

JOINING & REMAINING



A Look at the Data on the
Role of Adventist Education

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The all-important matter...

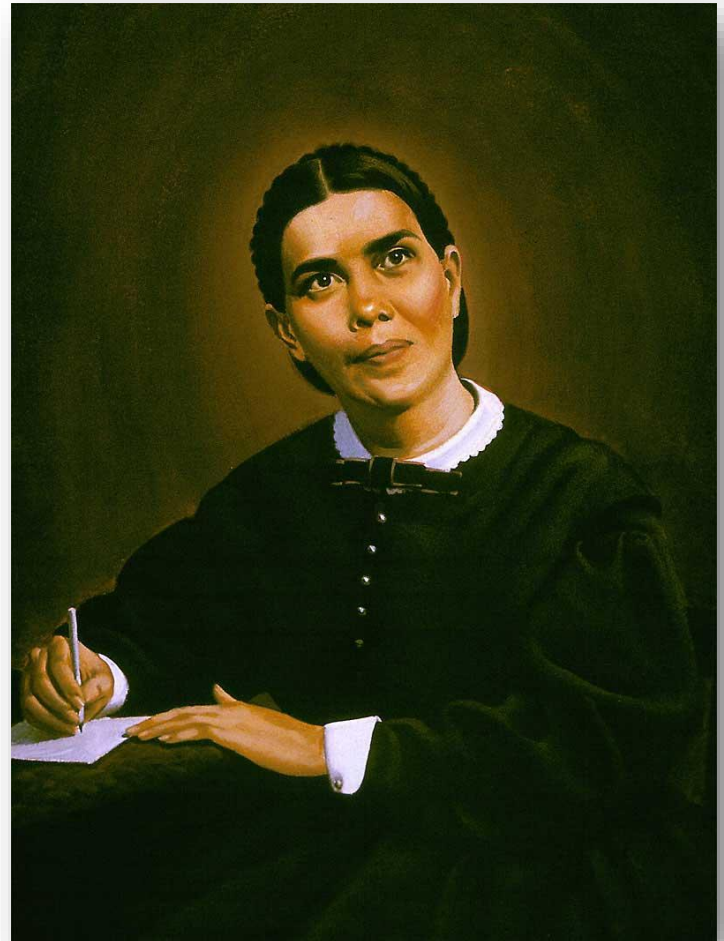
Should be “**the conversion of the students.**”

Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 436

Conversion



Joining



ACCESSION TO THE CHURCH

The Role of Adventist Education

Adventist Education

LONGEST and LARGEST
EVANGELISTIC EVENT

held by the
Adventist Church

Duration 800 to 37,400 hours

5-9 hours/day

160-260 days/year

1-16⁺ years

Size

Level	Sites	Evangelists	Attendees
Elementary	5,915	54,282	1,200,880
Secondary	2,435	39,386	603,251
Training Schools	50	604	5,765
Colleges & Universities	114	14,384	145,024
Totals	8,514	108,656	1,954,920

December 31, 2016

Adventist Education

LONGEST and LARGEST
EVANGELISTIC EVENT

Effective?

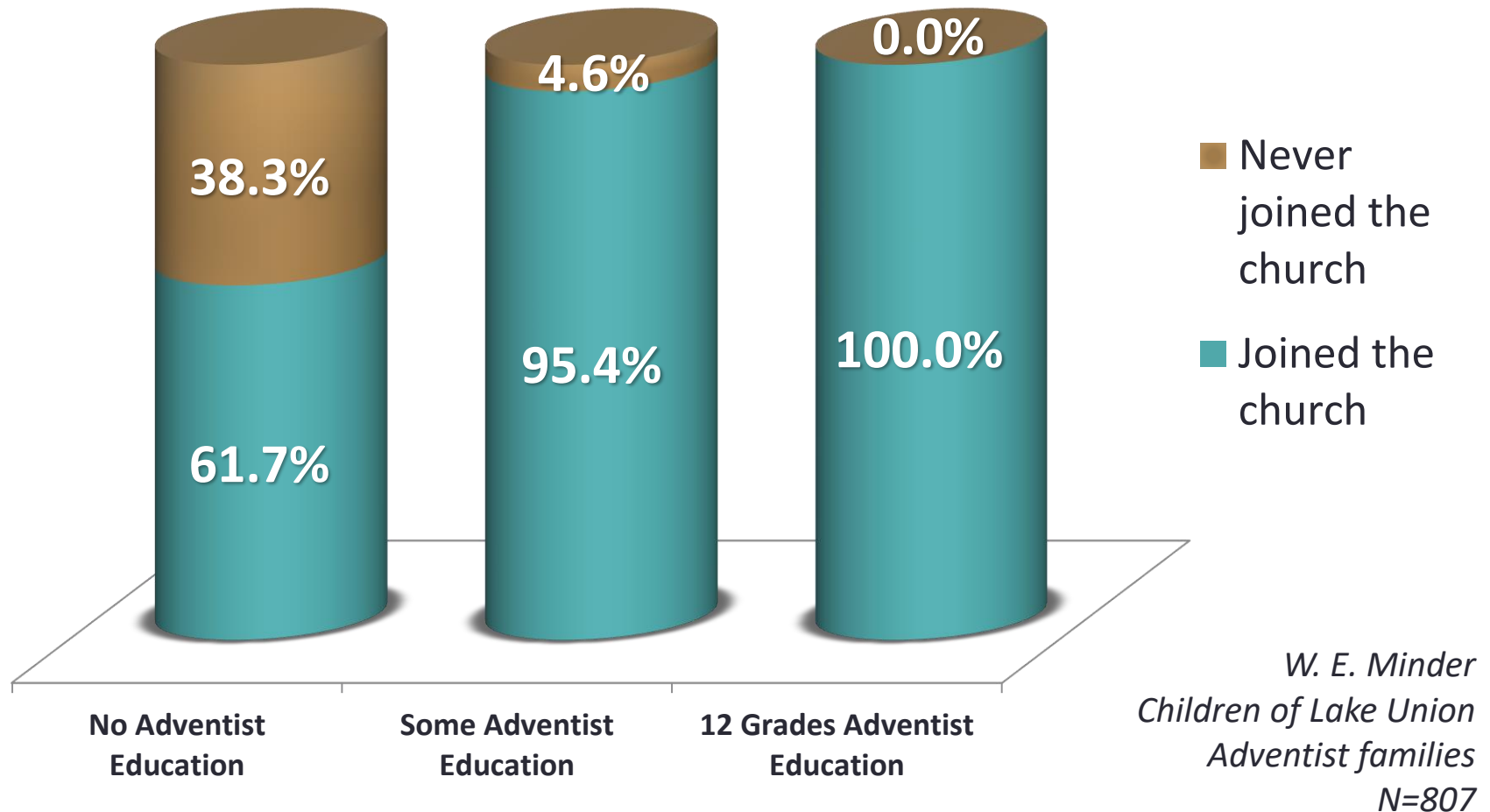
Baptisms in Adventist Education

Year	Baptized
2007	33,766
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

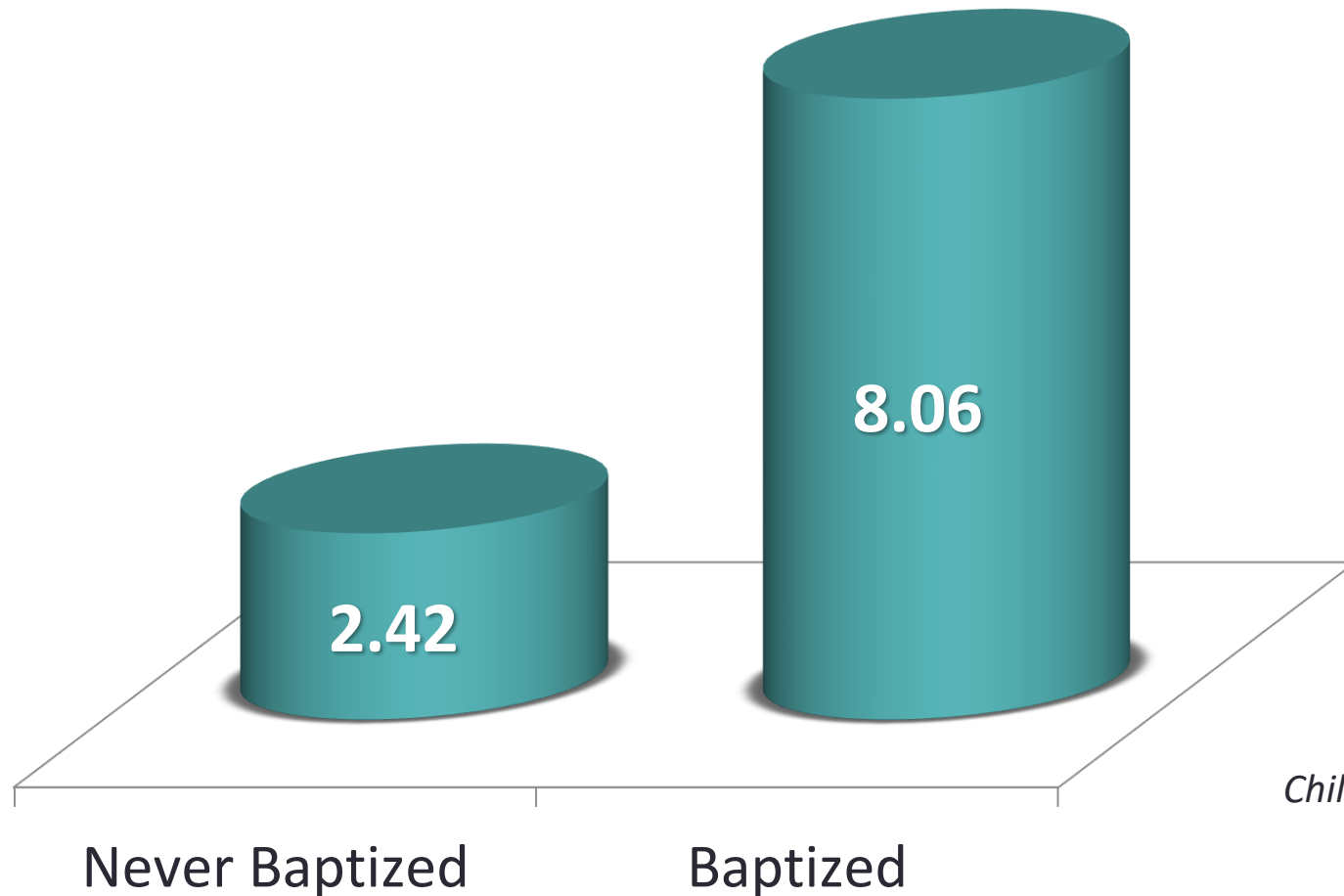
445,843
baptisms

A conference
established
each year

Does Adventist Education make a difference?



