

2010 British Columbia Conference Survey

A report by Monte Sahlin
Senior Consultant
Center for Creative Ministry
September 2010

Who is Monte Sahlin?

- An ordained Seventh-day Adventist minister for 40 years who has done assessments of more than 1,000 local churches. He is currently employed by the Ohio Conference after spending two decades at the General Conference and union conference level directing research and development. He teaches in the Doctor of Ministry program at Andrews University and the urban studies program at Eastern Baptist University. He is the author of 20 books, 70 research monographs and many articles.
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What is the Center for Creative Ministry?

- ❑ One of the research and information centers affiliated with the North American Division. It provides information, resource materials, training and consultants to help local churches develop new approaches to outreach, evangelism and church growth. It provides the *Sharing Scripture* small group Bible study guides, *Friend2Friend* training videos and other materials.
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Goals of this Study

- ❑ Establish a base line for measuring progress toward the conference strategic goals
 - ❑ Provide additional measures of the spiritual vitality and health of the congregations in the Seventh-day Adventists in British Columbia
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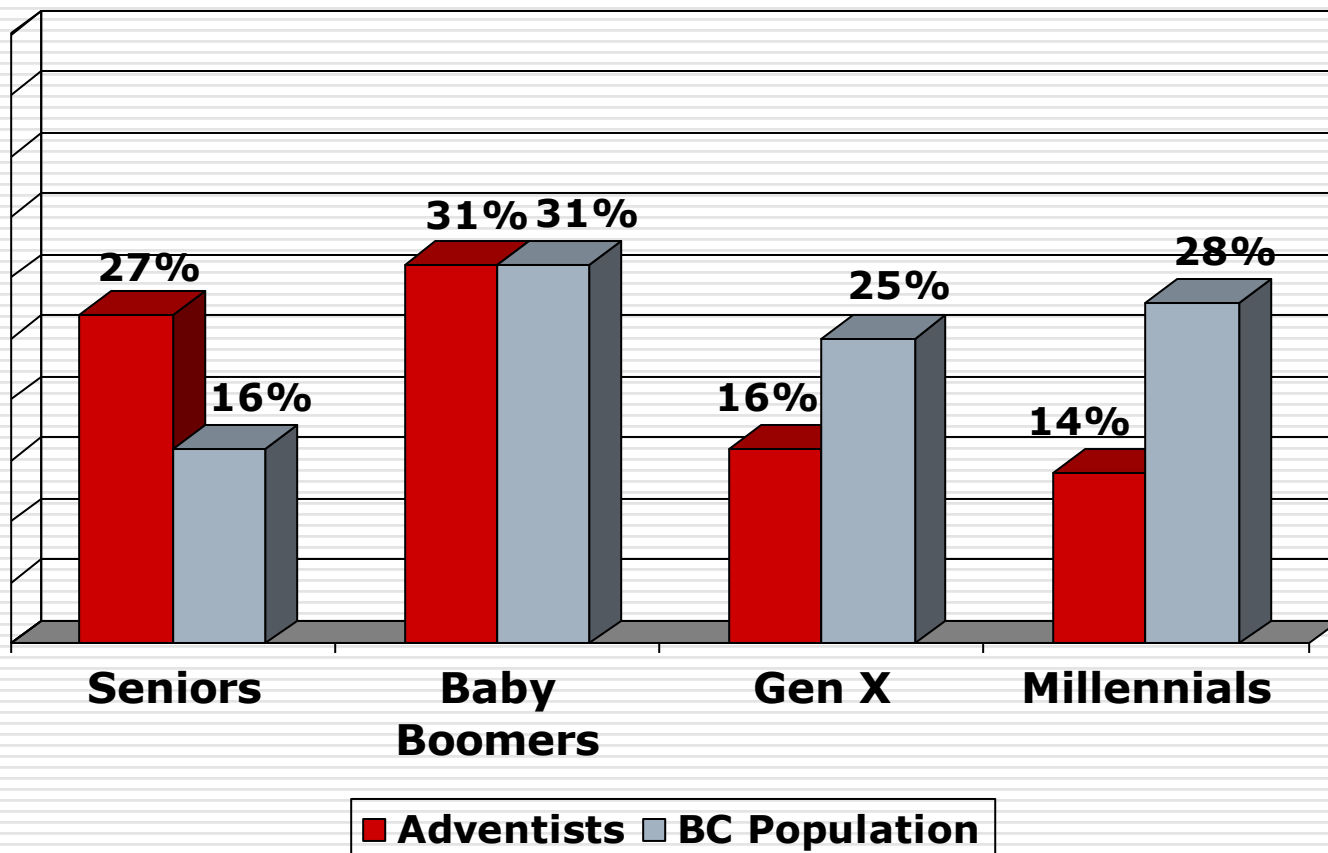
Measurable Indicators of the British Columbia Conference

- ❑ 20% increase in
 - Daily prayer & Bible study
 - Personal giving
 - ❑ 20% increase in baptisms
 - ❑ 10% increase in average attendance
 - ❑ 20% increase in
 - Youth activities
 - Youth participation in church leadership
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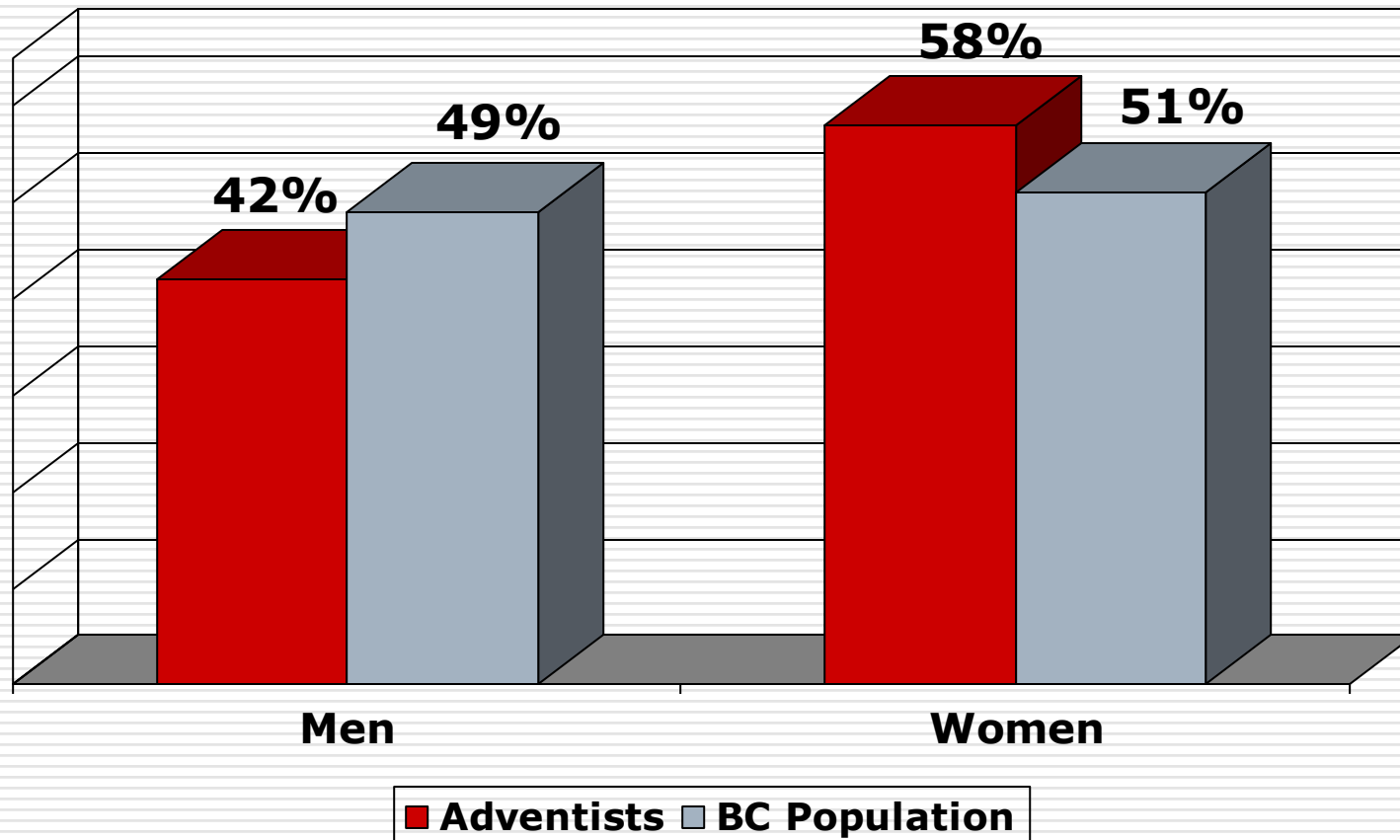
Source of Data

- ❑ A standard questionnaire was distributed during each worship on several Sabbaths in the spring of 2010.
 - ❑ A total of 1,009 usable questionnaires were returned which represents 53% of average attendance for those Sabbaths—a good response rate well within minimum professional standards—thus indicating a reliable sample.
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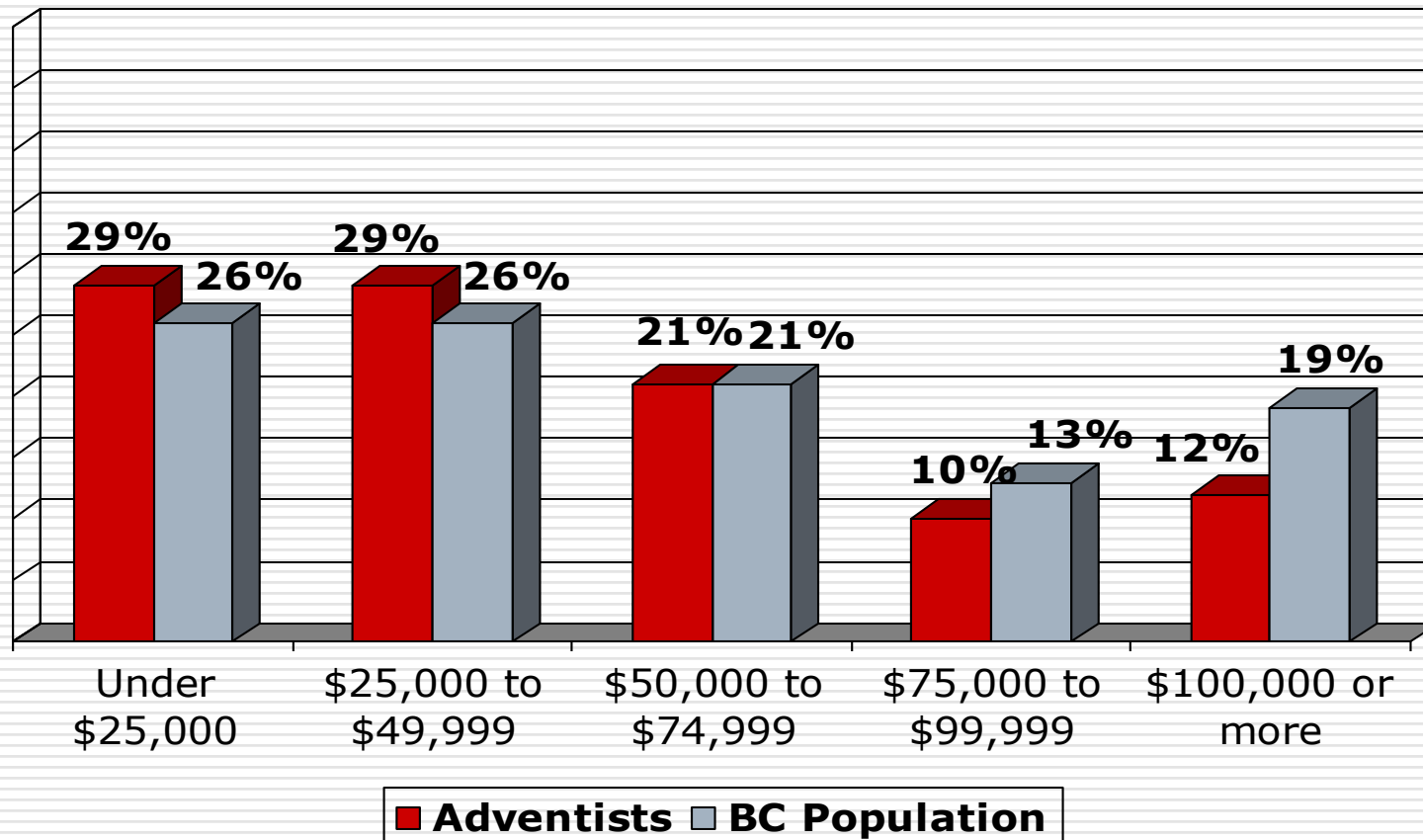
Age by Generation



