

An Introduction to the Entrepreneurial Leaders Research Program

Biola University,
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Chairman,
Entrepreneurial Leaders
Organization

The Purpose of the “Entrepreneurial Leaders Research Program”

To build the world’s leading base of research knowledge as to how Christian entrepreneurs integrate their faith with their work and to compile best practices which can then be used for training the next generation of Christian entrepreneurial leaders.



Presentation Outline

- I. Introduction to ELRP
- II. Christian Entrepreneurs: Profile of Interviewees
- III. Christian Entrepreneurs: Perspective of Interviewees
- IV. The Challenge & Opportunity: The Disconnect Between Business & Church
- V. Conclusion: Outcomes



I. Introduction to ELRP

- “Entrepreneurial Leader Research Program (ELRP)” - over 300 interviews with Christian entrepreneurs worldwide since 2005
- “Entrepreneurial Leaders Questionnaire” – open-ended and numerical responses”



Entrepreneurial Leaders
ORGANIZATION

I. Introduction to ELRP

INTERVIEWERS:

- Students – as part of a course assignments
- Researchers / Professors – Peter Heslam (Cambridge), Richard Higginson (Cambridge), Allen Knight (Spring Arbor University), etc.
- Rick Goossen

I. Introduction to ELRP

SOME UNEXPECTED FINDINGS:

- The “controversy” of calling
- The notion of betrayal
- The Hypocrisy Chill



I. Introduction to ELRP

WHAT IS AN ENTREPRENEUR?

- A widely-misunderstood term
- “Entrepreneurs” are distinct from “business people”; my presentation is distinct from the more generic “marketplace” discussion



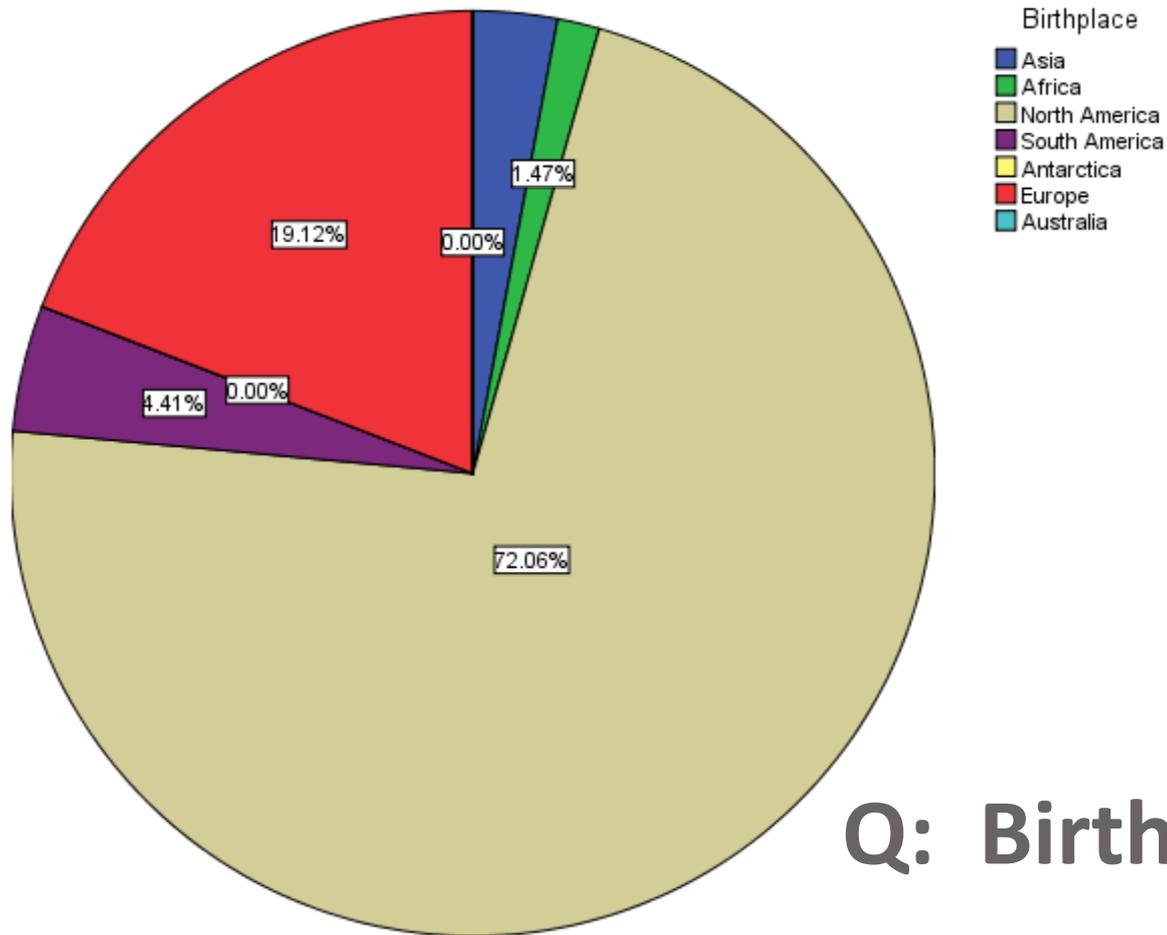
I. Introduction to ELRP

WHAT IS AN ENTREPRENEUR?

- Peter F. Drucker - the heart of entrepreneurship is innovation
- Occurs in various contexts: old & new; big & small; start-up & established
- Personality Style: creative, action-oriented, passionate



II. Christian Entrepreneurs: Profiles of Interviewees



Q: Birthplace?

