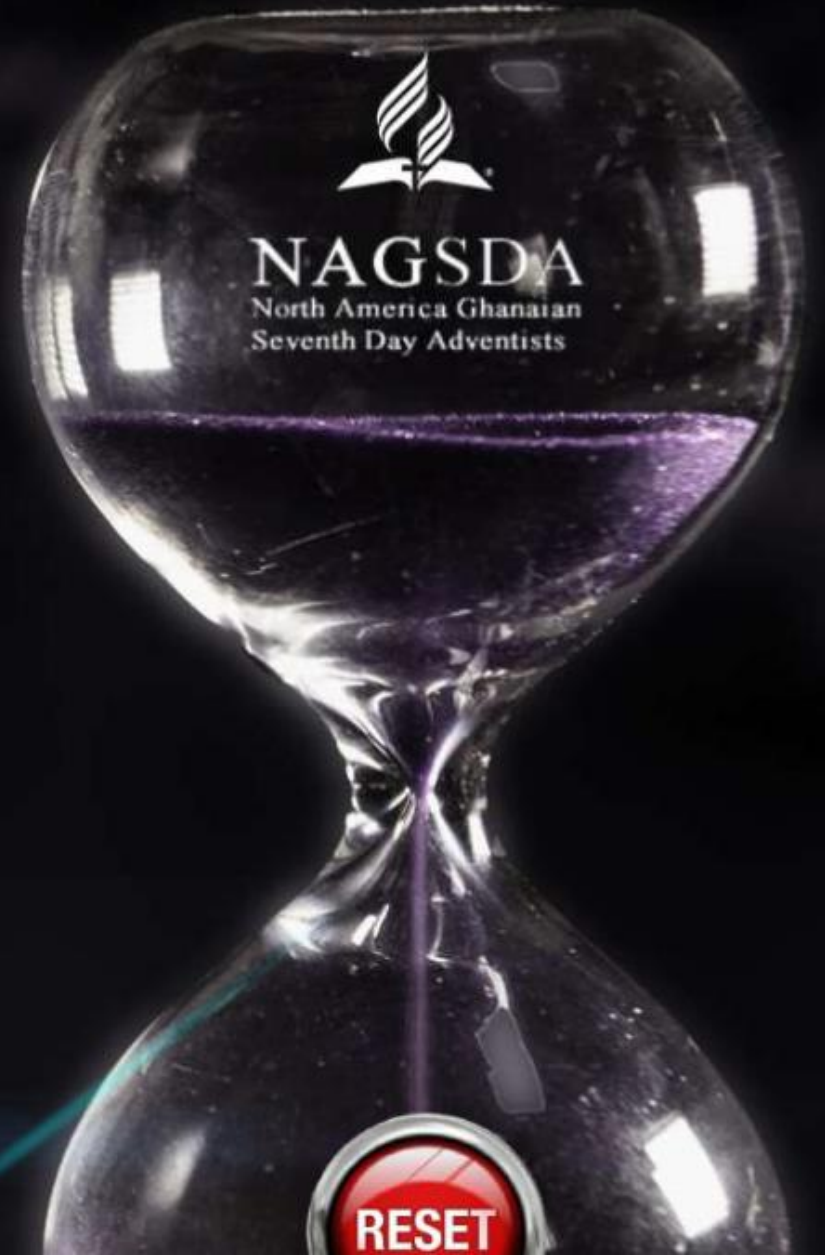





VIRTUAL
LEADERSHIP
WORKSHOP

**ON YOUTH & YOUNG
ADULTS MINISTRIES**


TIME

to





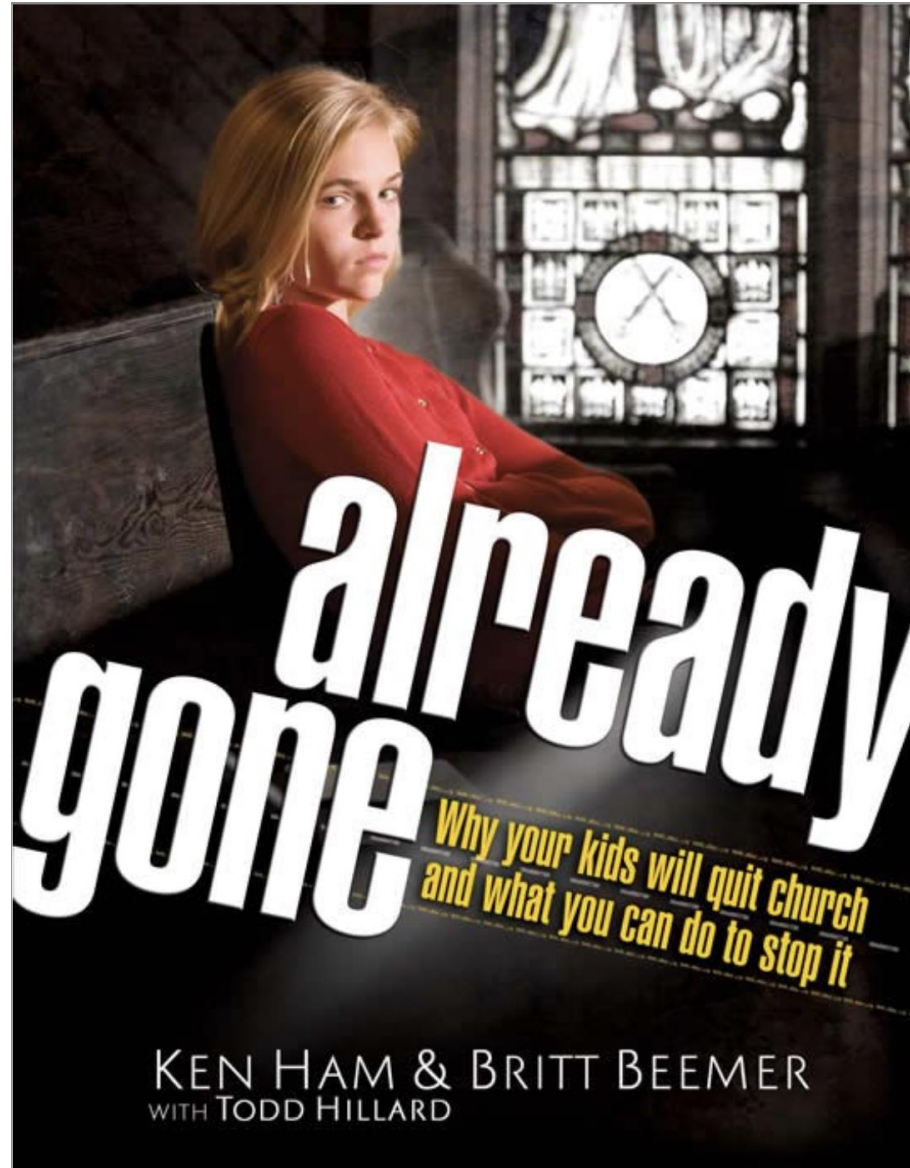
Going or Gone – Who, Why and Where?
Pastor Derick Asare Adu




