

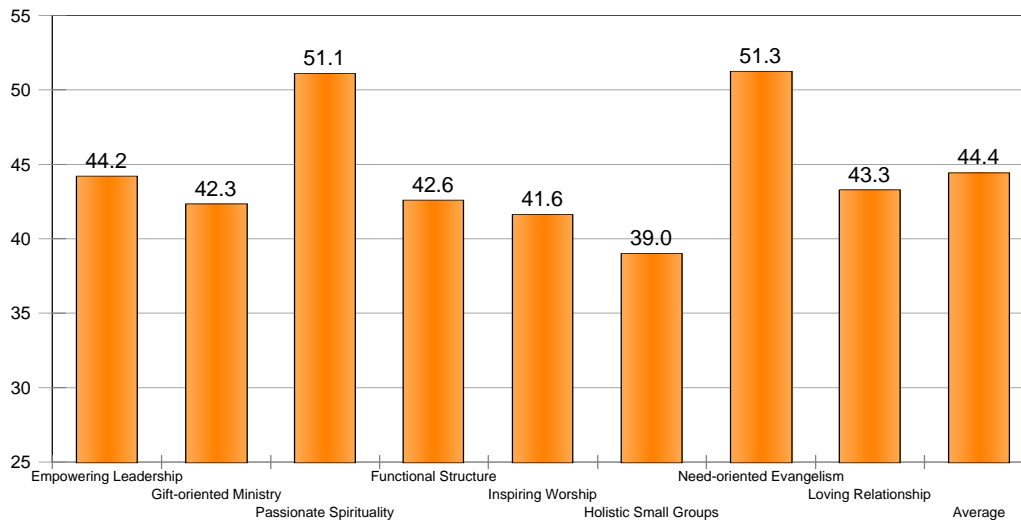
## NCD among SDA Churches in USA (June 2005)

This report provides insights into health patterns of SDA churches that participated in NCD survey until the end of 2004. By the spring 2005 the SDA database has grown into 587 profiles (of 494 churches). Out of that 83 churches have done second profile, 8 churches 3<sup>rd</sup> profile and 2 churches 4 profiles.

### Overall Strengths and weaknesses

The overall scores for SDA churches in USA by 2005 are as the following chart shows:

### SDA Corporate Profile in USA (2005)



Strong SDA qualities are need-oriented evangelism and passionate spirituality. When looking at the scores of individual questions, the single strongest question for SDA is question n. 4 – tithe and offerings (62 points in average). The second strongest items are questions about deepening relationships with unbelieving friends and praying for them (60 and 59 points in average). Other strong items of personal spiritual discipline besides giving money are reading and following the Scripture and believing that God will act even more powerfully in the future in the local church. The evangelistic focus is remarkable on both personal and corporate levels as well. Overall, there is a good sense of shared ministry among lay people.

Although the general weakness of SDA churches is holistic small groups, the most acute element is optimal care of children during worship services. Overall there is a lack of community, where people can share their feelings and trust each other. There is hesitation to try new things perhaps out of fear not to fall astray. There is a gap between the relational and the spiritual. That is perhaps the reason that although the passionate spirituality is quite strong, there is missing spirituality in small group settings.

The frequencies of minimum and maximum factors along minimum and maximum scores are shown in the following table. For greater compatibility all compared profiles were recalculated with 2005 USA norm.

USA norm 2005*	Minimum Factor (%)	Maximum Factor (%)	Minimum Score	Maximum Score
EL	17.4	13.3	-4	83
GM	17.9	10.4	-1	86
PS	1.2	31.9	-2	91
FS	9.0	1.7	11	92
IWS	18.9	3.9	6	80
HSG	28.8	3.6	-13	91
NoE	1.9	34.1	10	96
LR	13.3	9.0	3	106
Ave			17.8	88.1

### Better Quality – Better Growth?

20.5% of churches have the average score of all eight qualities lower than 35. The average score of 76.4% churches is between 35 and 64, and 3.1% churches average with all the 8 qualities 65 and higher. Apparently there are both low and high quality churches within SDA (the highest average score for all eight qualities 88.1). To what degree does it correlate with actual growth rate (based on average attendance, not membership), see the table below. Perhaps the rates are somewhat more optimistic than the reality (based on the pastors' estimate). However, the difference is obvious. Healthy churches are growing!

