discipling of church members	3.57	1.106

A confirmatory factor analysis was conducted on the Church Experiences items. All items loaded satisfactorily as shown in Table 14 and were include in the Church Experiences Scale. The Cronbach's Alpha reliability for the 22-item scale was very good at 0.83.

Table 14 Church Experiences Factor Loadings

Item		Factor Loading
A1.1	My Sabbath School teachers or leaders care about me.	.510
A1.2	My pastor cares about me.	.498
A1.3	Other people in my church care about me.	.415
A1.4	I feel proud of my local church and its role and reputation in my community.	.550
A1.5	I attend a church that plans activities for everyone in my family.	.594
A1.6	I attend a church that makes worship services available online.	.142
A1.7	Youth and young adults play an important role in decision-making in my local church.	.576
A1.8	Youth and young adults are actively involved in carrying out the mission of my local church.	.615
A1.9	My local church has a program for preparing young people to become leaders.	.677
A1.10	My conference/mission has a program for preparing young people to become leaders.	.634
A1.11	My local church has a program for preparing new members become leaders.	.673
A1.12	I currently provide financial support for children (mine or others) to attend a Seventh-day Adventist school.	.407
A1.13	I apply what I learn from the Bible to my daily life.	.385
A1.14	I apply what I learn from Sabbath School lessons to my daily life.	.483
A1.15	I apply what I learn from Ellen White's writings to my daily life.	.472
A1.16	Although I am religious, it does not affect my daily life.	.309
A1.17	My local church has the ability to communicate across cultures, clans, tribes, and religion.	.537
A1.18	My local church offers training on conflict resolution and reconciliation.	.583
A1.19	My local church offers training on nurture and discipling of church members	.642

A Church Experiences variable was constructed from the above items and was found to have a mean of 3.70 and a standard deviation of 0.601 indicating that on average members have a positive church experience.

30 Spirit of Prophecy Accessibility

Participants were asked about their access to books authored by Ellen White. Forty-six percent of people in the study always had access to Ellen white’s books while a further 16% had access to some of her books.

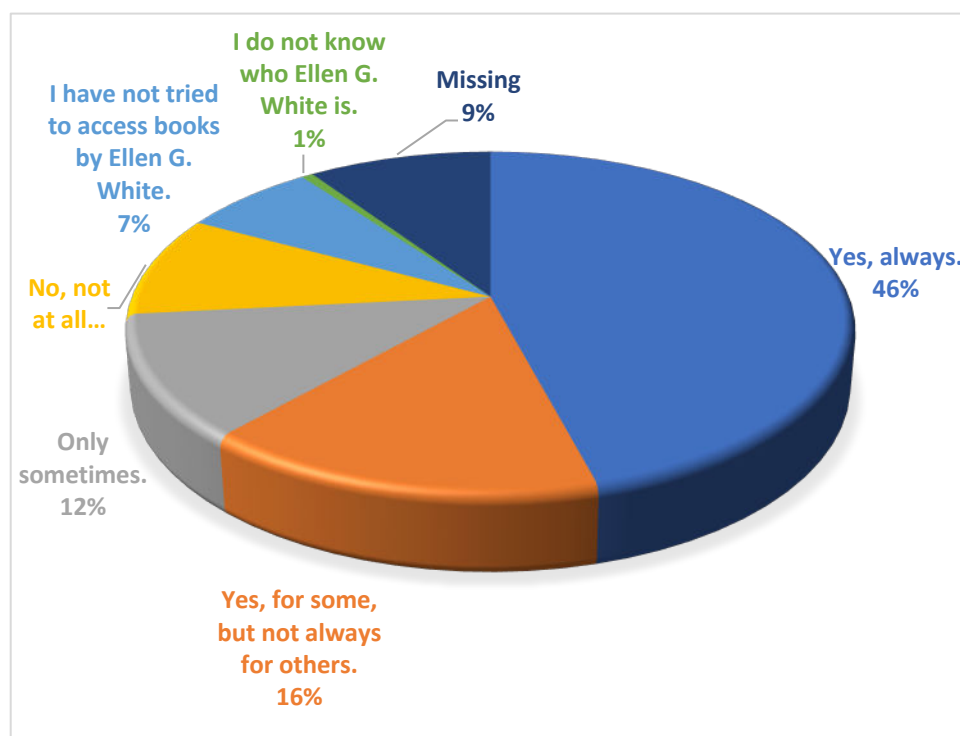


Figure 35 Spirit of Prophecy Accessibly

Members then reported how they access books by Ellen White (Table 15).

Table 15 Access to Ellen White’s Books

Item		No %	Yes %
A3.1	Electronic books and/or other digital publications available for free	47.1	32.4
A3.2	Electronic books and/or other digital publications available to be purchased	42.0	32.6
A3.3	Printed publications available at local church book center	28.2	49.1
A3.4	Printed publications available at an Adventist Book Center Store	21.3	57.2
A3.5	Printed publications available at major church gatherings, such as camp meetings or conferences	28.6	48.0

While many people did report reasonable access to books written by Ellen White an analysis of variance did indicate that there is a significant difference to accessing these books between the different Unions ($F(3,3151)=206.79, p = 0.00$). A Tukey post-hoc test revealed that Australia and New Zealand enjoy the best access.

31 Local Church Nurture

Members were asked how they and their local church nurture people attending the church, and how they reach out to the community and former members. Participants were asked about their level of involvement in the church outreach activities using a 6-point Likert Scale, 0 – Does not apply to my church, 1 – Needs to decrease greatly, 2 – Needs to decrease somewhat, 3 – Is at the right level, 4 – Needs to increase somewhat, 5 – Needs to increase greatly. Results are shown in Table 16.

Table 16 *Involvement in Church Outreach Activities*

Item		Mean	St Dev
A4.1	Overall evangelistic outreach by my church in the local community...	3.95	1.110
A4.2	My involvement in evangelistic outreach by my church to the local community...	3.96	1.062
A4.3	Overall efforts by my church to meet the needs of my local community...	3.99	0.997
A4.4	My involvement in efforts to meet the needs of my local community through my church...	3.99	1.007
A4.5	Overall caring for and nurturing members by my church...	3.98	1.038
A4.6	My involvement in caring for and nurturing local church members...	4.00	1.081
A4.7	Overall reclaiming of former members by my church...	4.10	1.133
A4.8	My involvement in reclaiming of former church members...	3.95	1.267
A4.9	Overall inclusion of young people in carrying out the mission of my local church...	3.96	1.089
A4.10	My involvement in including young people in carrying out the mission of my local church...	4.01	1.100

Most of the responses were around 4 indicating that on average members believe that Church outreach activities need to increase somewhat.

32 Satisfaction

Participants were asked about their level of satisfaction with the church. using a scale that ranged from 1 - 5. This single item was found to have a mean of 4.00 and a standard

deviation of 0.996. The mean is well above 3 (the mid-point of the 1 – 5 scale) and indicated that on average members are satisfied with the church.

33 Lifelong Commitment

Participants were asked about their lifelong commitment to the church using a scale that ranged from 1 - 5. This single item was found to have a mean of 4.78 and a standard deviation of 0.634. The mean is well above 3 (the mid-point of the 1 – 5 scale) and indicated that on average people have a high level of lifelong commitment to the church.

34 Commitment to Christ

Participants were asked about their level of commitment to Christ (Figure 36). The largest response (37%) was for the item: I have been committed to Christ since I was a young child and continue to be fully committed to Him now.

