

# JOINING & REMAINING

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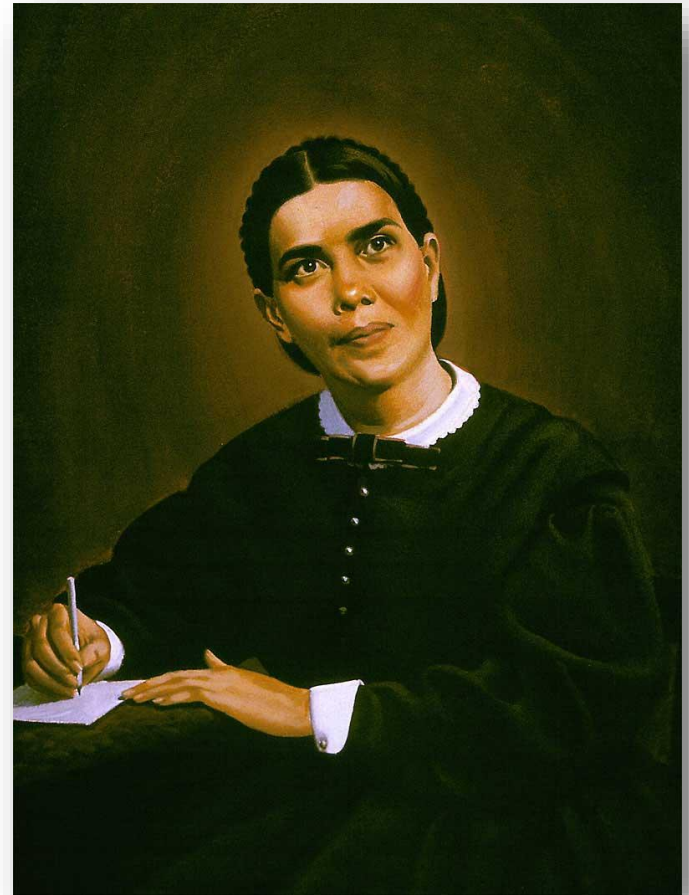
A Look at the Data on the  
Role of Adventist Education

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All-important matter...

**“Conversion of  
the students.”**

*Fundamentals of Christian  
Education, p. 436*



# ACCESSION TO THE CHURCH

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The Role of Adventist Education

Adventist Education

**LONGEST and LARGEST  
EVANGELISTIC EVENT**

held by the  
Adventist Church

Duration 800 – 37,400 hours

5-9 hours/day

160-260 days/year

1-16<sup>+</sup> years

# Size

Level	Sites	Evangelists	Attendees
Children	5,943	55,331	1,183,337
Adolescents	2,429	36,592	595,848
Youth	167	15,053	156,713
Totals	8,539	106,976	1,935,898

December 31, 2017

# Adventist Education

LONGEST and LARGEST  
EVANGELISTIC EVENT

Effective?

# Baptisms in Adventist Education

Year	Baptized
2008	33,138
2009	40,415
2010	49,176
2011	50,752
2012	49,774
2013	48,604
2014	47,435
2015	43,475
2016	49,308
2017	46,310