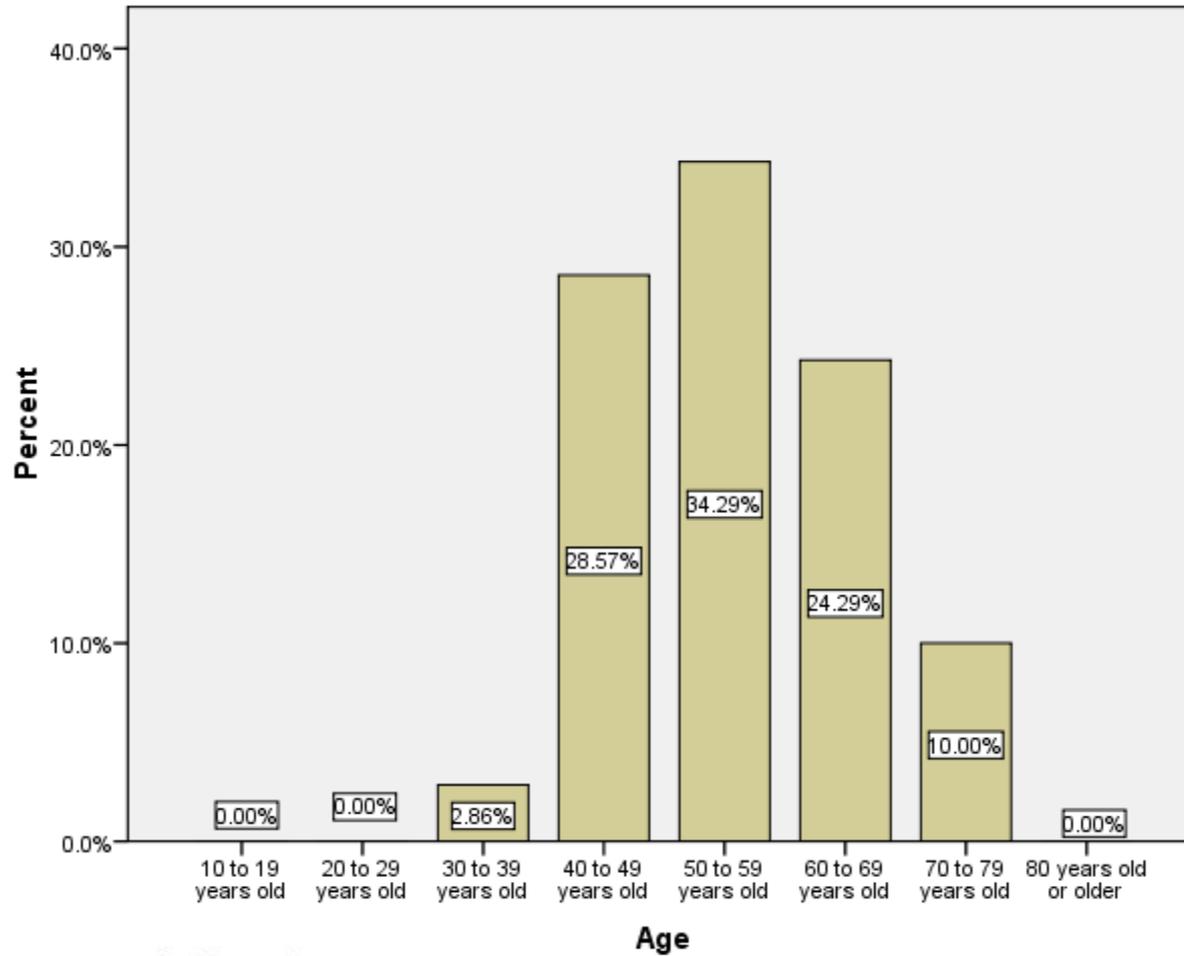
II. Christian Entrepreneurs: Profiles of Interviewees

BIRTH PLACE

- North America
- Europe
- South America



Q: Age?



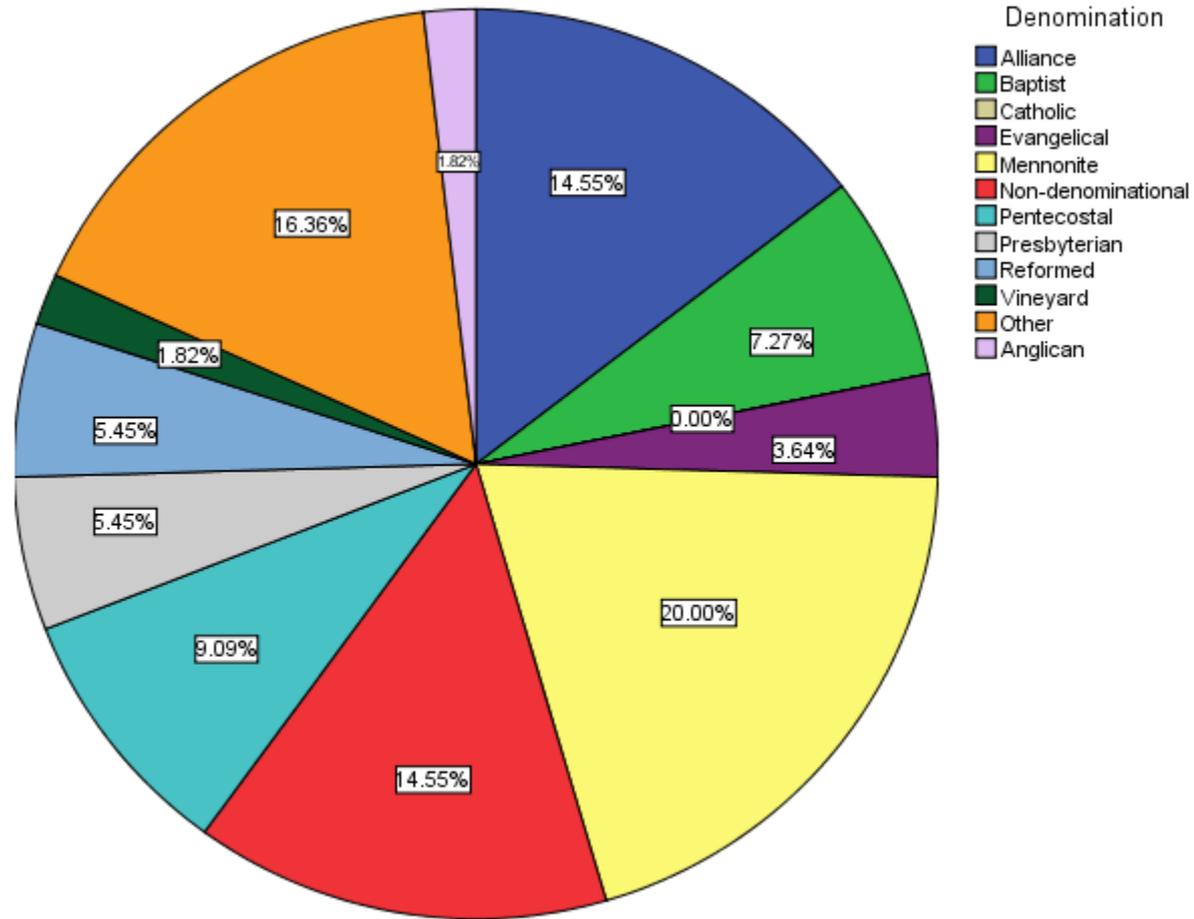
II. Christian Entrepreneurs: Profiles of Interviewees

AGE

- 50 - 59
- 40 - 49
- 60 - 69



Q: Denomination?