Quality Score	Average Annual Growth Rate (%)	Distribution of Churches (%)

Lowest through 35	9.34	20.5
36 through 64	10.15	76.4
65 and higher	21.75	3.1

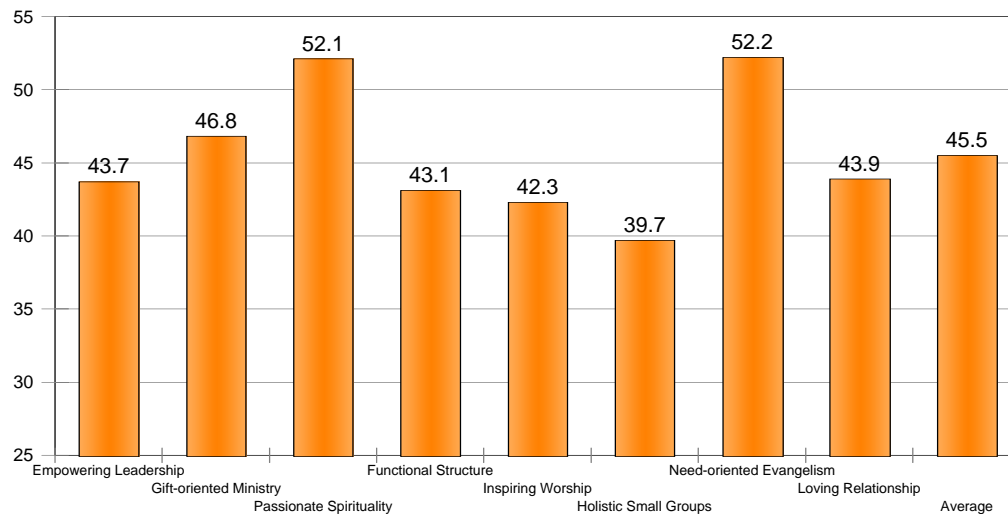
Some other trends of health among SDA churches are expressed percentage wise in the following table (compared with the global percentage of all NCD churches).

Trends of SDA Churches in USA Comparison with Global trends	SDA Churches in USA (%)	Globally (%)
New churches	19.6	10.9
Church planting churches	15.2	22.2
Cell churches (more than 75% members in small groups)	2.4	7.2
Members utilizing gifts (more than 60% involved in ministry)	4.4	9.9
Churches with training of lay people	14.7	27.5
Churches with attractive worship	34.9	35.3
Churches with leaders supporting evangelism	57.2	54.8
Churches positive about change	24.0	45.4
Churches with specialized ministries for new believers	12.4	26.9

## Multiple Profiled Churches

As stated earlier, there are 83 SDA churches in our database that have done two profiles. Let's take a closer look on what happened with those churches. The overall average score for the first profiles of those selected churches is as follows:

### SDA Corporate 1 Profiles in USA (2005)

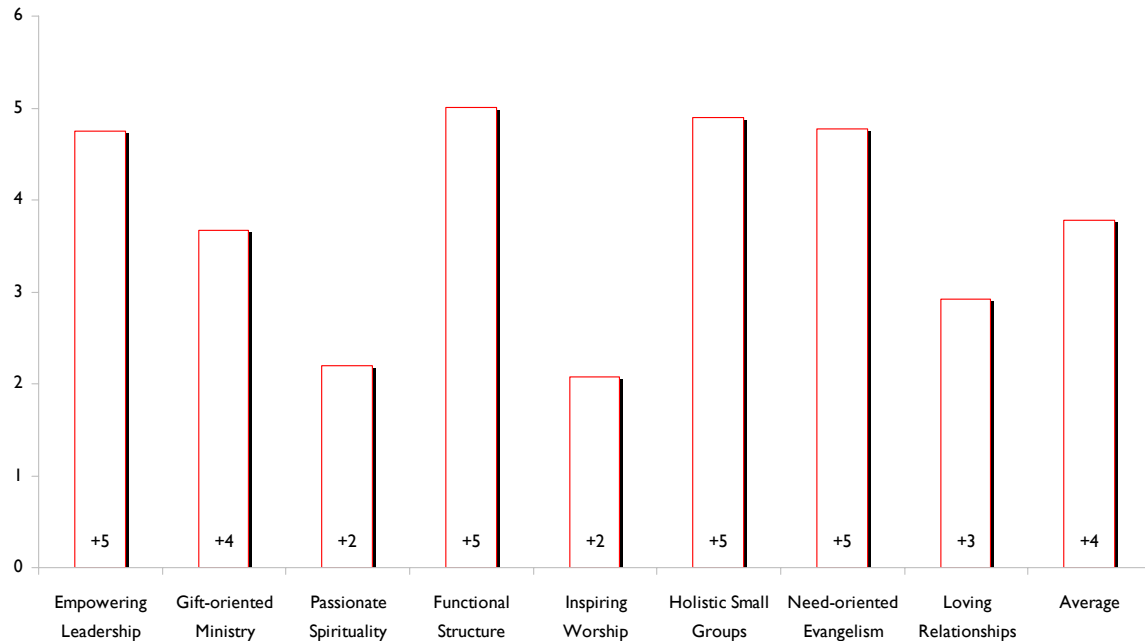


Of 82 churches, 65% increased their overall score (9.6 points in average), 35% of churches decreased their quality (-6 points in average). This indicates that not all churches have proper understanding of NCD but some churches are excellent examples of how NCD can help to grow. Overall, 33% of churches did not change their minimum factor (although the score may have increased in some cases) but 67% have changed their minimum factor.

