

Religious Commitment Report 02-09, July 2002

How Is Volunteering Associated With Religious Commitment?

by Frank Jones¹

Abstract. *This study assesses the importance of four aspects of religious commitment on the decision to volunteer in secular and religious organizations, and on the hours committed to volunteering by volunteers. The four aspects are faith affiliation, frequency of worship, religiosity, and religious background—being active in a religious organization when in grade school. After considering the influence on volunteering of a number of control factors, all four factors were found to be significantly (in a statistical sense) associated with the likelihood of volunteering and hours contributed. For example, faith affiliation was found to be significantly associated with the likelihood of volunteering, of volunteering by the religiously affiliated, of volunteering in secular organizations, of volunteering in secular organizations by the religiously affiliated, of volunteering in religious organizations, and of volunteering in religious organizations by the religiously affiliated. Religiosity and religious background were also found to be associated with these forms of volunteering, and attendance was found to be associated with these forms of volunteering in all cases where the variable was available. Attendance was unavailable for the religiously unaffiliated, but for this sub-population religious background was found to be significantly associated with volunteering. Attendance was found to be associated with hours volunteered, the total hours, secular organization hours, and religious organization hours. All significant associations were positive, as theory predicts. It is recommended that frequency of attendance be asked of the religiously unaffiliated, (41% of unaffiliated children attend services at least once a year) and that, in view of the importance of religious factors, frequency of prayer for those in need (one more form of giving) be added to the list of religious factors surveyed in the Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating. It is also recommended that the four aspects of religion be included in path or structural equation models in order to determine causal influences of religion on volunteering. Wording of the religion questions should not be changed for two reasons: the present wording is yielding very useful new information on relationships, and consistency over time allows survey results to be pooled and small region and sub-population behaviour to be analyzed.*

Religious commitment has many dimensions and not all may be related to community involvement. In this study we assume that worship frequency, religiosity, a religious background, and the faith community affiliation all play a role, though the importance of the role of each factor depends on the type of community involvement. These four religious commitment factors are measurable from Canada's best single survey containing religious commitment and community involvement variables, the *National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating* of Statistics Canada. The samples of the 1997 and 2000 surveys are combined in this study, though the trend effect is also measured. The 1997 sample equals 18,302 and the 2000 sample equals 14,724.

In the following the argument for the importance of different religious commitment variables is first summarized, then methods are explained, tabulations noted, analytical

results are portrayed, and recommendations are included in a conclusion. An appendix presents the analytical results.

Theoretical rationale

The theoretical rationale for expecting religious commitment to be important should be explained for each of the types of religious commitment. For simplification, this rationale is considered only as it relates to volunteering in secular and religious organizations. Faith communities are expected to differ in the emphasis they give to the importance of volunteering both in their own community and in the wider community. Needs for volunteering may also differ by faith communities, and be related to such factors as the age of the members or their income needs. How religious one feels, religiosity, is expected to affect how one views others or the community, secular or religious, and the expectation is that more religious people will be more inclined to respond to requests to volunteer, especially when needs, whether physical, emotional, social or spiritual are met. While religiosity is a perceptual aspect of religious commitment, worship frequency is a behavioural aspect, involving a decision, whether to attend religious services or not, and if so, how often. Higher frequencies of attendance would bring one into more frequent contact with needs for both secular and religious volunteering, and with the organizers of such volunteering. Having a religious background is expected to have a continuing positive influence on one's response to volunteering need, either through religious or secular organizations.

Religious commitment may indirectly affect volunteering in ways not explored in this study. For example, in another study the religiously committed are found to be more satisfied with life, which in turn is found in this study to be positively associated with volunteering inclination and time committed². Also, by way of example, religious commitment affects religion sector volunteering, which in turn, at least in some faiths, leads to secular volunteering. Time spent watching television is another decision factor in our analysis, one that may affect either the volunteering commitment or the frequency of worship.

Methods

In this preliminary analysis we are interested only in associations, not causal structures. The dependent variables are the decisions to volunteer (equal to one if the person volunteers, and zero otherwise) and the hours volunteered, given one has chosen to volunteer. The independent variables measuring religious commitment and other factors are defined in the footnotes to Appendix tables 1.1 and 1.6. Associations are determined using weighted regression methods and a statistical association is deemed to be statistically significant if the t test reveals significance at the 1% (0.01) level. Obviously it would be technically better to use logistic regression in estimating whether or not one volunteers, though the two approaches tend to identify similar variables as statistically significant, and regression estimates are much easier to interpret. This approach has been followed in many published articles in respected journals.

