

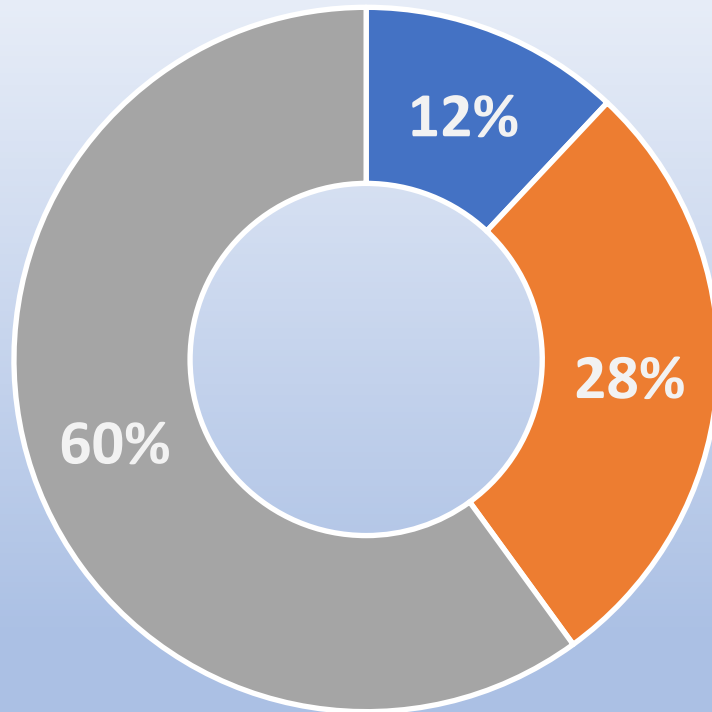
Global Church Member Research and Young People Retention

Believe, behave, belong



Galina Stele, DMin
IBMC, Podkowa Lesna
September 2019

2017-18 Global Church Member Survey Samples & Young People Subsamples



■ Youth up to 20

■ Young people 21-35

■ Members 36+

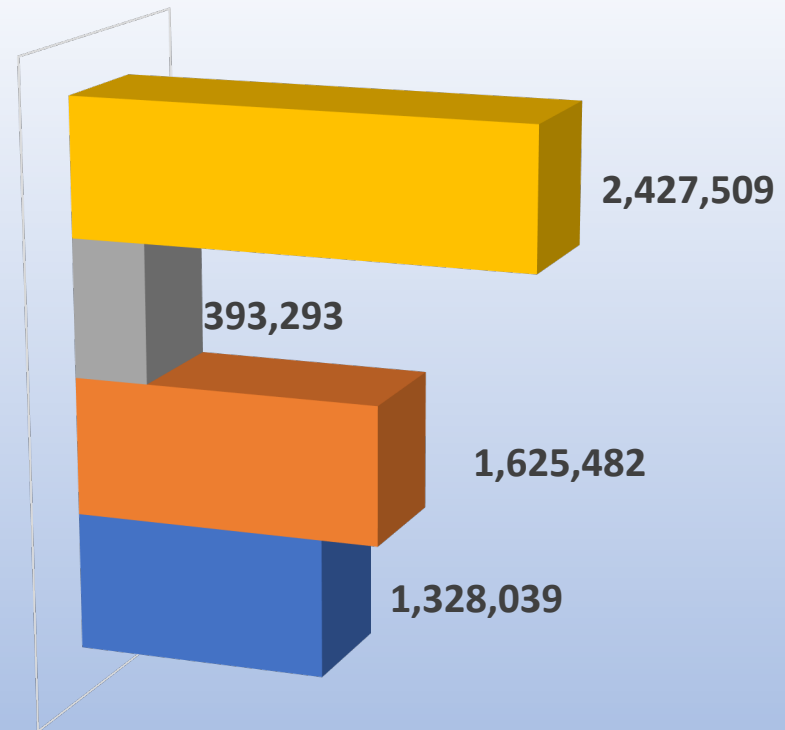
Total sample:
N=63,756

21-35 years of age:
N=17,970

Up to 20 years old:
N= 7,490

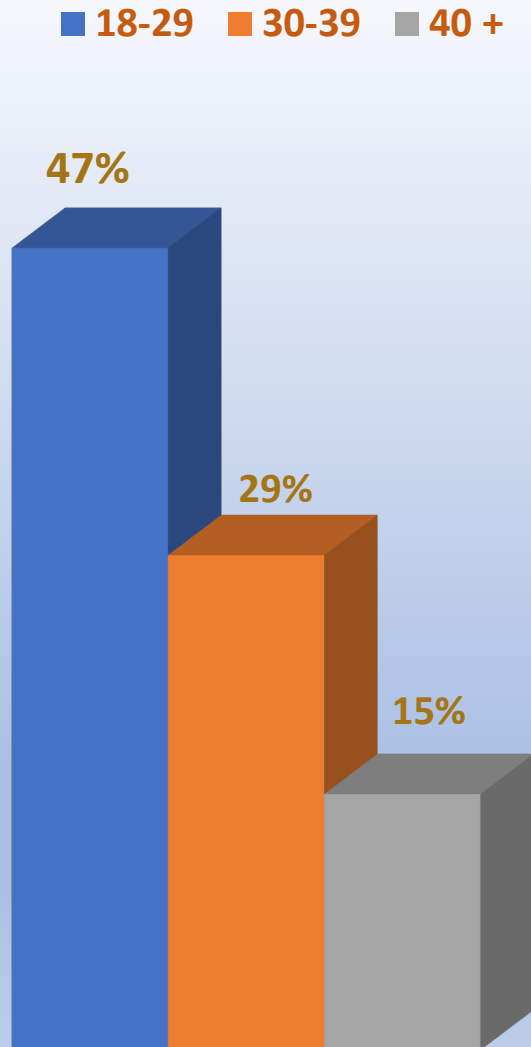
Adventist Kids, Youth, & Young Adults around the World (as of 2017)

Adventurers – ages 4-9
Pathfinders – 10-15
Ambassadors – 16-21
Young adults – 21-30+

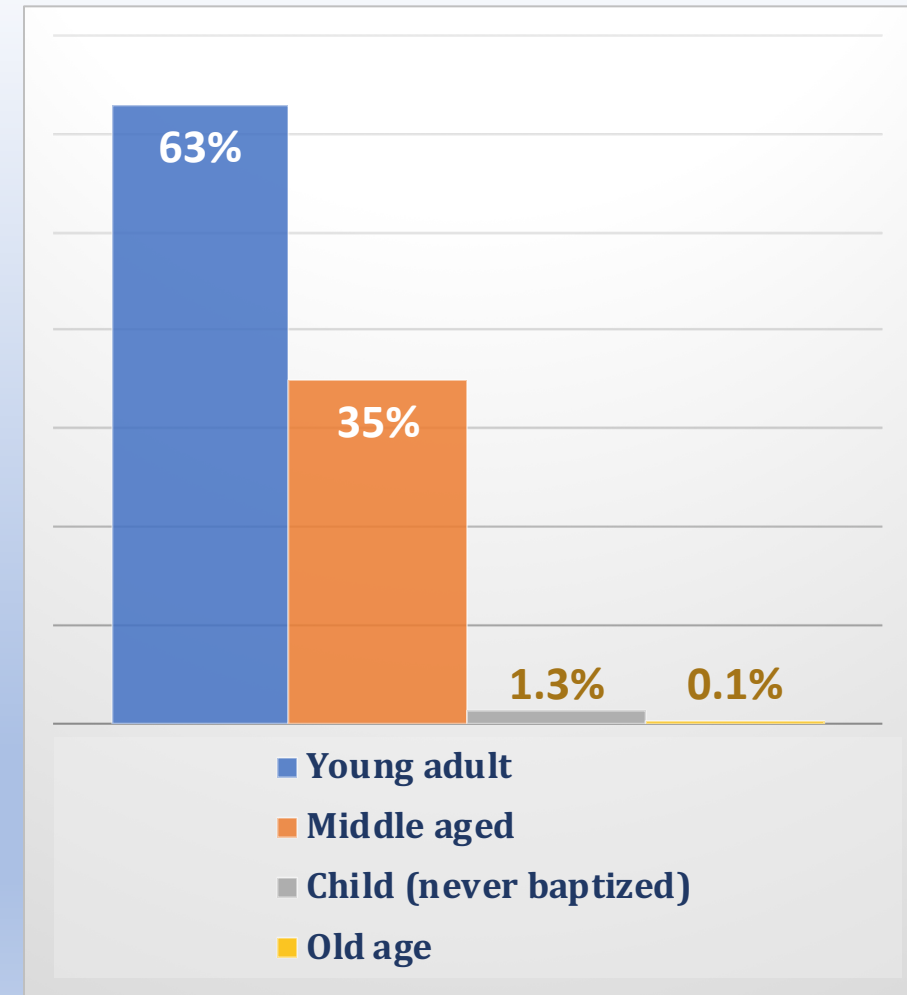


- Adventist Young People
- Ambassadors
- Pathfinders
- Adventurers

Age When they Stopped Attending the Adventist Church (F&IM)



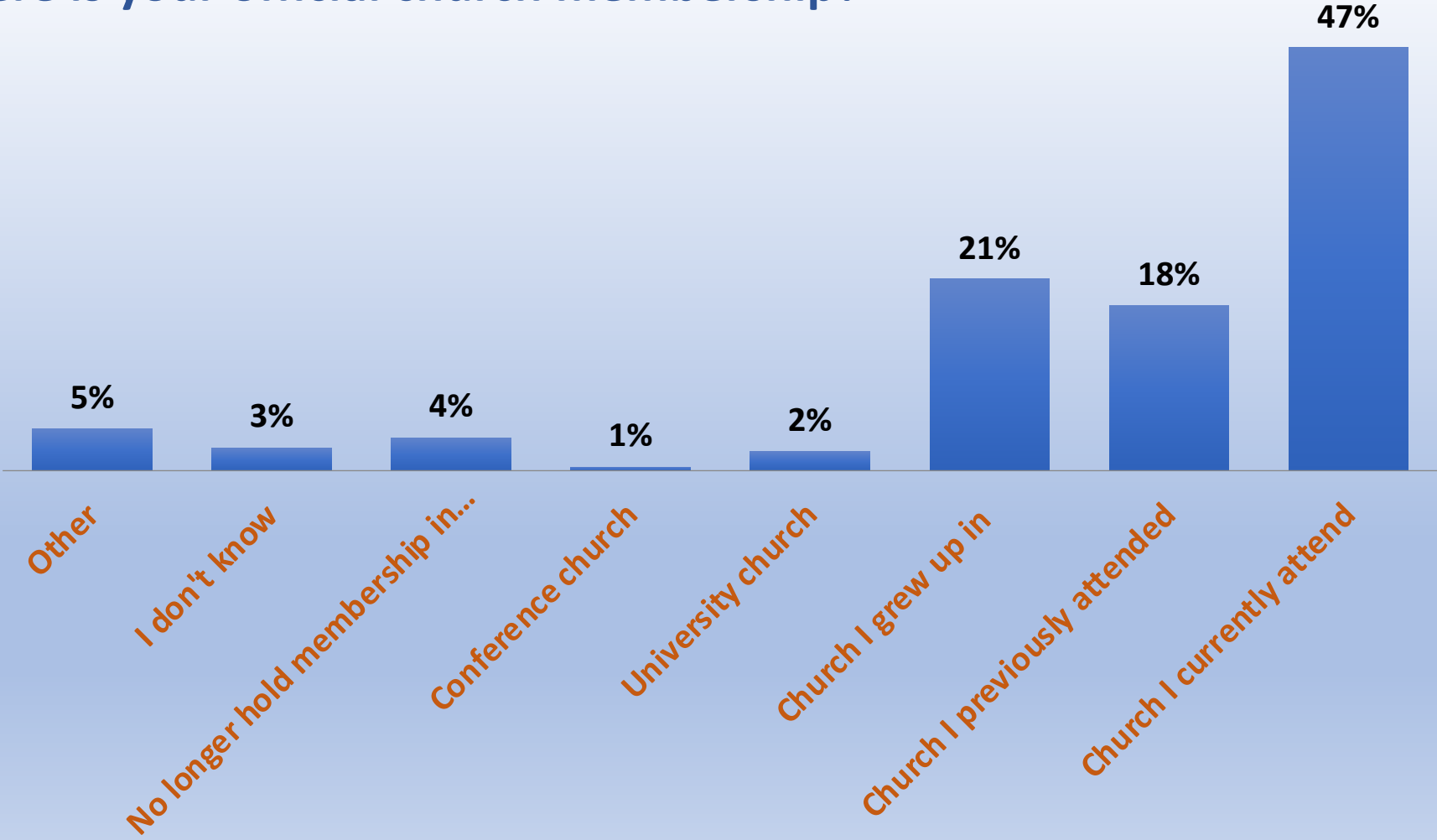
When did you decide to leave the church? (LS)



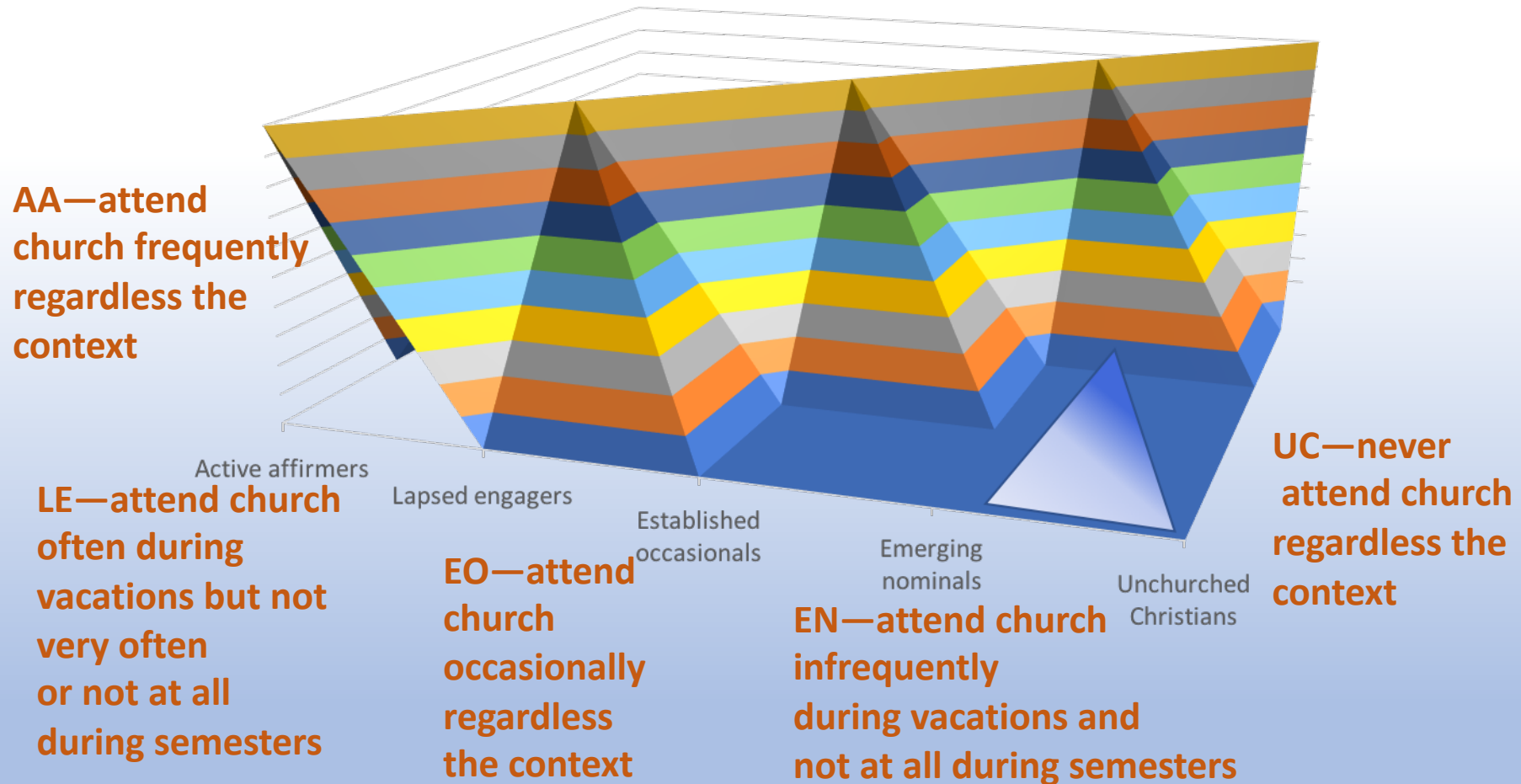
I. Transitional Lifestyle of Young People

Not in regular church attendance (21st CCS)