**458,387**

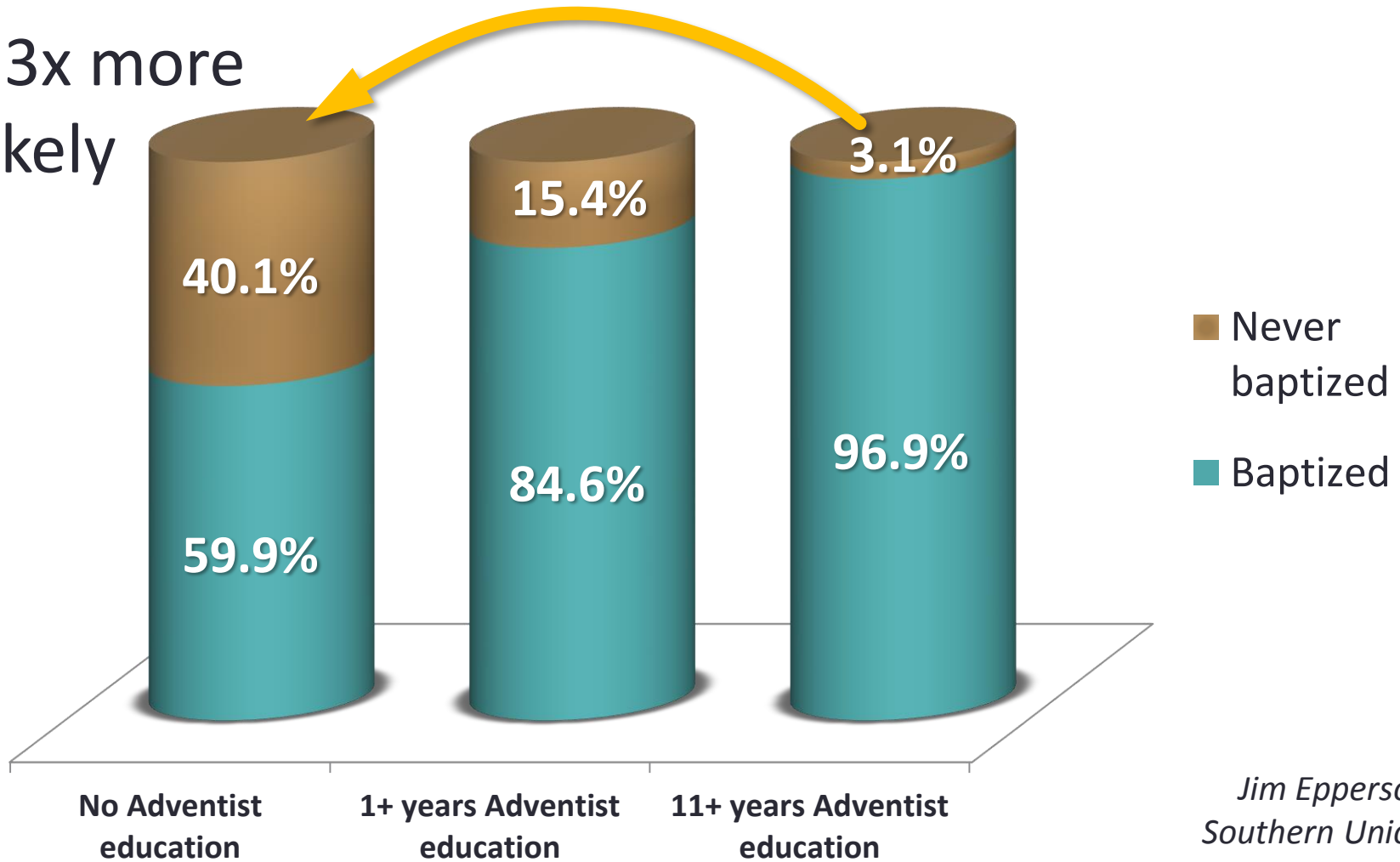
**baptisms**

**A conference  
established  
each year**



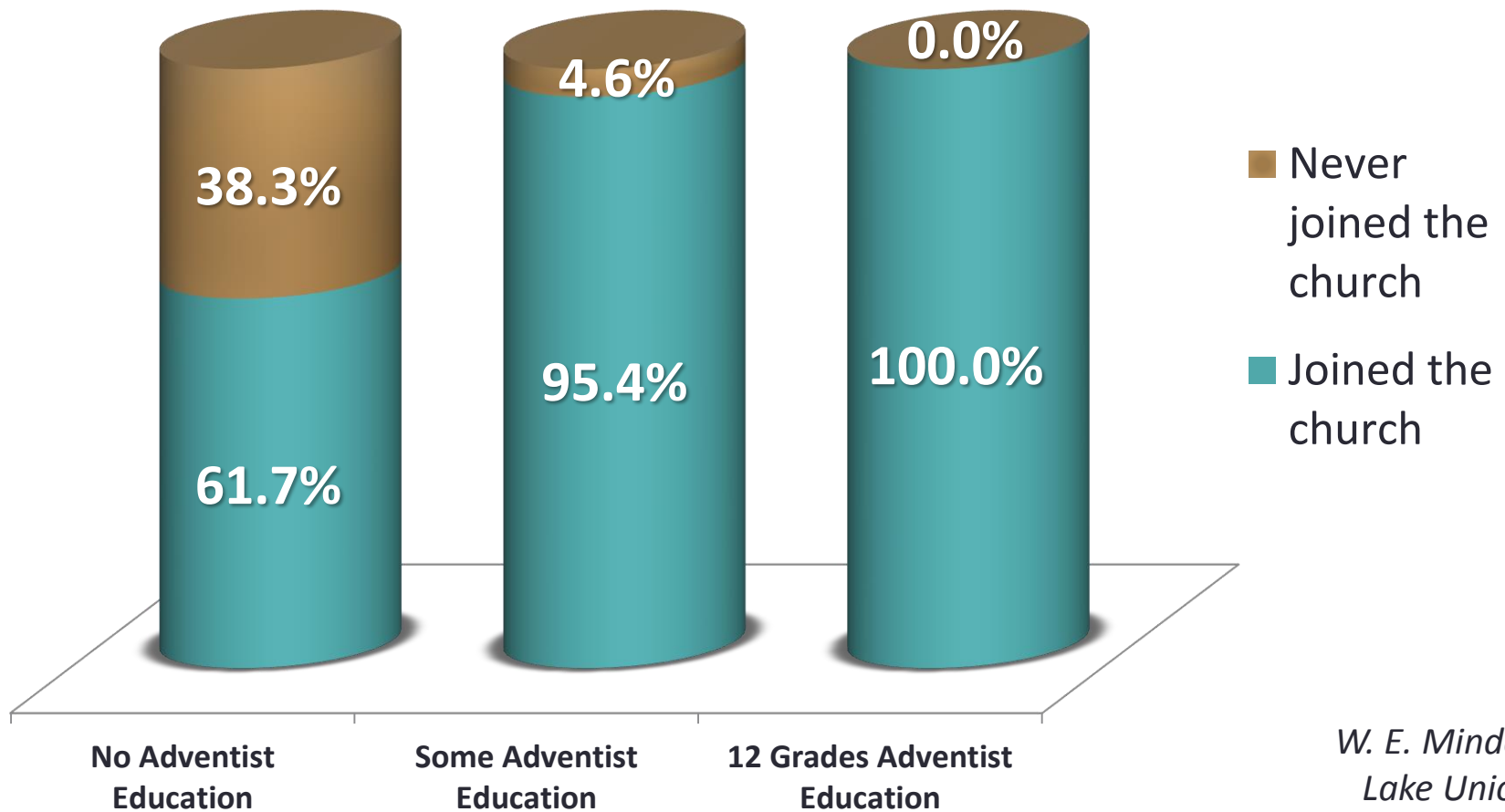
# Children from Adventist families

13x more  
likely



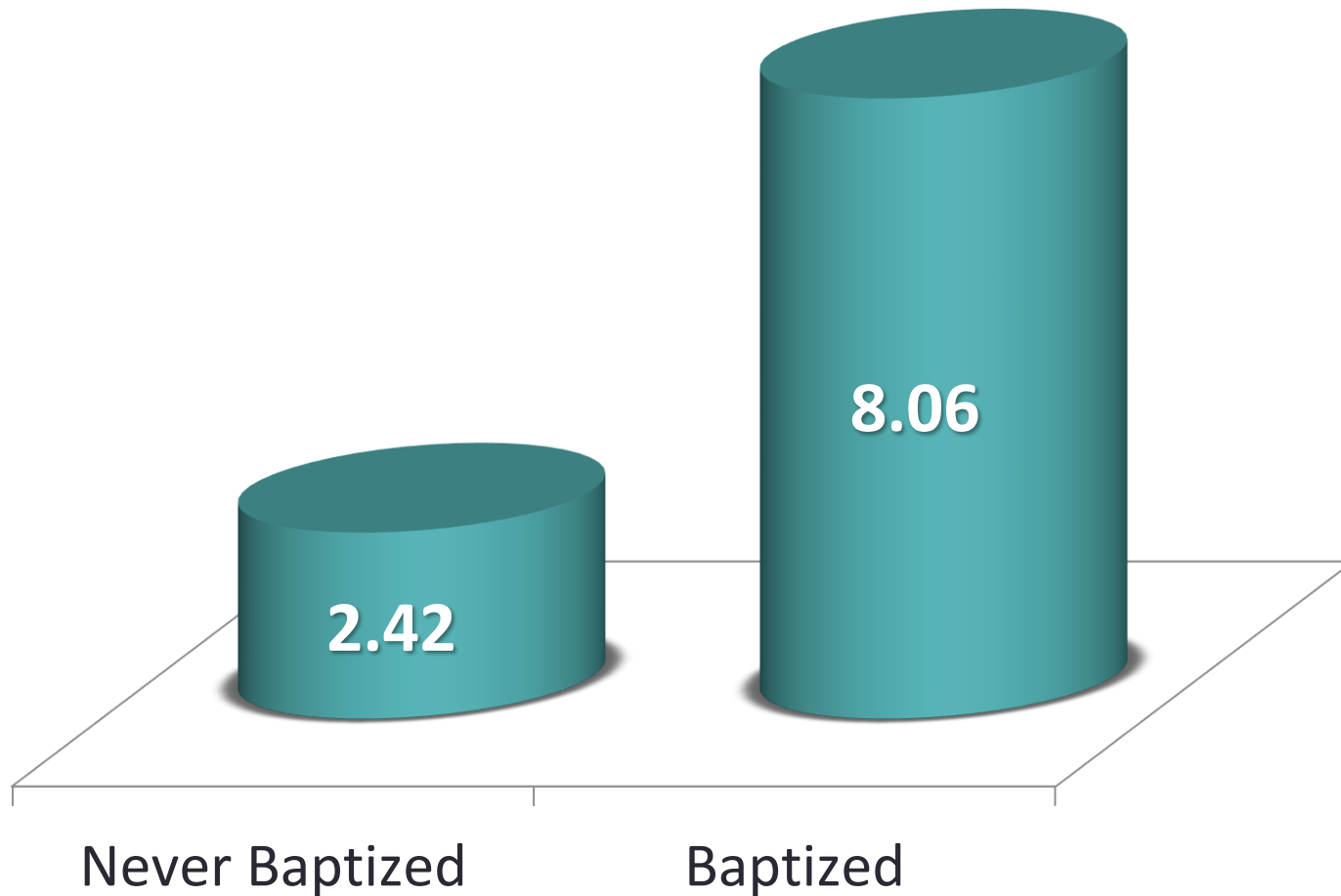
*Jim Epperson*  
*Southern Union*  
*N=844*

