

NEXT GENERATION MISSIONS STUDY

THURS 8 OCT 8PM

FRI 9 OCT 9AM



AN ANTIOCH OF ASIA

THE NATIONAL MISSIONS STUDY 2019 REPORT

CULTURE

Where are all the young missionaries?

by Justine Ocampo // November 21, 2019, 6:23 pm



Hence this Next Gen Missions Project ...

NEXT GENERATION MISSIONS STUDY

An initiative conducted by Singapore Centre for Global Missions, in partnership with:

Bartley Christian Church, Church of our Saviour, Covenant Evangelical Free Church, Glad Tidings Church, Interserve Singapore, OM Singapore, OMF Singapore, Radion International and Woodlands Evangelical Free Church.

PROJECT PURPOSE

*To uncover insights to help **local churches** adapt and grow in their work of*

Educating, Mobilizing and **Preparing***

*the **next generation** (under 40 year olds)*

*for **long-term cross-cultural missions** (“missions”).*

** Includes helping them discern and clarify the call to go*

Two Groups, Two Surveys, Similar Content

Next Gen Missions Workers

153 respondents

From 79 churches

Missions Leaders

129 Respondents

100 from local church, 29
from missions agency/NGO

Represent 81 churches and
13 agencies/NGOs

Next Gen Missions Workers

153 respondents, from 79 churches

Min. 6 month commitment for cross-cultural missions outside of Singapore (may or may not be already deployed)

Deployed before age 40

Involved in various capacities (career missionary, missional professional, NGO worker, itinerant evangelist and etc)

59% sent through missions agency/Christian NGO (usually in partnership with local church)

25% directly sent by local church

Missions Leaders

129 Respondents

100 from local church, 29 from missions agency/NGO

Represent 81 churches and 13 agencies/NGOs

Mix of Senior Pastor, Missions Chair, Agency leader, Mobilization staff, and etc. (similar profile of responses)

OUR PEOPLE

Who were surveyed?

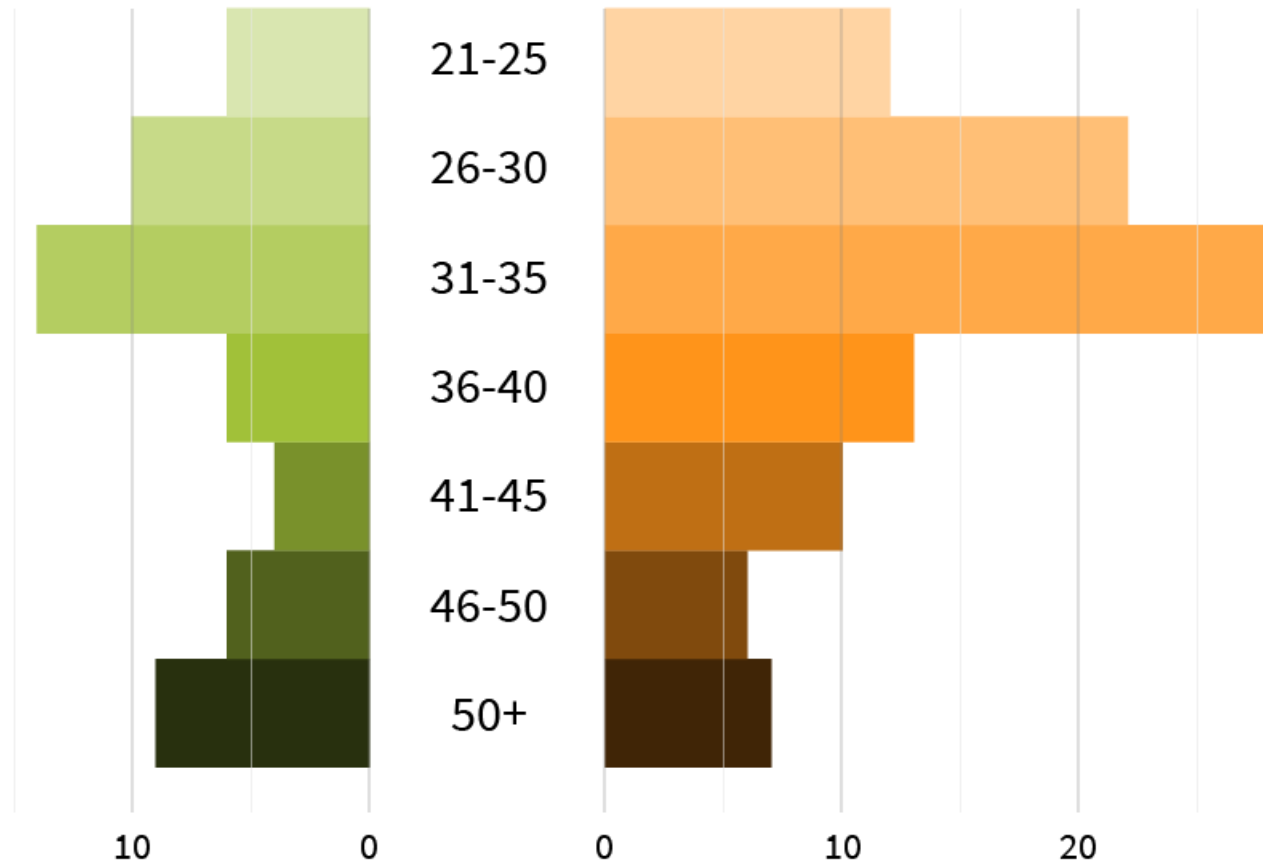
What's their profile?

Where have they gone and what are they doing in missions?

