



# OUR CHURCH EXPERIENCE

**GY AMBASSADORS**  
**ANALYSIS BY DR JIMI OSINAKE**

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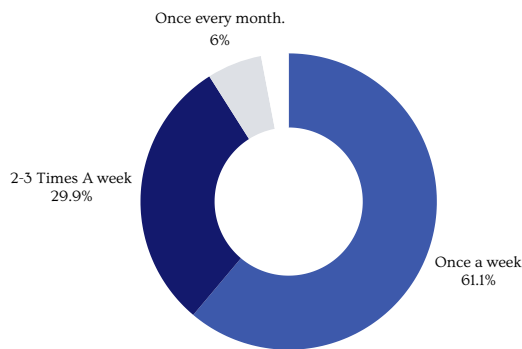
# Exploring Church Experience of Youths

Young people were asked a series of questions about their experience in church. The questions were asked to understand barriers to having a positive church experience and how their experience can be improved.

## Demographics

65 youths within the age of 13-25 took part in the survey. 92% were from Black/British Ethnic Group and majority were aged 18-25.

## Church Attendance



## Regarding service in church departments..

We asked participants if they serve in any church department, (e.g. usher, choir).

Majority of the participant in this research serve in a department in church and about 50% of them serve in the choir department. Other department where participants served are ushering, teaching, and welfare units

Some reasons why they serve include, to draw closer to God, to honour God and help in church.

“Choir I do that because I love to use my voice and express my vocals and sing about the Lord”

“I do because I love doing the work of the Lord in his house “

Furthermore, 37% of participant were presently not serving in a church unit. Some of the reasons giving includes, adjusting to church, anxiety, not being a frequent member, not knowing where to serve.

A participant shared “No, because i am not comfortable with serving in church” another shared “No, I don't know what department I should serve in”



## Relating with church sermon..

75% of participants related with church sermon. The reasons provided for this are related to the preacher, applicability and the help of the Holy Spirit.

“Yes. Firstly it is in English and with the power of the Holy Spirit it the sermon becomes relatable and useful in my life.”

“Yes (mostly) it’s a youth church and most of the time the topics are well executed”

15% related to the sermon sometimes and 10% not at all.

“Sometimes. However, there are times where they discuss topics that affect married people and adults”

“No I am not good with complicated stuff”

### Regarding approaching church leadership..

67% of participants reported that they can approach their pastor. Some of the reasons for this include; availability of pastor, care, good relationship

“Yes. Cause they genuinely care about me and they are after my salvation instead of focusing on getting things from me i.e money and gifts “

However, 33% reported that their pastor was not approachable.

“No because I feel like they are too busy or that if I have a problem it will be of a less priority”

“No I don't think they are good people”

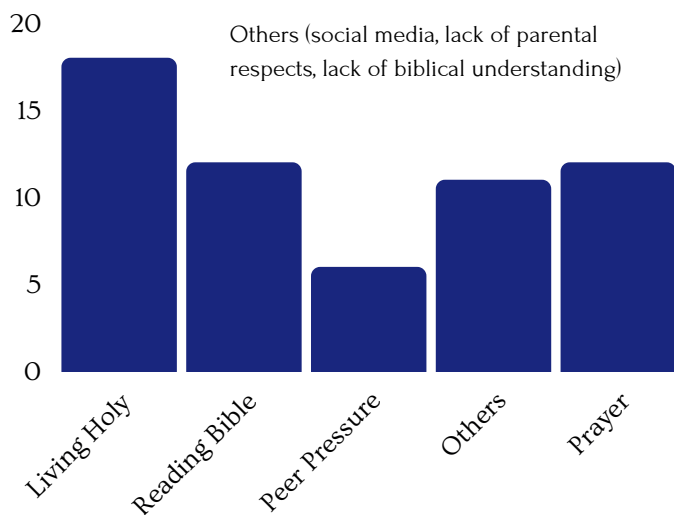
### Why do some young people refuse to attend church..

The fear of being judged was the most reported reason for not coming to church.

“Fear of judgement or actual judgment. Being scrutinised for everything. Not having spaces or things in the church that are youth friendly (in other words, the church's mentality too “last generation” if that makes sense.) no space for individualistic freedom to utilise skills.”

“Because young people today have more distractions like antisocial behaviours in reality but social butterflies on the internet however, the former generation were more solid on togetherness than our young people of today”

### What do young people/adults struggle with the most in their Christian walk?



Consistency in living a godly life and struggling to read the Bible and pray were the most reported challenges in to their Christian walk.

A participant shared that he/she struggle with “Consistency with my relationship with God” and another shared “I tend to lean on my own understanding a lot and I try to do everything myself. When I shouldn't. I know that God is there for me as a father and a friend, and I should lean on him. Plus I feel as though I tend to not let God lead me. I really do struggle with fully trusting that his plans for me a plans of good because of experiences”.

### How can churches help a young person/young adult's relationship with God

Majority of the participants reported that teaching, mentoring, and follow up are ways they desire the church can help them develop a good relationship with God. More importantly they desired that the messages preached should be more explanatory.

“Be more explanatory and make sure to have youth Bible study every now and then to support the youth with the hard and complicated understanding of the Word”

They also desired that church leaders were approachable, and church should be a safe space.

“Churches can help by creating a safe space where young people can be open and vulnerable where they feel as though they're not judged. Definitely encouragement helps”.

Having youth relatable programmes was also mentioned as a way the church can support them in developing a relationship with God.

“Activities to bring young people together whilst at the same time teaching them the will of God”

### What is next?

This the first phase of our research into the experience of youths in church. We aim to continue this research to get more insight and so far, this is the information gathered. We aim to continue this research and share the results and give recommendations to church on areas where they can support youths in their walk with Christ.

Are you a pastor or a minister? Would you like to support this research? **Please text YCE.Research to +447832 695843**