# Children from Adventist families



*W. E. Minder  
Lake Union  
N=807*

# Children from Adventist families



*W. E. Minder*  
*Lake Union*  
*N=807*

# Adventist Education Is Mission

**“The work  
of education  
and the work of redemption  
are one.”** *Education*, p. 30



# Adventist Education Is Mission

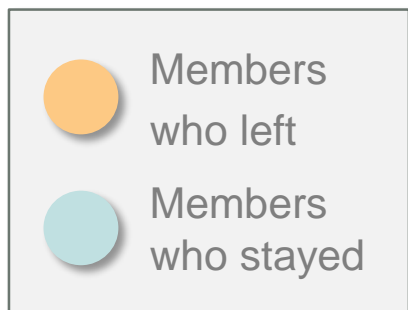
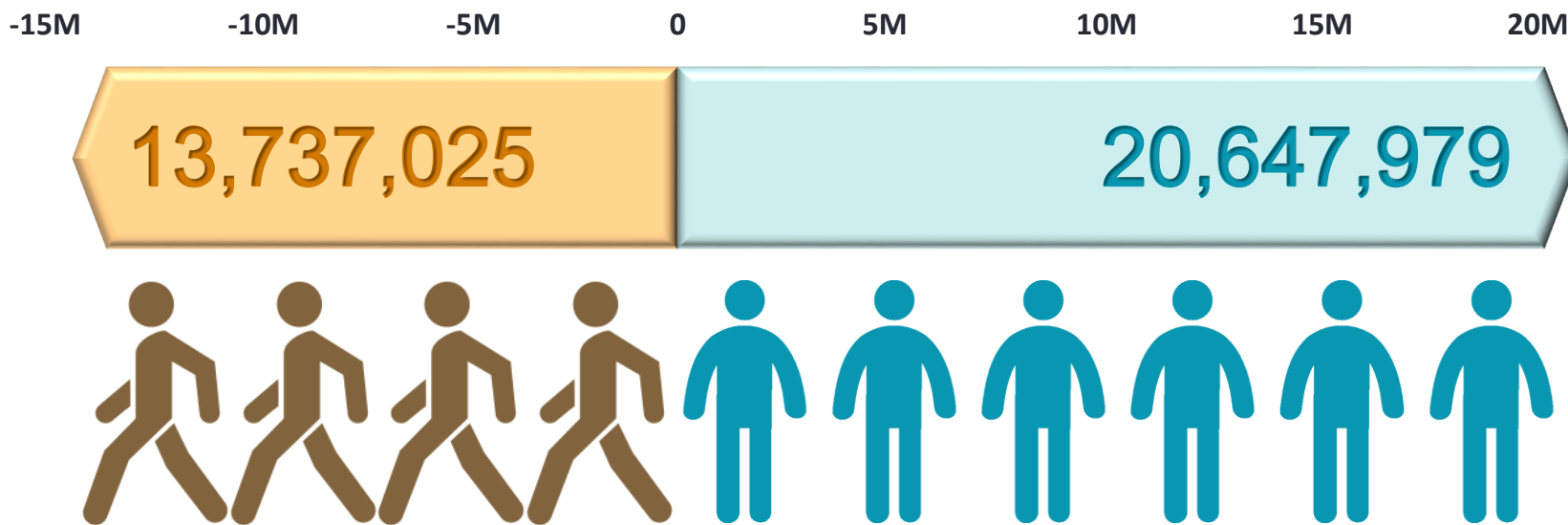
**Reaffirm** the  
**central role** of  
Adventist education  
in the **evangelistic**  
**mission** of the church

# RETENTION IN THE CHURCH

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The Role of Adventist Education

# Members who leave

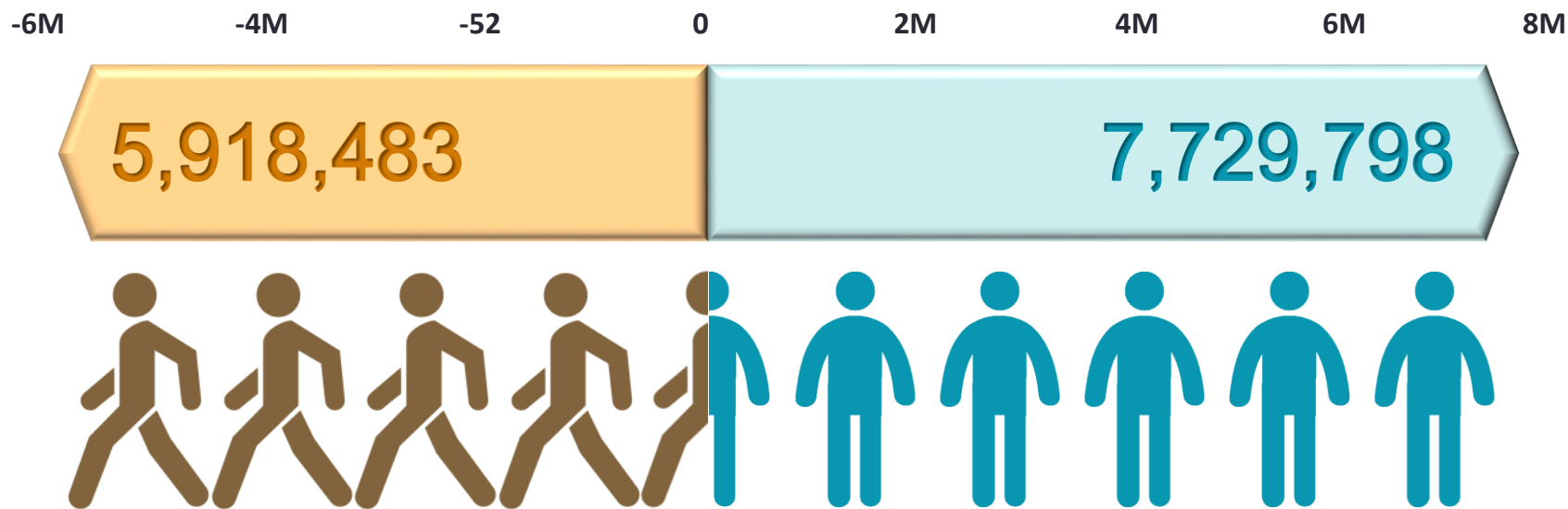


Since 1965: 34,385,004 accessions

**Net loss rate: 39.95%**

Of 10 members, 4 have slipped away.