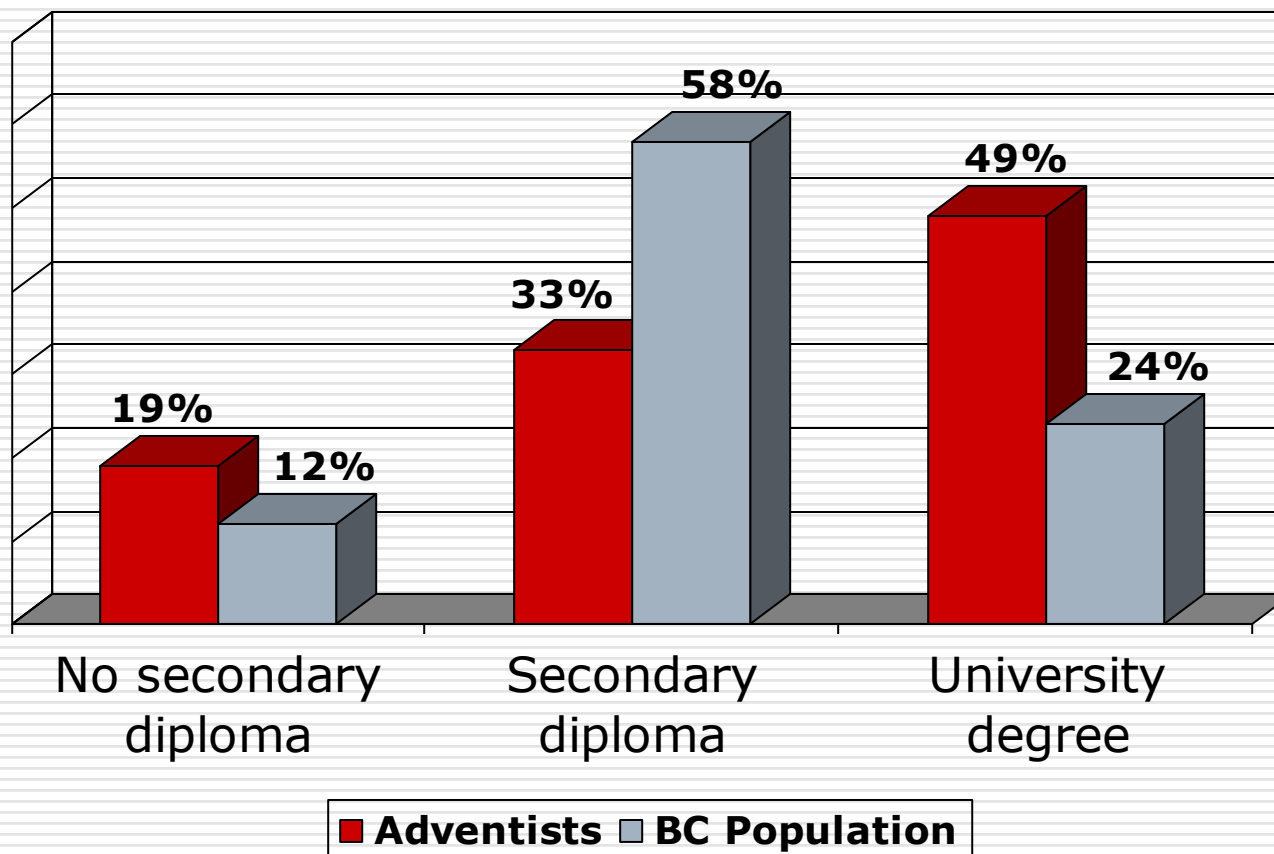
Gender



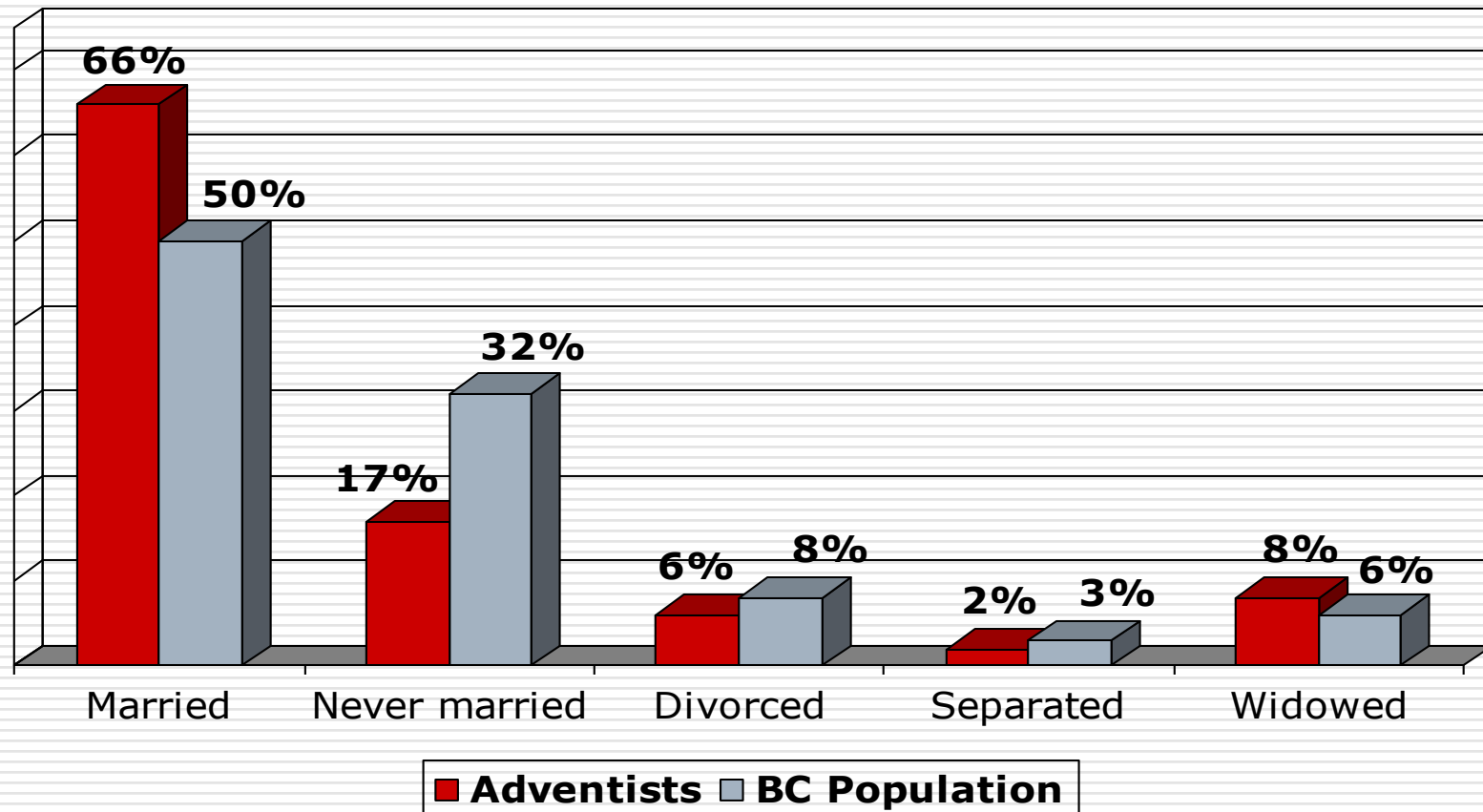
Annual Household Income



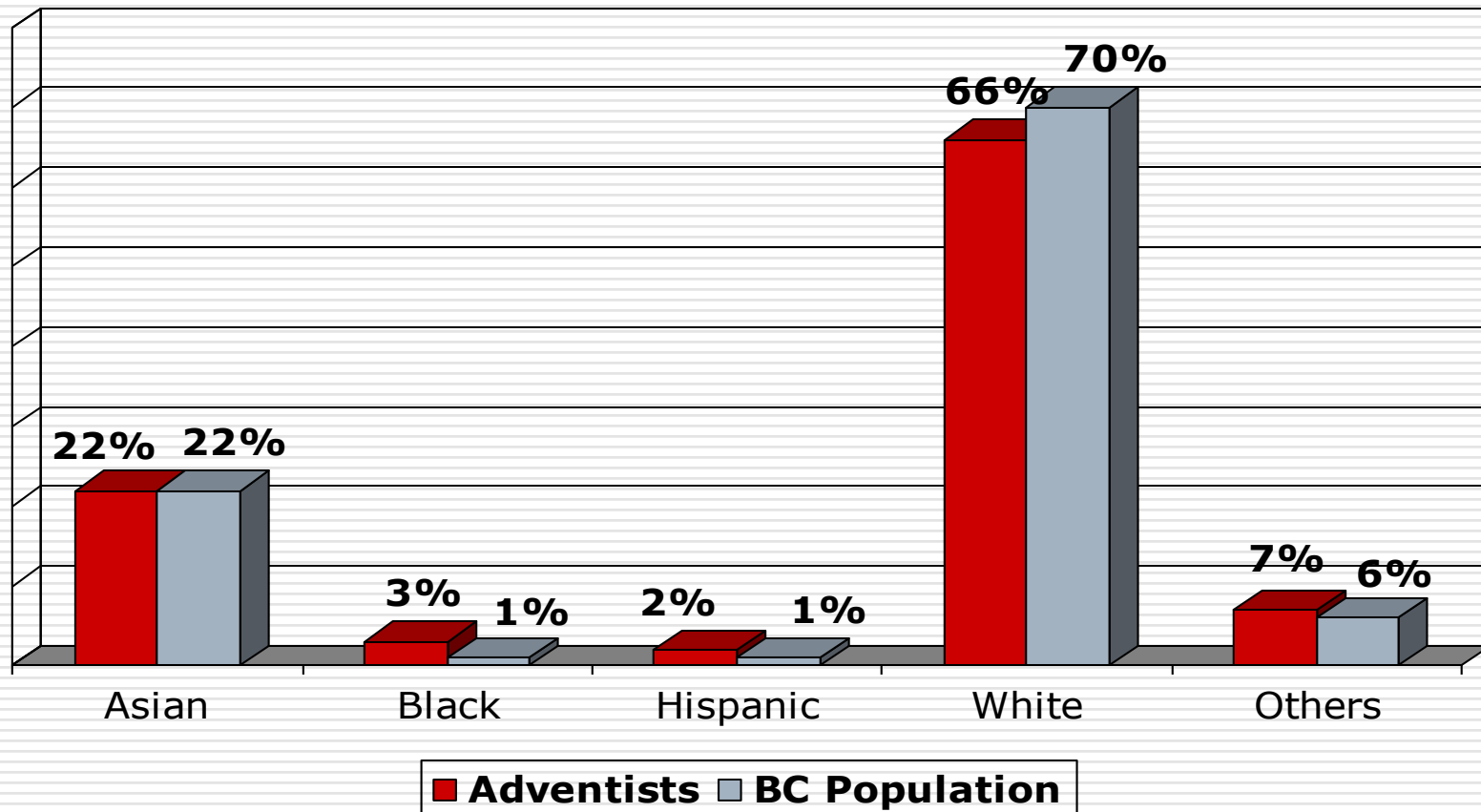
Education



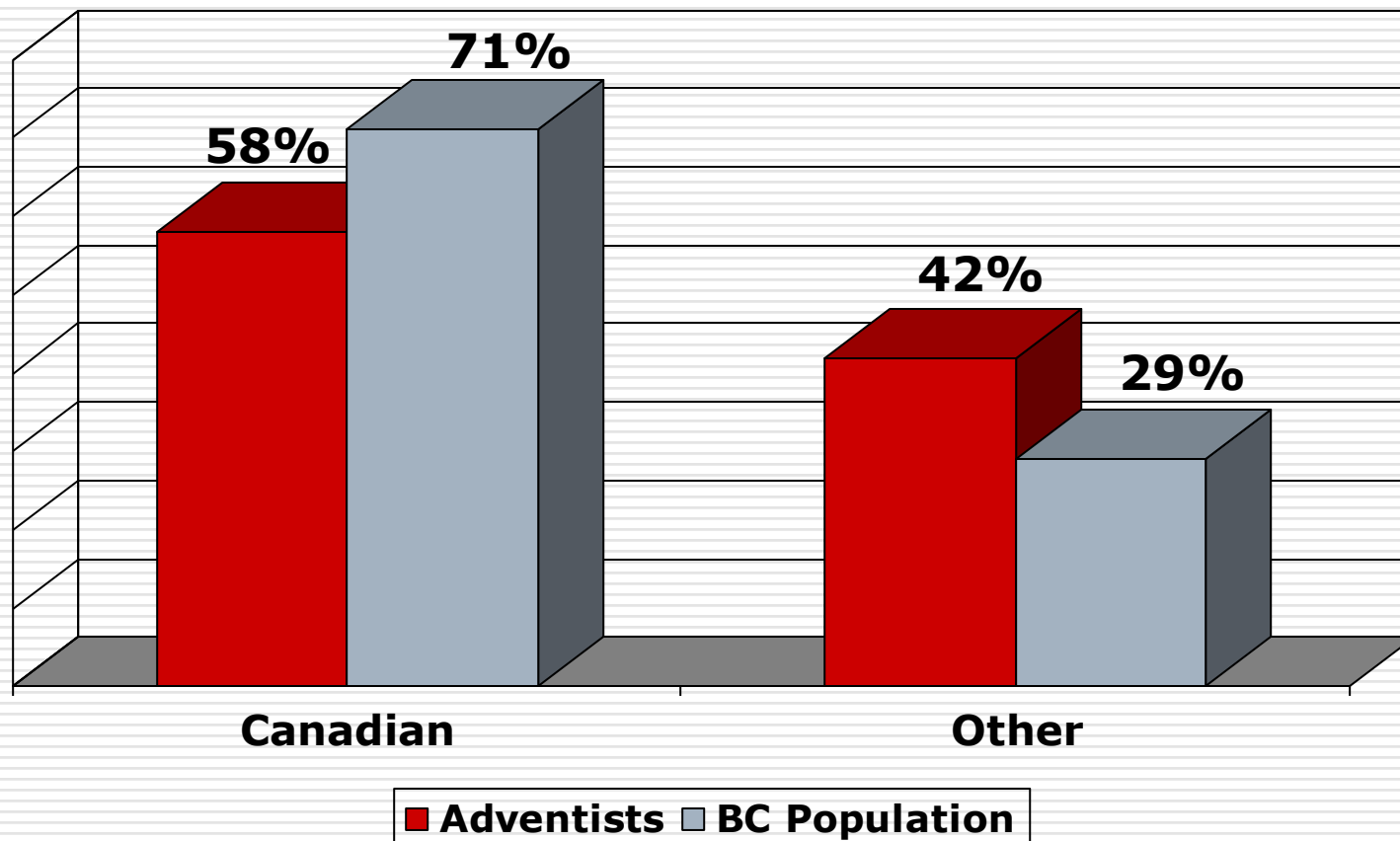
Marital Status



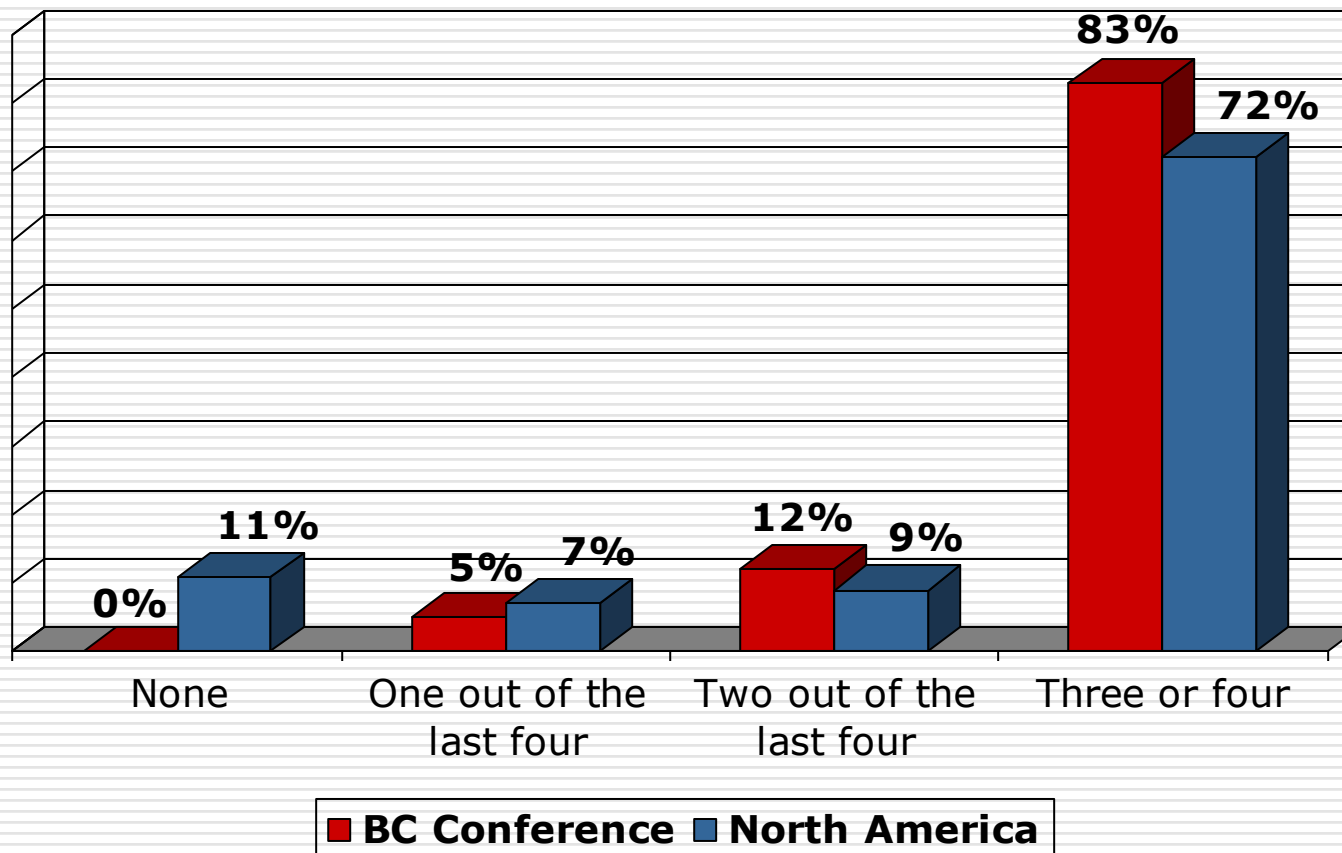
Ethnicity



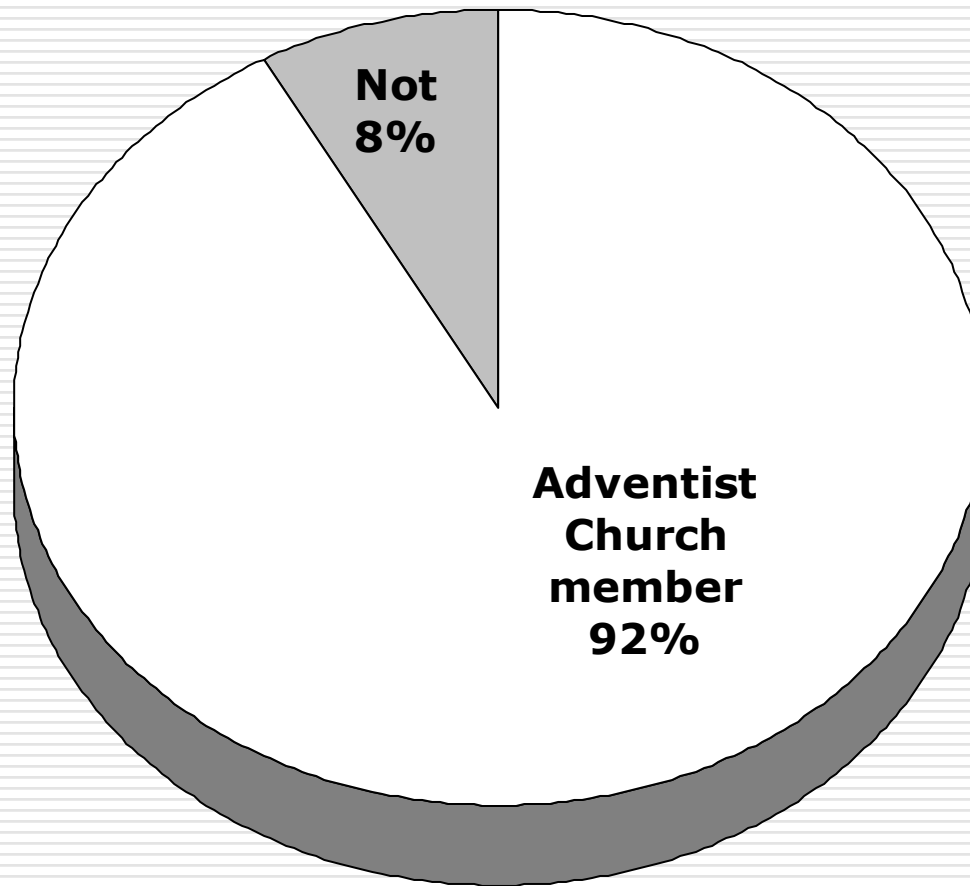
Citizenship at Birth