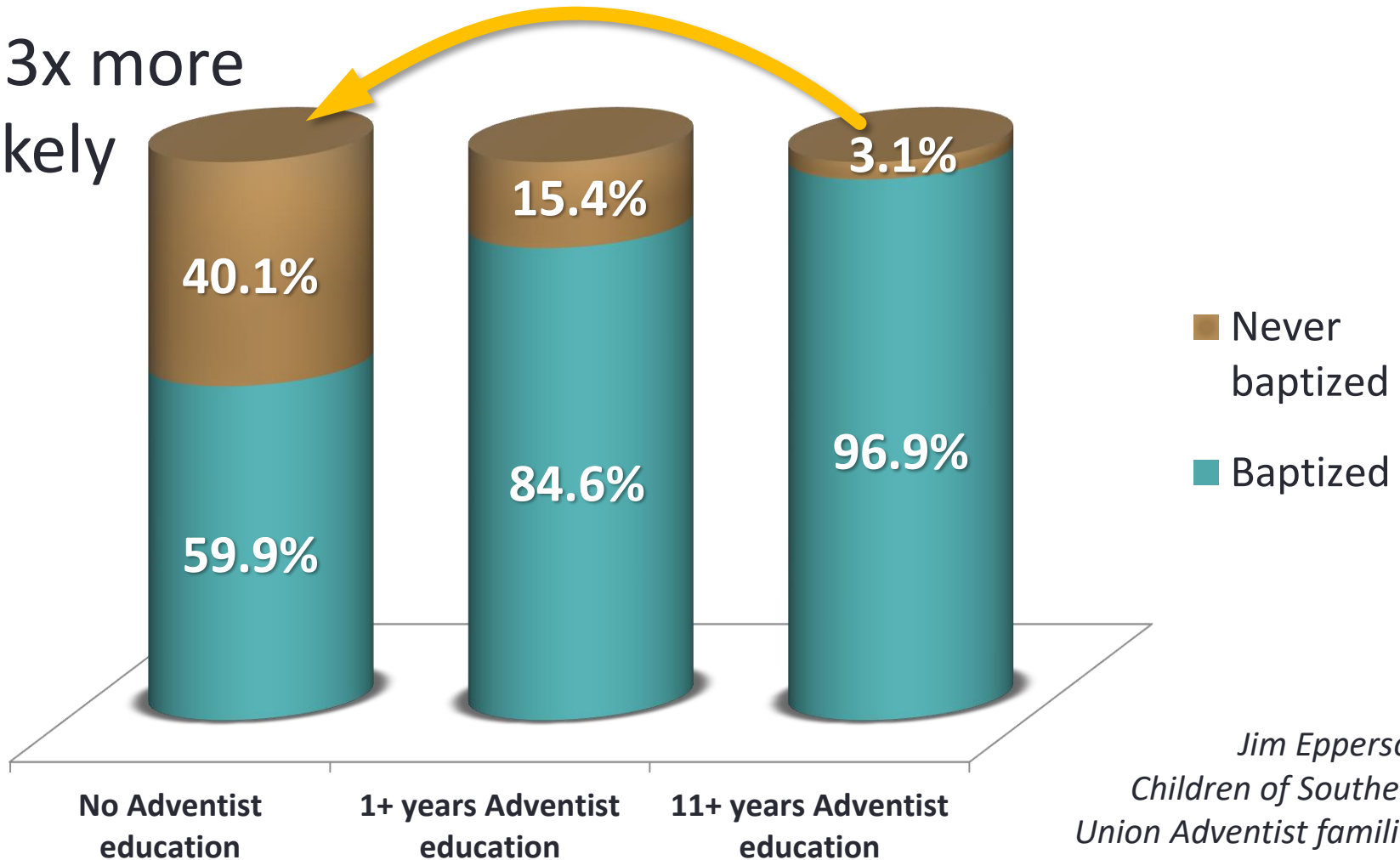
Average Years Attendance: Adventist School



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

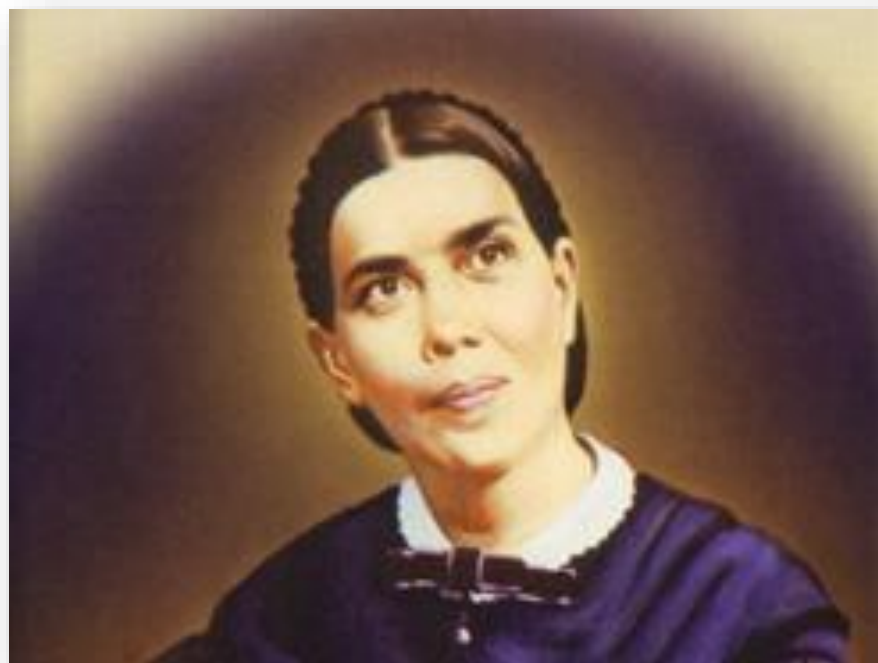
Does Adventist Education make a difference?