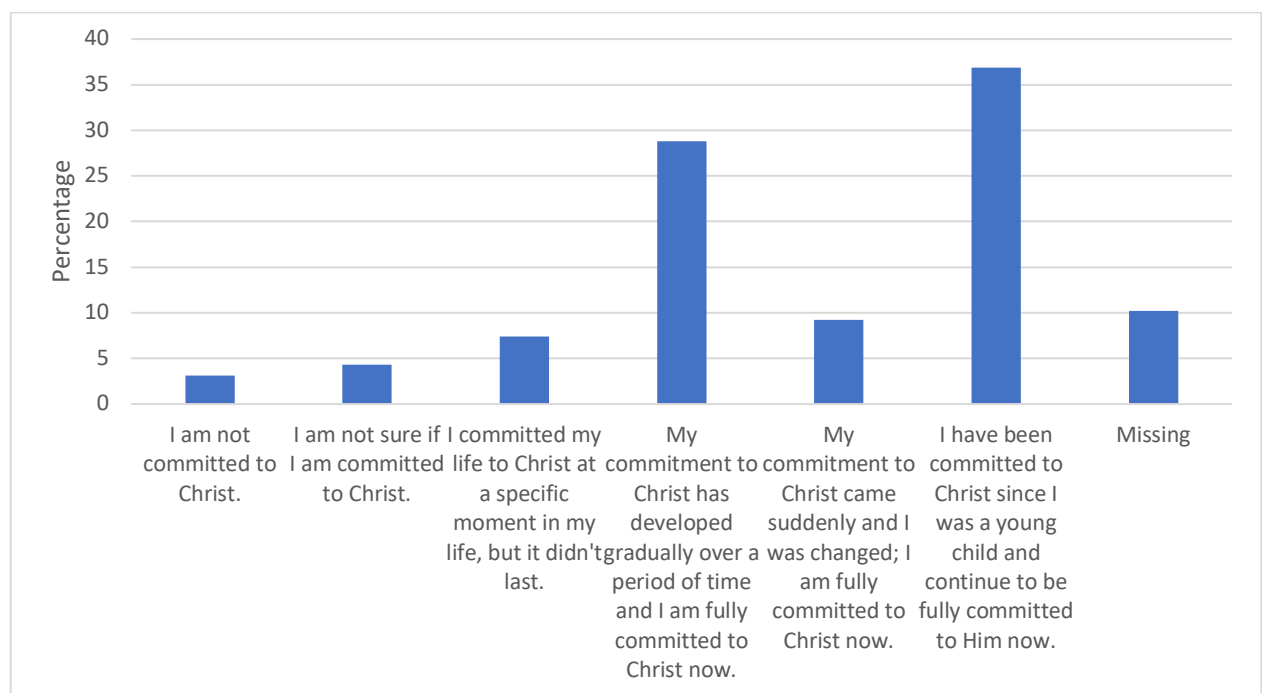


Figure 36 Commitment to Christ

35 Commitment to Others

Participants were then asked about their commitment to others using a 5-point scale that ranged from 1 - Never to 5 - Often. Below are the means for the items that measured Commitment to Others (Table 17).

Table 57 Commitment to Others Items

Item		Mean	St Dev
A8 1	I help others with their religious questions and struggles.	3.75	1.194
A8 2	I feel a deep sense of responsibility for reducing pain and suffering in the world.	3.84	1.123
A8 3	I give a significant amount of time to help other people.	3.64	1.156
A8 4	I give a significant amount of money to help other people.	3.36	1.229
A8 5	I show that I care a great deal about reducing poverty in society.	3.40	1.249
A8 6	I apply my faith to political and social issues.	3.47	1.400
A8 7	I feel my life is filled with meaning and purpose.	4.32	0.899

As the average response for each item was between 3 and 4 members indicated that they have a positive commitment to others.

A confirmatory factor analysis was conducted on the Commitment to Others items. All items loaded satisfactorily as demonstrated in the below table and were include in the Commitment to others Scale. The Cronbach's Alpha reliability for the 7-item scale was acceptable at 0.78.

Table 68 Commitment to Others Item Factor Loading

Item		Factor Loading
A8 1	I help others with their religious questions and struggles.	.657
A8 2	I feel a deep sense of responsibility for reducing pain and suffering in the world.	.708
A8 3	I give a significant amount of time to help other people.	.767
A8 4	I give a significant amount of money to help other people.	.733
A8 5	I show that I care a great deal about reducing poverty in society.	.550
A8 6	I apply my faith to political and social issues.	.603
A8 7	I feel my life is felled with meaning and purpose.	.657

The Commitment to Others variable was constructed from the above items and was found to have a mean of 3.70 and a standard deviation of 0.82. The mean is above 3 (the mid-point of the 1 – 5 scale) and indicated that on average survey participants have a positive commitment to others.

36 Sabbath-Keeping Internalization

Sabbath-keeping is part of the Seventh-day Adventist church life. Participants were asked about their sabbath experience. They responded using a 5-point Likert scale: 1 – Strongly

Disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – I am not sure, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly Agree. Their average responses are shown in Table 19.

Table 19 Sabbath-Keeping Items

A9.1	When I keep the Sabbath faithfully, I cope better with the stresses of the week.	4.47	0.79
A9.2	Keeping the Sabbath is part of who I am, not something that I do because I have to.	4.56	0.77

Overall, members reported a high level on commitment to the Sabbath with average responses of 4.47 and 4.56 to the 2 items respectively.

SECTION 5: WELL-BEING

The survey asked participants to consider aspects of their well-being to facilitate a greater understanding of the way that church members’ religious lives contribute to their sense of overall well-being and spiritual well-being.

37 Low levels of Happiness

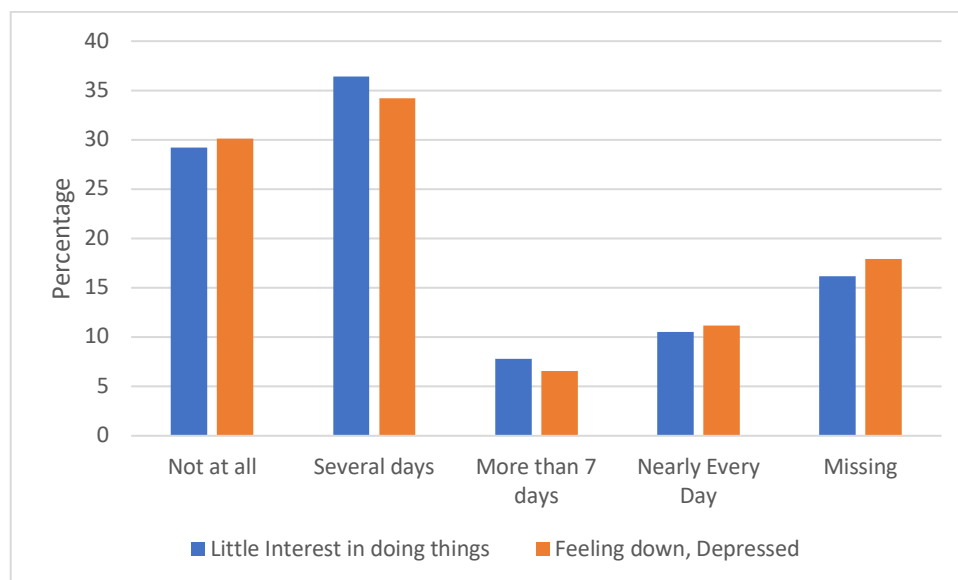


Figure 37 Low levels of Happiness

The biggest response (37% and 34%) was from members who indicated that in the last 2 weeks they had little interest in doing things (37%) and feeling down, depressed, or hopeless (34%) on several days.

