

# Research on Adventist Education: ValueGenesis Studies

## Elementary & Secondary Education (39)

**Baker, G. M. (1996). *Attitudes and support of Adventist ministers towards denominational K-12 schools*. La Sierra University.**

*Purpose.* This study examines the attitudes of Seventh-day Adventist ministers regarding the importance of denominational elementary and secondary schools and self-perceived levels of support. The study also compares identified demographic variables in order to determine if a correlation exists between these variables and self-perceived attitudes and tangible support of denominational schools.

*Procedure.* Survey instruments were mailed to 344 church ministers in the Southern and Southeastern California Conferences of Seventh-day Adventists. A return rate of 70.3 percent was achieved with 242 of the 344 ministers contacted returning their completed surveys. Appropriate inferential statistical tests were utilized and factor analysis was conducted on each major section of the survey instrument.

*Findings.* The major findings were: (1) Philosophical attitudinal support for denominational schools is strong amongst Adventist ministers; (2) The tangible effort and action put forth by ministers in support of church schools is at a lower level than their verbal statements affirming intellectual belief in the importance and value of church schools; (3) Most ministers hold a strong belief that the denominational educational system is critical to the future health and survival of the church; (4) There are a number of identifiable concerns ministers have regarding the denominational school system; and (5) Ministerial responses were strikingly similar to data collected in the 1988 ValueGenesis study.

*Conclusions.* The following are study conclusions: (1) Philosophical and attitudinal support of Adventist ministers for denominational schools is generally strong although tangible effortful support is at a lower level; (2) Ministers are generally satisfied with their local church school; (3) There was no correlation between a minister's age, the number of Adventist parents he had, the number of years attending denominational schools, and self-perceived levels of value and support; and (4) Issues related to financial support of the denominational school system is an area of dissatisfaction for many ministers.

*Recommendations.* The recommendations included: (1) That the Seventh-day Adventist Church give serious study to: (a) providing a Christian education component to ministerial training courses, (b) alternative methods of funding Christian education, (c)

determining ministerial attitudes and support for Adventist colleges and universities, and (d) determining why there is a lower level of ministerial support for denominational secondary schools than elementary schools; (2) That local church school administrators: (a) seek to improve communication with local church pastors, (b) encourage active involvement of school teachers in local churches, (c) seek to maintain and promote a distinctive Adventist atmosphere and lifestyle on school campuses; and (3) Local pastors should become more actively supportive of local church schools.

*More information:* Full text available online

**Boyatt, E. (2004). ValueGenesis 2: Report card on Adventist K-12 education. *Adventist Review*. Retrieved from <http://www.adventistreview.org/2004-1518/story3.html>**

An excerpt from the ValueGenesis 2 report published in the book *Ten Years Later* shares what students like and what they wish would change in Adventist schools in North America.

More than 16,000 Adventist students in grades 6 through 12 completed the second ValueGenesis questionnaire during the 2001 school year. Sponsored by the North American Division Office of Education in collaboration with the John Hancock Center for Youth and Family Ministry at La Sierra University... its main purpose was to assess the faith and values of Adventist students in Adventist schools in the context of their most influential institutions: family, church, and school.

Answers to the following questions were sought: Are Adventist schools fulfilling their mission for academic achievement, spiritual commitment, social development, emotional and physical wellness? Standardized achievement tests annually testify that our students' scores rank above public school national averages. These achievement scores tell us that our students are academically challenged and successful. How do we assess our additional goals? And how do students assess their spiritual, social, and academic experience in Adventist schools? Do our students believe that Adventist education is on the right track?

Boyatt concludes: "From an educational standpoint, the ValueGenesis survey is the largest needs assessment that has been conducted by a private school system. What a tragedy it would be if we do not listen to what our students tell us. But after we listen, what will we do with this treasure of information? *Something better* must continue to drive us to excellence and continued improvement."