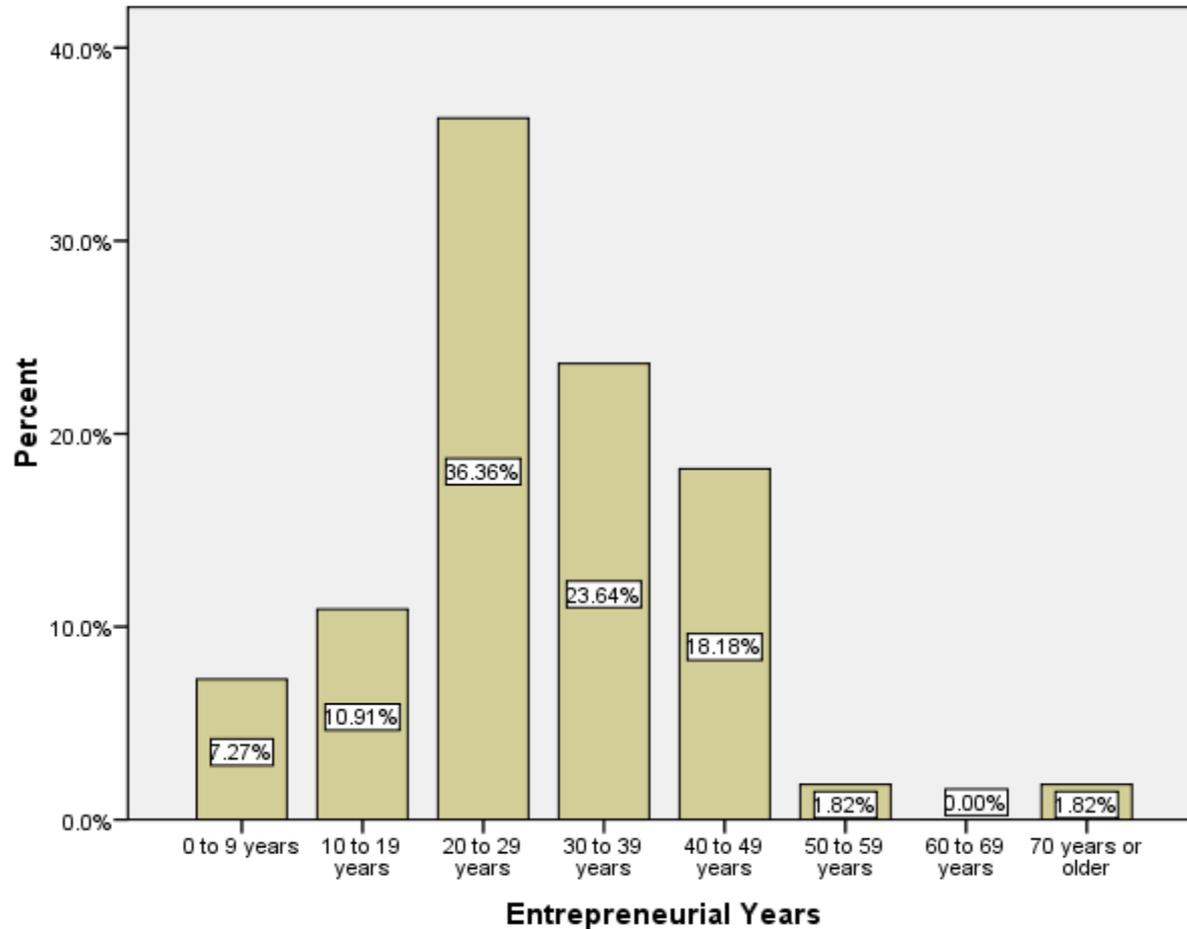
II. Christian Entrepreneurs: Profiles of Interviewees

DENOMINATIONS

- Pentecostal
- Alliance
- Baptist
- Mennonite
- Other
- Non-Denominational



Q: Number of Years as an Entrepreneur?



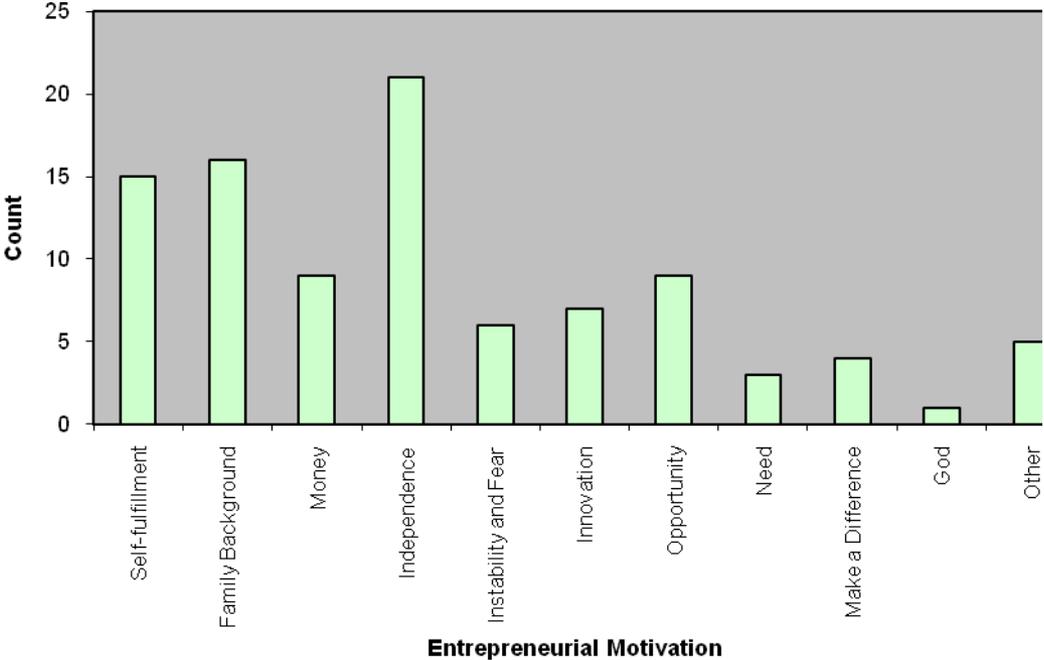
II. Christian Entrepreneurs: Profiles of Interviewees

NUMBER OF YEARS:

- 20 – 29
- 30 – 39
- 40 - 49



III. Christian Entrepreneurs: Perspectives of Interviewees



Q: Motivation?

