



Mission Refocus | Disciple-Making

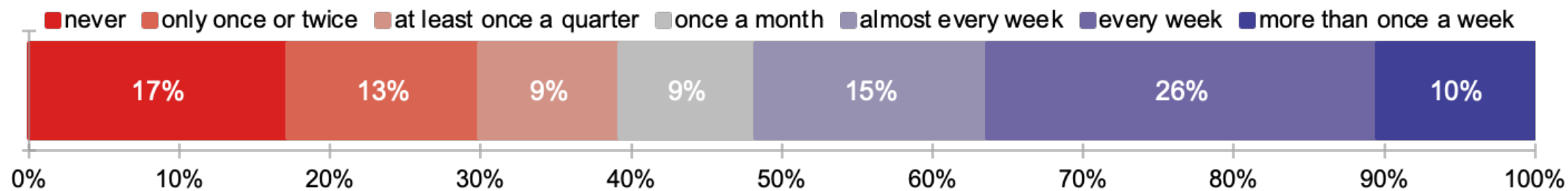




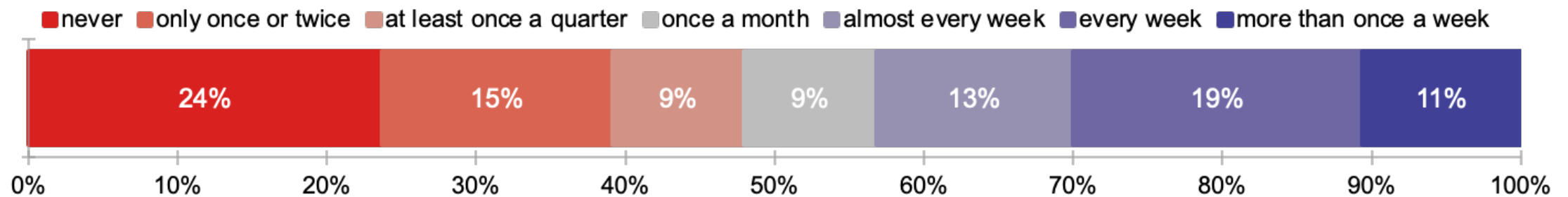
Mission Refocus | Disciple-Making

# The Importance of Discipleship

David Trim and Gerson Santos

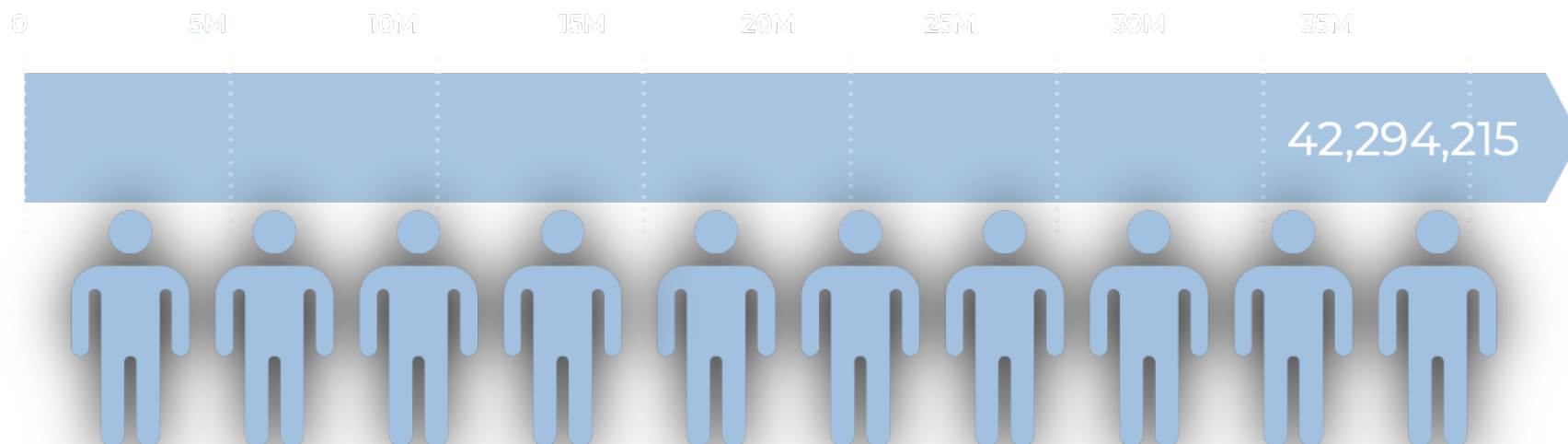


In the last twelve months, this is how often I helped with a church ministry on Sabbath...



In the last twelve months, this is how often I helped with a church ministry during the week...

