

Adventist Young People's Perceptions of Missionaries in The Adventist Church Environment Seventh Day Based on Mark 10:29-30

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the perceptions of young people in the Seventh-day Adventist Church regarding the missionary task and contribution. The main focus of this research is the Adventist young people's views on mission endeavors in relation to the teachings from Mark 10:29-30. To conduct this research, the methods used include qualitative methods, and analysis of scriptural texts. The results of this study show the different ways Adventist young people see the importance of missions, the difficulties missionaries face, and how the teachings from Mark 10:29-30 influence their perception of sacrifice and reward in the context of ecclesiastical missions. The findings may help to increase young people's understanding and participation in ecclesial mission activities.

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INTRODUCTION

The existence of missionaries in a religion has a very crucial role in spreading religious teachings and values. This not only includes conversion efforts, but also the spread of moral and spiritual messages. In the context of the Adventist religion, mission is the main foundation for inviting others to understand and experience the truth of the religion's teachings. In relation to the younger generation, the role of Adventist missionaries becomes even more important, given that this generation has a strategic role in continuing and developing the teachings of the religion (Tembo, 2022).

Although missions have a strong theological foundation, young people's perceptions of Adventist missionary roles and activities can be influenced by various factors. Changing social dynamics, cultural influences, and the transformation of the younger generation's values are factors that may shape their views on Adventist missions. Along with technological advances and easy access to information, the younger generation may experience unique challenges in understanding and adopting the values promoted by Adventist missionaries (Lee & Chow, 2013).

This research has the main objective to investigate and document young people's perceptions of Adventist missionaries, using Mark 10:29-30 as a theological framework. With a deeper understanding of how young people perceive Adventist missions, churches and related religious organizations can develop more effective

strategies in engaging the younger generation in mission activities (Martin, 1956). In addition, this research is expected to contribute to increasing the motivation and spiritual understanding of the younger generation towards the important role of missionaries in the context of the Adventist religion (Tani et al., 2016).

Avika Triningsi Nurut said that the role of missionaries in a religion is very important to spread its teachings and values. In addition to conversion efforts, this also includes spreading moral and spiritual messages. Mission is the main foundation in the Adventist religion to invite others to understand and experience the teachings of the religion. According to Hery Susanto, missionaries or specifically servants of God. As members of the congregation, the mandate of the Lord Jesus applies to all of us. The function of the church as a missionary body of Christ must be optimized (Daud, 2022). The role of Adventist missionaries for the younger generation is becoming increasingly important as they have a strategic role in spreading and developing religious teachings. The theological source for this study is the Bible verse from Mark 10:29-30.

Andar Ismail said that in this verse, Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever for my sake and for the sake of the gospel leaves his house or his brother or his sister or his mother or his father or his children or his field, he will receive back a hundredfold: houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields, even with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life." These verses form the basis for missionary activity and encourage Adventists to actively engage in missions and make sacrifices for the sake of religion. Thomas H. Groome says the preaching of missions is essential because without missions, humanity would perish. Although missions have a strong theological foundation, many things can influence how young people see the role and activities of Adventist missionaries (Utami & Sama, 2022).

According to Putri Artisna, Fauzia Naswa, Miftahul Rohmah, the younger generation's views on Adventist missions may be affected by changing social dynamics, cultural influences, and changing values. With the advancement of technology and the ease of obtaining information, the younger generation may face particular challenges in understanding and adopting Adventist principles. David Platt using Mark 10:29-30 Platt says as a theological framework, the main purpose of this research is to study and record how the younger generation sees Adventist missionaries. By gaining a deeper understanding of how young people view Adventist missions, churches and related religious organizations can make better plans to engage the younger generation in mission activities (Hernawan et al., 2016).

In addition, this research is expected to help increase the motivation and spiritual understanding of the younger generation about the important role of missionaries in the Adventist religion. Furthermore, David J. Bosch said that, Adventist missionary service emphasizes the importance of spreading the teachings of the gospel, bringing people to Christ, and preparing them for His second coming. To understand this concept more deeply, we must consider the theological foundations, goals, and strategies used by Adventist missionaries (Tana & Pardosi, 2016).

RESEARCH METHODS

The research method used by the author in writing this scientific work is a qualitative research method (Aspers & Corte, 2021), namely by using literature study techniques, and case studies, namely extracting information from the Bible, books and journals regarding the Perceptions of Adventist Youth towards Missionaries in the Seventh-day Adventist Church Based on Mark 10:29-30, who serves according to Mark 10:29-30 and its relevance for Adventist missionaries today.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Adventist Missionary Concept

According to Harianto GP, mission is inseparable from the notion of evangelism. The Adventist Missionary Concept is a perspective or philosophy that underlies Adventist Christian mission activities. Adventist Christianity is a Christian denomination that emphasizes the importance of the second return of Christ. Furthermore, Rahmawati and Nur Khanifa said that the purpose of the Adventist Missionary concept is to spread Adventist Christian teachings and values to people around the world, both inside and outside the church. First of all, we should know the origin of the word "Advent", which comes from Latin and means "anticipated coming" or "new coming". In Christianity, "Advent" refers to the time of waiting for the second coming of Jesus Christ. The concept of Adventist Missionary comes from the belief that the spread of these teachings is a strong and important missionary calling for Adventists (Munthe et al., 2023).

