

# Keeping Young Adults Engaged in Church: Ages 18-30

BISHOP DANIEL T. LITTLETON, *PRELATE*

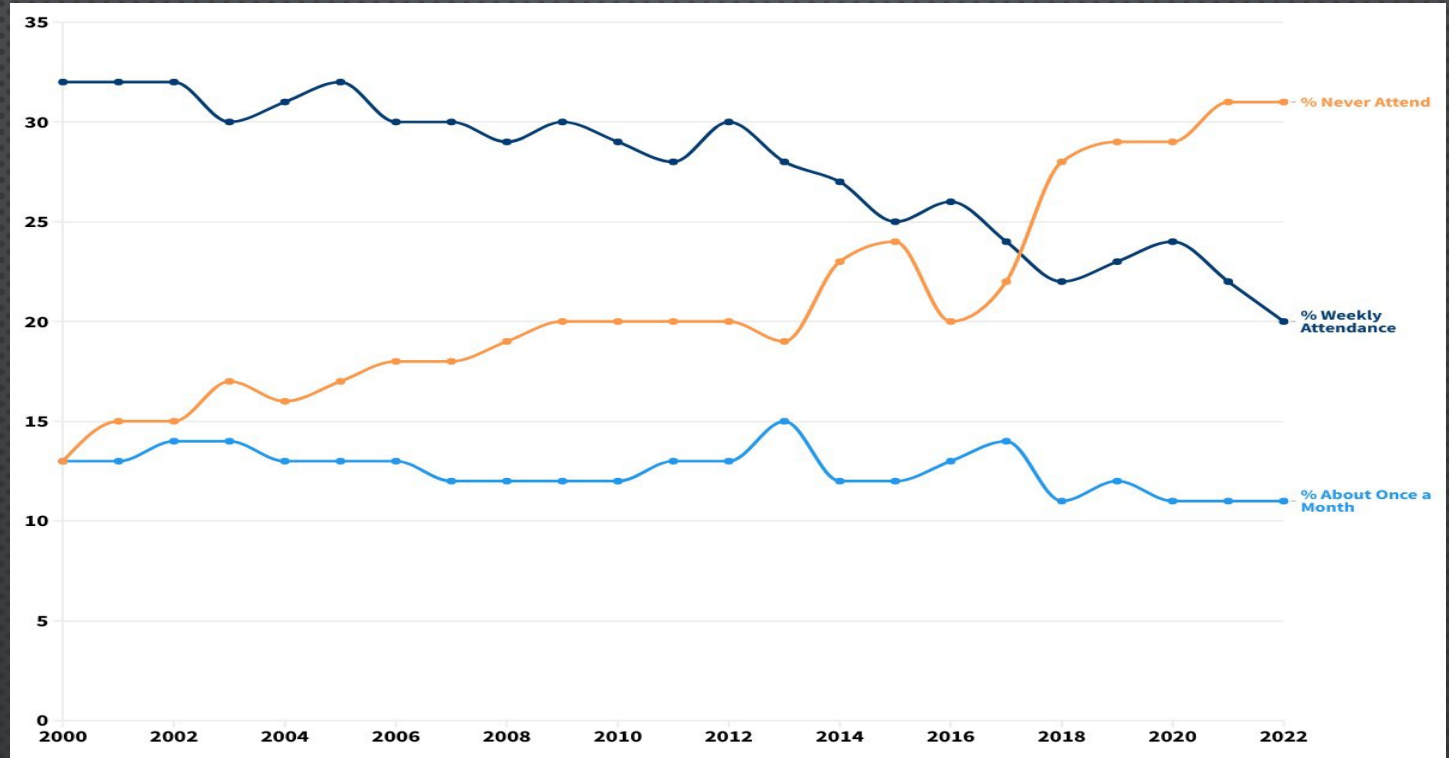
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EDUCATION MINISTRIES*

