

Spiritual State of the World's Children

Panama





Spiritual State of the World's Children A Quantitative Study

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR MINISTRY Panama

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ONEHOPE

OneHope is a non-profit organization with a mission to *affect destiny by providing God's eternal Word to all the children and youth of the world.* With programs in over 125 nations OneHope has reached over 500 million children and young people with a special presentation of the life of Jesus. Committed to presenting God's Word in a format that is relevant and dynamic, research is a critical step in the development of country and age specific products and programs.



The Metadigm Group is a non-profit research organization with the goal of equipping other organizations to conduct research and improve their efficacy. Processes necessary to achieve organizational priorities and embed research skills into day-to-day organizational operations are developed through seamless processes offered in data collection, strategic planning, market profiles, and outcomes development. For more information, visit www.metadigmgroup.com or email us at info@metadigmgroup.com.

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Section I: Key Issues Analysis

Key Issues

Family relationship profile

- 65% live with both their natural parents.
- 67% perceive family as any person or group whom they love or care about deeply; and 18% feel that a family is all the people related to you by birth, adoption or marriage.
- 74% consider as family a couple (man and woman) not married but living together and has children together and 49% consider an unmarried woman and her children to be a family.
- 54% expressed they are very close to the father, 75% with the mother.
- 69% feel frequently proud of their fathers and 85% about their mothers.
- 22% frequently talk with their fathers about personal concerns, 45% with their mothers.
- 51% spend less than 15 minutes talking to their fathers about things that interest them, 17% between 16 and 60 minutes a week.
- 30% spend less than 15 minutes talking to their mothers about things that interest them, 33% between 16 and 60 minutes a week.
- 81% indicate that the adults in their families frequently provide a good example to them.
- 65% indicate that the adults in their families frequently are very interested in who they are.
- 72% indicate that the adults in their families frequently expect more of them than is fair.
- 60% indicate that their home is a place where they feel safe and loved.

Attitudes toward marriage and relationships with the opposite sex profile

- 80% feel that their family experience has been positive, but 55 % would like to have a marriage like their parents.
- 94% agree that God's purpose is for marriage to last a lifetime; 78% do not think that people should expect marriage to end in divorce, yet 56% do not think that the traditional family is essential to social stability.
- 75% would like to be virgin at marriage.
- 11% of youth younger than 16 and 25% older than 16 reports they have had sexual intercourse.
- 53% are most and very likely to have sexual intercourse if there was the intention to marry that person, 46% indicate that they would be somewhat or very likely to have sexual intercourse if they were in love.
- 49% report that they have learned some or a lot about sexuality from textbooks, 35% from their parents and 29% from TV/movies.

Beliefs and perspective on daily life profile

- 58% indicate having lied to one or both parents, teachers or other adults and 59% having lied to their friends or peers in the past 3 months.
- 40% cheated on an exam and 21% gambled or bet their money on something.
- 23% have watched or read pornography, 11% have been drunk and 4 % used illegal drugs.
- 12% has had suicidal thoughts, and 8% has attempted to commit suicide in the past 3 months.
- 79% watched MTV at least once a week during the past three months.
- 9% tried to physically hurt someone and 13% tried to emotionally hurt someone.
- 13% spend more than 8 hours a week watching TV, 18% spend more than 8 hours listening to music.
- 24% spend more than 8 hours sleeping while on break and 12% chatting on the internet.
- 75% are some or a lot influenced by the Bible, 74% by the Christian faith and parents, 65% by their brothers and sisters, 64% by their friends and 55% by the music they listen to.

- 56% are very satisfied with their lives, 34% are somewhat satisfied.
- Having a degree (90%), having good physical health (89%), a clear purpose for living (83%), close and personal relationships (81%) and having a close relationship with God (79%) are life conditions desired for their future.
- 54% use MP3's, cell phones and laptop on daily basis.

