

SUNGAI WAY-SUBANG METHODIST CHURCH

**MSF SUNDAY  
SERMON | 8 OCT 2023**

**“Your old men shall  
dream dreams,  
your young men shall  
see visions”**

**Joel 2:28 & Luke 2:41-52**

Speaker

*Cheong Seng Gee*



**Your old men shall dream dreams,  
Your young men shall see visions**

**Joel 2:28 & Luke 2:41-52**

# PICKLES

BY

BRIAN CRANE





mstf?



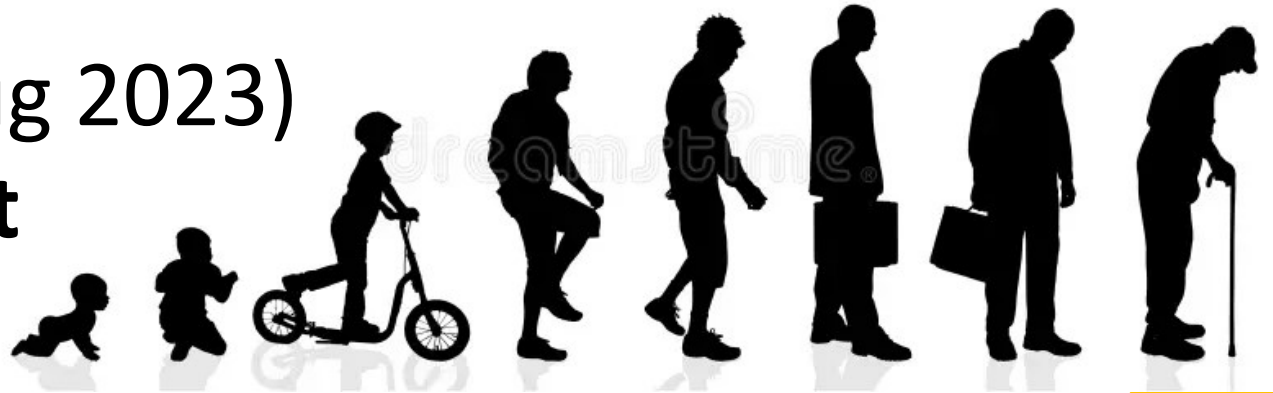


# **Who is the MSF?** (MBOD 2022, Chp 2, p.265)

- **50 years old and above : Jeannie the young and Jenny the senior**
- **Any pastoral staff of the church irrespective of age**
- **Associate members**
  - ❖ **Spouses of full members below 50 years of age**
  - ❖ **Friends of the church 50 years and above**
- **Love and care and in SSMC, “grateful”**

# 1. Longevity – The Facts

- **Lausanne Survey on Global Aging, 2023**  
(Lausanne SEA, 25 Aug 2023)
- **Human Development Index of UNDP, 0.643 in 1990 to 0.81 in 2019**  
(The STAR, 8 Sept 2023)