13x more
likely



Jim Epperson
Children of Southern
Union Adventist families
N=844

Adventist Education Is Mission



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

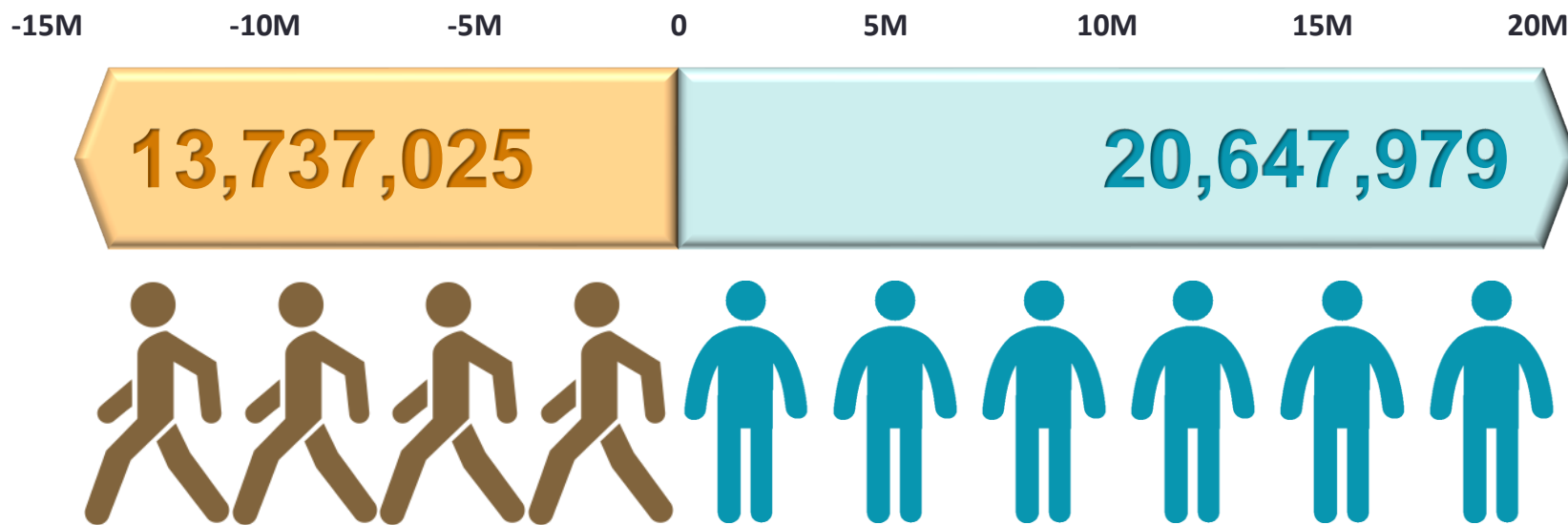
Adventist Education Is Mission

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

RETENTION IN THE CHURCH

The Role of Adventist Education

Members who leave



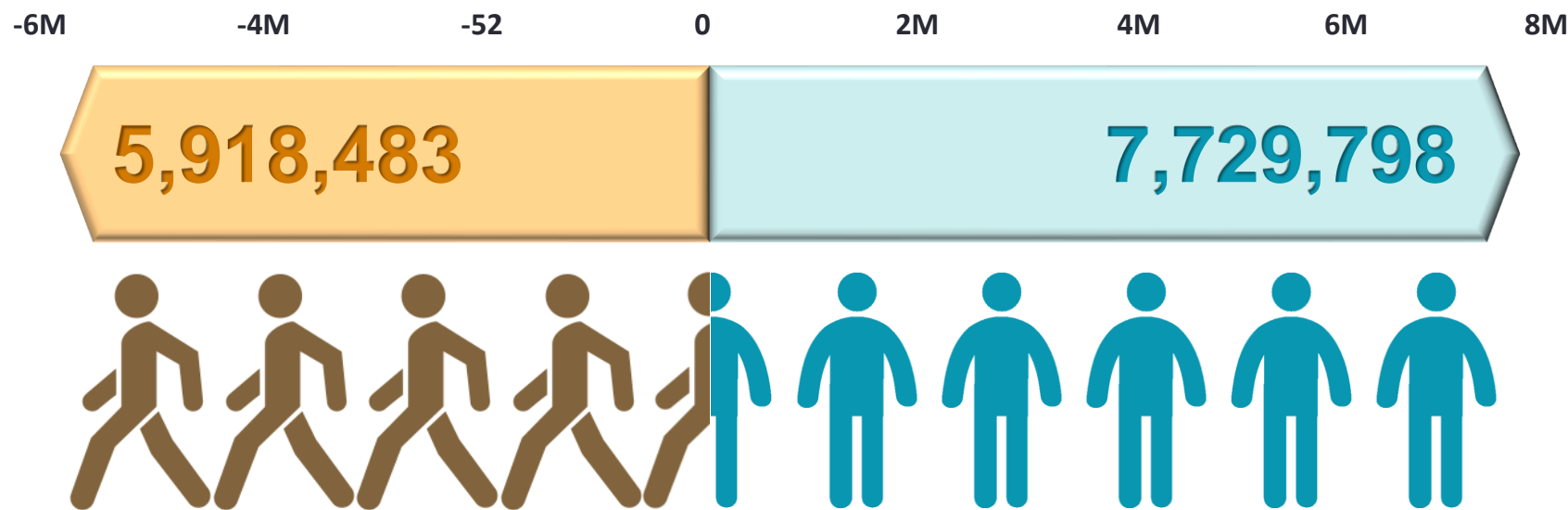
- Members who left
- Members who stayed

Since 1965: **34,385,004** church members

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

Our 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%

**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 12th-grade Adventist students in Adventist schools showed that the more **years of Adventist schooling**, the greater the person's

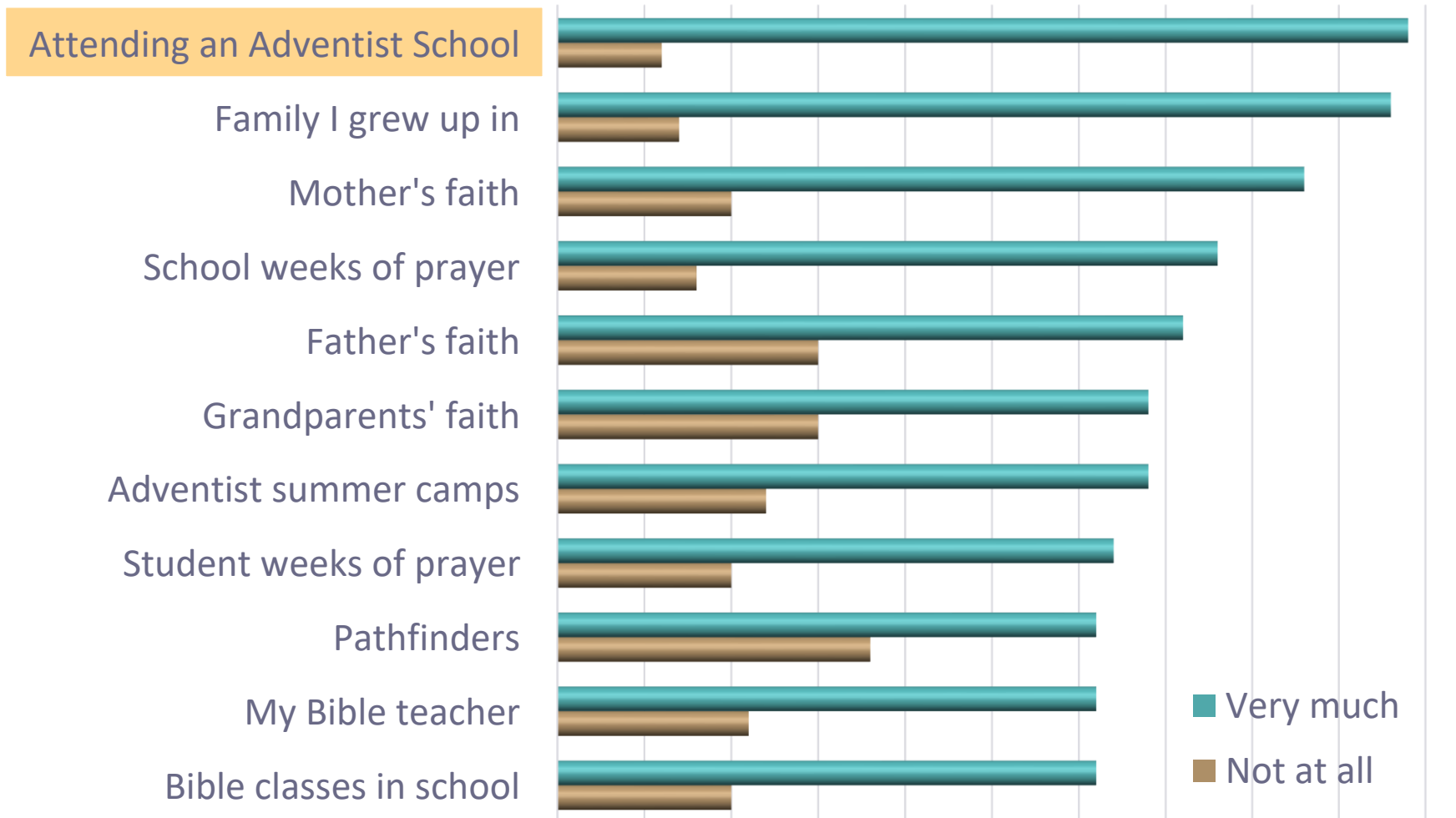
- ✓ **Denomination loyalty**
- ✓ **Adventist orthodoxy**
- ✓ **Intention to remain an Adventist at age 40**

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)

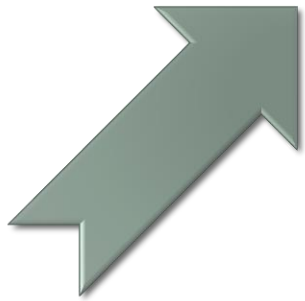
81% of all students said...

“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:

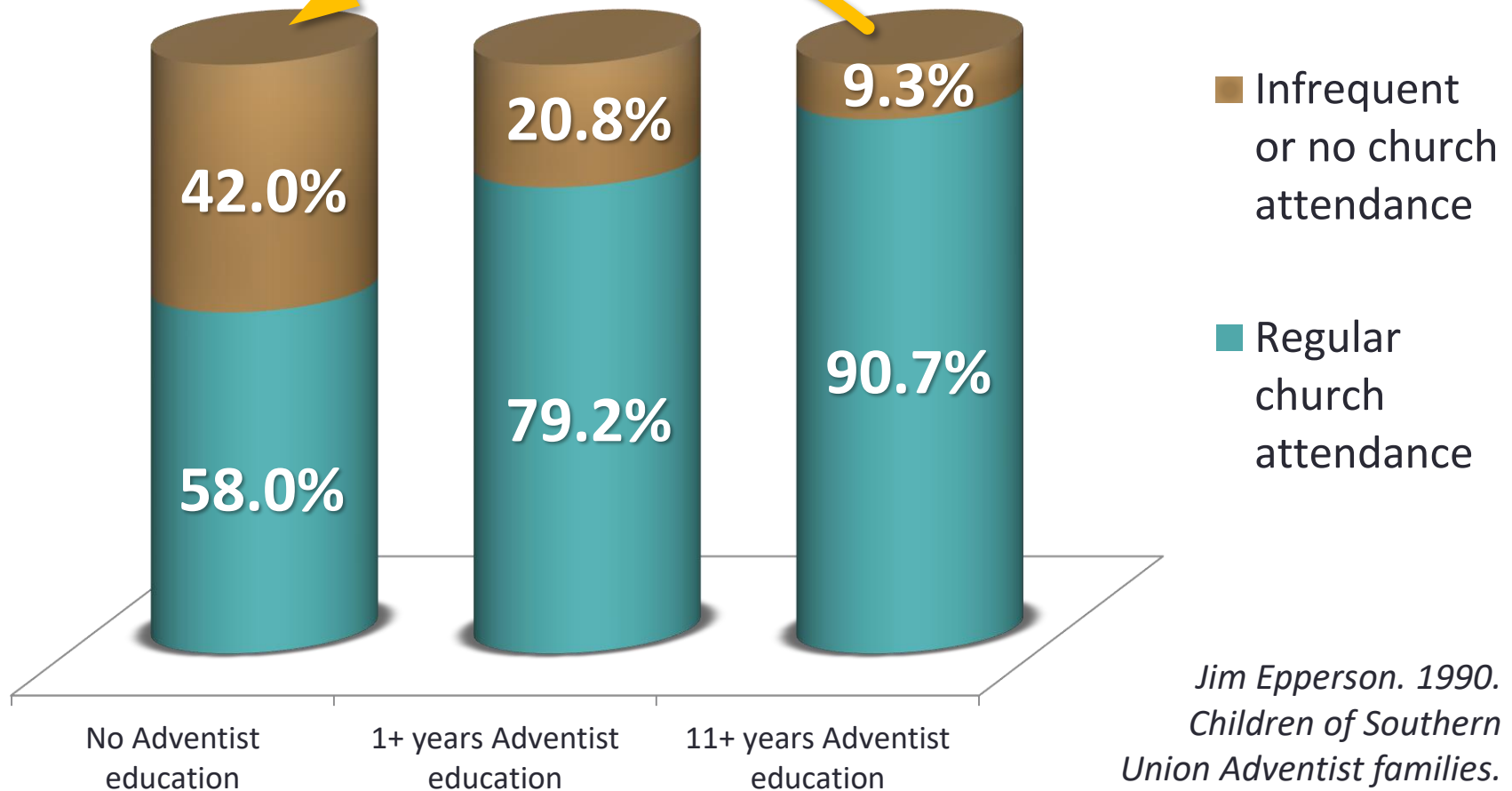


- ✓ Commitment to Jesus Christ
- ✓ My relationship with Christ is stronger now
- ✓ Religion is important in my life
- ✓ Personal Bible study