Religious background and practice profile

- Equally 91% believe their faith is very important in their lives, that God created the universe, and that the Bible provides a clear and indisputable description of moral truth.
- 82% agree that the Bible provides absolute moral truths that are the same for all people in all situations, without exception, 60% can think of specific times when their religious beliefs actually changed the way they behaved and 83% feel that it is important to be a member of a church.
- 91% agrees that the Bible does not provide today's people with practical standards for living, 74% agrees that is ok to bend the rules for your own benefit, 51% believe that lying is sometimes necessary, 55% that truth means different things to different people in terms of morals and ethics and 72% believe that something is morally or ethically right if it works in your life.
- 4% are certain that God exists, 95% reported being undecided, 73% believe God is the all-powerful, all-knowing, perfect creator of the universe who rules the world today, 17% that heaven and hell are real places.
- 88% believe that Jesus was a real person and 86% that the forgiveness of sins is only possible through Jesus Christ.
- 26% are uncertain of what will happen to them after they die, 24% believe they will go to heaven because they have confessed their sins and accepted Jesus Christ as their savior, 21% because they follow religious rituals and 71% believe that if a person is generally good and does good things for others will earn a place in heaven.
- 78 % feel that their religion is very important and 79% that is very important to have a close relationship with God.
- 26 % attends religious services weekly, 18% youth groups weekly and 15 % reads the scriptures daily.

Strengths & Opportunities

- Concept of family and marriage is highly valued
- Parents are a good influence and example in their children's life
- Family is perceived as a means of security and love
- Aspirations and optimism about their future: good education and clear purpose for living
- Young people are willing to accept adults in the family as role models
- Church activities and attendance is highly valued
- Spirituality is important, as are respect and acknowledgement of biblical principles of truth
- Media, technology and internet usage
- Textbooks and parents influence on knowledge about sexuality

Weaknesses & Threats

- Family structure concept
- Male/female structure in terms of roles, perceptions and influence in children formation, care and education
- Relationships with the opposite sex are defined by their idea of affection
- Their moral criteria are defined according to their personal benefit; their beliefs and their moral behaviors do not match
- Peer and media influence
- Inability to apply and relate scripture to daily and practical decisions
- Use of free time is not edifying
- Media content can be harmful for youth moral formation
- Church attendance and rituals verses biblical beliefs, practices and relevance to daily life

Recommendations

Final recommendations will be developed during forthcoming reviews of this report in Panama by leaders of youth ministries and different ministries related to them during different strategic planning meetings.

It is important though, to consider the following in further discussions:

- The integration of education and biblical knowledge with moral values and behavior that will be relevant to their daily decision-making process
- Media and technology as an instrument of mission
- Vision casting with leaders on changing the world of youth
- The reinforcement of the family structure concepts and roles that will promote healthy families and clear roles definition
- The development of servant-leadership styles among youth and encourage churches to create opportunities to the next generation

Section II: Project Description

Acknowledgments

This project was made possible in part by funding from the Maclellan Foundation and Global Ministries - OneHope.

We acknowledge the cooperation of the Ministry of Education of Panama, the headmasters and staff of the schools included in the sample, the cooperation of students, volunteers and the OneHope Panama Staff.

The Attitudes & Behaviors of Youth (ABY) instrument administered in this study was made available by Josh McDowell Ministries.

Overview

OneHope seeks to understand what children and youth deal with in their day-to-day realities. We know that children and youth face a variety of social challenges and experience psycho-social needs to which they are often left without effective responses. We do know that the needs of children vary from country to country and even regionally within countries. However, without reliable information we are unable to tailor our products and distribution programs to address needs specific to particular contexts.

While the issues and challenges facing children and youth in developed countries are researched and documented, those in developing countries are not. Without an accurate analysis of their contexts these populations are treated as though they share a common reality. An awareness of the immediate reality of children is often discovered only after ministry has begun and resources have been committed to a project.

The Spiritual State of the World's Children (SSWC) project will capture the following information about children in Panama:

- Typical family situations, relationships and parental contact
- Behaviors and moral values guiding relationships with peers of the opposite sex
- Daily occupations and pastimes
- Worldviews, influences, beliefs, future goals, and religious affiliation
- Theological perspectives and commitment

Research Methodology

The Spiritual State of the World's Children project utilizes the ABY survey, which is a stratified random survey of secondary school children. The survey was stratified by degree of urbanization and gender for Panama. Additional strata that permit analysis are: family composition, ethnicity, and religious affiliation.

