

Sabbath School Presentation
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Southeastern California Conference

HOW TO GROW YOUR CHURCH AND KEEP MEMBERS THROUGH SABBATH SCHOOL

Sabbath School Song, Lyrics by Faith Johnson Crumbly; Arranged by Lee Duncan

Ring out the name of Sabbath School again! Sing out about God's majesty! And as we yield our minds and hearts to Him, the church moves on in unity. Sabbath School is where I must be, preparing for eternity, Genesis to Revelation, that's what we study here.

Have we come to a point when we can call 'Help, our church is growing!'

Elder Kuntaraf from the General Conference Sabbath School ministries shared this statistics as of 2004: 2,761 members join Seventh-day Adventist Church daily; 115 every hour; 1.91 every minute; new SDA church organized every 3.63 hours; SDA growth rate – 4.65%; 1 SDA for every 450 people on earth.

Church clerks' report - number of baptism; number of profession of faith; number of deaths; number of members dropped; and number of members missing.

Our concern/challenge: Number of people dropped and number of people missing. Some congregations are cleaning their books and searching out for missing members.

The question is, how can Sabbath School grow your church and minimize church dropouts?

Surveys and Studies:

Jonathan Kuntaraf, GC SS director

- a. Call of the world – friends, relatives, former lifestyle habits, Sabbath problems at work, inconsistencies of some church members.
- b. Lack of fellowship - each new member should have a minimum of seven new friends in church within the first six months. Ratio 1:7. On member- involvement, 75 out of 100 members should be involved in a group. On new member- involvement, nine out of ten members should be involved in a small group.
- c. Personality clashes – church members who 'lock out' new members and don't know they are doing it. intolerant church members who insist that new members must immediately meet their personal standards. Inability of the new member to find a social 'home' in the church.
- d. Force of habit and lifestyle issues - people's lifestyle cause them to form habits that keep them from church.

Charles Bradford, former President, North American Division: (James Cress, *You Can Keep Them If You Care*, p. 40).

"The method of evangelism or conversion has little to do with whether the person will or will not drop out of the church." 45% of dropouts are in the 20-35 year age group. 25% of dropouts are in the 36-50 year bracket.