The type of religious commitments included in the regression depend on the availability of data. The most obvious deficiency is the lack of an attendance variable for the religiously unaffiliated. Though many of those unaffiliated with a faith community say they are religious, have a religious background, and volunteer in religious organizations, and no doubt attend religious services, these people were not asked their frequency of worship. (We suspect many of the religiously unaffiliated do in fact worship from other evidence, for example, 12% of children with no religious affiliation attended religious services regularly in 1998-99, and 41% at least once in the year) according to results from Statistics Canada's *National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth*.³) Not having been asked the question on worship frequency, these respondents have to be dropped from models predicting community involvement that include a worship frequency predictor. As a result, in order to assess the relative importance of religious commitment factors, we have dropped the worship frequency variable from predictions using the whole adult population of Canada. But separate models are specified for the religiously affiliated population, and these include all four religious commitment factors. Separate analyses are also conducted for the religiously unaffiliated population, and these include the religiosity and religious background variables.

It is necessary to study the inter-correlation of the religious commitment factors in order to judge if there will be a serious problem of multicollinearity in the regression estimates. Correlations are statistically significant (using a one-tail test) between attendance and religiosity, 0.51, attendance and religious background, 0.32, and religiosity and religious background, 0.35. Correlations with faith community dummy variables are much lower. Regression estimates including these variables in an equation must therefore be viewed with caution. Our comments therefore refer only to the statistical significance of the relationship, not the actual degree of relationship, and our criteria of significance is on the conservative side, 0.01 level, in order to lessen the problem of spurious correlations being viewed as real associations.

Regarding the variables, faith communities have been grouped into liberal (United Church, Anglican, Presbyterian and Lutheran), conservative (Baptist, Pentecostal and smaller Christian faiths), and Catholic (French speaking and non-French). Obviously there are many traditional, conservative, evangelical and fundamentalist members in the liberal group, and many theologically liberal members in the conservative group. In fact, many the smaller Christian faiths are theologically liberal. These groupings of faiths, however, tend to be similar in terms of religious commitment. Non-Christian faiths are grouped together because of the small samples. The religiously unaffiliated are those who say they have no religious affiliation, or affiliation with a denomination or faith community. Worship attendance frequencies refer to worship, excluding special services such as weddings, or funerals. Religion volunteers are those who volunteered in religious organizations in the year prior to the survey interview, and not necessarily in their own congregation or faith community. Secular volunteers are those who volunteered in non-religious voluntary organizations. Some Canadians volunteer in both types of organizations.

Control variables include age (the natural log), sex, and education. Those with a university degree, post-secondary education, and a high school graduation diploma are identified as separate variables, so that those with less than high school graduation are the reference population. Other variables include immigrant status, residence in the community under two years, television watching under five hours a week, and the perception of being very satisfied with life in general – all dichotomous variables. The Atlantic provinces, Quebec, Ontario, and the Prairie provinces capture the regional effects; British Columbia is the reference region. Finally, the year is included to measure any trend in volunteering between 1997 and 2000. Notes on the specific variables used appear in Table 1 and Appendices 1.1 and 1.3. Marital status, number of children and other variables may be associated with volunteering, though are excluded from this analysis.

Tabulations

Tables 1, 2 and 3 present rates of total, religion sector, and secular volunteering for the population, divided into various religious groups. Table 1 for example shows wide variations in the volunteer rates of 1997 and 2000 by the four religious factors examined in this study: faith tradition, worship frequency, religiosity, and religious background. The religion volunteer rate varies much more than the secular volunteer rate within all four aspects of religious commitment, as one would expect. Even in the case of secular volunteering, however, large differences are to be noted – for example, 31% of liberal Protestants volunteered in 2000, compared with 18% of non-Christians. Also, 32% of those with a religious background volunteered in secular organizations, compared with 22% of those without a religious background. And 35% of those with no religion now (but a religious background) compared with 24% of those with no religion ever.

The population is more finely divided by religious commitment in tables 2 and 3, where the samples for 1997 and 2000 are combined in order to yield reliable estimates for most groups. Reading down the column shows how volunteer rates vary within a religious tradition by worship frequency and religiosity. In all religious traditions except non-Christian the total and secular volunteer rates tend to increase. The stronger the religiosity, the higher these rates tend to be. Volunteering rates in religious organizations also tend to be higher, the more frequent the worship and stronger the religiosity, though there are many data cells suppressed owing to small samples, even when the samples of the two years are combined.

Table 3 shows the volunteer rates for faith traditions by religious background, and for faith traditions by religious background by religiosity. In all faiths the rates are higher among those with a religious background than those without. Given both faith tradition and religious background status, both the total and secular volunteer rates tend to be higher the stronger the religiosity.

While tabulations suggest strong and independent effects of different aspects of religious commitment on volunteering, the effects may reflect the different characteristics

of the populations. In the analyses reported below, important characteristics of the populations, important from the viewpoint of volunteering decisions, are controlled so that the independent associations of the different aspects of religious commitment can be measured, and tested concerning statistical significance.