## TOTAL MEMBERS



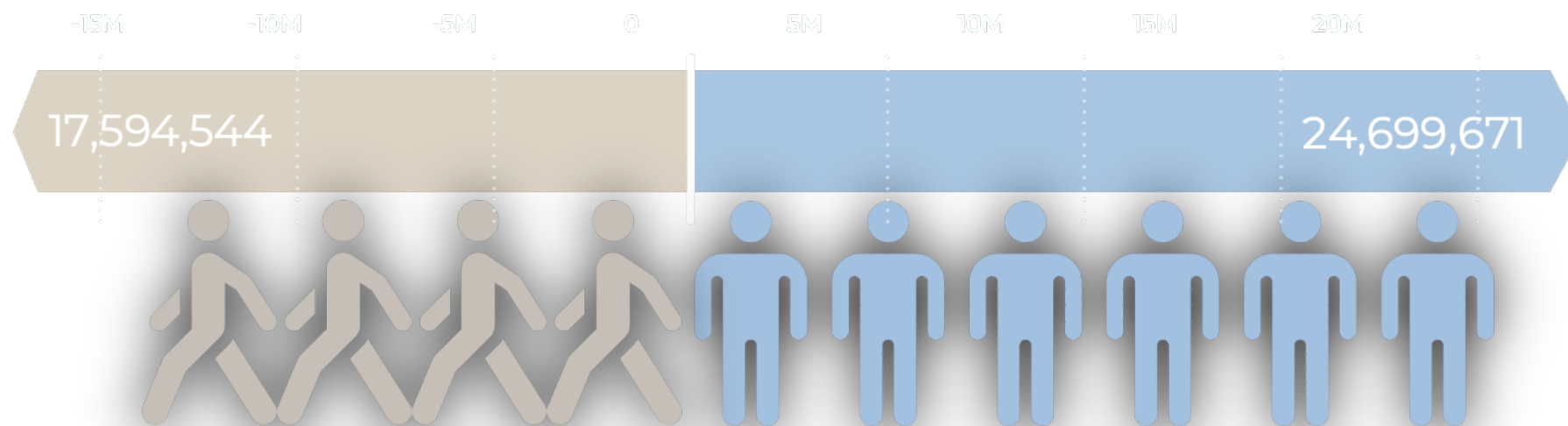
In the period 1965 through 2021, 42,294,215 people have been members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

● New Members





# MEMBERS WHO LEAVE



In the period 1965 through 2021, 42,294,215 people have been members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Of those, 17,594,544 have chosen to leave.