The core survey was constructed using the Survey of Juveniles designed by Chris Sleath of Josh McDowell Ministries. The survey was administered in secondary schools in Spanish. Surveys were administered in randomly selected accessible¹ schools segregated by population density (proportional to national population distribution of urban-rural residents) to students in the schools randomized by gender (proportional to the national ratio of male-female).

¹ Schools considered inaccessible are those that are in conflict zones, areas of extremely low population or that cannot be reached by public transportation.

Project Overview

The time frame for data collection was November 2007 through September 2009. Rogelio Batista served as the local Research Coordinator for the Panama research project. Oversight was provided by Farid Moreno, Kimberly Morrison, Andrea Barquero and Dr. Allen Reesor of Pompano Beach, Florida. The research followed project design instructions (see below under Logistics).

Data was entered into a web-based database, which was hosted by Philip Issa of Elite Research. The final report includes Metadigm's analysis of the data, which has been reviewed by Rene Paulson, PhD. Secondary data is provided when applicable. This report is available for use by partners supporting the utilization of collaborative research in conducting ministry to children and youth.

The final report will be made available to ministry partners who promote ministry to children and youth through collaborative research.

Logistics

Review

National leaders reviewed the survey and recommended minor edits.

Randomization

Reliability of the survey results depends upon consistent randomization of the participants. Two strata of randomization that govern participant selection employed in this project were gender and population density distributions.

Ministry of Education of Panama provided a list of schools segregated by population density.

Population density was interpreted as either urban or rural. Additionally, the study population was further segregated into one of two classes: less than one hundred thousand or between one hundred thousand and one million. This list was used to select randomly identified schools at Metadigm Group Headquarters. The list of randomized schools was returned to the local Research Coordinator for review. Schools that were inaccessible (see footnote on inaccessibility above) were replaced by following randomization procedures.

To ensure that gender participation reflects the male/female ratio of the national population, randomization by gender was finalized when students were selected for participation.

Verifying Access

Research Assistants met with the administration of each school to explain the survey and obtain school consent for participation.

Survey Printing

A master copy of the survey response form was forwarded electronically to the local Research Coordinator who received bids for the printing of 5,000 collated and stapled copies.

Quality Control

Hard copies of the survey response form were randomly assessed to evaluate survey validity. Hard copy survey response forms will be retained in Costa Rica for one year to verify the accuracy of data entry if needed and as a back up to electronic data files. The surveys are kept confidential and will be turned over to a designated OneHope Headquarters representative on or about 12 months following the close of data collection. After 12 months, an OneHope representative will oversee the destruction of all hard copy surveys.

Implementation & Survey Administration

Data Collection

The survey was administered some of the schools identified by randomization and previously contacted. The research agent will identify the number of classes in session on the day of the survey.

- If the average class size at a school was less than 30 students, 15 classes were randomly selected for inclusion in the study. 15 students from each class were randomly selected proportional to the male/female ratio for Panama.
- If the average class size at a school was than 30 students, 10 classes were randomly selected for inclusion in the study. 22 students from each class were randomly selected proportional to the male/female ratio for Panama.

Students were asked to voluntarily participate. Participants were administered the survey in groups that could be accommodated in a classroom. Approximately 100-200 students were surveyed at each school. However, some of the rural schools had a shortage of students on the day of survey administration and to make up for that shortage some of the Survey Administrators went to church youth groups to administer surveys.

The surveys were conducted by two people. A brief scripted introduction was read aloud and students were given the opportunity to ask questions. Administrators took turns reading each question aloud to students.

The following assisted with data collection: Jauna Mosquera, Alexi de los Rios and Estacy Prince

Data Entry

The data entry was conducted in Costa Rica and Camilo Rodriguez, was responsible for accurate input of the data into the web-based survey database. The following assisted with data entry: Jose Chaverri and Carlos Calderon.

Section III: Profile of Youth in Country

Data Qualifications

A total of 2,222 were included in this sample, of which 56% are female and 44% male; due to the gender distribution, responses to the overall data tables may skew towards female attitudes.

Demographic Profile

Thirty-nine percent of subjects are 13-14 years old, 32% are 15-16 years old, and 18% are 17-18 years old; 3% are older than 18 and 8% are younger than 13.