Approach




Framing the problem Sociologically
And Biblically



KEN HAM & BRITT BEEMER
WITH TODD HILLARD



The top 10 reasons were:

1. 12% Boring service
 2. 12% Legalism
 3. 11% Hypocrisy of leaders
 4. 10% Too political
 5. 9% Self-righteous people
 6. 7% Distance from home
 7. 6% Not relevant to personal growth
 8. 6% God would not condemn to hell
 9. 5% Bible not relevant/not practical
 10. 5% Couldn't find my preferred denomination in the area
- 

David Kinnaman
CEO of Barna Group
Research and Communications
Company





YOU LOST ME.

Why Young Christians Are Leaving Church...

And Rethinking Faith

#1 Overprotective

They see the church “as a creativity killer where risk-taking and being involved in culture are anathema” (p. 92).

<https://aaronarmstrong.co/book-review-you-lost-me-by-david-kinnaman/>

#2 Shallow—having been fed a steady diet of “easy platitudes, proof texting and formulaic slogans,” they don’t see how their faith connects to every facet of life and how their passions, gifts and abilities can be used for God’s glory.

<https://aaronarmstrong.co/book-review-you-lost-me-by-david-kinnaman/>

#3 Antiscience—they see faith and science are incompatible, even finding that “science appears to welcome questions and skepticism, while matters of faith seem impenetrable” (p. 93).

<https://aaronarmstrong.co/book-review-you-lost-me-by-david-kinnaman/>

#4 Repressive—Religious rules—particularly sexual mores—feel stifling to the individualist mindset of young adults,” Kinnaman writes. “Consequently they perceive the church as repressive.”

<https://aaronarmstrong.co/book-review-you-lost-me-by-david-kinnaman/>

#5 Exclusive—Christianity’s claim to exclusivity is a hard sell, simply because of how this generation has been shaped by “a culture that esteems open-mindedness, tolerance, and acceptance.”

<https://aaronarmstrong.co/book-review-you-lost-me-by-david-kinnaman/>

#6 Doubtless—they don't believe the church is a safe place to express doubts or admit that their faith doesn't always make sense. “[M]any feel that the church’s response to doubt is trivial and fact focused, as if people can be talked out of doubting.”

<https://aaronarmstrong.co/book-review-you-lost-me-by-david-kinnaman/>

Adventist



Why Are so Many Leaving the Church?

Published on: 02-21-2020

is name was Mark — a young Austrian in his early twenties. I met him



COMMENTARY JANUARY 21, 2022

'Why Do They Walk Away?' The Heart Cry of Adventist Parents

David Trim, Ph.D., is director of the Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research at the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



<https://adventistreview.org/commentary/why-do-they-walk-away-the-heart-cry-of-adventist-parents/>

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is **losing its young people**. This is true **virtually everywhere**, though it's particularly true in the “Global North” of economically advanced, secular countries with postmodern or post-religious cultures. But it's a fact everywhere: **our children are leaving our faith**.

<https://adventistreview.org/commentary/why-do-they-walk-away-the-heart-cry-of-adventist-parents/>

Everywhere the
Seventh-day Adventist
church experiences **high**
loss rates.



We have more than 50 years of detailed data on those who join the church (by baptism and profession of faith); on deaths; and on those who leave the church, whether by being dropped from membership or who, when membership records are reviewed, are “missing.”

Loss Rate: **41%**



Two out of five church members choose to leave the Adventist Church

During that half-century and more, our loss rate is 41 percent, not including deaths. It's living members who leave our church family—which is always to some extent volitional, even where the departure is involuntary (through disfellowshipping), for the member chose to act in ways that brought about separation. In other cases (where members ask to be dropped from membership or we don't know what happened to them), the literal disconnect is quite obviously voluntary.

How many of the 41% are youth and young adults?

Interview of ex-Adventists:

“Nevertheless, it’s striking that **62.5 percent** stated that they were young adults when they ceased being a church member.”



The disparity between records and reality on the grounds



Between church records and reality the eAdventist membership system, which is used by the NAD, shows larger numbers of teenagers and twenty-somethings than surveys do. However, while baptisms are regularly added to eAdventist, in many cases the data hasn't been audited since.



Many of the young people who were baptized and are recorded as being members *no longer attend* and, in their own minds, are no longer Seventh-day Adventists. Our official records haven't caught up with the reality.



The **database records the theory**; the **surveys the actuality**. In other words, it's evident that the Church in North America has a major problem keeping young people in the Church.