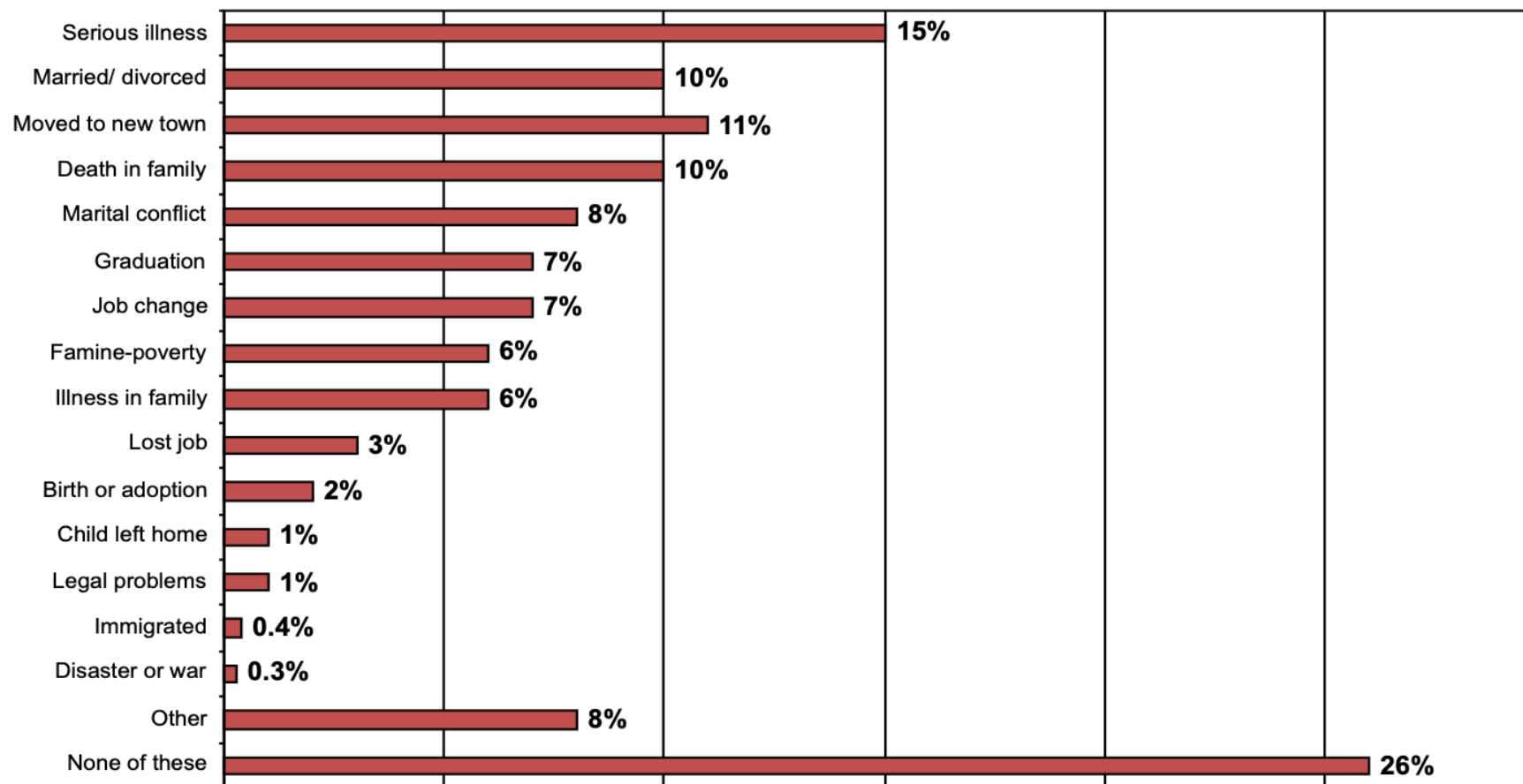
**Our net loss rate is 42%.**

In effect, **4 of every 10** church members are slipping away.

● Members who left  
● Members who stayed



# Life Events in the Year Leading Up to Decision to Stop Attending



# Most Important Reasons Why Decided to Stop Attending

- 28% No big issue; I just drifted away
- 25% Lack of compassion for the hurting
- 19% Moral failure on my part
- 18% I did not fit in
- 14% Too much focus on minor issues
- 13% Conflict in the congregation
- 12% Moral failures of members
- 11% Moral failures of leaders
- 11% Pressure from family or friends
- 10% Race, ethnic or tribal issues