**Clifford, G. F., Hughes, O. L., Craig, B. K., Gane, A. B., Devine, L. D., Walshe, A. R., et al. (1993). *ValueGenesis Study 1 Core Report: Australia and New Zealand*. Sydney, Australia: South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Retrieved from <http://circle.adventist.org/files/download/VGCORERE.pdf>.**

The South Pacific Division ValueGenesis project arose from a desire to understand more clearly the relationship between Adventist homes, churches and schools and the young people whose needs they serve. The objectives of the SPD ValueGenesis study closely parallel those of the North American Division (NAD) ValueGenesis study. Consultations were held involving Church Ministries, Youth and Education Departments to ensure that the project would provide answers to significant questions. The ValueGenesis Management Committee monitored these discussions and endorsed the following questions as major objectives of the project:

- To what extent have our young people developed a mature faith and Christian commitment?
- Do our young people feel a sense of loyalty to their Church?
- What aspects of home life, the Church and the Adventist school contribute most to the development of faith and loyalty among our young people?
- How well do our young people accept and respond to church standards?
- In what way Adventist homes, churches, and schools more effectively meet the needs of young people?
- To what extent are Adventist young people involved with drinking, non prescription drugs and other "at risk " behaviours?

This core report includes 100 pages, with seven chapters and the first of seven appendixes. An overview of the experimental design, research instrument and sample is followed by literature review and study findings regarding faith and doctrine, church life, the Adventist family, the Adventist school, attitudes and behaviour, and working together as home, church and school agents for spiritual formation and faith development.

*Full text on CD: VGCORERE.pdf*

**Donahue, M. J. (1993). *ValueGenesis 1 Faith Maturity Scale: A reply to Jerome Thayer*. *Journal of Research on Christian Education*, 2(1), 115-118.**

A response to Thayer's proposal of a short-form of the Faith-Maturity Scale used in ValueGenesis I

*More Information:* Full-text available online.

**Donahue, M. J., & Gillespie, V. B. (2003). ValueGenesis 2: Canadian report.**  
Retrieved from [http://catnet.sdacc.org/resources/res\\_ID31.pdf](http://catnet.sdacc.org/resources/res_ID31.pdf)

The Canadian ValueGenesis 2 research reports the influence of family, church, and school in the faith, values, loyalty, and commitment of Seventh-day Adventist youth in the Adventist church in Canada.

*Full text on CD:* VG2SDACCRReport.pdf

**Donahue, M. J., & Kijai, J. (1993). ValueGenesis 1: Researching faith maturity questions on methods and findings of ValueGenesis. *Journal of Research on Christian Education*, 2(1), 85-92.**

Kijai interviews Donahue regarding the methodology of the ValueGenesis I study of students attending Grades 6-12 in North American Adventist schools

*More Information:* Full-text available online

**Dudley, R. L., & Gillespie, V. B. (1992). *ValueGenesis 1: Faith in the Balance*.**  
Riverside, CA: John Hancock Center for Youth Ministry.

This publication furnishes a thorough analysis of the data and findings of the monumental research study called ValueGenesis. *Faith in the Balance* provides insight into the significance of the role of the local church, the school, and the family in the faith development of a young person.

*More Information:* Full-text not available online

**Dudley, R. L., & Kangas, J. L. (1990). ValueGenesis 1: How does Adventist education affect youth attitudes? *Journal of Adventist Education*, 52(04), 24-31. Retrieved from <http://circle.adventist.org/files/jae/en/jae199052042408.pdf>**

This article reviews findings from the first year of the ValueGenesis study and reveals observations relevant to Adventist education. It highlights educational backgrounds, attitudes toward schools and teachers, spiritual experiences, role models, how students learn Bible doctrines, comparisons between academy and public high school students, and the students who want to attend an academy.

*Full text on CD:* jae199052042408.pdf

**Gane, A. B. (2005). *Youth ministry and beliefs and values among 10- to 19-year-old students in the Seventh-day Adventist school system in North America.* Dissertation, Andrews University.**

*Problem* . A survey of the literature revealed that there was little by way of empirical study on the relationship between youth ministry and attitudes, beliefs, and values held by young people. We empirically tested the anecdotal evidence that youth ministry is effective in the transmission of beliefs and values. The purpose of this study was to ascertain whether Seventh-day Adventist youth ministry in North America makes any difference in the lives of youth in the Seventh-day Adventist school system.

*Method* . The sample for this study was 10,832 10- to 19-year old students enrolled in SDA schools in 2001. This study used the data collected by the ValueGenesis study team in 2001. The survey instrument contained 396 items and included a number of questions on youth ministry. A youth ministry scale was developed. Chi square, *t* tests, and analysis of variance were performed to investigate the relationship between the youth ministry scale and individual youth ministry factors, and Christian orthodoxy, SDA fundamental beliefs, faith maturity, understanding grace and works, intrinsic and extrinsic orientation to religion. The same tests examined the relationship of youth ministry to at-risk behavior, intention of future church involvement, church standards, the perceived influence of the pastor, and perceptions youth hold of the church.