Culture News

Church resolves to grow young, engage youth

👤 Jarrod Stackelroth 📅 June 1, 2018 ⌚ 11:24 am 👁 919

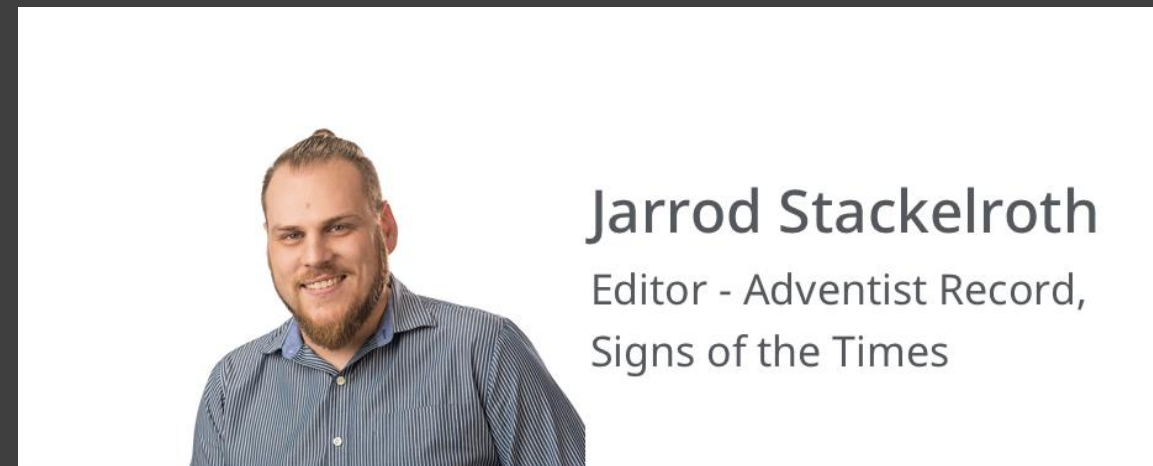
<https://record.adventistchurch.com/2018/06/01/church-resolves-to-grow-young-engage-youth/>

Adventist Record NEWS FAITH COMMUNITY CULTURE HEALTH COLUMNS

Culture News

Church resolves to grow young, engage youth

© Jarrod Stackelroth 📅 June 1, 2018 ⌚ 11:24 am 👁 919



<https://record.adventistchurch.com/2018/06/01/church-resolves-to-grow-young-engage-youth/>

Culture

News

Church resolves to grow young, engage youth

👤 Jarrod Stackelroth 📅 June 1, 2018 ⌚ 11:24 am 👁 919

Jeff Parker, youth director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia:

“Around 62 percent of young people who attend church leave before they’re 30.”



The Search for Reasons

All the evidence we have, then, from older, general membership statistics, from new and detailed membership statistics, and from surveys of Church members and former members, is telling us that we as Seventh-day Adventists have a problem keeping our youth. We are losing our children. And that's true everywhere.



The Search for Reasons

Evidence from the global surveys of Church members in 2013 and 2018



The Search for Reasons

One of the more striking **findings of both the 2013 and the 2018 global Church Member Surveys** was the very low incidence of family worship.

Figure 1. Frequency of Family Worship, 2013 Global Church Member Survey (n = 26,809)[5]

