

2021 TED Webinar

Disciplining, Nurturing,
and Reclaiming

What's Missing CH- -CH?

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The Problem



The loss of young people through the back door is a real issue for the church today. It is imperative that we take steps to make sure that as many as possible of those growing up in the church will remain active members.

It is not a lack of information that is a barrier to doing this.

Numbers

The headline from the first GC global summit on **Nurture and Reclamation, in 2013**, was **“1 in 3 leave over the past 50 years.”** Adventist Review November 2013

Roger Dudley put the figure even higher and concluded that up to **50 percent** of those Adventist youth he studied, in a ten year longitudinal study, had either become inactive or dropped out by the conclusion of the study.

Roger L Dudley, *Why Our Teenagers Leave the Church* (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald 2000).

“The church can have no higher priority than stemming the loss of young adults and winning back those who have left its ranks.” (Dudley)



Risk Evaluation

**Children and Young Adults
not buying into Adventism**

No 1 Risk in British Union Trustee
Analysis March 2019. Still current
No 2 Risk in 2021.

The Search For Identity and Purpose

Young people have always faced a search for identity and this complex issue intertwines with their family , church and also denominational schooling.

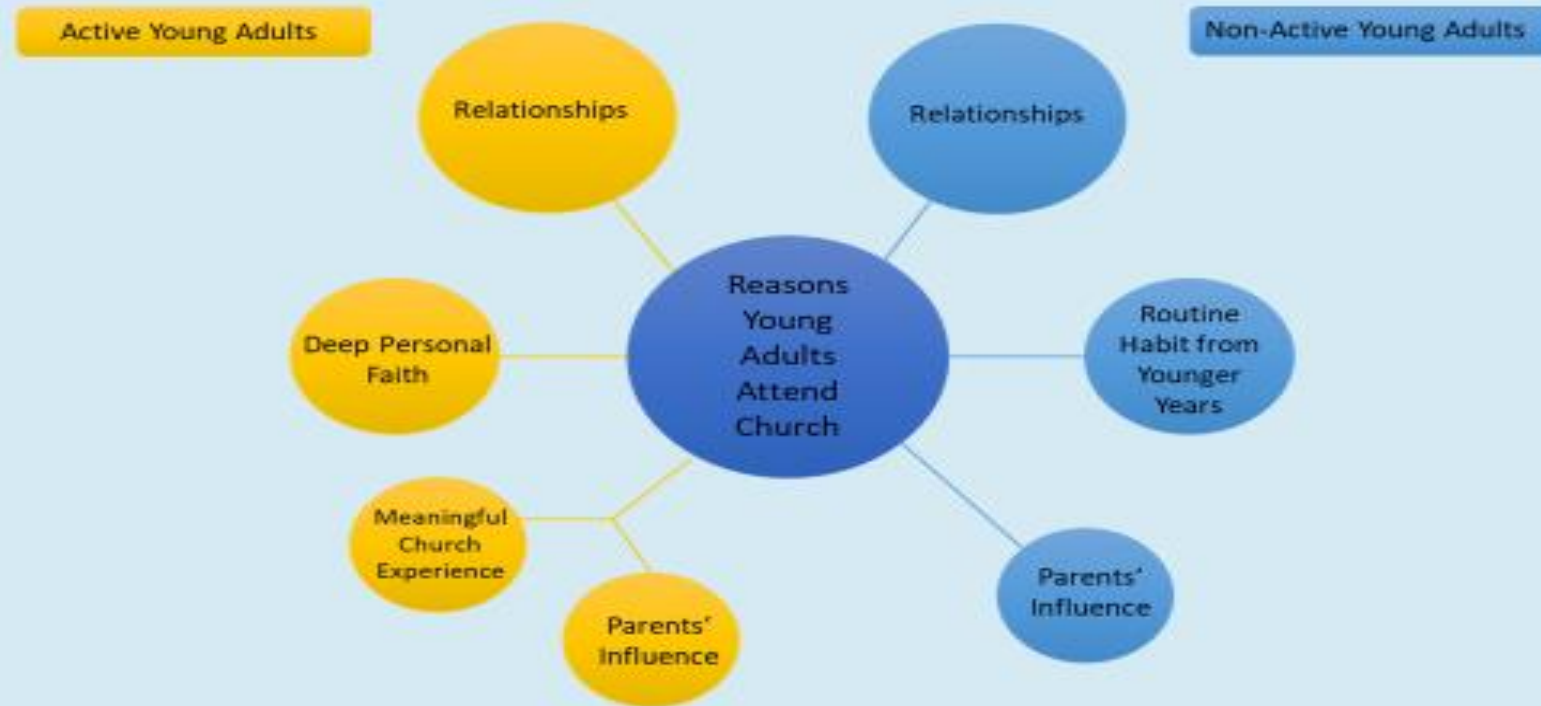
There may in fact be 3 very important questions:

**“Who Am I?
Where Do I fit?
What difference do I make?”**

K. Powell, J. Mulder and B Griffin, *Growing Young* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2016), 116

Reasons Young Adults Attend Church

From a Baptist study (Wesley Black)



Personal Research - Focus Points

1. Place a plan in operation throughout the world church that allows for every child growing up in an SDA home to receive access to a basic youth-based bible study course by the time they reach their 14th birthday
2. This should be backed up by an youth first programme targeting the key transition ages of 14 and 17. Widespread Public Campus Ministry programmes including Discipleship groups are needed for 18-25+ age group.
3. We also need effective discipleship and ongoing Spiritual growth for the 30's and 40's age group. *If we lose them we lose their children.* **This must happen at the local church level.**

Proposal

We need to **feed the core** *not default to entertaining the fringe!*

Manuela Casti and Stephen Currow, *European Valuegenesis Survey Report*. De Bron, Holland, 2007

Young People wish to be **challenged** and they want to be a part of a church that inspires them to act. It always has been this way!

The Nurture, Retention and Reclamation of our youth is:

- **The No 1 Priority facing the church today.**

Myths

1. It is an urban myth that to reach young people we need a “*watered-down teaching style*.”

Sometimes it is assumed that we have to make Christianity seem less radical in order to appeal to teenagers or young adults. Quite the opposite is true.

2. It is also a myth that we need to adopt an “*entertaining ministry programme*.” The church needs to offer something different to popular culture.

Powell, Mulder and Griffin, *Growing Young*, 27

Church Matters

Adventist young people tell us that the church matters, not only in theory or as something to believe in but also regarding their own faith experience.

Stephan Sigg “A Spiritual Home for Young People.” Valuegenesis Europe



What Do Young People Really Want In Church?

- Building Spiritual Homes – Spiritual homes for all generations including young people.
- Living Christian Values Together
- Participation and Challenge
- Partnership – Is there a place for me in my Church?
- Opportunities to develop faith
- Service & Mission
- Intergenerational Family warmth and support.