Twenty-four percent of subjects are enrolled in 6th grade, 22% in 7th grade, 16% in 8th grade, 18% in 9th grade, and 15% in 10th grade. Subjects indicate that they are doing *average* (52%) or *good* (40%) in school and 6% report *excellent* school performance. Males are 10% more likely to report *average* school performance, while females are 9% more likely to report doing “*good*” in school.

Subjects describe their fathers’ professions as 23% *agricultural*, 19% *other* (which may indicate unemployment or self-employment) 18% *industrial* and 17% *service industry*. Mothers are most likely employed as *other* (which may include unemployment, self employment, or stay-at-home mothers) 47% and 17% *service industry*. Fathers are employed at 13% and mothers at 8% in the *public sector*, and fathers 10% and mothers 13% in *professional careers*.

About half (51%) of subjects report that their parents are married; one-quarter indicate that their parents are divorced/separated, and one-fifth indicate that their parents are in another situation.

Family Relationships

Sixty-five percent of subjects report that they live with their natural parents and 23% with their natural mother or stepmother only. Sixty percent indicates that their home is a place where they feel safe and loved, 13% where sometimes they feel loved and other times they do not, and 11% where they feel comfortable but do not consider themselves as part of a close or loving family; 8% would rather be somewhere other than their home. Females are 6% more likely than males to indicate that their home is a place where they sometimes feel loved and other times they do not. Younger participants are 11% more likely than older participants to indicate that home is a place where they feel safe and loved, while older participants are 5% more likely to indicate that home is a place where they are trying to love each other and where they are comfortable but not a close family.

They report that the adults in their families sometimes or frequently set good examples for them (94%), are interested in who they are (84%), demonstrate love for each other (83%), and spend time with them (82%); yet, they also indicate that they expect more than is fair (89%) and half of them feel that they are too strict. Younger subjects are more likely than older subjects to report that the adults in their families show love for one another and spend time with them; they are also less likely than older subjects to report fighting among them.

Seventy-nine percent reports a very close (54%) or fairly close (25%) relationship with their fathers and 91% indicate having a very close (75%) or fairly close (16%) relationship with their mothers. Twelve percent indicates that they are not too close to their fathers. Younger subjects are more likely than older subjects to indicate having a very close relationship (by 12%) and older subject indicate having a fairly close relationship (by 5%) with their fathers.

Subjects most often report feeling proud of their fathers (69%) and their mothers (85%). They also feel that their father (66%) and mothers (82%) show love for them (66%), and that they show love for their father (53%) and mother (70%). However, 48% sometimes or frequently question their fathers' love for them and 54% their mothers' love. Female subjects are more likely than males to question their fathers' love for them, but also to talk to their mothers than male subjects. Younger subjects are more likely than older subjects to seek advice from, feel proud of, spend one-on-one time with, and show love for their fathers; they are also more likely to feel their fathers show love for them.

Over half of subjects spend less than 15 minutes a week talking about important issues with their fathers (51%) and mothers (30%). While 8% spend more than 4 hours a week in the same activity with fathers; 17% spend this much time talking with their mothers. Female subjects are less likely than male subjects to spend time talking to their fathers than males and male subjects with their mothers than female subjects.

Relationships with People of the Opposite Sex

Sixty-seven percent of subjects define family as any person or group whom you love or care about deeply, or who love or care about you deeply and 18% as those related by birth, adoption, or marriage. Another 11% believe family to be any group of people who share the same set of values and goals in life. Females are 7% more likely to define family as a group of people you love or care for than male subjects.

Approximately three-quarters (74%) of subjects consider cohabiting heterosexual couples with children a family; about half (49%) consider an unmarried woman and her children to be family and one-quarter unmarried cohabiting heterosexual couples without children a family. Older subjects are 7% more likely than younger subjects to consider unmarried heterosexual couples with children a family.

Ninety-four percent of subjects believe that God intended marriage to last a lifetime, 89% believe that they will be happy in their marriage, and 70% believe that most marriage problems have been exaggerated and that most marriages are healthy and fulfilling. Though 78% believe that marriage is not likely to end in divorce, 67% believe that a successful marriage is hard to have these days. While 64% do not feel pressured into getting married, 57% of subjects report admiring single life.