AGE AND GENDER DISTRIBUTION

MALE

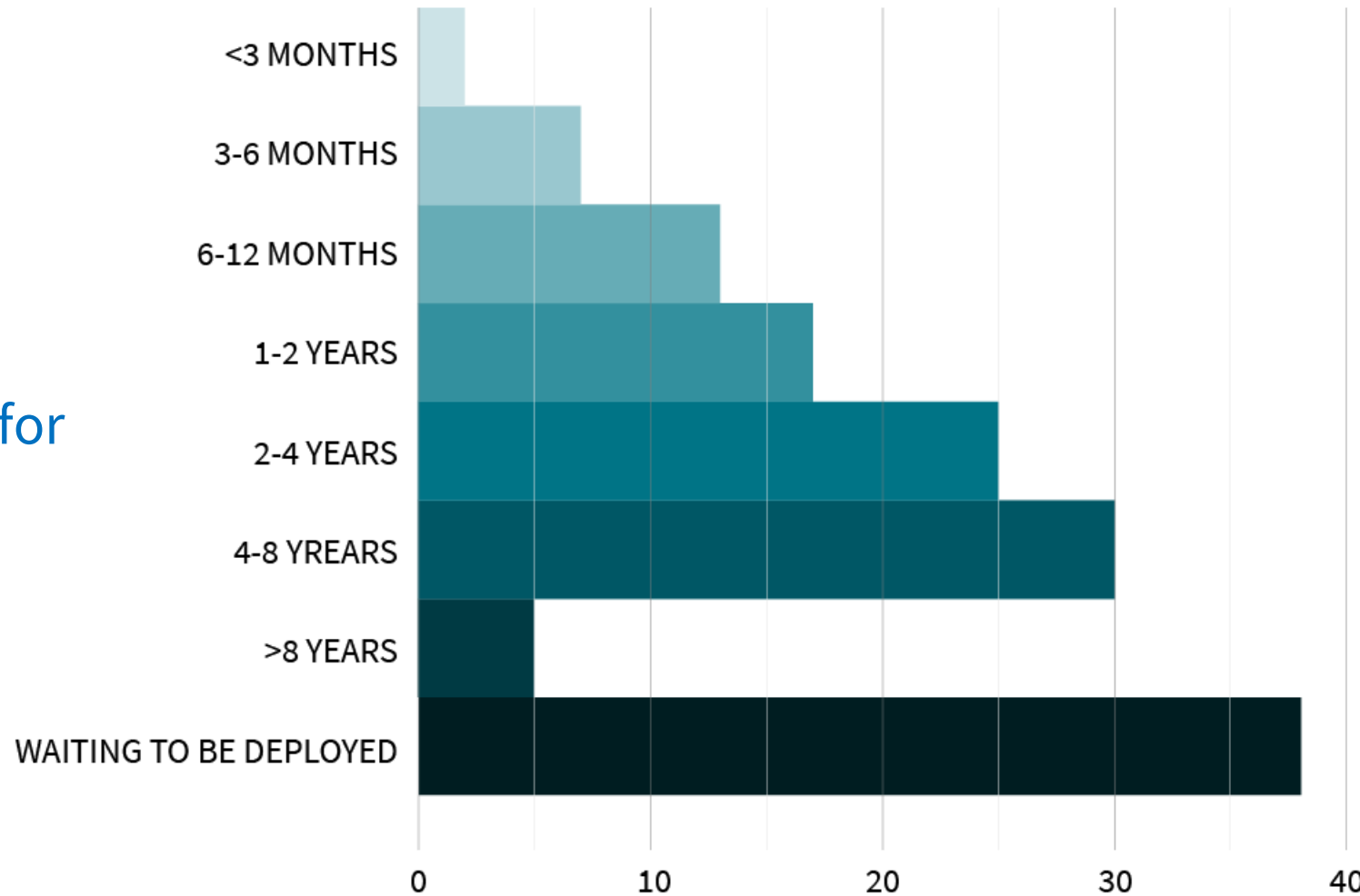
FEMALE



- ❖ Some now above 40 but were under 40 when first deployed
- ❖ We exclude 50+ year olds from subsequent analysis (Remaining = 137)
- ❖ 66% Female, 33% Male

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN DEPLOYED FOR LONG-TERM CROSS-CULTURAL MISSIONS?

- ❖ Over 40% deployed for over 2 years so far
- ❖ 28% waiting to be deployed



Theological Education and Profession

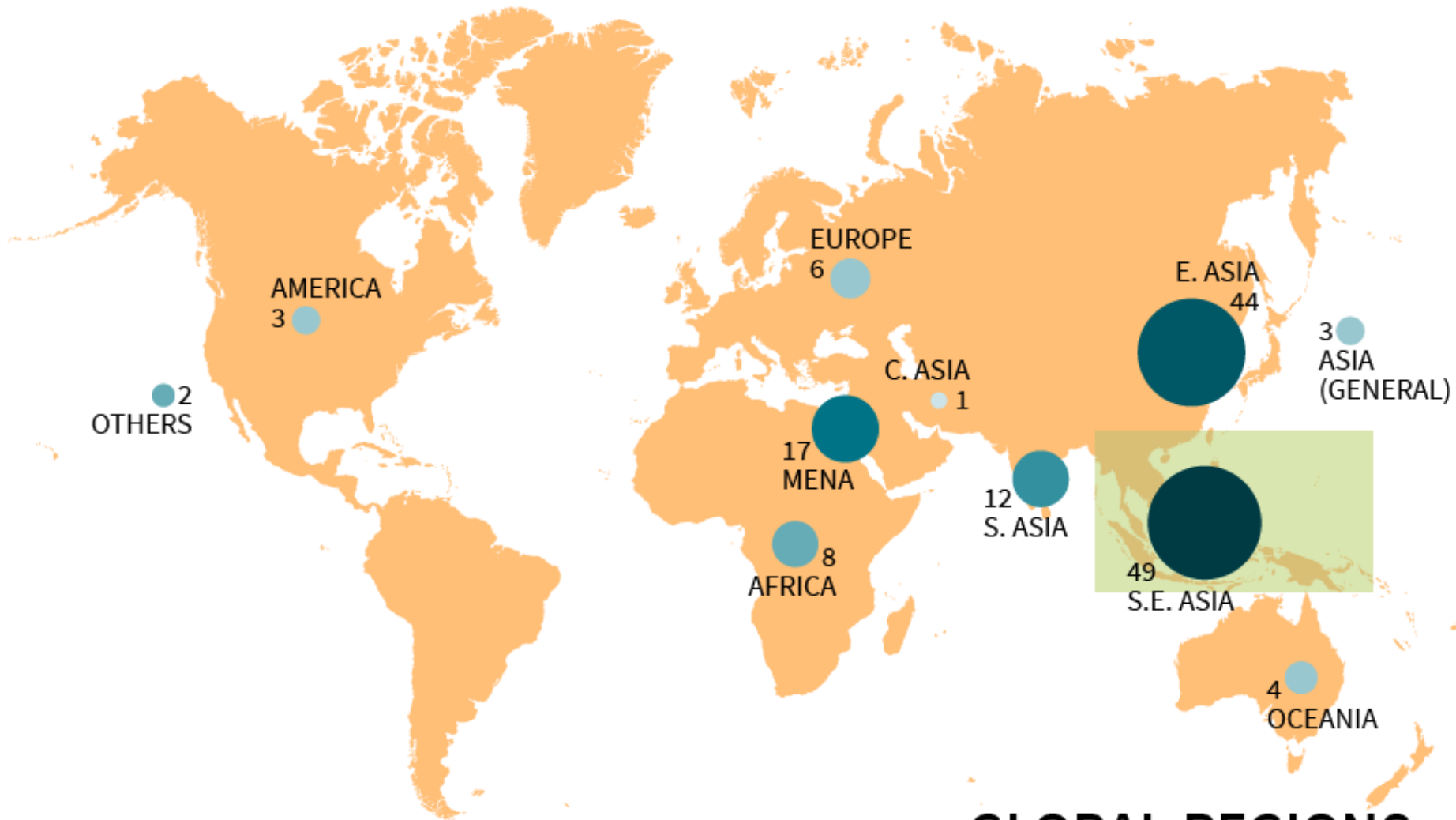
NONE	84
In process	10
Some - Certificate/ informal courses	9
Grad Dip/ BA	18
MA/PhD	16

❖ Majority went with no formal theological education.

❖ Most frequent professions:
Education, Social Services,
Healthcare

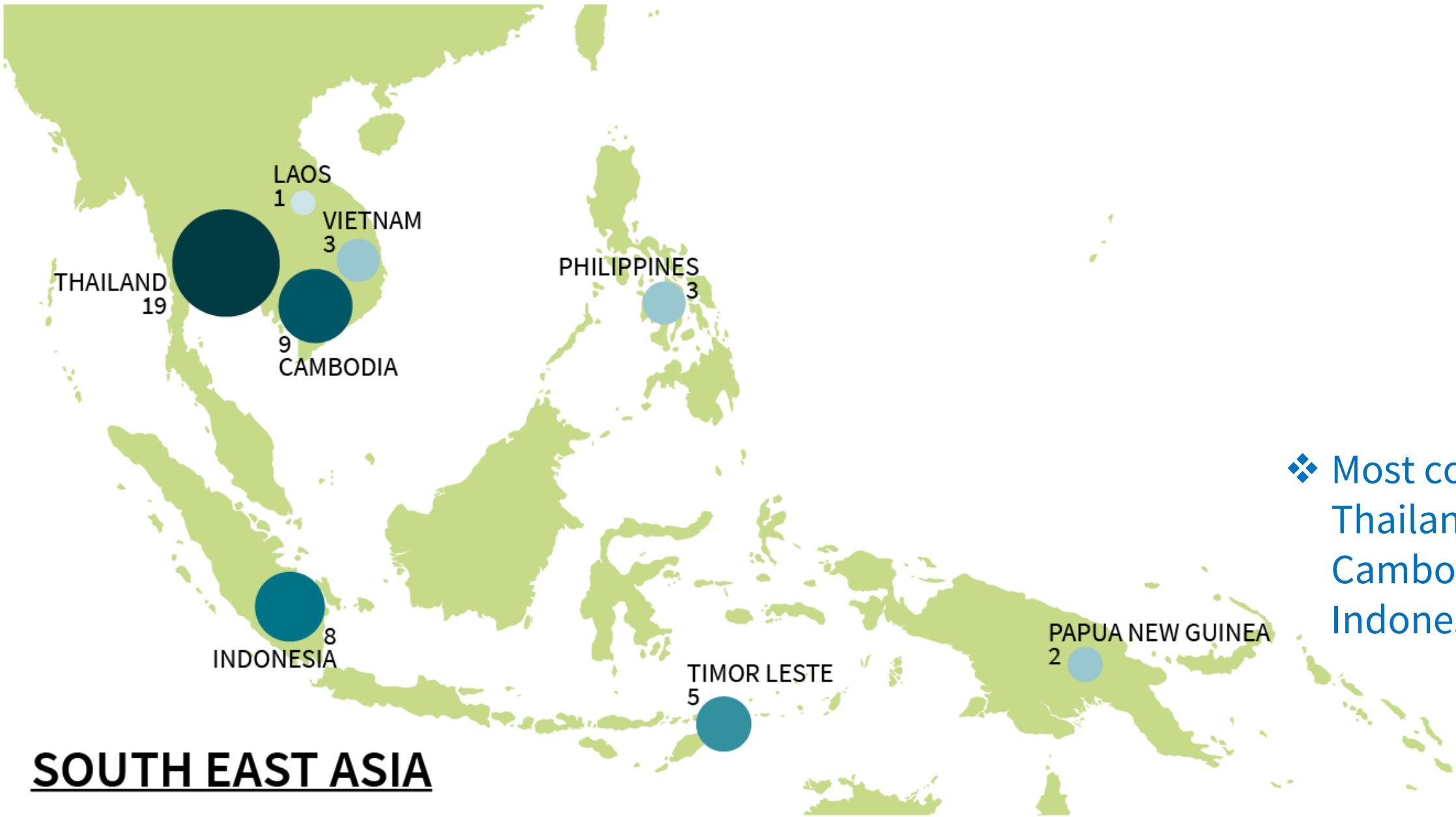
EDUCATION	27
SOCIAL SERVICE / COUNSELLING	23
HEALTHCARE (including MENTAL HEALTH)	14
CHRISTIAN / MINISTRY WORK	12
NIL (WENT STRAIGHT INTO MISSIONS)	22