*Results and conclusions* . The results of the study indicated that youth ministry has a significant relationship with the development of attitudes, beliefs, and values in adolescents attending Seventh-day Adventist schools in North America.

There is a relationship between youth ministry and commitment to Seventh-day Adventist fundamental beliefs and values. Youth with high exposure to youth ministry had a lower likelihood of involvement in at-risk behavior than their peers. More exposure to youth ministry meant a greater likelihood of the youth's satisfaction with their church and also of intention to be involved in it in the future. They showed higher levels on concurrence to church standards, saw the Pastor as having more influence in their faith development, and were much more positive in their perceptions of the church.

*More information:* Full text available online

**Gane, B., & Kijai, J. (2006). The relationship between faith maturity, intrinsic and extrinsic orientations to religion and youth ministry involvement. *Journal of Youth Ministry*, 4(2), 49-64.**

The purpose of this study was to examine the relationships between faith maturity, intrinsic and extrinsic motivation and youth ministry involvement. We used data from ValueGenesis II, a North American national survey of youths attending Seventh-day Adventist schools in Grades 6-12. Analysis of variance results suggests that youths who

are highly involved in youth ministry have significantly higher levels of faith maturity, intrinsic and extrinsic orientations to religion than those moderately involved or those least involved.

*More information:* Full-text available online

**Gane, B., & Kijai, J. (2006). ValueGenesis 2: The relationship between faith maturity, intrinsic and extrinsic orientations to religion and youth ministry involvement. *Journal of Youth Ministry*, 4(2), 49-64.**

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*More Information:* Full-text available online.

**Gillespie, V. B. (1992). ValueGenesis 1: Where do we go from here? *Journal of Adventist Education*, 54(04), 10-13. Retrieved from <http://circle.adventist.org/files/jae/en/jae199254041004.pdf>**

The third report focuses on areas of improvement the North America Division is planning based on ValueGenesis I research. These include: 1) Educating boards on the realities faced by church school teachers; 2) Acknowledging the renewed interest teachers are taking in their roles as religious educators; 3) Encouraging increased parental involvement in schools; 4) Reorganizing priorities. Also provided is a list of Project Affirmation books printed in response to the survey and its results.

*Full text on CD:* jae199254041004.pdf

**Gillespie, V. B. (2002). ValueGenesis 2: Good Adventist schools do make a difference. *Journal of Adventist Education*, 65(01), 12-16. Retrieved from <http://circle.adventist.org/files/jae/en/jae200265011205.pdf>**

Do Adventist schools make a difference? Gillespie shares results from the first and second ValueGenesis studies on faith, values, and commitment in Adventist schools. Over 30,000 respondents from across North America participated in this two-phase study. Gillespie shares from this study insights on what seemingly works best in helping young people maintain balanced faith experiences, loyalty, and commitment to God and religious life.

*Full text on CD: jae200265011205.pdf*

**Gillespie, V. B. (2005). Once upon a time: What ValueGenesis 2 says about the quality of Adventist schools. *Journal of Adventist Education*, 67(3), 17-20. Retrieved from <http://circle.adventist.org/files/jae/en/jae200567031704.pdf>**

The NAD second wave of faith maturity research provided interesting insights of students into the positive attributes of Adventist schools. These center on the themes of quality teaching, Adventist values, and school climate influences.

*Full text on CD: jae200567031704.pdf*

**Gillespie, V. B. (2007). ValueGenesis 2: Boys and girls growing toward God. *Journal of Adventist Education*, 70(1), 24-30. Retrieved from <http://circle.adventist.org/files/jae/en/jae200770012407.pdf>**

We know a great deal about how boys' and girls' brains develop and the implications for educational theory, and so by abstraction, we can make some assumptions about growth in faith as well. This article reviews ValueGenesis findings in light of research on faith development, and how girls and boys learn.

*Full text on CD: jae200770012407.pdf*

**Gillespie, V. B., Donahue, M. J., Boyatt, E., & Gane, B. (2003). *Ten years later: A study of two generations*. Riverside, CA: La Sierra University.**

What are the "big" things discovered in research about Adventist youth? This book shares topics such as: Focusing on Teens; ValueGenesis and the Journey of Faith; Loyalty and the Content of Faith; Personal Piety and the Quest for Spiritual Life; Dancing, Movies and Other Sins; Nurturing Spiritual Families; ValueGenesis and Adventist Schools; Discovering Positive Influences, and more.