# Members who leave



Members who left



Members who stayed

In 2000-2012, there were 13,648,281 accessions

Net loss rate: 43.36%



# Youth who leave

## Landmark “Youth Retention” study

- Over **1,500** baptized 15- and 16-year-olds
- **Representative** of Adventist youth:  
Large & small churches, small towns & big cities,  
public schools & Adventist schools, all ethnic groups
- Interviewed each year for the next **10 years**

## How many left the church by age 25-26?

Many demographic groups, approaching:

**50%**

# Youth who leave...

Not just ONE lost coin...



# But HALF of the coins!



**Where is  
the flock  
that was  
entrusted to you,  
your beautiful flock?**

Jeremiah 13:20

# Seven Studies

Span 3 decades  
3 studies since 2010

## Retention and Adventist Education:

1. Valuegenesis Study (multi-year)
2. Youth Retention Study (longitudinal)
3. Epperson Study (dissertation)
4. Rice Study (dissertation, longitudinal)
5. Minder Study (dissertation)
6. Center Creative Ministry Study (global, qual)
7. ASTR “Leaving the Church” Study (global)

# Valuegenesis Study

Data from 2,267 12<sup>th</sup>-grade Adventist students in Adventist schools showed that the more **years of Adventist schooling**, the greater the person's

- ✓ **Denomination loyalty**
- ✓ **Adventist orthodoxy**
- ✓ **Intention to remain an Adventist at age 40**

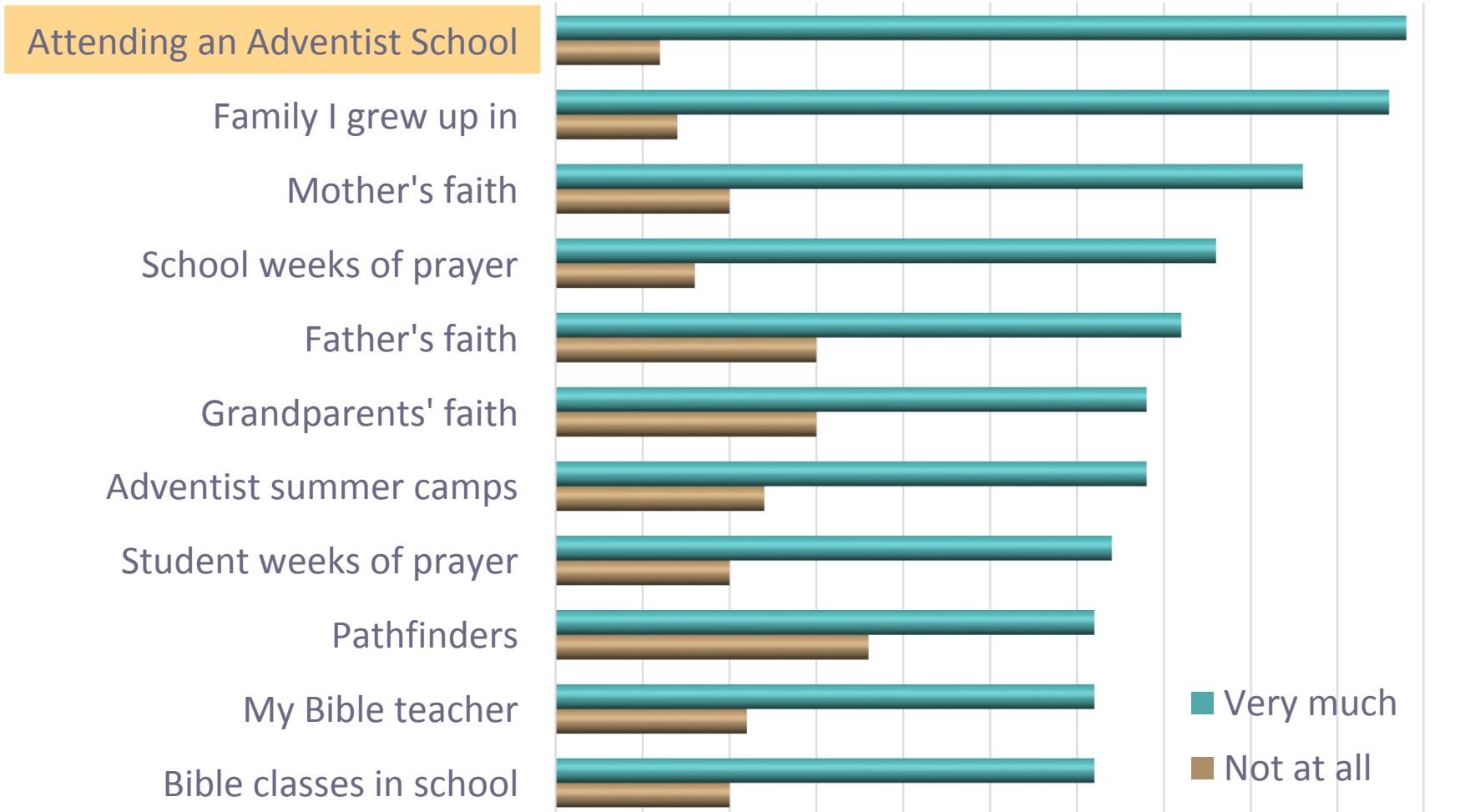
Dudley, R. (1992). *Valuegenesis: Faith in the balance*.

La Sierra University Press, Riverside, CA.

Thayer, J. (2008). Valuegenesis reanalysis. Unpublished manuscript. Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI.

# Factors that Develop Religious Faith

0% 5% 10% 15% 20% 25% 30% 35% 40% 45% 50%



-Valuegenesis3 Study (2010)

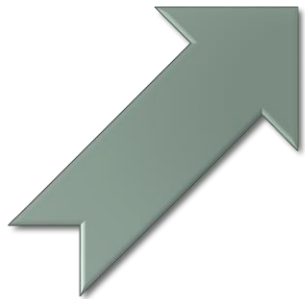
**81%** of all students said...