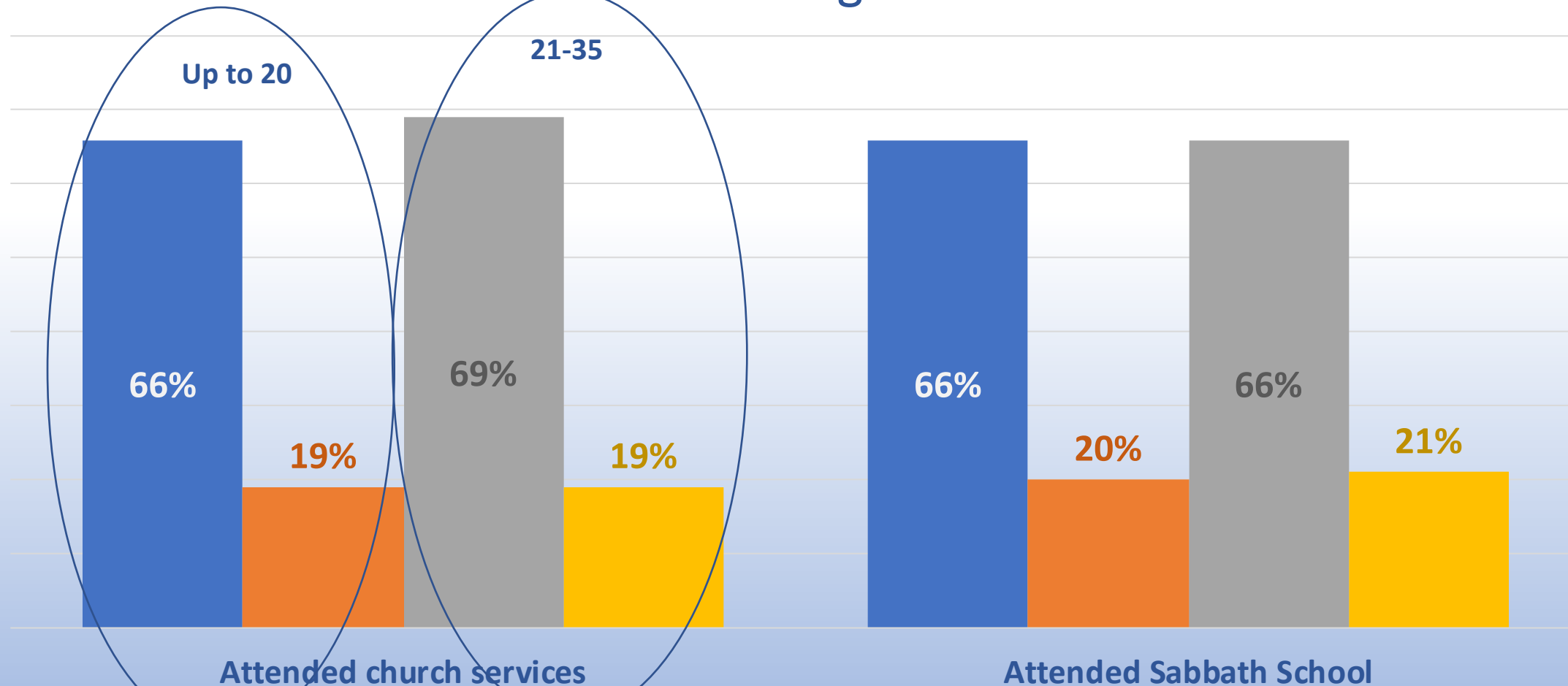
Where is your official church membership?



Mathew J. Guest
*The Hidden Christians of the University Campus: Public Visibility
and the Future of Religion in the UK*



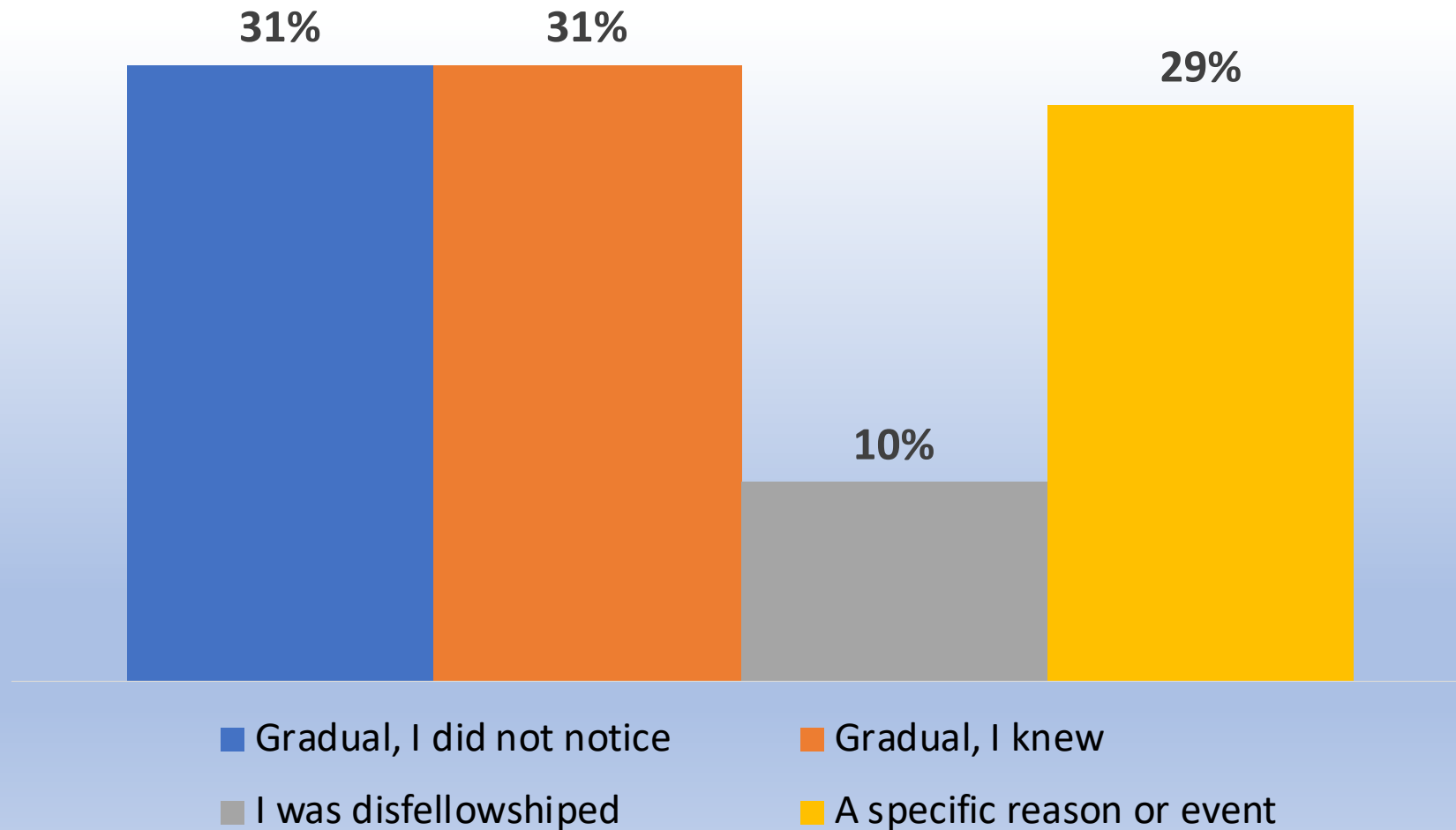
Church attendance during the Last 12 Months



- Every week or more than once a week: up to 20
- Almost every week: up to 20
- Every week or more than once a week: 21-35
- Almost every week: 21-35

How did you Come to this Decision? (to leave the church)

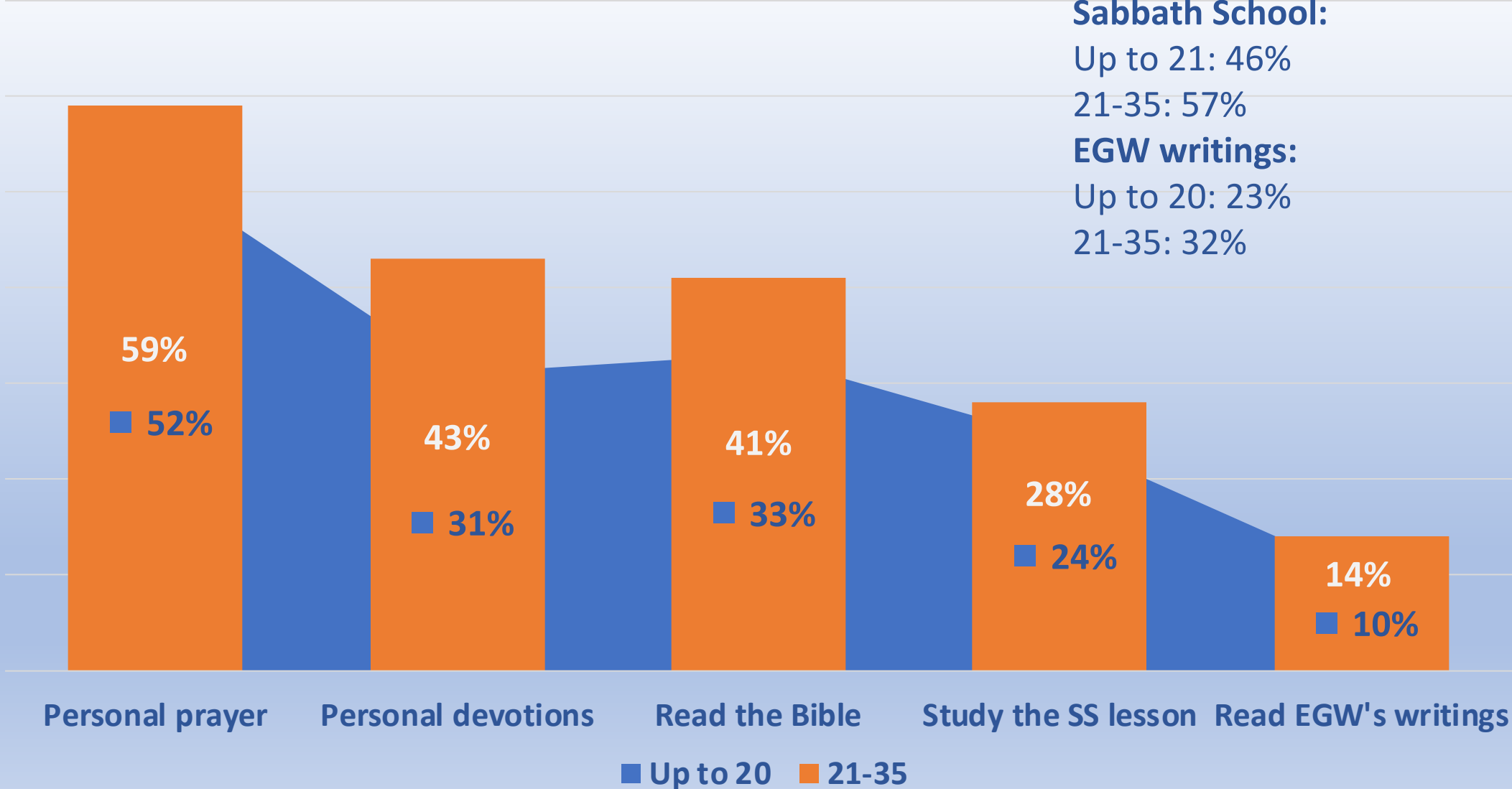
(LS, young people)



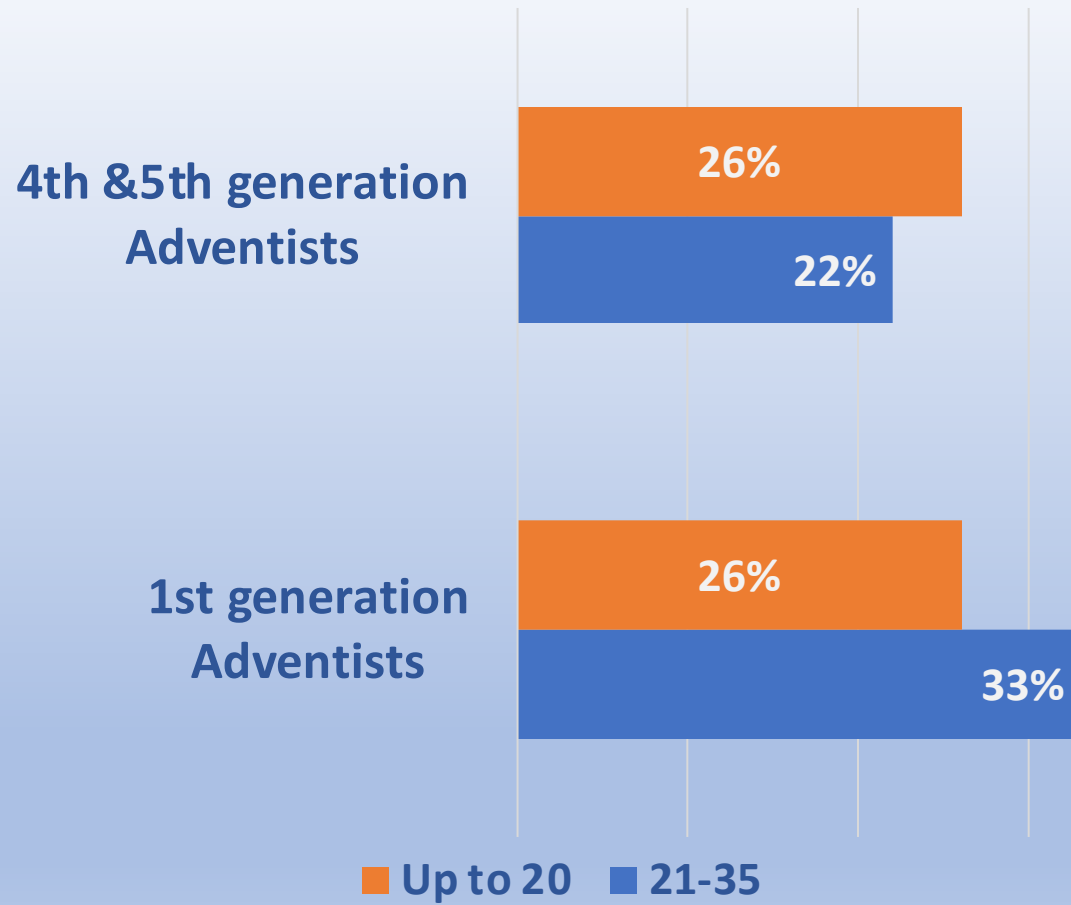
2. Devotional Life

How Often do you Engage in these Activities?
[Daily or more often than once a day]

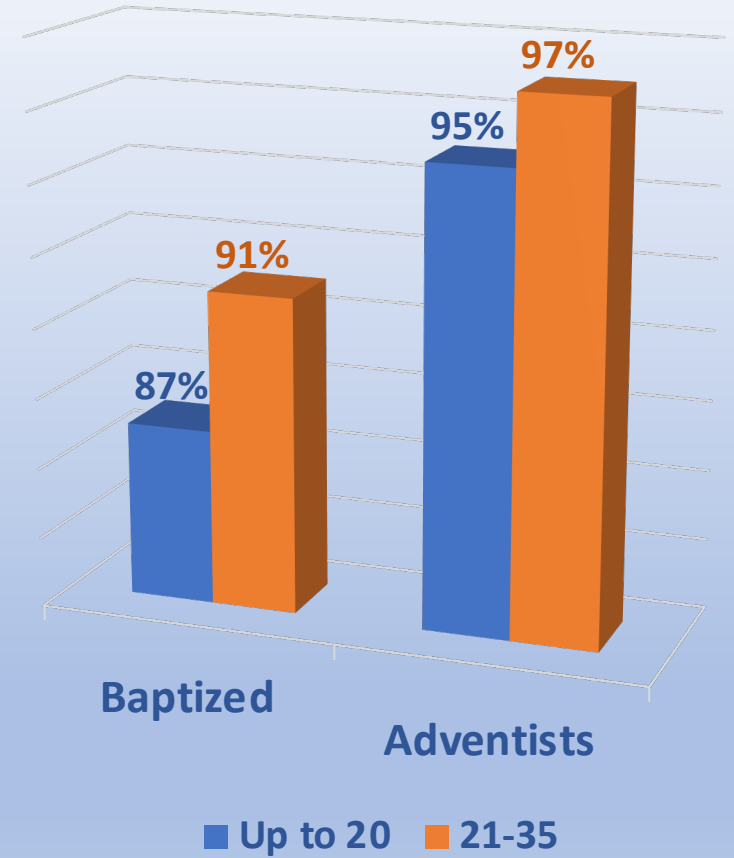
**Daily or more often +
more than once a week:**
Sabbath School:
Up to 21: 46%
21-35: 57%
EGW writings:
Up to 20: 23%
21-35: 32%



Generations of Adventists

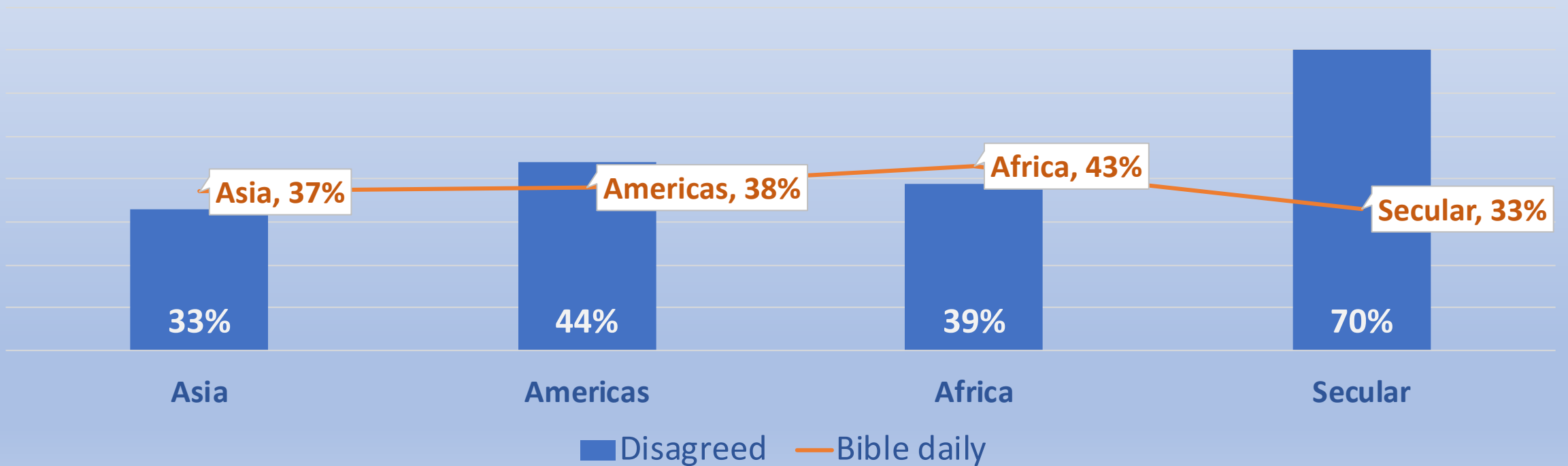


Relationship with the Adventist Church



Differences in Responses in Different Cultural Contexts

Responses on reading the Bible daily and
Disagree or strongly disagree with
“Although I am religious, it does not affect my daily life”
Ages: 15-35