WHERE HAVE THEY GONE?



GLOBAL REGIONS

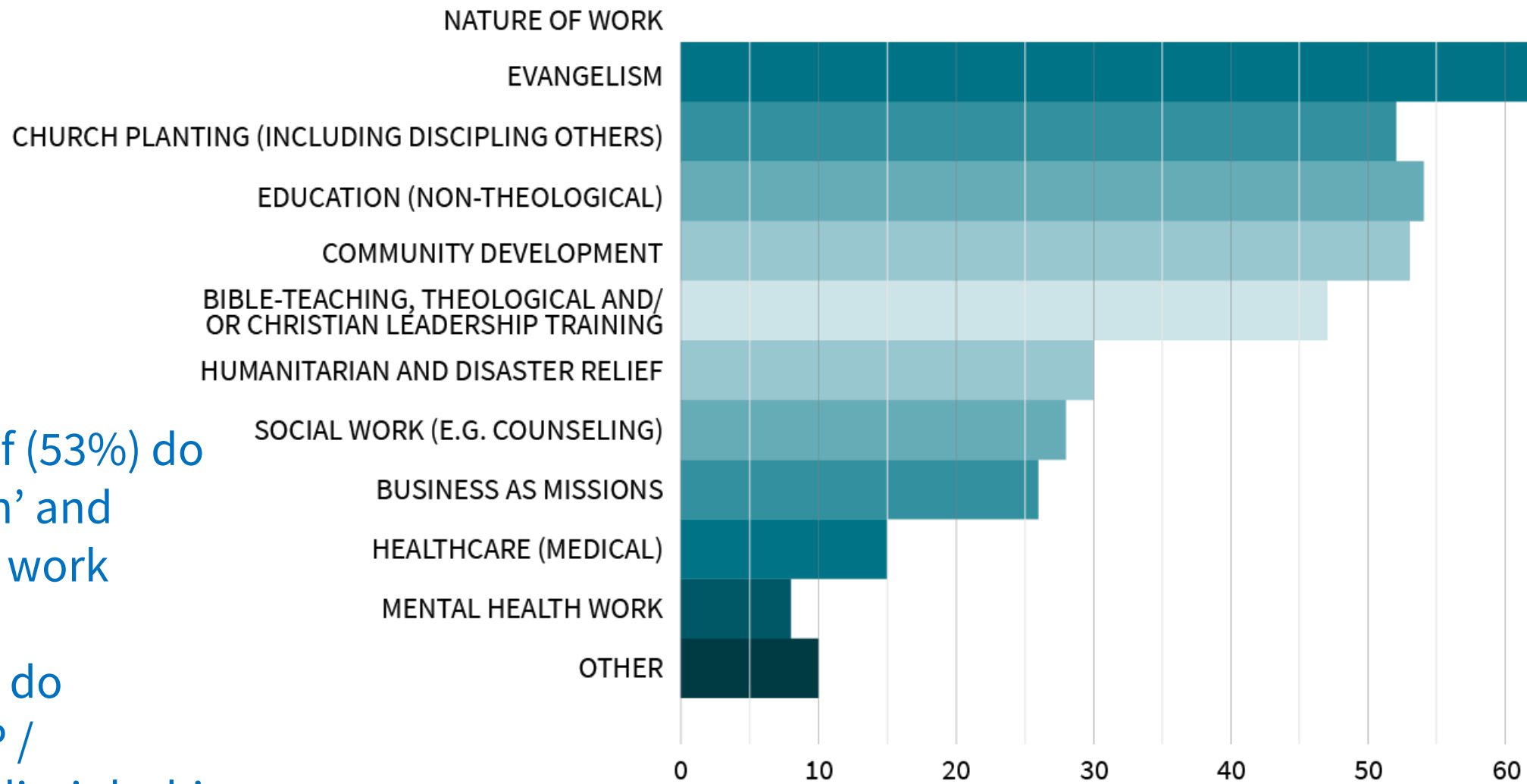
- ❖ Global spread
- ❖ Most common: SE Asia, E. Asia and MENA



SOUTH EAST ASIA

❖ Most common:
Thailand,
Cambodia,
Indonesia

NATURE OF MISSION WORK



❖ More than half (53%) do mix of ‘Church’ and ‘Marketplace’ work

❖ Only 16 (12%) do exclusively CP / evangelism / discipleship work

DISCERNING THE CALL

How old were they?

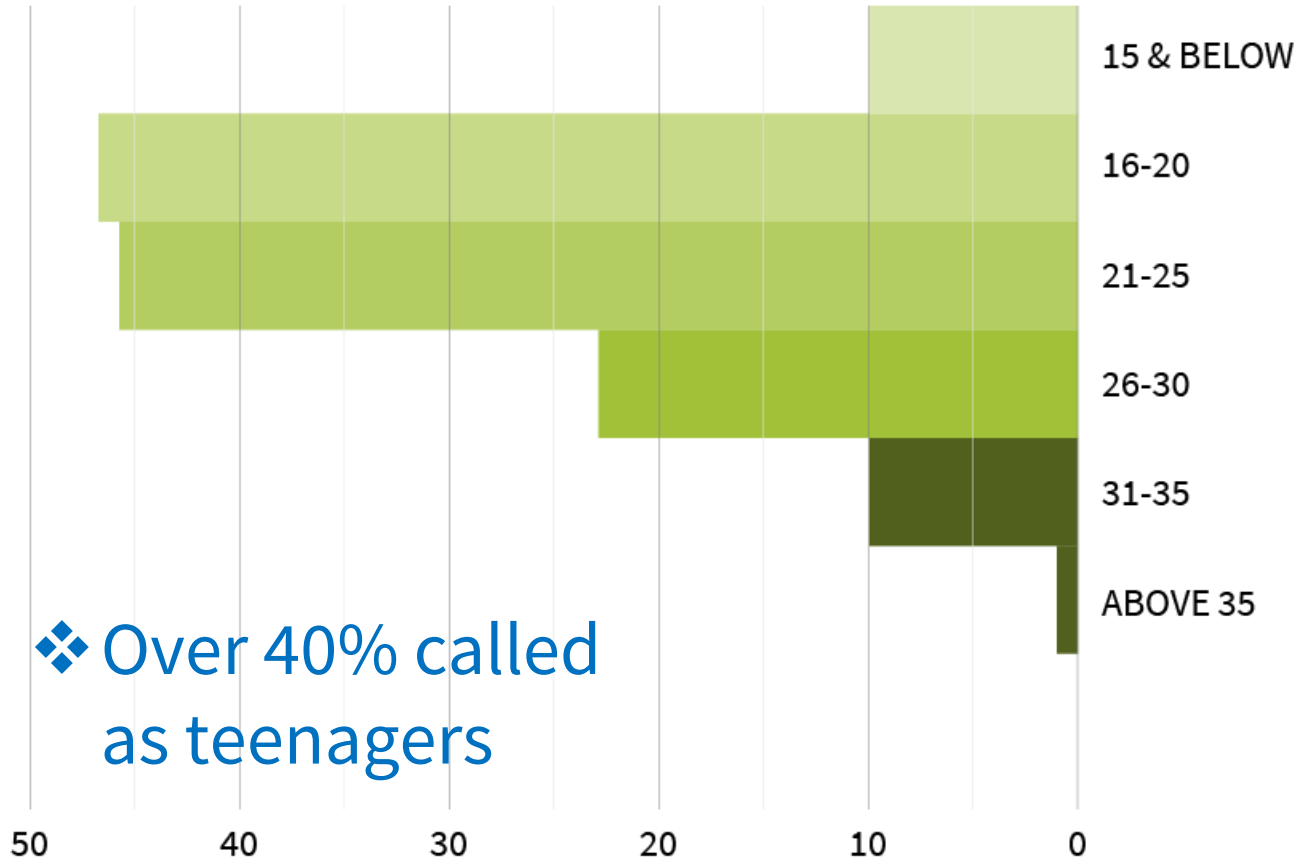
How long did it take before they went?