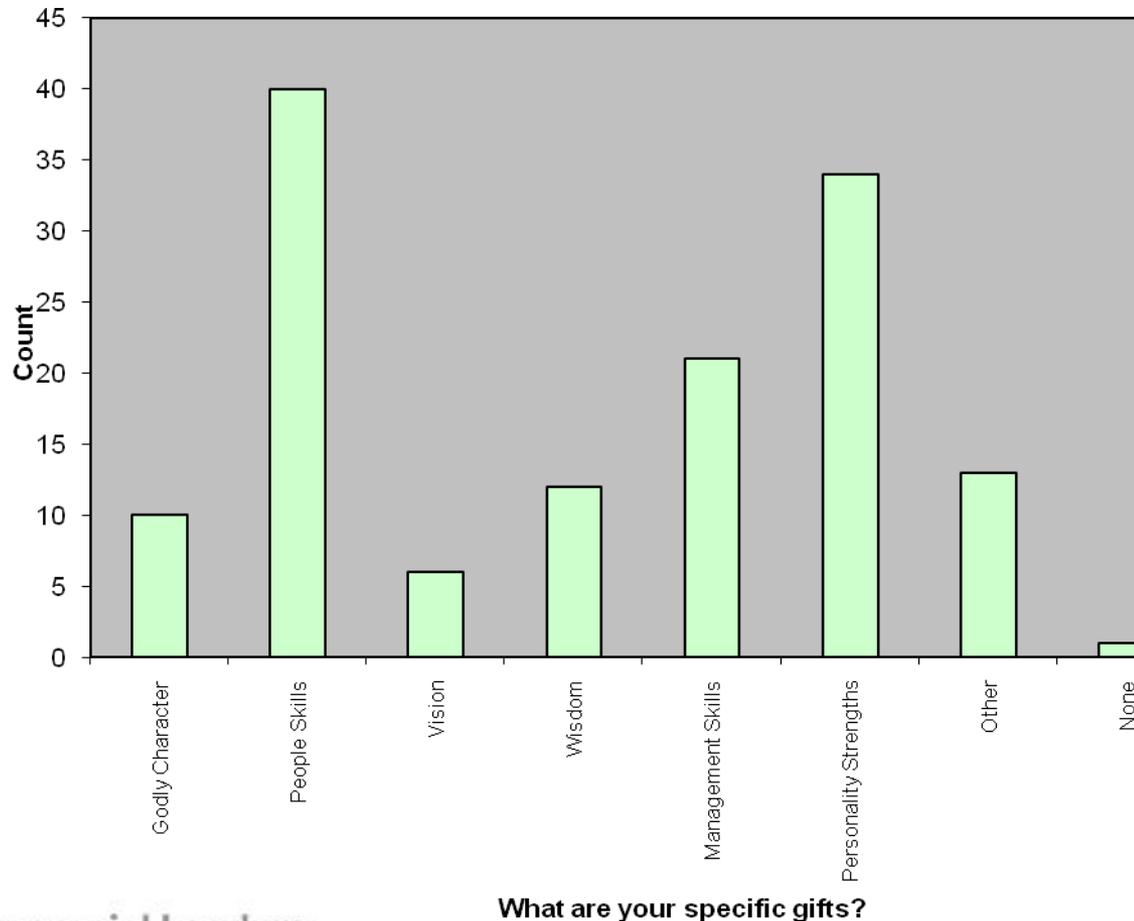
III. Christian Entrepreneurs: Perspectives of Interviewees

MOTIVATION

- Independence
- Family
- Self-fulfillment
- Opportunity
- Money



Q: What do you believe your gifts are as an entrepreneur?



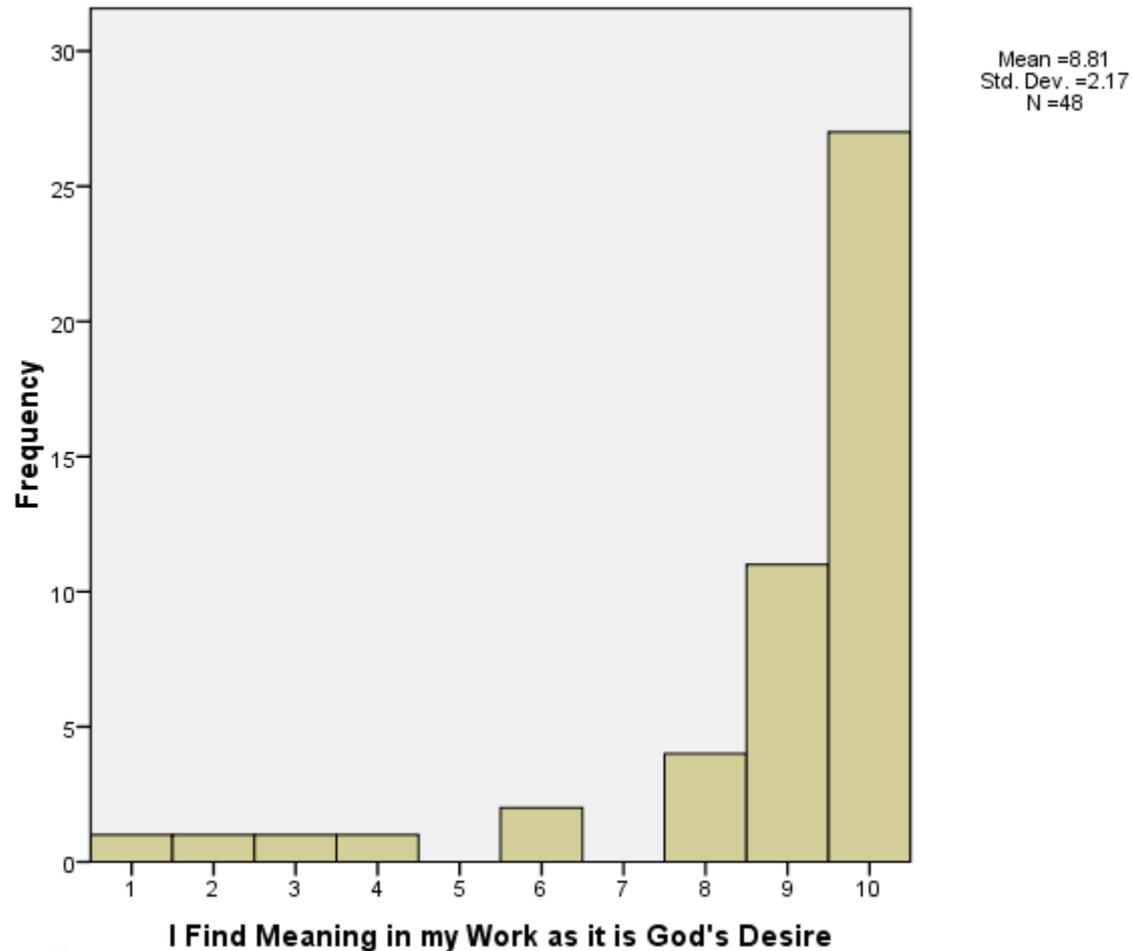
III. Christian Entrepreneurs: Perspectives of Interviewees