# Most Important Reasons Why Decided to Stop Attending

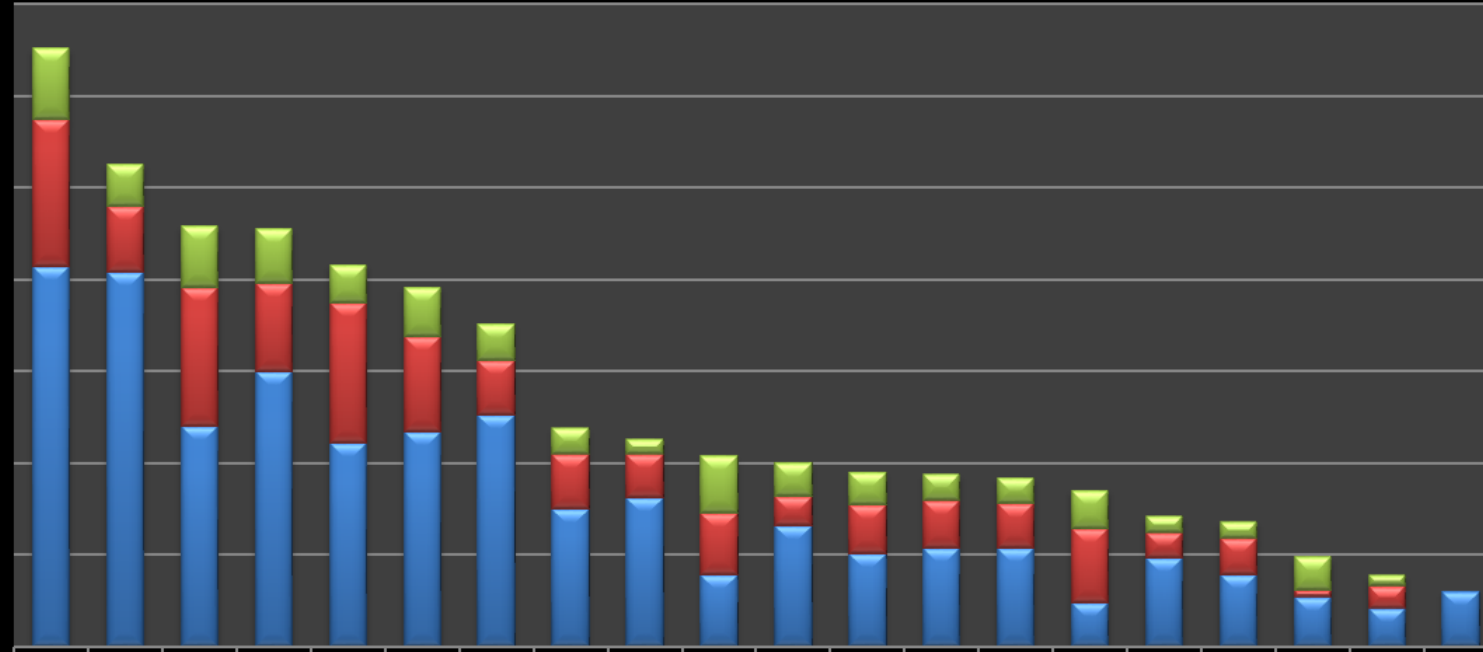
- 8% Few members of my age group
- 7% Legalistic attitudes
- 6% Pastor was dictatorial
- 6% Church did not do much to help the poor
- 5% I did not believe some doctrines
- 5% Unrealistic demands on members
- 4% Low standards
- 3% The worship was not very spiritual
- 3% Too much asking for money
- 2% Church voted to drop me from membership
- 1% Apostate ideas were promoted

# Most Important Reasons Why Decided to Stop Attending

- 28% No big issue; I just drifted away
- 25% Lack of compassion for the hurting
- 19% Moral failure on my part
- 18% I did not fit in
- 14% Too much focus on minor issues
- 13% Conflict in the congregation
- 12% Moral failures of members
- 11% Moral failures of leaders
- 11% Pressure from family or friends
- 10% Race, ethnic or tribal issues