Who were significant influences and what were significant events that helped clarify their call?

AGE OF FIRST CALLING AND OF GETTING DEPLOYED

CALLED

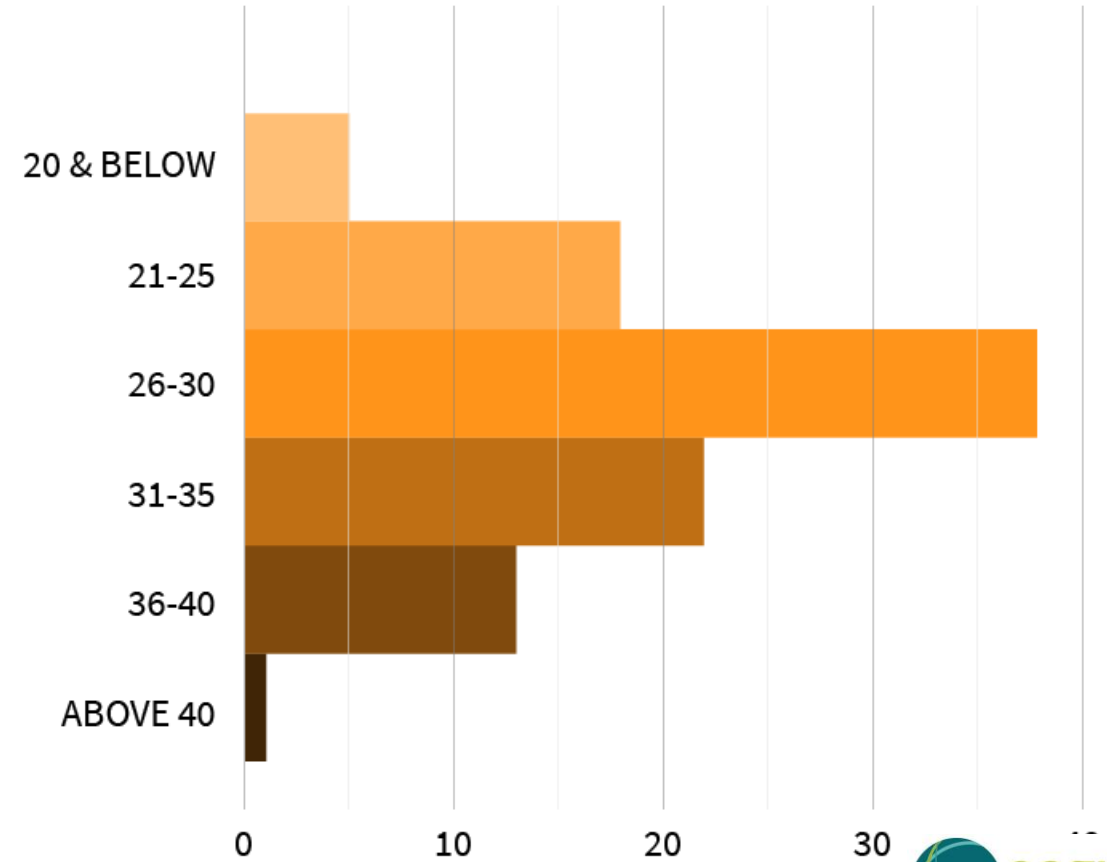
HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU FIRST DISCERNED A CALLING TO LONG-TERM CROSS-CULTURAL MISSIONS?



❖ Over 40% called as teenagers

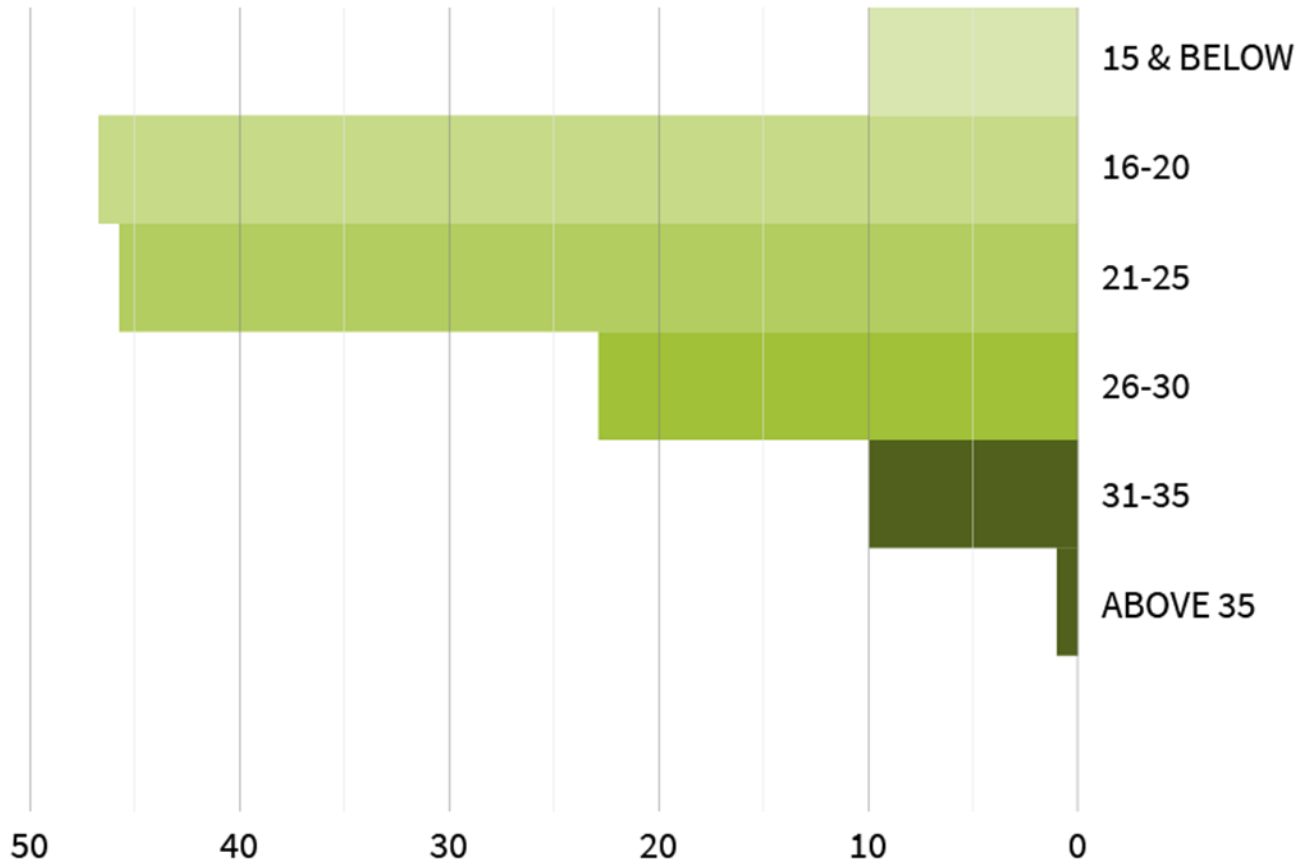
DEPLOYED

HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU FIRST GOT DEPLOYED FOR LONG-TERM CROSS-CULTURAL MISSIONS?