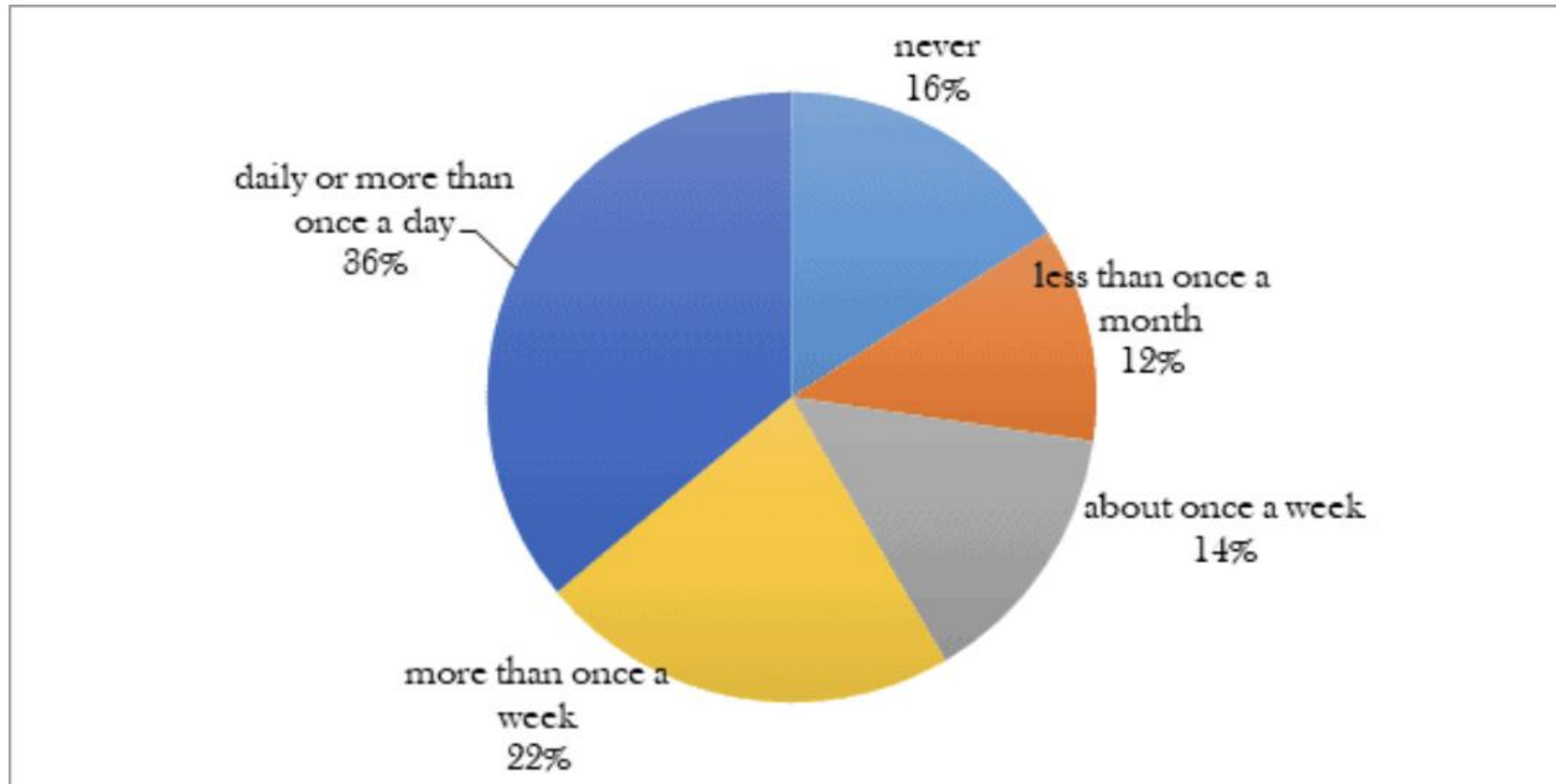
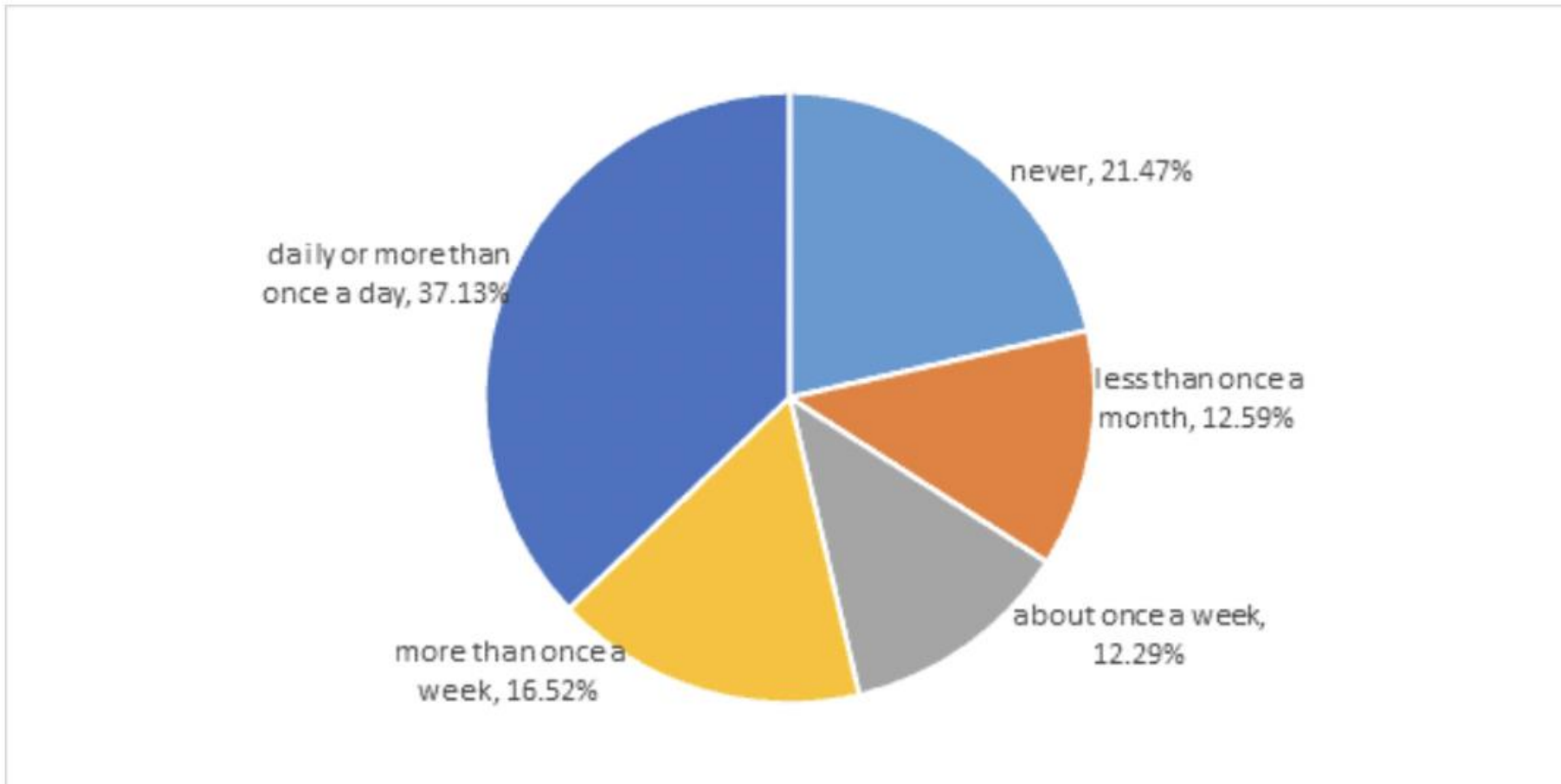


Figure 2. Frequency of Family Worship, 2018 Global Church Member Survey (n = 56,850)^[7]





Why Our Teenagers Leave the Church

Personal Stories
From a 10-year Study



ROGER L. DUDLEY

ALIENATION

A major theme shared by the dropouts was that they feel unaccepted by their churches. Many described their churches as very “cold,” “aloof,” and “unfriendly” places.

IRRELEVANCE

Hand in hand with the feelings of alienation and unacceptance, a vast majority of the young adults who dropped out responded that they *didn't think their church made a difference in their lives.* **They perceived the church as either not interested or simply clueless to their generation's needs.** "Nothing for my age," "lack of activities for young adults," and "boring" are representative comments.

IRRELEVANCE

Another responded similarly: “Lack of interest by myself. Lack of attention by the church to me. I felt the church offered nothing to me personally.”