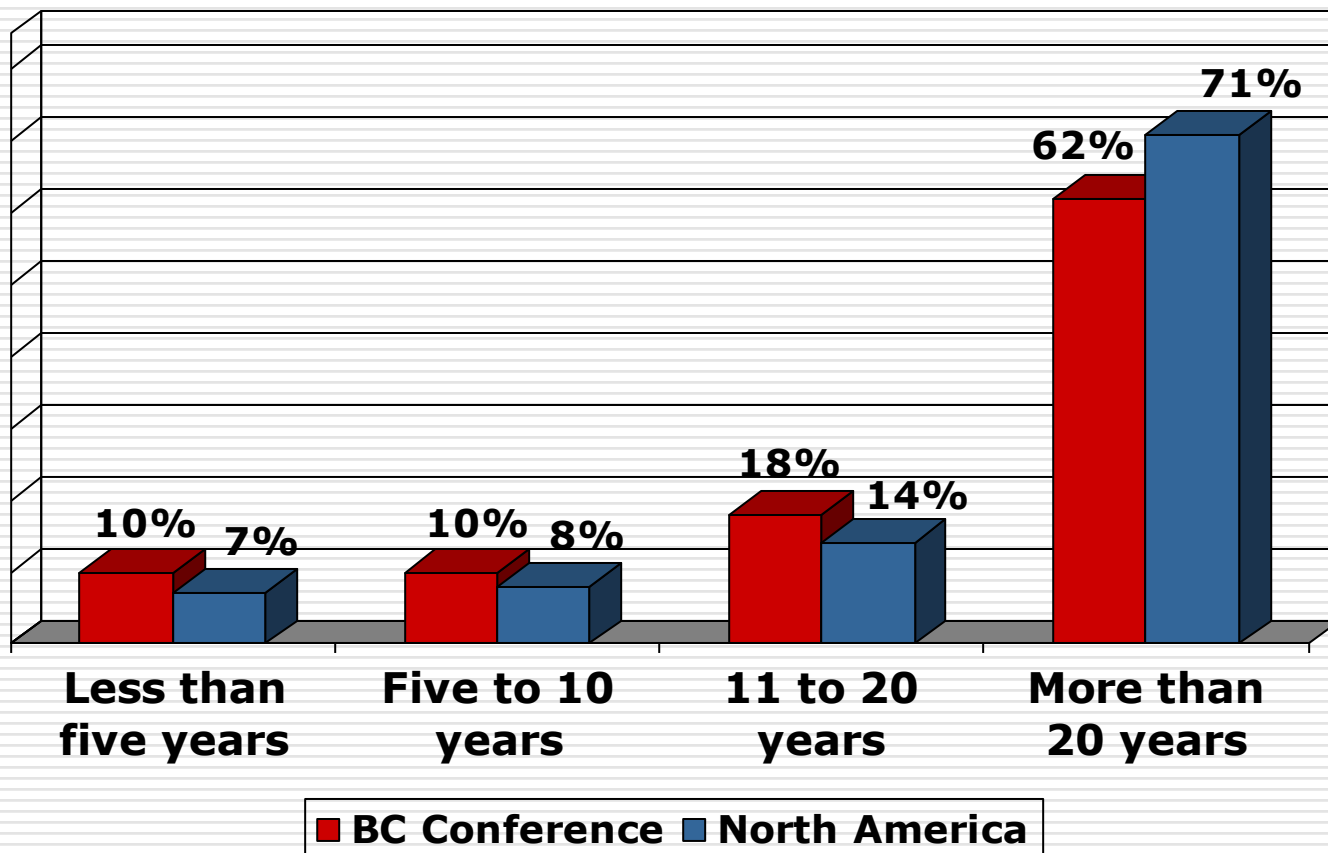
Attendance Pattern



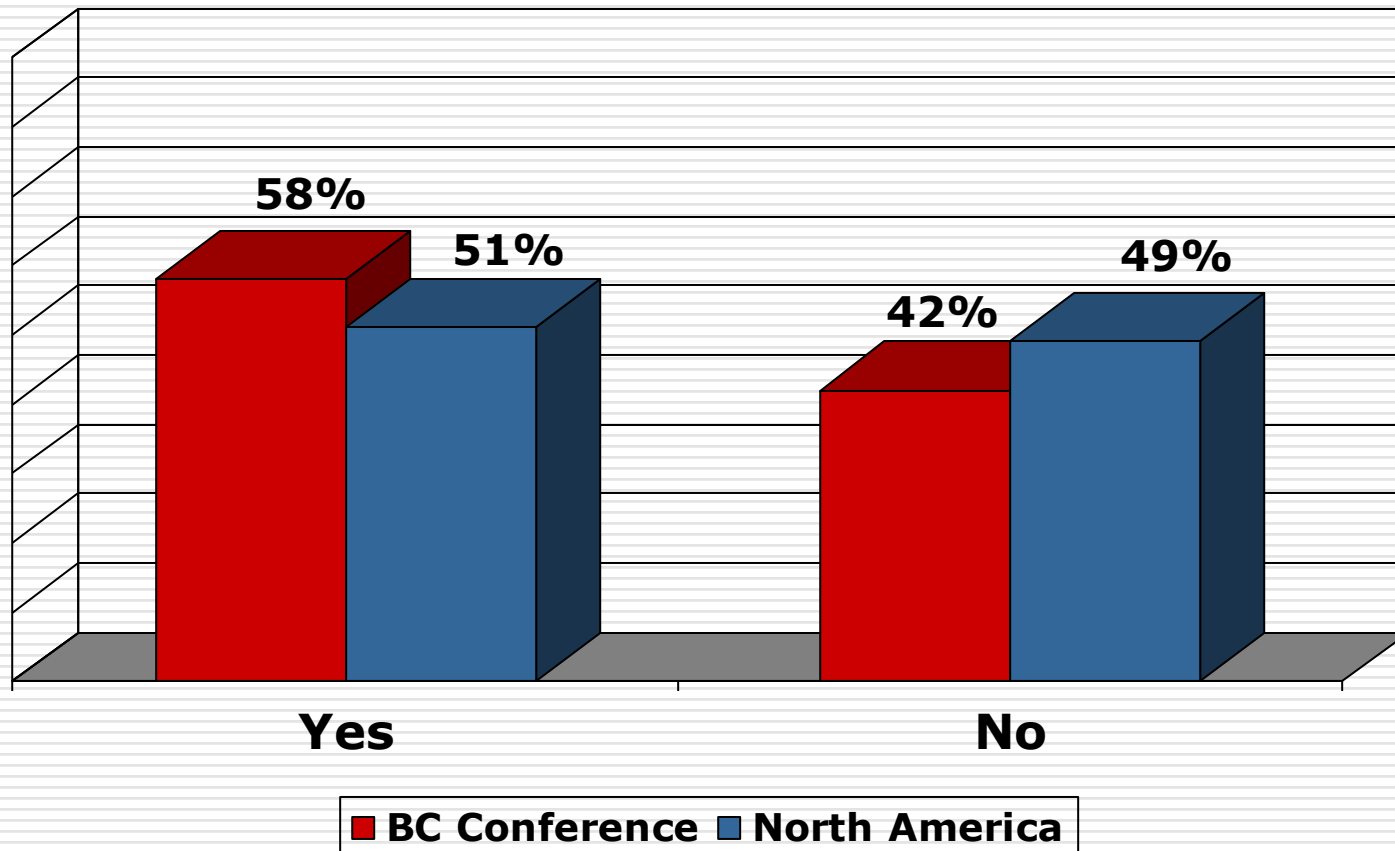
Church Membership



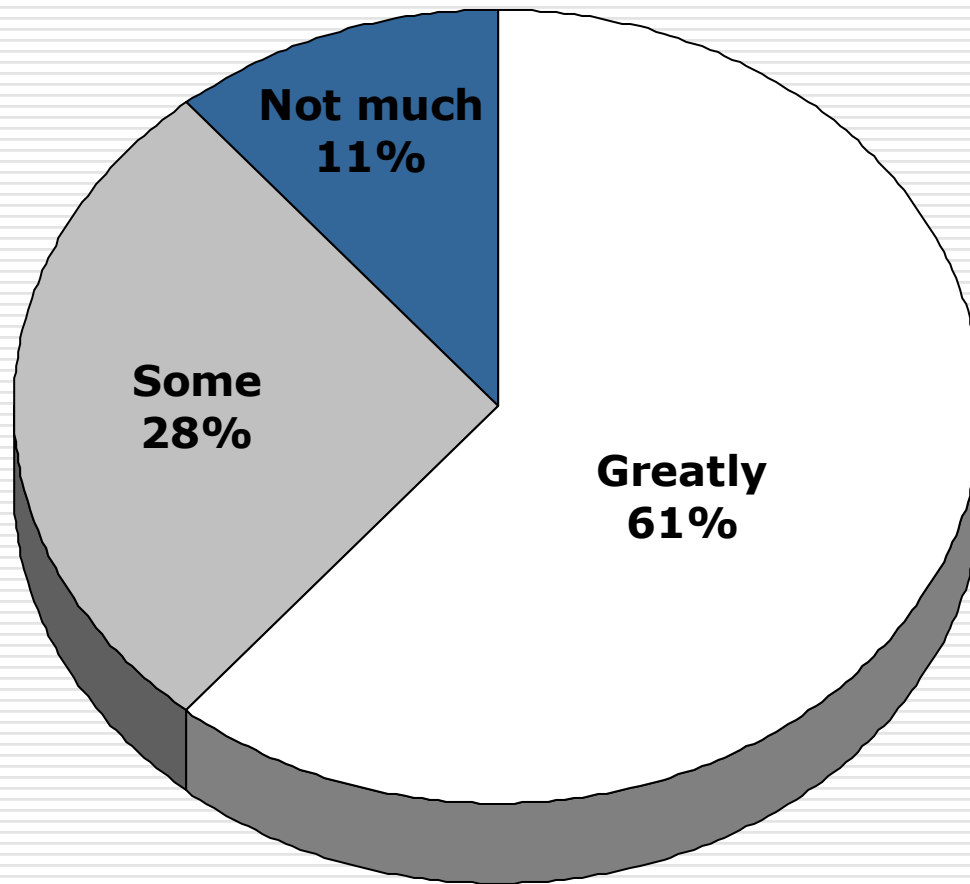
Tenure as a Baptized Adventist



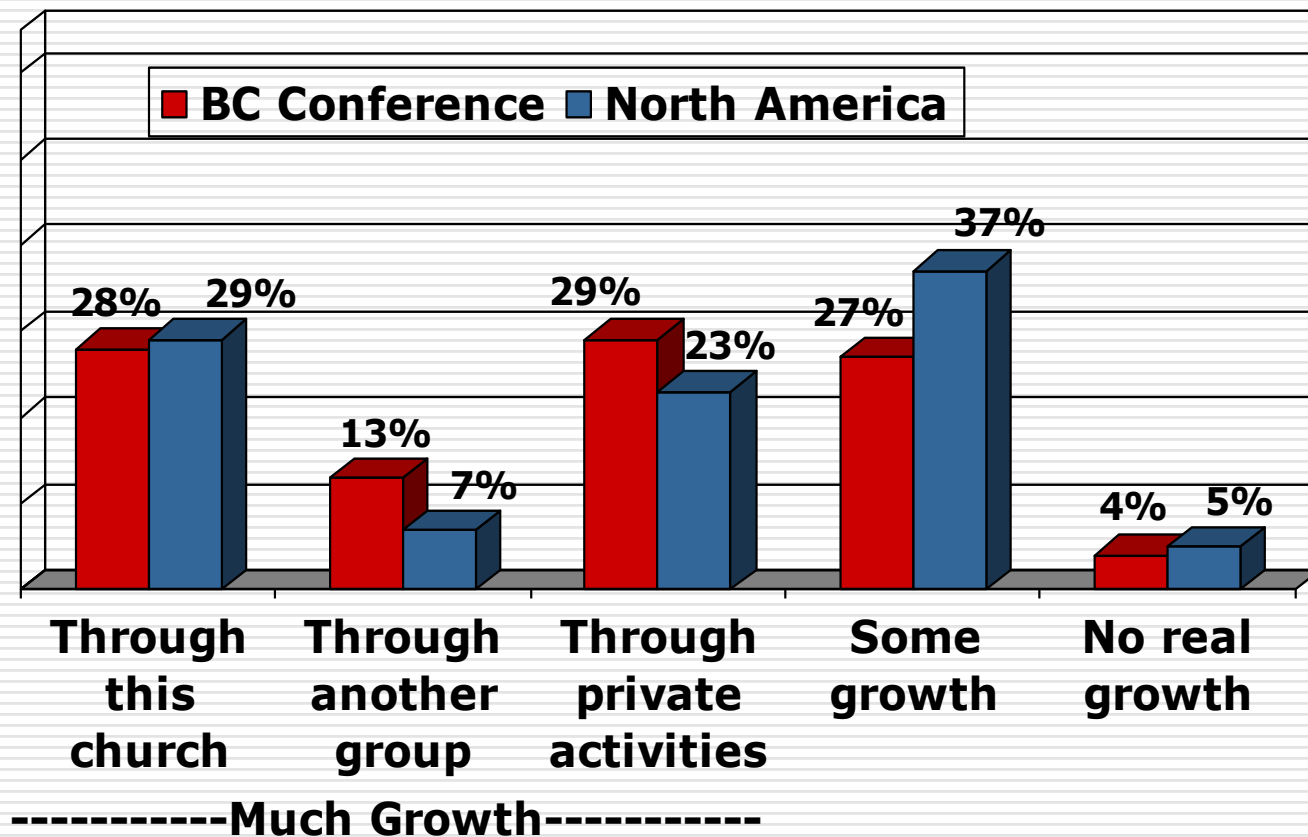
Raised by Adventist Parents



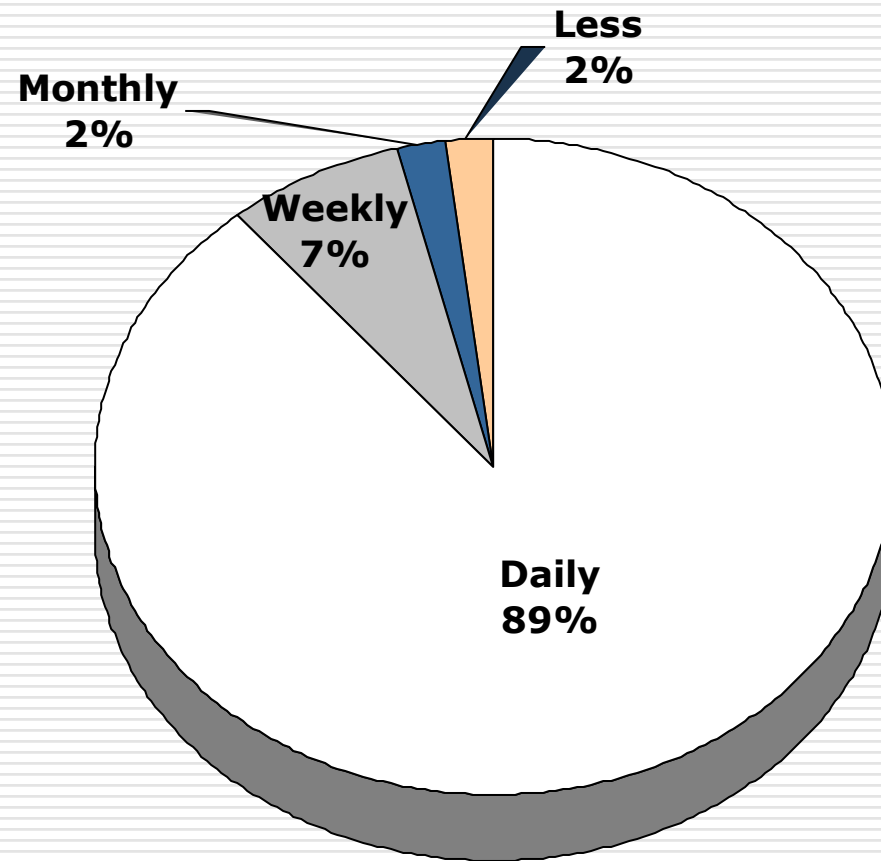
How much does worship at this church help you with everyday life?