# What event triggered your decision to leave? (Listed in weighted rank order) – Former Members

■ Minor Factor  
■ Secondary Factor  
■ Primary Factor





# What Happened When I Stopped Attending Church

- 40% No one contacted me
- 19% A church member came to visit me
- 17% A local elder came to visit me
- 15% A local church member contacted me by phone
- 10% An Adventist relative made contact
- 9% The pastor came to visit me
- 6% The pastor contacted me by phone or Email
- 3% An Adventist, not a local member contacted me
- 2% I received a letter in the mail
- 0.3% Printed material was mailed to me

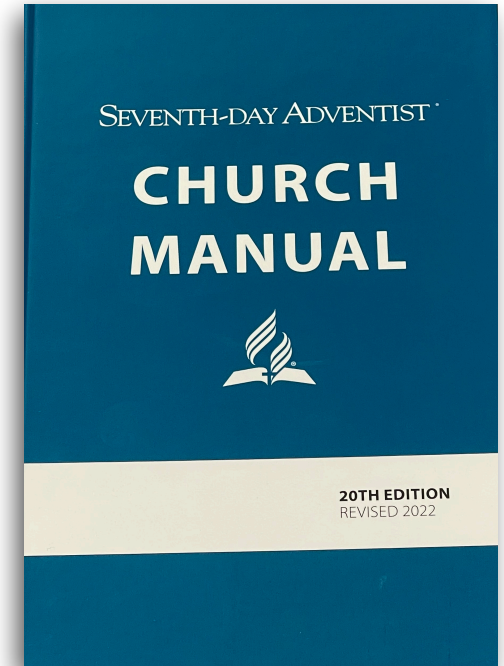
# DISCIPLE-MAKING & RECLAIMING

- **Redemptive Membership Review**
- **Disciple-Making Process**

The Church Manual, on page 61, states:

### **Redemptive Membership Review —**

Membership records are kept up to date by the local church. They are subject to review by the next higher organization. This rule, which also applies to every entity or level of the organization, provides the maximum privacy of members' personal information and shall comply with legal requirements.



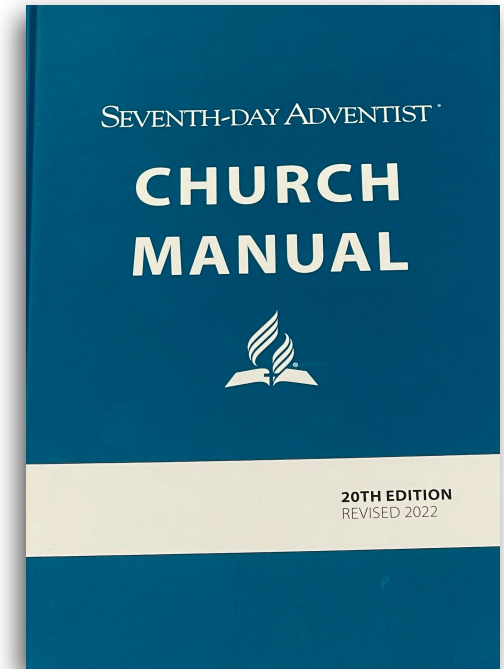


# Redemptive Membership Review

## Definition

Membership review provides more effective pastoral care based on establishing accurate membership records.

Nevertheless, it must have a redemptive purpose of seeing people through numbers.





## Making Disciples

Making disciples is a continuous process by which a person becomes a disciple of Jesus Christ, matures as His disciple, and makes more disciples. Baptism is an essential part of the discipleship process, but it is not the end result of that process.

Seventh-day Adventists accept with honor and humility the command of Jesus contained in the Gospel Commission to “go therefore and make disciples of all the nations” (Matt. 28:19). We are to obey this Commission, as we live in these last days, within the context of the Three Angels’ Messages (Rev. 14:6-12).