Epperson Study

4.5x more likely

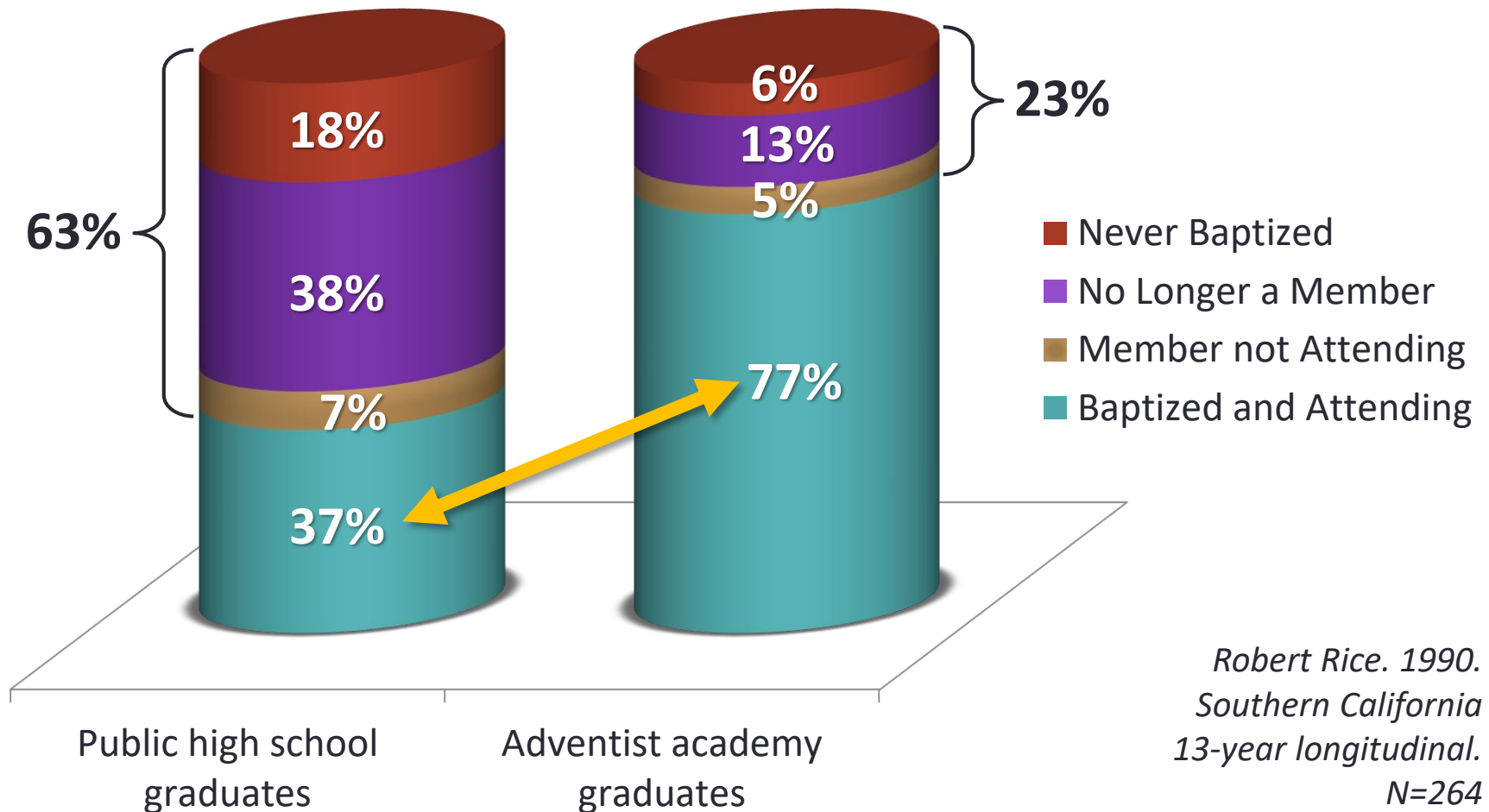
Inactive ➤ Leaving



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

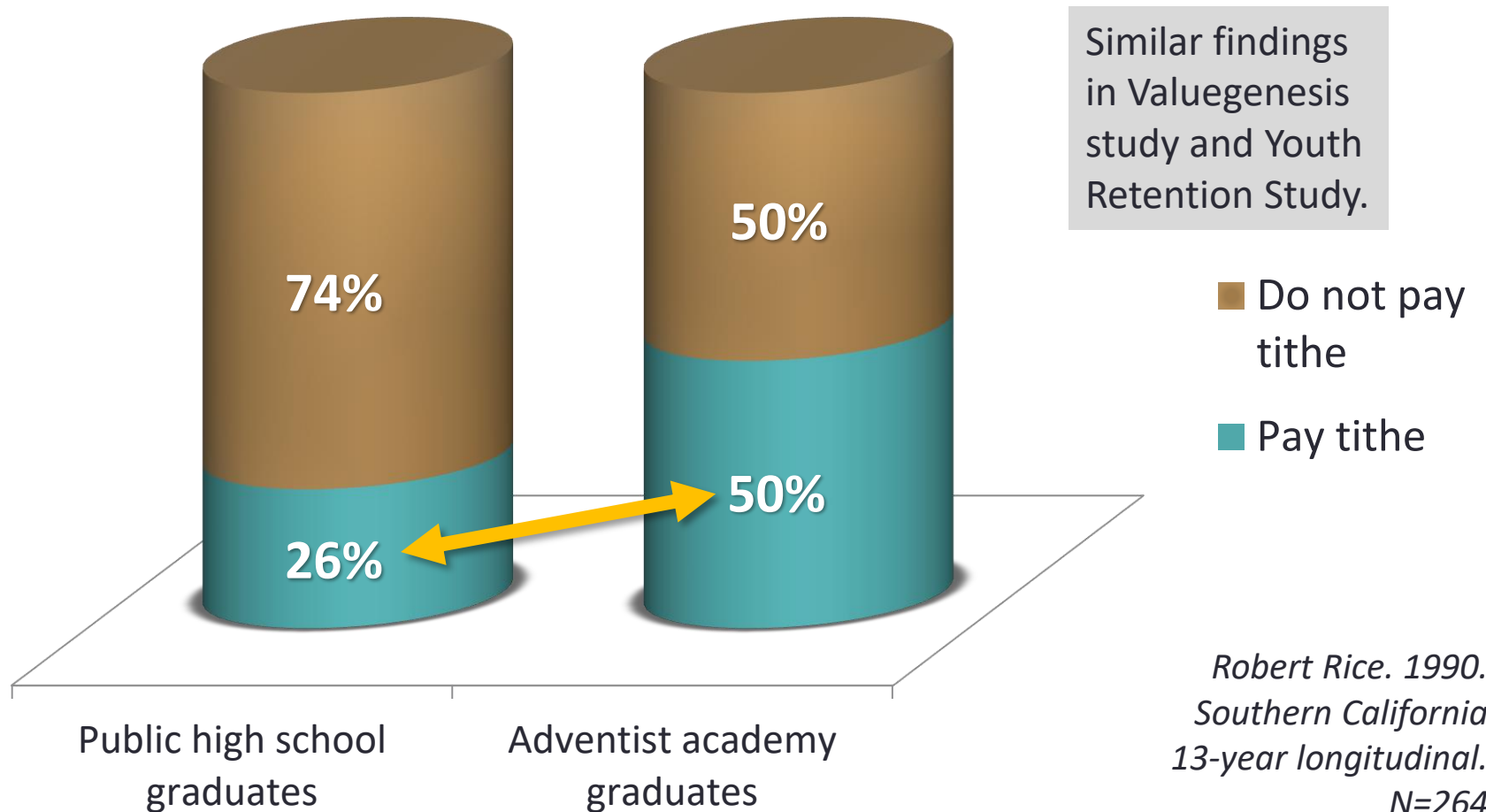
Rice Study

2x more likely to stay



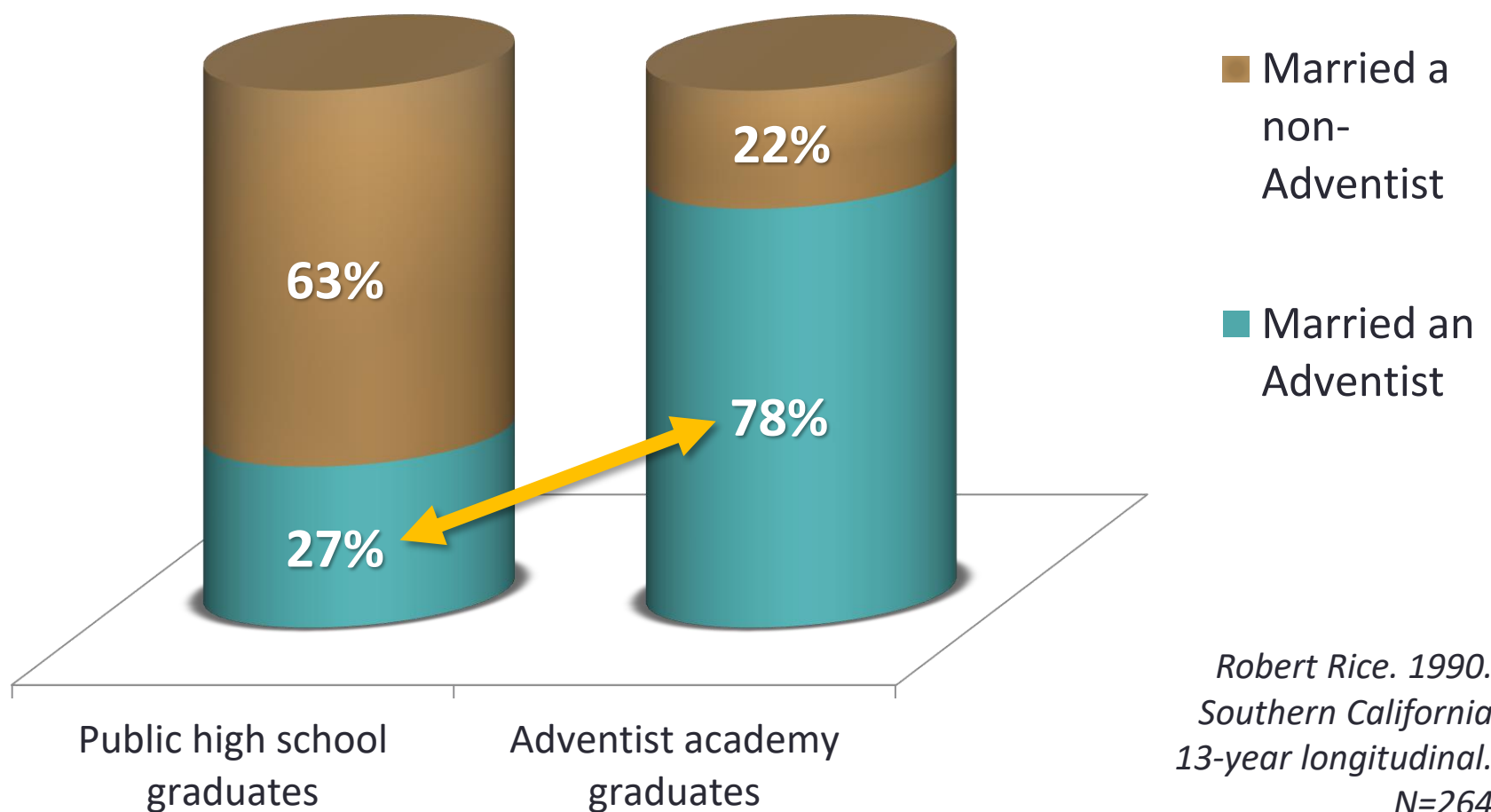
Rice Study

2x more likely to pay tithe

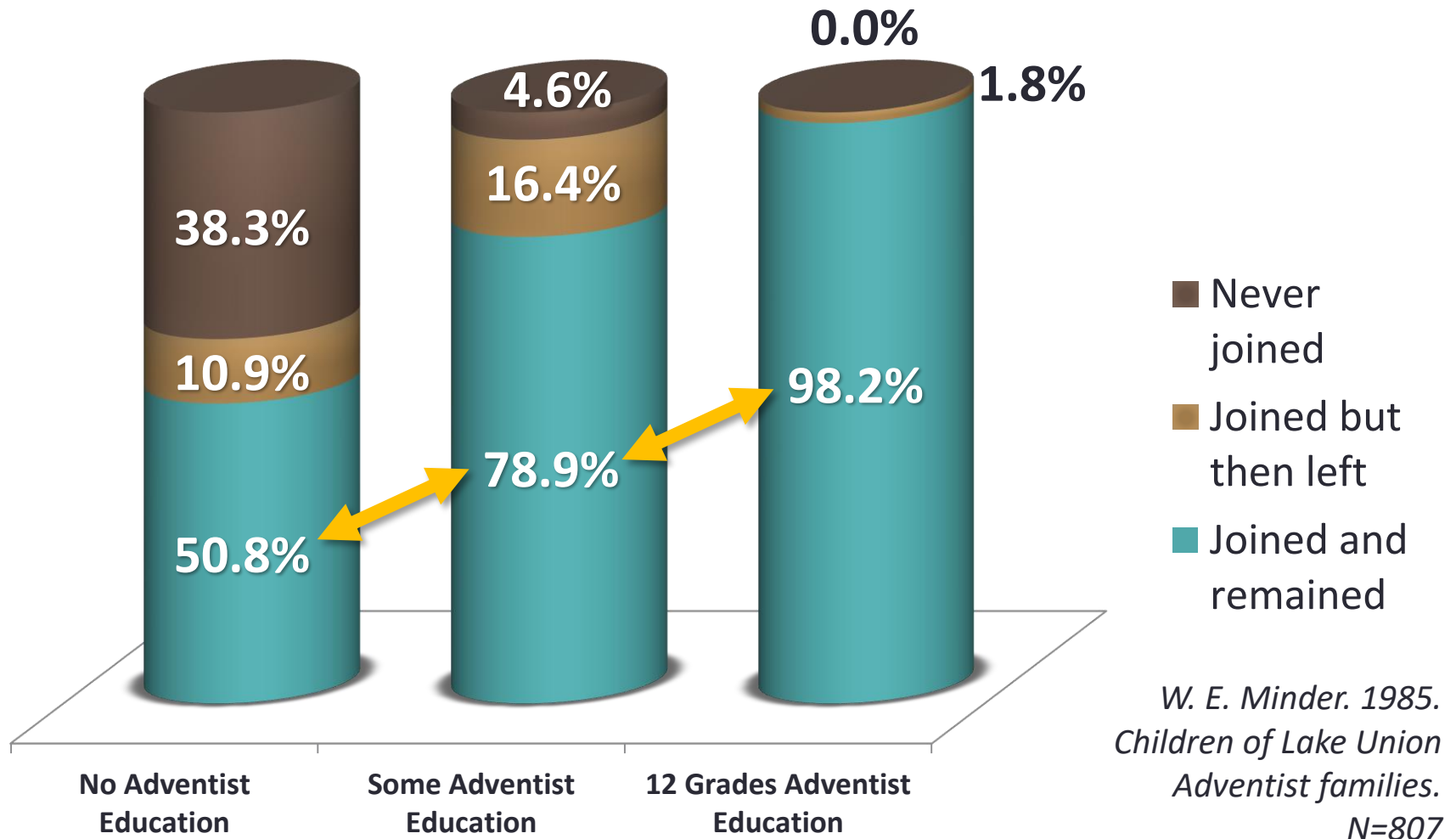


Rice Study

3x more likely to marry an Adventist



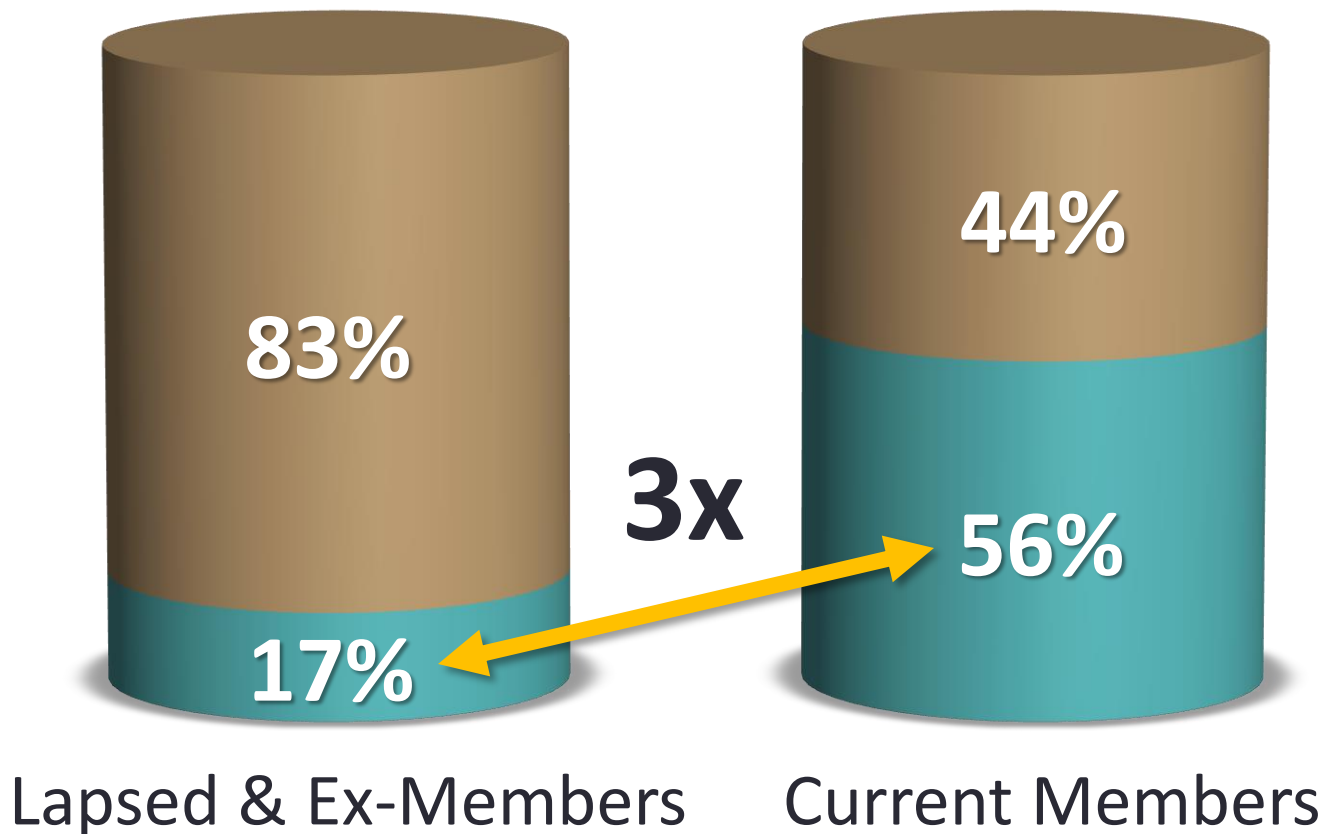