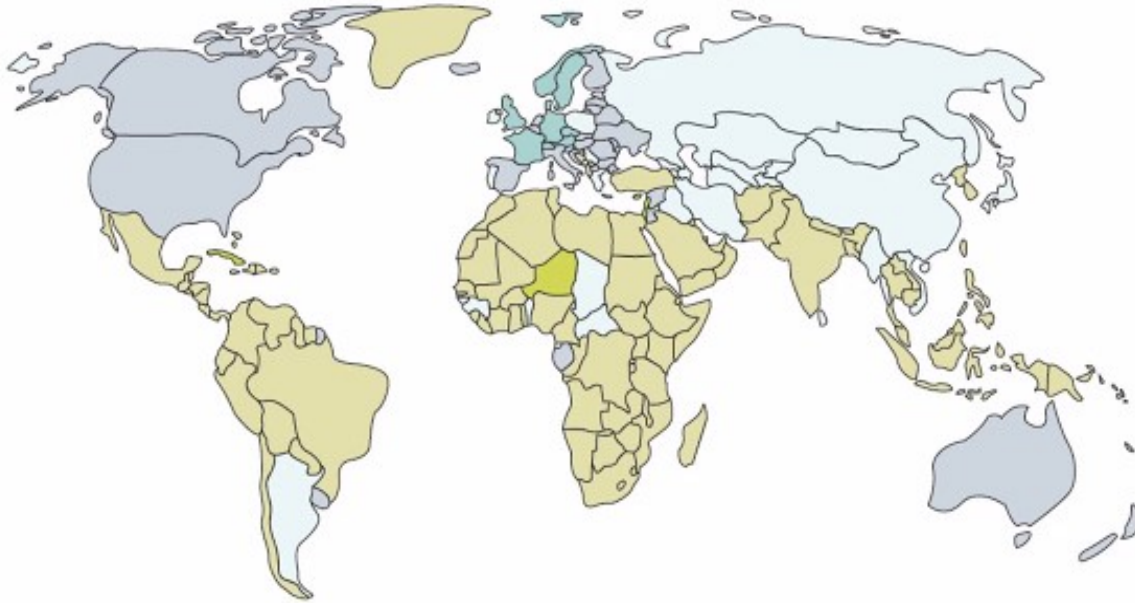




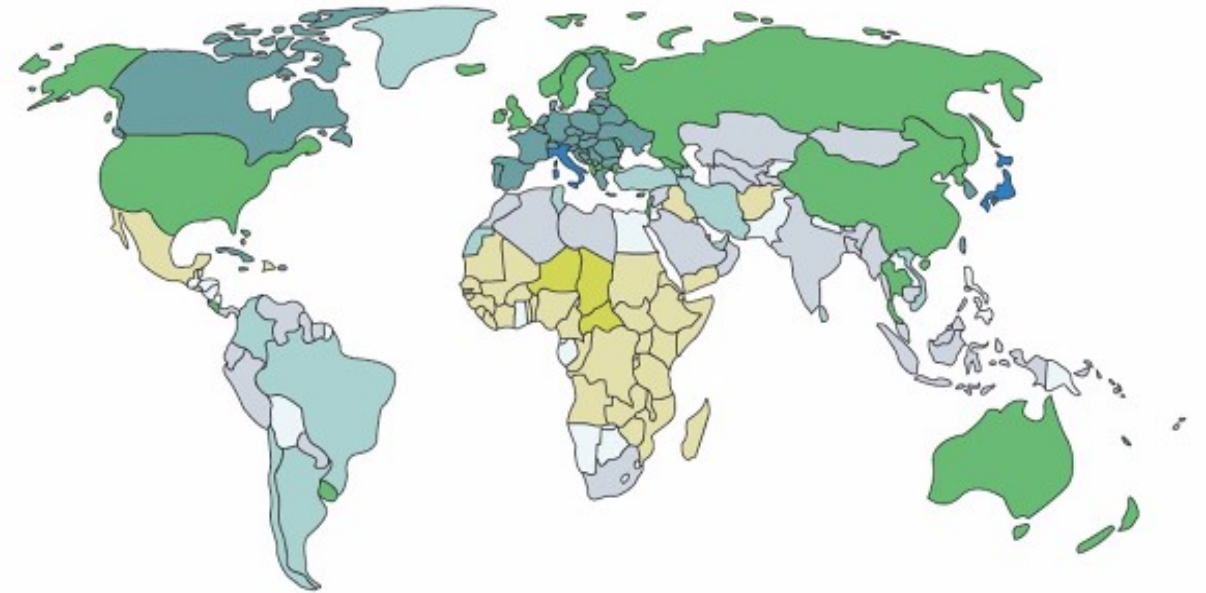


# GLOBAL AGING

## MEDIAN AGE BY COUNTRY 1950

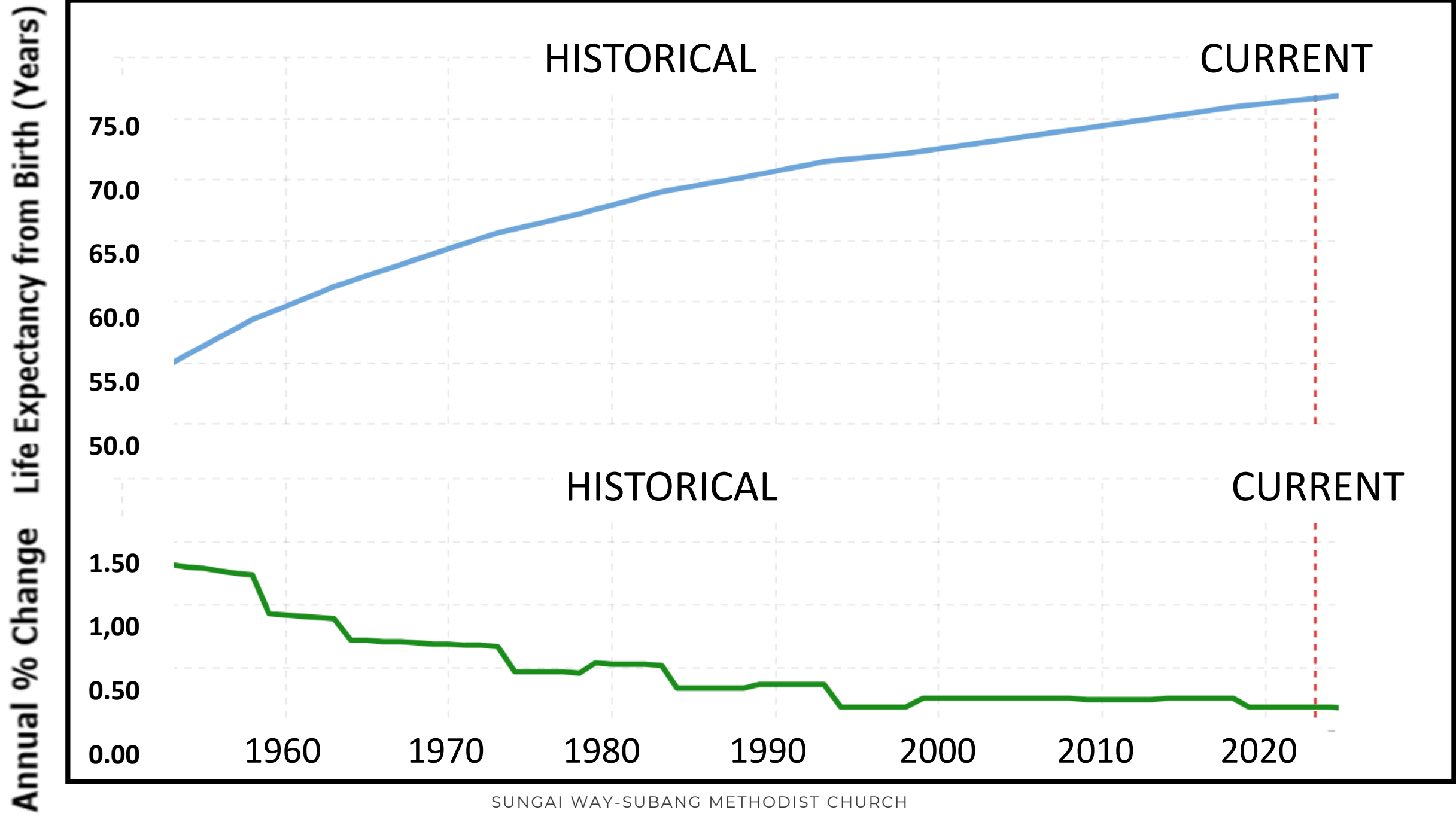


## MEDIAN AGE BY COUNTRY 2020



GLOBAL MEDIAN AGE

Source: OurWorldinData, United Nations, "World Population Prospects," 2022







# 2. The Seasons of Life

(Jim Rohn, 1981)

The Seasons  
of Life  
Ecclesiastes  
3:1-2,11

<sup>1</sup> To everything *there is* a season,  
A time for every purpose under heaven:

<sup>2</sup> A time to be born,  
And a time to die;  
A time to plant,  
And a time to pluck *what is* planted;

<sup>11</sup> He has made everything  
beautiful in its time.

Also He has put eternity in their hearts,  
except that no one can find out the work  
that God does from beginning to end.

# 3. Multigenerational Church : Today vs Yesterday

- **6 generations under one church roof – silent gen, boomers, X, Y, Z, Alpha**
- **Language – Gen Y & Z : YOLO, FOMO, TNTL vs Baby Boomers : groovy, hippie, like, boogie**
- **Technology : punch cards vs smart phones, multitasking vs sequential tasking (Bill Gates, Steve Jobs)**
- **Competency vs lived experience, speed vs stability**
- **Mental health vs paced life**



# 3. Multigenerational Church - Challenges

- **Postmodernism and the Young, a consumerist society like Starbucks**
- **Separation of services (Sat/Sun worship services, weekends, free flow vs liturgical, etc)**
- **Virtual church and virtual seminars/training – church without borders and f2f, attendance?**
- **Physical dependency & frailties**

### 3. Multigenerational Church – Luke 2: 41-50

- Feast of the Passover, a 12-year old boy left behind
- Assumed in the company of friends and relatives
- After more than 3 days, found in a temple at Jerusalem
- Engaging in **deep listening and conversation** with **teachers/elders**, age is no barrier
- **“My Father’s business”**