Analytical Results

The purpose of the following analyses is to determine the importance of Statistics Canada's four religious commitment factors on total, religious and secular volunteering, both the decision to volunteer and the hours committed by volunteers. Three of the commitment factors, faith affiliation, religiosity, and religious background, can be assessed for the whole population. Two can be assessed for the religiously unaffiliated, that is, religiosity, and religious background. All four may be assessed for the religiously affiliated population – the fourth factor is worship frequency, an aspect of commitment that was not asked of the religiously unaffiliated. The detailed results of the analyses are portrayed in the appendices. All the levels of explanation are statistically significant at the 0.01 level, though the levels are low in some of the results, but this is not uncommon in models of individual behaviour.

1. All formal volunteering and religious commitment

The whole population

In the following results are reported on both the inclination to volunteer in a voluntary organization, and the hours volunteered, given one is a volunteer. The worship frequency factor cannot be included in this model owing to the fact that it was not asked of the religiously unaffiliated. The unaffiliated are the reference population for the faith community variables.

All three religious commitment variables are highly statistically significant in the volunteering inclination equation. Both liberal Protestants and conservative Christians are more likely to volunteer than the religiously unaffiliated, while non-French Catholics and non-Christians are less likely. French Catholics are neither more nor less likely than the religiously unaffiliated to volunteer. Having a religious background and religiosity both have strong positive associations with the likelihood of volunteering. All the religious commitment variables are among the most important.

Several of the control variables are also strongly associated with the inclination to volunteer. The inclination is higher, given the other factors, the younger one is, if one is female, if one is a high school graduate compared with those with less education, is Canadian born rather than an immigrant, for those resident two or more years in the community, for those watching under five hours of television a week, and for those satisfied with life. Regionally, the inclination to volunteer is stronger in the Prairie region than British Columbia, and British Columbia rather than Quebec. The inclination was lower in 2000 than in 1997, given the other factors.

Two of three religious commitment variables are associated with hours volunteered by volunteers. Both religiosity and having a religious background are positively associated with hours volunteered. Several of the control variables are also significant. Hours increase with age, and are higher for men, those resident two or more years in the community, those who watch less than five hours of television a week, and those satisfied with their life. Hours volunteered are higher in British Columbia than either Ontario or the Prairie region.

The religiously unaffiliated

Two religious commitment factors are available for the religiously unaffiliated – having a religious background, and religiosity. Having a religious background is positively associated with the likelihood of volunteering, but not with the hours of volunteer work by the volunteer. Religiosity is not statistically significant in either case.

Several control variables are statistically significant for the religiously unaffiliated. In the prediction of the likelihood of volunteering, the likelihood is higher the younger the person, for women, for those with post-secondary education and university degrees, for those resident two or more years in the community, for those who watch fewer than five hours of television a week, for those satisfied with life, and for residents of the Prairie region rather than British Columbia. The likelihood was higher in 1997 than 2000.

The hours committed to volunteering by volunteers increases with age and is also lower in the Prairie region than British Columbia. None of the other control variables are significant.

The religiously affiliated

For Canadians with a faith community, all four religious commitment variables have significant associations with the likelihood of volunteering and all except the faith community variables have significant associations with the hours volunteered by volunteers. After considering the effect of all other variables, we find that French Catholics are more likely to volunteer than other Catholics and non-Christians – this result may be affected by the interaction with the Quebec region variable. The likelihood of volunteering increases with the frequency of worship and religiosity, and is higher for those with a religious background.

The likelihood of volunteering is associated with a number of control variables. It decreases with age, increases with education, and is higher for those who are Canadian born, have resided two or more years in the community, who watch under five hours of television a week, and for those satisfied with their life. Regionally, the likelihood is higher in the Prairie region than British Columbia, and British Columbia than in Quebec and Ontario. The likelihood of volunteering was higher in 1997 than 2000.

The number of hours volunteered is higher, the more frequent the worship, the greater the religiosity, and for those with a religious background. Hours volunteered also increase with age, and are greater for men, for those resident two or more years in the community, for those who watch under five hours of television a week, for those satisfied with their life, and for residents of British Columbia and Quebec rather than the Prairie region.

2. Secular organization volunteering and religious commitment

The whole population

The general hypothesis applies to volunteering in secular organizations: the more religiously committed persons will be more likely to volunteer, and to volunteer more hours, given they have decided to volunteer. Also, inclinations to volunteer and hours committed will vary by faith community.

Regarding the inclination to volunteer in secular organizations, three of three religious commitment variables are statistically significant, and several control variables as well. Non-French Catholics and non-Christians are less likely to volunteer than the religiously unaffiliated and liberal Protestants, those with a religious background are more likely to volunteer than those without, and the likelihood of volunteering increases with religiosity. The likelihood to volunteer decreases with age, increases with education, and is higher for women, those born in Canada, those resident two or more years in the community, those who watch fewer than five hours of television a week, those satisfied with their life, residents of British Columbia and the Atlantic region rather than Quebec, and the Prairie provinces rather than British Columbia, and those interviewed in 1997 rather than 2000.