Minder Study



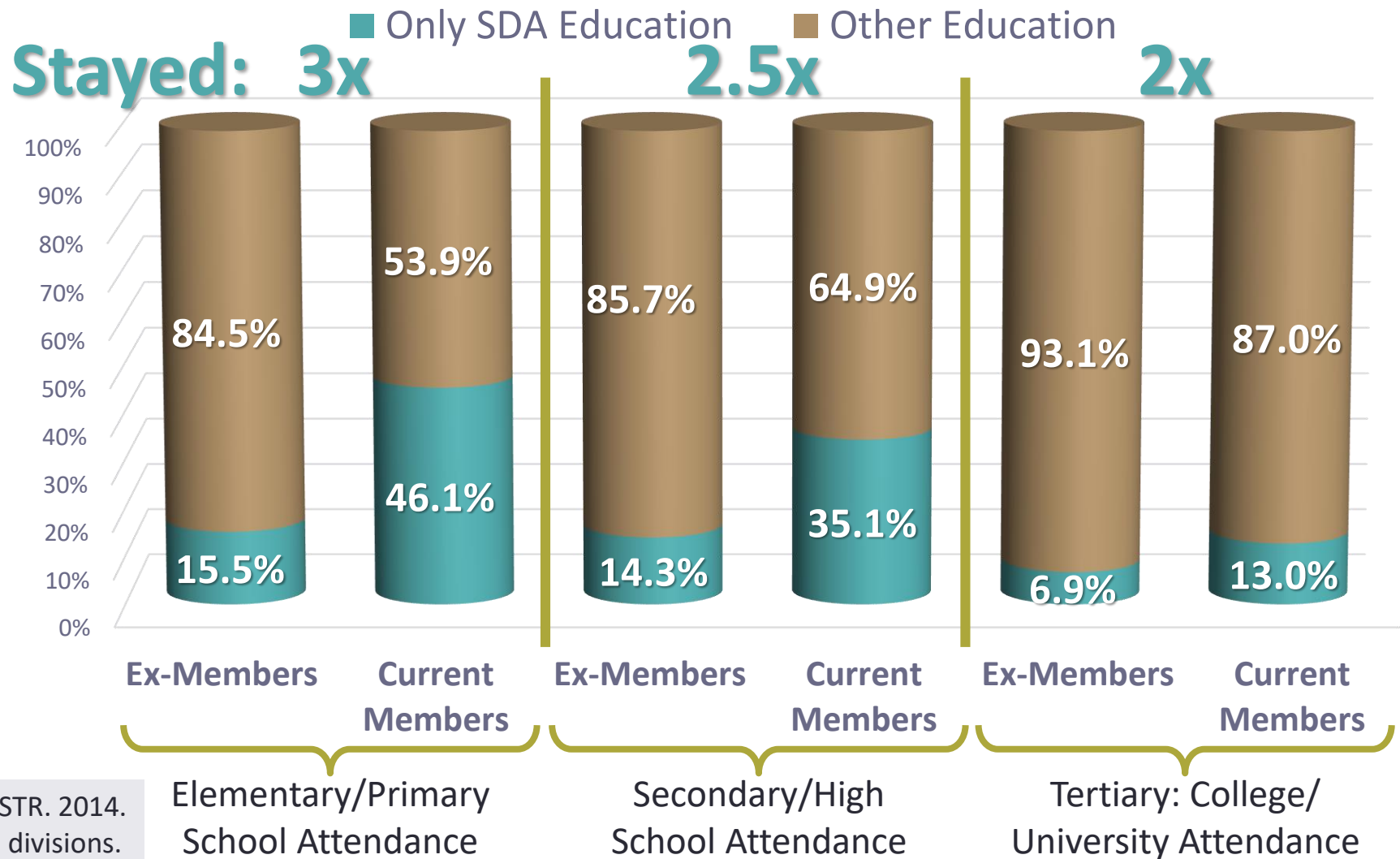
Center for Creative Ministry Study ⑥

■ SDA Education ■ Other Education

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



ASTR “Leaving the Church” Study ⁷



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

Yes!

Consistent

Persuasive

BARRIERS TO THE REDEMPTIVE PURPOSE

of Adventist Education

3

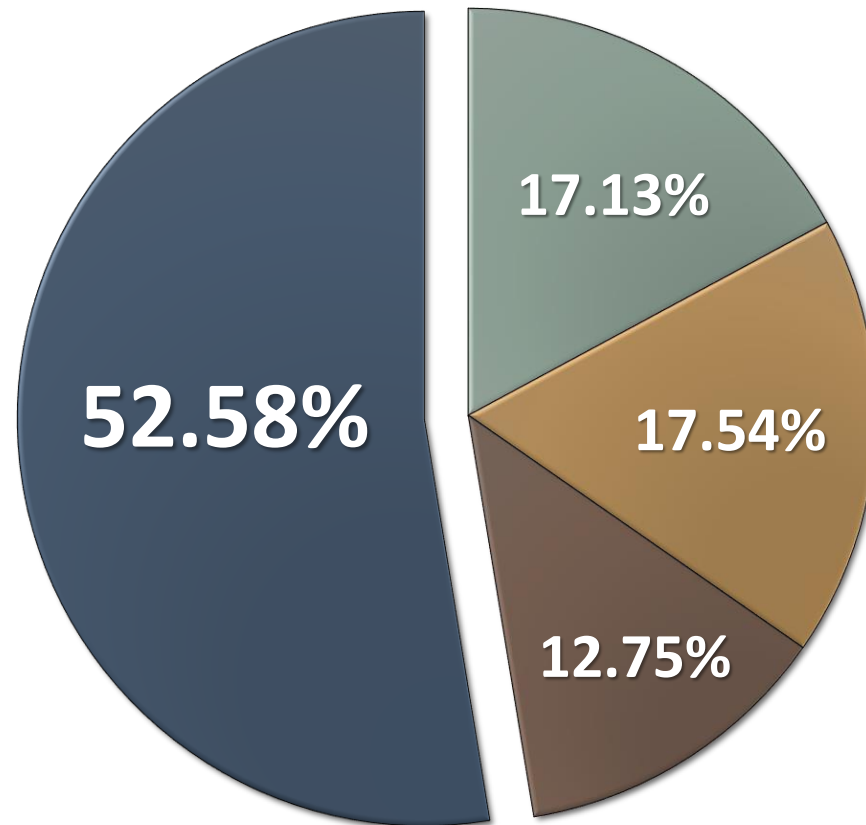


Barrier #1