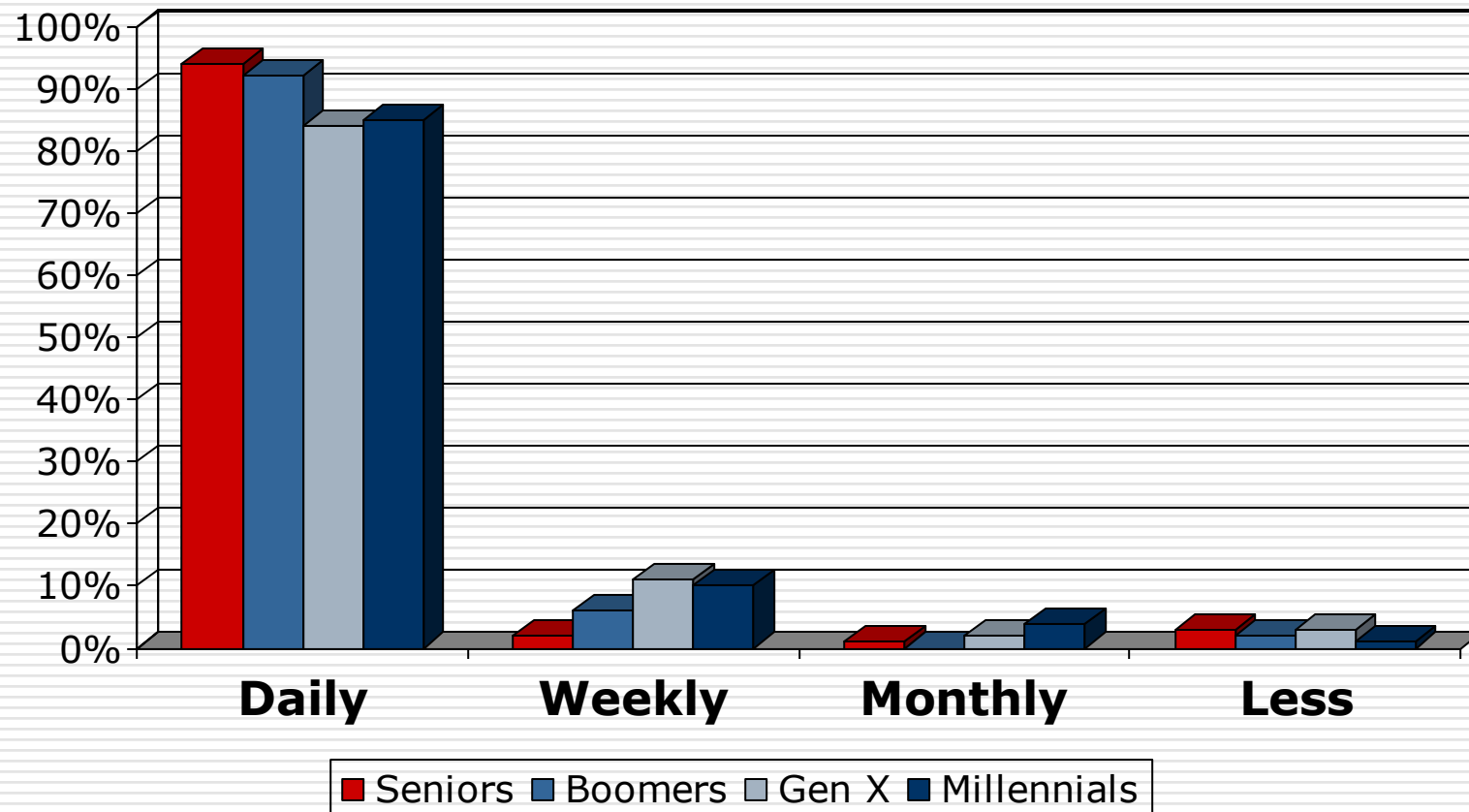
How much have you grown in your faith in the last year?



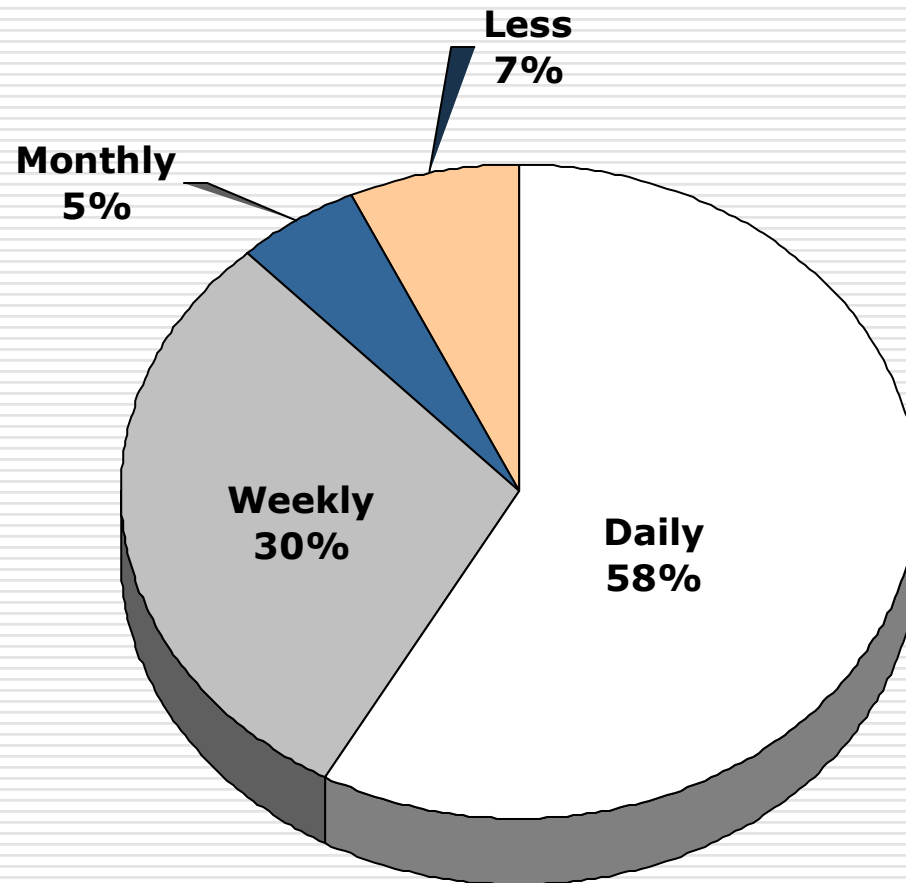
How often do you pray?



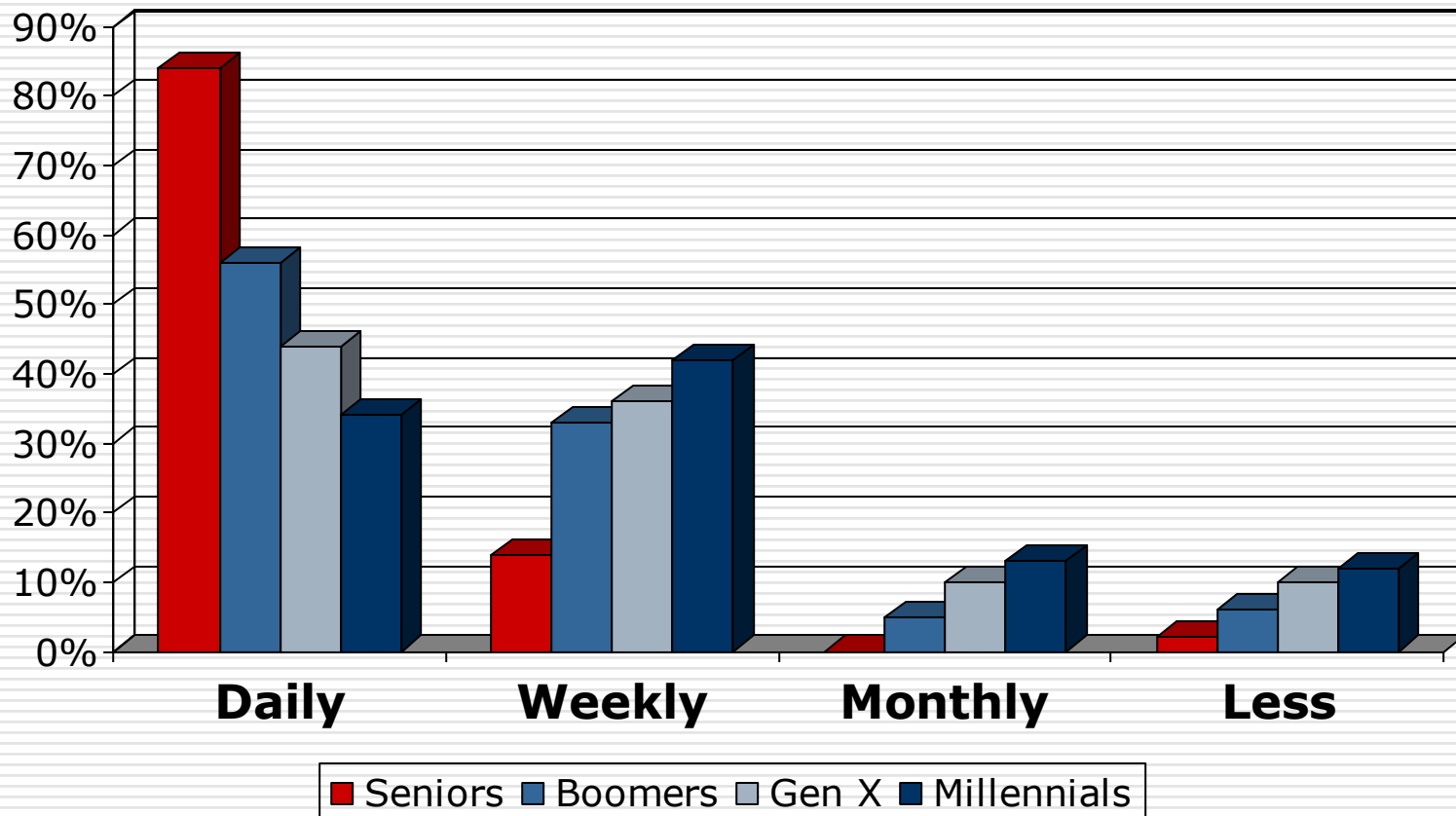
Practice of Prayer by Generation



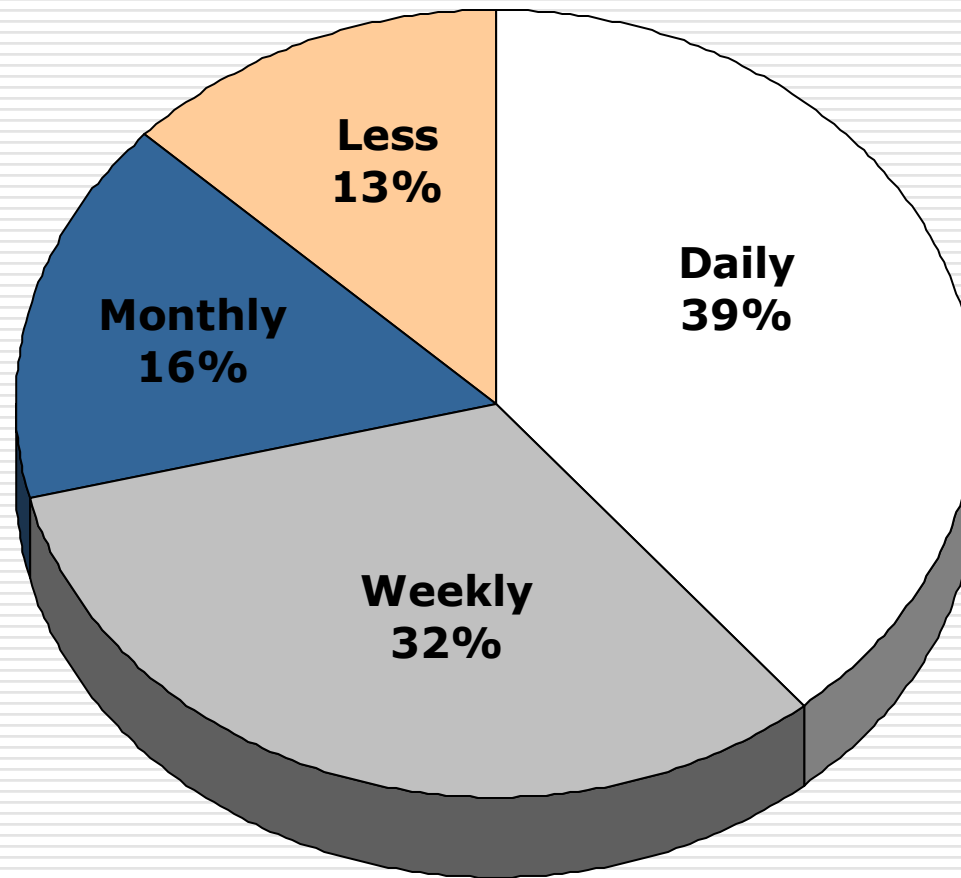
How often do you read the Bible?



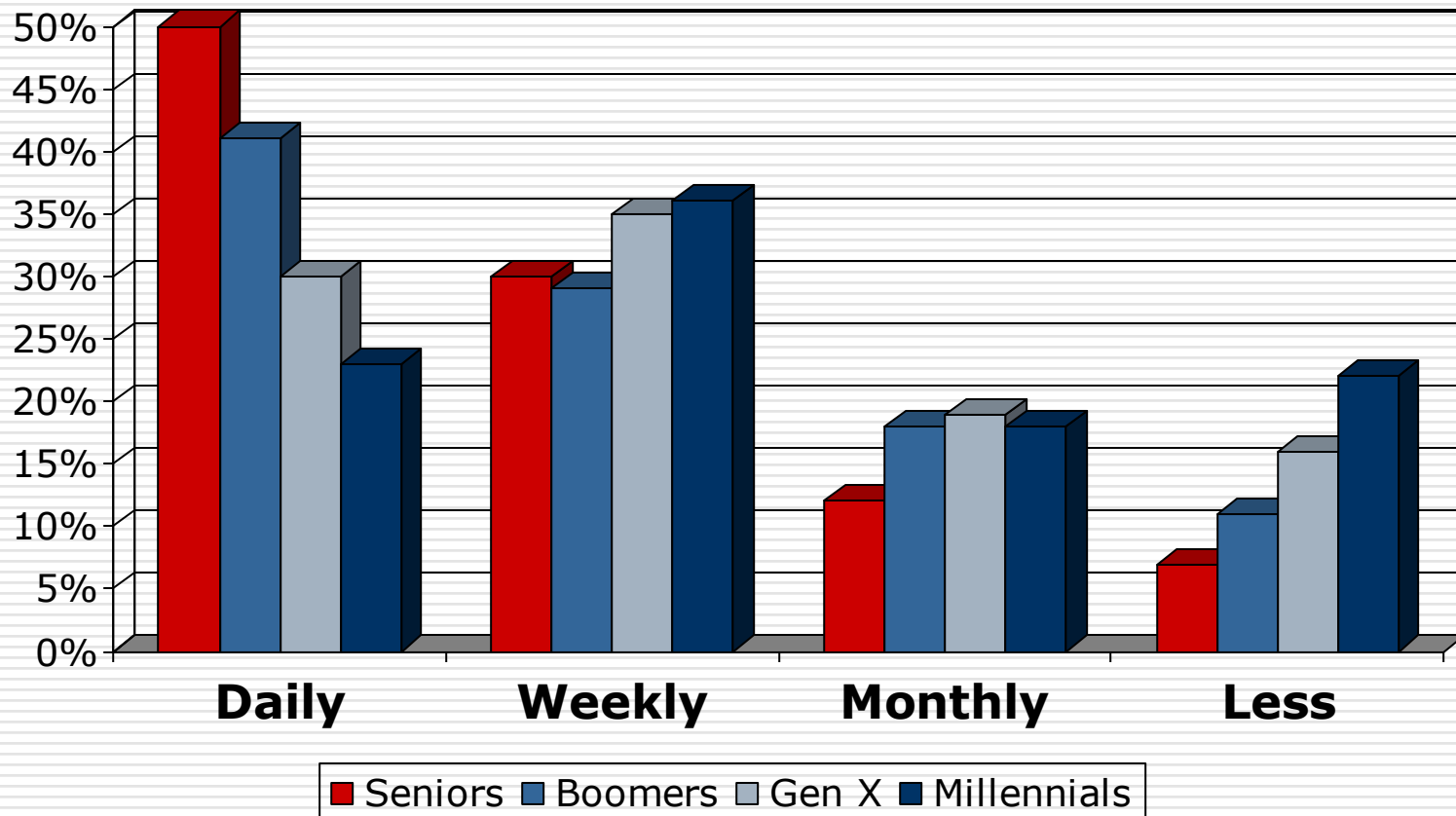
Practice of Bible Reading by Generation



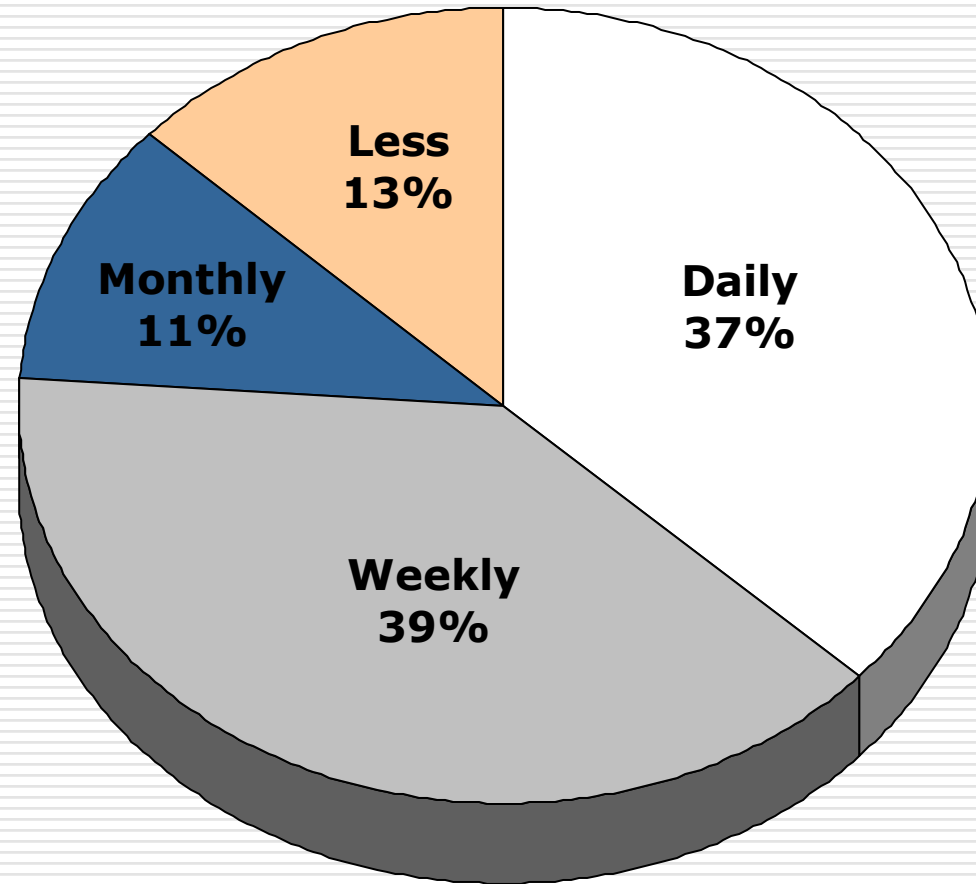
How often do you read other books as a devotional practice?