Concerning hours volunteered per secular organization volunteer, two of the three available measures of religious commitment are statistically significant, as are several of the control variables. Non-French Catholics and conservative Christians volunteer fewer hours than the religiously unaffiliated and liberal Protestants, and those with a religious background contribute more hours than those without such a background. Religiosity is unimportant. Hours committed increase with age, are higher for men, those resident two or more years in the community, those watching under five years of television a week, those satisfied with their life, and those interviewed in 2000 rather than 1997.

The religiously affiliated

Three of four aspects of religious commitment have important associations with the inclination to volunteer in secular organizations – faith community, frequency of worship, and a religious background. French Catholics are more likely to volunteer than other Catholics, conservative Christians and non-Christians, and the inclination to volunteer is higher the more frequent the worship, and if one has a religious background. Religiosity is unimportant. The inclination to volunteer decreases with age and increases with education, and is higher for women, the Canadian born, those resident two or more years in the community, those satisfied with life, residents of the Prairie region rather

than British Columbia or the Atlantic region, and British Columbia rather than Quebec or Ontario, and for those interviewed in 1997 rather than 2000.

Concerning the hours volunteered per volunteer, hours are higher for liberal Protestants than non-French Catholics, conservative Christians and non-Christians, those with a religious background, and the more frequent the worship, but is unassociated with religiosity. Hours contributed are also higher the older the volunteer, and for men, those resident two or more years in the community, those who watch under five hours of television a week, those satisfied with their life, and those interviewed in 2000 rather than 1997.

3. Religion sector volunteering and religious commitment

The whole population

All three dimensions of religious commitment are significantly associated with the likelihood of volunteering in religious organizations. French Catholics, liberal Protestants and conservative Christians are more likely to volunteer than the religiously unaffiliated and non-Christians, and non-Christians more than non-French Catholics. The inclination to volunteer rises with religiosity and is higher for those with a religious background. The important control variables are as follows. The inclination to volunteer rises with education and is higher for those born in Canada, those resident two or more years in the community, those who watch under five hours of television a week, those who are satisfied with life, those resident in the Prairie region rather than British Columbia, and British Columbia or the Atlantic region rather than Quebec, and those interviewed in 1997 rather than 2000.

Concerning hours volunteered per religion volunteer, these hours increase with religiosity, but do not vary significantly by faith community or whether or not one has a religious background. Hours committed are higher for men, high school graduates rather than those with less education, for those who watch under five hours of television a week, for those satisfied with their life, and for residents of British Columbia rather than the Prairie region.

The religiously affiliated

All four measures of religious commitment are associated with the inclination to volunteer in religious organizations. Conservative Christians are more likely to volunteer than French Catholics, and French Catholics and liberal Protestants are more likely to volunteer than other Catholics and non-Christians. The inclination to volunteer falls with age, increases with education, and is higher for those born in Canada, those resident two or more years in the community, those who watch under five hours of television a week, those satisfied with life, and residents of the Prairie region rather than British Columbia, and British Columbia rather than Ontario or Quebec. The trend factor is not significant.

Religion volunteer hours per volunteer increase with religiosity and frequency of worship, but are unassociated with a religious background or the faith community. Hours contributed are also higher for men, for high school graduates rather than those with less education, for those who watch under five hours of television a week, and for those satisfied with life.

Conclusion

This study reveals a number of statistically significant associations of four aspects of religious commitment on total, religious organization, and secular organization volunteering. These are laid out in the chart below. All significant associations were

<i>Summary of significant associations</i>				
<i>Effect of religious commitment:</i>				
Population /Dependent vble.	Worship freq.	Faith	Religiosity	Religious background
Total volunteering				
<i>Total population</i>				
Volunteering likelihood	na	+	+	+
Volunteer hours	na	0	+	+
<i>Religiously unaffiliated</i>				
Volunteering likelihood	na	na	0	+
Volunteer hours	na	na	0	0
<i>Religiously affiliated</i>				
Volunteering likelihood	+	+	0	+
Volunteer hours	+	0	+	+
Secular organization volunteering				
<i>Total population</i>				
Volunteering likelihood	na	+	+	+
Volunteer hours	na	+	0	+
<i>Religiously affiliated</i>				
Volunteering likelihood	+	+	0	+
Volunteer hours	+	+	0	0
Religion organization volunteering				
<i>Total population</i>				
Volunteering likelihood	na	+	+	+
Volunteer hours	na	+	0	+
<i>Religiously affiliated</i>				
Volunteering likelihood	+	+	+	+
Volunteer hours	+	0	+	0

na = variable unavailable. "0" means insignificant at the 0.01 level. "+" = positive association.