This concept is very important to understand that Adventist mission is not just a religious act; it is a command from Jesus Christ Himself. Misdon Silalahi, R.W. Sagala, and Alvyn Hendriks, according to them that in the Gospel of Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus told His disciples to go and make disciples of all nations, and baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and teach them to keep everything He had commanded. According to Samuel Purdayanto, Adventist missionaries view missions as the main task of their church. One of the four pillars of the church is evangelism. Evangelism is God's plan and action that forms a people to fellowship with Him. An understanding of social and moral responsibility is also part of the Adventist missionary concept of evangelism (Trim, 2019).

Apart from spreading religious teachings, missions also involves service to the community and the improvement of social conditions. evangelism is "preaching about Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit to others. Dorce Sondopen says that this is in line with the teachings of Jesus, who emphasized love and service to others. Therefore, Adventist missionaries in practice are often involved in humanitarian, educational, and social service initiatives. In addition, Adventist missionaries prioritize understanding the Scriptures, particularly those books related to the prophecies about the second coming of Jesus Christ. They believe that properly understanding these prophecies is essential for preparing oneself and others for the second coming of Christ. Adventist missionaries use a variety of methods to carry out their missions, including direct service, medical missions, education, and the utilization of advanced technology. They are also active in proselytizing and evangelistic activities to spread their teachings to people from different walks of life.

Ellen G. White wrote in her book that the message was given in 1892 and 1893 and suggested that our young people join forces and groups for Christian mission work. It was this request that led to the formation of Adventist missionary youth, which has proven to have the power to improve and influence the lives of Adventist young people around the world (Francis, 1996). Furthermore, Heward-Mills, Dag, says that Jesus sent young people to preach the gospel to the poor, and that this was an important calling in His teachings that reflected His deep love for all walks of life. This emphasis can be found in various parts of the Bible, and is especially reflected in some of the stories and teachings of Jesus during his earthly ministry. An important part of the Adventist movement that is growing rapidly around the world is the Adventist Missionary Ministry. Adventism is a Christian denomination that emphasizes the importance of the second coming of Jesus Christ. They carry out their mission by undertaking various initiatives to spread the Adventist message and values to various groups of people. Furthermore, E. W. Hon, says that the mission of the Adventist Missionary Service is to spread advent teachings, make people know Christ as a personal Savior, and prepare people for His Second Coming (Magagula, 2020). This mission is closely linked to the belief that a correct understanding of Bible prophecies, especially those relating to the Second Coming of Jesus, is essential for living a good spiritual life.

Adventist Missionary Activities

In general, several Adventist missionary activities are carried out. The first is social service. Adventist missionaries are often involved in social projects that help people in need, such as providing humanitarian aid, building schools and hospitals, and providing health services. The second, teaching. Adventist missionaries also participate in Bible teaching and provide spiritual training to those who wish to learn Adventist teachings. The third is Bible translation. Adventist missionaries are often involved in Bible translation projects into languages that previously did not have Bible translations.

Furthermore, Anggi Afriansyah said that Adventist missionaries are also involved in health services, such as providing medical care and health care to people in need (Matwetwe, 2017). Lastly, Church Service, Adventist missionaries also help in expanding the reach of the church and introducing Adventist teachings to people who are not familiar with it. In addition, they contribute to the building of new churches and the strengthening of existing congregations. Furthermore, Derek J. Tidball, BA. emphasized that the call to preach the gospel to the poor is a universal call addressed to all believers. This is in line with the teachings of Jesus who emphasized that the gospel is for everyone regardless of their social, economic, or ethnic status. The gospel is the good news that should be announced to everyone.

Young people's perception of missionaries

Young people's perceptions of Adventist missionaries vary depending on their backgrounds, experiences, and religious understanding. Jason Mandryk explains that for the most part, young people may see Adventist missionaries as inspirational in their devotion to missions and evangelism; others may see Adventist missionaries as

exemplary in their sacrifice, social service, and commitment to Christian values (Guerrero, 2014). Khalid Na'im argues that young people's understanding and perception of missionary activity has a significant impact on their participation in the spread of religious teachings. In-depth research and understanding of how young people perceive and respond to missionary activities can provide valuable insights to create better and more relevant strategies. In this context, we will look at how young people see missionary activity and what they think about it.