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THE TURN OF A GENERATION

**NETFLIX**

# CHURCH AT LARGE



SOURCE: [HTTPS://WWW.CHURCHTRAC.COM/ARTICLES/THE-STATE-OF-CHURCH-ATTENDANCE-TRENDS-AND-STATISTICS-2023](https://www.churchtrac.com/articles/the-state-of-church-attendance-trends-and-statistics-2023)

# CHURCH AT LARGE

1

20% OF AMERICANS  
ATTEND CHURCH EVERY  
WEEK

2

41% OF AMERICANS ARE IN  
MONTHLY CHURCH  
ATTENDANCE OR MORE

3

57% OF AMERICANS ARE  
SELDOM OR NEVER IN  
RELIGIOUS SERVICE  
ATTENDANCE

4

REGULAR CHURCH  
ATTENDANCE HAS STEADILY  
DECLINED SINCE THE TURN OF  
THE CENTURY

SOURCES: GALLUP RESEARCH (2022); PEW RESEARCH CENTER (2022)



WHERE ARE THE  
MILLENNIALS?

# MILLENNIAL DIVE



## AGE

BORN 1981 TO 1996



## EDUCATION

APPROX 40% HAVE  
OBTAINED A BACHELOR'S  
DEGREE OF HIGHER



## EMPLOYMENT

LARGEST PERCENTAGE OF  
THE WORKFORCE (36%)