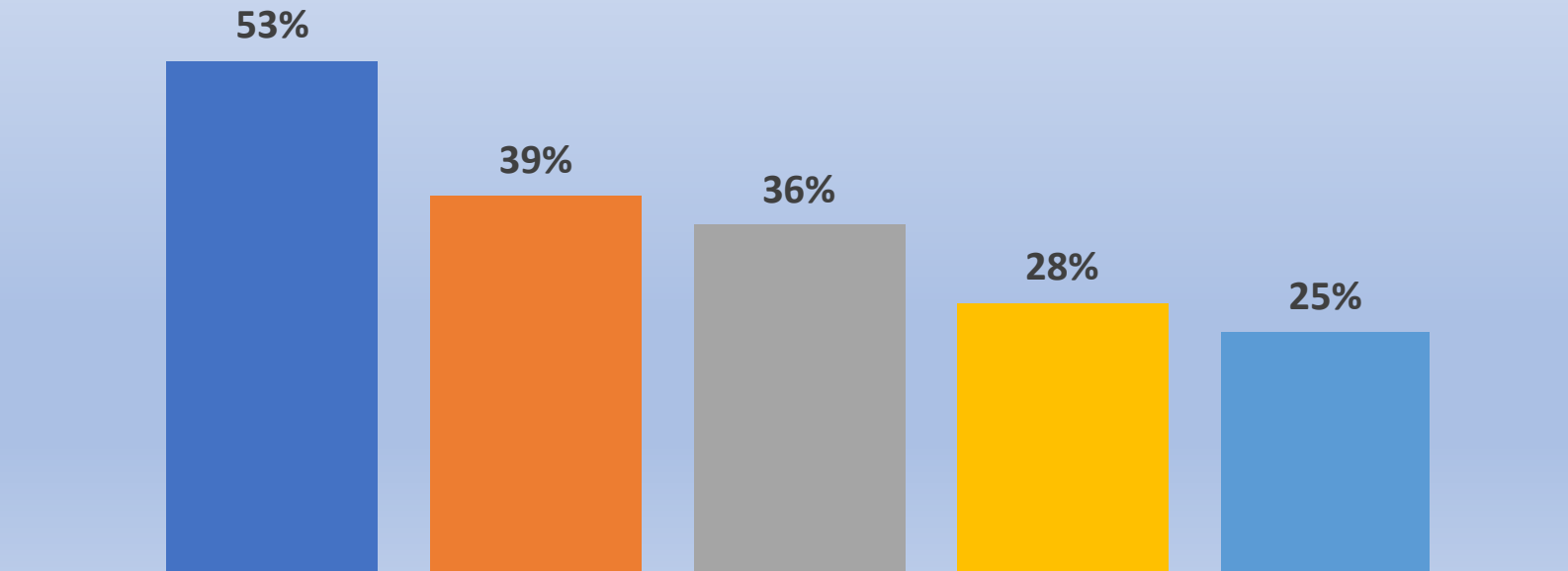
* “Americas” include Inter and South America; “Secular” context includes North America, Europe, and part of Australia

3. Church factor

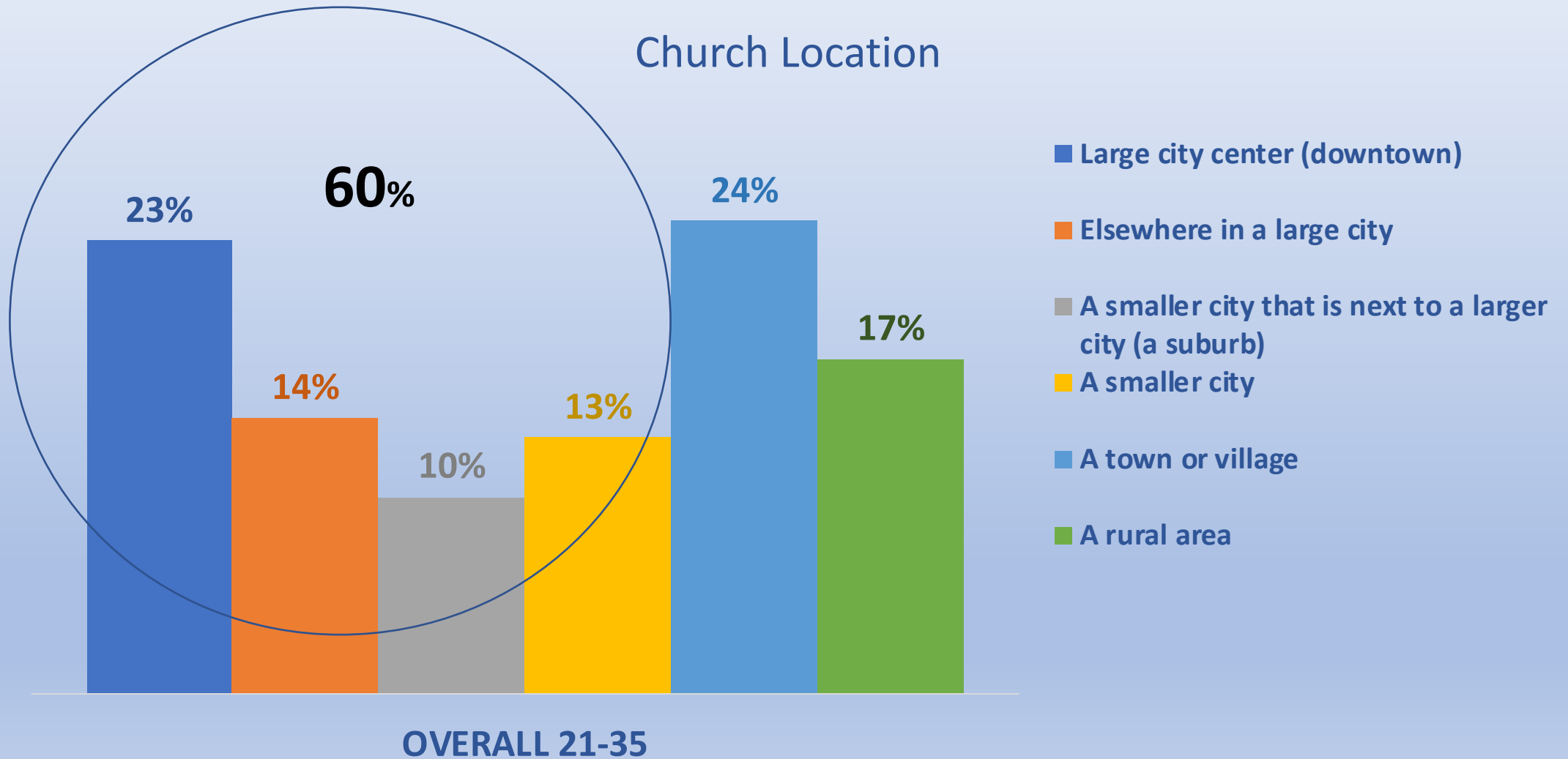
Churches they fit in?

What are the main reasons you don't attend church regularly?
(21st CCS)

- I haven't found one I fit in
- I think the church is too political
- My job/schedule does not allow time
- I don't see the need or benefit of going
- I don't feel welcome at church

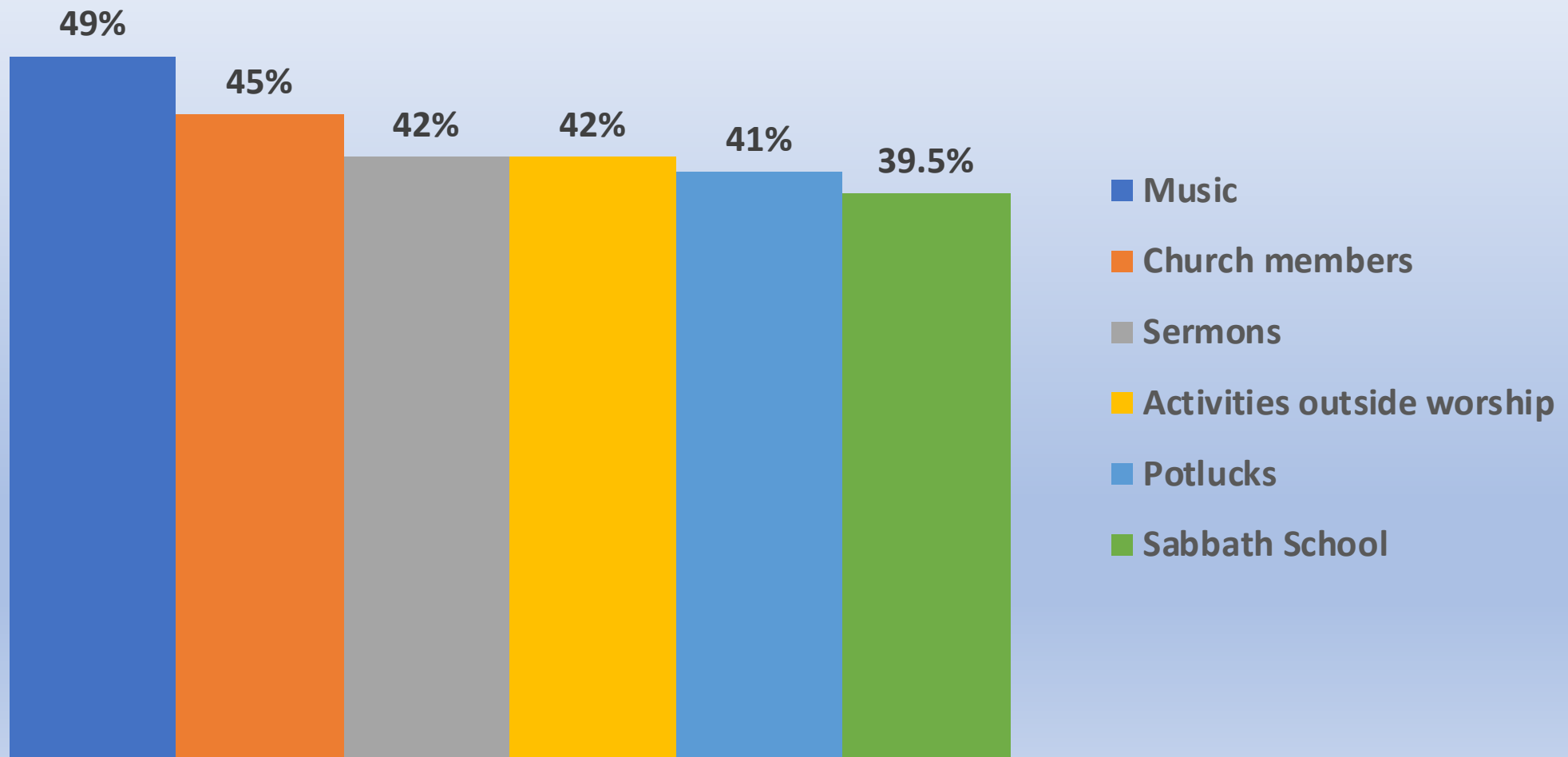


Church Location, Size, Worship, Pastor, Climate



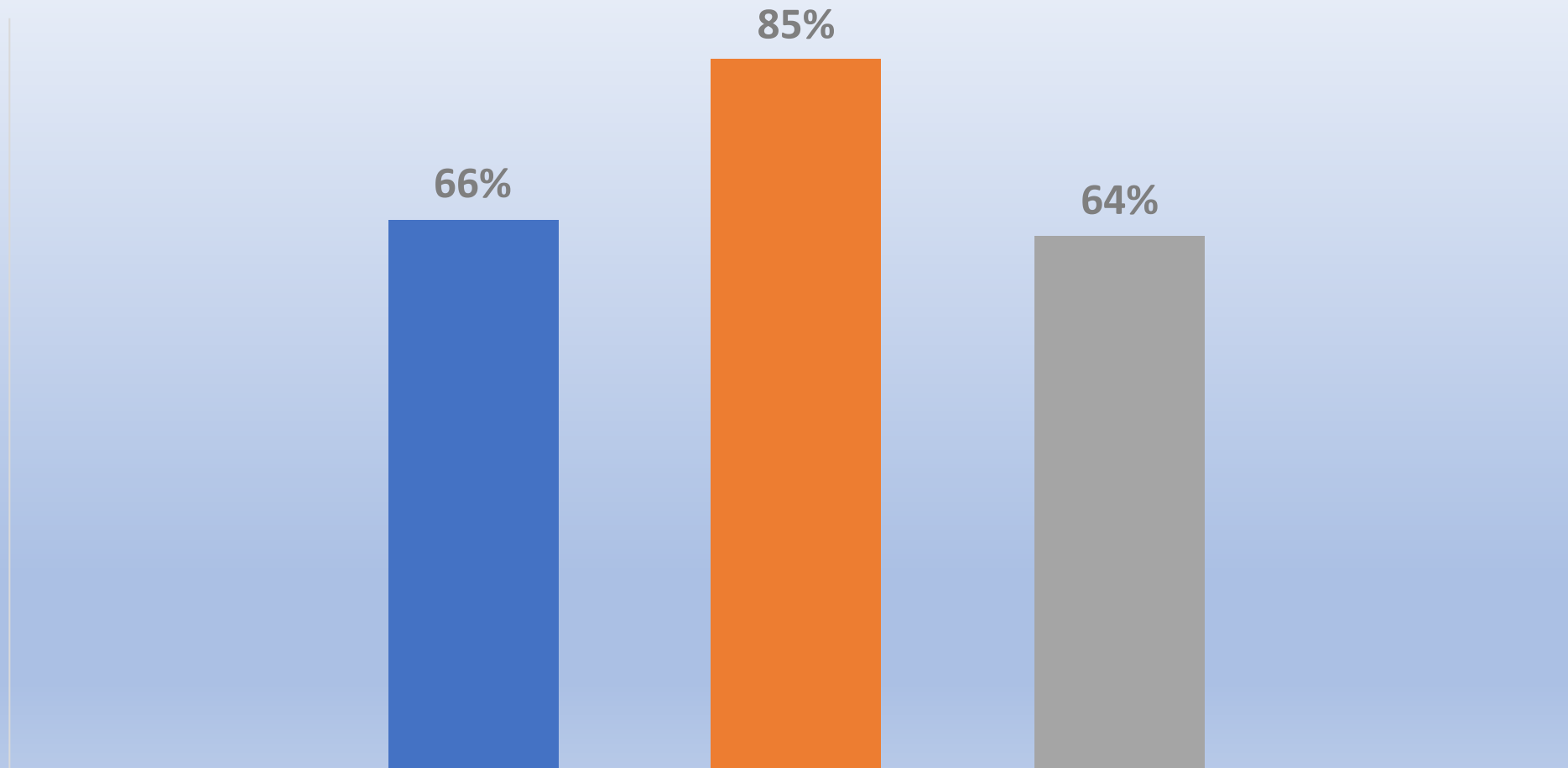
Areas of the church where they connect most

(21st CCS)



What attracts them to the church? (21st CCS)