The Gospel Commission’s main emphasis to “make disciples” contains three parts:

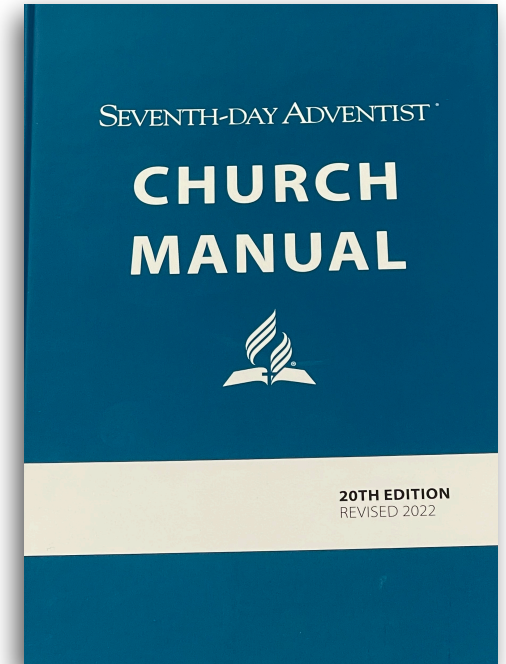
1. “Go therefore and make disciples” is Jesus’ command to fulfill the mission. Thus, making disciples should be our way of life. We are to go and make disciples in our homes, our work, our schools, and in our everyday interactions with others. We are to make disciples of every nation, tribe, language, and people. The goal of witnessing and evangelism is disciple-making (Matt. 10:25, Matt. 28:19, 20).

2. “Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,” is not the end goal but an important part in the process of discipleship as people acknowledge Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, become part of His church, and commit to making more disciples. Disciples are baptized into Christ’s body, the church. Their commitment to obey Christ in making disciples should be demonstrated before baptism.

3. “Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you,” indicates that teaching is a vital and ongoing experience of maturing in the experience of discipleship. “Teaching” should take place before and after baptism.

Making disciples is a continuous process with its purpose being grown “in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18) into Christian maturity and multiplication of disciples.

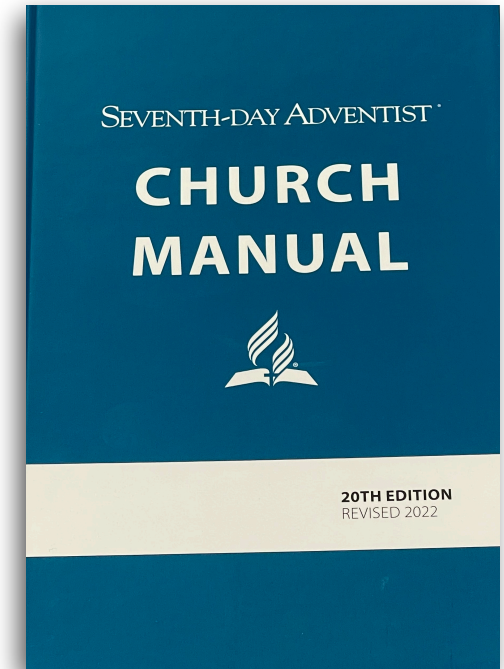
Growing as a disciple and making disciples to prepare them for the second coming of Jesus, is not optional; it is the essence of our last-day commission as Seventh-day Adventists. Genuine discipleship only happens as a result of the amazing grace of Jesus Christ. We can take comfort that all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Him, and He promises to be with us to the end of the world (Matt. 28:18, 20). Further, He promises us





# Chapter 6 - Making Disciples

- What is a Disciple?
- Growth of a Disciple
- Practical Steps
- Love, The Defining Mark











1. Following Jesus (Come and follow)
2. Being changed by Jesus (I will make you)
3. On mission with Jesus (Fishers of men)



1. Following Jesus (C **THE CALL** w)
2. Being changed by Jesus (I **THE JOURNEY** u)
3. On mission with Jesus (F **THE MISSION** n)





1. Do you have a disciple-making process in your church?
2. Is it working?
3. How do you know?