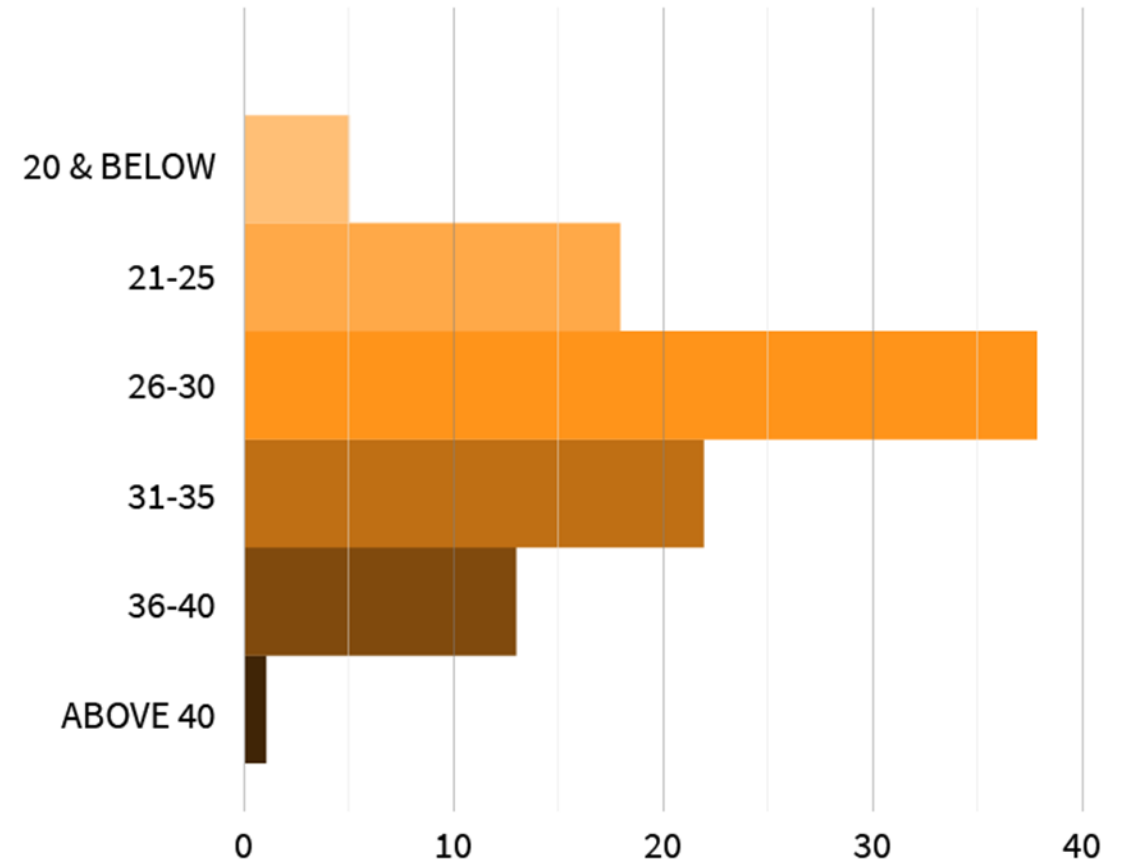
CALLED

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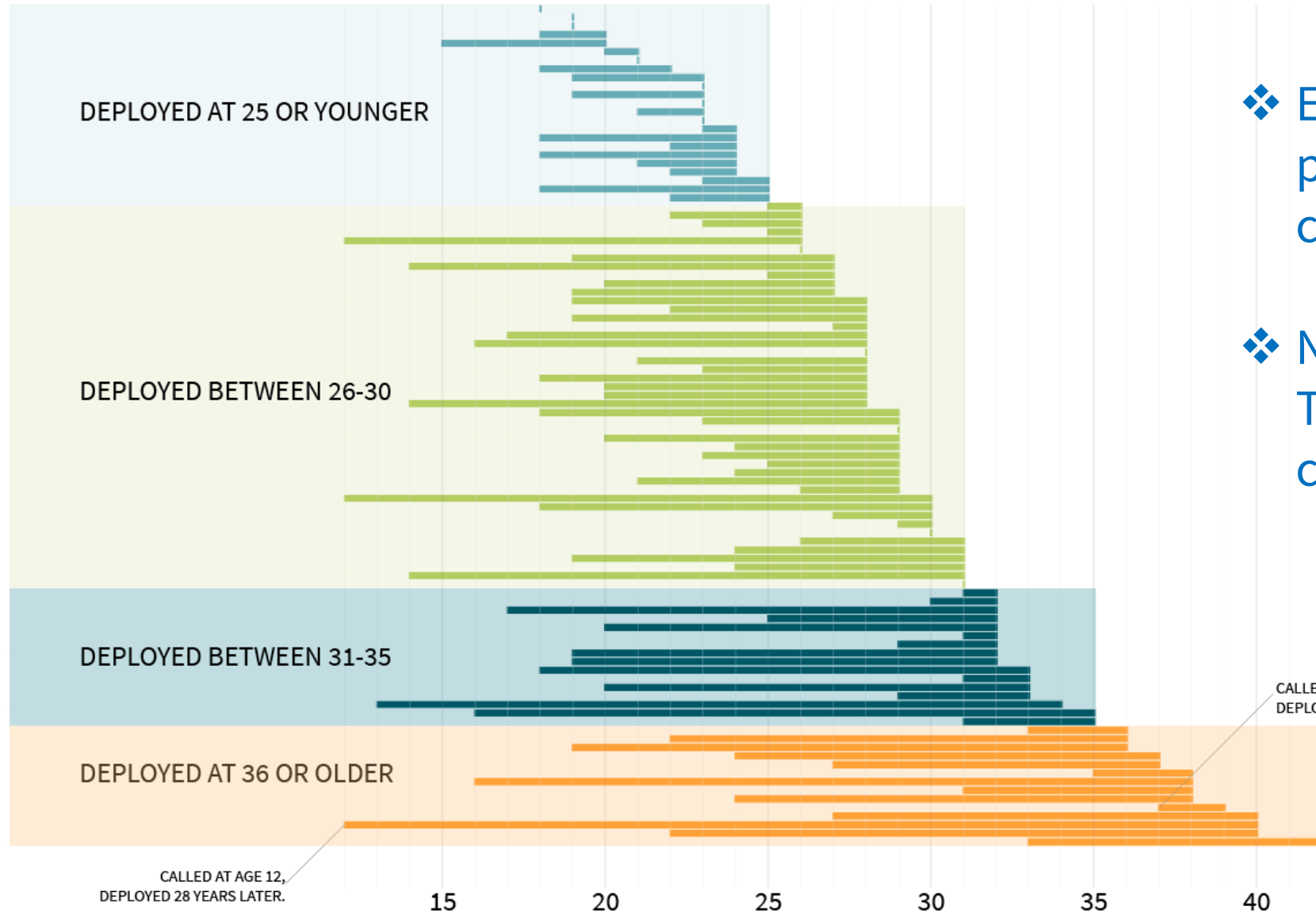
DEPLOYED

HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU FIRST GOT DEPLOYED FOR LONG-TERM CROSS-CULTURAL MISSIONS?



If discerned a call between 16 – 20 years old, most take 9 years \pm 5 before getting deployed; If discerned a call between 21 – 25 years old, most take 5 years \pm 4.7 before getting deployed.