IRRELEVANCE

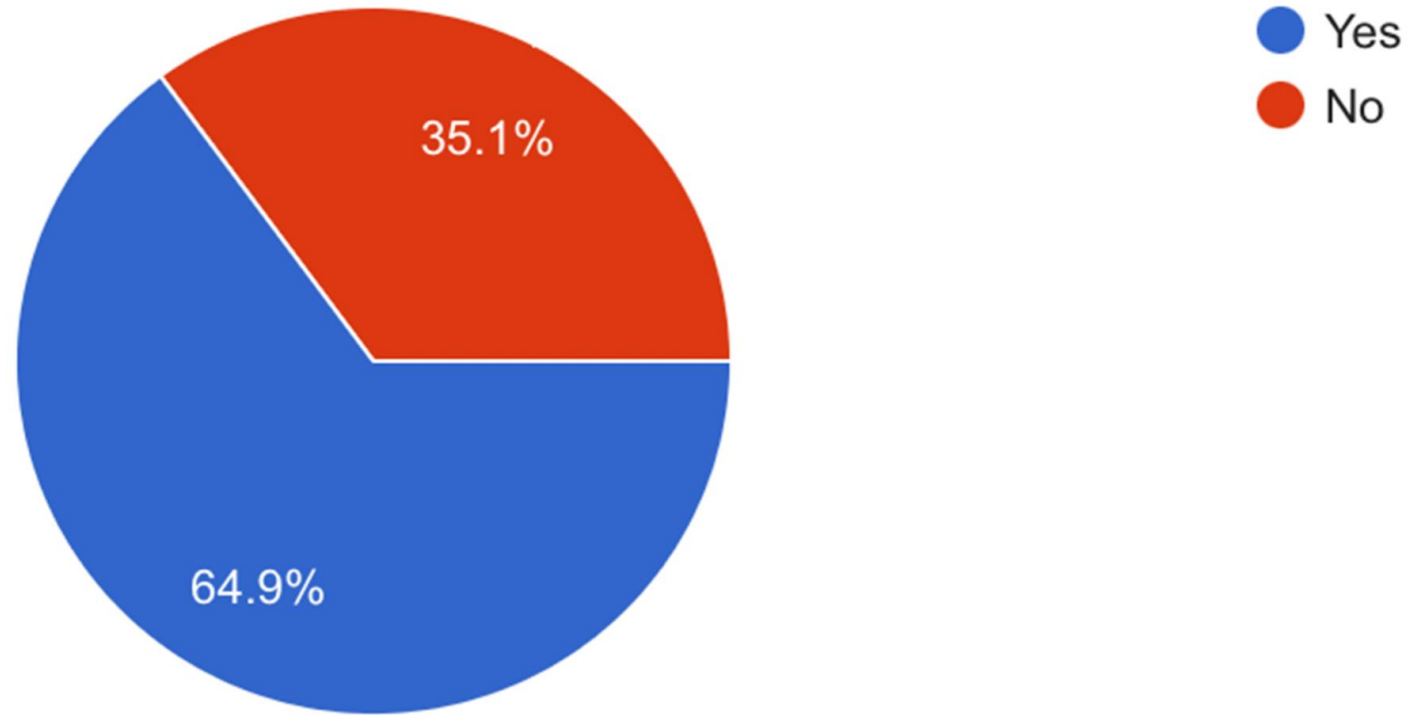
One youth wrote, "I got tired of sitting through sermons that I had heard hundreds of times. There is so much I want to know about God, but I never find any of it out at church." Another agreed: "The sermons were too shallow, and I wasn't getting any deep food. I've been in the church all my life and know most of the 'superficial stuff.'"

INTOLERANCE

A common theme among many of the dropouts involves a sensitivity to and a distaste for the intolerant attitudes they perceive in the church. A number feel very uncomfortable with the image they see their church projecting as the *only true church* that is "holier than thou."

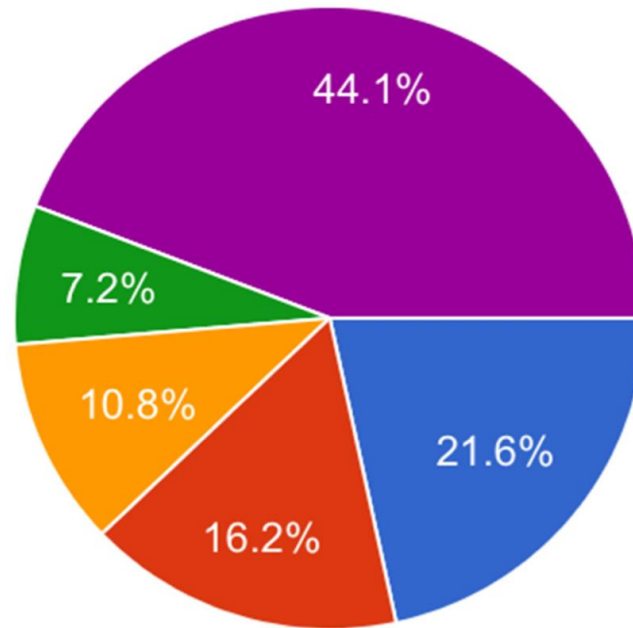
Do you have a daily personal devotion?

111 responses



Do you desire to hold a position as a leader in the church?