■ Having people of their age ■ Relevance of sermons ■ Pastor's personality

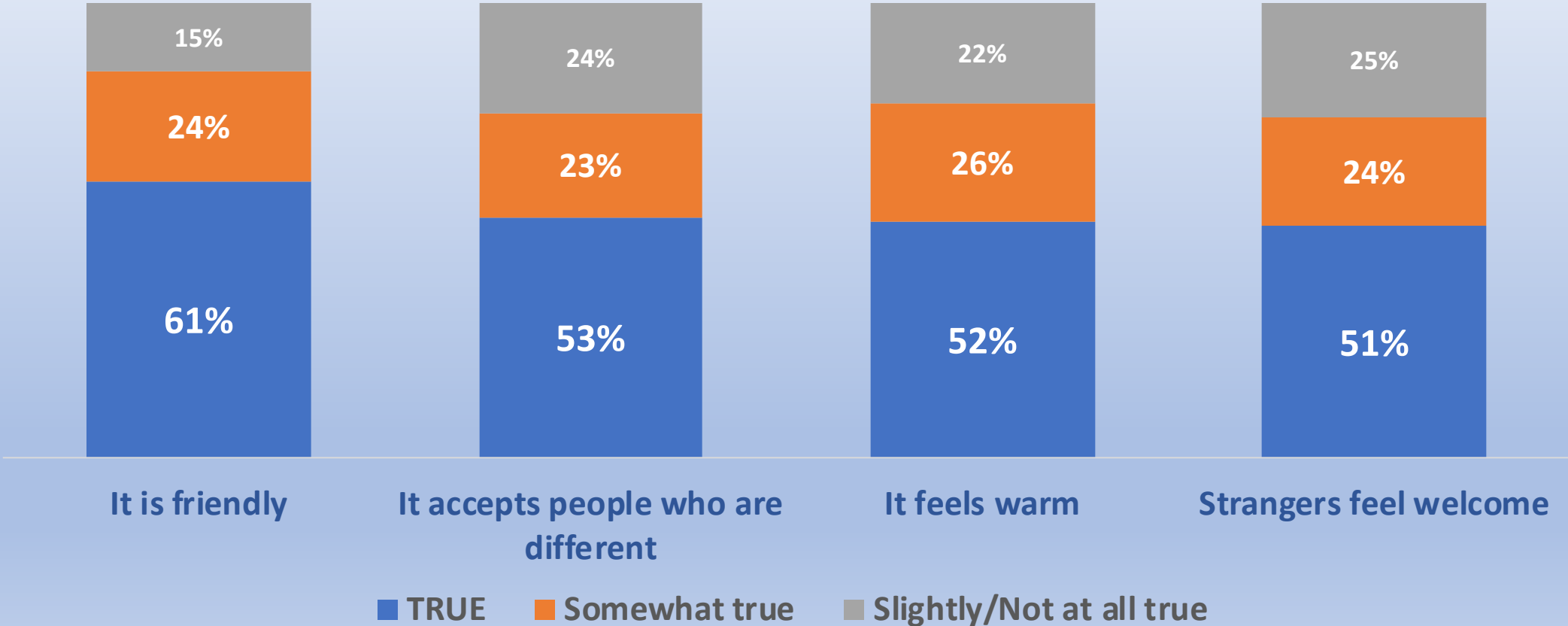


To remain Adventist for the next 20 years

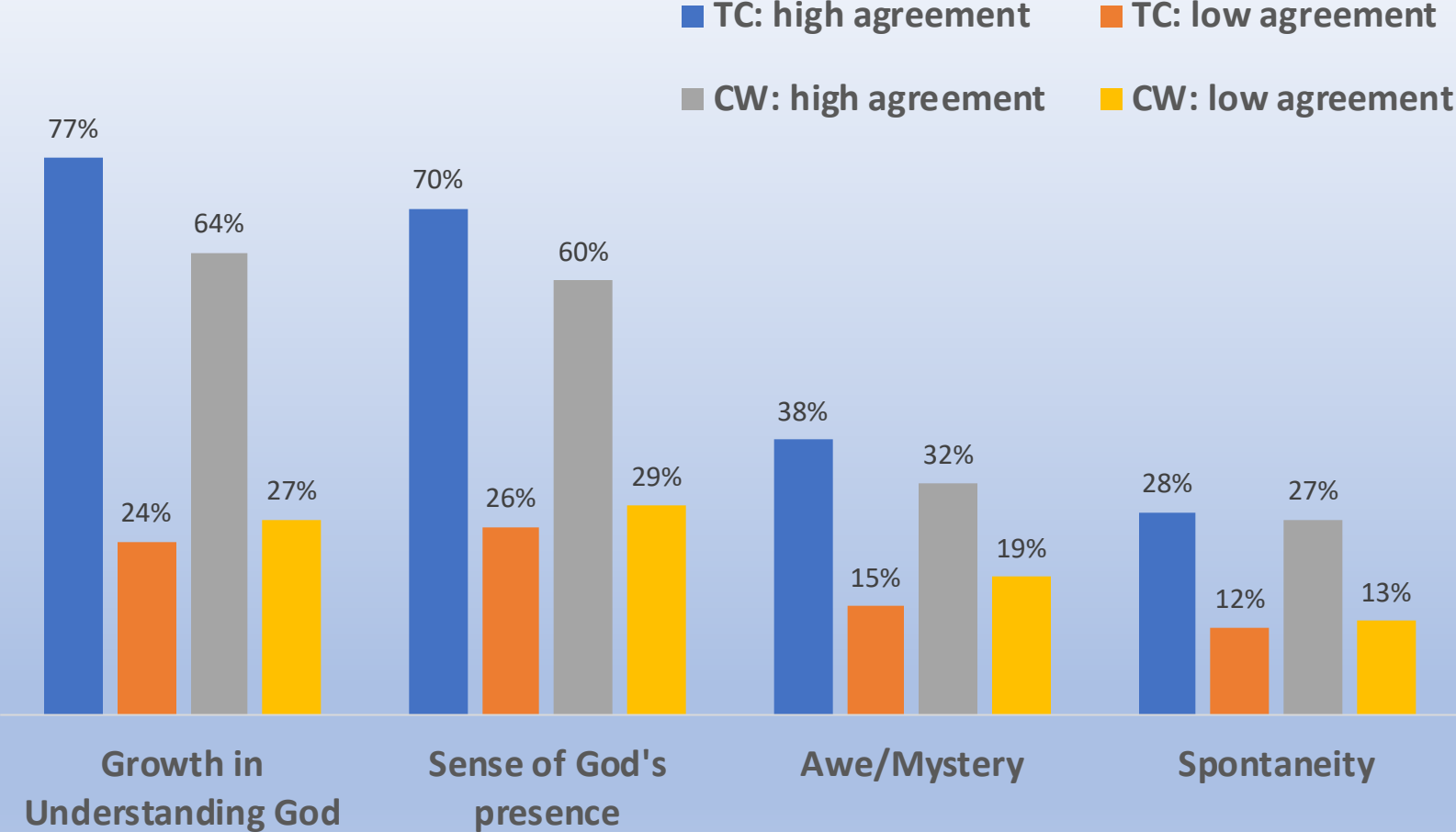
(V EU)

- 8 times more likely if **Preaching** is relevant
- 5 times more likely if **Spiritual Needs** are met in the church
- 2.6 times more likely if they are in a Supportive and helpful congregation: **they use their spiritual gifts and are involved in the church ministry**

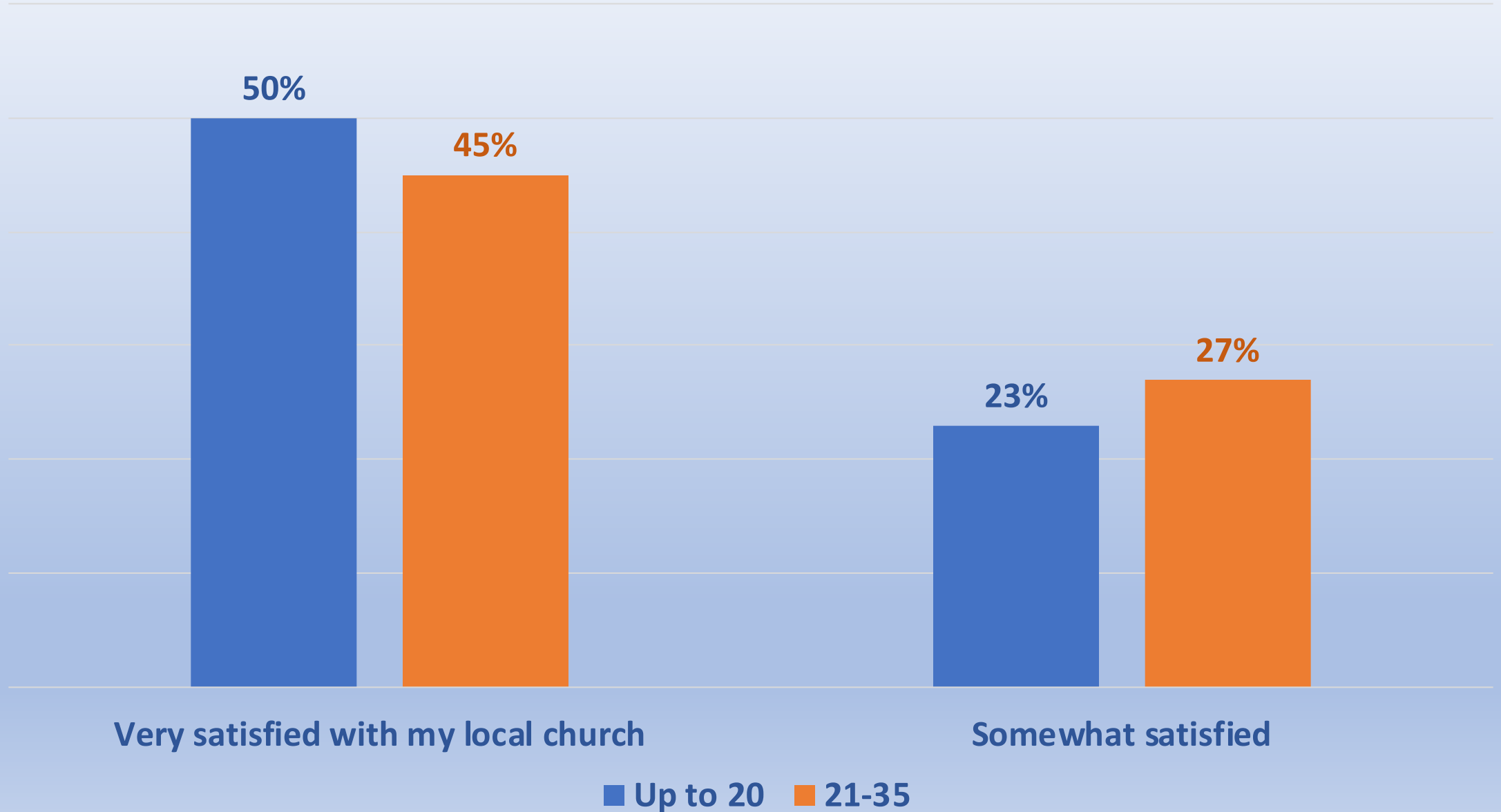
The Church Climate: Warmth Scale (V EU)



Worship Experience and Thinking Climate (TC)/ Church Warmth (CW) in the Church (V EU)

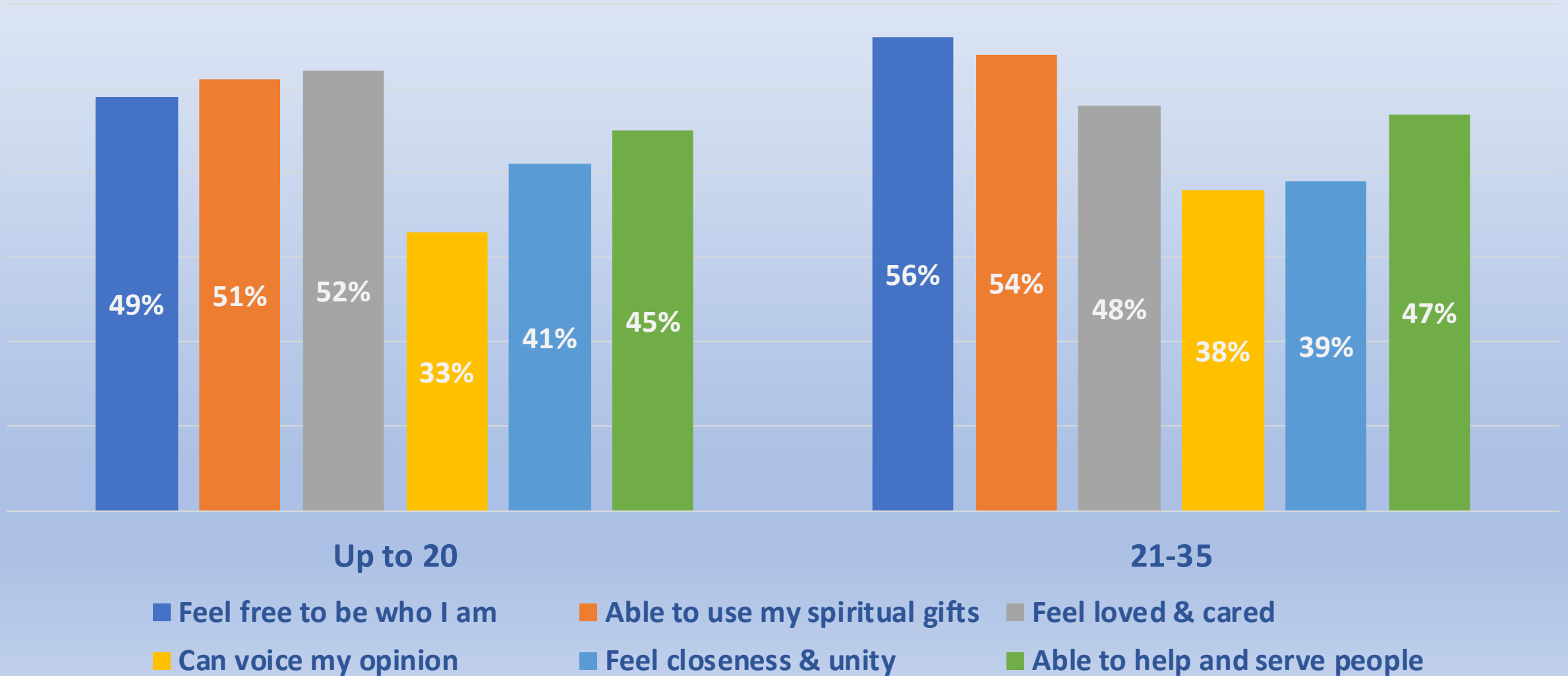


How Satisfied are you with your Local Church?

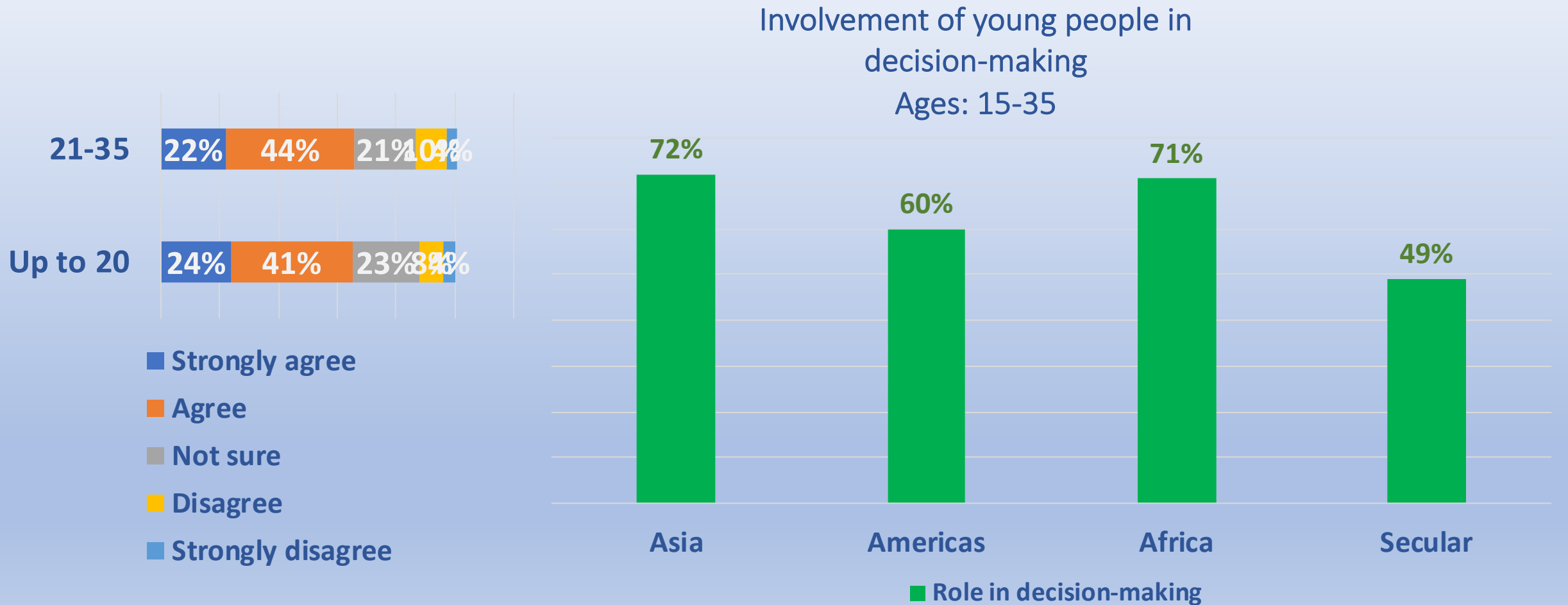


When I am at Church, I ...