“Attending an Adventist school is the **most important** thing that has helped me **develop my religious faith.**”

–Valuegenesis3 Study (2010)

# Youth Retention Study

- A **10-year study** of youth (N=1523), beginning at ages 15-16
- Key finding: **Number of years** in an Adventist school was positively related to:
  - ✓ Commitment to Jesus Christ
  - ✓ My relationship with Christ is stronger now
  - ✓ Religion is important in my life
  - ✓ Personal Bible study

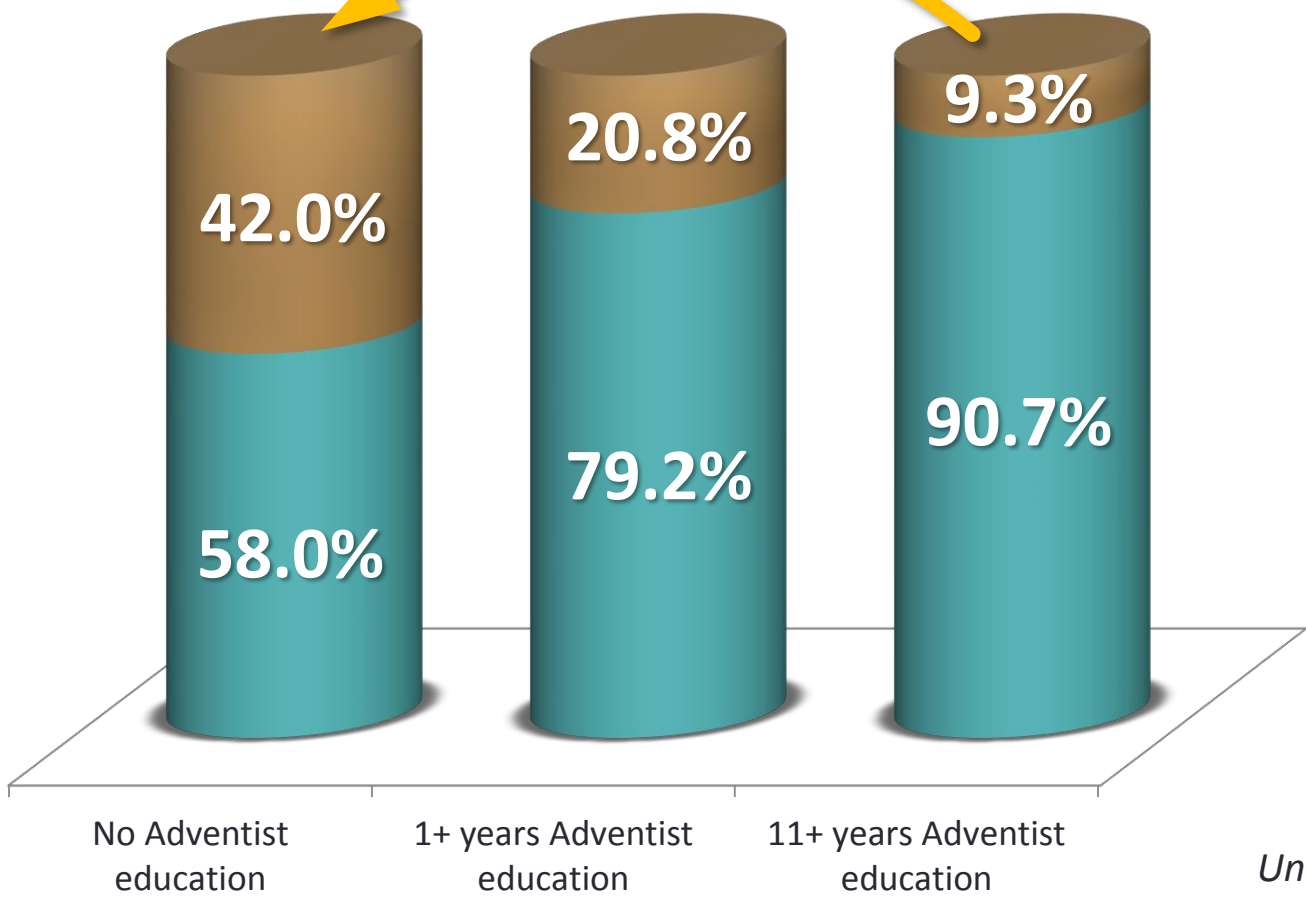




# Epperson Study

4.5x more likely