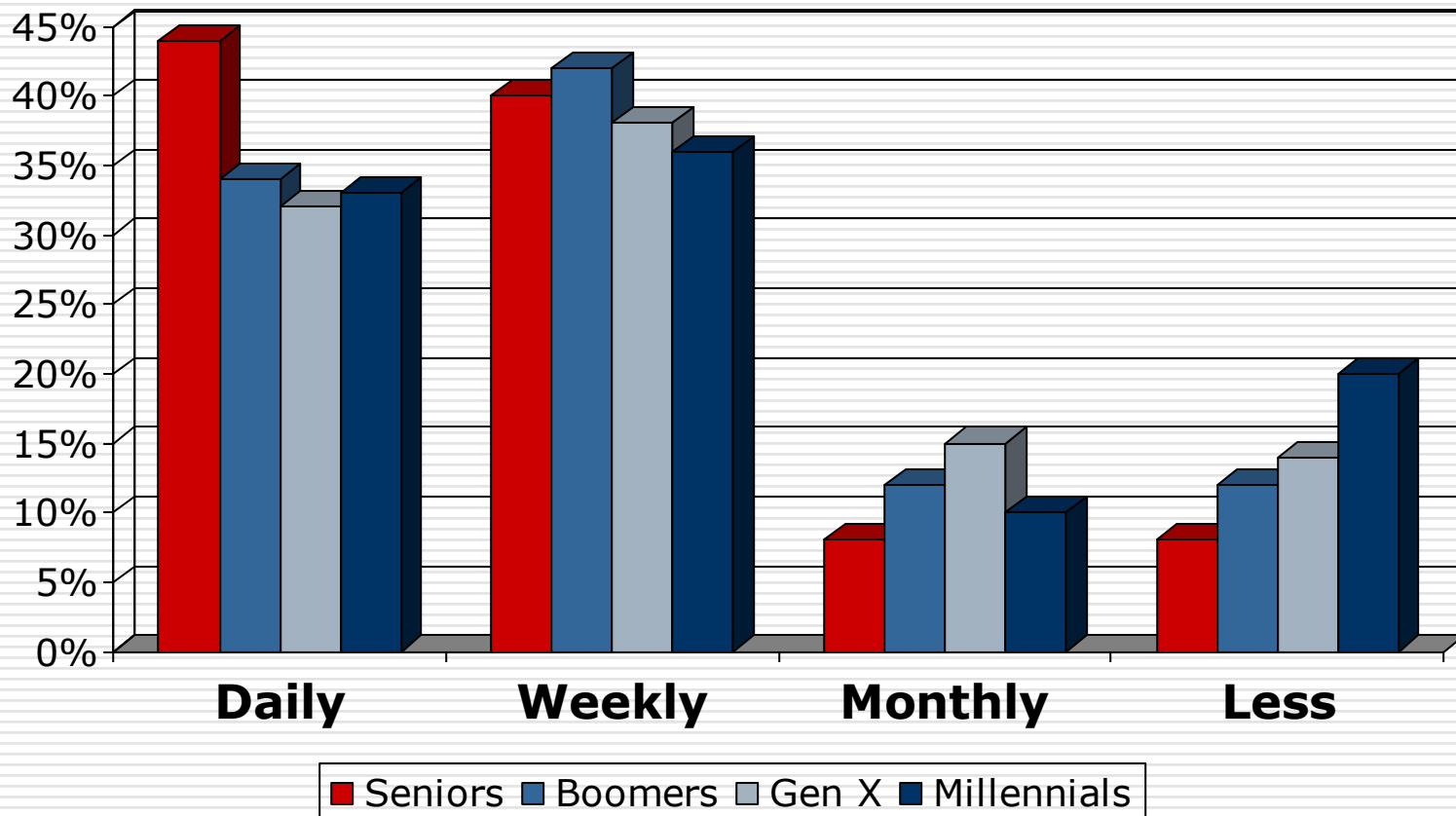
Practice of Other Devotional Reading by Generation



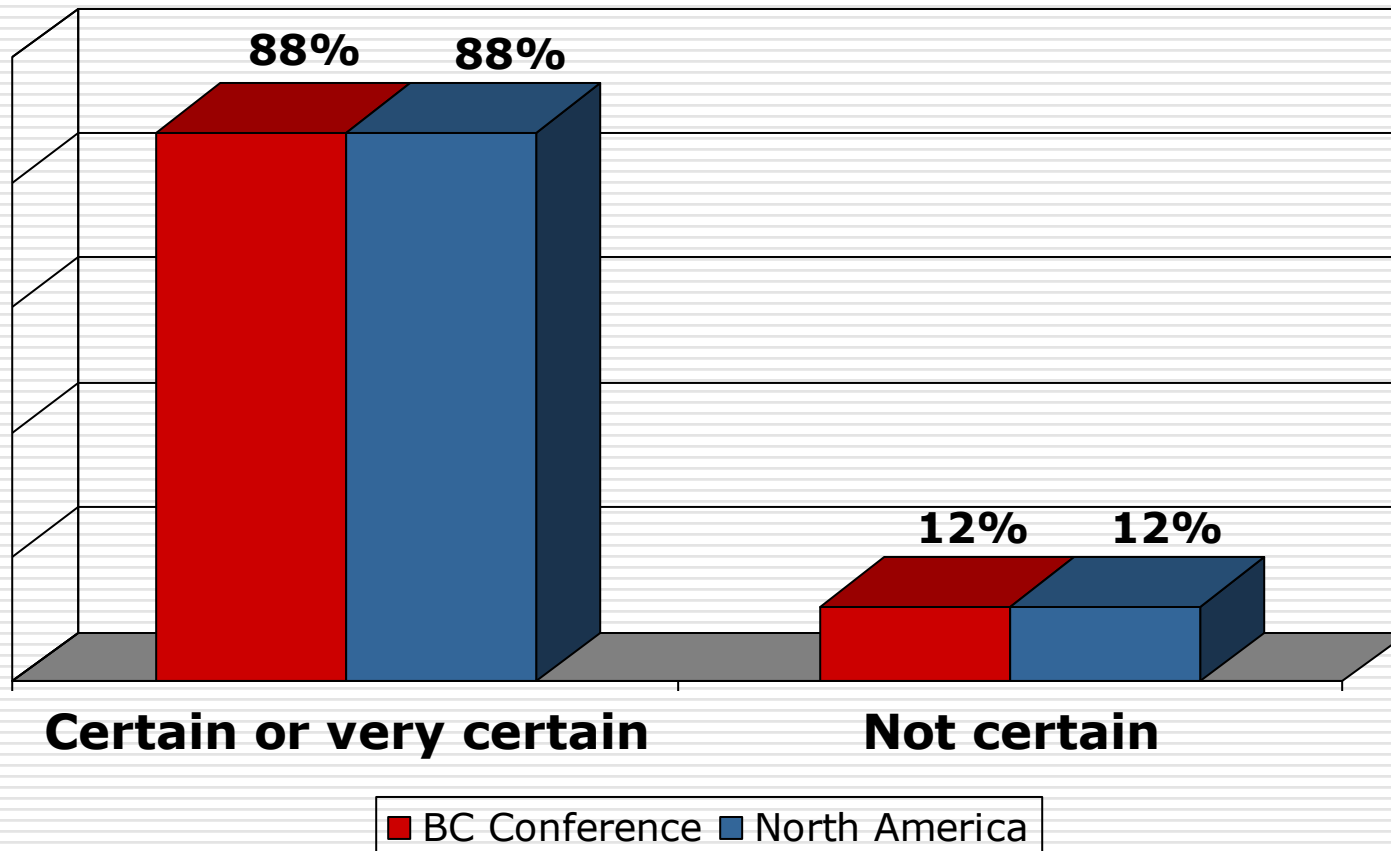
How often do you engage in other devotional practices?



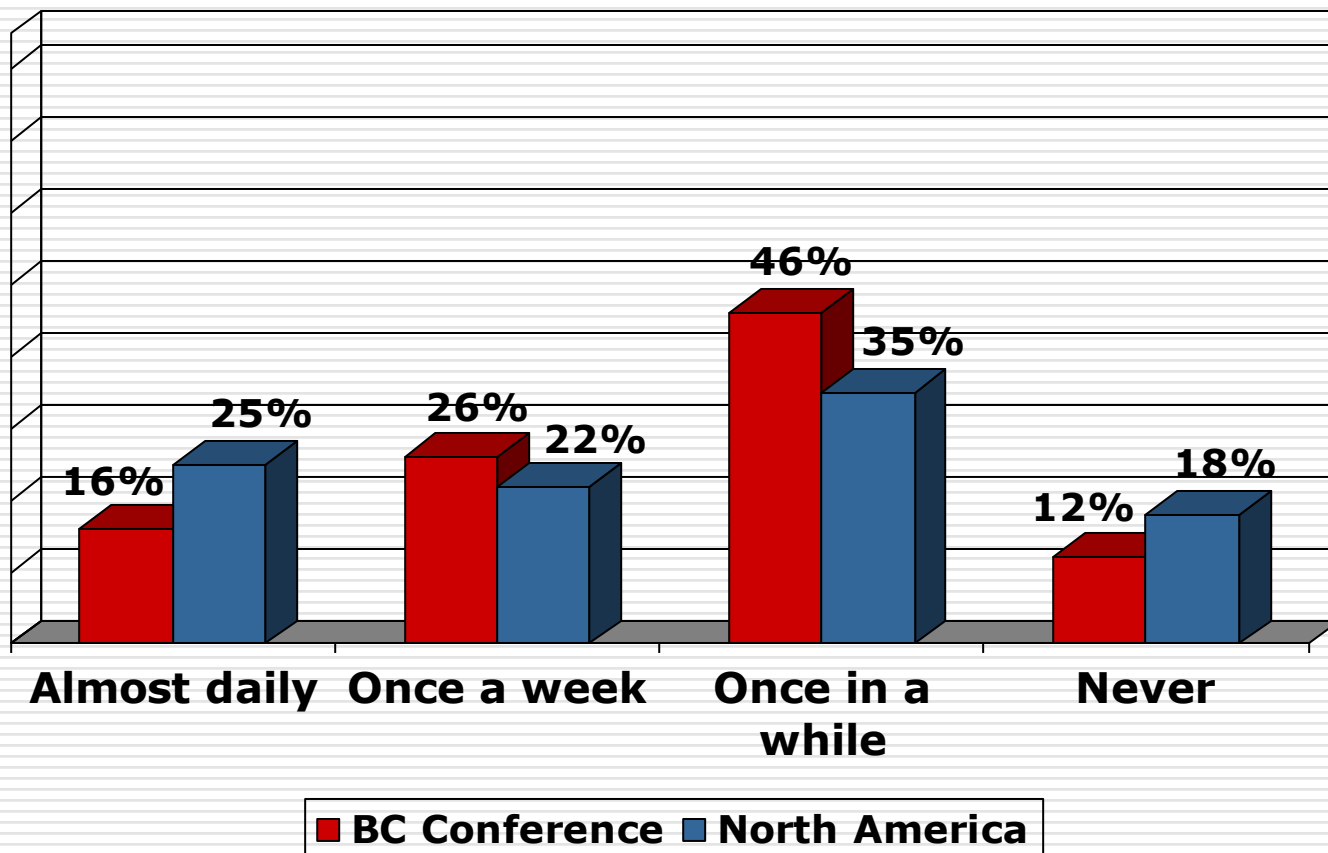
Practice of Other Devotional Activities by Generation



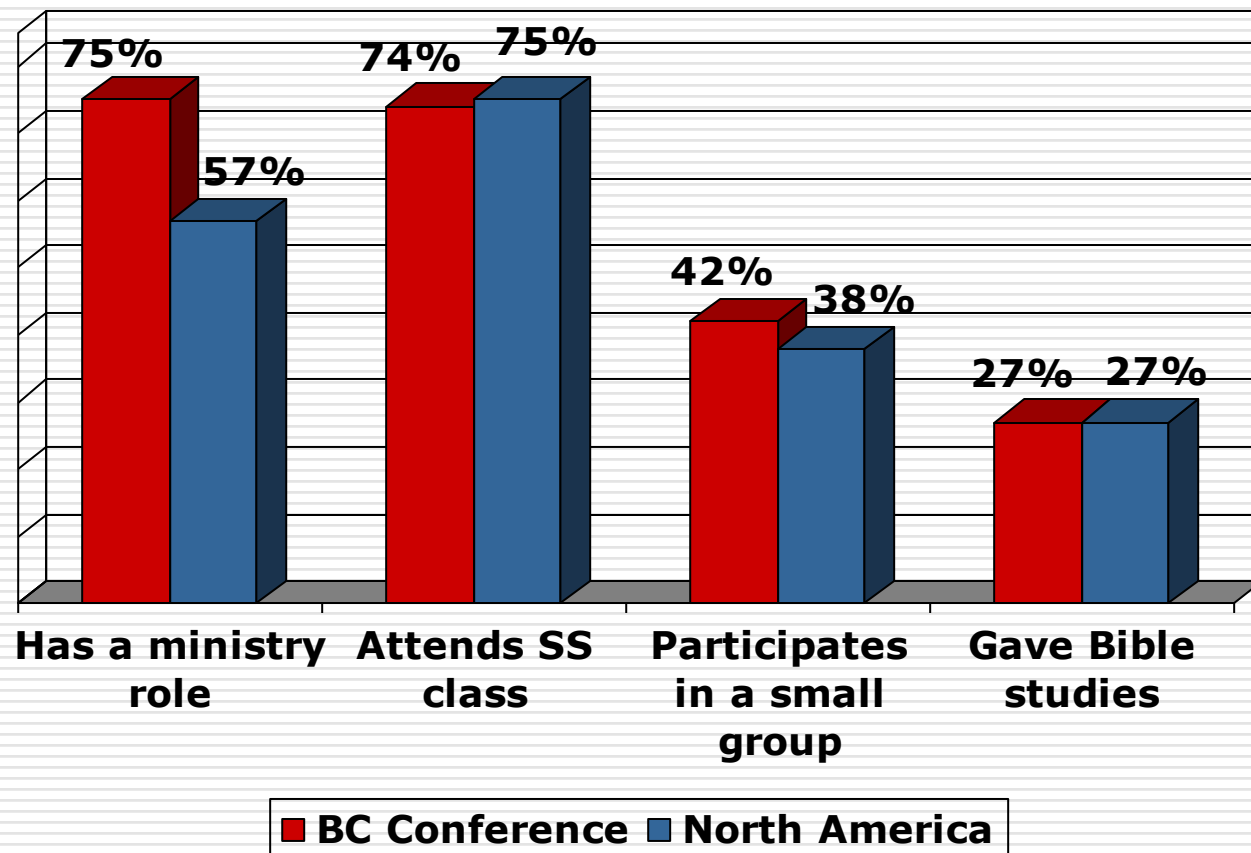
Assurance of Eternal Life



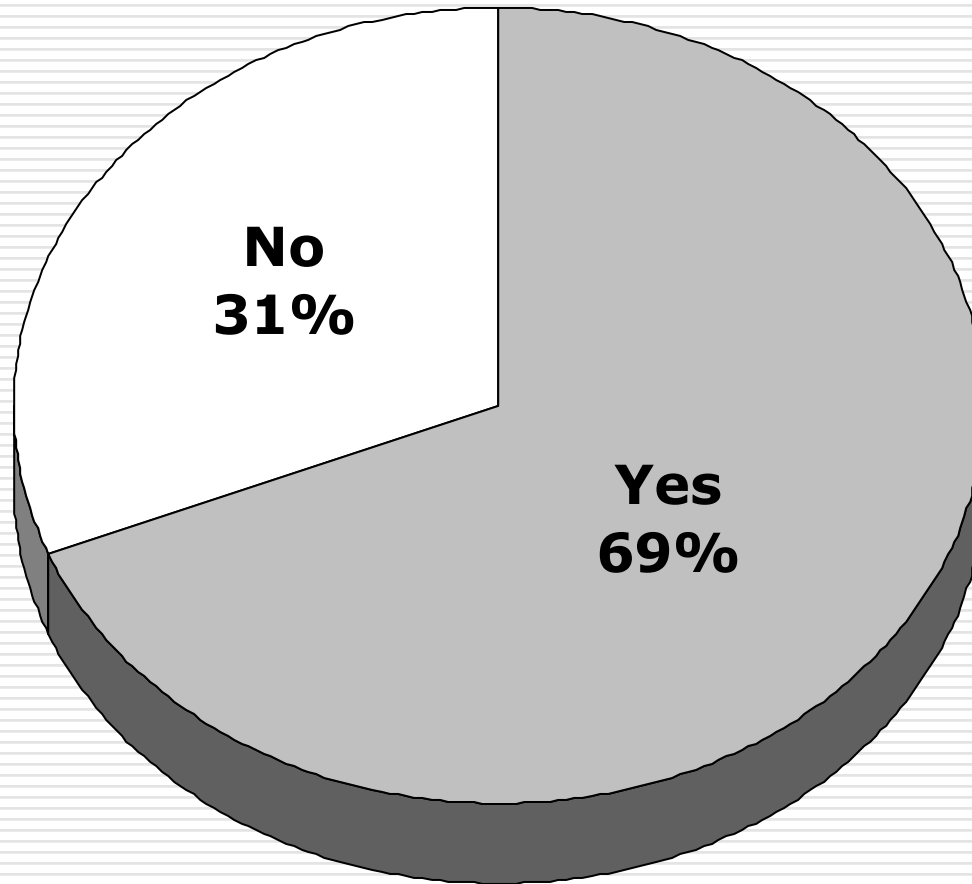
Conversations with Coworkers about their Personal or Family Needs or Spiritual Topics