NUMBER OF YEARS BETWEEN FIRST CALLING AND GETTING DEPLOYED



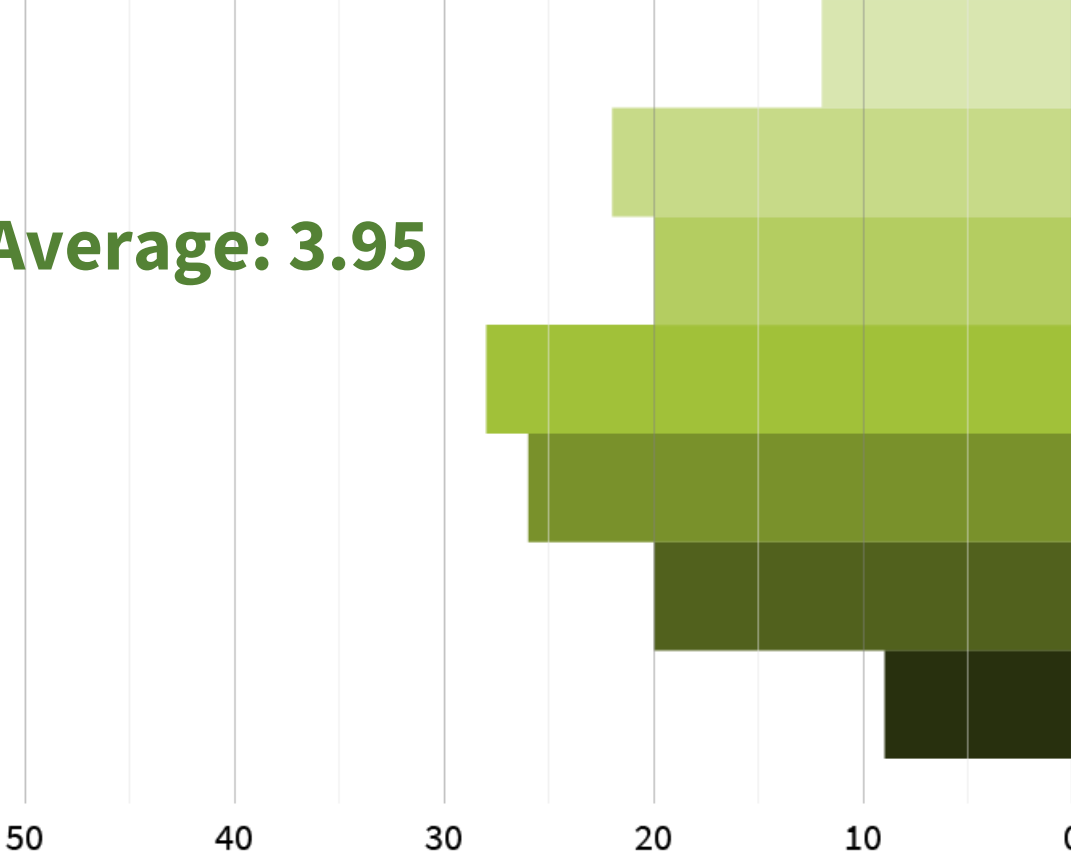
- ❖ Each bar represents one person: age when first called, and when deployed.
- ❖ Note the duration: The Mobilization journey can take years...

ON DISCERNING YOUR CALLING TO MISSIONS

NEXT GEN

OVERALL, TO WHAT EXTENT DID YOUR LOCAL CHURCH HELP YOU TO DISCERN YOUR CALL TO GO ON LONG-TERM CROSS-CULTURAL MISSIONS?

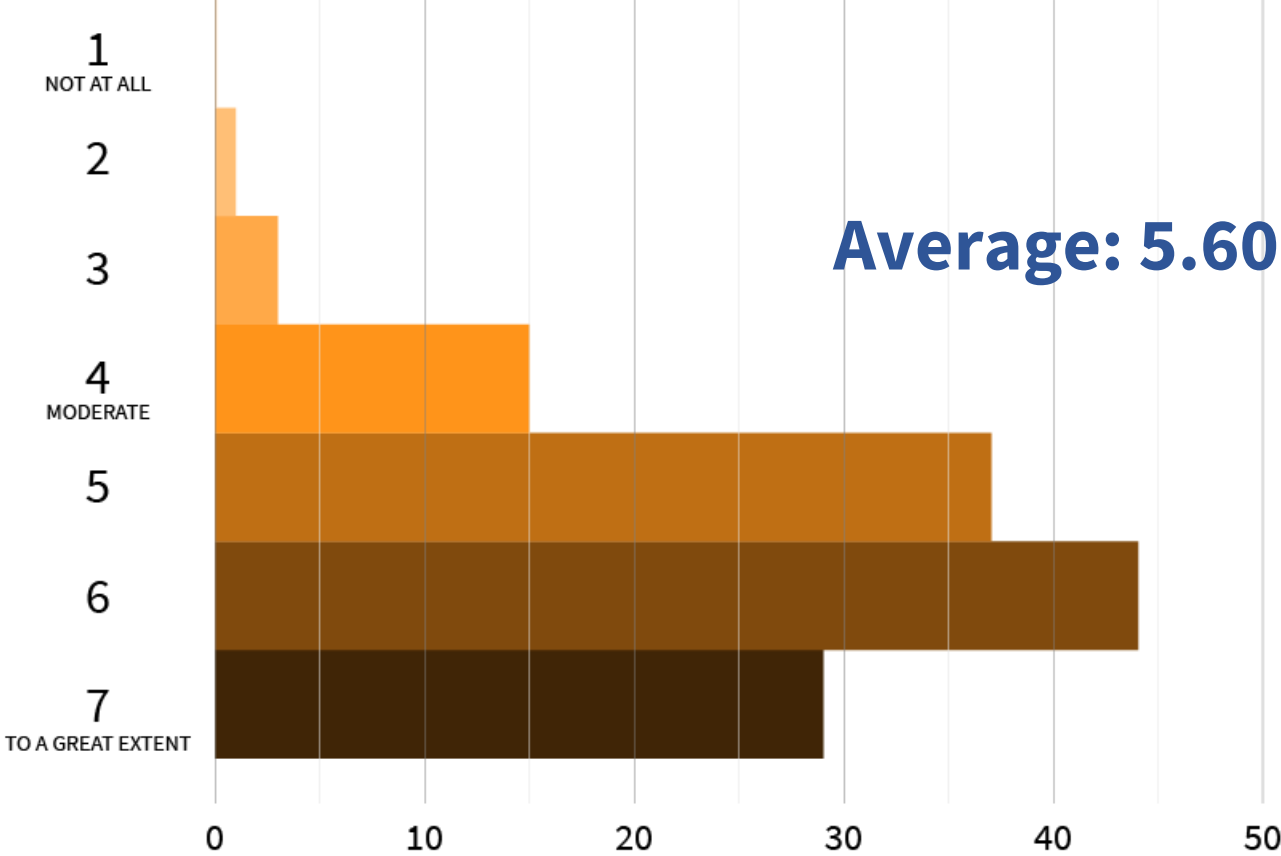
Average: 3.95



MISSION LEADER

OVERALL, TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU BELIEVE THE LOCAL CHURCH CAN HELP SOMEONE DISCERN A CALL TO GO ON LONG-TERM CROSS-CULTURAL MISSIONS?

Average: 5.60



OUR PEOPLE

DISCERNING THE CALL

CHURCH TEACHING & ENCOURAGING

PREPARING TO GO

Significant Events and Significant Influences

Mission Trip	134
Christian Event	72
Personal Encounter	59
Local Church Event	44
Person of Influence	37
Missions Agency/ NGO Event	37

Missions Agency / NGO Staff	71
My Mentor	56
My Friend	49
My Church Pastor	46
My Church Missions Leader/Staff	41

- ❖ Many ways for local Churches to ‘create’ defining moments or provide people of influence.
- ❖ Includes collaboration with agencies/NGOs

PRAYER as a "Significant Event"

I prayed about this "calling" (to West Asia) as I wasn't sure if it was simply a moment of impulse, I wanted clarity from God.

CL, 32 years old

I joined a 40-day prayer event for the unreached at the age of 19.

GG, 30 years old

I was attending a very mission minded church and they had missionaries speak at the prayer meeting regularly when I was a teenager.

JWSJ, 53 years old

Experienced God's love pouring into my heart through a moment of prayer in the cinema after watching the Passion of the Christ in 2004

N, 35 years old

At the age of 22, I thought about my life so that God could use me.

I prayed for almost a year.