38 Well-Being

Church members were asked to respond to items to indicate their levels of well-being using a 5-point Likert scale: 1 – Not true at all for me, 2 – A little true for me, 3 – Somewhat true, 4 – Mostly true, 5 – True for me a great deal.

Below are the means for the items that contributed to the Well-being scale:

Table 20 Wellbeing Items

Item	Mean	St Dev
A10.3. I more often have a sense of gratitude.	3.98	0.990
A10.13 feel good about my future	4.26	0.964
A10.14 I feel very fulfilled and satisfied with my life	4.10	1.004
A10.15 I believe there is some real purpose for my life	4.47	0.815

With average responses for the four items around 4, members indicated that they have a positive level of wellbeing.

A confirmatory factor analysis was conducted on the Wellbeing items. All four of the items loaded satisfactorily as demonstrated in the Table 21 and were include in the Wellbeing Scale. The Cronbach's Alpha reliability for the 5-item scale was 0.74.

Table 21 Wellbeing Items Factor Loadings

Item	Factor Loading
A10.3. I more often have a sense of gratitude.	.591
A10.13 feel good about my future	.803
A10.14 I feel very fulfilled and satisfied with my life	.834
A10.15 I believe there is some real purpose for my life	.781

The Wellbeing variable was constructed from the above items and was found to have a mean of 4.20 and a standard deviation of 0.74. The mean is above 3 (the mid-point of the 1 – 5 scale) and indicated that on average survey participants enjoyed positive level of well-being.

39 Spiritual Well-Being

Church members were asked to respond to items to indicate their levels of spiritual wellbeing using a 5-point Likert scale: 1 – Not true at all for me, 2 – A little true for me, 3 – Somewhat true, 4 – Mostly true, 5 – True for me a great deal. Below are the means for the items that contributed to the Spiritual Wellbeing (Table 22):

Table 22 *Spiritual Wellbeing Items*

Item	Mean	St Dev
A10.1. I have grown spiritually.	3.81	1.091
A10.2. Because of spiritual changes I've been through I've changed my priorities.	3.84	1.046
A10.4. I spend more time thinking about spiritual questions.	3.67	1.130
A10.5. In some ways I think I am spiritually lost.	2.52	1.368
A10.6. My faith has been shaken and I am not sure what I believe.	1.98	1.290
A10.7. I feel I've lost some important spiritual meaning that I had before.	2.59	1.485
A10.9 I have a personally meaningful relationship with God	4.23	0.913
A10.10 I believe that God is concerned about my problems	4.62	0.715
A10.11 My relationship with God contributes to my sense of well-being	4.58	0.761
A10.12 I believe that God loves me and cares about me	4.69	0.656

On average study participants reported high levels of spiritual wellbeing and that the statement that 'that God loves them and cares for them' (mean = 4.69) is true for them a great deal.

Items A10.5, A10.6, A10.7 were recoded so their metric matched the other items in the scale and then a confirmatory factor analysis was conducted on the Spiritual Wellbeing items. Ten of the items loaded satisfactorily as demonstrated below (table 23) and were included in the Spiritual Wellbeing Scale. The Cronbach's Alpha reliability for the 5-item scale was 0.72.

Table 23 *Spiritual Wellbeing Factor Loadings*

Item	Factor Loading
A10.1. I have grown spiritually.	.722
A10.2. Because of spiritual changes I've been through I've changed my priorities.	.672
A10.4. I spend more time thinking about spiritual questions.	.501
A10.5R In some ways I think I am spiritually lost.	.243
A10.6R My faith has been shaken and I am not sure what I believe.	.338
A10.7R I feel I've lost some important spiritual meaning that I had before.	.286
A10.9 I have a personally meaningful relationship with God	.709
A10.10 I believe that God is concerned about my problems	.720
A10.11 My relationship with God contributes to my sense of well-being	.767
A10.12 I believe that God loves me and cares about me	.577

The Spiritual Well-being variable was constructed from the above items and was found to have a mean of 4.00 and a standard deviation of 0.65. The mean is above 3 (the mid-point of the 1 – 5 scale) and indicated that on average survey participants enjoyed positive level of spiritual wellbeing and that the statements in each of the items are on average mostly true.

SECTION 6: BELIEFS

40 Fundamental Beliefs

Participants we asked about various Seventh-day Adventist and other religious beliefs. They responded using a 5-point Likert scale: 1 – Strongly Disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – I am not sure, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly Agree. Their average responses are shown in Table 19.

Table 24 *Fundamental Beliefs*

Item		Mean	St Dev
B1.1	The Seventh-day Adventist Fundamental Beliefs are the teaching of Holy Scripture.	4.62	0.675
B1.2	I believe in a personal God who seeks a relationship with human beings.	4.46	1.032
B1.3	The soul is a separate, spiritual part of a person and lives on after death.	3.19	1.681
B1.4	Salvation is through Jesus Christ alone.	4.79	0.583
B1.5	I believe God created the world in six days of 24 hours each in the relatively recent past.	4.62	0.807
B1.6	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.	4.52	0.974
B1.7	I will not get to heaven unless I obey God’s law perfectly.	3.76	1.479
B1.8	The most effective method for reaching people for Christ is to mingle with them, meet their needs, win their confidence, and then bid them to follow Christ.	4.63	0.721
B1.9	Fulfilment of prophecy and events in the world indicate that Christ’s coming is very near.	4.34	1.198
B1.10	Christians may go to witch doctors or spiritual healers for protection or healing.	2.19	1.632
B1.11	When people die, their bodily remains decay and they have no consciousness or activity until they are resurrected.	4.61	0.877
B1.12	God wants me to take care of my body by avoiding alcohol, drugs, and tobacco.	4.79	0.564
B1.13	The head of the Church is Christ.	4.86	0.469
B1.14	The true Sabbath is the seventh day (Saturday).	4.86	0.458

B1.15	Ellen White's writings are the result of the spiritual gift of prophecy.	4.53	0.714
B1.16	I am saved the moment I believe and accept what Jesus has done for me.	4.54	0.755
B1.17	I believe God created the universe.	4.83	0.486
B1.18	People who have died believing in Christ are in heaven right now.	1.90	1.305
B1.19	All believers are called by God to serve each other without distinction of race, culture, education, nationality, gender, or wealth.	4.54	0.896
B1.20	Only people who accept Jesus as their personal Saviour can go to Heaven.	4.26	1.061
B1.21	Jesus Christ will return in my lifetime.	3.68	1.050
B1.22	Prayer in the name of Jesus is the only way to defeat evil powers and demonic spirits.	4.62	0.697
B1.23	The dead have powers to communicate with and influence the living.	1.78	1.287
B1.24	My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.	4.63	0.877
B1.25	Church unity means uniformity in more than doctrinal belief.	3.91	1.174
B1.26	Different world regions of the Adventist Church should be allowed after consultation with the worldwide church to set their own administrative policies.	3.19	1.297
B1.27	The sanctuary doctrine is vital to Adventist theology.	4.17	0.973
B1.28	In order to reach people for Christ, we need to get to know them and their needs before we preach the Gospel to them.	4.44	0.778
B1.29	The Seventh-day Adventist Fundamental Beliefs as a whole reflect the loving and gracious character of God.	4.57	0.687
B1.30	Because Jesus was able to live without sinning, it is possible for believers to grow in Christian maturity so that in the final days of Earth's history we will reach a state of sinless perfection.	3.78	1.334
B1.31	The Holy Spirit is God's power in the world, not a Person.	3.59	1.453
B1.32	People who have rejected Christ are burning in Hell right now.	1.78	1.210
B1.33	In order to receive God's grace, I must first live by His rules.	3.04	1.542
B1.34	The more that I follow Adventist health and lifestyle standards, the more likely I will be saved.	2.86	1.450
B1.35	I am loved by God even when I sin.	4.51	0.865
B1.36	The reason that I do good works is because I have been saved by grace.	4.39	0.912
B1.37	People have a certain amount of faith, and they really cannot do much to change it.	2.52	1.186
B1.38	There are very distinct theological and worldview differences between what is being taught in a public or government school and what is being taught in a Seventh-day Adventist school.	3.96	0.981
B1.39	Every local church should either operate or contribute to the operation of a school.	3.91	0.924