# 4. Being Intergenerational

## 4.1 Listening & Trust

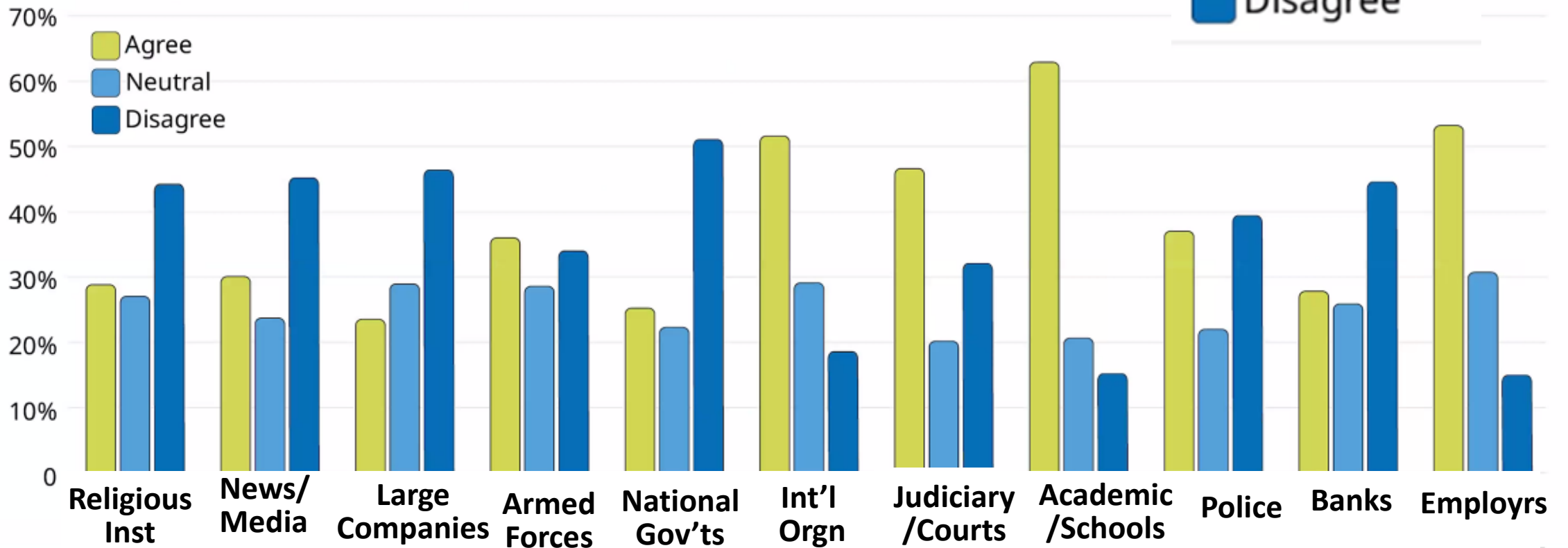
- **Tim Elmoe on what can stop us listening well**
  - 1) Judgmental
  - 2) Selective
  - 3) Impatient
  - 4) Egocentric
  - 5) Patronising
  - 6) Stubborn
- **Listening with the “ear to the heart”**
- **Trust deficit amongst the young (Global Youth Trust)**
- **Trust begins when relationships are nurtured**
- **Dr Chansamone’s father, paternal and maternal grandfather from Hinduism to Christianity – a testimony of trust and conversion**





# YOUTH TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS

"I trust the following institutions to be fair and honest:"



Source: World Economic Forum, "Global Shapers Survey," 2017; Global survey of 24,766 participants ages 18-35

# 4. Being Intergenerational

## 4.2 Mutual Respect

- **The Asian Culture e.g. Cambodian's Tvey Bongkom or Ritual Bowing**
- **Intra-family relationships e.g. mine of 4 generations, gender predominance**
- **Joel 2:28, Genesis 9:12-13, Ephesians 3:20-21**

# 4. Being Intergenerational

– Tvey Bongkom (Ritual Bowing) & Sachah





# 5. A Perspective Shift – Old Old Dependency Stage

- **Story of old man and his daughter**
- **1 Corinthians 1:27-29**
- **Elizabeth, Simeon, Anna (Luke 1 & 2)**



# Conclusion

- 1. A retirement vocation and a spirit of volunteerism  
( Prov 14:15 )**
- 2. For the younger ones :  
Seniors need to be reassured and are still assets.  
Communicate, listen, care.**
- 3. Can the dream of a multigenerational turn  
intergenerational church be a reality in SSMC?**
- 4. Faith, hope, love but the greatest of these is love.  
( 1 Cor 13:13 )**