positive, as theory predicts. The associations are found both in the equations predicting the likelihood of volunteering, and the hours volunteered. It is recommended that frequency of attendance be asked of the religiously unaffiliated, and that, in view of the importance of religious factors, frequency of prayer for those in need (one more form of giving) be added to the list of religious factors surveyed in Statistics Canada's *Survey of*

Giving, Volunteering and Participating. It is also recommended that the four aspects of religion be included in path or structural equation models in order to determine causal influences of religion on volunteering. Finally, the wording of the questions should not be changed for two reasons: the present wording is yielding very useful information, and consistency over time allows survey results to be pooled and small sub-population behaviour to be analyzed. Together with the study of detailed types of volunteering, pooling of samples also allows the behaviour in small regions to be studied.

Table 1. Percentage volunteering in 1997 and 2000, and aspects of religious commitment

	Secular volunteer rate		Religion volunteer rate		Total volunteer rate	
	1997	2000	1997	2000	1997	2000
<i>Faith tradition</i>						
Religiously unaffiliated	27	25	0.6	0.9	28	26
French Catholic	26	20	3.0	2.6	27	21
Other Catholic	25	24	3.9	4.6	27	25
Liberal Protestant	37	31	12.0	9.7	42	35
Conservative Christian	34	28	24.2	20.5	46	40
Non-Christian	18	18	7.5	5.2	22	20
Total	29	25	6.5	5.7	32	28
<i>Worship frequency*</i>						
Not at all	25	22	0.5	0.8	26	23
1 to 2 times a year	26	20	0.7	1.4	26	21
3 to 4 times a year	29	26	2.0	2.1	29	27
monthly	33	28	8.2	6.3	36	31
weekly	35	31	25.3	22.4	47	41
<i>Religiosity**</i>						
Very religious	33	28	24.1	18.5	44	37
Somewhat religious	30	27	7.2	6.9	34	30
Not very religious	25	23	0.9	1.2	26	24
Not religious at all	26	21	0.7	0.9	26	21
<i>A religious background?***</i>						
Yes	38	32	16.1	13.5	45	38
No	25	22	2.5	2.7	26	23
<i>Detailed faith community</i>						
French Catholic	26	20	3.0	2.6	27	21
Other Catholic	25	24	3.9	4.6	27	25
United Church	40	33	13.1	10.3	45	38
Anglican	35	28	9.5	7.8	39	31
Presbyterian	31	27	13.5	9.6	39	31
Lutheran	36	36	13.3	13.5	42	44
Baptist	35	26	25.1	20.0	49	38
Pentecostal	24	28	20.9	22.9	36	44
Christian, other	35	28	24.5	20.3	47	40
Non-Christian	18	18	7.5	5.2	22	20
No religion now	34	35	..	..	35	36
No religion ever	26	24	0.5	0.8	26	24

* Total population, the religiously unaffiliated are assumed to not worship in the preceding year. The question is: Other than special occasions (such as weddings, funerals or baptisms), how often have you attended religious services or meetings in the past year?

** "Do you consider yourself to be (very religious, somewhat religious, not very religious, not religious at all)?"

*** "Did you do any of the following things when you were in grade school or high school? Were you active in a religious organization?"

A volunteer is a person who willingly performed a service without pay through an organization or group in the preceding year.

Source: Statistics Canada's National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating, 1997 and 2000.

**Table 2. Percentage volunteering in religious traditions,
by worship frequency and religiosity, 1997-2000 average**

Worship frequency:*	Religiously unaffiliated	French Catholic	Other Catholic	Liberal Protestant	Conservative Christian	Non- Christian	Total
<i>(Total volunteer rate)</i>							
Not at all	27	15	19	26	23	14	24
1 to 2 times a year	na	20	19	34	30	17	24
3 to 4 times a year	na	26	26	35	24	29	28
monthly	na	30	29	46	35	21	33
weekly	na	35	34	62	58	22	44
<i>(Secular volunteer rate)</i>							
Not at all	26	15	19	26	22	13	24
1 to 2 times a year	na	20	18	34	30	16	23
3 to 4 times a year	na	25	26	33	23	28	27
monthly	na	29	28	40	32	17	31
weekly	na	30	29	45	35	15	33
<i>(Religion volunteer rate)</i>							
Not at all	0.7	..	..	..	..	..	0.7
1 to 2 times a year	na	..	..	..	..	..	1.0
3 to 4 times a year	na	2.0	..	3.7	2.6	..	2.1
monthly	na	2.9	3.1	15.7	9.4	..	7.2
weekly	na	10.4	12.1	41.4	40.4	11.8	23.9
Religiosity							
<i>(Total volunteer rate)</i>							
Very religious	32	29	29	53	55	23	41
Somewhat religious	29	28	29	40	35	20	32
Not very religious	27	21	21	32	35	21	25
Not religious at all	25	16	18	29	29	18	24
<i>(Secular volunteer rate)</i>							
Very religious	30	26	25	39	35	20	30
Somewhat religious	28	26	27	35	27	15	29
Not very religious	27	20	20	31	33	20	24
Not religious at all	25	16	18	29	26	..	23
<i>(Religion volunteer rate)</i>							
Very religious	3.2	8.3	10.9	29.5	38.3	..	21.5
Somewhat religious	1.2	4.1	4.8	12.0	14.1	..	7.1
Not very religious	..	..	..	2.2	..	..	1.0
Not religious at all	0.6	..	..	..	..	..	0.8