*More Information:* This book is available through Adventist Book Centers

**Gillespie, V. B., & Gillespie, T. (2001). VG2 Update 01: Faith maturity index, prosocial behavior concerns. Retrieved from <http://circle.adventist.org/download/vg2-update-v1.pdf>**

Volume 1 of Update shares a Faith Maturity Index update, pro-social behavior concerns, a reflection of God's guidance in ValueGenesis1 vs. ValueGenesis2, and information about the first ValueGenesis 2 resource entitled *Keeping the Faith: A Guidebook for Spiritual Parenting*.

*Full text on CD:* vg2-update-v1.pdf

**Gillespie, V. B., & Gillespie, T. (2001). VG2 Update 02: Personal relationship with God. Retrieved from <http://circle.adventist.org/download/vg2-update-v2.pdf>**

This ValueGenesis 2 newsletter shares findings regarding personal faith and relationship with God, and more about personal piety. Findings that personal devotions are important to mature faith, and reading the Bible has dropped off much in the past 10 years lead to suggestions to encourage personal devotions and Bible reading in creative ways.

*Full text on CD:* vg2-update-v2.pdf

**Gillespie, V. B., & Gillespie, T. (2001). VG2 Update 03: Grace vs works orientations: What makes a difference? Retrieved from <http://circle.adventist.org/download/vg2-update-v3.pdf>**

This ValueGenesis 2 newsletter focuses on why grace orientation is crucial, what the grace scale teaches us, more about grace and works, attitudes about God's law, and do we still have a works orientation.

*Full text on CD:* vg2-update-v3.pdf

**Gillespie, V. B., & Gillespie, T. (2002). VG2 Update 04: Extrinsic and intrinsic religious experience and school attitudes. Retrieved from <http://circle.adventist.org/download/vg2-update-v4.pdf>**

This ValueGenesis 2 research report looks at the importance of schools in the faith experience of Grade 6-12 students. Find out what teachers and schools can do to help the development of intrinsic vs. extrinsic religious experience and healthy school attitudes.

*Full text on CD: vg2-update-v4.pdf*

**Gillespie, V. B., & Gillespie, T. (2002). VG2 Update 05: Family religious life, family worship practices, parents and faith-talk. Retrieved from <http://circle.adventist.org/download/vg2-update-v5.pdf>**

This ValueGenesis 2 research provides interesting and helpful insights into the influence of family life and practices on growing a rich and mature faith. Family worship practices, parent and faith talk are reported on, with tables showing the effects of mothers and fathers religiosity, what this means and what we should do about these findings.

*Full text on CD: vg2-update-v5.pdf*

**Gillespie, V. B., & Gillespie, T. (2002). VG2 Update 06: Thinking about the church, factors influencing leaving, youth ministry and the church. Retrieved from <http://circle.adventist.org/download/vg2-update-v6.pdf>**

This report focuses on the impact of the church in the lives of children. Factors for leaving the church, and perceptions of adult leaders and teachers in the local church are analyzed with graphs and data summaries.

*Full text on CD: vg2-update-v6.pdf*

**Gillespie, V. B., & Gillespie, T. (2002). VG2 Update 07: Family importance. Retrieved from <http://circle.adventist.org/download/vg2-update-v7.pdf>**

This ValueGenesis 2 report addresses various factors in shaping values such as family role, religiousness of parents, and limits and climate in the home. Read this issue to discover the family's role in shaping children's understanding of redemption.

*Full text on CD: vg2-update-v7.pdf*

**Gillespie, V. B., & Gillespie, T. (2002). VG2 Update 08: School vs church. Retrieved from <http://circle.adventist.org/download/vg2-update-v8.pdf>**

This ValueGenesis 2 update contrasts the attitudes students in grades 9-12 have toward church and school as places of warmth, spiritual growth, and fellowship. Read what the church and school can do to become positive places for teens to grow in faith.