Inactive ➔ Leaving

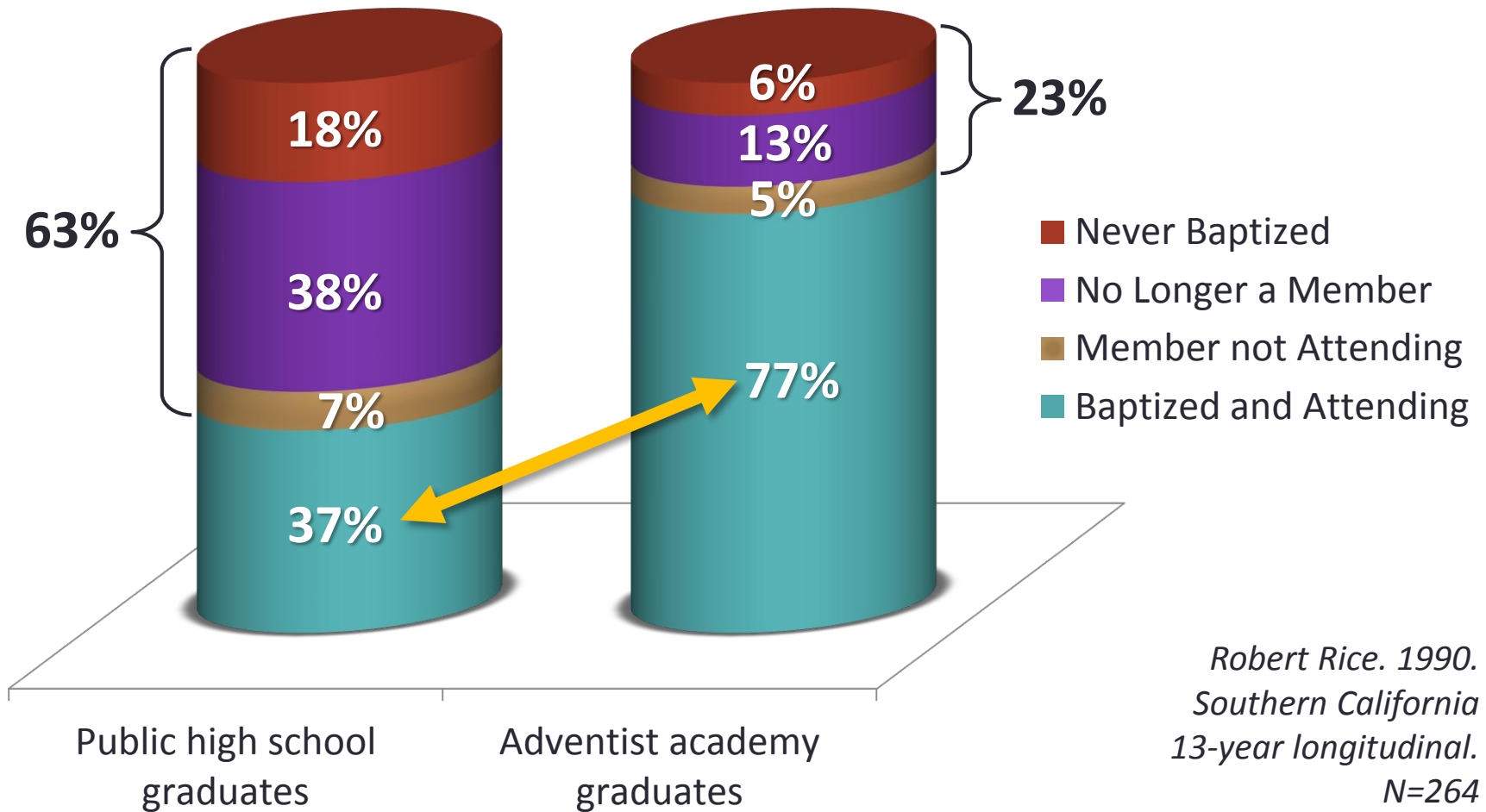


- Infrequent or no church attendance
- Regular church attendance

*Jim Epperson. 1990. Children of Southern Union Adventist families. N=844*

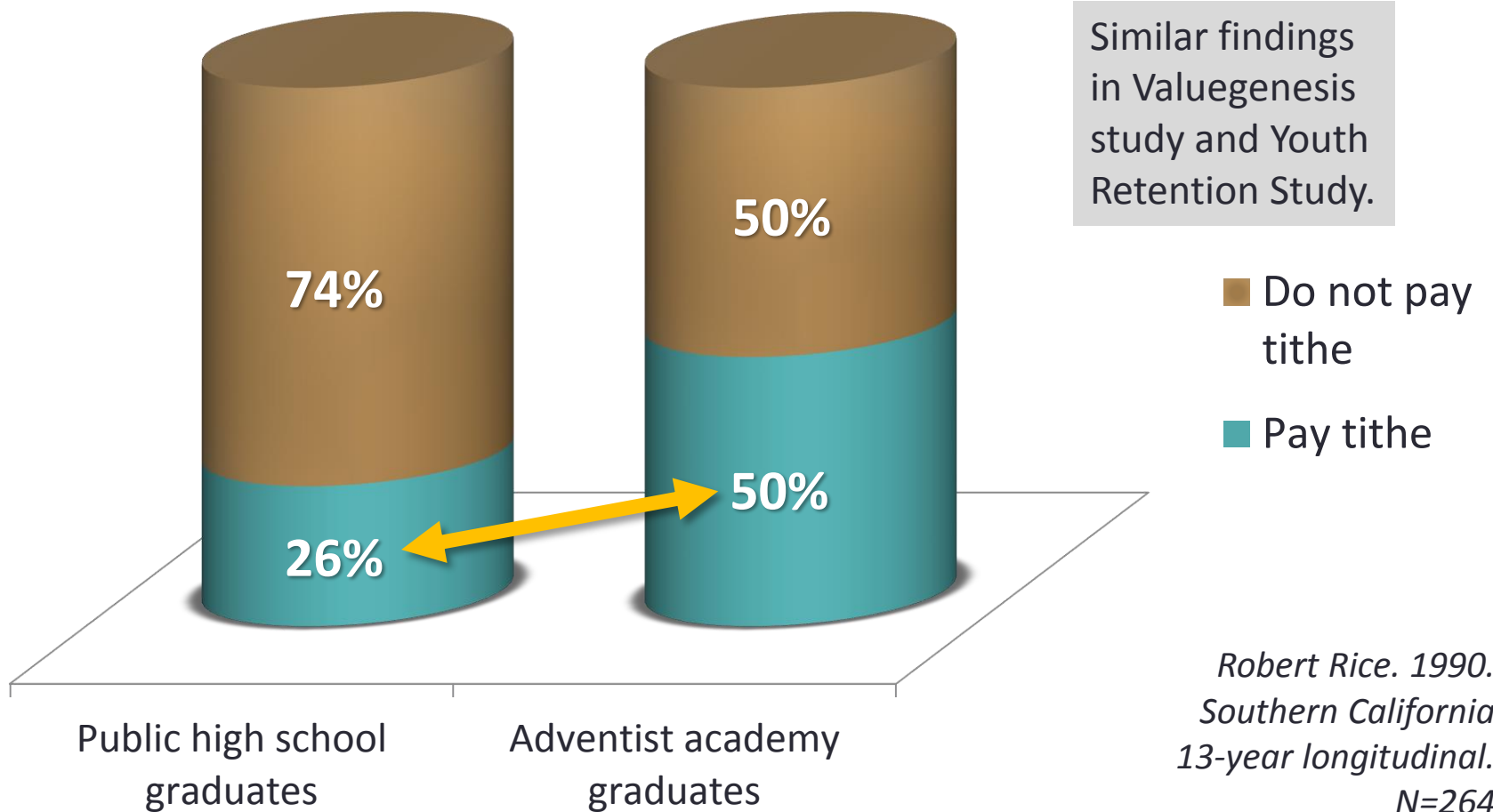
# Rice Study

## 2x more likely to stay



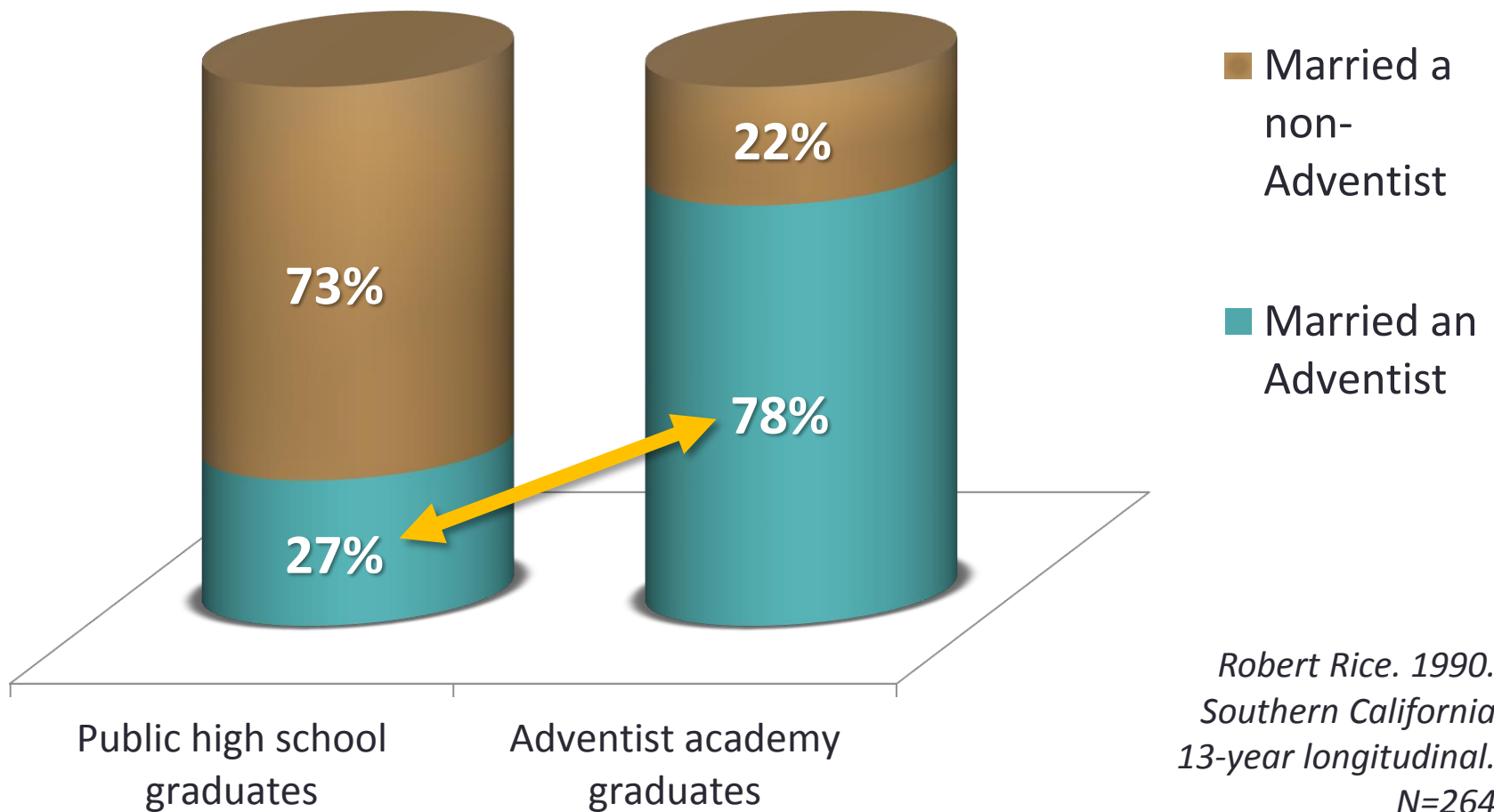
# Rice Study

## 2x more likely to pay tithe

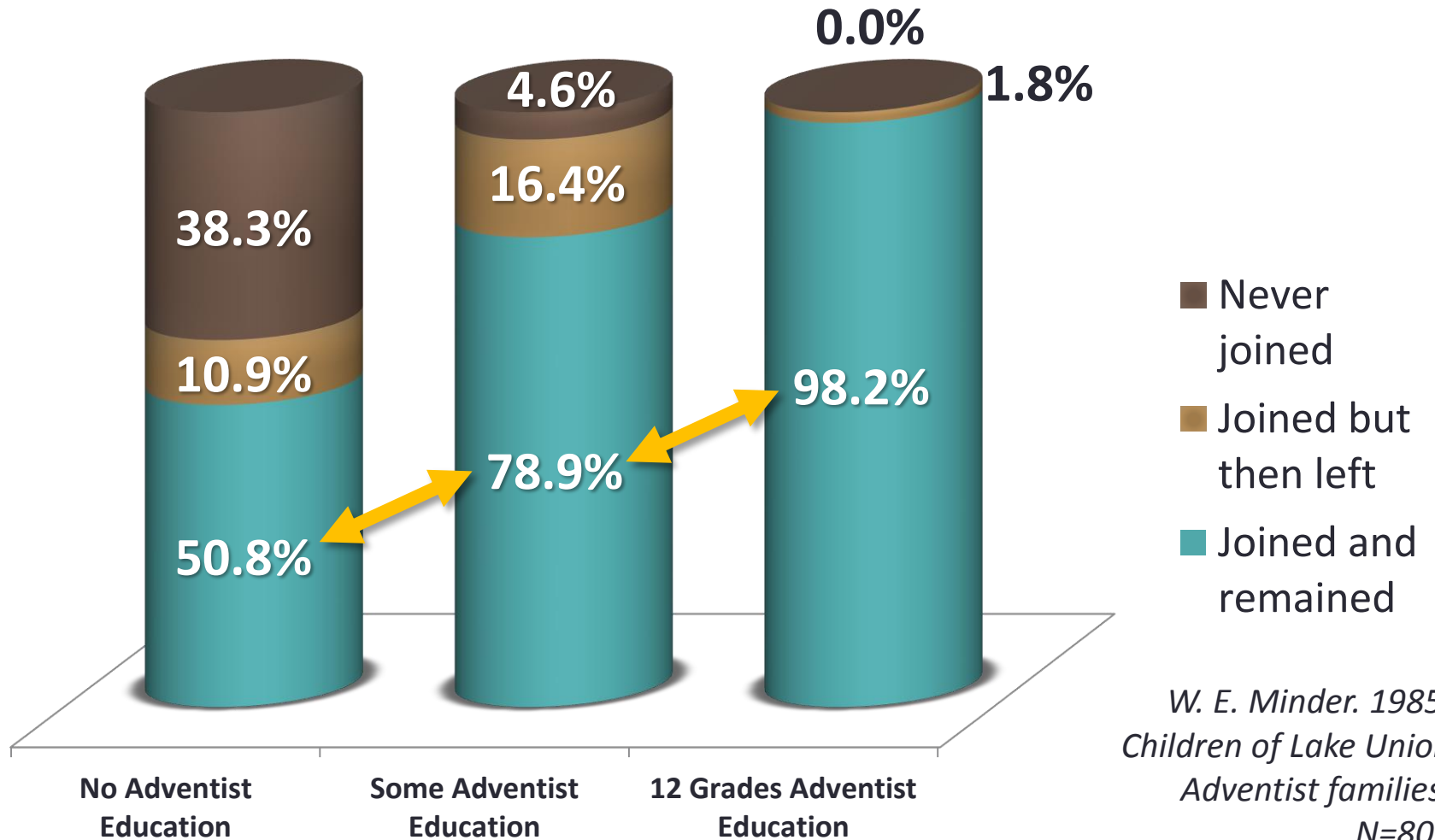


# Rice Study

## 3x more likely to marry an Adventist



# Minder Study



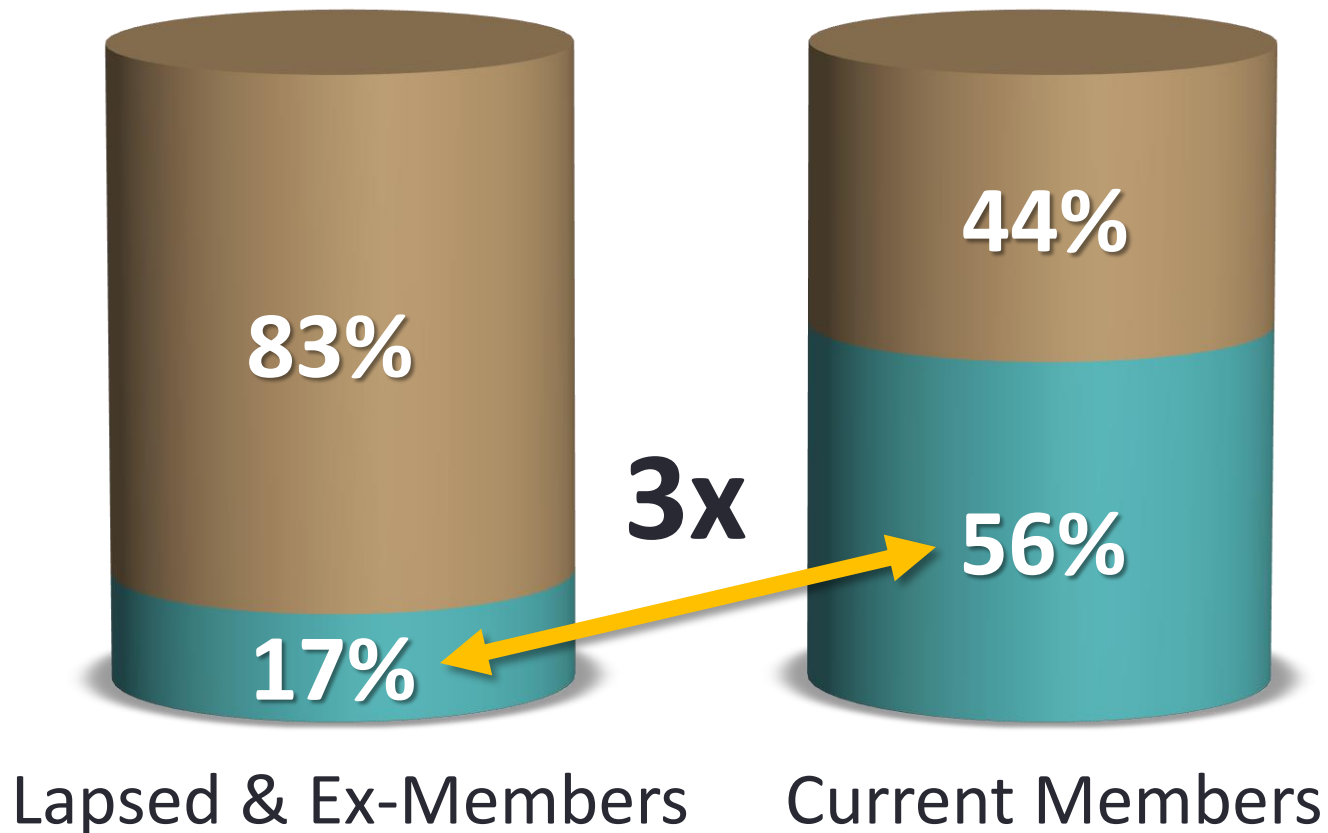