Note definitions in Table 1.

".." = sample volunteering is less than 30.

na = data not available as the religiously unaffiliated were not asked worship attendance.

Source: Statistics Canada's *National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating*, 1997 and 2000.

**Table 3. Percentage volunteering in religious traditions,
by religious background and religiosity, 1997-2000 average**

	Religiously unaffiliated	French Catholic	Other Catholic	Liberal Protestant	Conservative Christian	Non- Christian	Total
<i>(Total volunteer rate)</i>							
<i>A religious background?</i>							
Yes	35	37	33	48	55	25	41
No	25	21	23	32	30	19	25
<i>(Secular volunteer rate)</i>							
<i>A religious background?</i>							
Yes	35	34	30	41	38	19	35
No	25	20	22	29	23	17	23
<i>(Religion volunteer rate)</i>							
<i>A religious background?</i>							
Yes	1.4	8.2	8.5	19.5	32.5	12.1	14.9
No	0.6	1.5	2.3	4.4	11.4	..	2.6
<i>(Total volunteer rate)</i>							
<i>A religious background</i>							
Very religious	48	45	38	61	61	22	51
Somewhat religious	34	39	33	47	48	28	40
Not very religious	33	26	27	41	50	..	33
Not religious at all	..	..	27	..	38	..	37
<i>No religious background</i>							
Very religious	24	18	20	32	42	25	27
Somewhat religious	27	24	27	34	25	16	27
Not very religious	26	20	20	29	30	22	24
Not religious at all	24	15	17	27	26	..	22
<i>(Secular volunteer rate)</i>							
<i>A religious background</i>							
Very religious	41	29	22	25	18	..	22
Somewhat religious	32	31	25	29	25	14	27
Not very religious	33	25	26	36	39	..	30
Not religious at all	37	..	..	39	..	..	34
<i>No religious background</i>							
Very religious	23	15	14	19	15	..	16
Somewhat religious	26	21	24	28	17	11	23
Not very religious	26	19	19	28	28	19	23
Not religious at all	23	15	16	26	22	..	22

Note definitions in Table 1.

".." = sample volunteering is less than 30.

Appendix 1.1 Predictions of volunteers, and hours per year volunteered per volunteer, population of Canada, 1997 to 2000

(regression estimates)	Volunteers			Hours volunteered per volunteer		
	r bar squared=0.097; n = 31,400			r bar squared=0.025 n = 18,667		
	B	t statistic	significance	B	t statistic	significance
Constant	45.16	8.3	0.000	-12041	-2.7	0.006
French Catholic	0.023	1.8	0.066	-0.858	-0.1	0.937
Non-French Catholic	-0.041	-3.9	0.000	-14.457	-1.7	0.091
Liberal Protestant	0.029	2.6	0.009	4.186	0.5	0.623
Conservative Christian	0.052	3.8	0.000	-19.876	-2.0	0.049
Non-Christian	-0.061	-3.2	0.001	-31.182	-1.8	0.075
Religious background	0.114	19.3	0.000	28.730	6.7	0.000
Religiosity	0.005	12.1	0.000	1.918	6.7	0.000
Age (natural log)	-0.075	-12.7	0.000	46.129	9.8	0.000
Female	0.024	4.9	0.000	-26.770	-6.9	0.000
University degree	0.199	25.6	0.000	4.821	0.9	0.389
Post secondary	0.082	13.1	0.000	8.647	1.7	0.087
High school graduate	0.029	4.2	0.000	10.513	1.8	0.074
Immigrant	-0.099	-14.2	0.000	-13.882	-2.3	0.019
Resident under 2 years	-0.087	-12.2	0.000	-21.601	-3.6	0.000
TV under 5 hrs/week	0.028	4.7	0.000	29.533	6.6	0.000
Very satisfied with life	0.086	17.0	0.000	18.244	4.7	0.000
Atlantic provinces	0.011	1.0	0.331	-5.468	-0.7	0.511
Quebec	-0.079	-8.4	0.000	-6.392	-0.8	0.412
Ontario	-0.014	-1.8	0.076	-16.547	-2.7	0.007
Prairie provinces	0.085	9.1	0.000	-30.285	-4.5	0.000
Year	-0.022	-8.2	0.000	6.010	2.7	0.006

Notes: The reference population for the faith affiliation variables is the religiously unaffiliated; for the education variables is less than high school graduation, and for the regions is British Columbia. The religiosity variable is a derived variable, derived from the responses to the religiosity question noted in Table 1 -- it ranges from 25 for "very religious" to 0 for not religious at all and religiously unaffiliated. "Very satisfied with life" = 1 if the answer is yes to the question "How satisfied are you with your life in general?", and =0 otherwise. Weighted regression methods are used. Refer also to the notes in Table 1.