*Full text on CD: vg2-update-v8.pdf*

**Gillespie, V. B., & Gillespie, T. (2003). VG2 Update 09: Importance of values. Retrieved from <http://circle.adventist.org/download/vg2-update-v9.pdf>**

This ValueGenesis 2 report focuses on attitudes students in grades 6-12 have toward materialism, altruism, and morality. Read this issue to find out how factors such as school religion programs, peer religiousness, quality of family worship, and the frequency of talking with friends about God can help shape values held by young adults.

*Full text on CD: vg2-update-v9.pdf*

**Gillespie, V. B., & Gillespie, T. (2003). VG2 Update 10: How at-risk are our kids? Retrieved from <http://circle.adventist.org/download/vg2-update-v10.pdf>**

This ValueGenesis 2 newsletter reports on the attitudes of students in grades 6-12 toward at-risk behaviors such as tobacco and marijuana use, and alcohol consumption. The instrument in this ValueGenesis 2 report addressed students' understanding of church standards, satisfaction with enforcement of those standards, and the degree to which the perceived standards were enforced in the family, school, and church.

*Full text on CD: vg2-update-v10.pdf*

**Gillespie, V. B., & Gillespie, T. (2003). VG2 Update 11: How important is youth ministry? Retrieved from <http://circle.adventist.org/download/vg2-update-v11.pdf>**

This ValueGenesis 2 newsletter examines the impact of youth ministry on the attitudes young people have toward their church, based on the ValueGenesis 2 report. In collaboration with Barry Gane of the Theological Seminary at Andrews University, the authors share research results on the frequency of youth ministry in Adventist churches, the role of Pathfinder clubs, and the importance of the pastor in successful youth ministry programs.

*Full text on CD: vg2-update-v11.pdf*

**Gillespie, V. B., & Gillespie, T. (2003). VG2 Update 12: Families and faith.**  
Retrieved from <http://circle.adventist.org/download/vg2-update-v12.pdf>

This ValueGenesis 2 newsletter shares a report on the relationship between family faith and family style and type. The research shows that the family is the most important factor in religious training and early faith formation.

*Full text on CD: vg2-update-v12.pdf*

**Gillespie, V. B., & Gillespie, T. (2003). VG2 Update 13: Positive family influences.**  
Retrieved from <http://circle.adventist.org/download/vg2-update-v13.pdf>

This ValueGenesis 2 newsletter shares 19 positive influences that target family and home life as it relates to intrinsic faith, faith maturity, denominational loyalty, and commitment to God. Additional influences that target church and school are also shared, along with commentary on ethnic groups in Adventism.

*Full text on CD: vg2-update-v13.pdf*

**Gillespie, V. B., & Gillespie, T. (2004). VG2 Update 14: New year, new look.**  
Retrieved from <http://circle.adventist.org/download/vg2-update-v14.pdf>

This ValueGenesis 2 newsletter introduces Ten Years Later: A Study of Two Generations, the first in a series of books on ValueGenesis 2. Topics include: Focusing on Teens; ValueGenesis and the Journey of Faith; Loyalty and the Content of Faith; Personal Piety and the Quest for Spiritual Life; Dancing, Movies and Other Sins; Nurturing Spiritual Families; ValueGenesis and Adventist Schools; Discovering Positive Influences, and more.

*Full text on CD: vg2-update-v14.pdf*

**Gillespie, V. B., & Gillespie, T. (2004). VG2 Update 15: What builds mature faith?  
Retrieved from <http://circle.adventist.org/download/vg2-update-v15.pdf>**

This ValueGenesis 2 newsletter includes some little known facts about Adventist youth of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, their concerns about their church, and helps us understand more about their attitudes toward God. Shared here are their perceptions of what nurtures a mature Christian faith, their views on programming issues for grades seven and eight, and their first choices for spiritual issues to explore during high school.

*Full text on CD: vg2-update-v15.pdf*

**Gillespie, V. B., & Gillespie, T. (2004). VG2 Update 16: Adolescence and peer pressure. Retrieved from <http://circle.adventist.org/download/vg2-update-v16.pdf>**

This ValueGenesis 2 newsletter focuses on peer pressure, the power of friends, effective strategies for coping with peer pressure, and what parents, church members, and school personnel can do about it.

*Full text on CD: vg2-update-v16.pdf*

**Gillespie, V. B., & Gillespie, T. (2004). VG2 Update 17: At-risk behavior and our youth. Retrieved from <http://circle.adventist.org/download/vg2-update-v17.pdf>**

This ValueGenesis 2 newsletter reports on the incidence of at-risk behavior in Adventist youth, the percentage of Adventist youth involved in at-risk behaviors, and the influence of supportive and effective environments.