Compared to the first profiles, the average score for all eight qualities increased in average in the second profile for 3.9 points as the table and chart show.

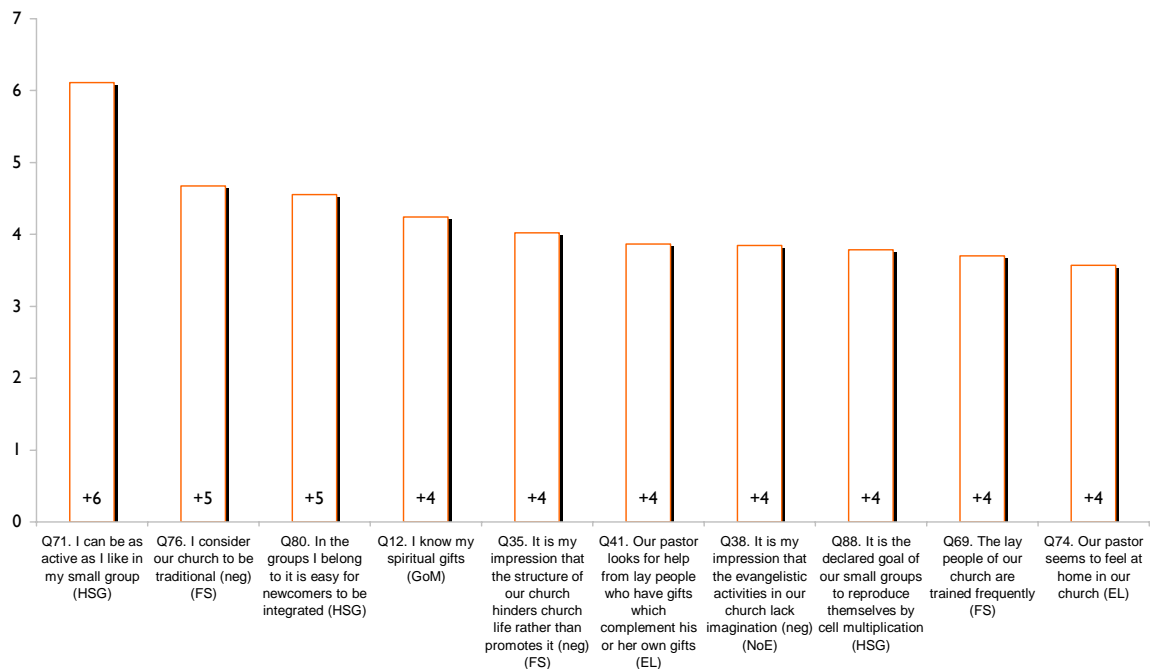
	EL	GoM	PS	FS	IWS	HSG	NoE	LR	Avg
1st profiles	43.7	46.8	52.1	43.1	42.3	39.7	52.2	43.9	45.5
2nd profiles	48.8	50.6	54.5	48.3	45.1	44.4	56.9	46.9	49.4

## Difference between 1st and 2nd Profiles



The highest changes were in average were achieved with Empowering leadership, Functional structure, Holistic small groups and Need-oriented evangelism. The following graph shows the highest improvements for individual questions.