GIFTS

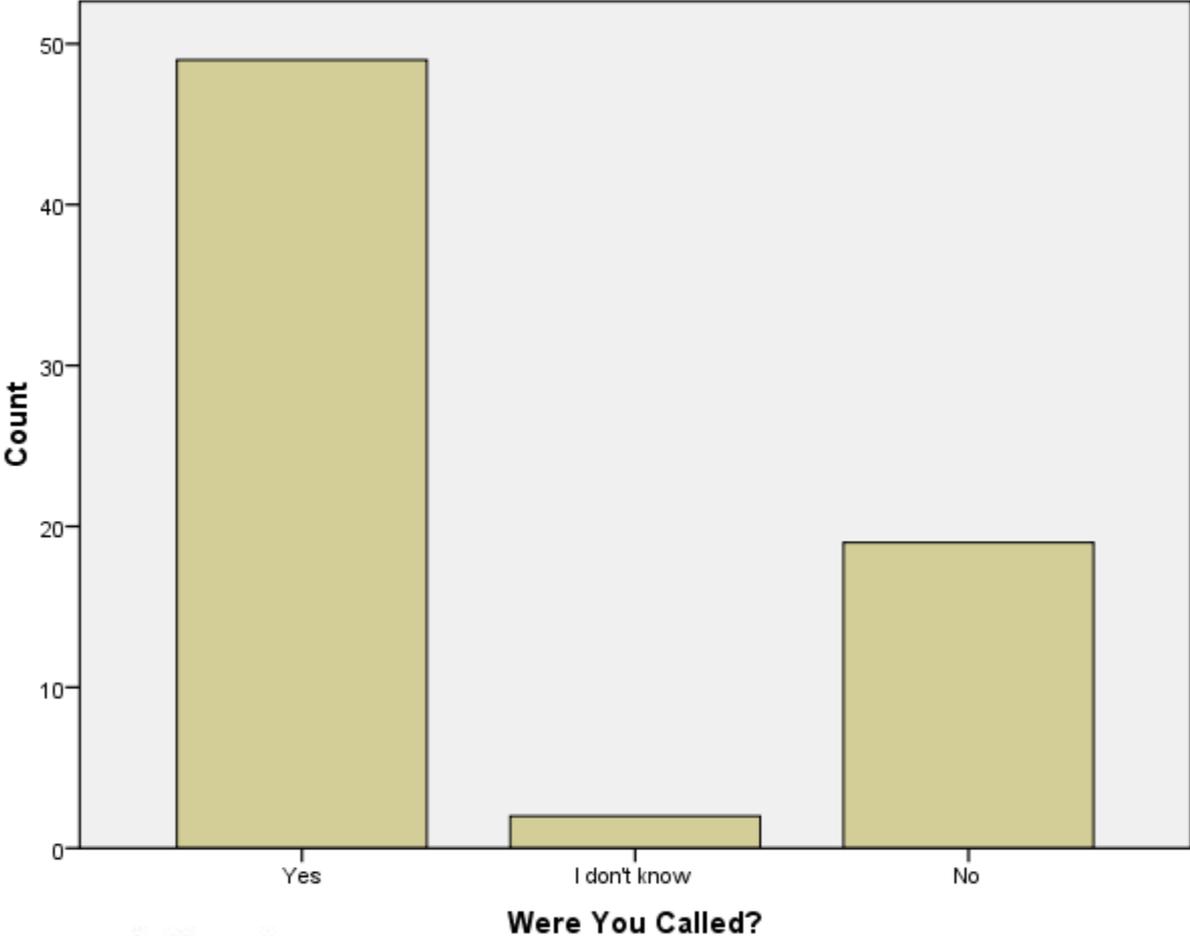
- People Skills
- Personality Strengths
- Management Skills



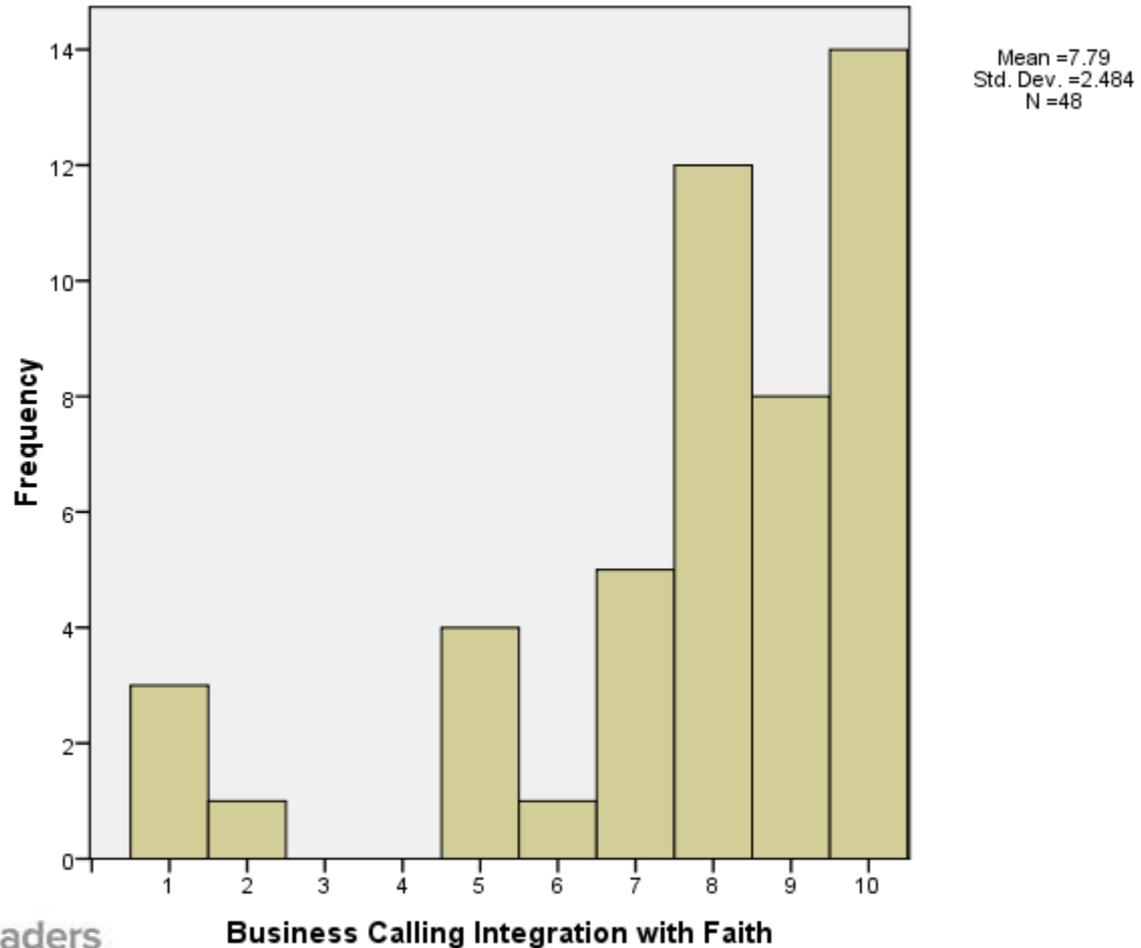
Q(Scale of 1-10): I find meaning in my work as it is God's desire