111 responses

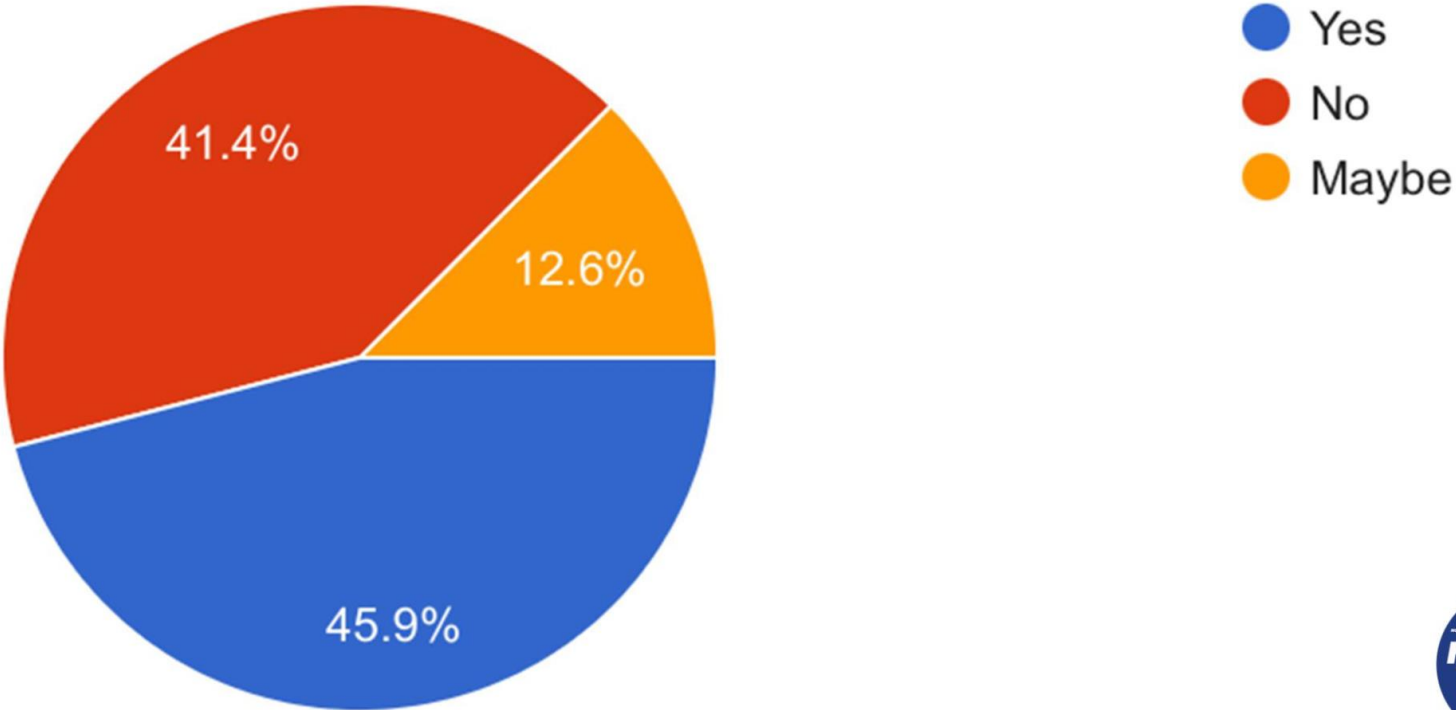


- Yes
- No
- Maybe
- Not sure
- I am already a leader



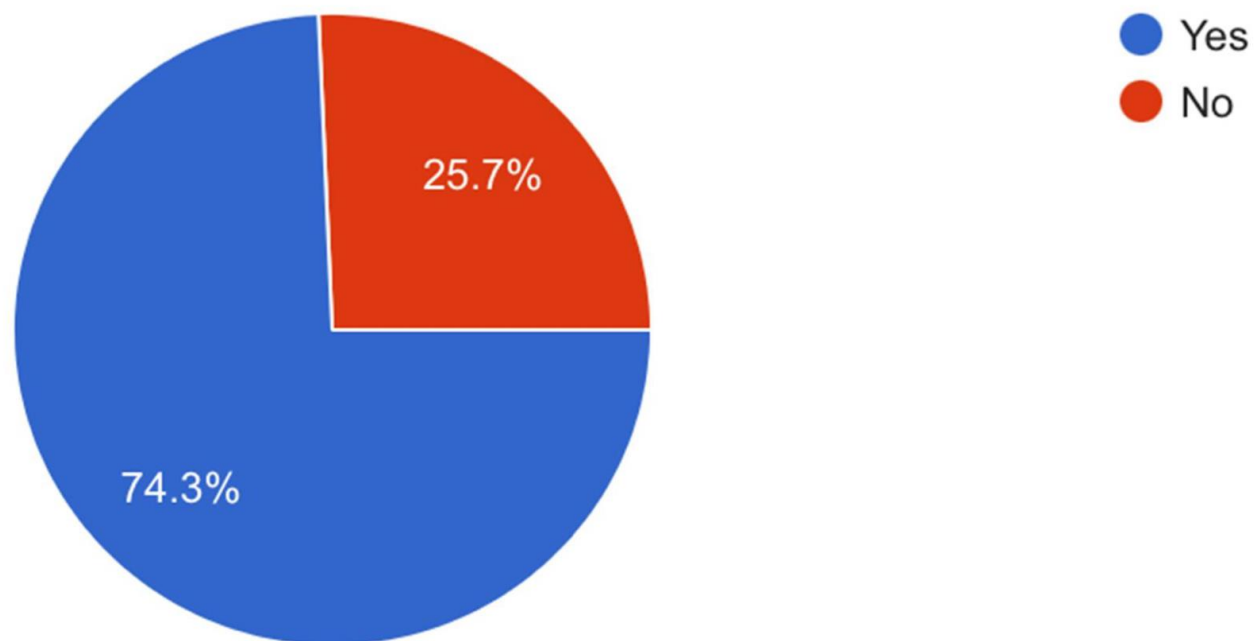
Do you have a mentor in your local church or elsewhere?