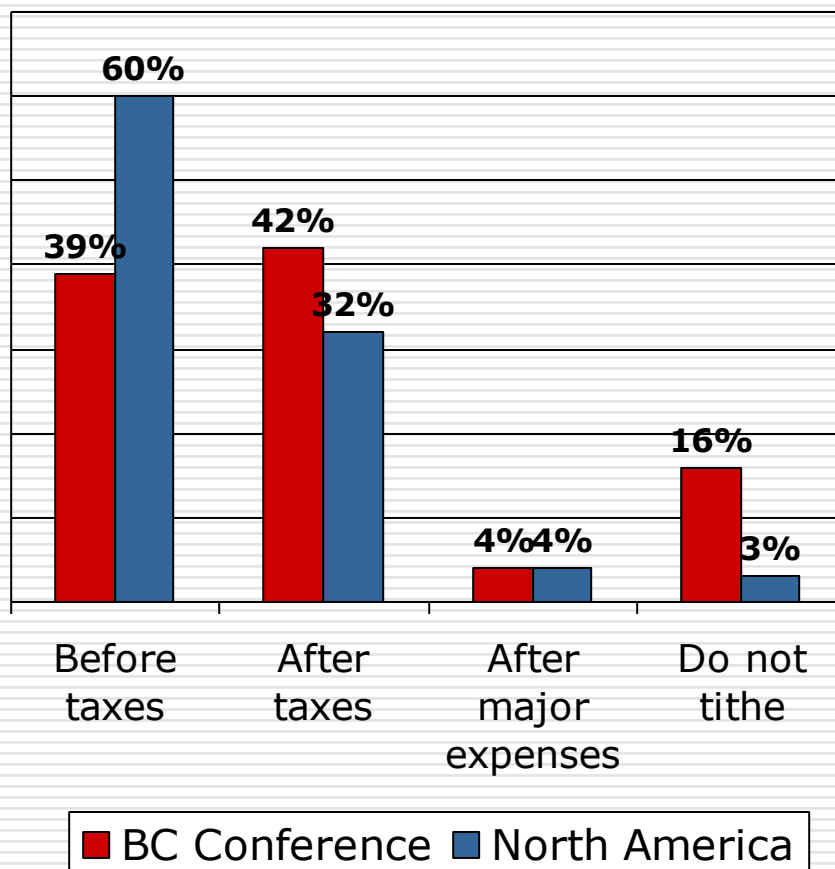
Church Involvement



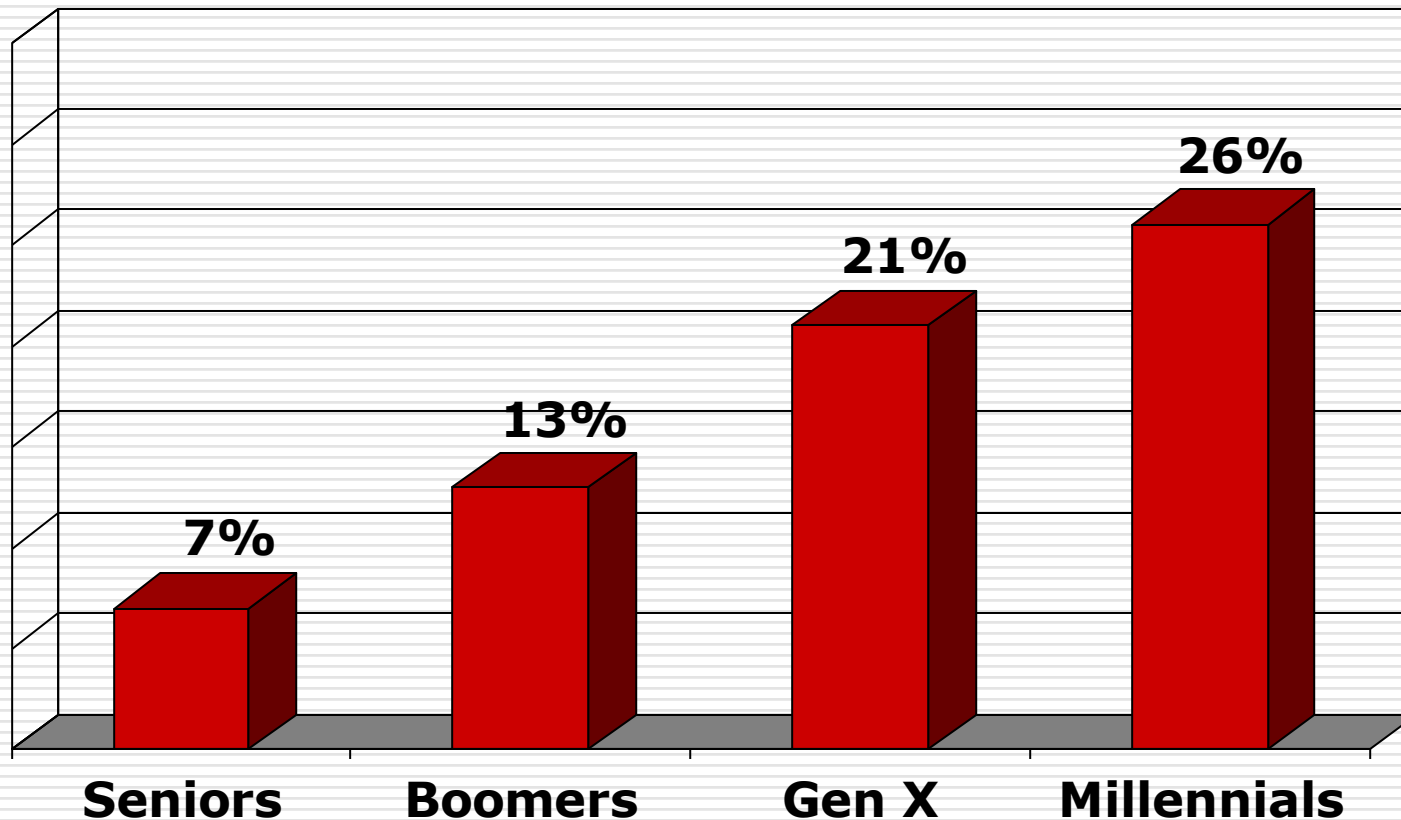
Has anyone asked you personally to volunteer time in the last year?



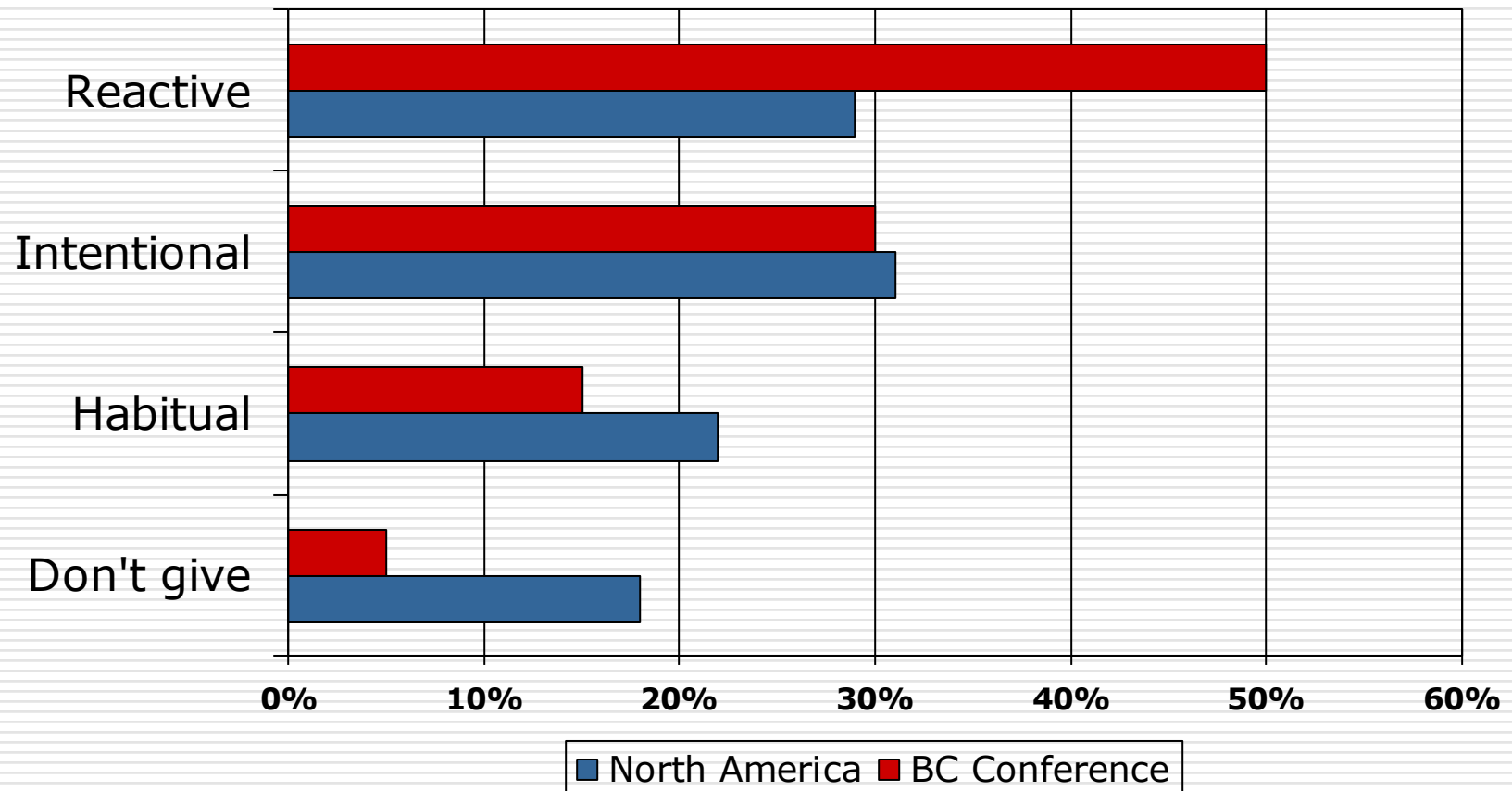
How do you calculate your tithe?