At Church I ... (responses for "Very true")



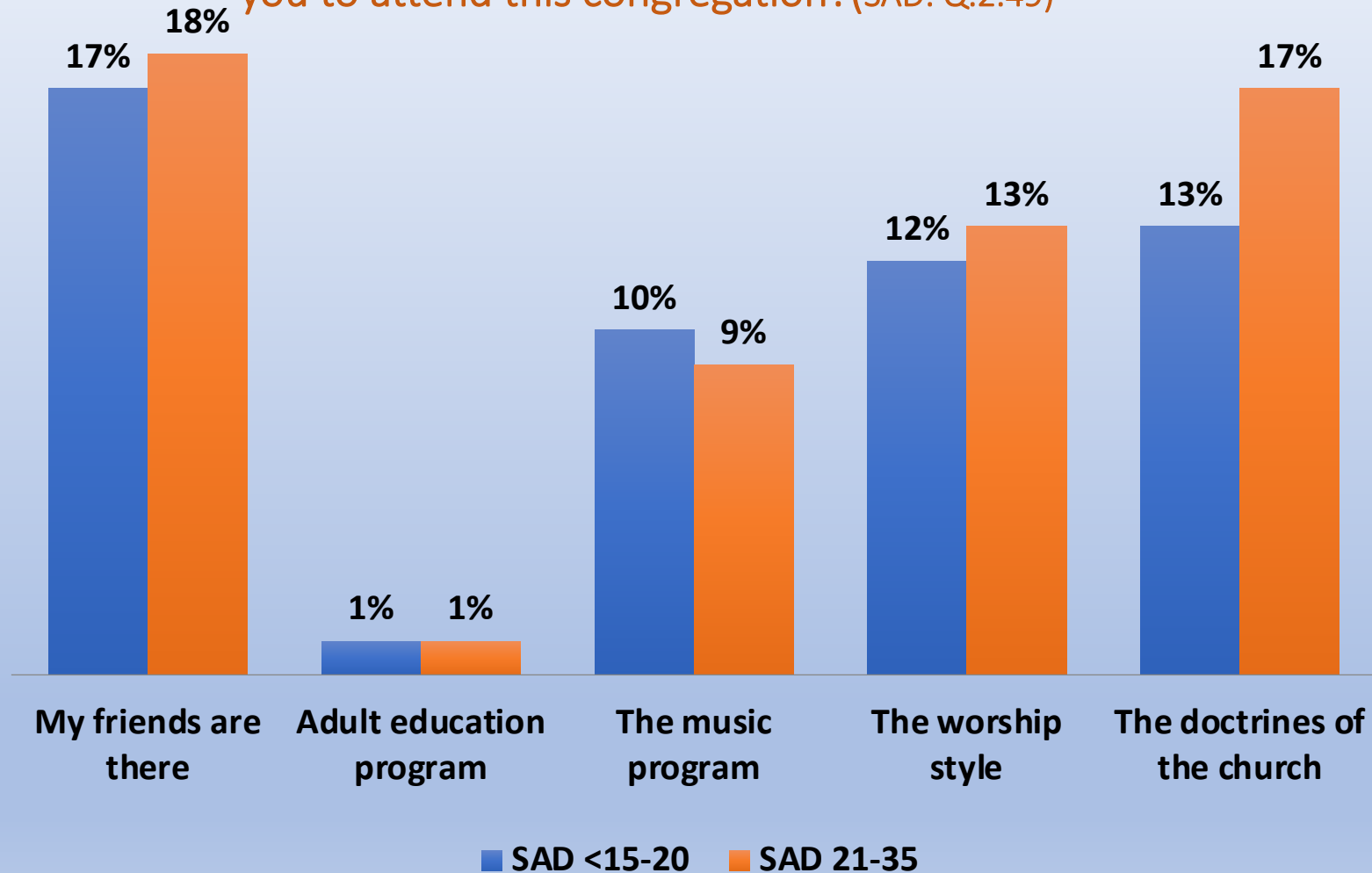
Youth and Young Adults Play an Important Role in Decision-Making in My Local Church



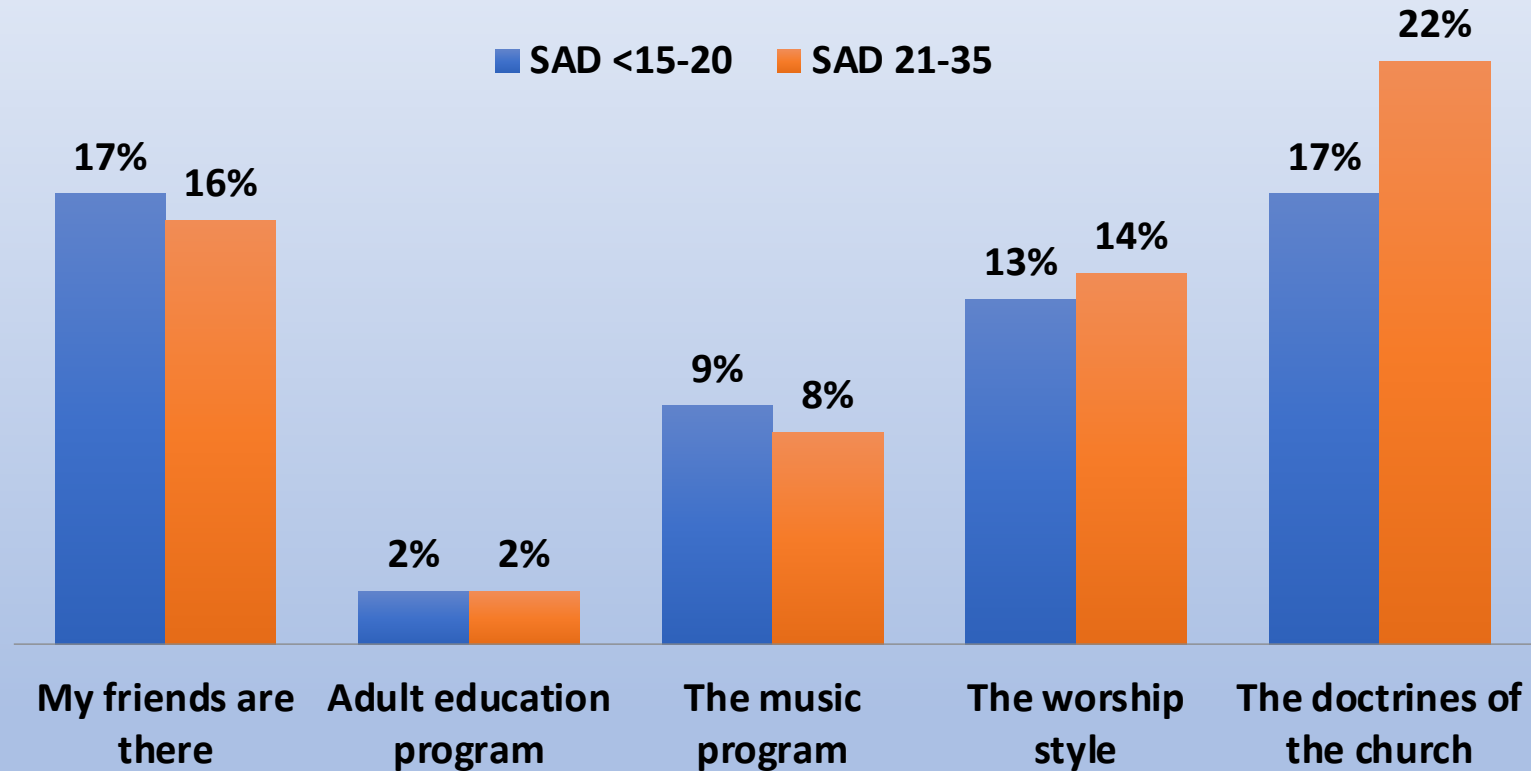
“Americas” include Inter and South America; “Secular” context includes North America, Europe, and part of Australia

4. Friends and support in the church

What originally brought you to this congregation, what originally attracted you to attend this congregation?(SAD: Q.2.49)

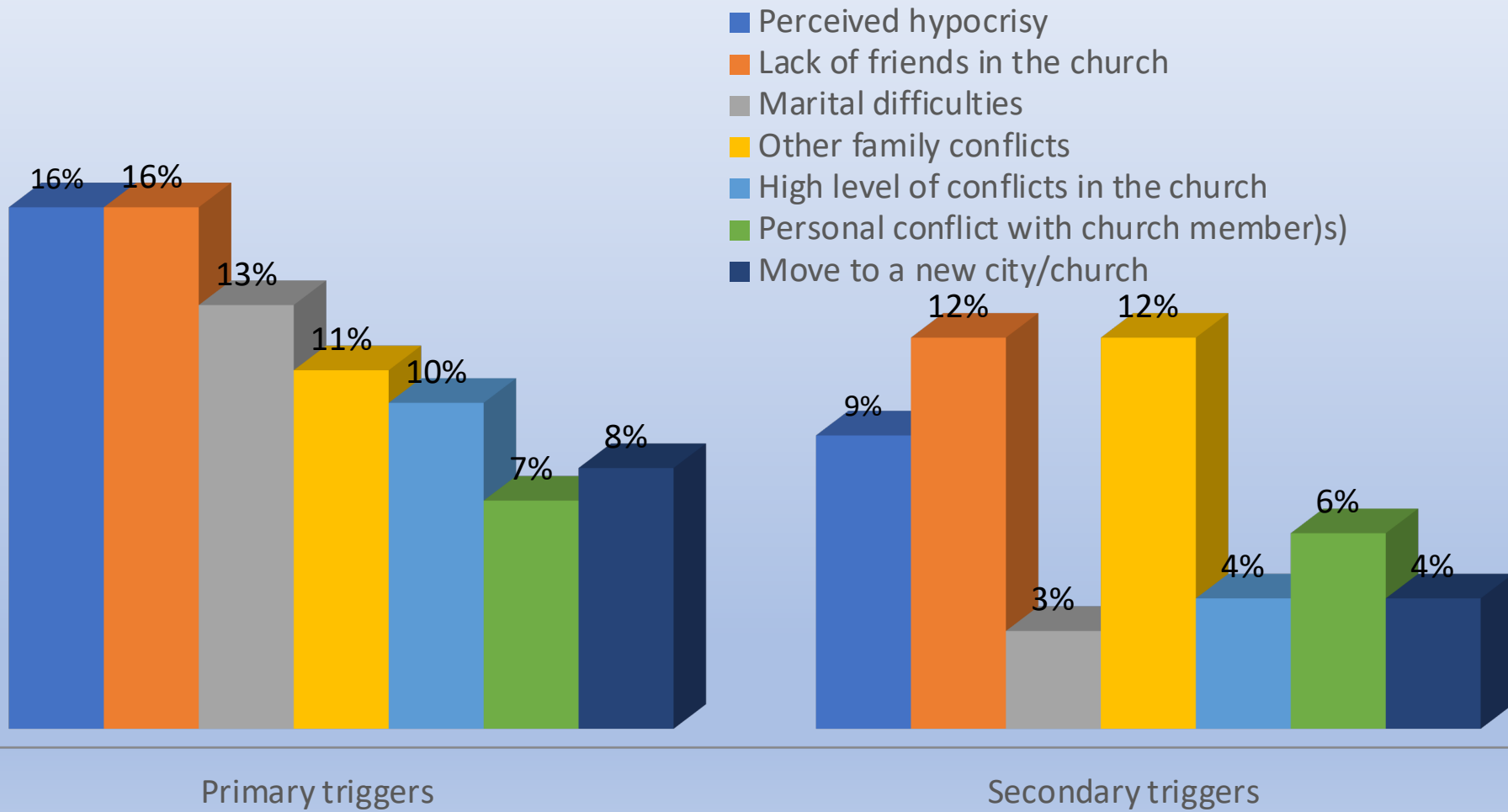


What is foremost reason you remain a part of this congregation? (SAD: Q. 2.50)



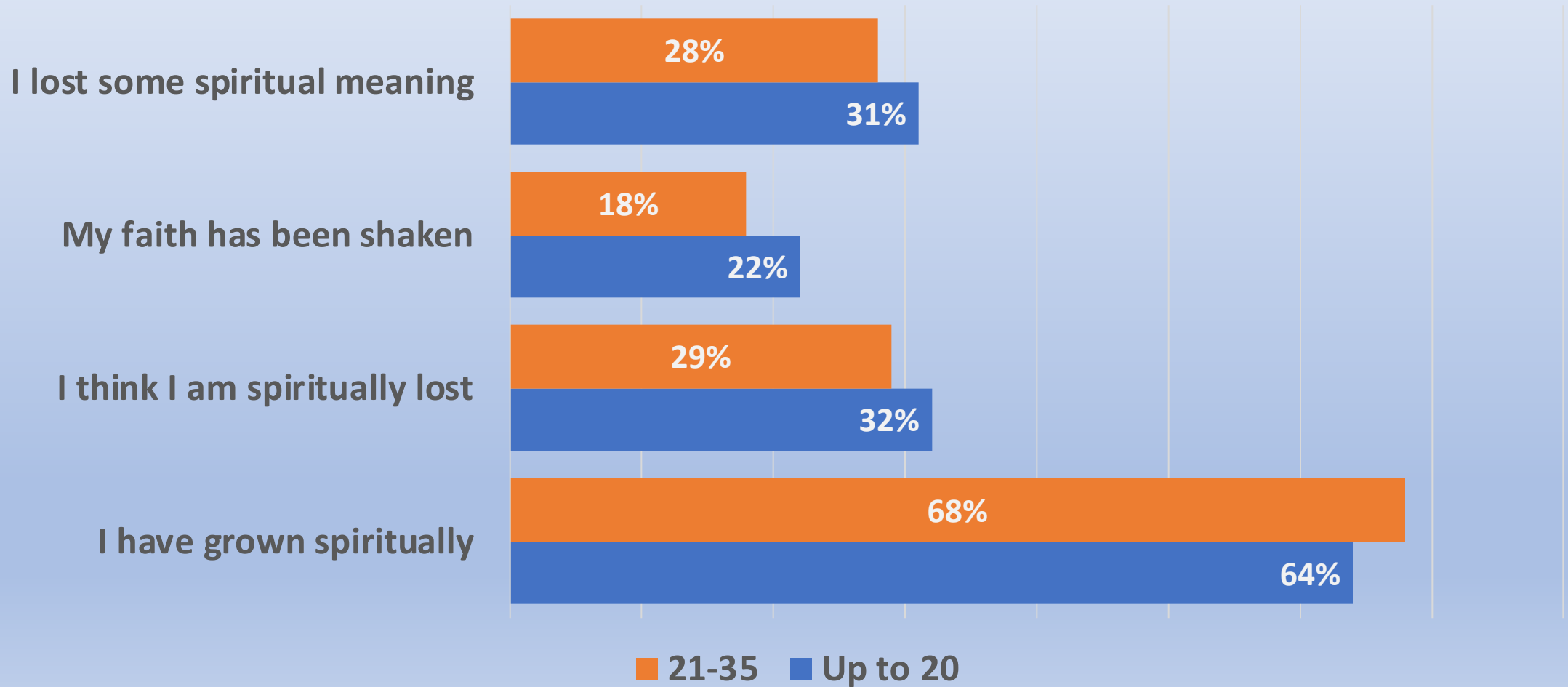
What event triggered your decision to leave?

Primary & Secondary Triggers (LS, young people)