Females are more likely than males to admire single life (by 16%) and to believe that marriage problems have been exaggerated (by 7%); males, on the other hand, are 7% more likely than females to want a marriage like their parents. Older subjects are more likely than younger subjects to indicate the difficulty of having a successful marriage yet believe that if the traditional family falls apart that society would collapse (by 6%). Younger subjects are 14% more likely than older subjects to indicate that they would like a marriage like their parents yet are more likely to condone divorce (by 9%).

Subjects indicated that they were most likely to learn about sex from textbooks (49%), their parents (35%), and TV/movies (29%) as their top sources of information about sex; the least influential source was the internet (15%). Male subjects are more likely than females to report learning about sex from the internet, sex-related magazines/books, TV/movies, and classmates/friends, while female subjects are more likely to learn about sex from their parents and textbooks than their male counterparts. Older subjects are more likely to have learned about sex through their classmates/friends and textbooks than their younger counterparts.

Subjects in this sample report that their sexual activity decreases as the activity becomes more intimate: 42% of subjects reporting heavy "French" kissing, 37% reporting sexual fondling, and 16% reporting sexual intercourse. Seventy-five percent of subjects express the intent to remain a virgin until marriage and 63% report the desire to regain their virginity if it were possible. Males are more likely than females to engage in all listed activities (with the exception of hand-holding); similarly, older subjects (sexual intercourse at 25%) are more likely than younger

subjects to engage in all activities. Females are more likely than males to indicate the desire to keep their virginity until marriage (by 26%) and want to regain their virginity if it were possible (by 22%).

When asked what was permissible for two people who are in love, 13% of subjects report that sexual intercourse is always acceptable and (24%) believe it is sometimes acceptable. When it comes to sexual fondling, approximately 12% find it always acceptable and an additional 29% find it sometimes acceptable. Males are more likely than females to find the more intense sexual activities always or sometimes acceptable.

When asked what they would do if they had the opportunity to engage in sexual intercourse subjects are most likely to have sexual intercourse if there was the intention to marry (53%), if they were in love (46%), and if they were certain a pregnancy would not occur (38%); older subjects are more likely than younger subjects to have sex for these reasons. Subjects are least influenced by peer pressure (10%). Male subjects are far more likely than females to have sex for all the listed reasons.

Beliefs and Perspectives on Daily Life

Overall the subjects indicate high satisfaction with their lives; 90% of subjects report that they are somewhat (34%) or very (56%) satisfied with their lives. Only 3% of those surveyed indicated being not at all satisfied with their lives. They respond that their future satisfaction will be determined by having a degree (90%), having good physical health (89%), having a clear purpose for life (83%), having close friendships (81%), and having a close relationship with God (79%). The least reported future desire was achieving fame or public recognition (40%). Males are more likely than females to indicate wanting to have children in the future. Older subjects are more likely than younger subjects to desire having a fulfilled sex life in marriage and to live life with integrity, while younger subjects are more likely than older subjects to fame or public recognition.

In a typical week, subjects report spending the most time sleeping (44%), listening to music (38%), studying school materials (31%), and watching TV (30%). Subjects spend the least time reading books and the Bible. Females are more likely than males to study for school and to listen to music. Older subjects are more likely to sleep on break and listen to music than their younger counterparts.

Subjects were asked to rate their interest in various media with electronic media (mp3, cell phone, and laptop computer) as the most popular (73%); the least familiar activity was blogging (32%). Females are far more likely than males to enjoy fashion magazines. Younger subjects are more likely than their older counterparts to enjoy media, Hip Hop, and magazines. Over the past three months, 79% of the subjects report that they have watched MTV.

Eighty-two percent of subjects state that the Bible offers absolute moral truth and that it is not foolish to rely on it for moral guidance, yet 75% indicate that truth can be contradictory and still be correct. Regarding behavior, 74% believe now days you have to bend the rules to head ahead and over half believe that law-breaking (56%) and lying (51%) are sometimes a necessity. Male subjects are more likely to discount the benefit of religious faith and values and female subjects and while older subjects somewhat more relativistic in their morals younger subjects tend to pluralism, more likely to accept all religions as equally valid, more than older subjects.