LYF, 31 years old

**I was at an overnight church
prayer meeting in 2002.
Had fasted and prayed,
and somehow felt a burden for
the nations.**

AY, 39 years old

**I was praying and seeking specifically
for cross-cultural work when I was 37.**

GN, 45 years old

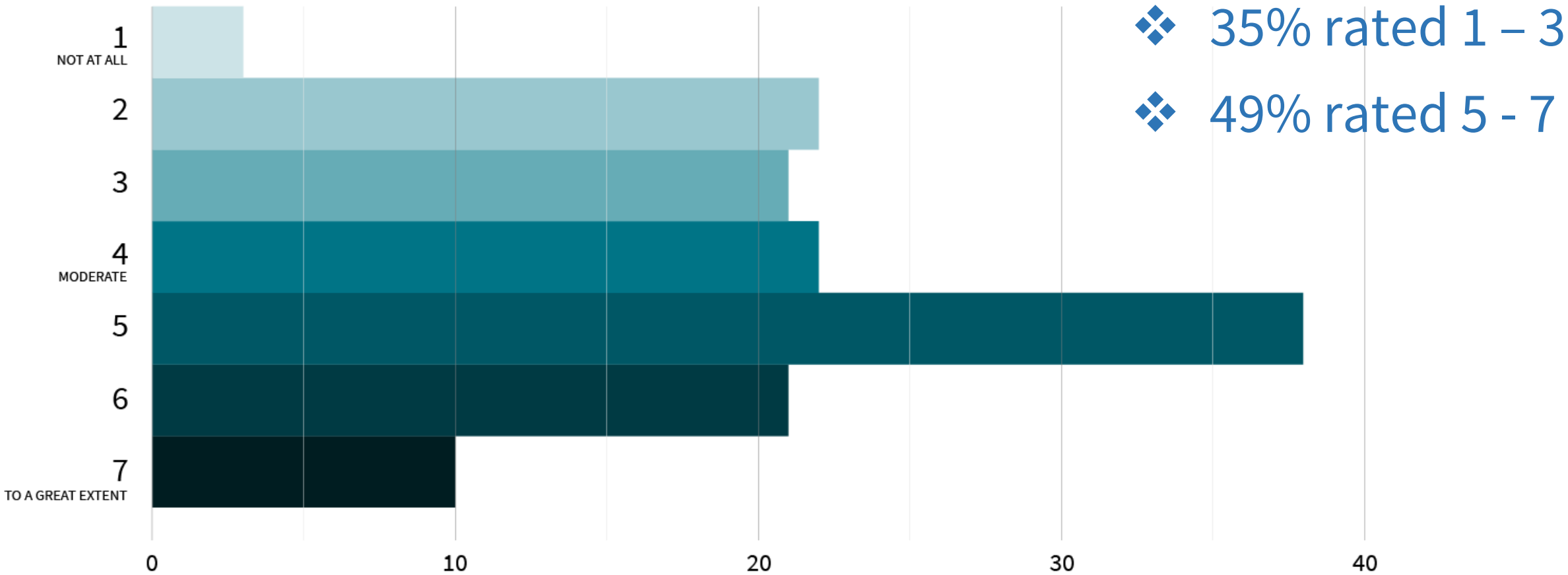
CHURCH TEACHING & ENCOURAGING

How churches are doing in this matter
What Missions leaders think can be done

LOCAL CHURCH INFLUENCE

NEXT GEN

OVERALL, TO WHAT EXTENT DID YOUR LOCAL CHURCH INFLUENCE YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF CROSS-CULTURAL MISSIONS?



OUR PEOPLE

DISCERNING THE CALL

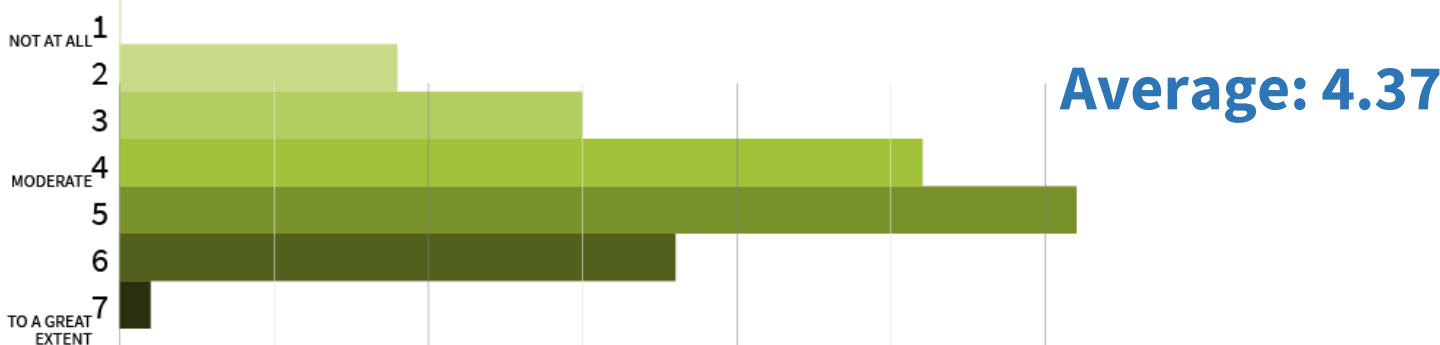
CHURCH TEACHING & ENCOURAGING

PREPARING TO GO

LOCAL CHURCH MISSIONS LEADERS SELF-EVALUATION: CHURCH TEACHING AND ENCOURAGING

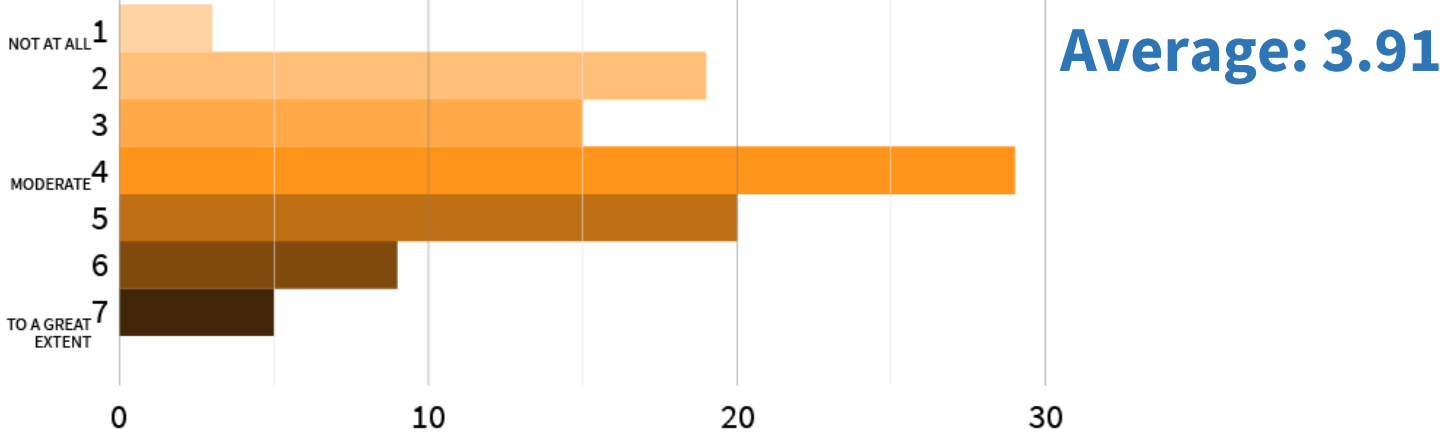
TEACHING

OVERALL, TO WHAT EXTENT DOES YOUR CHURCH TEACH ITS MEMBERS ABOUT CROSS-CULTURAL MISSIONS?



ENCOURAGING

OVERALL, TO WHAT EXTENT DOES YOUR CHURCH ENCOURAGE ITS MEMBERS TO BE PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN LONG-TERM CROSS-CULTURAL MISSIONS?



Church Missions Leaders: How to Encourage to Go?

From 100 local church missions leaders:

- ❖ *Missions Events (Seminar, Courses, ‘Missions month’)* [48]
- ❖ *Short Term Mission Trips* [46]
- ❖ *Provide Support (Prayer, Financial)* [32]
- ❖ *Working with Missions Agencies* [13]

PREPARING TO GO

What are key issues that 'prevent' people from going?

What were key concerns when preparing someone to go?

The role of Local Churches in preparation

Missions Leaders: *What Factors prevent the Next Gen from going?*

Based on personal experience of engaging next gen...

- ❖ *Financial Considerations* [40]
- ❖ *Family Commitments* [34]
- ❖ *Lack of Clear Calling* [32]
- ❖ *Lack of Support from Family / Spouse* [22]
- ❖ *Unwilling to give up life in Singapore / Cost of Going* [17]

How can the church help to 'lower' these barriers?

Missions Leaders: *What are Next Gen Concerns when preparing to go?*

Top 5 Concerns (based on engagement experience)

- ❖ *Clarity of Calling [95]*
- ❖ *Personal Finances [82]*
- ❖ *Getting adequate Cross-Cultural training / experience [72]*
- ❖ *Support of Parents [70]*
- ❖ *Support of Spouse / future Spouse [62]*

These concerns are shared by the sending church, with additional concern that the missions worker is 'emotionally ready' and maintains a good relationship with the church.

Next Gen Missions Workers:

What were our Concerns when Preparing?