W. E. Minder. 1985. *Children of Lake Union Adventist families.* N=807

# Center for Creative Ministry Study

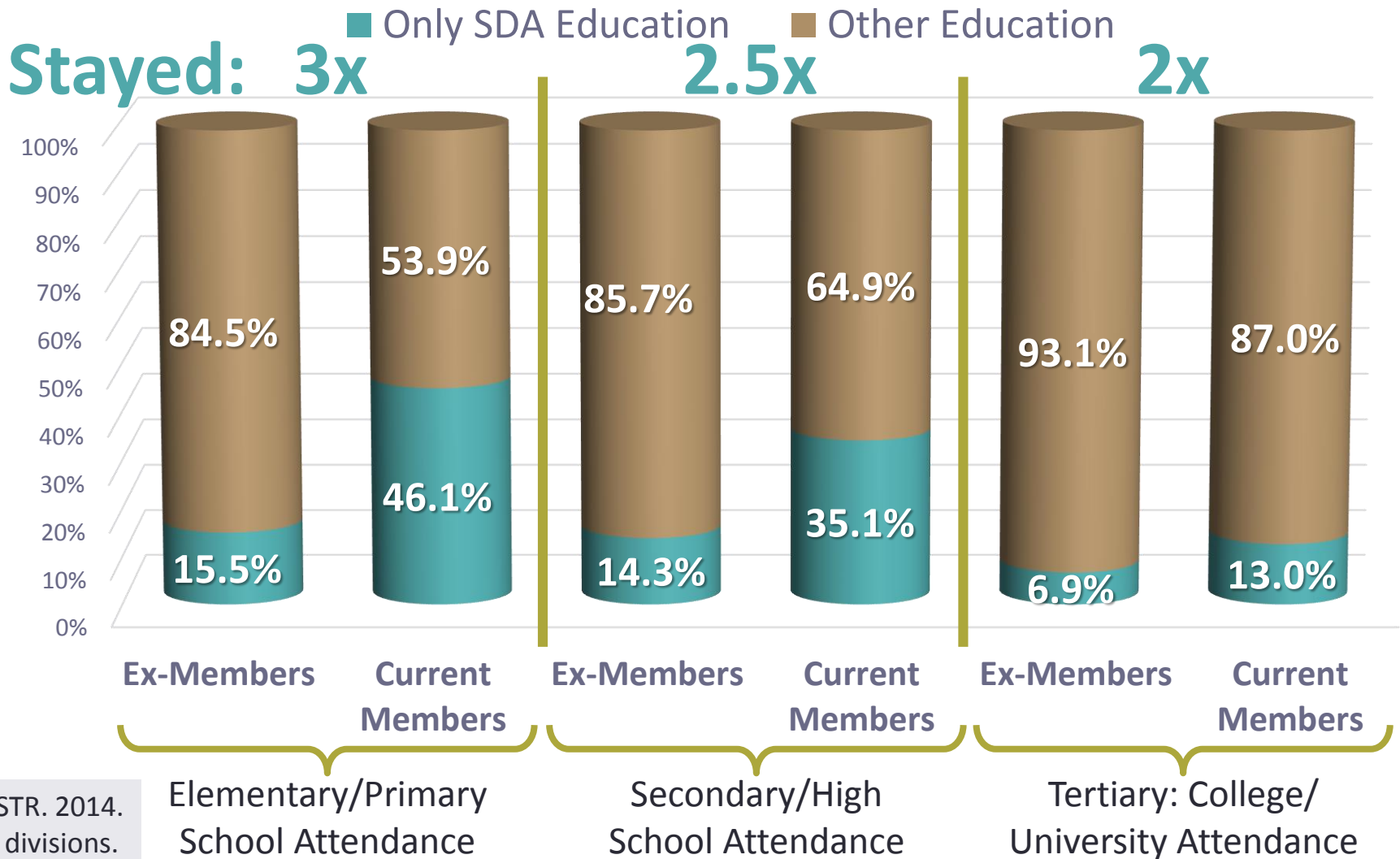
6

■ SDA Education ■ Other Education

P. Richardson, 2013.  
Qualitative. Global.  
N=925.



# ASTR “Leaving the Church” Study



ASTR. 2014.  
9 divisions.

Are the **accession**  
and the **retention**  
of children and youth  
in the Church associated  
with their participation  
in **Adventist education**?



Yes!

Consistent

Persuasive

*Train up a child  
in the way he  
should go...*

*Proverbs 22:6, NKJV*

# CONCLUSION

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# In Adventist Education

Children and youth experience...



“In the **highest sense**, the work of **education** and the work of **redemption** are **one**.”

*Education*, p. 30

**All** your children  
shall be taught  
**by God.**

And great  
shall be the  
**peace**  
of your  
children.

Isaiah 54:13

TAUGHT  
BY GOD

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THROUGH



**Adventist Education**