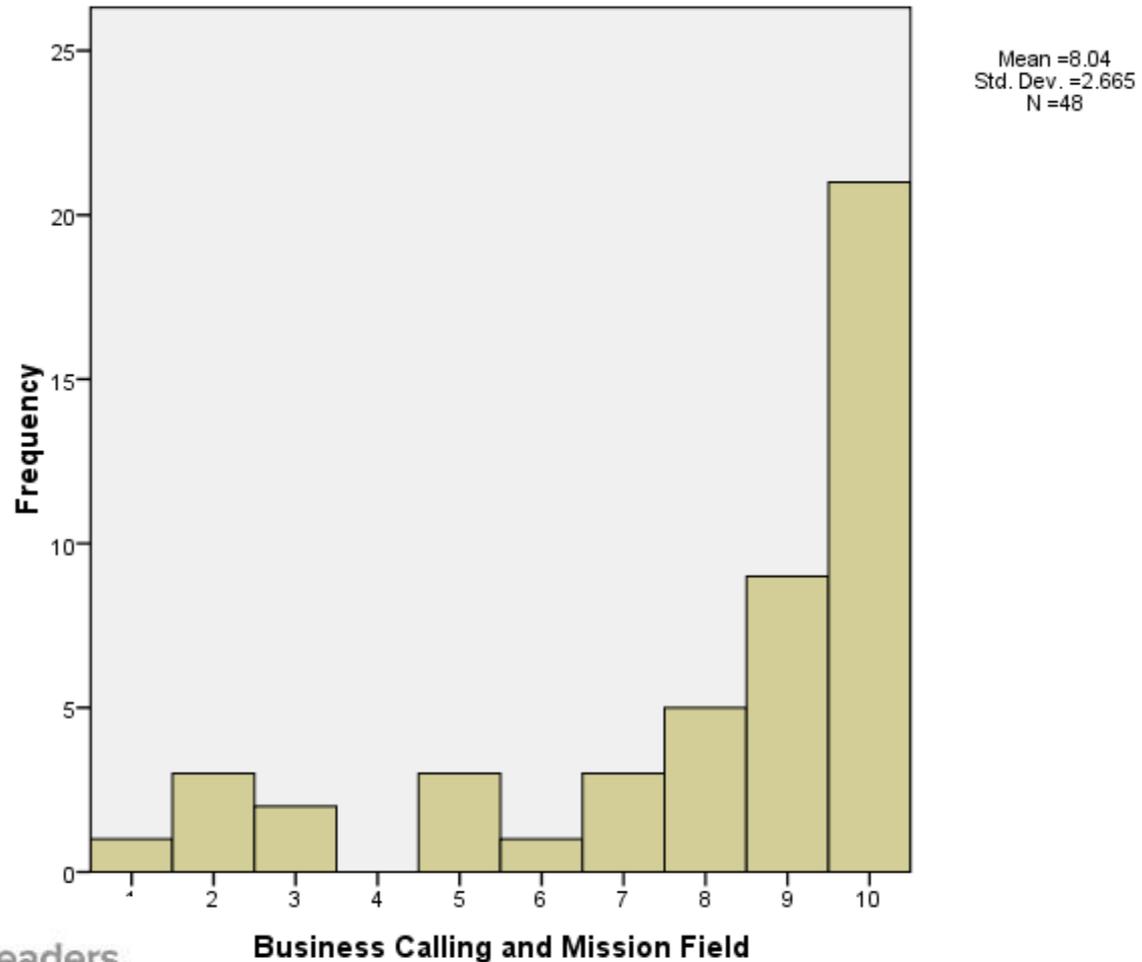
Q(Scale of 1-10): Do you feel that you were “called” to entrepreneurship?



Q(Scale of 1-10): I have discovered my calling in business and have integrated it with my faith largely through my own efforts.



Q(Scale of 1-10): I am involved in business because I believe I have been called to be and that the workplace is my mission field.



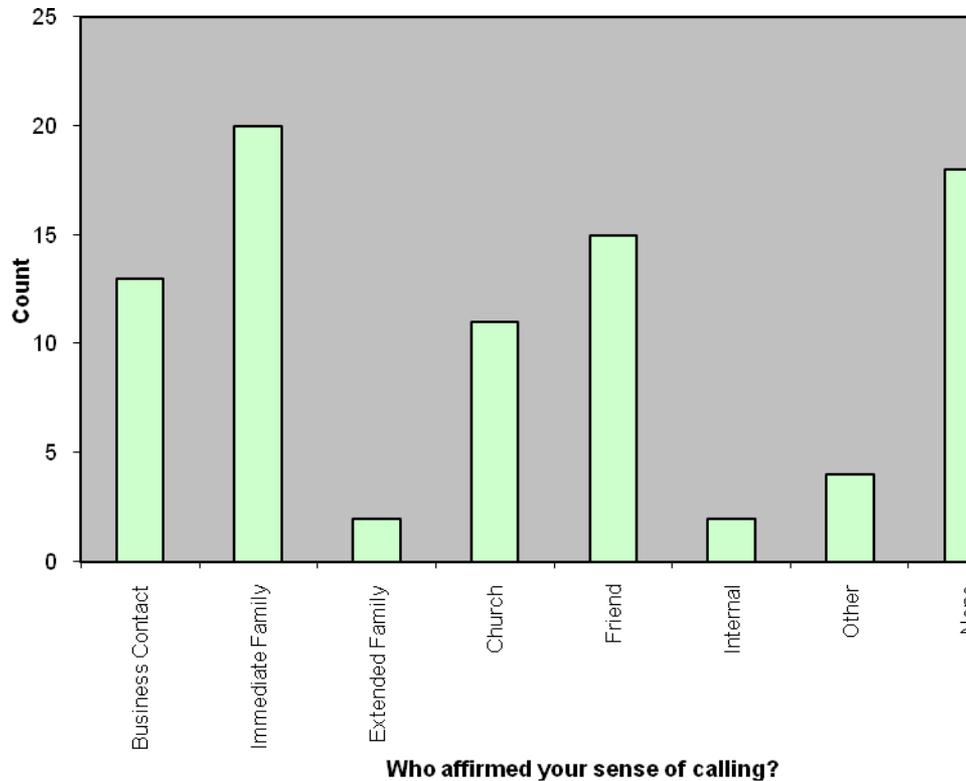
IV. The Challenge & The Opportunity

Based on the ELRP, the “perception” of Christian Entrepreneurs:

- Minimal understanding from Church leaders
- Minimal affirmation of calling
- Minimal credibility among church leaders



Q: Who, if anyone, affirmed your calling?



