

ASIA PACIFIC NAZARENE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO GENERATION CONGREGATION (GENCON)  
YOUNG PEOPLE DECIDING TO BECOME MEMBERS OF TAYTAY FIRST  
CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

A Thesis Presented to  
The Faculty of Asia-Pacific Theological Seminary  
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Master of Arts in Religious Education  
Educational Leadership

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MASTER OF ARTS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

(EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP)

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## ABSTRACT

This study sought to identify and describe factors contributing to Generation Congregation (GenCon) young people deciding to become members of Taytay First Church of the Nazarene. This research is significant because it showed the factors which led to the decision of GenCon young people to become members of Taytay First Church of the Nazarene. The study may also help the church evaluate all the programs and strategies they have for retaining the young people who attend their youth group. The findings of this study will also help other youth organizations in the local congregation of the Church of the Nazarene and other denominations in the Philippines and globally.

The researcher used purposive nonprobability sampling for the quantitative survey, wherein the respondents were selected from the target population on the basis of their fit with the purpose of the study. In this study the members of Taytay First Church of the Nazarene who were previously and currently attending GenCon service were identified. Two youth leaders were involved in identifying the members. The surveys were administrated in three services, *Tagalog*, English, and GenCon of Taytay Church of the Nazarene. The Wilcoxon Matched-Pairs Test was used to treat the data.

Null hypothesis one says, “There is no significant comparative difference between the answers of GenCon attenders regarding factors that led them to initially attend GenCon and factors that led them to join in membership with Taytay First Church of the Nazarene.” This null hypothesis was accepted. Although the factors that led people to first attend GenCon, and the factors that led attenders to join the church could be identified and ranked, it showed no significant comparative difference. Overall findings

of the scores did not show a significant difference above the mark of 0.05. However, a notable comparative finding in this study was that both the number one factor why respondents attended for the first time and the number one reason why they became members was because ‘they want to know and grow in the Lord.’ This led the researcher to a conclusion that GenCon young people are longing to grow in knowledge and faith in God.

Null hypothesis two says, “There is no significant comparative difference between the answers of GenCon attenders regarding their level of spiritual commitment while attending GenCon and them becoming a member of Taytay First Church of the Nazarene, in regards to their spiritual habits and involvement in the ministry.” this null hypothesis was rejected. All of the respondents scored a positive growth in their spiritual commitment. All of the respondents grew in the two areas tested their spiritual habits and involvement in the ministry. Growing in their spiritual habits and involvement in the ministry is also the fruit of their desire to know and grow in the Lord, which was the number one factor in their attending for the first time and also their becoming a member of Taytay First Church of the Nazarene.

Recommendations were identified for the enhancement of the GenCon youth ministry: (a) continue to introduce new and interesting ways of teaching the Word of God to the new generation; (b) create a separate list of membership roll which comes from GenCon, aside from the general membership list of the church, for easy evaluation of the growth of GenCon in terms of their commitment to become a member; and (c) recommend further research into factors contributing to young peoples’ decision to drop out of GenCon service. This will balance the current study.

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this thesis to those who have a passion for young people, in reaching them for Christ and letting them grow in the knowledge of and faith in Him.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE PAGE .....	i
SIGNATURE PAGE .....	ii
ABSTRACT .....	iii
COPYRIGHT STATEMENT .....	iv
DEDICATION .....	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	vi
TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	vii
LIST OF FIGURES .....	xii
LIST OF TABLES .....	xiii
LIST OF CHARTS .....	xiv

### CHAPTER I:

Background of the Study .....	1
Theoretical Framework .....	5
Conceptual Framework .....	6
Problem Statement .....	8
Null Hypothesis .....	8
Significance of the Study .....	9
Assumptions .....	9
Definition of Terms .....	10
Scope and Delimitations of the Study .....	10

### CHAPTER II: Review of the Related Literature, Studies and Works

Spirituality and Filipino Youth .....	12
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Understanding Adolescence .....	15
Adolescent Decision-Making .....	18
Church Membership and Assimilation.....	19
Circles of Commitment .....	21
Church Research Support .....	23

### CHAPTER III: Research Methods and Procedures

Method of the Study .....	27
Description of the Sample .....	28
Sources of Data .....	29
Researching-Gathering Procedure .....	30
Data-Gathering Instruments .....	31
Statistical Treatment of Data .....	31

### CHAPTER IV: Presentation and Interpretation of Data

Demographic Information .....	34
Factors for Significant Difference .....	39
Spiritual Commitment .....	43

### CHAPTER V: Summary, Findings, Conclusions, and Recommendations

Summary .....	46
Findings .....	47
Conclusions .....	54
Recommendations .....	55

### APPENDICES

Appendix A .....	57
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Appendix B .....	58
Appendix C .....	59
Appendix D .....	67
Appendix E .....	68
Appendix F .....	71
BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	73
CURRICULUM VITA .....	77

## **LIST OF FIGURES**

Figure 1. Commitment Levels (Doug Fields) .....	5
Figure 2. Conceptual Framework .....	7
Figure 3. Religious Beliefs in the Philippines .....	13
Figure 4. The Life Development Process (Saddleback Church) .....	22
Figure 5. What Factors Led You to Choose This Church .....	25

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1A. Age Group .....	35
Table 1B. Gender .....	36
Table 1C. Educational Attainment .....	37
Table 1D. Duration in attending the services before becoming a member.....	38
Table 2A. Computation of the Wilcoxon T .....	40
Table 2B. Top 5 Upward Changes .....	42, 50
Table 2C. Top 5 Downward Changes .....	43, 51
Table 3A. Spiritual Habits .....	44
Table 3B. Involvement in the Ministry .....	44

## LIST OF CHARTS

Chart 1A. Age Group .....	35
Chart 1B. Gender .....	36
Chart 1C. Educational Attainment .....	37
Chart 1D. Duration in attending the services before becoming a member.....	38
Chart 2A. Top 5 Upward Change .....	42
Chart 2B. Top 5 Downward Change .....	43