B1.40	Tithing is still required of all people by God.	4.52	0.730
B1.41	The Bible teaches that sexual intercourse should be exclusively reserved for marriage.	4.52	0.772
B1.42	The Bible teaches that marriage is a union between an adult man and an adult woman.	4.57	0.708

The study participants overwhelmingly support the fundamental beliefs of the Adventist Church. They agree that the Seventh-day Adventist Fundamental Beliefs are the teaching of the Holy Scripture (mean = 4.62). Participants consistently affirm their alignment with the fundamental beliefs of the Adventist Church as shown by the responses in the table above.

A confirmatory factor analysis was conducted on the Fundamental Beliefs items. Twenty-seven of the items loaded satisfactorily as demonstrated in Table 25 and were included in the Fundamental Beliefs Scale. The Cronbach's Alpha reliability for the 27-item scale was 0.87.

Table 25 *Fundamental Belief Items Factor Loadings*

Item		Factor Loading
B1.1	The Seventh-day Adventist Fundamental Beliefs are the teaching of Holy Scripture.	.659
B1.2	I believe in a personal God who seeks a relationship with human beings.	.232
B1.4	Salvation is through Jesus Christ alone.	.442
B1.5	I believe God created the world in six days of 24 hours each in the relatively recent past.	.569
B1.6	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.	.503
B1.7	I will not get to heaven unless I obey God's law perfectly.	.301
B1.8	The most effective method for reaching people for Christ is to mingle with them, meet their needs, win their confidence, and then bid them to follow Christ.	.570
B1.9	Fulfilment of prophecy and events in the world indicate that Christ's coming is very near.	.295
B1.11	When people die, their bodily remains decay and they have no consciousness or activity until they are resurrected.	.446
B1.12	God wants me to take care of my body by avoiding alcohol, drugs, and tobacco.	.641
B1.13	The head of the Church is Christ.	.598
B1.14	The true Sabbath is the seventh day (Saturday).	.677
B1.15	Ellen White's writings are the result of the spiritual gift of prophecy.	.703
B1.16	I am saved the moment I believe and accept what Jesus has done for me.	.330

B1.17	I believe God created the universe.	.672
B1.18	People who have died believing in Christ are in heaven right now.	-.359
B1.19	All believers are called by God to serve each other without distinction of race, culture, education, nationality, gender, or wealth.	.375
B1.20	Only people who accept Jesus as their personal Saviour can go to Heaven.	.431
B1.21	Jesus Christ will return in my lifetime.	.310
B1.22	Prayer in the name of Jesus is the only way to defeat evil powers and demonic spirits.	.613
B1.23	The dead have powers to communicate with and influence the living.	-.320
B1.24	My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.	.480
B1.25	Church unity means uniformity in more than doctrinal belief.	.348
B1.27	The sanctuary doctrine is vital to Adventist theology.	.631
B1.28	In order to reach people for Christ, we need to get to know them and their needs before we preach the Gospel to them.	.509
B1.29	The Seventh-day Adventist Fundamental Beliefs as a whole reflect the loving and gracious character of God.	.722
B1.30	Because Jesus was able to live without sinning, it is possible for believers to grow in Christian maturity so that in the final days of Earth's history we will reach a state of sinless perfection.	.418
B1.32	People who have rejected Christ are burning in Hell right now.	-.283
B1.36	The reason that I do good works is because I have been saved by grace.	.431
B1.37	People have a certain amount of faith, and they really cannot do much to change it.	.277
B1.38	There are very distinct theological and worldview differences between what is being taught in a public or government school and what is being taught in a Seventh-day Adventist school.	.382
B1.39	Every local church should either operate or contribute to the operation of a school.	.651
B1.40	Tithing is still required of all people by God.	.560
B1.41	The Bible teaches that sexual intercourse should be exclusively reserved for marriage.	.533
B1.42	The Bible teaches that marriage is a union between an adult man and an adult woman.	4.57

The Fundamental Beliefs variable was constructed from the above items and was found to have a mean of 4.12 and a standard deviation of 0.47. The mean is above 3 (the mid-point of the 1 – 5 scale) and indicated that on average survey participants agree to strongly agree with the church's fundamental beliefs.

41 Cultural Context

As the Seventh-day Adventist church is a world-wide church, members live in different cultural contexts. Study participants were asked about their view of the relationship between the Adventist church and their cultural context. They responded using a 5-point Likert scale: 1 – Strongly Disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – I am not sure, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly Agree. Their average responses are shown in Table 26.

Table 26 *the Church and Cultural Context*

Item	Mean	St Dev
B2.1. To be a Seventh-day Adventist means to reject certain elements of the culture around you.	4.09	.960
B2.2. When I meet or hear about Adventists from other parts of the world, they are very much like me in the way they live their faith.	3.98	.911
B2.3. People outside of the Adventist Church can have important insights into God's character and plans.	3.74	1.042
B2.4. There are ideas in my culture that contradict my faith.	3.92	1.034
B2.5. I am most comfortable in a church where everyone shares my cultural background.	3.07	1.287
B2.6. I would welcome someone from a different cultural background as part of my local church family.	4.36	.834
B2.7. Adventists should avoid amusements and entertainments that are not in harmony with the Spirit of Christ.	4.33	.968

Overall members report a very positive attitude to the relationship between the Adventist church and their cultural context.

42 Sermon Topics

The study investigated the frequency at which certain sermon topics are presented. Participants responded using a 5-point Likert scale: 0 – I do not know, 1 – Never, 2 – Seldom, 3 – Frequently, 4 – Very Frequently. Their average responses are shown in Table 27.

Table 27 *Sermon Topics*

Item	Mean	St Dev
B3.1. Righteousness by Faith	2.68	0.966
B3.2. Spirit of Prophecy	2.60	0.957
B3.3. Sabbath	2.99	0.871
B3.4. Second Coming of Jesus	3.20	0.843
B3.5. Wholistic Healthful Living-the importance of health for the body, mind, spirit, and social relationships	2.73	0.921

B3.6.	Reading and sharing Adventist literature and publications	2.41	1.052
B3.7.	The Sanctuary	2.46	0.964
B3.8.	State of the Dead	2.41	0.960
B3.9	Daniel and Revelation	2.72	0.942
B3.10	The Three Angels' Messages	2.94	0.908
B3.11	The Mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church	3.01	0.932

The mean for the above sermon topics was of 2.74 and a standard deviation of 0.94 which means that on average the above sermon topics are presented frequently.