- LOCAL CHURCHES -



By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another. Jo 13:35

A Spiritual Home To Which They Feel They Belong

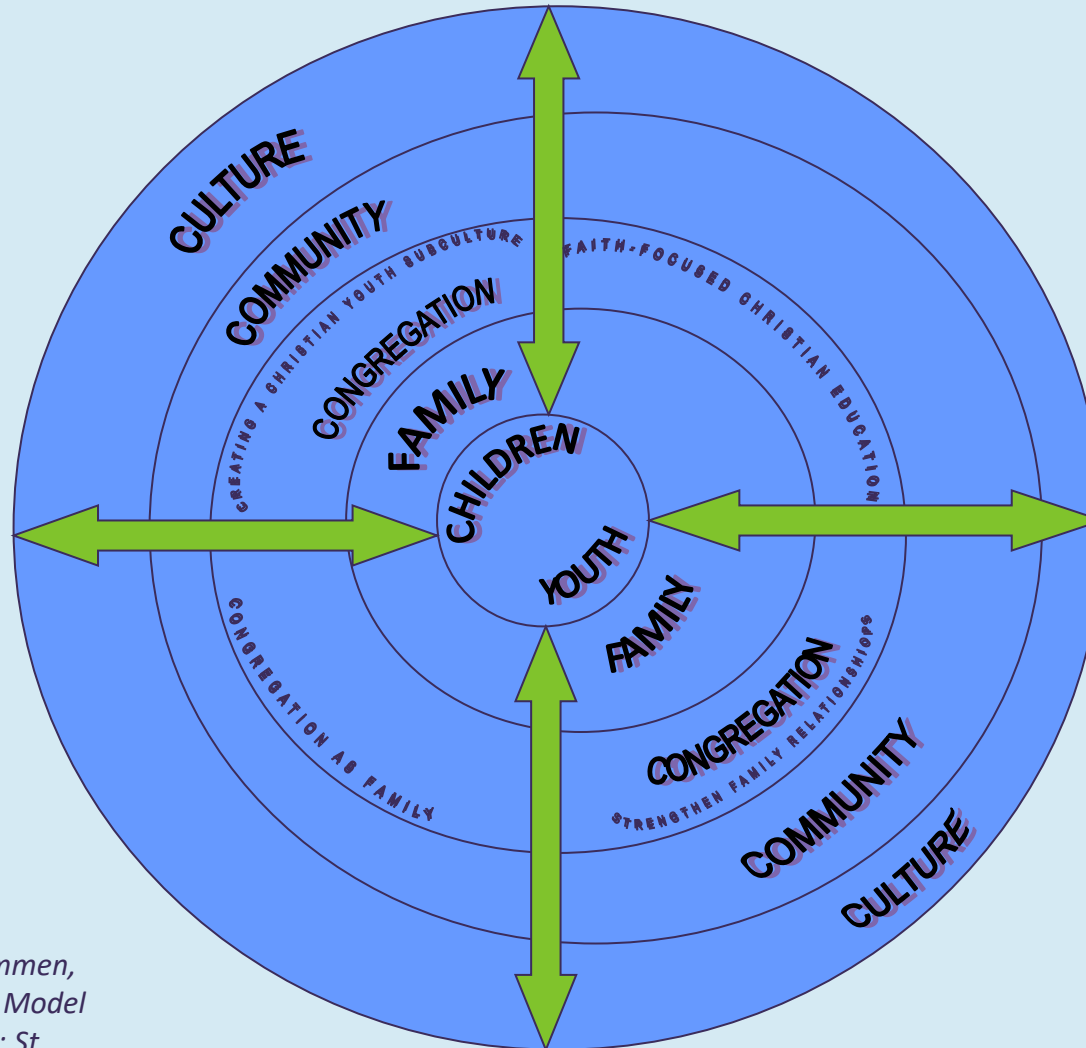
Relevant preaching, meeting the spiritual needs of youth, and supporting and involving young people according to their spiritual gifts are the best predictors of young people remaining in the church.

Whereas the family is the strongest factor in becoming an Adventist. Turning childhood faith into Adult faith needs partnerships.

When it comes to remaining an Adventist, the experience in the local church is much more significant. In this respect a positive congregational climate (thinking climate and church warmth) is crucial.

<https://icor.church/>

Conceptual Model – Family based Youth Ministry



Adapted from a conceptual model by Strommen, Merton P and Richard A. Hardel: *A Radical Model for Youth and Family Ministry*. Winona, MN: St Mary's Press, 1999, 12.



How Can We Make Our Church A Spiritual Home For Everyone?