Many children and youth from Seventh-day Adventist homes are not attending Adventist schools.

Adventists and Adventist Education

Over half of
global church
members
report
no experience
of Adventist
Education

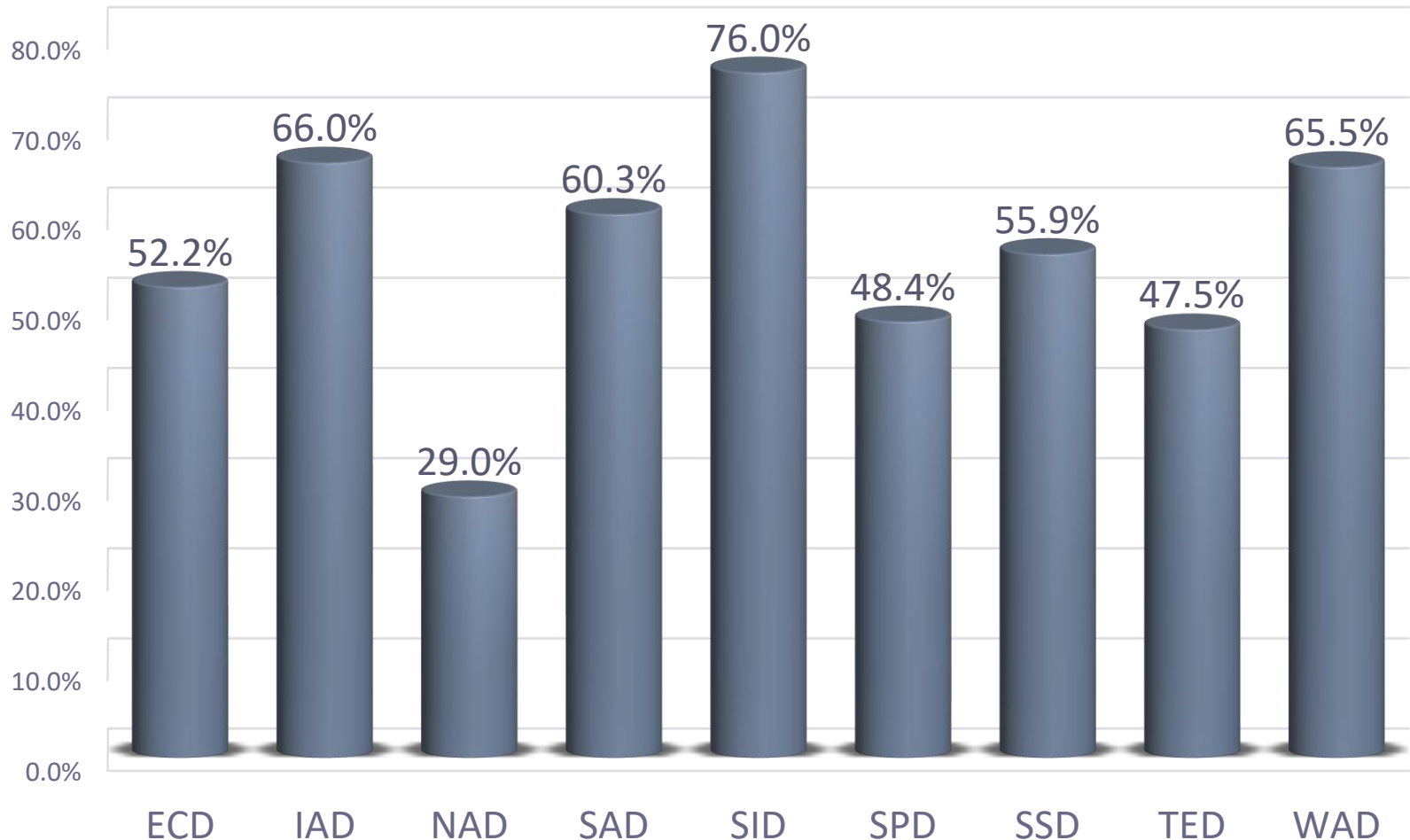


Percentages:
Highest level of
Adventist education
experienced

■ Elementary/Primary School ■ Secondary/High School
■ Tertiary/Higher Education ■ No Adventist Education

2014 data.
9 divisions.