43 Authority of the Bible

Participants were asked what their understanding of the bible is. Their responses are shown in the chart below (Figure 38):

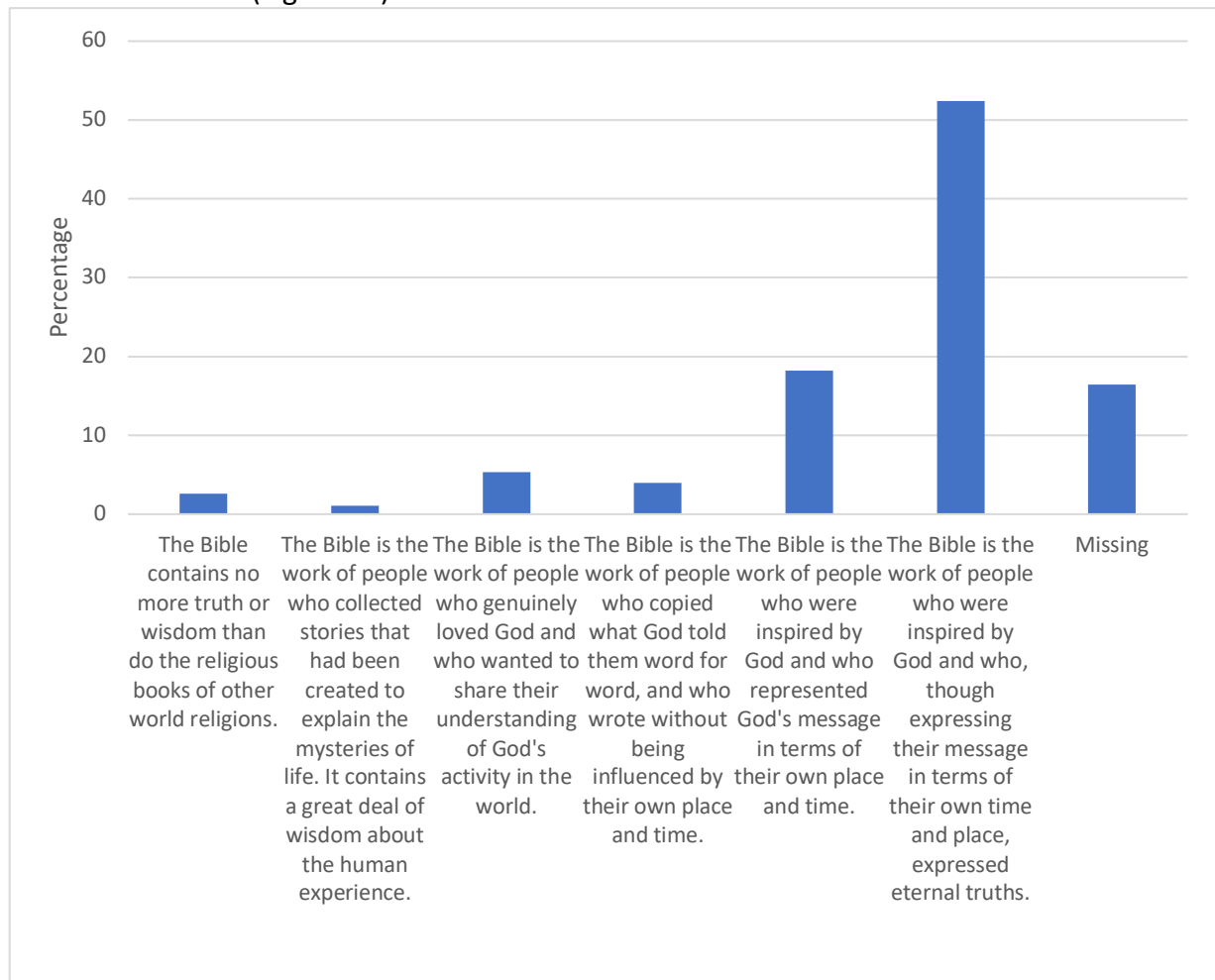


Figure 38 Authority of the bible

The largest response was for response 6 with 53% of respondents indicating that The Bible is the work of people who were inspired by God and who, through expressing their message in terms of their own time and place, expressed eternal truths.

44 Authority of the Spirit of Prophecy

Participants were asked about their understanding of the writings of Ellen G. White. Their responses are shown in the chart below (Figure 39):

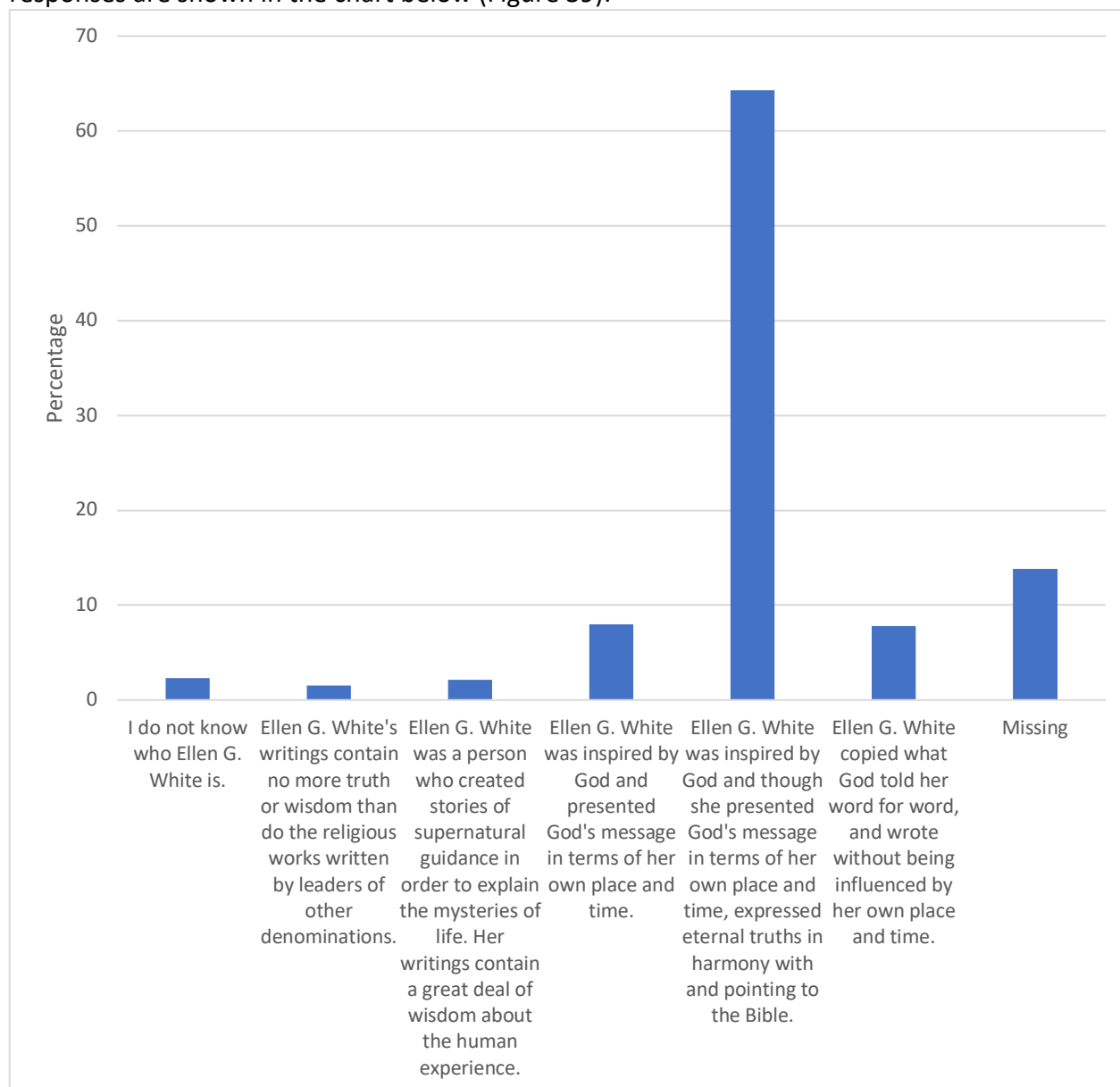


Figure 39 Authority of the Spirit of Prophecy

The largest response was for response 5 with 65% of respondents indicating that Ellen G White was inspired by God and though she presented God's message in terms of her own place and time, expressed eternal truths in harmony with and pointing to the bible.