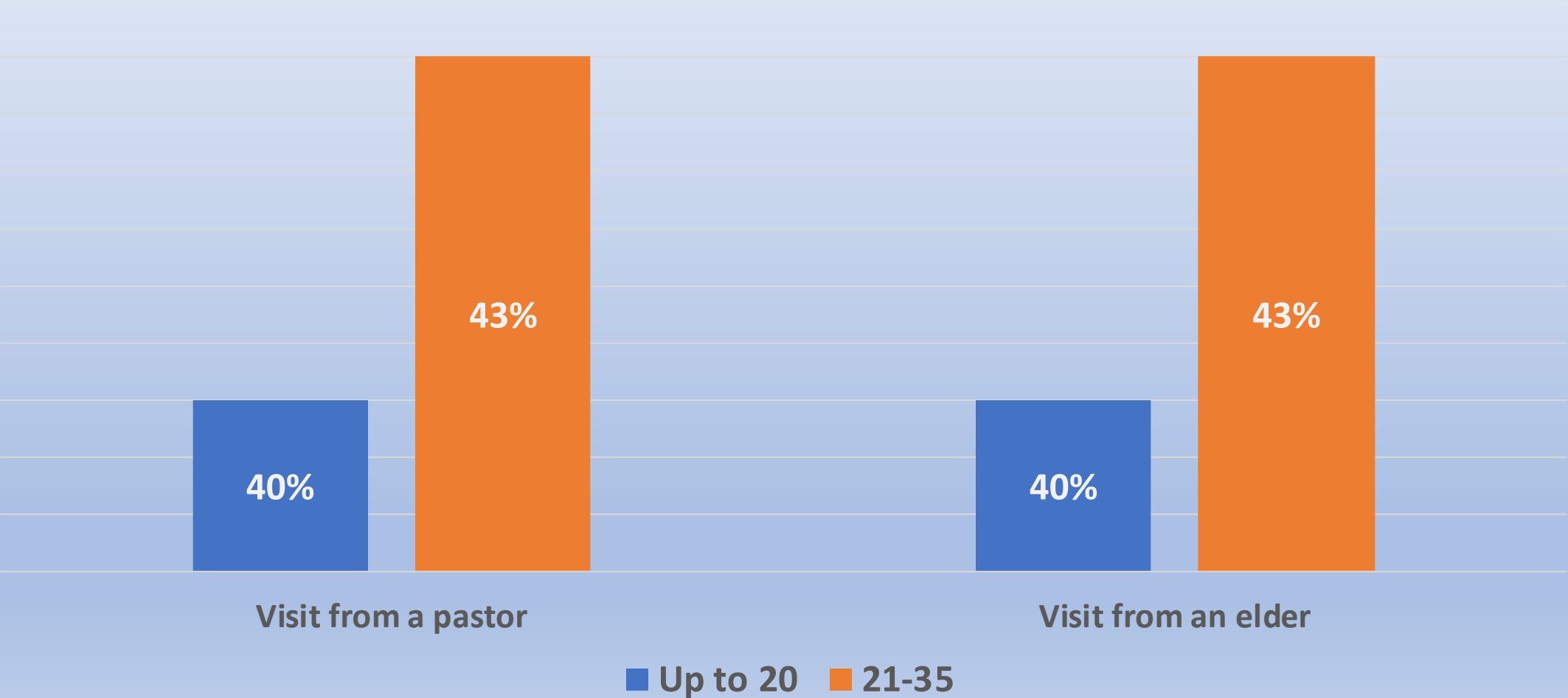


Spiritual Progress & Struggle

Somewhat true + true of me a great deal

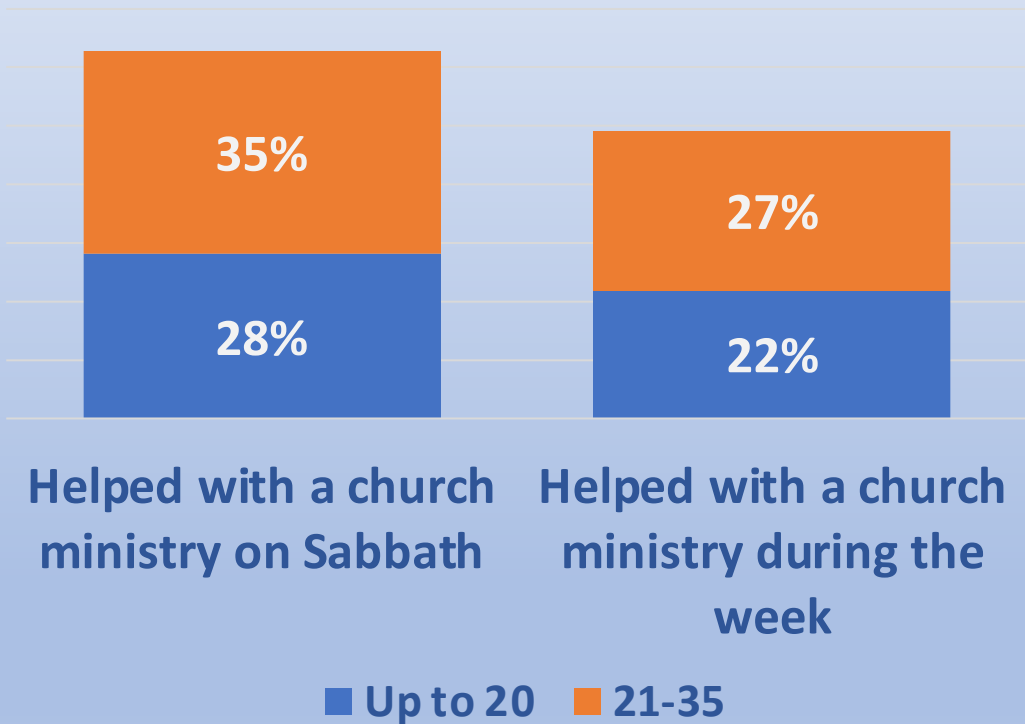


Never Received a Visit from my Pastor or Elder

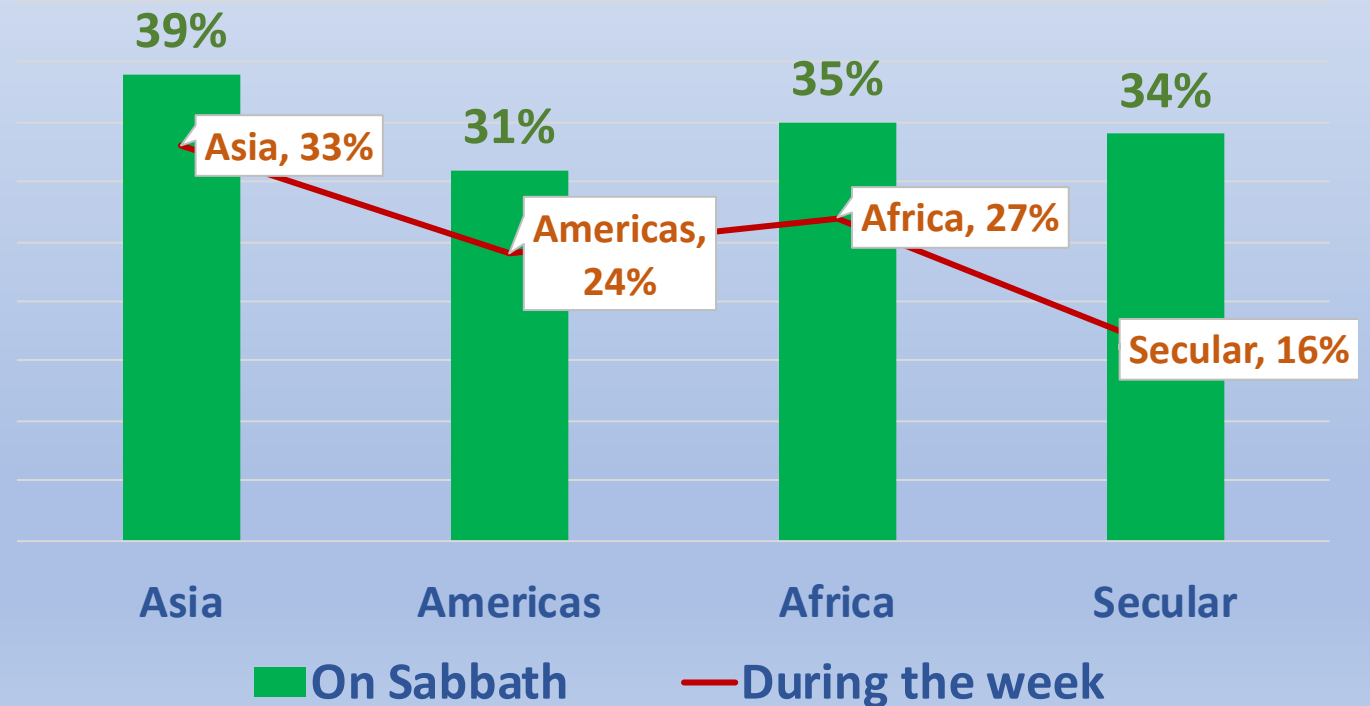


5. Involvement

Involvement in Church Ministry during the Last 12 Months
(Every week or more than once a week)

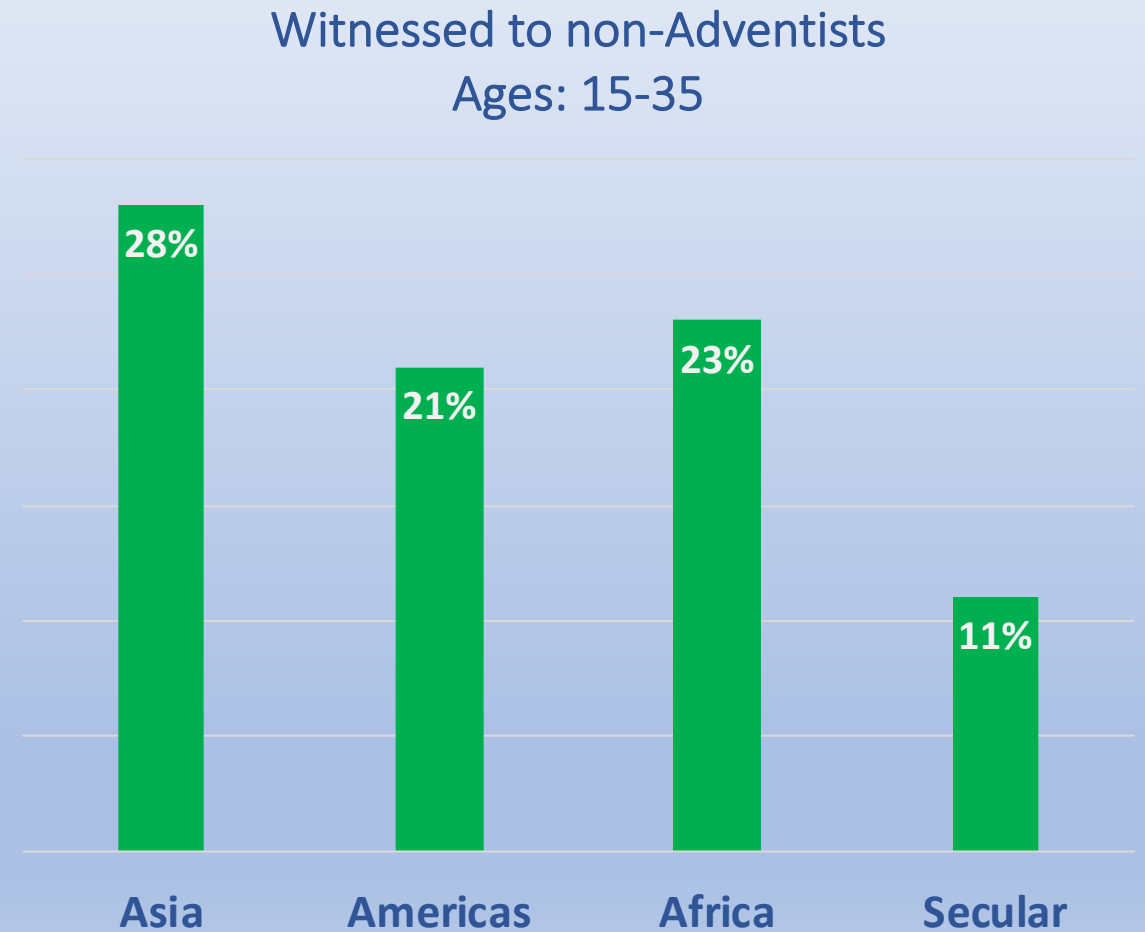
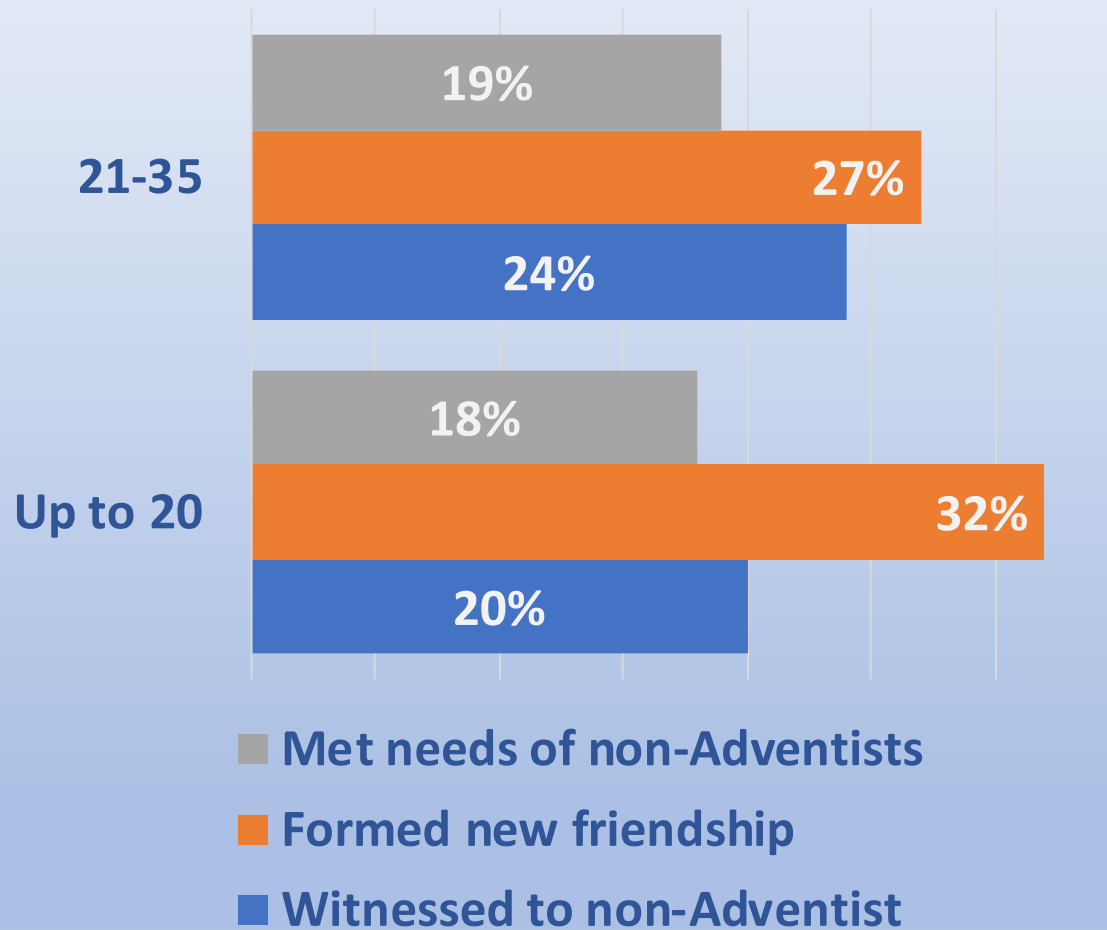


Involvement in Church Ministry during the Last 12 Months
(Every week or more than once a week)
Ages: 15-35



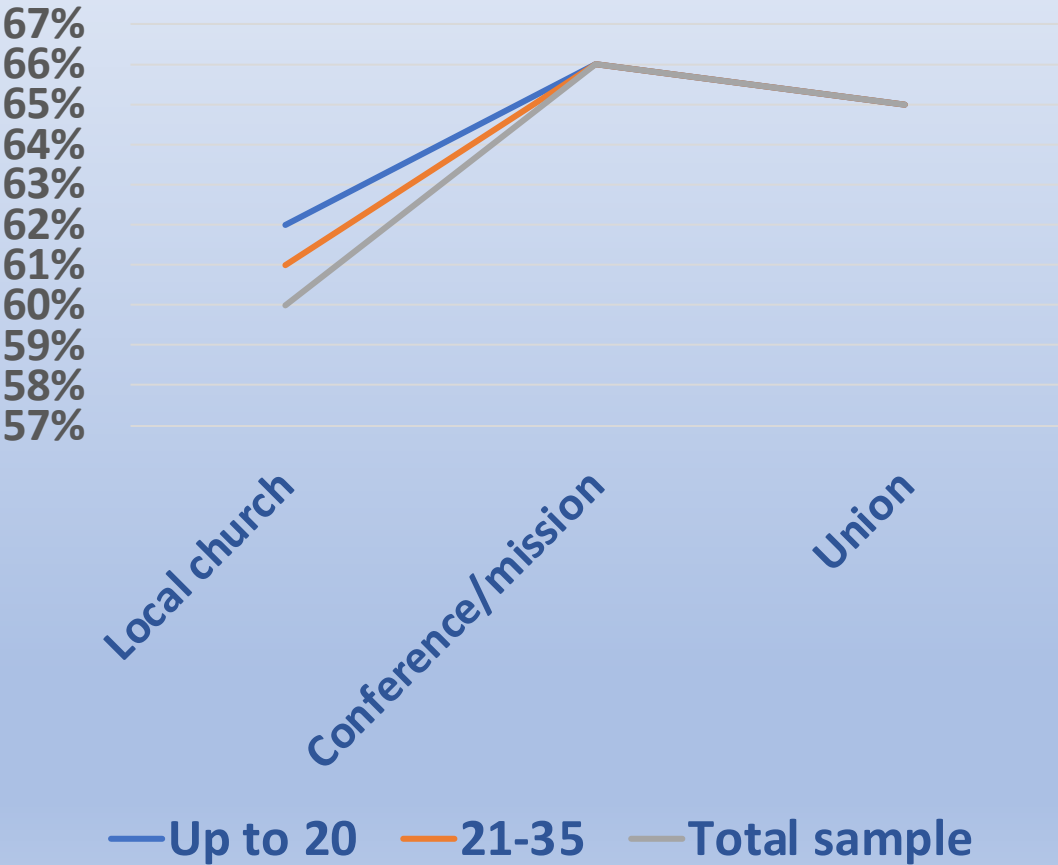
*“Americas” include Inter and South America; “Secular” context includes North America, Europe, and part of Australia

Evangelism [once a week or more often]



“Americas” include Inter and South America; “Secular” context includes North America, Europe, and part of Australia

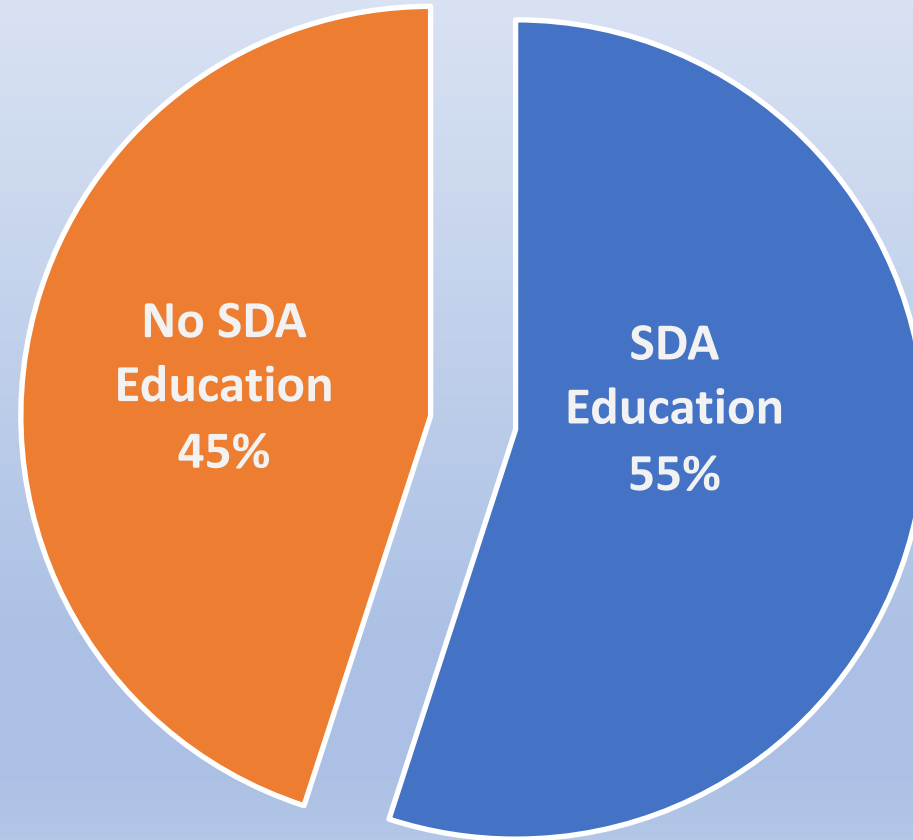
My Church Has a Program for Preparing Young People to Become Leaders (strongly agree or agree)