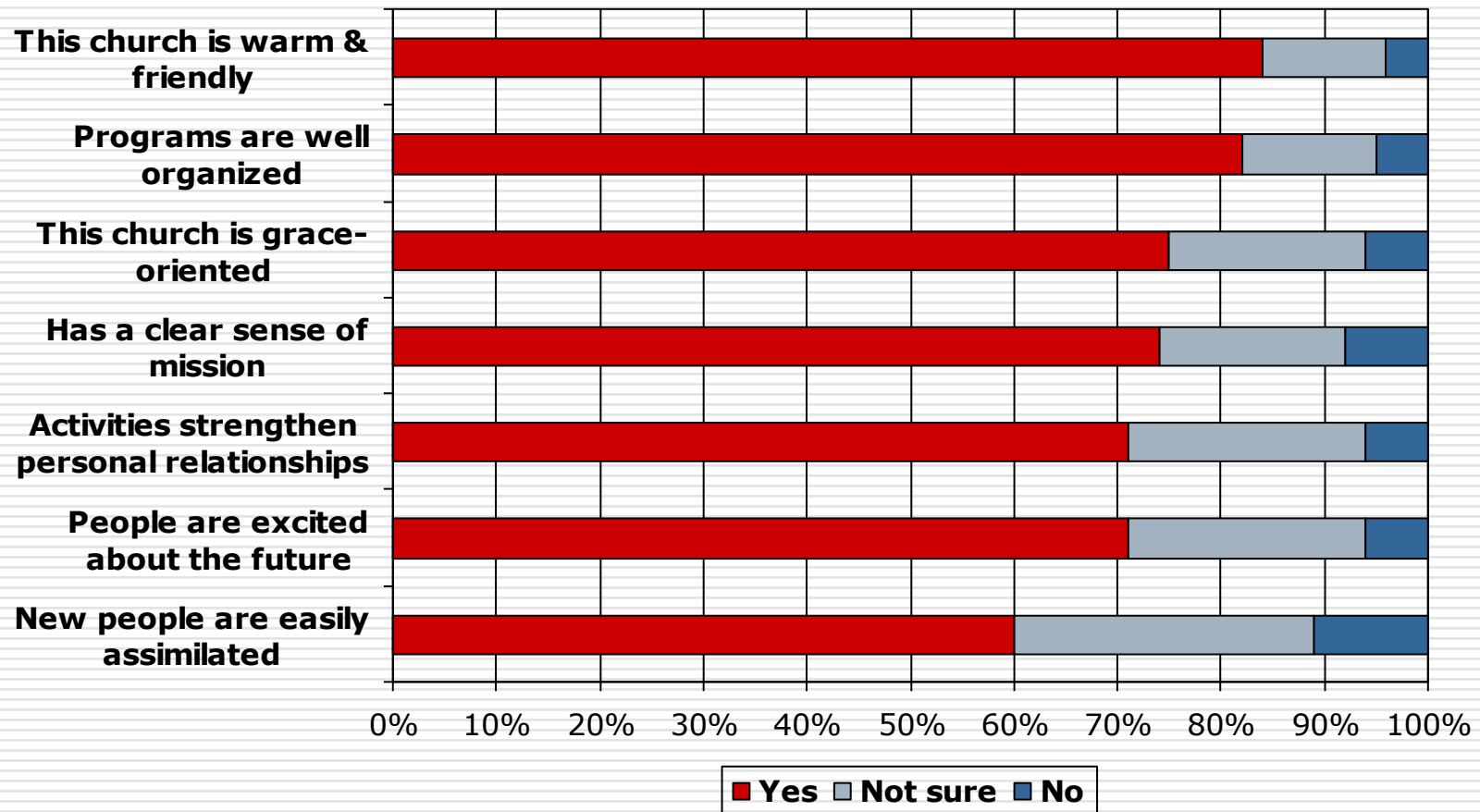
Members Who Do Not Tithe by Generation



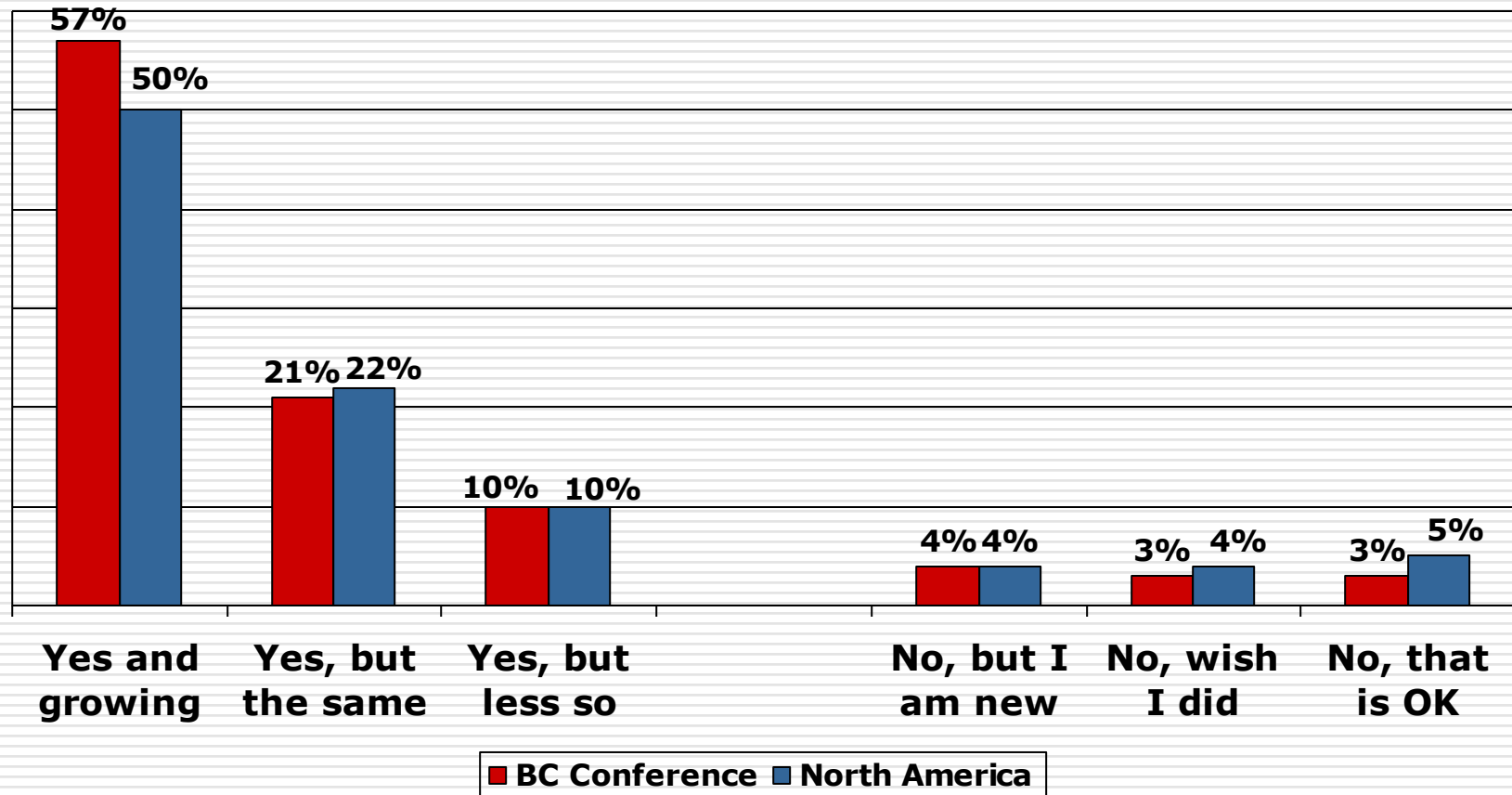
Giving Styles



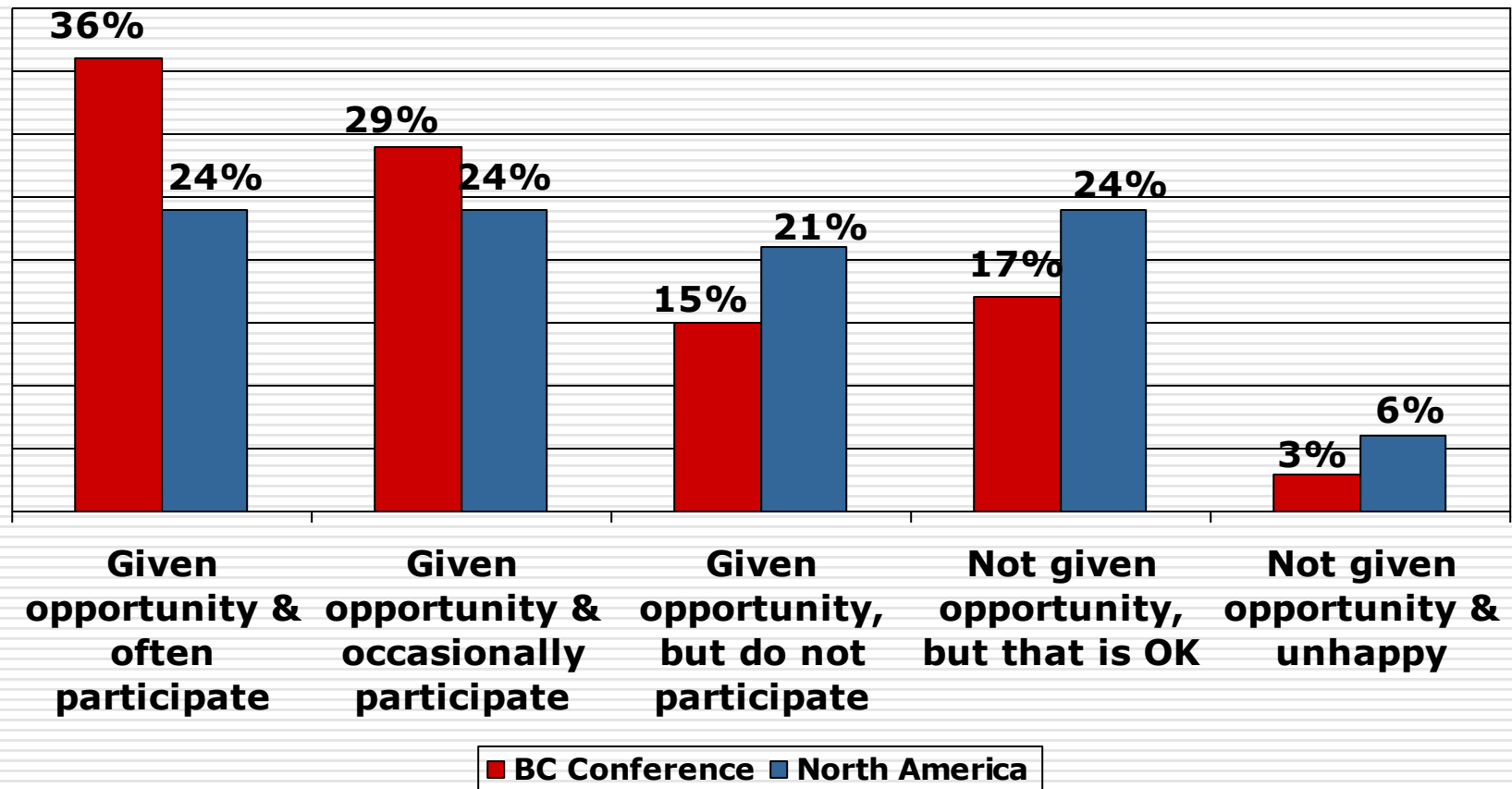
Perceptions of Local Church



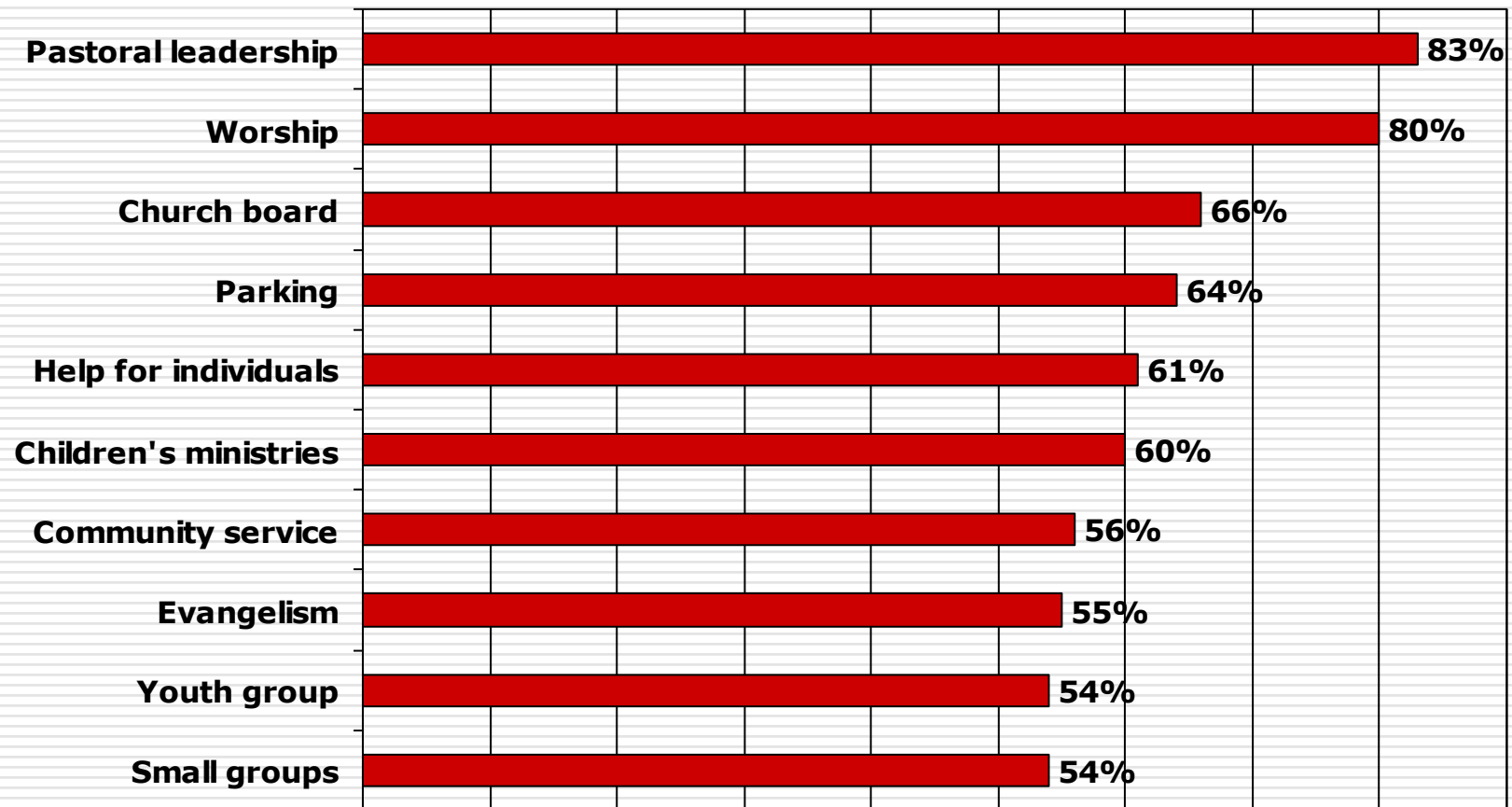
Strong sense of belonging to Local Church



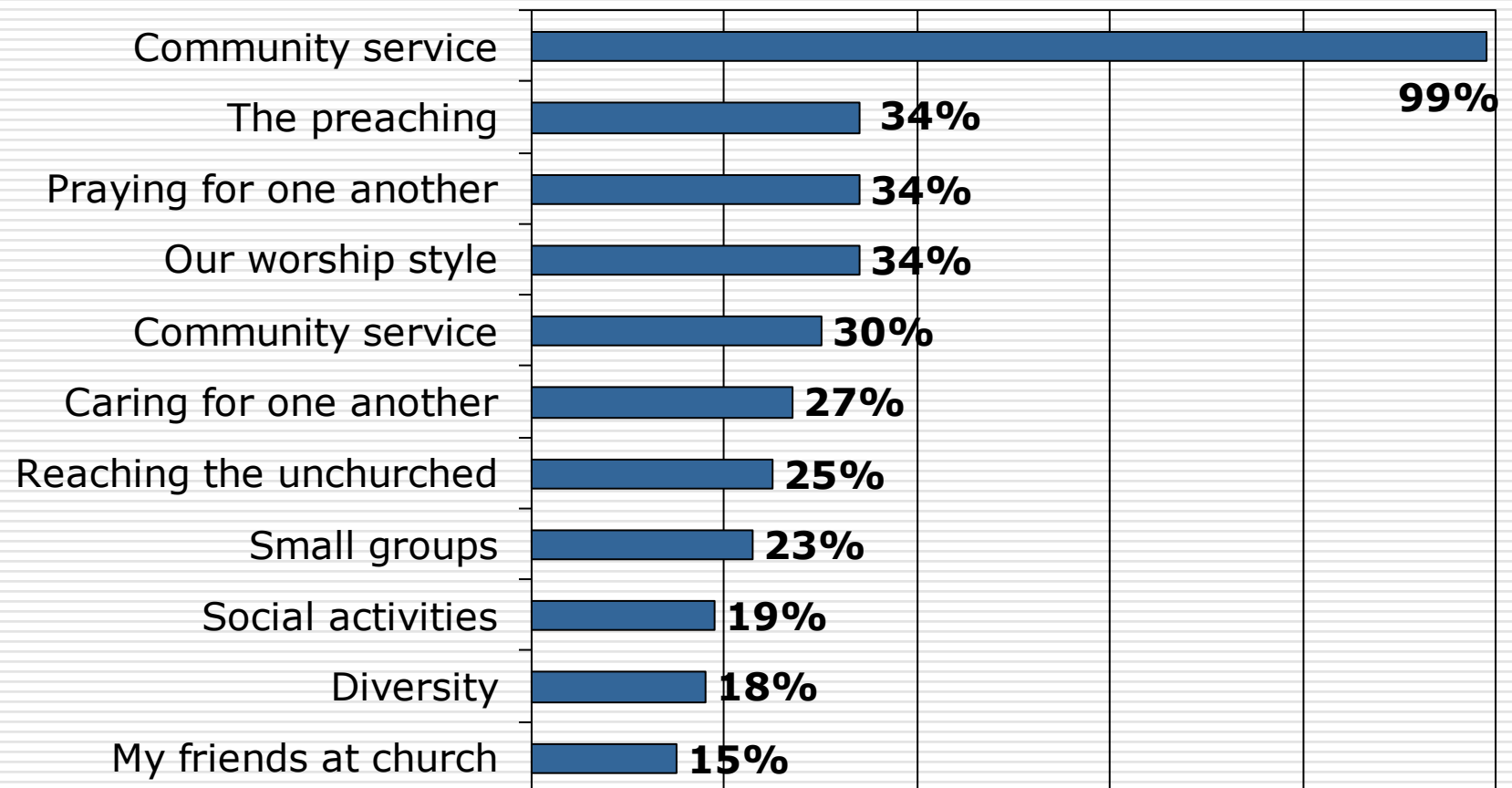
Involvement in making important decisions