45 Belief Acceptance

Church members were asked to respond to items to indicate their levels of belief and acceptance of individual teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist church. They did this using a 5-point Likert scale: 1 – I do not accept it, 2 – I have major doubts about it, 3 – I have some questions about it, 4 – I accept it because the church teaches it, 5 – I embrace it wholeheartedly. The average responses are shown in Table 28 below.

Table 28 *Fundamental Belief Items Factor Loadings*

Item	Mean	St Dev
a44.1 There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three eternal equal Persons.	4.63	0.755
a44.2 The investigative pre-Advent judgment began in 1844.	4.33	1.017
a44.3 Christ is acting as our advocate before God in the heavenly sanctuary right now.	4.59	0.801
a44.4 Before Christ returns, God will decide who is to be saved and who will be eternally lost.	4.28	1.088
a44.5 The Church's interpretation of end-time prophecies.	4.39	0.897
a44.6 Ellen G. White was a prophet.	4.43	0.912
a44.7 Adventists should abstain from alcohol, tobacco, and the irresponsible use of drugs.	4.61	0.778
a44.8 Adventists should eat a healthful diet and abstain from unclean foods identified in Scripture.	4.64	0.691

With all items scoring average results between 4 and 5 there is a high level of belief acceptance amongst members for Seventh-day Adventist beliefs.

A confirmatory factor analysis was conducted on the Belief Acceptance items. All items loaded satisfactorily as demonstrated in the below table (Table 29) and were include in the Belief Acceptance Scale. The Cronbach's Alpha reliability for the 9-item scale was very good at 0.81.

Table 29 *Fundamental Belief Items Factor Loadings*

Item	Factor Loading
a44.1 There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three eternal equal Persons.	.543
a44.2 The investigative pre-Advent judgment began in 1844.	.693
a44.3 Christ is acting as our advocate before God in the heavenly sanctuary right now.	.595
a44.4 Before Christ returns, God will decide who is to be saved and who will be eternally lost.	.542
a44.5 The Church's interpretation of end-time prophecies.	.691

a44.6	Ellen G. White was a prophet.	.711
a44.7	Adventists should abstain from alcohol, tobacco, and the irresponsible use of drugs.	.743
a44.8	Adventists should eat a healthful diet and abstain from unclean foods identified in Scripture.	.780

The Belief Acceptance variable was constructed from the above items and was found to have a mean of 4.48 and a standard deviation of 0.61 indicating that on average survey participants agree to embrace wholeheartedly the church’s individual beliefs.

SECTION 7: HEALTH

In this final section, church members were asked about their health and beliefs about their health.

Firstly, members were asked to indicate which diet they follow. Results are shown in the Figure 40 below.

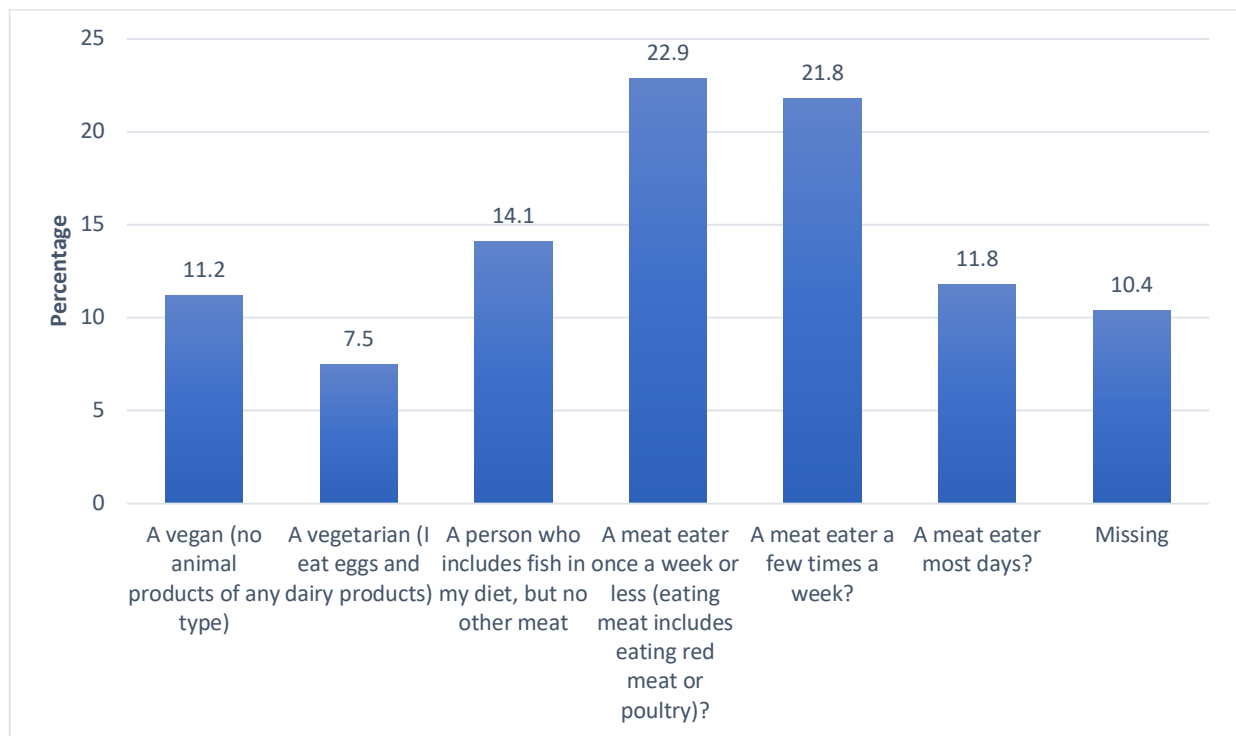


Figure 40 Diet

46 Alcohol Use

Survey participants reported how often they had used substances.