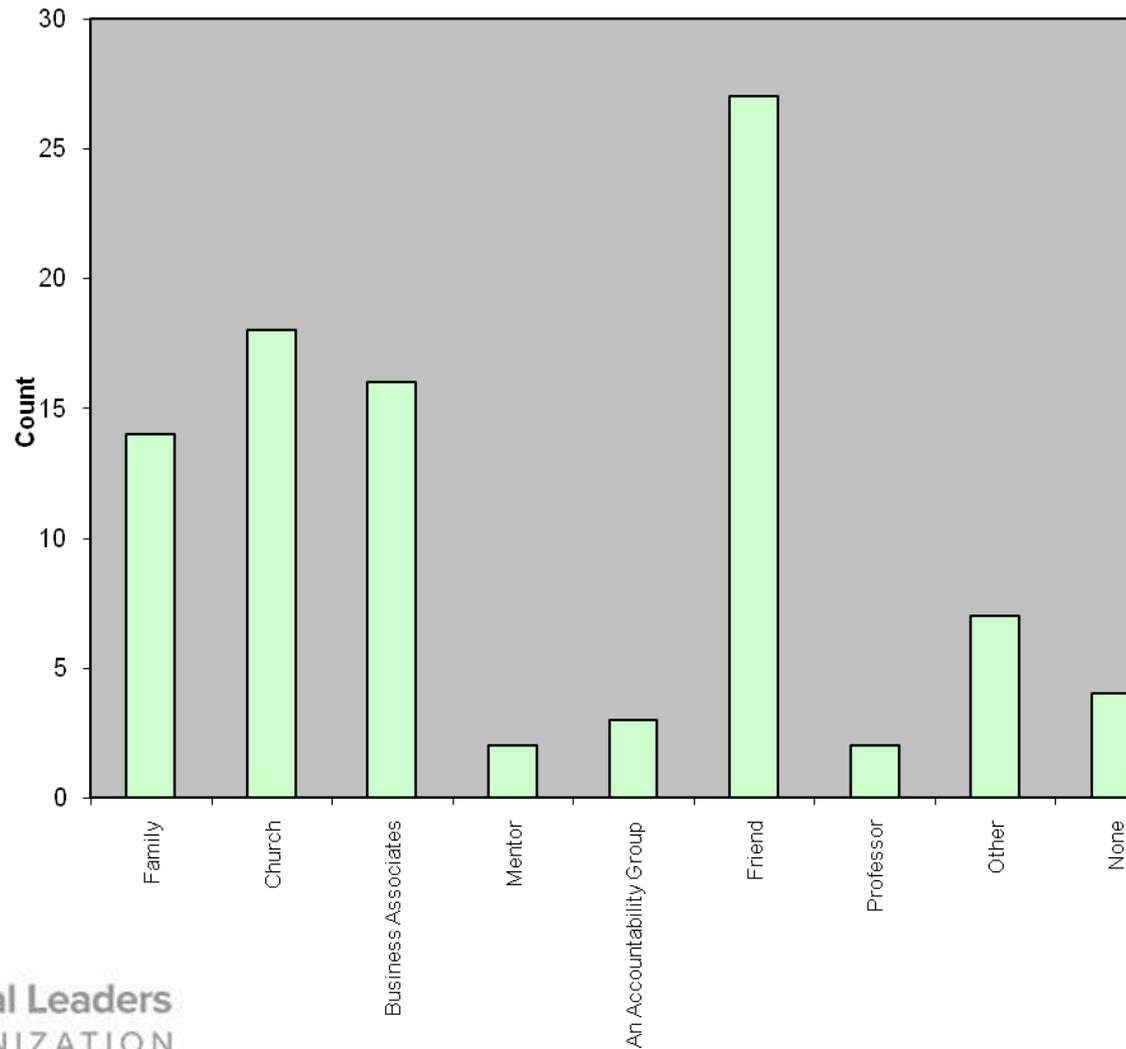
IV. The Challenge & The Opportunity

AFFIRMATION:

- Immediate Family
- None
- Friend
- Business Contact
- Church



Q: Who helped you with the challenges you faced as a Christian entrepreneur?