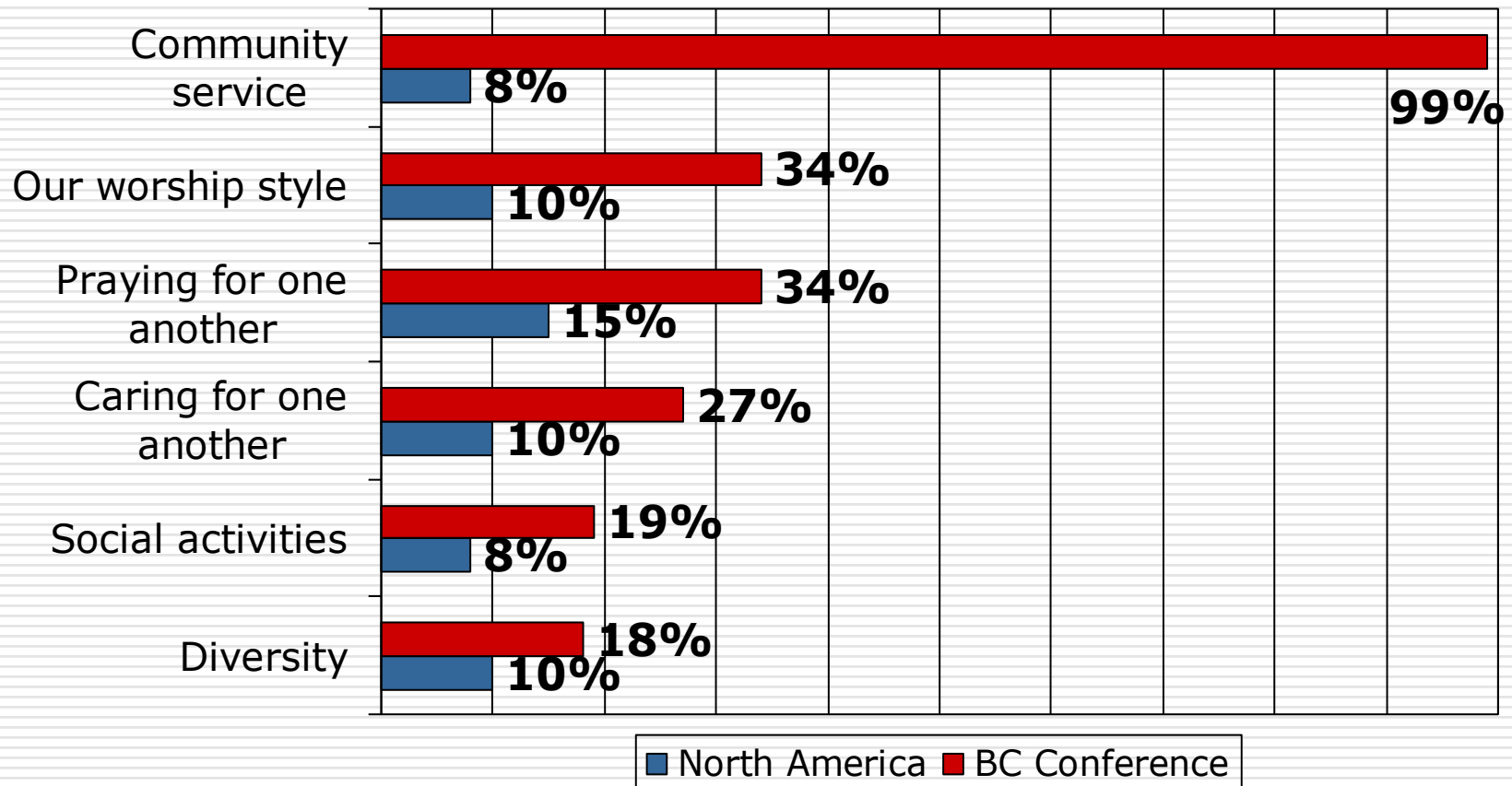
Evaluate as Excellent



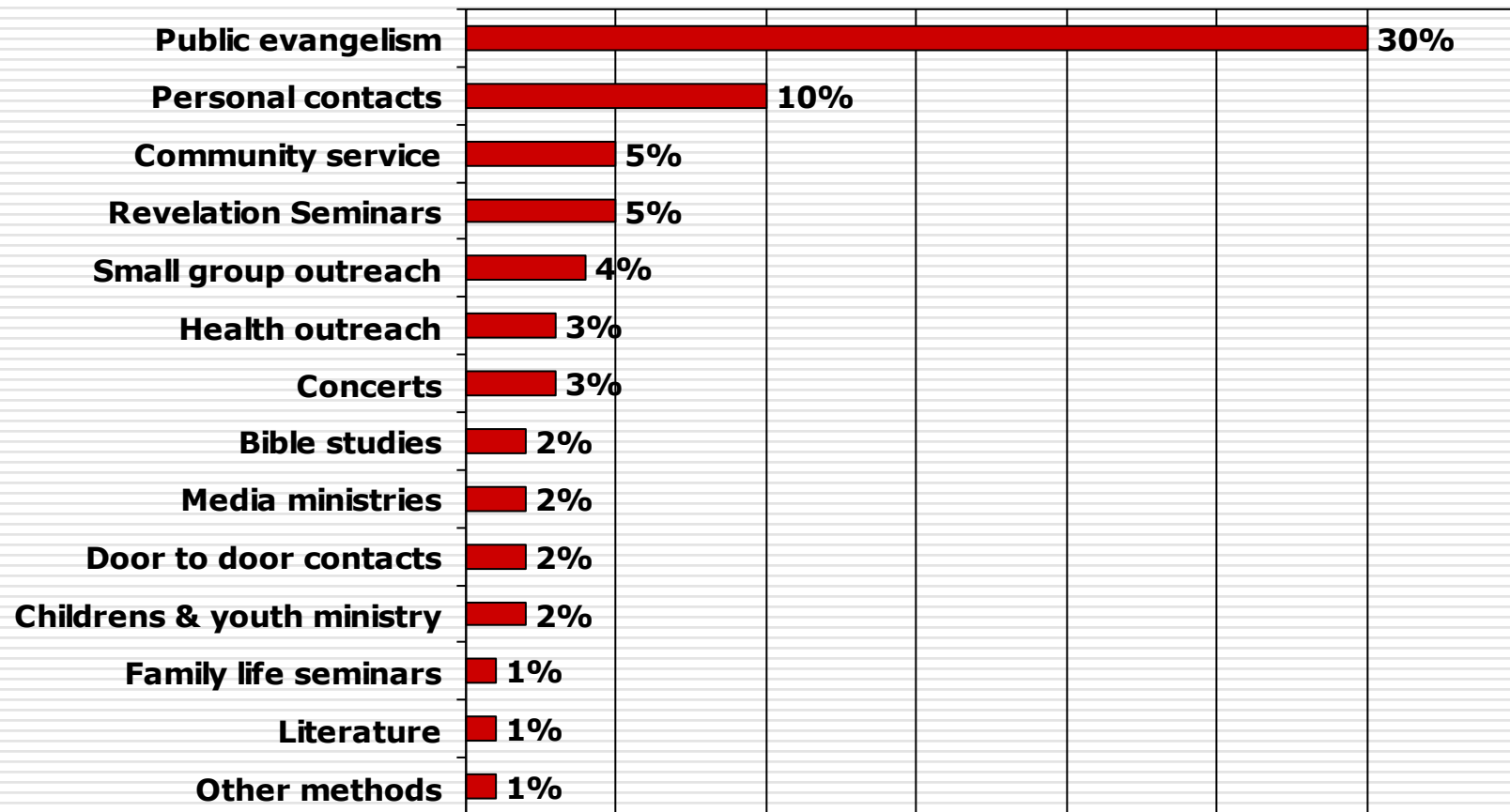
What do you personally value most about your local church?



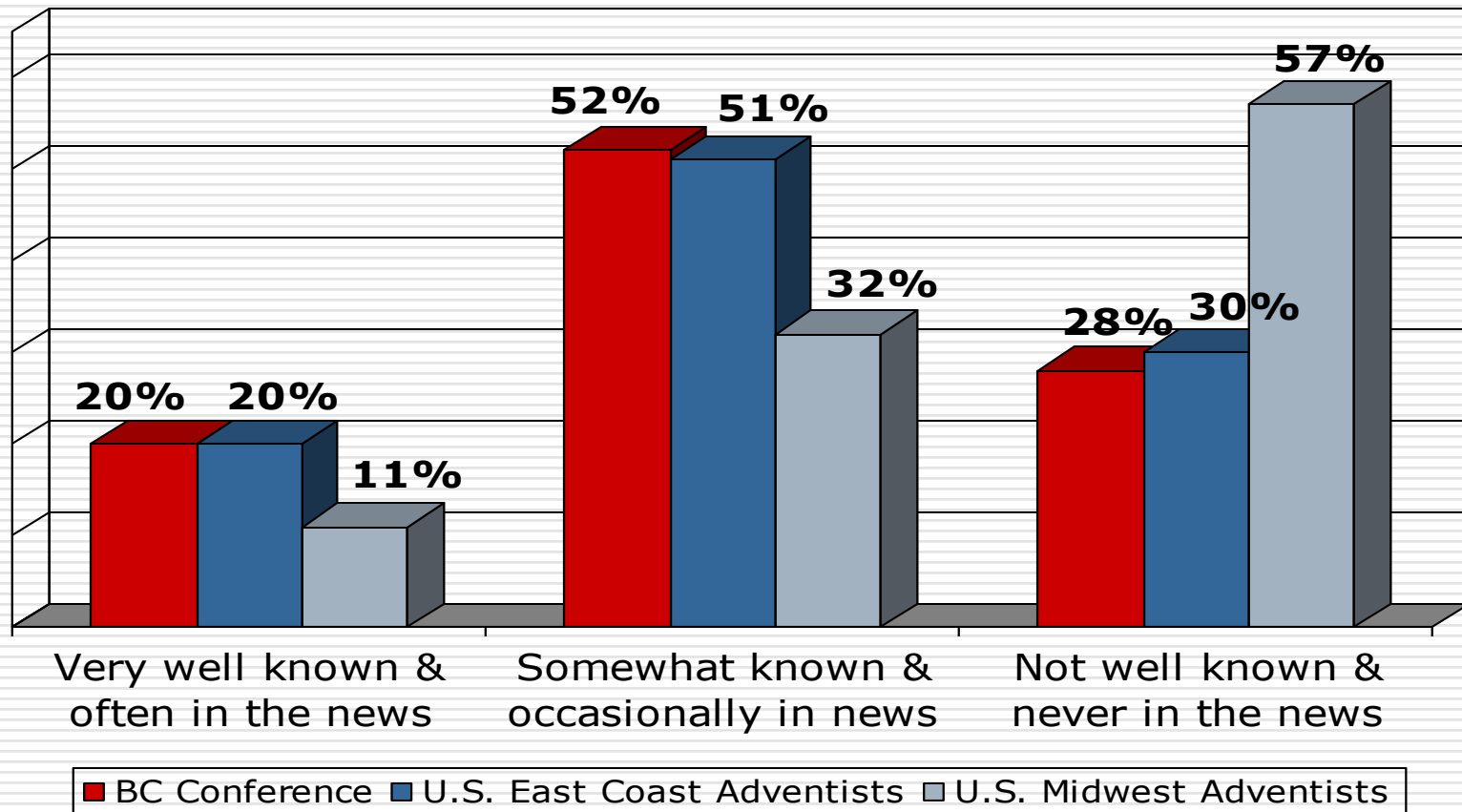
Valued more in British Columbia than across North America



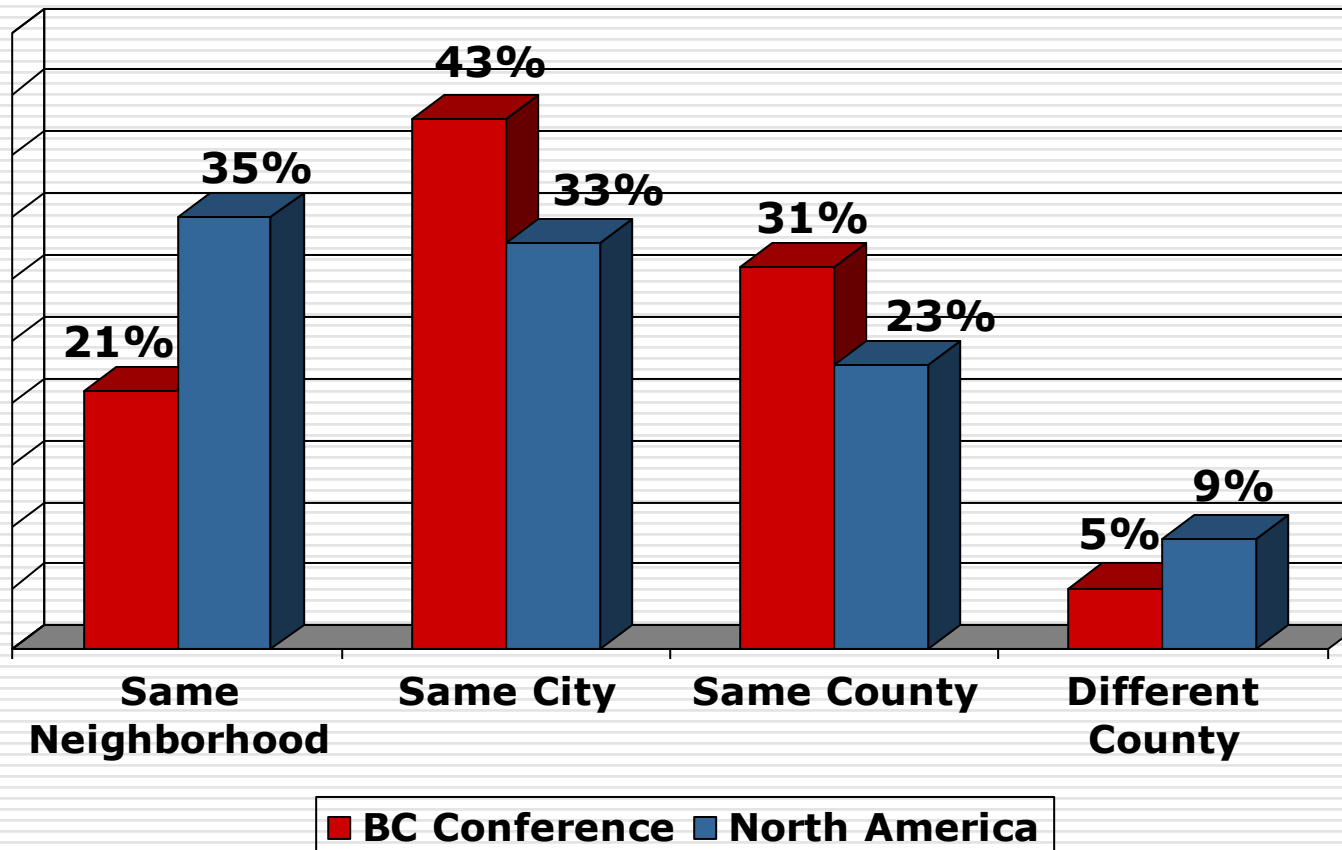
Observed to be Most Effective Methods to Bring in New Members



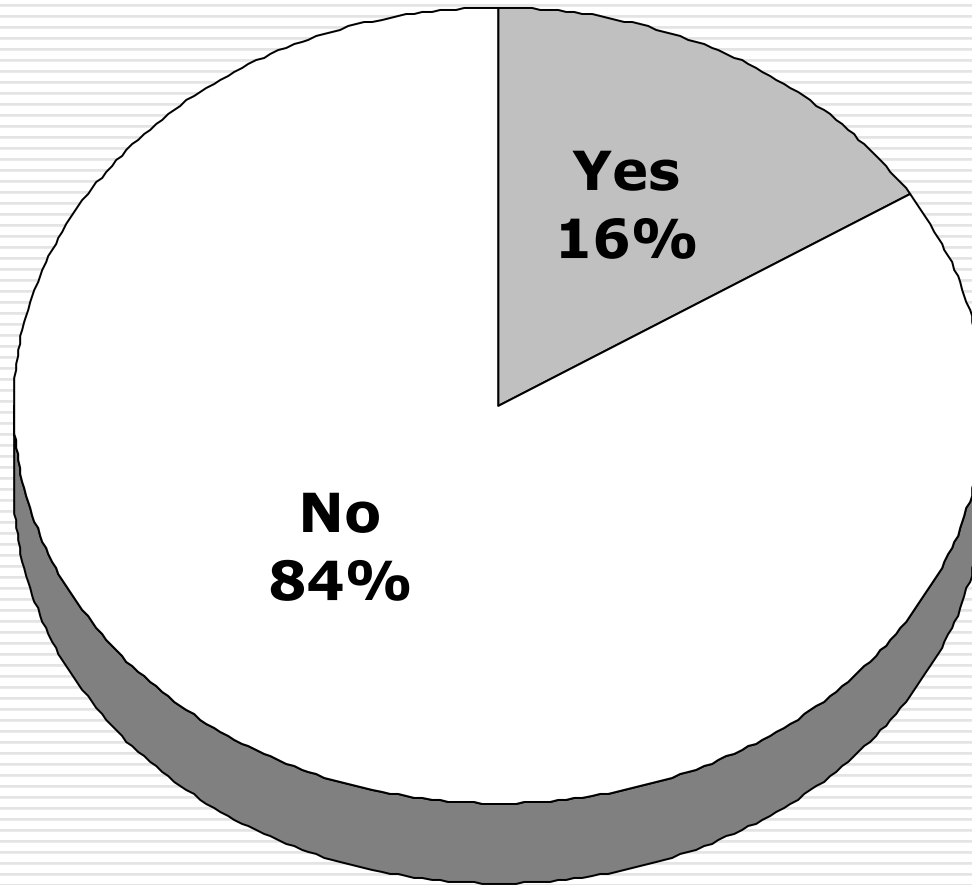
How well known or visible is the Adventist Church in your area?



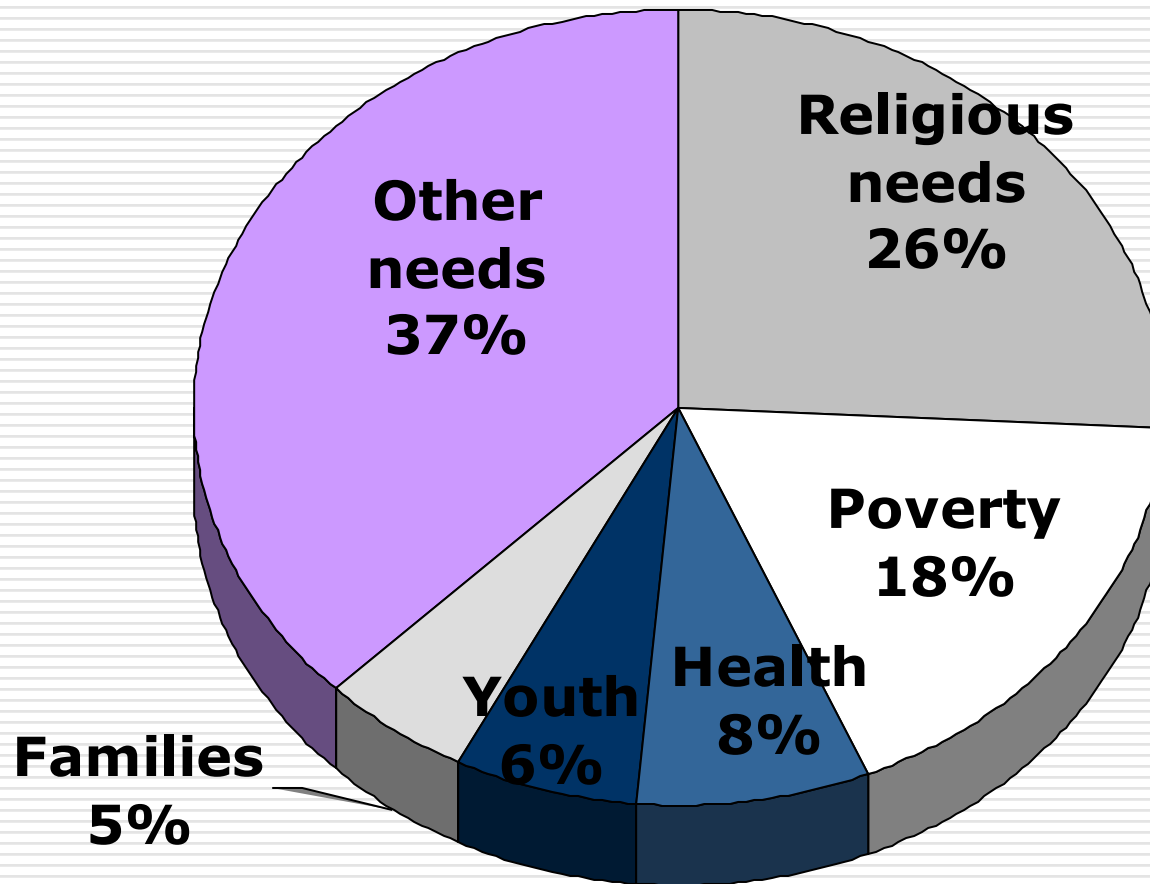
How far is your home from your local church?



Do you belong to a service club or civic group in the community?



What is the major community need that the Adventist Church should address?



Analysis

- Research has shown that growth in Adventist churches comes from:
 - Community involvement
 - Rich spirituality
 - Intentionality (goals, planning)
 - Positive atmosphere in the congregation
 - Activities for the unchurched on Sabbaths
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Recommendations

To Contact Monte Sahlin

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