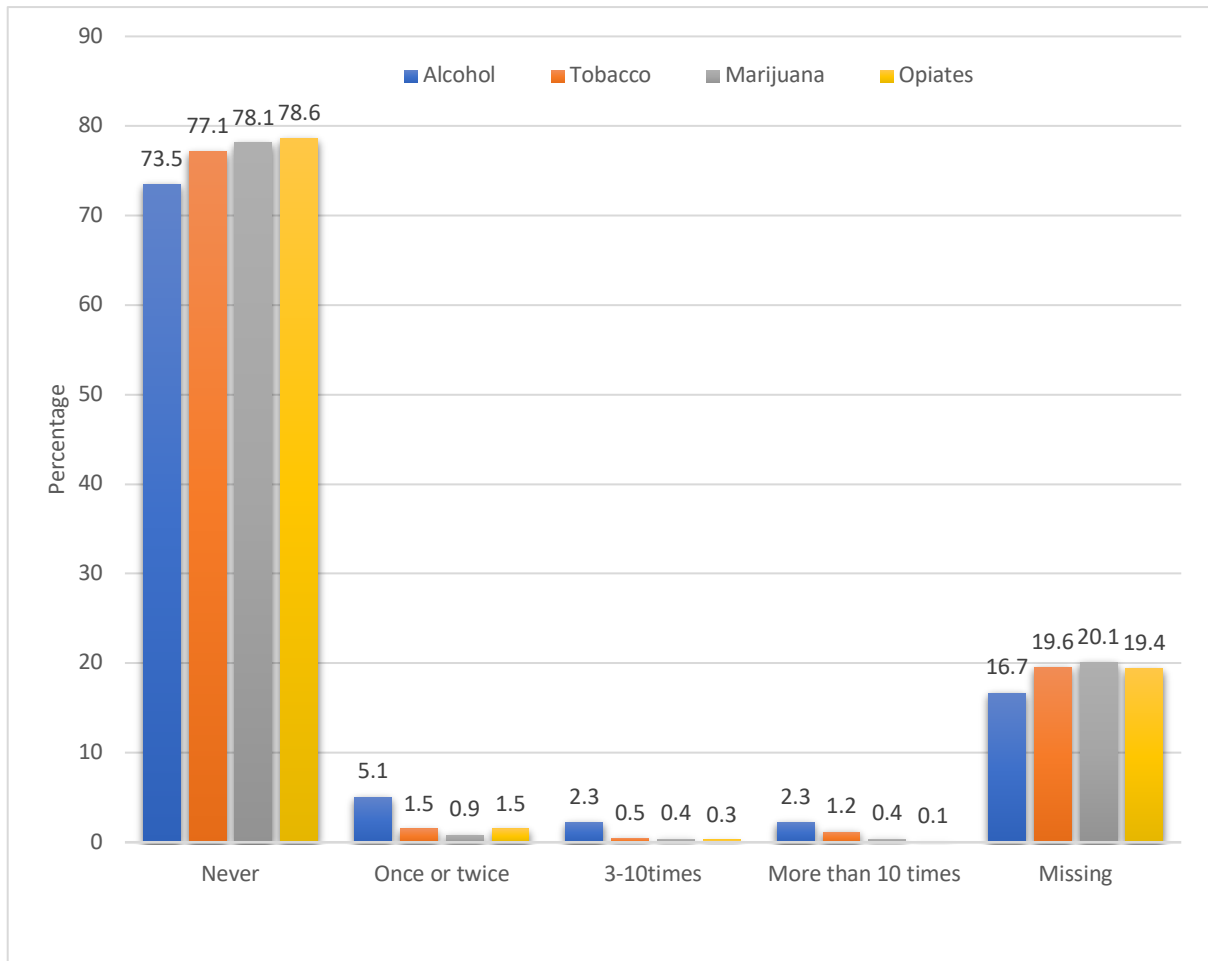


Figure 41 Substance Use

Nearly 70% of church members reported that they felt that there was no safe level of alcohol use.

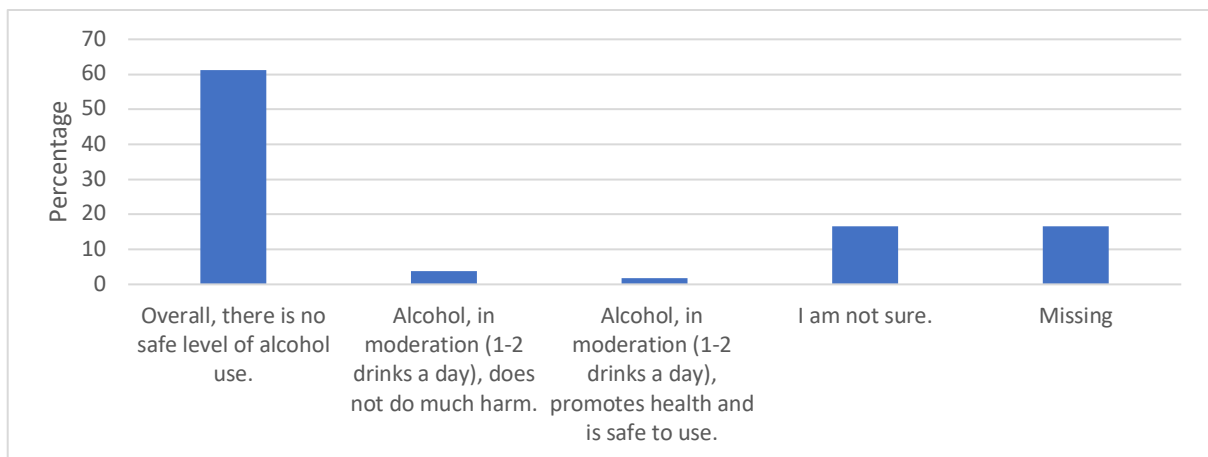


Figure 42 Beliefs About Alcohol

47 Commitment to Health

Adventist church members are committed to health. They are familiar with the Adventist health message (Figure 43) and nearly two thirds of members indicated that they follow the health message a moderate amount or a great deal (Figure 44).