According to Merlin Maniahala, if one decides to become a missionary, it is very difficult, when one is still at a young age because as a missionary we have to deny ourselves and leave our own comfort zone to be part of that missionary, and sacrifice, and carry the cross with Jesus (Adventist Frontier Missions, 2012). Jesry Andika also argues that missionary is a noble service, because it reaches out to many people who do not know Him creatively, and it is in accordance with the teachings contained in the beliefs of the Church. Furthermore, according to Almendo Yewi, missionaries are part of the church's assets, therefore the church needs to pay special attention to young people involved in missionary service. Because serving is one way young people follow the example of Jesus during His ministry in the world. Furthermore, according to Atty, missionary work is one of the noble jobs, because in the book of Matthew 28: 19-20, it is a great mandate that we must emulate as young people who Jesus has done it first. Young people when involved in missionary work they must be able to accept risks, such as leaving their families or closest people and even jobs to decide to follow missionary evangelism as Jesus said in the Great Commission (Lee & Chow, 2013).

The Importance of Understanding Mark 10:29-30 in the Context of Adventist Missionaries

The verse Mark 10:29-30, which summarizes the words of Jesus, serves as the theological foundation that encourages sacrifice and service in Adventist missions. A deep understanding of this verse has a profound impact on the motivation, meaning, and moral basis for any mission activity. John Avanzini says that Jesus taught that those who are truly committed to Adventist missions must be prepared to leave everything behind, including family relationships and possessions, in order to fulfill the call to mission. Robi further explained that these verses show how important sacrifice and unlimited devotion are. It shows that to do Advent missions, you need to be passionate and faithful (Bade, 2017). Jesus promised that whatever is left for His mission will be blessed a hundredfold. This can be described as God's abundant blessings and help to Adventist missionaries and servants who leave everything to serve Him.

Han, Chandra further emphasized that this blessing comes not only in material form, but also in the form of spiritual support and God's protection amidst the challenges and difficulties faced by missionaries. Furthermore, Jehadut, Alfons explained that Jesus explicitly said that working for Him can also mean doing spiritual learning for each of those who devote themselves to the work of evangelization. This serves as a reminder to Adventist missionaries that the mission journey may be filled with obstacles and challenges, including anti-religious attitudes (Kuhn, 2016). Nonetheless, the promise of eternal life shows that all the sacrifices and hardships faced in missions will be repaid with inexhaustible rewards in the sight of God.

Verse Understanding Mark 10:29-30

Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever for my sake and for the sake of the gospel leaves his house or his brother or his sister or his mother or his father or his children or his field, he will receive back a hundredfold: houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and fields, even with persecutions; and in the age to come he will have eternal life.

This verse shows how important it is to devote oneself wholeheartedly to Christ and the gospel. This is not just a command to abandon personal relationships and possessions, but also a command to expand the spiritual relationship with God (Tasker & McClintock, 2021).

Mark 10:29-30 emphasizes that every sacrifice for Christ and the gospel will not be in vain. This shows that Adventist missions require great sacrifices, including leaving behind comfort and security, but God promises to give much in return in eternal life. The sacrifices made in Advent missions are considered evidence of a genuine love for God and a call to give Him top priority.

In the end the missionaries will receive double the receipts. God's promise to return as much as possible is not only in eternal life but also in this life. This includes the blessings, protection, and support that God gives to those who faithfully serve Him. In the context of Adventist missions, understanding this promise can provide comfort and strength when facing challenges and difficulties.

CONCLUSIONS

In-depth research and understanding of how younger generations perceive and respond to missionary activities can provide valuable insights for the development of more effective and relevant strategies.

Positive Perception of Missionary Activities: Young people who grow up in a church environment that is active in missionary activities often have a positive perception of the endeavor. Positive experiences such as being involved in missionary service, meeting missionaries, or seeing the direct results of missions can shape their views. Furthermore, adequate religious education and a deep understanding of the Bible can positively influence young people's perception of missionary activities. Those who have a strong foundation of faith tend to see missions as a noble calling and important in the spread of religious teachings.

Factors Affecting Negative Perception: If missionaries do not understand the values of the local culture, negative perceptions may arise from the younger generation. News of scandals or unethical behavior in the mission can also damage their view of the mission. Cases of financial abuse or harassment can create distrust. Lack of effective communication skills or failure to convey a good understanding of religious teachings can make the younger generation feel uninterested or unconnected to the message. Thus, it is important for missionaries to understand and respect local values, maintain integrity, and communicate effectively in order to resonate with young people.

It is also very important for young people to understand Mark 10:29-30 as the Fint of Adventist missions. Jesus taught that those who are truly committed to the mission must be ready to leave everything behind, and His promise is that any sacrifice

will be rewarded a hundredfold, including eternal life. Adventist missionary activities include social service, Bible teaching, Bible translation, health care, and church service. In addition, these verses bring the joyful hope of God's substitution and blessings for those who devote themselves fully to His mission. This hope gives infinite strength to undertake the missionary journey.

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