Subjects' report that they are most likely to be influenced by the Bible (75%) followed by: Christian faith (74%), parents (74%), siblings (65%), and friends (64%) in this sample. Political leaders (14%), Buddhism (13%), and Hinduism (9%) are listed as having the least influence. Females are more likely than males to be influenced by their siblings, friends, teachers, and textbooks, while males are more likely to be influenced by media (such as movies and the internet), political leaders, indigenous faith, and New Age religion. Younger subjects indicate being influenced by their teachers and other faiths (like Islam, Buddhism, and other faiths) than their older counterparts.

Over the past three months, subjects report that they lied to their peers (59%), lied to an adult (58%), and cheated (40%). Relatively equal percentages, around 22%, indicate having watched or read pornographic material and gambled. Twelve percent of subjects indicate that they have had suicidal thoughts, and 8% have attempted suicide. Males are more likely than females to report using pornographic materials (by 29% for movies and 23% for magazines), gambling (by 17%), stealing (by 8%), and getting drunk (by 8%). Older subjects are more likely than their younger counterparts to get drunk (by 8%) and cheat (by 6%) than their younger counterparts.

Religious Background and Practice

Subjects report that they are 55% Roman Catholic, 34% Protestants, 5% no religious affiliation, and 3% Muslim/Islamic. Females are 8% more likely than males to consider themselves Catholic. Older subjects are 8% more likely than younger subjects to affiliate themselves with the Protestant faith. Seventy-eight percent of subjects believe that their religion is very important to them these days.

Although 91% believes that the universe was originally created by God, that the Bible provides clear and indisputable truths, that their faith is very important and that God is the all-powerful, all knowing, perfect Creator of the universe who rules the world today; 95% think that “maybe” God exists with 4% certain of this statement. Ninety percent feel that the Bible does not provide people with practical standards for living and 55% indicate they think that truth may mean different things to different people.

For this sample, responses indicate they are more certain that ghosts exist (40%) and human souls are eternal (26%). About one-quarter of subjects are uncertain of what will happen to them after they die (26%) and roughly the same percentage (24%) believe that they will go to Heaven because they have accepted Christ as their Savior; about one-fifth (21%) believe that they will reach Heaven by following religious rites. Males are 9% more likely to believe in following religious rites to get to Heaven, while females are 7% more likely to be uncertain of their fate. Younger subjects are more likely to believe in following religious rites to attain Heaven (by 13%) and that good behavior will gain them access to Heaven (by 5%); older subjects are 11% more likely to believe that you must accept Christ as savior in order to get to Heaven.

Ten percent did not respond to the question as to their sources of information about the Bible or Jesus Christ. Of those who replied 94% learn from church, 84% from family or relatives, 82% from textbooks, and missionaries; they are least likely to have heard it from friends (59%) and western literature (62%). Older subjects are 9% more likely to hear of the Bible and Jesus from western literature and 5% more likely to hear from missionaries and friends than their younger counterparts.

Ninety percent of subjects believe that all the miracles in the Bible happened, 89% believe that the Bible is totally accurate in all of its teachings, and 88% believe that Jesus was a real person and that he was born of a virgin. Additionally, 86% believe that forgiveness of sins is only possible through faith in Christ, 83% believe that the Christian faith is relevant to their lives and that angels exist, 81% believe that prayer can change what happens in life, and 75% feel responsible to share their faith. Despite these findings, roughly half of the subjects believe that certain sins won't be forgiven by God (50%), think that sin is outdated (45%), and believe their deeds are more important than how they view Jesus (44%). Although 75% believe that all mankind will be judged by God when they die, over half (53%) believe that Muslim, Buddhist, Jews, Christians, and all other people pray to the same God and essentially teach the same thing (57%).