111 responses



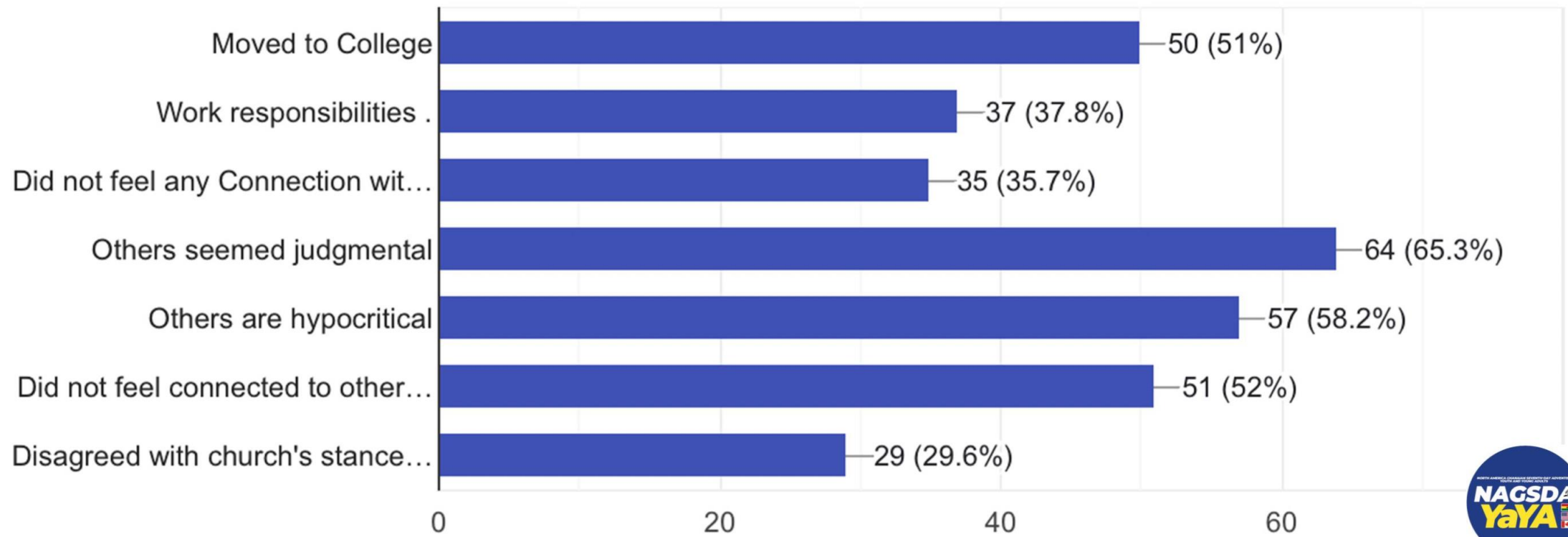
Do you know of a YaYA who is no longer attending a Ghanaian Seventh-day Adventist church?

109 responses



What do these people say are the reasons they no longer attend a Ghanaian Seventh-day Adventist church? (Select all that apply)

98 responses



What do you like most about our Church services, programs and meetings?

82 responses

Music

Songs

Friendly gestures shown by the leadership and members

Bible discussion

Musiccccc

The feeling of being at home and comfortable

Youth praise and worship

Friendliness but it's now missing

Music, togetherness (sometimes)



What improvements do you want to see in connection with our church services, programs and meetings?

111 responses

More youth involvement

N/a

Service time too long and I think should be re-looked at

Youth and young Adults involved in the church activities

Our church needs a pastor and more social activities

Change in service structure

More honesty, more openness, talking about difficult conversations. More support for youth financially.

Community

Youth leadership



Missing Piece



All the data and analyses are *mostly silent* on what Scripture has to say on the three possible traps that lead to backsliding/dropout/possible loss

Missing Piece



All other books can inform but only the
Word of God can transform!

Reference Effects of the Fall

The Missing Piece



Framing the problem Sociologically
Pros and Cons

Missing Piece



According to the Scriptures,
how would professed people
behave in the last days?

Reference Effects of the Fall

Missing Piece

Matthew 13

There are reasons why people went,
why people go, and why people will go

Missing Piece

Food for Thought

There are likely reason why you and I
may loose one of the people
committed to your care . . .

Meaning of the Soil

This refers to the heart of all hearers

Wayside

Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: “Behold, a sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seed *fell by the wayside*; and the birds came and devoured them.

Matt. 13:3-4

Stony Places

Some fell on *stony places*, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because *they had no depth of earth*. 6 But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away.

Matt. 13:5-6

Thorny Places

And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. Matt. 13:7

Good Soil

But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

Matt. 13:8

Purpose of the Parable

From the natural seed cast into the soil, Christ desires to lead our minds to the gospel seed, the sowing of which *results in bringing man back to his loyalty to God.*

- Christ Object Lesson, p. 33.

Wayside

“The sower soweth the word.” Here is presented the great principle which should underlie all educational work. “The seed is the word of God.” *But in too many schools of our day God’s word is set aside. Other subjects occupy the mind.* The study of infidel authors holds a large place in the educational system. Skeptical sentiments are interwoven in the matter placed in school books. Scientific research becomes misleading, because its discoveries are misinterpreted and perverted.

- Christ Object Lesson, p. 41.

Wayside

“The word of God is compared with the supposed teachings of science, and is made to appear uncertain and untrustworthy. Thus the seeds of doubt are planted in the minds of the youth, and in time of temptation they spring up. ***When faith in God’s word is lost***, the ***soul has no guide***, no ***safeguard***.

- Christ Object Lesson, p. 41.

Wayside

“The seed sown by the wayside *represents the word of God* as it falls upon the heart of an *inattentive hearer*. Like the hard-beaten path, trodden down by the feet of men and beasts, is the heart that becomes a highway for the world’s traffic, its pleasures and sins.

- Christ Object Lesson, p. 44.

Wayside

Satan has many helpers. Many who profess to be Christians are aiding the tempter to catch away the seeds of truth from other hearts. *Many who listen to the preaching of the word of God make it the subject of criticism at home.* They sit in judgment on the sermon as they would on the words of a lecturer or a political speaker. *The message that should be regarded as the word of the Lord to them is dwelt upon with trifling or sarcastic comment.* - Christ Object Lesson, p. 44.

Wayside

Often these things are spoken by parents [46] in the hearing of their own children. Thus are destroyed respect for God's messengers, and reverence for their message. And ***many are taught to regard lightly God's word itself.*** Thus in the homes of professed Christians *many youth are educated to be infidels.*

- Christ Object Lesson, p. 45-46.