Source: Statistics Canada's National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating, 1997 and 2000.

**Appendix 1.2 Predictions of volunteers, and hours per year volunteered,
religiously unaffiliated population of Canada, 1997 to 2000**

(regression estimates)	<i>Volunteers</i>			<i>Hours volunteered per volunteer</i>		
	r bar squared=0.057; n = 7,011			r bar squared=0.016; n = 3,802		
	B	t statistic	significance	B	t statistic	significance
Constant	24.71	3.5	0.000	-7578	-1.4	0.161
Religious background	0.079	5.2	0.000	25.348	2.4	0.017
Religiosity	0.002	1.5	0.124	-1.000	-1.3	0.202
Age (natural log)	-0.061	-4.9	0.000	55.442	5.3	0.000
Female	0.047	4.4	0.000	-18.789	-2.4	0.019
University degree	0.180	10.9	0.000	-11.842	-1.0	0.325
Post secondary	0.060	4.6	0.000	-4.597	-0.4	0.670
High school graduate	0.007	0.5	0.616	-18.810	-1.5	0.131
Immigrant	-0.031	-2.1	0.034	-21.757	-1.9	0.063
Resident under 2 years	-0.048	-3.6	0.000	-23.379	-2.1	0.032
TV under 5 hrs/week	0.032	2.6	0.008	4.496	0.5	0.619
Very satisfied with life	0.104	9.9	0.000	7.145	0.9	0.374
Atlantic provinces	0.026	1.1	0.287	-12.486	-0.7	0.509
Quebec	0.035	1.5	0.143	-32.435	-1.8	0.075
Ontario	-0.013	-1.0	0.300	-17.555	-1.7	0.092
Prairie provinces	0.087	5.8	0.000	-36.411	-3.3	0.001
Year	-0.012	-3.5	0.001	3.783	1.4	0.162

Refer to notes in Appendix 1.1 and Table 1.1

Source: Statistics Canada's National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating, 1997 and 2000.

Appendix 1.3 Predictions of volunteers, and hours per year volunteered, religiously affiliated population of Canada, 1997 to 2000

(regression estimates)	Volunteers			Hours volunteered per volunteer		
	r bar squared=0.130; n = 24,388			r bar squared=0.031; n = 14,864		
	B	t statistic	significance	B	t statistic	significance
Constant	28.07	4.3	0.000	-11804	-1.9	0.056
Non-French Catholic	-0.087	-7.4	0.000	-13.253	-1.2	0.231
Liberal Protestant	-0.003	-0.2	0.845	11.307	1.0	0.313
Conservative Christian	-0.006	-0.4	0.710	-25.811	-2.1	0.035
Non-Christian	-0.089	-4.6	0.000	-28.650	-1.5	0.128
Worship attendance	0.003	21.4	0.000	0.831	7.3	0.000
Religious background	0.095	14.8	0.000	25.337	5.3	0.000
Religiosity	0.001	2.3	0.024	1.389	3.9	0.000
Age (natural log)	-0.093	-14.0	0.000	39.964	7.4	0.000
Female	0.012	2.1	0.039	-28.299	-6.4	0.000
University degree	0.205	23.5	0.000	9.403	1.5	0.139
Post secondary	0.091	13.1	0.000	13.636	2.4	0.017
High school graduate	0.045	5.7	0.000	20.218	3.0	0.002
Immigrant	-0.140	-17.7	0.000	-13.438	-2.0	0.050
Resident under 2 years	-0.097	-11.6	0.000	-21.176	-2.9	0.004
TV under 5 hrs/week	0.021	3.1	0.002	34.742	6.8	0.000
Very satisfied with life	0.074	12.9	0.000	19.564	4.4	0.000
Atlantic provinces	-0.026	-1.9	0.052	-1.665	-0.2	0.866
Quebec	-0.122	-10.2	0.000	5.242	0.6	0.579
Ontario	-0.032	-3.0	0.003	-13.313	-1.7	0.092
Prairie provinces	0.068	5.5	0.000	-26.083	-3.0	0.002
Year	-0.014	-4.2	0.000	5.891	1.9	0.057

Refer to notes in Appendix 1.1 and Table 1. Worship attendance is the estimated number of worship visits per year.