*“Americas” include Inter and South America; “Secular” context includes North America, Europe, and part of Australia

6.SDA Education

Age Group: 21-35



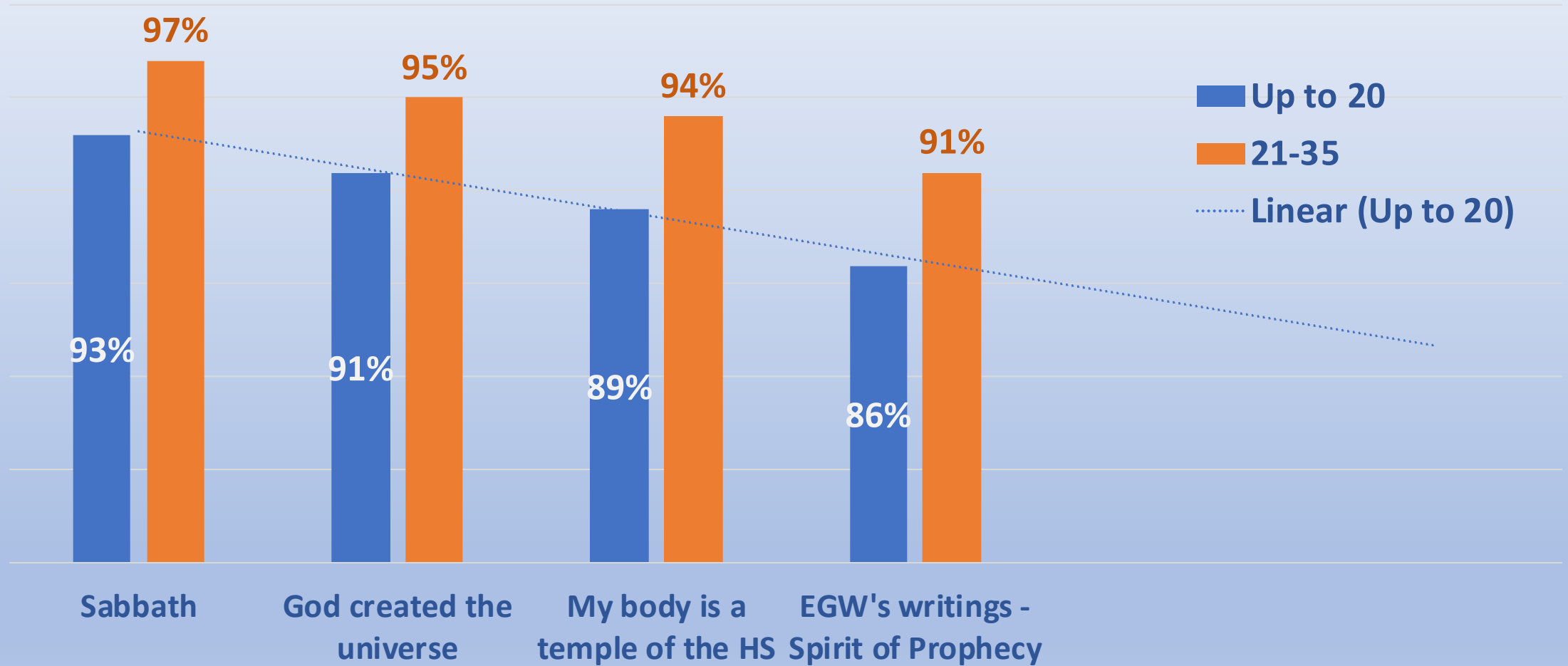
A significant number of young people around the world have not had Adventist education

Dudley's 10 years study

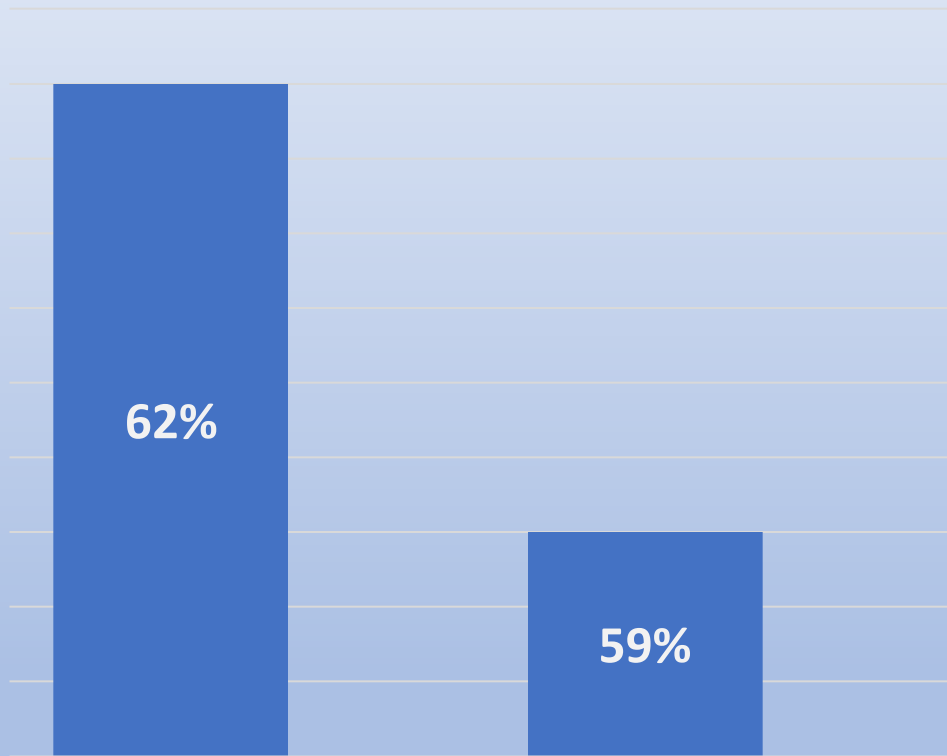
SDA Education vs Public Education:

- Factors: church membership vs non-membership; regular attendee vs irregular attendee; dropouts
- More years in SDA elementary school (1-8) and 1-2 years of SDA day academies
- “Those who attended Adventist academies and colleges were, for the most part, much more likely to remain faithful Adventists than those enrolled in secular schools” (R. Dudley)

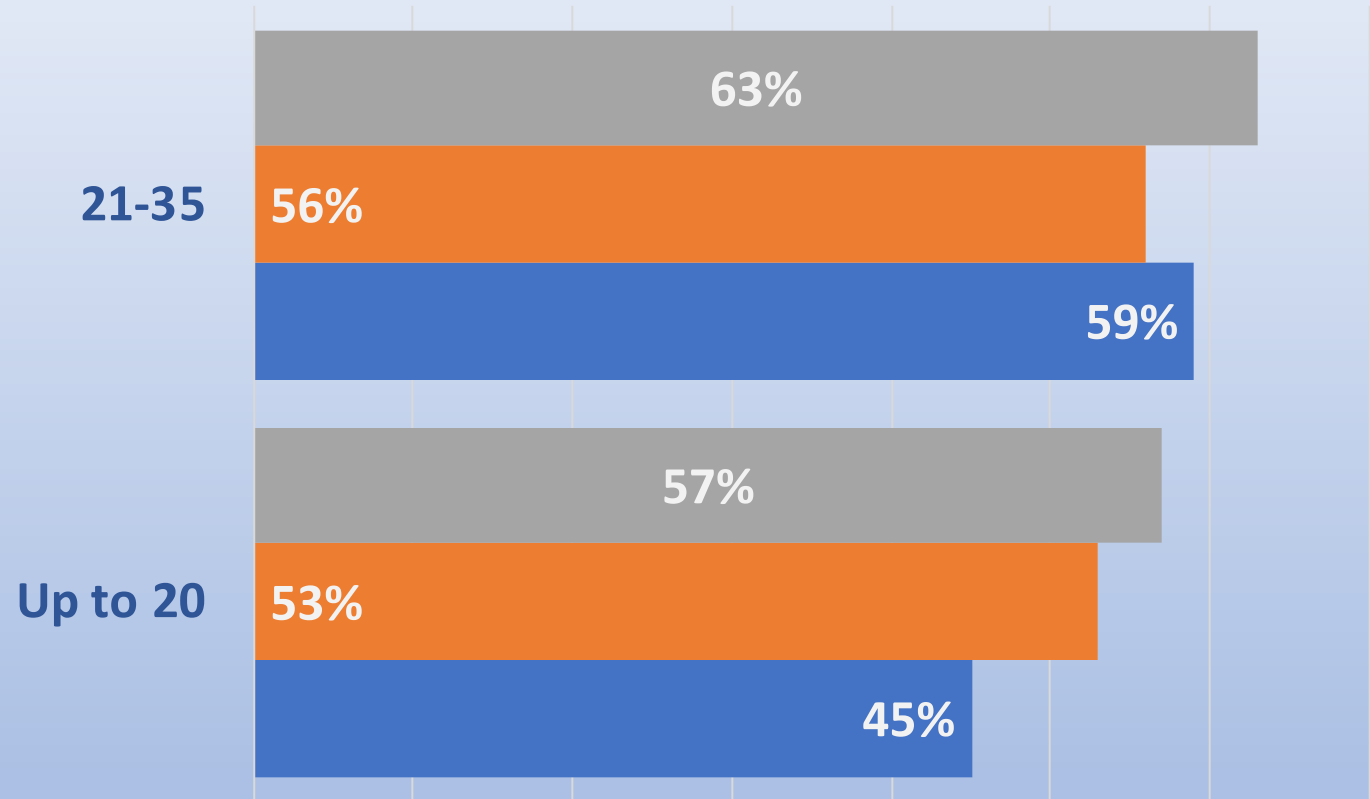
Church Doctrines—Support



Some More Results on Doctrines

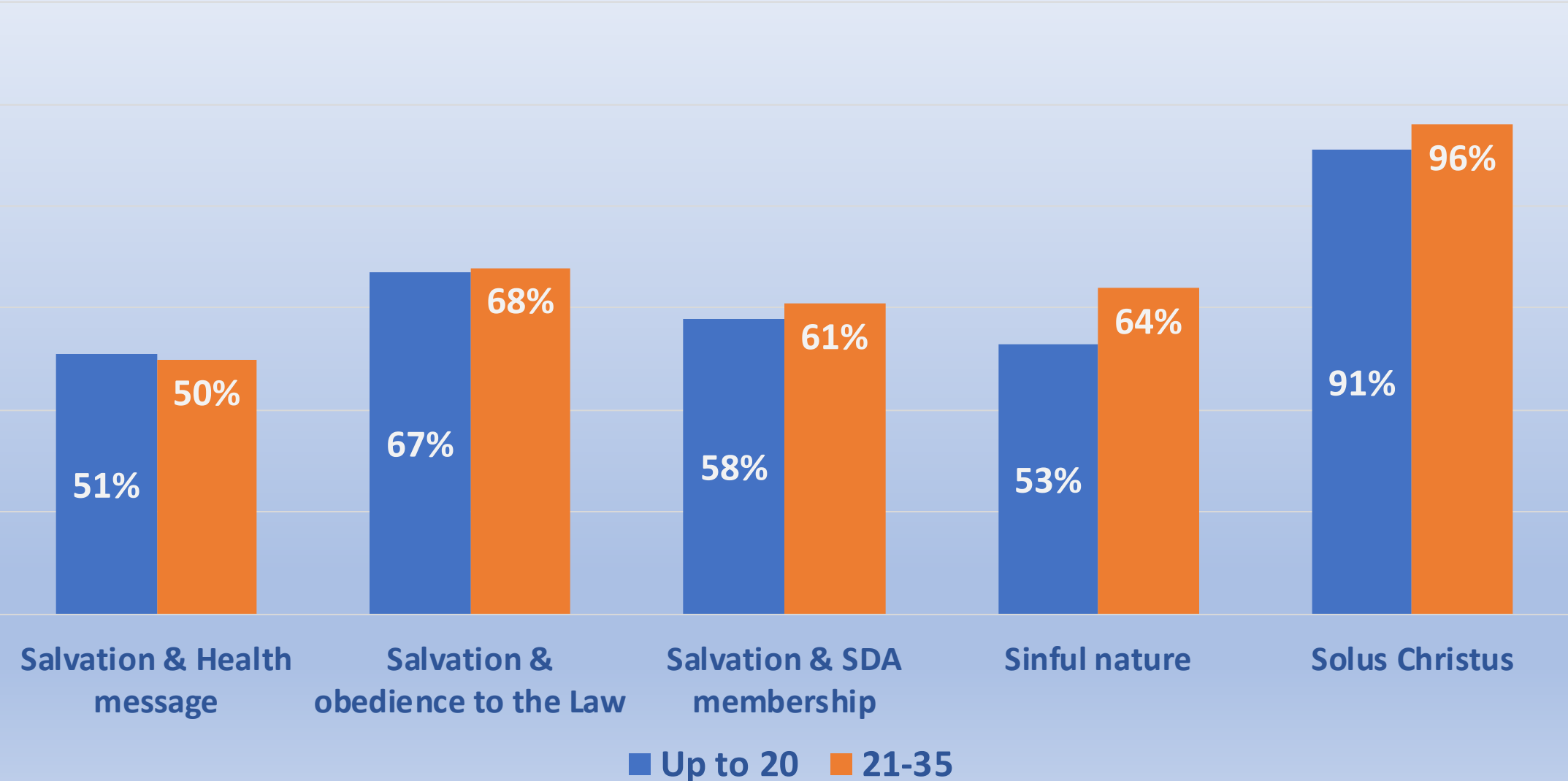


■ Jesus will return in my life time ■ ■

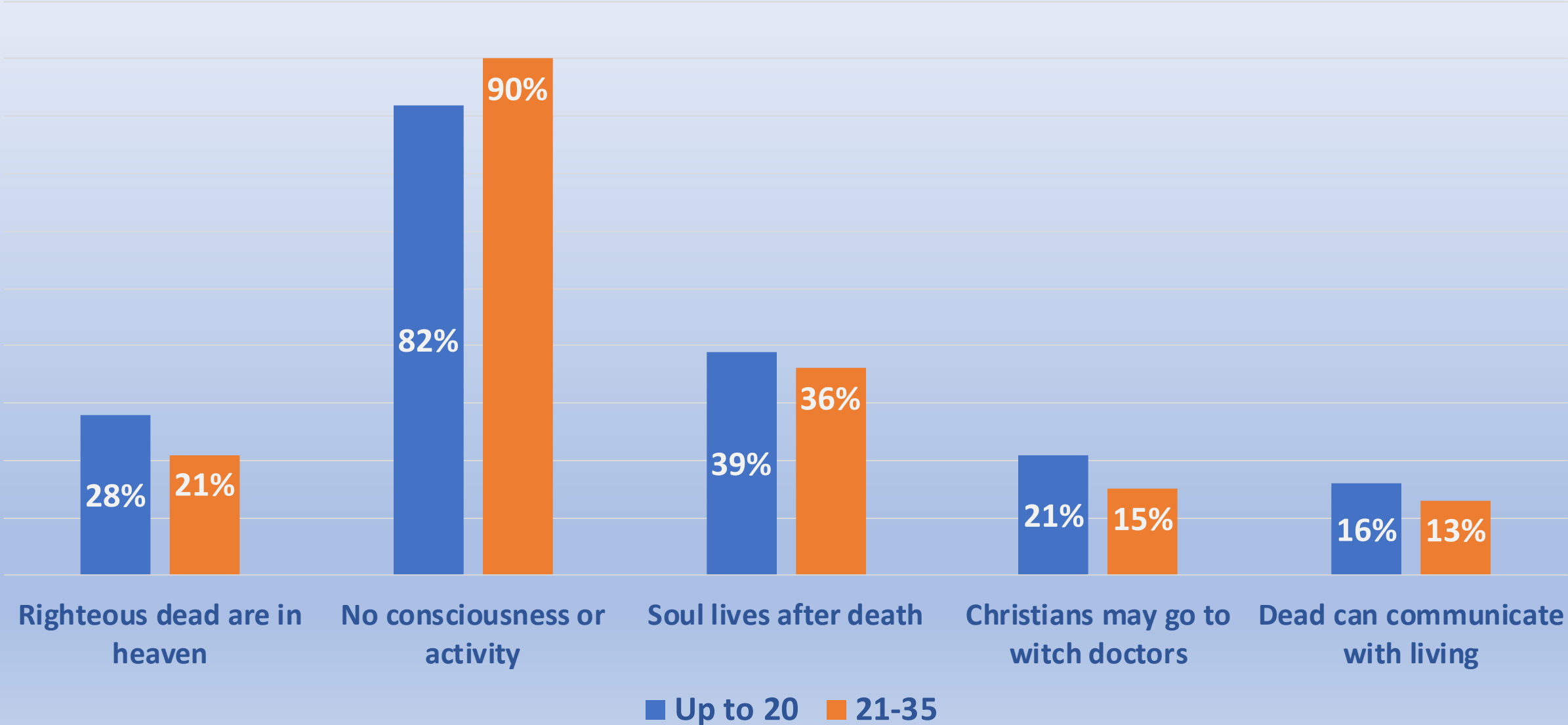


■ Church interpretation of end-time prophecies
■ Before Christ returns, God will decide who is saved & lost
■ Pre-Advent judgment began in 1844

