


**JOINING & REMAINING**




A Look at the Data on the Role of Adventist Education

John Wesley Taylor V  
taylorjw@gc.adventist.org

All-important matter...

**“Conversion of the students.”**



*Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 436*

**ACCESSION TO THE CHURCH**

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+ 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
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8,539</b>	<b>106,976</b>	<b>1,935,898</b>

December 31, 2017

Adventist Education

**LONGEST and LARGEST**

**EVANGELISTIC EVENT**

**Effective?**

Baptisms in Adventist Education

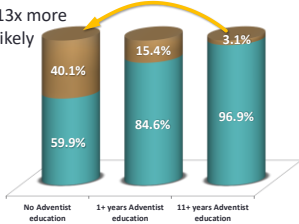
Year	Baptized
2008	33,138
2009	40,415
2010	49,176
2011	50,752
2012	49,774
2013	48,604
2014	47,435
2015	43,475
2016	49,308
2017	46,310

**458,387 baptisms**

**A conference established each year**

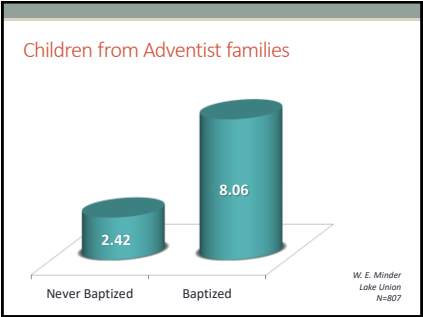
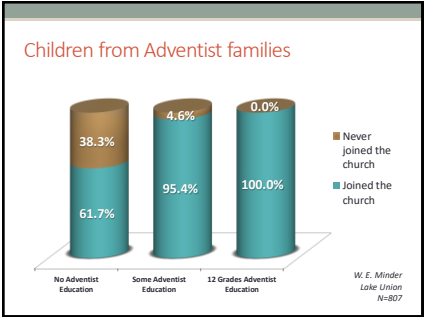
Children from Adventist families

13x more likely



Education Level	Baptized (%)	Never baptized (%)
No Adventist education	59.9%	40.1%
1+ years Adventist education	84.6%	15.4%
11+ years Adventist education	96.9%	3.1%

Jim Epperson  
Southern Union  
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



### 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)

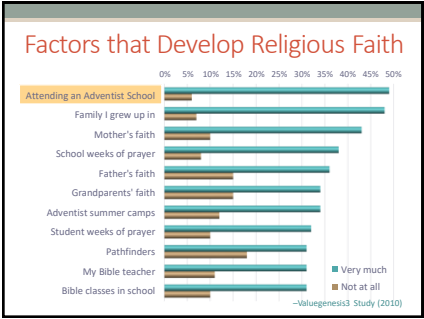
**Valuegenesis Study** ①

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.



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


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



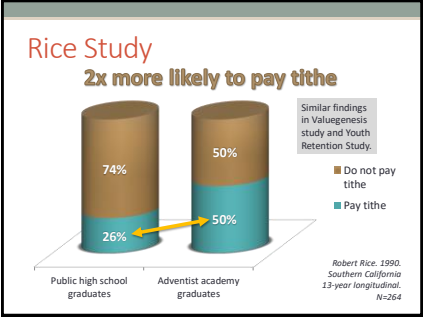
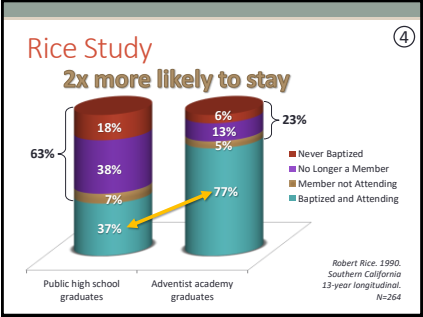
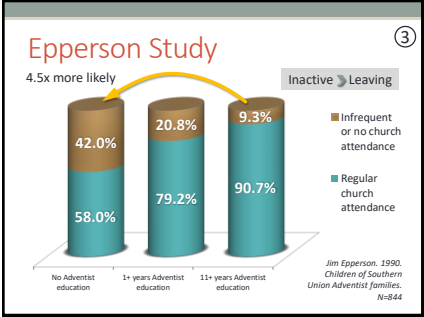
—Valuegenesis3 Study (2010)

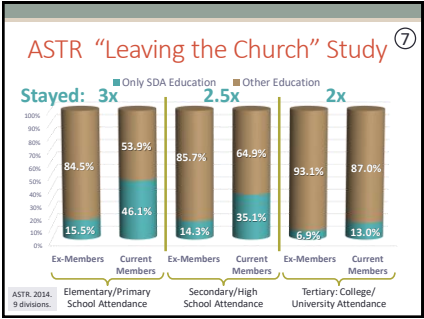
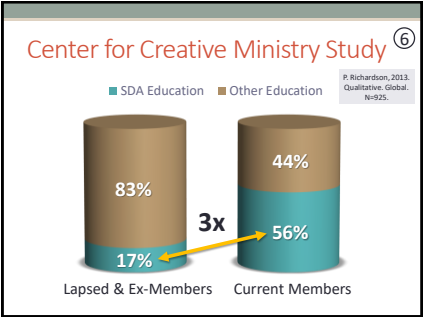
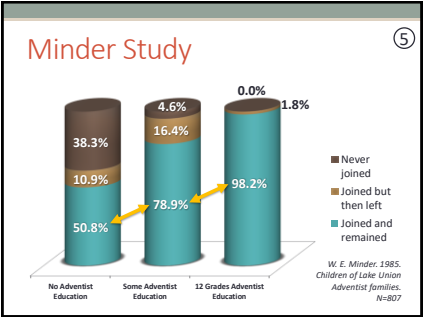
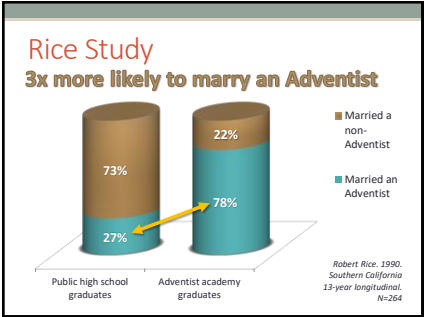
**Youth Retention Study** ②

- 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



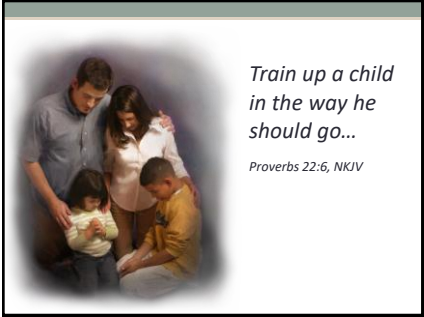
Dudley, 2000; Thayer, 2008





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

**Yes!**  
Consistent  
Persuasive



CONCLUSION