Proportion with No SDA Education by Division



“All our youth should be permitted to have the blessings and privileges of an **education at our schools**, that they may be inspired to become **laborers together with God.**”

E. G. White. *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 44.

Dismantling Barrier #1

- ✓ Pastors and educators proactively **share with parents** the positive and consistent relationship between Adventist education and the proportion of children and youth joining and remaining in the Church

Dismantling Barrier #1

- ✓ Church leaders intentionally **establish initiatives**, in partnership with local fields and congregations, to boost the availability of Adventist education to Seventh-day Adventist children and youth

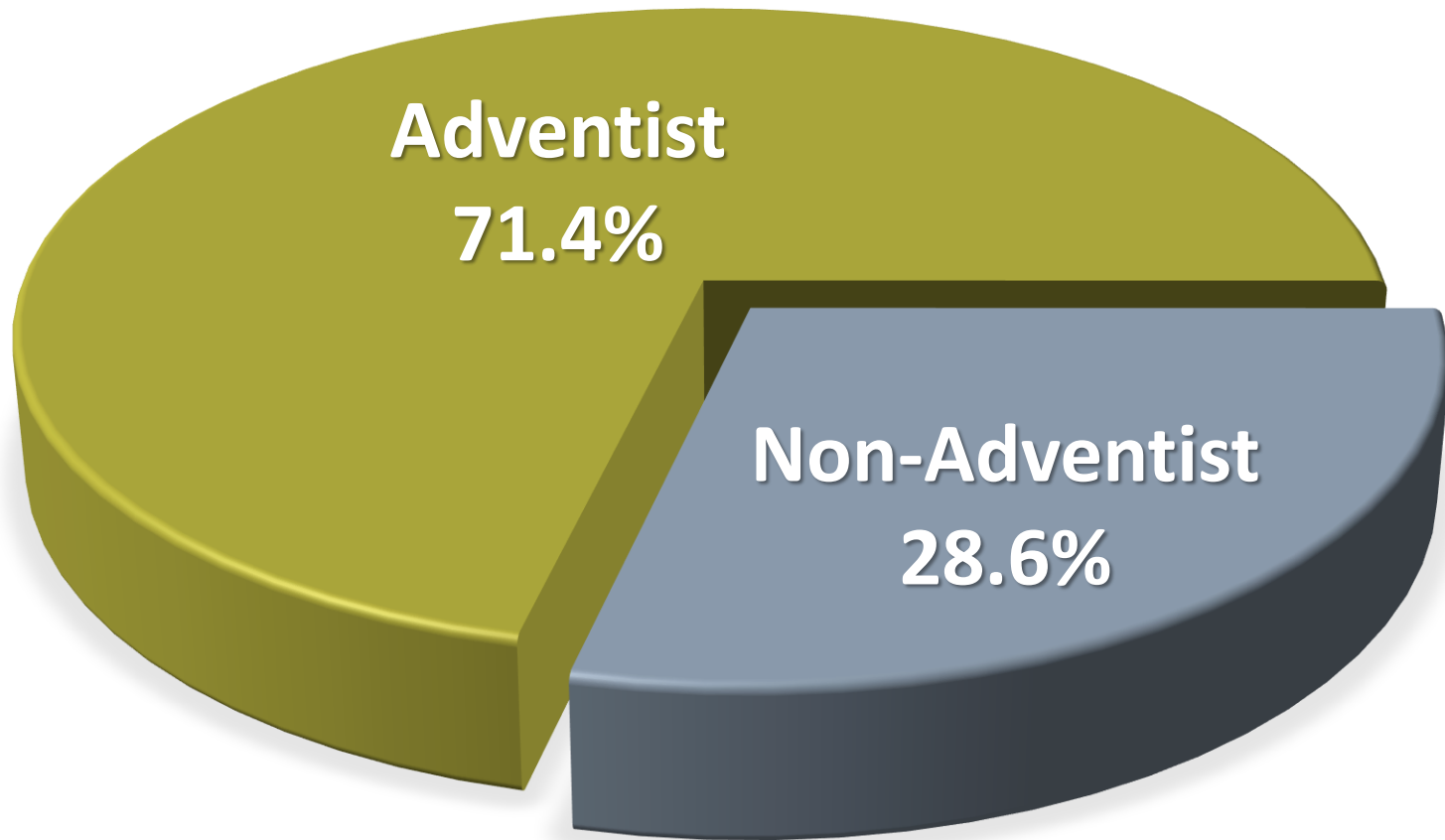
Dismantling Barrier #1

- ✓ Educational institutions **create viable avenues** by which Adventist students of limited means may obtain a Seventh-day Adventist education

Barrier #2

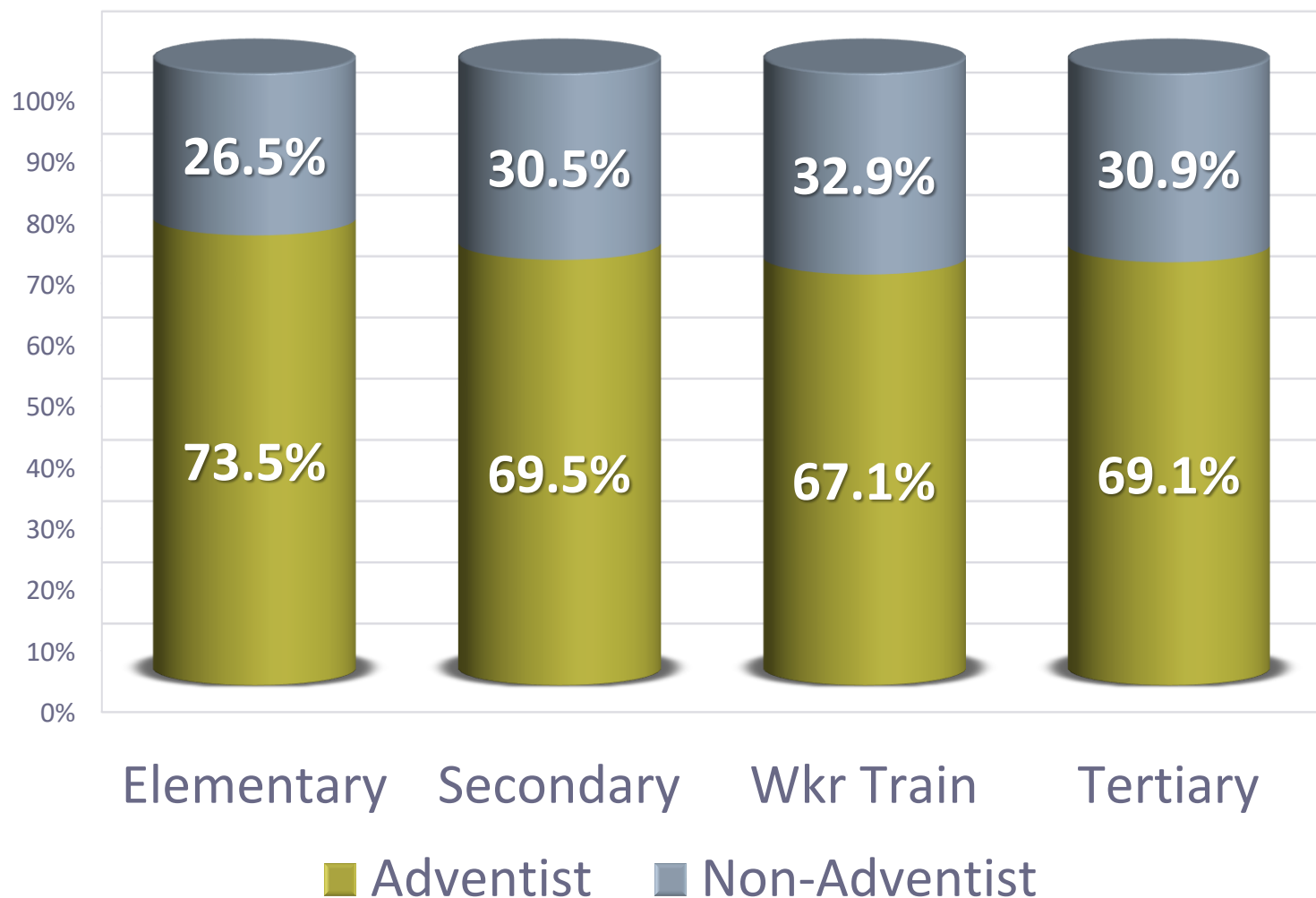
Many teachers in Adventist schools are not members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Teachers in Adventist Schools



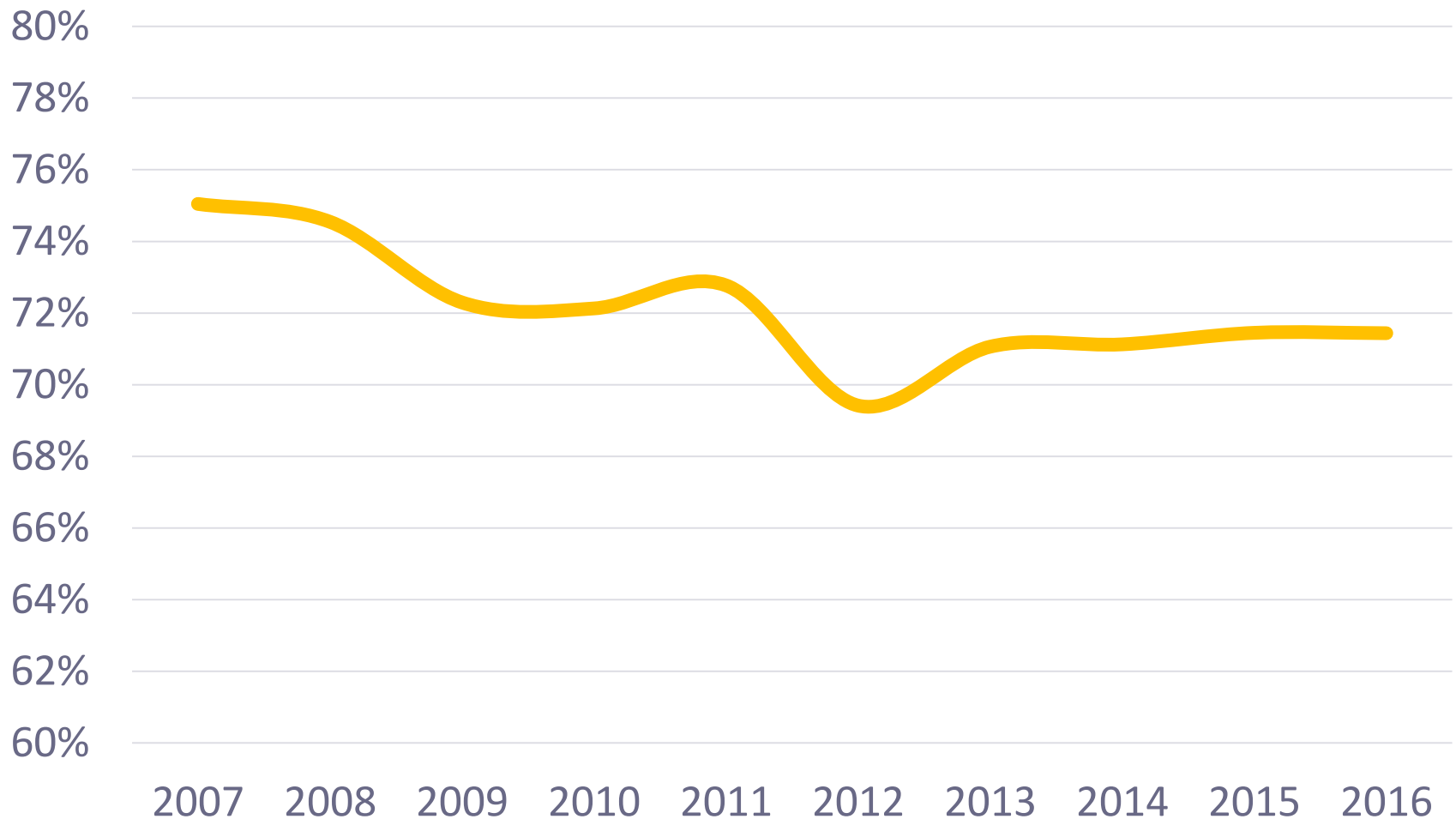
December 31, 2016

Teachers in Adventist Schools



December 31, 2016

Proportion of Adventist Teachers



The mission of
the Church is
evangelistic

Adventist education
must **fulfill** the mission

To be effective...