Stony Place Hearers

The roots of the plant strike down deep into the soil, and hidden from sight nourish the life of the plant. So with the Christian; it is by the ***invisible union of the soul with Christ***, through faith, that the spiritual life is nourished. But the stony-ground hearers depend upon self instead of Christ. They trust in their good works and good impulses, and are strong in their own righteousness. ***They are not strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.*** Such a one “hath not root in himself”; for he is not connected with Christ.

- Christ Object Lesson, p. 47.

Stony Place Hearers

Many receive the gospel as a way of escape from suffering, rather than as a deliverance from sin. They rejoice for a season, for they think that religion will free them from difficulty and trial. While life moves smoothly with them, they may appear to be consistent Christians. But they faint beneath the fiery test of temptation. They cannot bear reproach for Christ's sake. ***When the word of God points out some cherished sin, or requires self-denial or sacrifice, they are offended.*** It [48] would cost them too much effort to make a radical change in their life. They look at the present inconvenience and trial, and forget the eternal realities. Like the disciples who left Jesus, they are ready to say, "This is an hard saying; who can hear it?" John 6:60.

- Christ Object Lesson, p. 47-48.

Stony Place Hearers

There are very many who claim to serve God, but who have no experimental knowledge of Him. Their desire to do His will is based upon their own inclination, not upon the deep conviction of the Holy Spirit. Their conduct is not brought into harmony with the law of God. They profess to accept Christ as their Saviour, but they do not believe that He will give them power to overcome their sins. They have not a personal relation with a living Saviour, and their characters reveal defects both hereditary and cultivated.

- Christ Object Lesson, p. 45-46.

Thorny Hearers

The gospel seed often falls among thorns and noxious weeds; and **if there is not** a moral transformation in the human heart, **if old habits and practices** and the former life of sin are not left behind, **if the attributes of Satan** are not expelled from the soul, the wheat crop will be choked. The thorns will come to be the crop, and will kill out the wheat.

- Christ Object Lesson, p. 50.

Thorny Hearers

Christ specified *the things that are dangerous to the soul*. As recorded by Mark He mentions the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things. Luke specifies the cares, riches, and pleasures of this life. These are what choke the word, the growing spiritual seed. The soul ceases to draw nourishment from Christ, and spirituality dies out of the heart.

- Christ Object Lesson, p. 51.

Deceitfulness of Riches

Many who might be fruitful in God's service become *bent on acquiring wealth*. Their whole energy is absorbed in business enterprises, and they feel obliged to neglect things of a spiritual nature. Thus they separate themselves from God.

- Christ Object Lesson, p. 51.

Deceitfulness of Riches

Christians must work, they must engage in business, and they can do this without committing sin. But many become so absorbed in business that they have no time for prayer, no time for the study of the Bible, no time to seek and serve God.

- Christ Object Lesson, p. 51.

Deceitfulness of Riches

At times the longings of the soul go out for holiness and heaven; but there [52] is no time to turn aside from the din of the world to listen to the majestic and authoritative utterances of the Spirit of God. The things of eternity are made subordinate, the things of the world supreme. *It is impossible for the seed of the word to bring forth fruit; for the life of the soul is given to nourish the thorns of worldliness.*

- Christ Object Lesson, p. 51.

Lust of Other Things

“And the lusts of other things.” These are not necessarily things sinful in themselves, but something that is made first instead of the kingdom of God. Whatever attracts the mind from God, whatever draws the affections away from Christ, is an enemy to the soul.

- Christ Object Lesson, p. 51.

Conclusion

“Cares, riches, pleasures, all are used by Satan in playing the game of life for the human soul. The warning is given, “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.” 1 John 2:15, 16.

- Christ Object Lesson, p. 51.

Sober Assessment

“In every case the sower and the seed are the same. Thus He teaches that *if the word of God fails of accomplishing its work in our hearts and lives, the reason is to be found in ourselves. But the result is not beyond our control.* True, we cannot change ourselves; but the power of choice is ours, and it rests with us to determine what we will become.

- Christ Object Lesson, p. 56.

What Can We Do?

What Can We Do?

“So the sowers have something to do that the seed may not be choked with thorns or perish because of shallowness of soil.”

- Christ Object Lesson, p. 57.

What Can We Do?

At the very outset of the Christian life every [58] believer should be taught its foundation principles. ***He should be taught that he is not merely to be saved by Christ's sacrifice***, but that he is to make the life of Christ his life and the character of Christ his character. Let all be taught that they are to bear burdens and to deny natural inclination. Let them learn the blessedness of working for Christ, following Him in self-denial, and enduring hardness as good soldiers. ***Let them learn to trust His love and to cast on Him their cares. Let them taste the joy of winning souls for Him.*** In their love and interest for the lost, they will lose sight of self. The pleasures of the world will lose their power to attract and its burdens to dishearten. The plowshare of truth will do its work. It will break up the fallow ground. It will not merely cut off the tops of the thorns, but will take them out by the roots.

- Christ Object Lesson, p. 57-58.

The Good Heart

So, the sowers have something to do that the seed may not be choked with thorns or perish because of shallowness of soil. At the very outset of the Christian life every [58] believer should be taught its foundation principles. He should be taught that he is not merely to be saved by Christ's sacrifice, but that he is to make the life of Christ his life and the character of Christ his character. Let all be taught that they are to bear burdens and to deny natural inclination. Let them learn the blessedness of working for Christ, following Him in self-denial, and enduring hardness as good soldiers. Let them learn to trust His love and to cast on Him their cares. Let them taste the joy of winning souls for Him. In their love and interest for the lost, they will lose sight of self. The pleasures of the world will lose their power to attract and its burdens to dishearten. The plowshare of truth will do its work. It will break up the fallow ground. It will not merely cut off the tops of the thorns, but will take them out by the roots.

- Christ Object Lesson, p. 57-58.