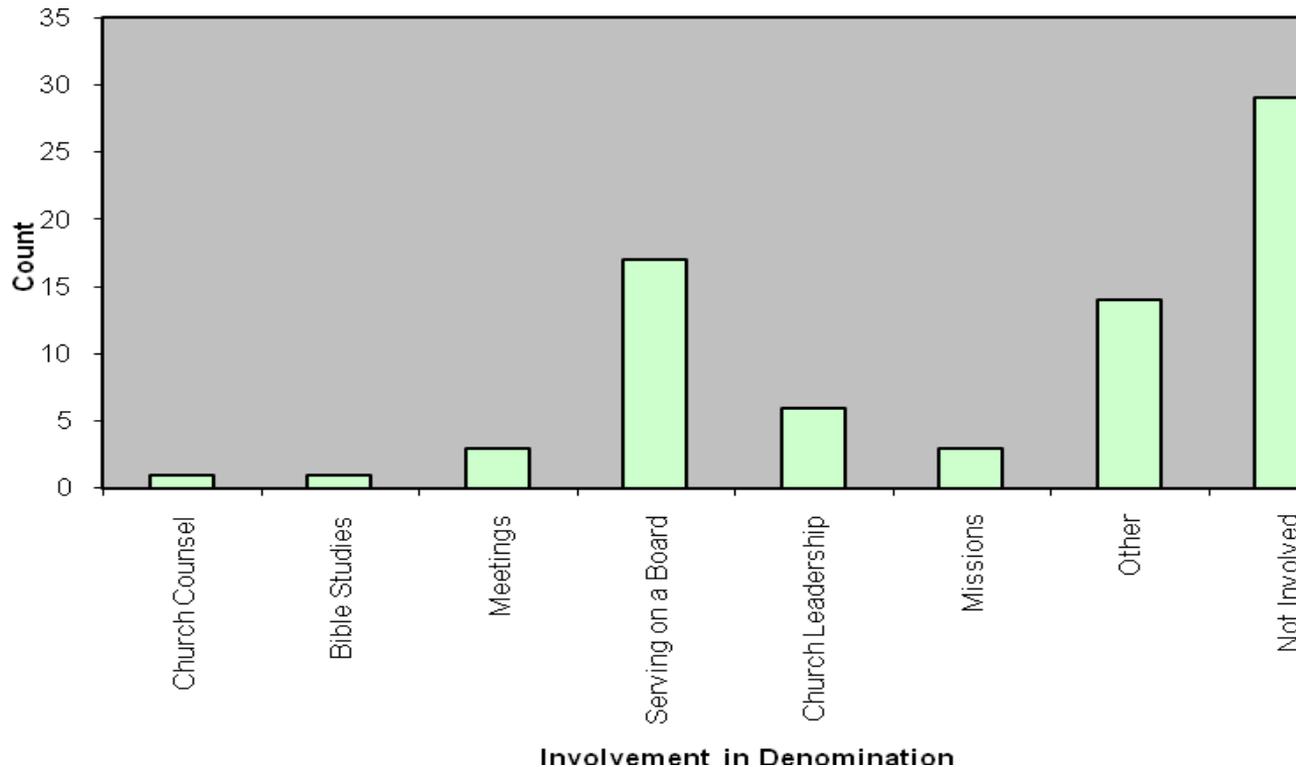
IV. The Challenge & The Opportunity

HELP

- Friend
- Church
- Business Associate
- Family



Q: Have you been involved in your church denomination and how?



IV. The Challenge & The Opportunity

INVOLVEMENT

- Not Involved
- Board



IV. The Challenge & The Opportunity

Based on the ELRP, the “self-declared” thinking and motivation of Christian entrepreneurs:

- They find meaning in work due to faith
- They view business as a mission field
- They want to make a difference



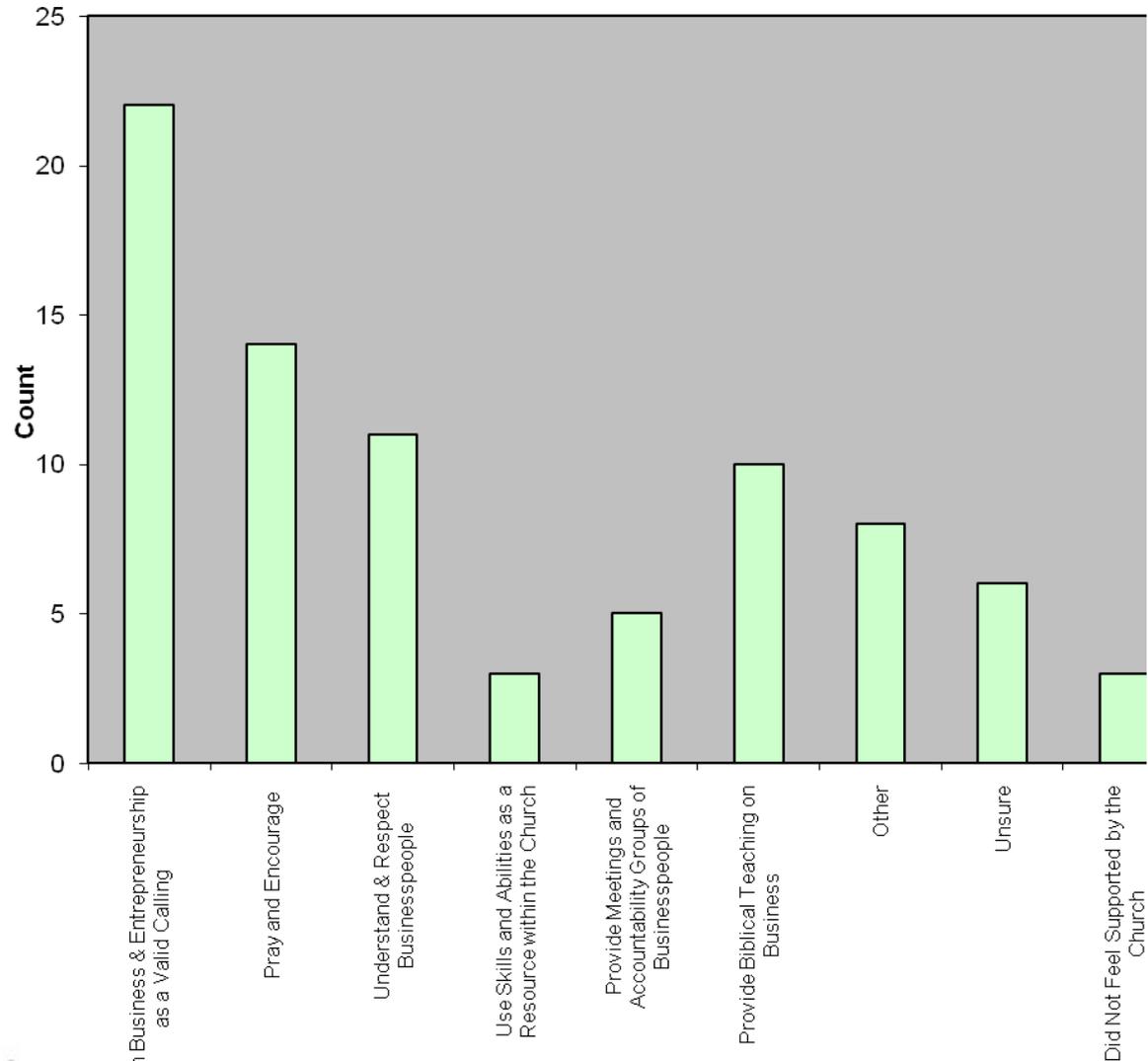
IV. The Challenge & The Opportunity

Based on the ELRP, there are 4 types of responses of entrepreneurs in relation to the church:

1. Disengage / remove from church
2. Remain in church / but be passive
3. Remain in church / focus on para-church organizations
4. Remain in church / active through church



Q: How could the church support you?



How could the church support you as an entrepreneur in pursuing your calling in business?

IV. The Challenge & The Opportunity

SUPPORT

- Validate Calling
- Pray & Encourage
- Understand & Respect Business People
- Provide Biblical Teaching



IV. The Challenge & The Opportunity

- The ELRP makes clear that there is a systemic disconnect between the church and business people
- The “losers” are the churches which don’t appreciate that this silent disconnect exists
- This is both a challenge and an opportunity



V. Conclusion: Outcomes

- Blog Posts - 50+ posts
- Publish interviews – 80 interviews e-published via Vryso
- Publish Books – 5 edited books & 1 co-authored books



V. Conclusion: Outcomes

- 15 “10in2” Entrepreneurial Leader Video profiles
- 25 Entrepreneurial Leaders Conferences in Hong Kong, Calgary, Vancouver & Toronto with the world’s top speakers
- Presently reaching 50,000 people per year



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