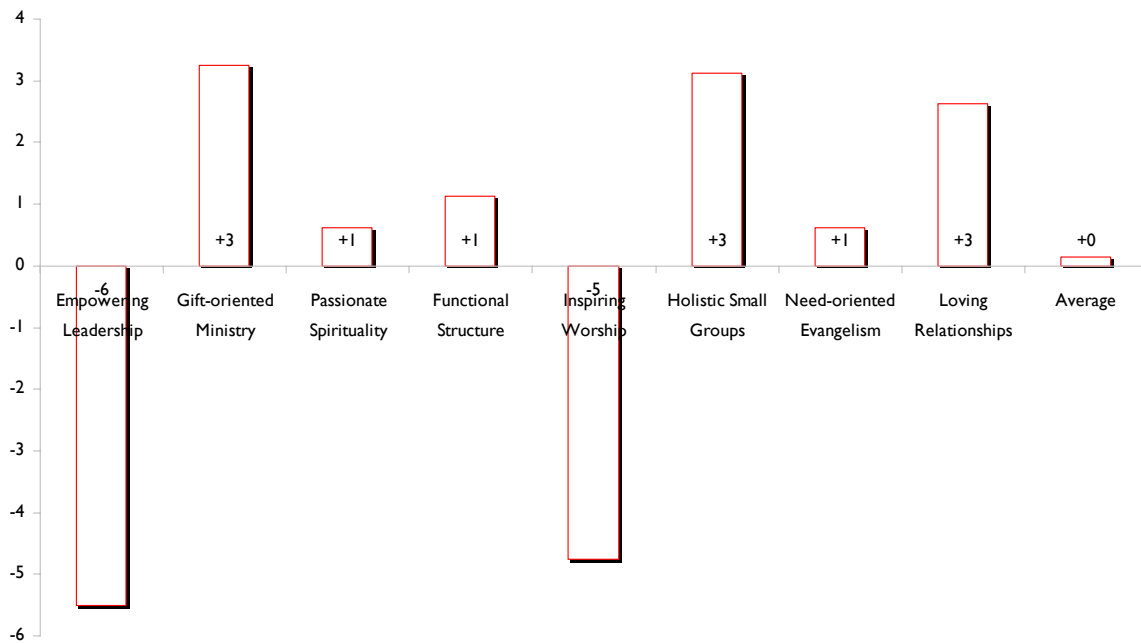
## Highest 10 Improvements



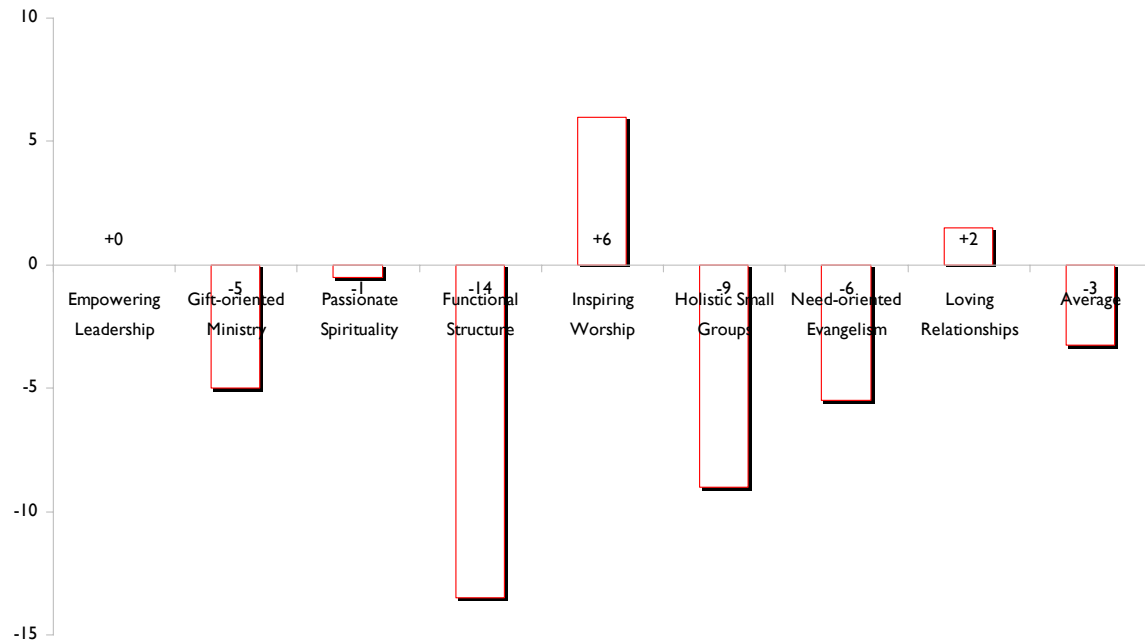
Furthermore, the average attendance of the churches during the 1 profile taken has increased from 137 people per church to 145 people per one church when the 2 profile taken. On the other hand the average membership has decreased from 273 to 266 members. Thus, the rate of attendance to the membership has increased (from 52% to 56%). The attendance of children has increased almost unbelievably (the rate of children to attendance went up from 21.6% to 71.8%). The annual growth rate has increased 6 times by the second profile taken (from 2.3% to 12.5%).

The third and fourth profiles were taken with just a few churches and the results are not statistically significant. Following two charts show the trend of 8 churches who did a third profile and the trend of 2 churches that did a fourth profile.

Difference between 2nd and 3rd Profiles



## Difference between 3rd and 4th Profiles



It seems that there is a need to learn to work on goals and actions steps to increase healthy in the long-run. Natural church development does not happen merely by doing the diagnosis. It takes systematic work on the designated area(s).

Petr Činčala PhD, NCD International