## FINANCES

LESS COMPENSATED AS  
COMPARED TO  
PRECEDING GENERATIONS

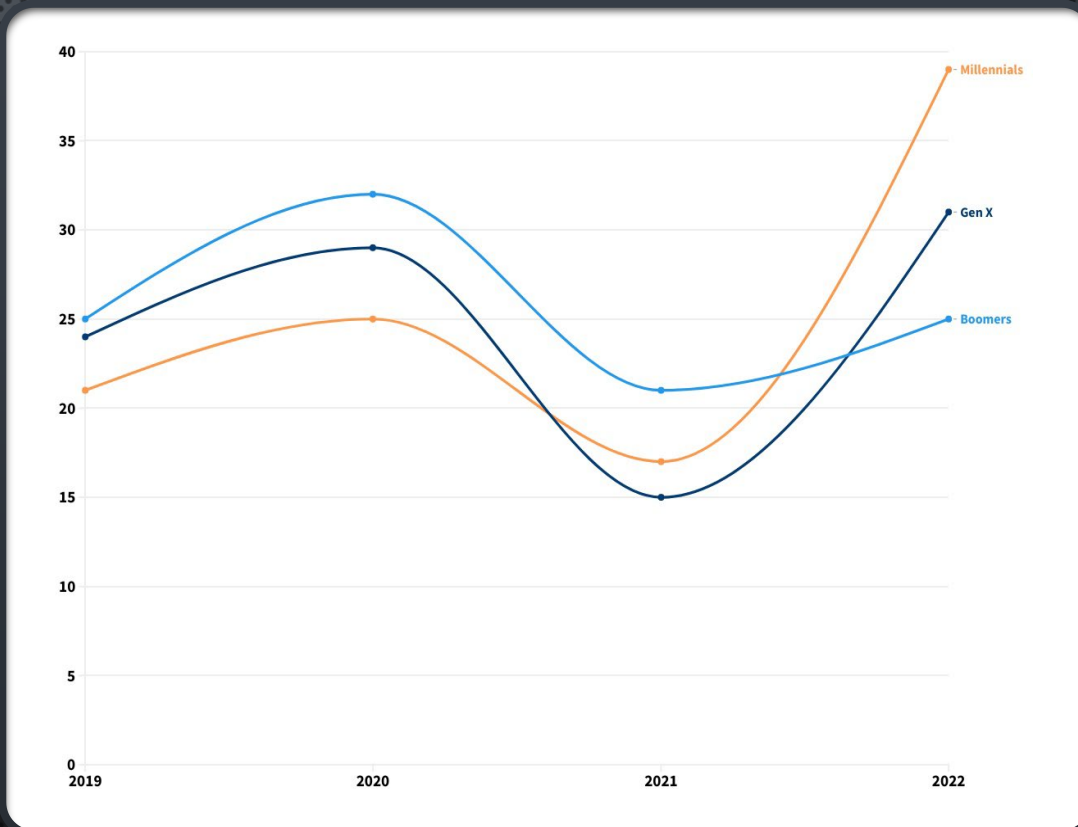


## FAITH

CONSIDERABLY LESS  
RELIGIOUS THAN THEIR  
OLDER COUNTERPARTS

# MILLENNIAL CHURCH ATTENDANCE

- IN 2022, 39% OF MILLENNIALS REPORT ATTENDING CHURCH WEEKLY, UP FROM 21% IN 2019
- NON-WHITE MILLENNIALS DROVE THE INCREASE IN CHURCH ATTENDANCE; 45% OF NON-WHITE MILLENNIALS ATTENDED CHURCH WEEKLY, COMPARED TO 35% OF WHITE MILLENNIALS (2022)



SOURCES: THE BARNA GROUP (2022), PEW RESEARCH CENTER (2019)



WHAT ABOUT  
GEN Z?



# GEN Z DIVE



## AGE

BORN 1997 TO 2012



## EDUCATION

KNOWN FOR HAVING HIGHER HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES; MORE LIKELY TO BE ENROLLED IN COLLEGE; IN 2018, 57% WERE IN COLLEGE



## EMPLOYMENT

SURPASSED BABY BOOMERS IN THE WORKFORCE IN 2024 (18%)



## FINANCES

MAIN CONCERN IS THE COST OF COLLEGE: 80% LIST IT AS A CONCERN, 17% LIST IT AS A TOP CONCERN



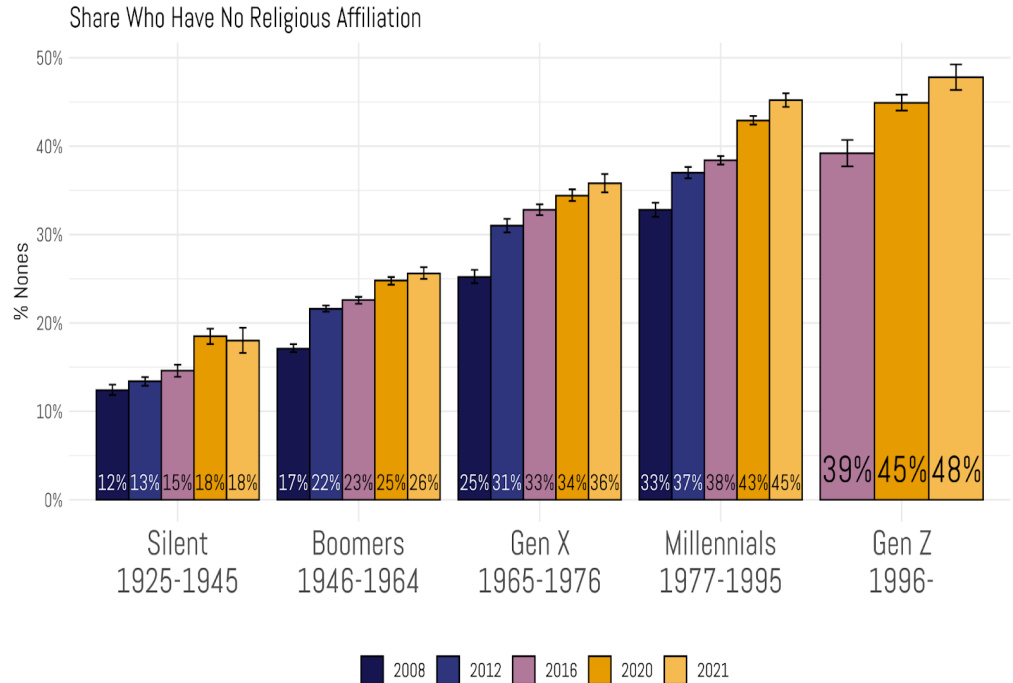
## FAITH

CONSIDERABLY LESS RELIGIOUS THAN THEIR OLDER COUNTERPARTS

# GEN Z CHURCH ATTENDANCE

➤ 48% OF GEN Z REPORTED “NO RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION” IN 2021

