Pastoral Survey

Dear Pastor:

Please help the Adventist Church make some decisions about Vacation Bible School materials. You don't even have to know specifics about VBS curriculum to provide valuable information on this survey. The link below takes you to a quick questionnaire you can complete online at any time.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QS9M3TX

This survey has been commissioned by the North American Division leadership. They have asked us to conduct the survey for them and prepare a report based on your response and that of the other randomly-selected pastors. Your response is entirely anonymous. We have no way to connect it to your name or ID. Our report will combine the responses from all of the participating pastors.

We'd like to hear from you today. Thanks very much.

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P.S. We're sorry if you got this note and you're not a pastor of a congregation. We value your input too and will ask you to weigh in on other topics in the future. Thanks for understanding.
We need the input of pastors regarding Vacation Bible School materials: What will best meet the needs of your local church and its VBS? Please take a few minutes to answer some important questions.

1. Are you ...
   - Pastor of one church with no associates
   - Pastor of a multi-church district
   - Part of a pastoral team
   - Other (please specify)

2. Did your church (any of your churches) conduct a Vacation Bible School or similar program during the summer of 2011?
   - Yes
   - No, but it did so in 2010
   - No
   - I am not sure

3. What was the size of your VBS attendance? (counting only children)
   - 12 children or less
   - 13 to 20 children
   - 21 to 49 children
   - 50 or more children
   - Zero; we did not have one

4. Which curriculum did your VBS team use?
   - The materials published last year by Review & Herald Publishing Association.
   - The materials published by Review & Herald in previous years.
   - The materials published by Group, Standard or other Christian publishers.
   - I am not sure.

5. How do you get personally involved in VBS?
   - I don't get involved at all
I make sure a leader is in place and fully delegate it to that person
I am available to the leader when she/he asks for ideas
I try to be supportive while leaving the team plenty of room to do their own thing
My spouse is more involved than I am
I am an active team member
I really run the VBS; we don't have anyone I can delegate it to

6. Which is true for VBS at your church?
   (1) It is an outreach ministry; many of the children who attend are not from church families
   (2) It is largely a nurture ministry; almost all of the children who attend are from church families
   (3) It is both; about half from church families and half not
   I am not sure

7. The decision-makers are trying to balance three factors: (1) up-to-date, creative features, (2) Adventist content, and (3) the cost to the local church. Please indicate your response to each of the following approaches.

   I strongly agree   I agree   I am not sure   I disagree   I strongly disagree

   It is important to have materials written by Adventists. Don't try to compete with other VBS programs.
   Spend the extra money to hire Adventists to create materials of the same quality as those offered by the other Christian publishers.
   Pay for permission to adapt the high-quality materials from a Christian publisher and include Adventist doctrines.
   Publish a small booklet telling Adventist VBS leaders how to supplement the materials from a
I strongly agree  I agree  I am not sure  I disagree  I strongly disagree

Christian publisher
with some Adventist
ideas.

These are children
after all; so long as
there are no direct
contradictions to key
Adventist beliefs, it is
not that important to
present Adventist
doctrines. Use the
high-quality Christian
materials without
going to extra cost.

Publish a concise
"Adventist consumer's
guide" and let each
local leader get
whatever materials
they want from the
Christian market.

It concerns me that
Adventist churches
are promoting the
same VBS programs
as other churches in
the same area. We
are sending the
message that we are
one of many options.

8. Has anyone among your church members complained to you about anything in the
   VBS materials used in the past?
   
   Yes
   No
   I do not remember

9. How do you react to each of the following statements?

   I don't know  I agree  I disagree

   The materials
   published by Group
   have creative features
   that my leaders like.
I don't know  I agree  I disagree

At least one of my leaders objected to the music that comes on the CDs with the materials from Group.

At least one of my leaders has a problem with using materials not published by an Adventist publisher.

The materials from Review & Herald are not of the same quality as the materials from Group.

10. Which local conference are you employed in?

11. Do you have other suggestions or comments about VBS materials?