Top 5 Concerns

- ❖ *Personal Finances [77] ***
- ❖ *Getting adequate Cross-Cultural training / experience [77] ***
- ❖ *Clarity of Calling [75]*
- ❖ *Support of Parents [73] ***
- ❖ *Getting adequate vocational skills / experience [52]*

*** these factors were in retrospect important for ministry effectiveness in the field.*

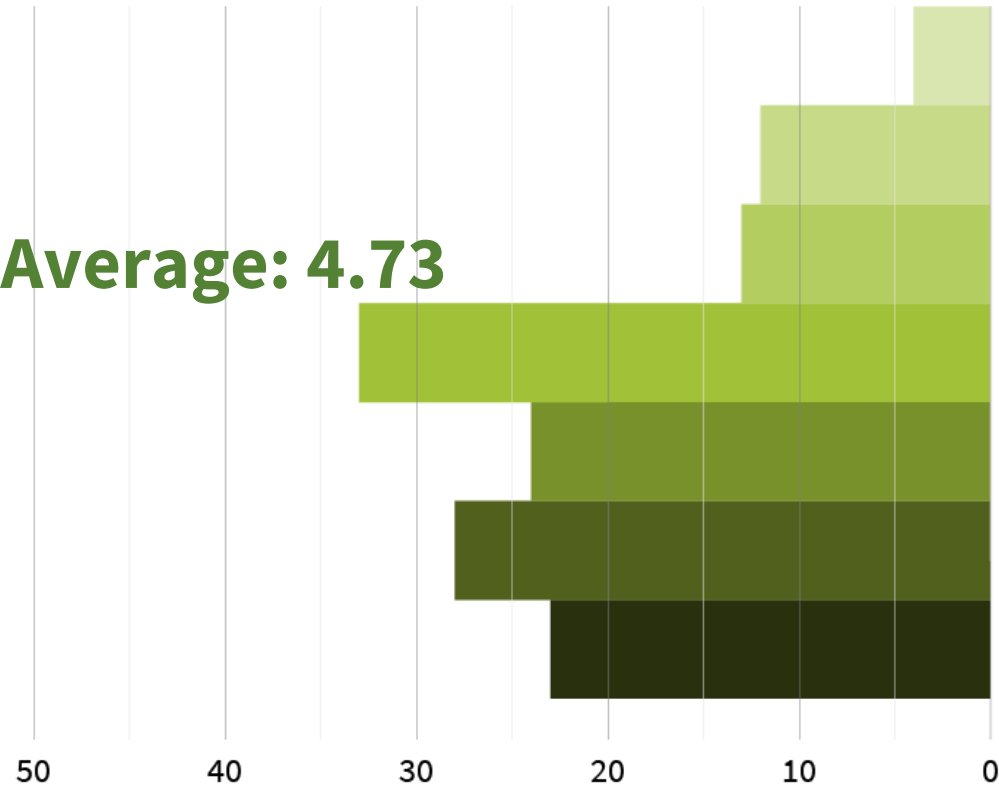
*Add to that: **Getting specific mission field knowledge;***

Getting supportive home church community

LOCAL CHURCH SUPPORT FOR MISSIONS WORKER PREPARATION

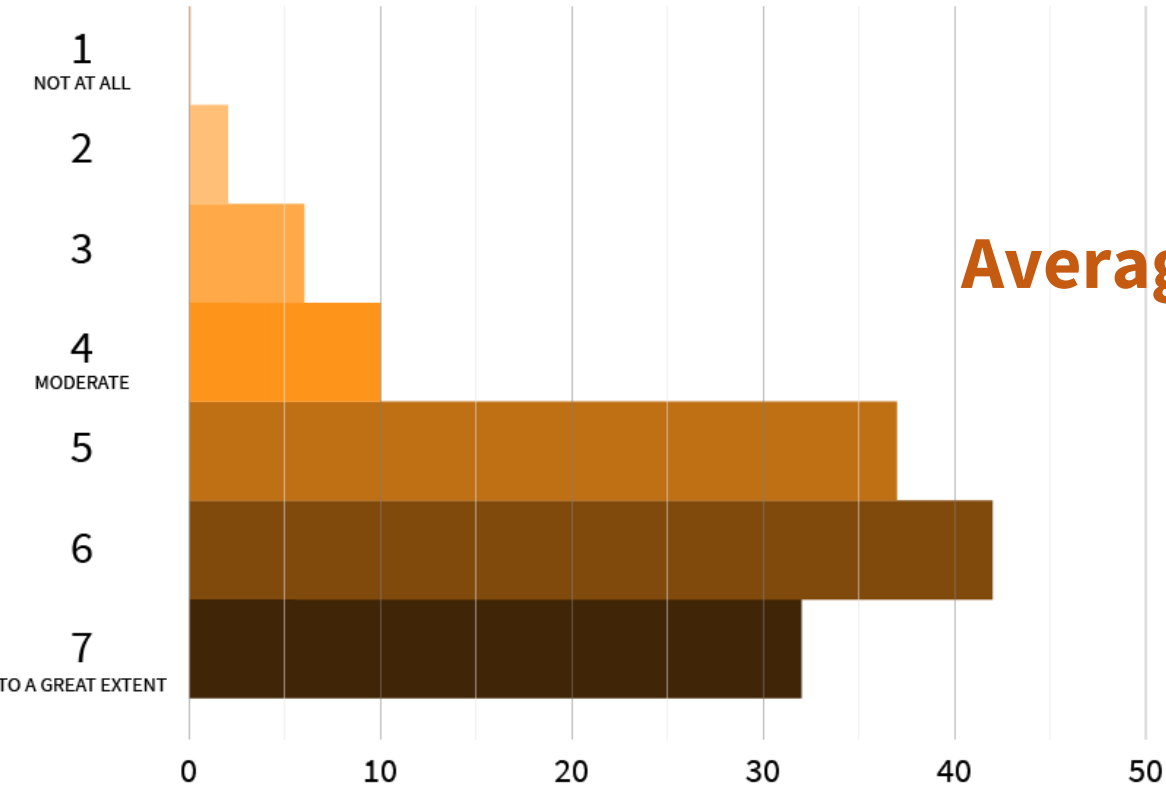
NEXT GEN

OVERALL, TO WHAT EXTENT DID YOUR LOCAL CHURCH SUPPORT YOU IN YOUR PREPARATIONS TO GO ON LONG-TERM CROSS-CULTURAL MISSIONS?



MISSION LEADER

OVERALL, TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU BELIEVE THE LOCAL CHURCH CAN SUPPORT SOMEONE'S PREPARATIONS TO GO ON LONG-TERM CROSS-CULTURAL MISSIONS?



Church Missions Leaders:

How can Churches Help Prepare someone?

- ❖ *Training and Equipping [64]*
- ❖ *Journey with them (prayer & emotional support) [62]*
- ❖ *Mentoring and Discipling [49]*
- ❖ *Provide Ministry exposure in church [43]*
- ❖ *Provide Financial Support [41]*

Next Gen Workers: In Retrospect, how could my local Church have done more in preparing me?

Consistent and Committed Support e.g. Pastoral/ emotional/ mentorship/ discipleship/ guidance. [29]

Deeper connection with home church e.g. prayer, platforms to speak, cell group. [20]

Training (what to expect/ what to do) e.g. educational - theological, cultural; administrative. [20]

For every 4 people who said their church was doing everything well, 1 said that their church was not doing anything.

Summary Observations

- ❖ Many ways for the local church to mobilize the Next Generation...
- ❖ Requires a **whole-of-church** ministry approach
 - Missions teaching starting from youth ministry (or earlier)
 - Long-term journeying alongside individuals
 - Missions Policy that addresses concerns
- ❖ Part of a community of missions-minded churches / agencies / organic groups

Responses

Next Gen...

Missions Leader...

Question and Answer

OUR PEOPLE

DISCERNING THE CALL

CHURCH TEACHING & ENCOURAGING

PREPARING TO GO

THE LEARNING JOURNEY

OUR PEOPLE

DISCERNING THE CALL

CHURCH TEACHING & ENCOURAGING

PREPARING TO GO


THE LEARNING JOURNEY

A Community of Practice for local churches to learn together about missions mobilization

3 Sessions in Q1 2021

Register interest early!

<https://tinyurl.com/nextgenlearningjourney>



PRAY
EARNESTLY
TO THE **LORD**
OF THE HARVEST
TO SEND OUT
LABORERS
INTO HIS
HARVEST

LUKE 10:2 ESV