An evangelist
must first be
a believer

“In **all our churches** there
should be schools, and
teachers in these schools
who are **missionaries**.



Fulfill the mission
Evangelists

“If the instructors have a **religious experience themselves**, they will be able to communicate to their students the knowledge of the love of God **that they have received**.

“These lessons can be
given **only** by those
who are **themselves**
truly converted.”

E. G. White, *Counsels to Parents,
Teachers, and Students*, p. 168

Dismantling Barrier #2

- ✓ Church leaders at all levels establish and regularly assess **specific objectives** (with corresponding KPIs) for educational systems and schools within their territory to progressively increase the proportion of Seventh-day Adventist teachers in Adventist schools

Dismantling Barrier #2

- ✓ Church leaders in collaboration with Adventist IHEs establish and strengthen **teacher training programs**, potentially to include special subsidies for those training as elementary and secondary teachers

Dismantling Barrier #2

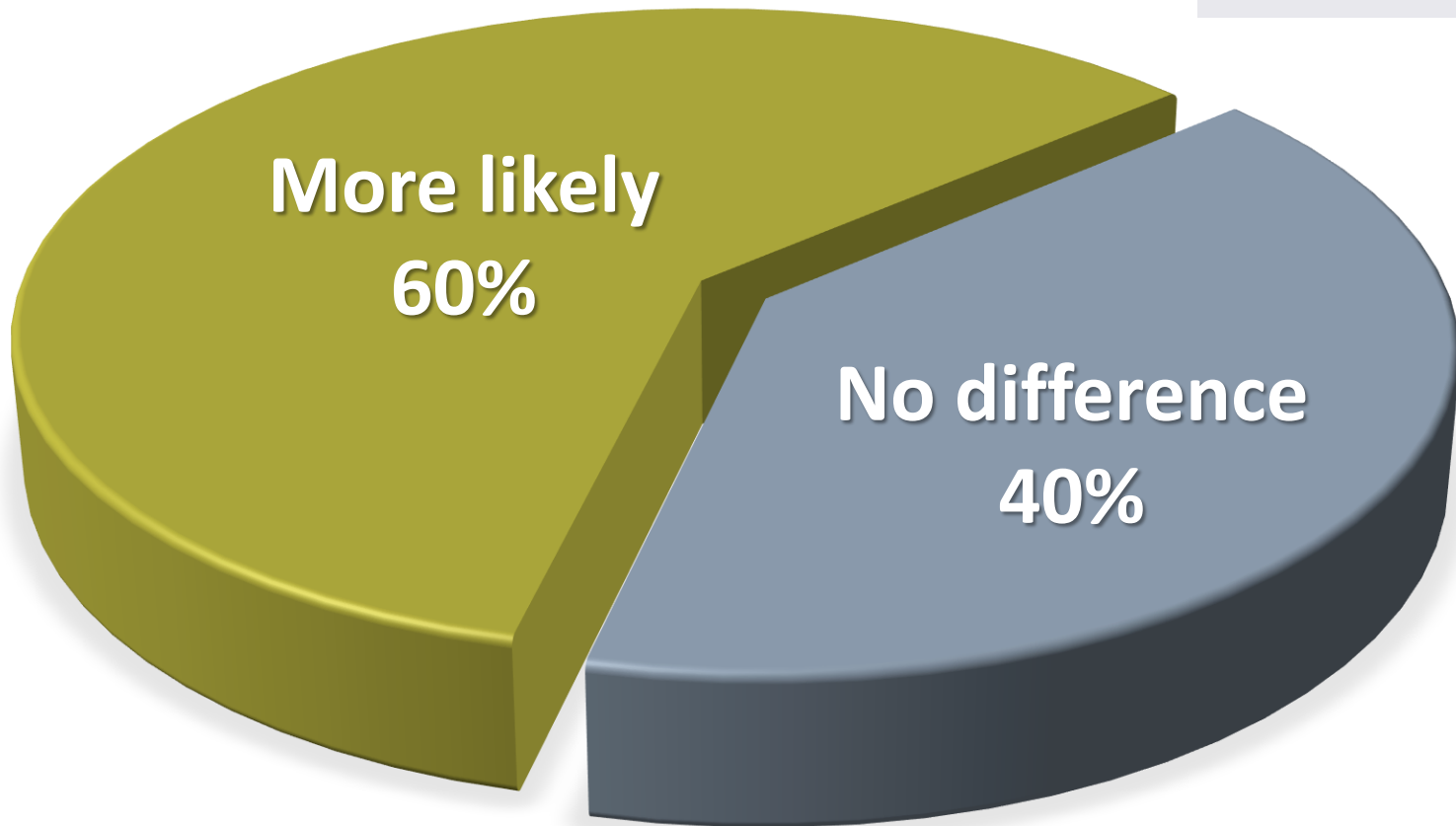
- ✓ Leaders of Adventist IHEs develop and implement strategic plans in order to **acquire or prepare qualified Adventist educators** in each academic area offered

Barrier #3

Many pastors are not aware of the evangelistic role of Adventist education, nor perhaps convinced of its efficacy.

Pastors Believe...

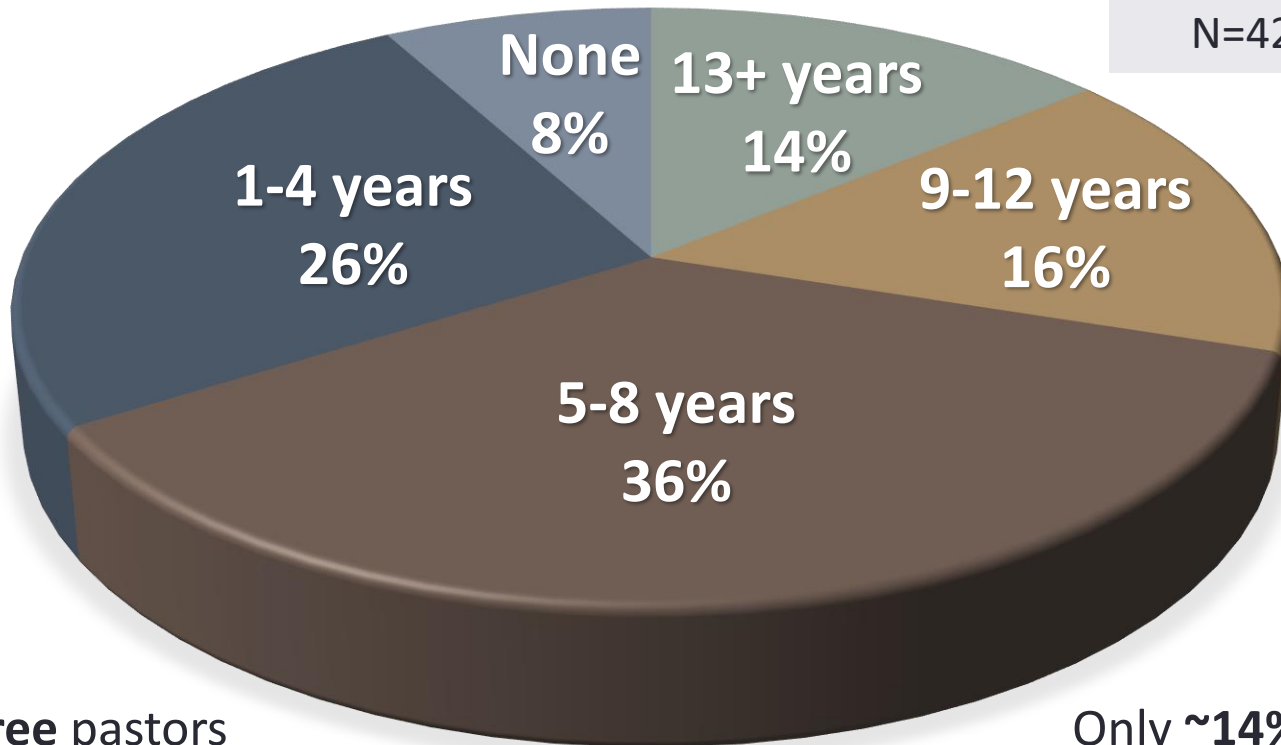
Random sample
from world divisions.
N=4260. 2013.



Members who have not experienced Adventist education and their likelihood of leaving the church.

Pastors' Years of Adventist Education

Random sample
from world divisions.
N=4260. 2013.



One in three pastors have had **fewer than five years** exposure to Adventist education.

Only **~14%** of pastors have completed **all of their education** in Adventist institutions.

Dismantling Barrier #3

- ✓ Adventist Seminaries and Schools of Religion incorporate **required courses in the Ministry of Adventist Education** in the programs of study for all students specializing in pastoral ministry, religion, or theology

Dismantling Barrier #3

- ✓ Adventist Seminaries and Schools of Religion require an **internship in an Adventist school** of all ministerial students who have not completed at least one year of study in an Adventist primary or secondary school

Jiri Moskala, WHEN CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS COLLABORATE ON MISSION, JAE, APRIL-JUNE, 2018.



Dismantling Barrier #3

- ✓ Ministerial and educational leaders emphasize through publications and at meetings of Adventist pastors **the evangelistic effectiveness of Seventh-day Adventist education,** especially in terms of accession and retention

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

Seventh-day Adventist
Education