➤ AMONG YOUNG ADULTS (18-29) TODAY, ROUGHLY 75% REPORT THEY WERE 17 OR YOUNGER WHEN THEY NO LONGER IDENTIFIED WITH THEIR FORMATIVE RELIGION



@ryanburge  
Data: CES 2008-2021

SOURCES: RYAN P. BURGE (2022), SURVEY CENTER ON AMERICAN LIFE (2022)

# “WISER BUT WEAKER”



THIS IS NOT IN THE BIBLE!!

THE BIBLE MAY ALLUDE TO THIS CONCERNING GENERATIONS, BUT THERE IS NO SPECIFIC EVIDENCE OF THE WORD STATING THIS.

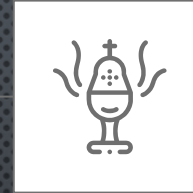


BUT THERE IS TRUTH IN THIS STATEMENT...

GENERATIONS ARE INTELLECTUALLY STRONG, BUT SPIRITUALLY WEAK.

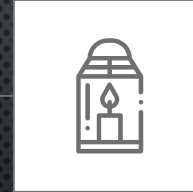
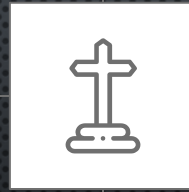
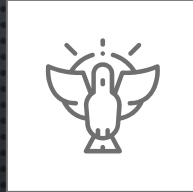
# WHY THE DECLINE?

*USED, NOT  
UTILIZED*  
“Nobody is listening to  
us.”



*YOU CAN'T SIT WITH  
US*  
“Church, especially  
leadership, is very ‘cliquey.’”

*RELIGION OVER  
MISSION*  
“Love God. Love others.”  
Mission accomplished.



*DISTRUST &  
MISALLOCATION OF  
RESOURCES*  
“Where are my investments  
going?”

*CULTURE  
BLAMING*  
“The church is radically  
self-centered.”



*MENTORED, NOT  
PREACHED AT*  
“Conversation is key.”

WHAT'S THE  
SOLUTION?



# JESUS

“LET THIS MIND BE IN YOU, WHICH IS ALSO IN CHRIST JESUS;  
WHO BEING IN THE FORM OF GOD, THOUGHT IT NOT ROBBERY  
TO BE EQUAL WITH GOD: BUT MADE HIMSELF OF NO  
REPUTATION, AND TOOK UPON HIM THE FORM OF A SERVANT,  
AND WAS MADE IN THE LIKENESS OF MEN, AND BEING FOUND  
IN FASHION AS A MAN, HE HUMBLLED HIMSELF, AND BECAME  
OBEDIENT UNTO DEATH, EVEN THE DEATH OF THE CROSS.”

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8

# WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?

- BUILD AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS
- ADDRESS UNIQUE NEEDS
- LEADERSHIP INVOLVEMENT
- OFFER MEANINGFUL WORSHIP EXPERIENCES
- CREATE SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES
- FOSTER SMALL GROUPS
- CULTIVATE A WELCOMING CULTURE
- OFFER FLEXIBILITY
- BE PATIENT AND CONSISTENT

# THE LAST BLOCKBUSTER





# BRAINWASHED...

THEREFORE, I URGE YOU, BROTHERS AND SISTERS, IN VIEW OF GOD'S MERCY, TO OFFER YOUR BODIES AS A LIVING SACRIFICE, HOLY AND PLEASING TO GOD—THIS IS YOUR TRUE AND PROPER WORSHIP. DO NOT CONFORM TO THE PATTERN OF THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND. THEN YOU WILL BE ABLE TO TEST AND APPROVE WHAT GOD'S WILL IS—HIS GOOD, PLEASING AND PERFECT WILL.

ROMANS 12:1-2 NIV

# THANK YOU!

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QUESTIONS?

# SOURCES

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