Females are 6% more likely than males to believe that good deeds will earn you a place in heaven; males, on the other hand, are more likely to believe in reincarnation (by 10%), that their deeds matter more than what they believe about Jesus (by 9%), that those who do not believe in Jesus will go to Hell (by 6%), and that Christ

committed sins when living on the earth (by 5%). Older subjects are more likely to believe in the judgment of God (by 10%), that prayer can change what happens in life (by 9%), in Christ's virgin birth (by 8%), in the existence of angels (by 7%), that Christ was a real person (by 5%), that the Christian faith is relevant to their lives (by 5%), and to acknowledge the Bible's teachings as totally accurate (by 5%). Younger subjects are more likely to embrace reincarnation (by 9%), elevate their deeds over their beliefs about Jesus (by 8%), consider sin outdated (by 7%), believe that good behavior will get them to Heaven (6%), and believe that Christ committed sins like other people (by 5%).

Forty-four percent of subjects report daily or weekly attendance of religious services; equal attendance is reported for their mothers (44%) and their siblings (44%). Less frequent attendance is indicated for their fathers (27%). Males are more likely to report their parents' attendance than females; younger subjects are more likely to report their family's attendance than their older counterparts. Eighty-eight percent of subjects indicate being somewhat (40%) or very likely (48%) to regularly attend religious services after graduating high school or moving away from home.

Twenty-seven percent of subjects report attending religious youth groups of over 60 people, 8% attending groups with 50-59 people having a large youth attendance in their religious group meetings, yet the second largest percentage of subjects only report having 1-9 youths in their religious group meetings. Fourteen percent of the sample surveyed state that this question does not apply to them. Females and older subjects are 5% more likely to report attending a larger youth group (over 60) than their male and younger counterparts. Sixty-three percent of subjects report daily or weekly prayer; about half as many subjects report engagement in the other activities. Females are more likely to report daily or weekly prayer, whereas males are more likely to report attending scripture study groups or training classes. Younger subjects are more likely to participate in all spiritual disciplines than older subjects.

Of the 83% responding as to whether they had made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ that is still important to them, 95% of subjects report this is the case. Of those making a commitment of Jesus Christ, 34% of them made the decision between the ages of 9-12 years, 27% between the ages of 13-15 years, 15% younger than 5 and between the ages of 5-8, and 9% between the ages of 16-18.

Section IV: Panama Secondary Data

This data is drawn from CountryWatch, UNICEF, CIA World Fact Book and public domain data. Statistics are generally from 2005 but may be earlier if none more recent are available.

Secondary Research Profile Panama



DEMOGRAPHICS & POPULATION	
Population	3,499,704
Population (under 15 yrs)	30.25%
Life Expectancy	66.2 yrs.
Birth Rate (per 1,000 people)	21.57
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 live births)	20.95
Estimated Urban / Rural Population	2,287,904 / 943,598.6
Largest City / Population	Panama City / 425,557
EDUCATION & LITERACY	
Literacy Rate (over 15 yrs)	92.6%
Primary level Enrollment ratio	99%
Literacy Rate – Males	93.2%
Literacy Rate – Females	91.9%
ECONOMICS	
GDP (PPP) Per Capita (2008)	\$11,700
GDP (PPP) Billions of USD (2008)	\$38.83
Poverty Rate (% below poverty line)	37%

SOCIAL			
Human Development Index ² (out of 177)	58	Prisoners (per capita) 100,000 people	354
Divorce Rate <i>per 1,000 people</i>	0.68	HIV AIDS/Adult prevalence rate 15-49 yrs	1.5
Unemployment Rate	5.6%	All registered NGOs	Not Available
Murders committed by youths (per capita)	14.4	Homelessness	Not Available
Rape Rate	212	Teen Pregnancy (15-19 yrs)	Not Available
Theft Rate	4,366	Child Prostitution	Not Available
Children Orphaned due to all causes (0-17yrs) 2007, estimate (thousands)	48	Child labor (5-14 yrs) , total	3
ETHNIC GROUPS & RELIGIONS			
Mestizo	70%	Roman Catholic	85%
African, Chinese, Arab and mixed ancestry	14%	Protestant	15%
European ancestry	10%		
Indigenous ancestry	6%		
LANGUAGES			
Spanish (official), English			

² Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite index that measures the level of well-being in 177 nations in the world. It uses factors such as poverty, literacy, life expectancy, education, gross domestic product, and purchasing power parity to assess the average achievements in each nation. It has been used in the UN's Human Development Report since 1993.