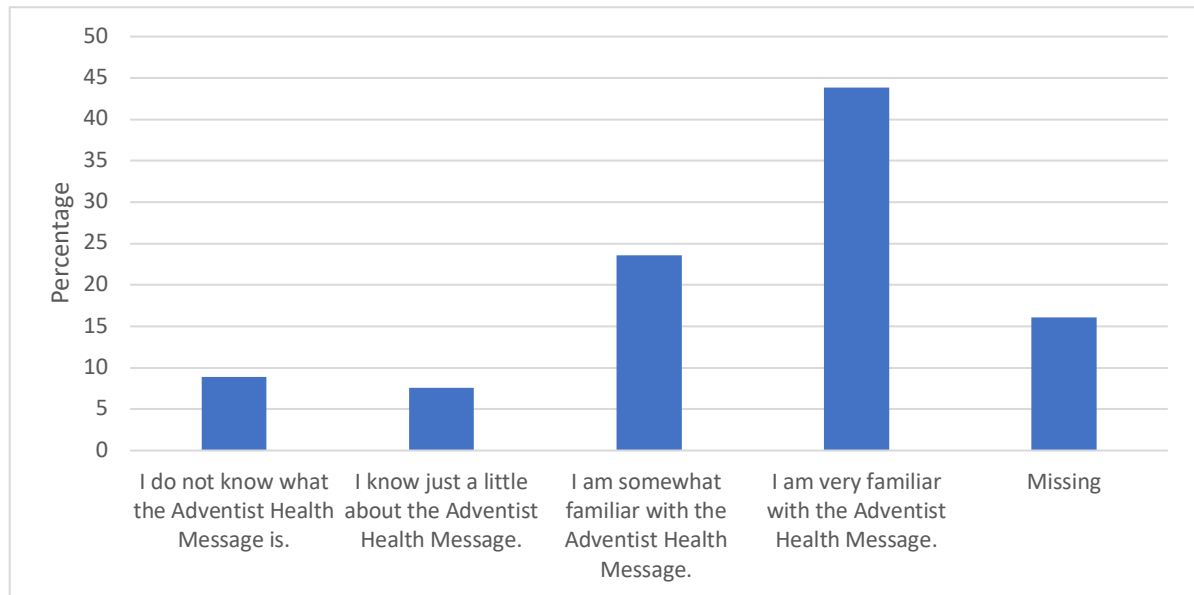


Figure 43 Follow the Health Message

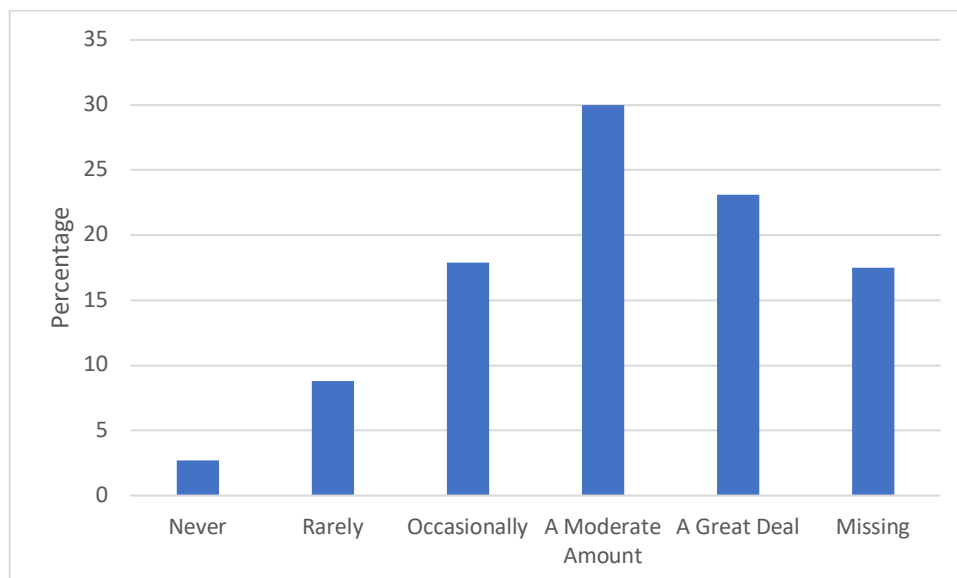


Figure 44 Follow the Health Message

48 Health Message Beliefs

Survey participants were asked about their health message beliefs. They responded using a 5-point Likert scale: 1 – Strongly Disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – I am not sure, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly Agree. Their average responses are shown in Figure 45.

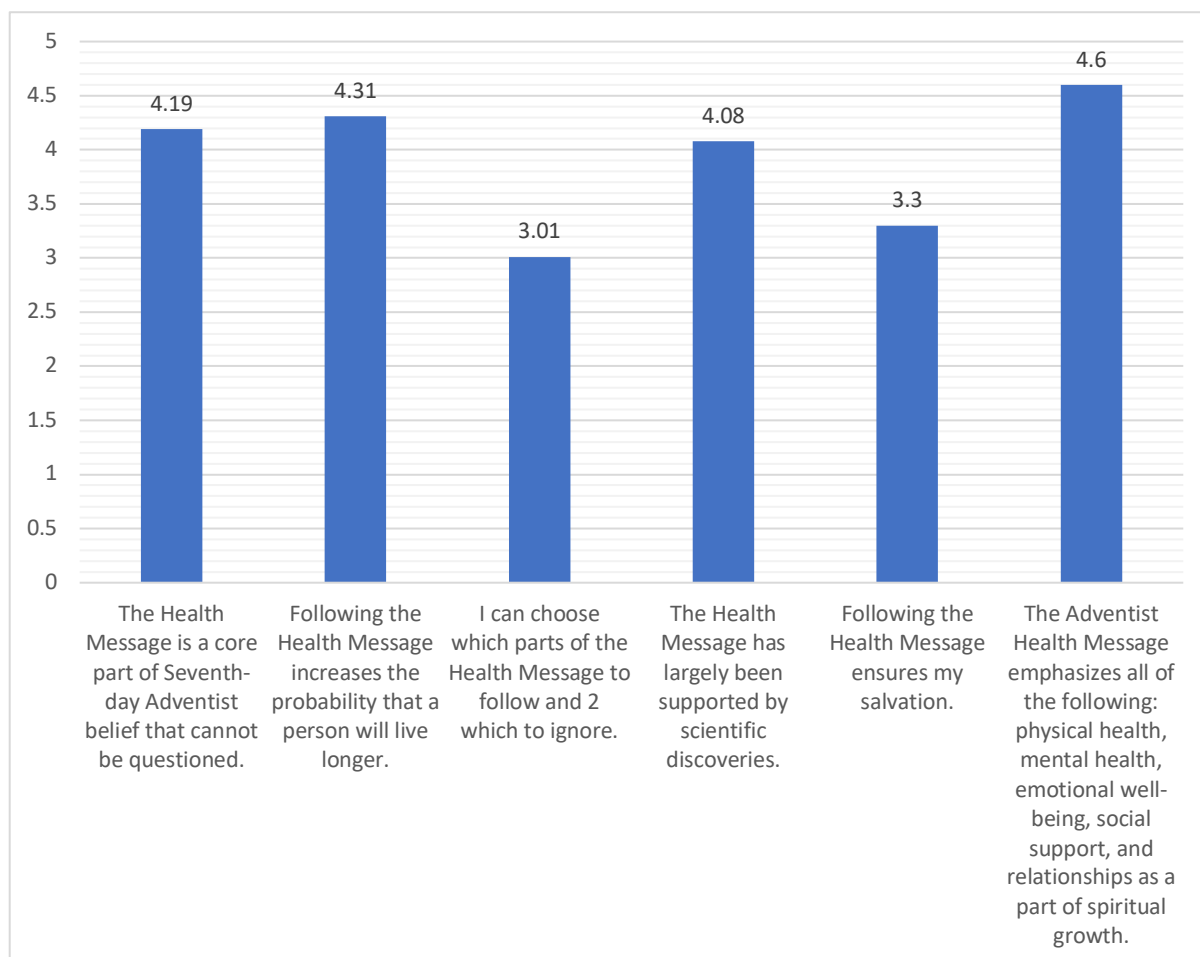


Figure 45 Health Message Beliefs

Participants provided an average response of 3.92 across the six items indicating that on average they agree with the Adventist Health message. The mean response to individual items is found in Table 30.

Table 30 Health Message Beliefs

Item	Mean	St Dev
50.1. The Health Message is a core part of Seventh-day Adventist belief that cannot be questioned.	4.19	.976
50.2. Following the Health Message increases the probability that a person will live longer.	4.31	.885

50.3.	I can choose which parts of the Health Message to follow and which to ignore.	3.01	1.301
50.4.	The Health Message has largely been supported by scientific discoveries.	4.08	.932
50.5.	Following the health message ensures my salvation.	3.30	1.451
50.6.	The Adventist Health Message emphasizes physical health (e.g. diet, exercise), mental health, emotional well-being, social support, and relationships as a part of spiritual growth.	4.60	.628

SECTION 8: CONCLUSIONS

The General Conference World Member Survey data and analysis reflect the beliefs, practices, attitudes and experiences of Seventh-day Adventist Church members in the South Pacific Division. There are many results in the analysis and subsequent report that are of interest. Adventists enjoy high levels of wellbeing, and their spirituality makes a large contribution to this. This spirituality is supported by their personal devotional lives, and shared corporate spiritual experiences. Church members who are highly connected to their local church experience nurture, and this leads to many positive outcomes in their lives.

Church members in this study uphold and affirm the fundamental beliefs of the Adventist Church. These foundational beliefs in turn enhance their wellbeing due to the real presence of a loving and caring God and Saviour in their lives.

Participants in this study show a high level of commitment to their local churches and actively engage in attendance, church officer roles, leadership roles, and commitment to others. They feel engaged and connected to the local community that makes up their church and feel supported and connected to church leadership through their local pastor. They feel less connected to the global church and general conference programs.

Overall, this report should provide the South Pacific Division with data and results to inform the strategic direction of the Adventist church in the South Pacific. Part two of the analysis has commenced and will further explore relationships between the factors included in the study through the use of structured equation modelling.