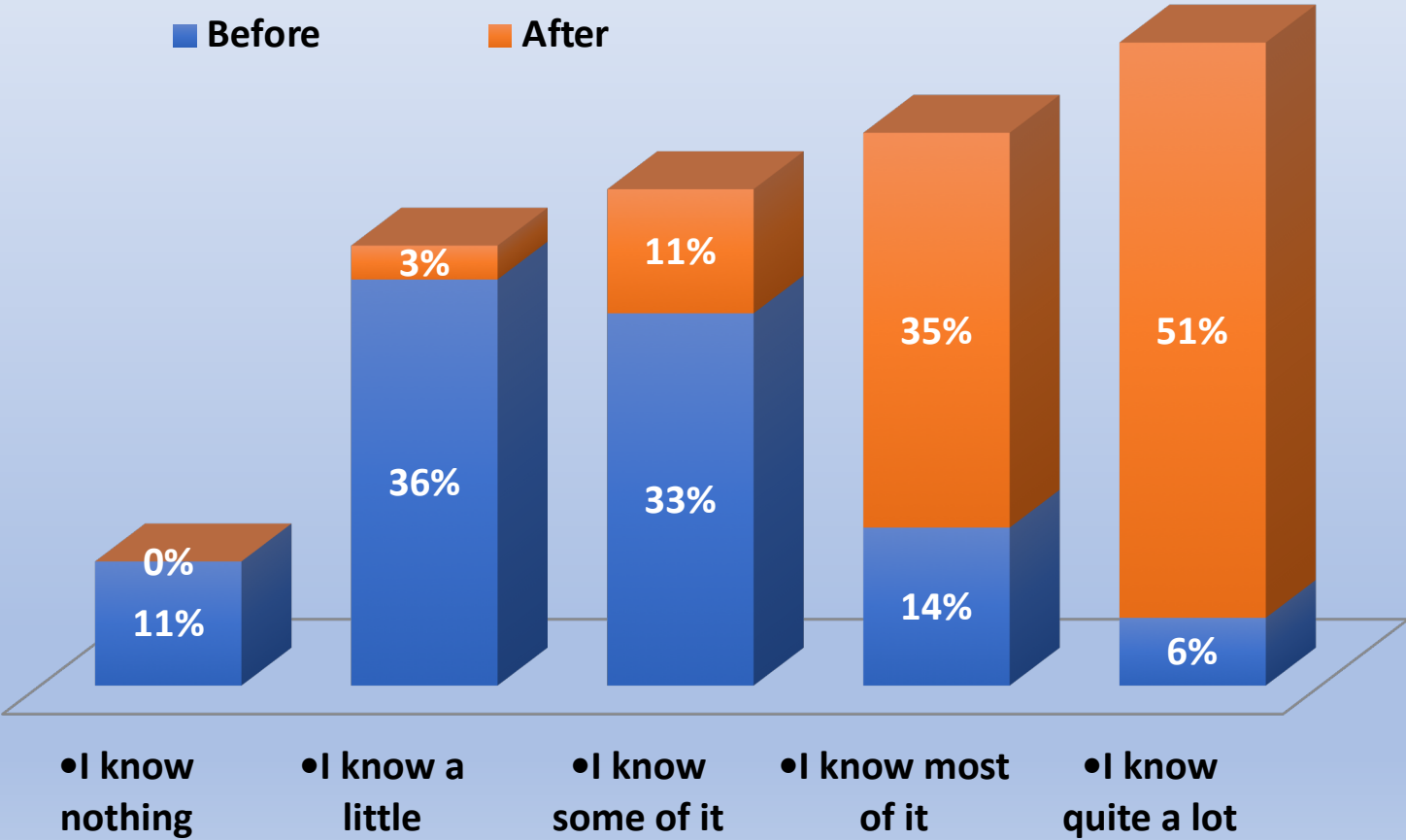
Doctrines: Salvation



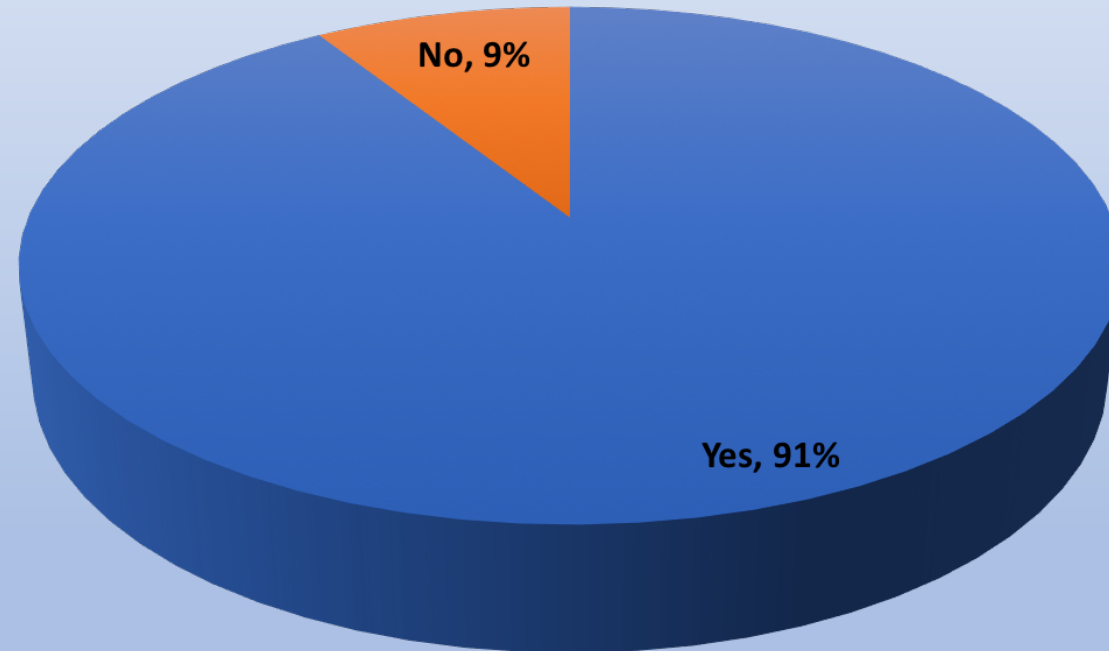
Doctrines: State of the Dead



Knowledge of Beliefs before and after the course (BBs)



Do you ever use the Internet or television to search for and view spiritual content? (HCS)



What content do you typically search for?

(HCS)



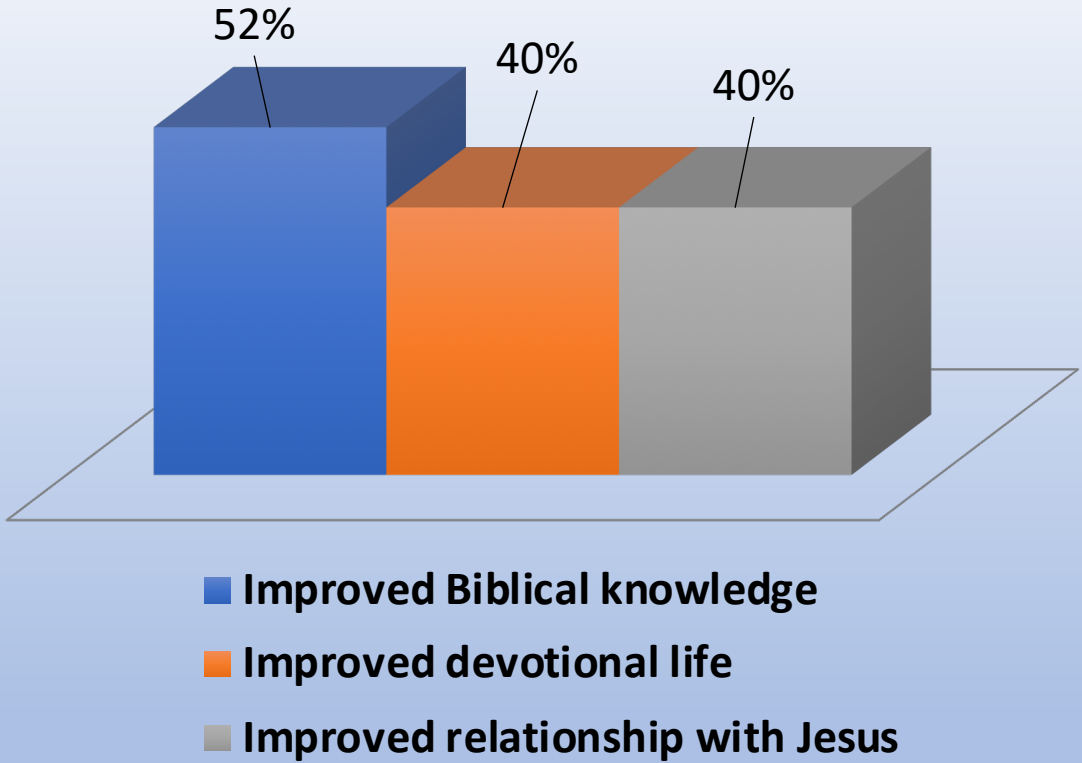
- Musical programs
- Written devotional material
- Sermons or other verbal presentations

8. Personal relationship with Jesus Christ

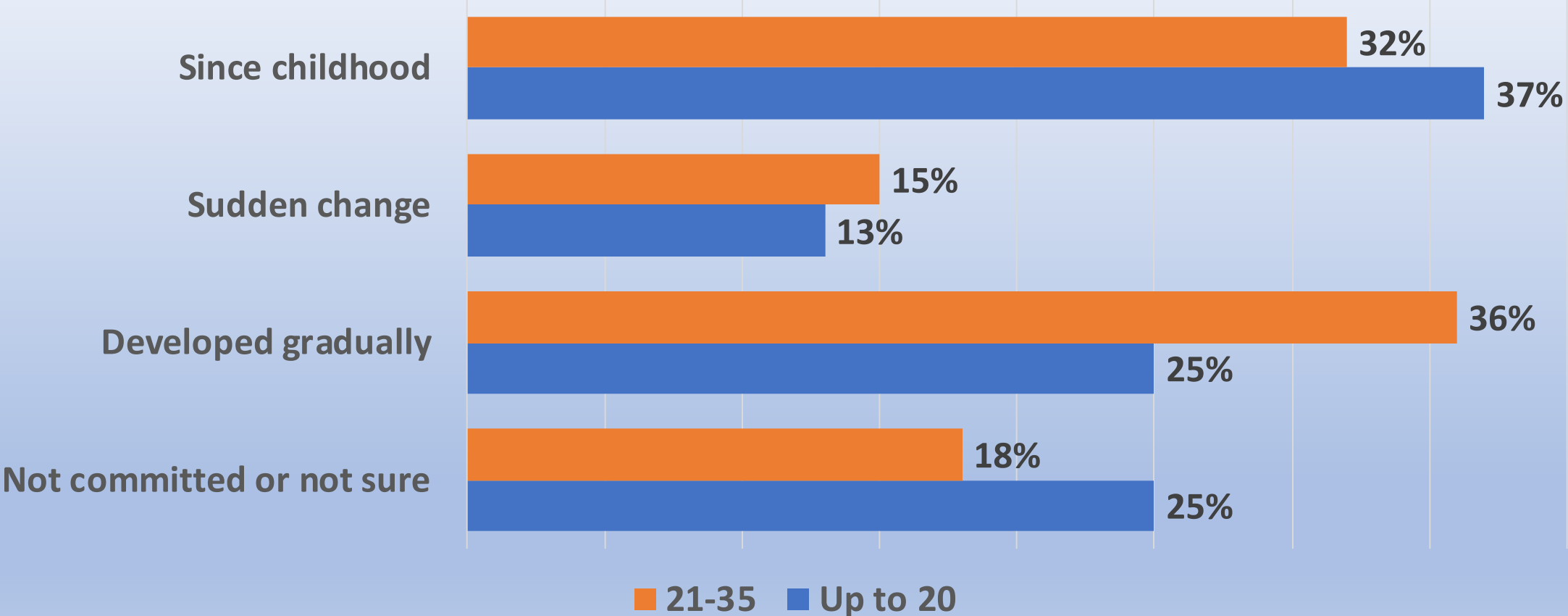
(21st CCS)

- 87% agree or strongly agree that God is actively working in their lives
- 76% have assurance that they will make it to heaven by God's grace
- But only **59%** agree or strongly agree that they have a vibrant personal relationship with God

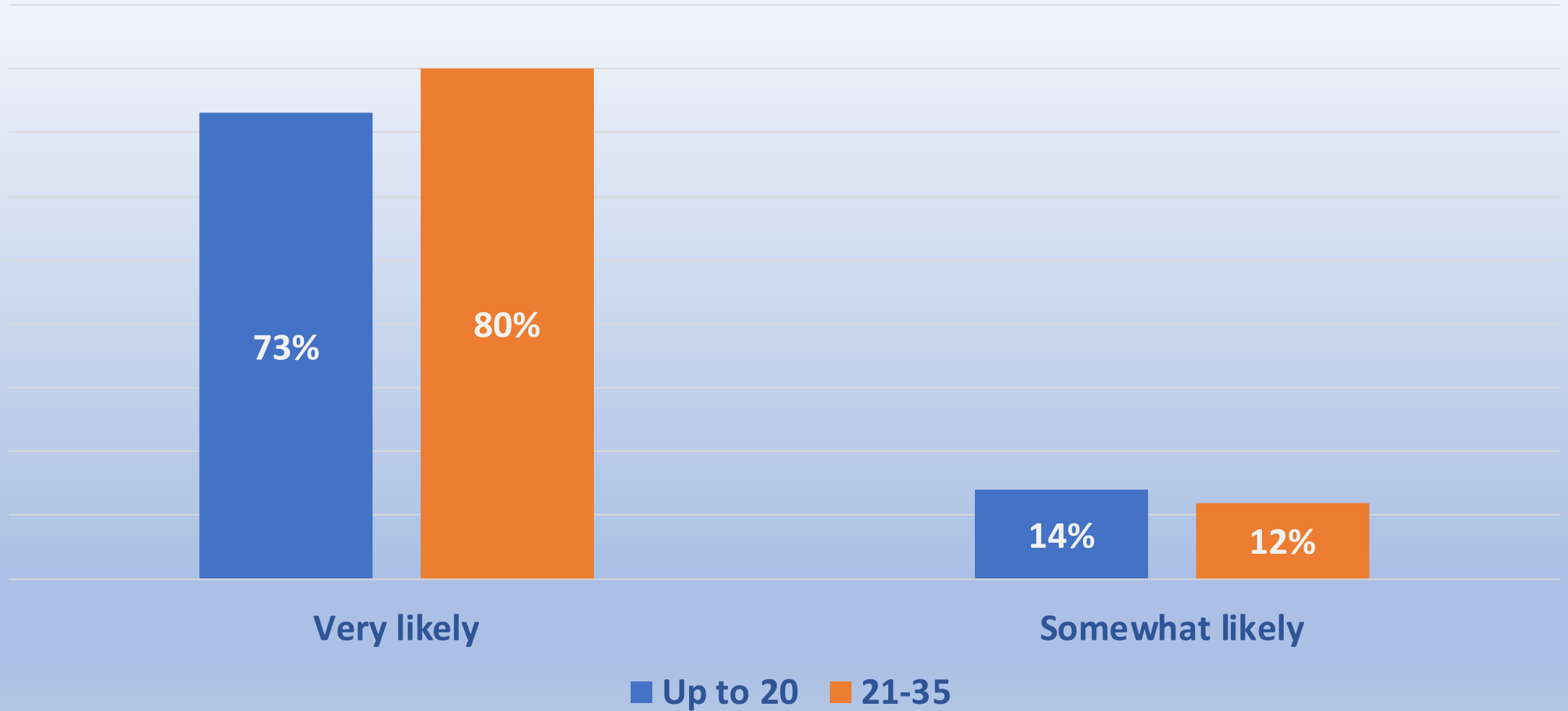
What areas of your life have been most impacted by Hope Channel programs? (HCS, Q.27)



8. Your Commitment to Jesus Christ



How Likely is it that you will Be Attending a Seventh-day Adventist Church for the Rest of your Life?



Conclusions – Believe, Behave, Belong?

1. Transitional lifestyle – where is their membership?
2. Devotional life – who teaches them how to have regular devotional life?
3. Church factor:
 - Size, location, number of people of their age:
 - Relevance of sermons and music style – to what extent are sermons and church worships relevant to our young people?
 - Personality of the pastor – Are pastors important people for our young people? Do they inspire them?
 - Church warmth and thinking climate – what is our local church 's climate?
4. Friends in the church, support and life events

Conclusions – Believe, Behave, Belong?

5. Involvement in church life – are a;; of them involved with their talents and gifts of the Holy

Spirit?

6. SDA Education

7. Doctrines – how rooted are our young people in Adventist Fundamental Believes?

8. Relations with and commitment to Jesus

9. Special attention to our youth up to 20 years old

10. Contacts and care of those who stopped attending



Any questions?