Building Spiritual Homes Living our values Together, iCOR Information Brochure

Holistic Discipleship

Fostering **Relationships** –
Reach Across (e.g. Acts 2:46-47
spiritual & social community,
Eph 4:2-3, John 13:34-35)

Relationships –
Reach Across

Fostering **Spiritual Growth** –
Reach Up (e.g. 2Cor 5:17, 2Thess
1:3, Gal 5:16.18.22)

Spiritual Growth –
Reach Up

Fostering **Mission** –
Reach Out (e.g. 2Cor 5:18-20,
Acts 9:36.39)

Mission –
Reach Out

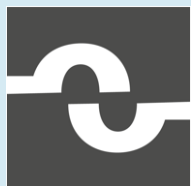
Empowering for Ministry –
Reach Beyond (e.g. Jer 1:7.9-10,
Eph 3:20-21; 4:7-16, 2Tim 2:2, 4:1-2)

Empowerment –
Reach Beyond

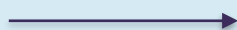


The Ten iCOR Values - Relationships

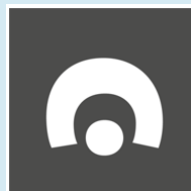
- The iCOR-Initiative is fostering **RELATIONSHIPS** with the Values:



CONNECTING



Connecting churches strive to form authentic and loving relationships across generational, cultural and social boundaries



CARING



Caring churches foster a loving attitude that reaches out to others with empathy and accepts them the way they are. They actively serve their good and support them in all areas of life.



PARTICIPATING



Churches that encourage participation value the gifts and skills of their fellow human beings and create room for them to take part in forming all aspects of church life. In this way, they foster a sense of belonging and identification with the church.

The Ten iCOR Values – Spiritual Growth

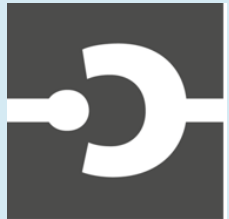
- The iCOR-Initiative is fostering **SPIRITUAL GROWTH** with the Values:



WORSHIPPING



Churches understand worship as the daily practice of making the Gospel reality. They search for creative opportunities to celebrate worship in everyday life and are committed to making the Sabbath a meaningful experience.



TEACHING



Churches that are committed to communicate the Word of God and the Adventist message in a relevant and creative way that connects with the life realities.

The Ten iCOR Values - Empowerment

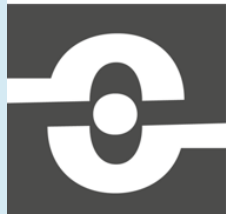
- The iCOR-Initiative is fostering **EMPOWERMENT** with the Values:



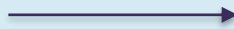
MENTORING



Churches that care about personally accompanying their children and youth in particular, but also adults in their walk of faith are committed to fostering spiritual mentoring relationships.



TRAINING



Churches that are open for learning provide training opportunities for their members to develop individual gifts and skills and promote services and ministries in the church.



LEADING



Strategical and purpose-driven churches lead with a vision and passion, integrating the younger generation in the leadership activities of the church.

The Ten iCor Values - Mission

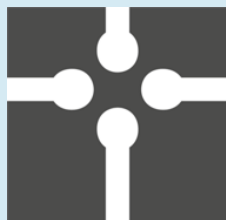
- The iCOR-Initiative is fostering **MISSION** with the Values:



SERVING



Mission and ministering always require an attitude of service. Serving churches follow the example of Jesus by ministering to the needs of others and seeking to discover new ways to serve.



RECONCILING



Reconciling and reconciled churches actively foster reconciliation and healing in the name of Jesus, both in the relationship to our heavenly Father and to each other.

Roots and Identity

No matter how long someone has been away from church, returning is always a possibility.

Re-emerging Church (Roger Standing) looked at baby boomers and their search to rediscover their roots and identity.

Ten Who Came Back (Tim Lale & Pat Habada) found that “Eight out of ten persons interviewed expressed memories of early Adventism that reminded them of happy times in the church.”

Are We Ready For Our Prodigals To Return?

Personal Research – 50% felt they would come back one day.

What would happen if they met the older brother first?



Conclusion – A Church With a Purpose

Asking the Right Questions

Who's Involved at CH--CH?

and

**How can we help our church become a spiritual
home for young people?**