*Full text on CD: vg2-update-v17.pdf*

**Kijai, J. (1993). ValueGenesis 1: A synopsis of the ValueGenesis Study of faith maturity and denominational commitment. *Journal of Research on Christian Education*, 2(1), 81-84.**

Concern with declining enrollment and commitment in Seventh-day Adventist schools in the United States and Canada led to one of the largest studies ever undertaken by any church group. Search Institute, a non-denominational Minneapolis research firm, was commissioned to conduct the study of approximately 13,500 students, parents, teachers, and pastors. Although the report findings were targeted to both practitioners and policymakers, questions have arisen over the appropriateness of the methodologies as well as the applicability of the findings. Analysis of the issues of validity involved in this study may inform any group considering large-scale survey research.

*More Information:* Full-text available online.

**Osborn, R. C. (1992). A review of ValueGenesis 1: Measuring quality in Adventist schools. *Journal of Adventist Education*, 54(04), 5-10. Retrieved from <http://circle.adventist.org/files/jae/en/jae199254040506.pdf>**

This is a report of the ValueGenesis study of Adventist school students in Grades 6-12 which focused on school quality. In addition to an interpretation and overview of the results, the authors present good news, mixed news, and bad news, from positive perceptions of academic quality to concerns about school climate and discipline. A chart outlining the results is also included.

*Full text on CD:* [jae199254040506.pdf](#)

**Rice, G., & Gillespie, V. B. (1992). ValueGenesis 1: A megastudy of faith maturity and its relationship to variables within the home, school, and church. *Journal of Research on Christian Education*, 1(1), 49-67.**

Concern with declining enrollment and commitment in Seventh-day Adventist schools in the United States and Canada led to one of the largest studies ever undertaken by any church group. The research involved nearly 11,000 6th through 12th grade youth and another 2,300 parents, teachers, and pastors. The findings both encouraged and challenged the Church and underscored the cumulative roles that homes, schools, and churches play in nurturing faith and loyalty among Christian youth.

*More Information:* Full-text available online

**Rice, G. T. (1990). A portrait of Adventist educators. *Journal of Adventist Education*, 53(02), 08-14. Retrieved from <http://circle.adventist.org/files/jae/en/jae199053020807.pdf>**

A survey of recent research concerning the attitudes, perceptions, motivations, and characteristics of teachers and administrators in Adventist schools. ValueGenesis is one of the research projects. Topics covered are quality of Adventist schools, teachers with advanced degrees, minority teacher representation, homework, college attendance of graduates, course offerings, teachers' perceptions, teacher motivation or satisfaction, and respect. Recommendations for further study from the Project Affirmation Taskforce Report on Academic Quality and Valued Educators.

*Full text on CD:* jae199053020807.pdf

**Rice, G. T. (1993). ValueGenesis 1: Good Adventist schools making a difference. *Journal of Adventist Education*, 56(02), 15-20. Retrieved from <http://circle.adventist.org/files/jae/en/jae199356021506.pdf>**

This article looks to the ValueGenesis research to show how Adventist schools can make a difference for the students who attend. It provides suggestions on encouraging academic excellence, strong relationships, school climate, ways that administration can encourage teachers to have an impact on students, fostering ideals of justice and accountability, and planning school religious activities.

*Full text on CD:* jae199356021506.pdf

**Thayer, J. D. (1993). Measuring faith maturity: Reassessing ValueGenesis and development of a denomination-specific scale. *Journal of Research on Christian Education*, 2(1), 93-113.**

The ValueGenesis Faith-Maturity Scale and two related short-form scales developed for mainline Protestant use were evaluated for validity for Seventh-day Adventists. Inappropriate items were identified using statistical procedures and results from a survey of Adventist educators and pastors. New long- and short-form faith-maturity scales were developed. Different findings from adult/youth and grade-level comparisons using the five scales suggested that denomination-specific scale construction and validation are needed. The new long-form scale was very similar to one of the short-form scales constructed for mainline Protestant use and may be appropriate for other denominations.

*More Information:* Full-text available online

**Weinbender, M. L. M., & Rossignol, A. M. (1996). Lifestyle and risk of premature sexual activity in a high school population of Seventh-Day Adventists: ValueGenesis 1989. *Adolescence*, 31, 265-281. Retrieved from [http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\\_m2248/is\\_n122\\_v31/ai\\_18435710/](http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m2248/is_n122_v31/ai_18435710/)**

In the past 20 years, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including AIDS, and the physical, psychological, and economic difficulties associated with unwanted pregnancy have increased steadily among American adolescents. The objective of this study was to evaluate Adventist lifestyle as a modification of popular American culture which reduces the risk of early sexual activity in adolescents and thus also reduces the risk for both STDs and teen pregnancy. The study was based on 8,321 respondents to a questionnaire concerning specific behaviors, beliefs, and attitudes among Seventh-day Adventist youth attending 58 high schools in North America. Analysis of the data demonstrated that a wide variety of behaviors were associated with premature sexual activity, including previously reported high-risk behaviors such as drug or alcohol use. In addition, several behaviors that are discouraged within Adventist culture, such as going to a movie theater or participating in competitive sports, also were associated with early sexual activity. It is hypothesized that these latter behaviors may predict the emergence of other high-risk behaviors, such as early sexual activity, in both Adventist and popular cultures, and thus may be "transition-marking behaviors" as described by Jessor and Jessor (1975). Reprinted by permission of the publisher.

### **General Education (3)**

**Casti, M. (2010, March 4). ValueGenesis Europe: Why will some Adventist teens remain in church as adults? *Adventist News Network*. Retrieved from <http://news.adventist.org/2010/03/a-study-of-active-se.html>**

This early report provides an initial overview of key findings in the ValueGenesis Europe study involving 6,000 active Adventist 14-25 year olds in 17 European countries.

*Full text on CD: VGEurope-3-10ANN.html*

**Perry, T. R. (2006). *Religiosity and risk: The influence of adolescent faith on behavior*. Dissertation, La Sierra University.**

This study examined the relationship between various measures of religiosity, including intrinsic and extrinsic religious orientation, vertical and horizontal faith maturity, Christian orthodoxy, and religious practice, and the adolescent risk behaviors of drug, alcohol and tobacco use, delinquency, and depression and suicide attempts. This study also investigated the indirect link between these risk behaviors and religion through depression. The current investigation builds on previous research suggesting that

religion does play a role in adolescent behavior, but intended to identify more specifically those religious factors responsible. The data analyzed came from ValueGenesis<sup>2</sup>: A Study of the Influence of Family, Church and School on the Formation of Faith in Seventh-day Adventists. This information was gathered by survey for the Seventh-day Adventist Church and included 10,832 adolescent respondents enrolled in church run schools. Analysis of the data using regression techniques found that stronger degrees of religiosity were generally associated with fewer risk behaviors. Intrinsic religiosity and vertical faith maturity were found to reduce all three of the risk behaviors, while extrinsic religiosity led to increased behaviors. The results related to faith maturity were varied, and were not as predicted in all cases, indicating a more complicated relationship. In addition, the study found that religiosity, in contributing to less depression in adolescents, further resulted in reduced risk behaviors.

More information: Full text available online

**Rowe, T. (2006). ValueGenesis Europe: Survey questions young Adventists on family, church, society. *Adventist News Network*. Retrieved from <http://news.adventist.org/2006/10/europe-survey-questios-youg-avetists-o-family-church-society.html>**

What do young people in the Seventh-day Adventist church need to grow and maintain a close relationship with Christ? Adventists in Europe are hoping to find the answer through an extensive study that will mine the thoughts of young Adventists living in European countries. The study, ValueGenesis Europe, is based on a similar study done in the United States in 1990 and again in 2000.

## **Tertiary & Seminary Education** (1)

**Dudley, R. L. (1994). Faith maturity and social concern in college-age youth: Does Christian education make a difference? *Journal of Research on Christian Education*, 3(1), 35-49.**

The massive ValueGenesis study examined faith maturity among a large sample of Adventist youth. Results were compared with similar studies of other denominations. One persistent criticism of Search Institute's ValueGenesis study was the inappropriateness of the scale used to determine faith maturity. In the following article, the author uses two revised faith-maturity scales, developed by Dr. Jerome Thayer, to examine a new sample of older Adventist young people. Dudley's analysis corroborated Thayer's findings to a remarkable extent. More-over, Dudley identified why the original faith maturity scale did not fit - because it places a much greater emphasis upon social concern as an ingredient of faith.