Source: Statistics Canada's National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating, 1997 and 2000.

Appendix 1.4 Predictions of secular volunteers, and hours per year volunteered, population of Canada, 1997 to 2000

(regression estimates)	Secular volunteers			Hours volunteered per volunteer		
	r bar squared=0.075; n = 31,400			r bar squared=0.020; n = 13,054		
	B	t statistic	significance	B	t statistic	significance
Constant	40.60	7.6	0.000	-22595	-4.8	0.000
French Catholic	0.016	1.3	0.182	-20.772	-1.9	0.061
Non-French Catholic	-0.025	-2.5	0.013	-22.094	-2.6	0.010
Liberal Protestant	0.022	2.0	0.044	na	na	na
Conservative Christian	-0.014	-1.0	0.307	-40.676	-3.8	0.000
Non-Christian	-0.051	-2.7	0.006	-42.826	-2.4	0.016
Religious background	0.086	14.9	0.000	22.739	4.7	0.000
Religiosity	0.001	3.8	0.000	0.478	1.4	0.158
Age (natural log)	-0.073	-12.7	0.000	52.132	9.5	0.000
Female	0.026	5.4	0.000	-27.821	-6.2	0.000
University degree	0.195	25.6	0.000	-6.078	-0.9	0.349
Post secondary	0.082	13.5	0.000	2.179	0.4	0.710
High school graduate	0.030	4.4	0.000	4.167	0.6	0.542
Immigrant	-0.097	-14.2	0.000	-8.940	-1.2	0.218
Resident under 2 years	-0.081	-11.6	0.000	-22.619	-3.0	0.002
TV under 5 hrs/week	0.021	3.6	0.000	25.424	4.9	0.000
Very satisfied with life	0.079	16.0	0.000	13.188	2.9	0.004
Atlantic provinces	0.008	0.7	0.463	10.269	1.0	0.309
Quebec	-0.067	-7.2	0.000	14.505	1.5	0.129
Ontario	-0.015	-1.9	0.059	-4.584	-0.6	0.574
Prairie provinces	0.075	8.3	0.000	-17.228	-1.9	0.051
Year	-0.020	-7.5	0.000	11.283	4.8	0.000

Refer to notes in Appendix 1.1 and Table 1.1

"na" = not available; variable dropped from equation because of lack of significance.

Source: Statistics Canada's National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating, 1997 and 2000.

Appendix 1.5 Predictions of religion volunteers, and hours per year volunteered, population of Canada, 1997 to 2000

(regression estimates)	<i>Religion volunteers</i>			<i>Hours volunteered per volunteer</i>		
	r bar squared=0.113; n = 31,400			r bar squared=0.041; n = 4,095		
	B	t statistic	significance	B	t statistic	significance
Constant	16.48	5.8	0.000	-1857	-0.3	0.777
French Catholic	0.021	3.2	0.001	36.337	1.6	0.121
Non-French Catholic	-0.016	-2.9	0.003	-1.734	-0.1	0.903
Liberal Protestant	0.025	4.3	0.000	-9.937	-0.8	0.437
Conservative Christian	0.099	13.9	0.000	na	na	na
Non-Christian	-0.007	-0.7	0.463	-9.053	-0.3	0.743
Religious background	0.075	24.4	0.000	7.025	0.9	0.363
Religiosity	0.006	31.7	0.000	4.234	9.3	0.000
Age (natural log)	-0.005	-1.6	0.100	6.944	0.8	0.400
Female	0.005	2.1	0.033	-24.578	-3.5	0.000
University degree	0.044	10.8	0.000	2.463	0.3	0.798
Post secondary	0.012	3.6	0.000	14.502	1.6	0.109
High school graduate	0.004	1.1	0.283	38.375	3.6	0.000
Immigrant	-0.021	-5.7	0.000	-7.919	-0.8	0.402
Resident under 2 years	-0.024	-6.6	0.000	14.931	1.3	0.211
TV under 5 hrs/week	0.019	6.3	0.000	37.750	5.1	0.000
Very satisfied with life	0.020	7.5	0.000	22.307	3.1	0.002
Atlantic provinces	0.005	0.9	0.379	-7.431	-0.5	0.600
Quebec	-0.029	-6.0	0.000	-1.653	-0.1	0.928
Ontario	-0.004	-1.0	0.300	-10.261	-0.9	0.352
Prairie provinces	0.020	4.1	0.000	-29.625	-2.5	0.012
Year	-0.008	-5.8	0.000	0.939	0.3	0.774

Refer to notes in Appendix 1.1 and Table 1.1

"na" = not available; variable dropped from equation because of lack of significance.

Source: Statistics Canada's National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating, 1997 and 2000.

Appendix 1.6 Predictions of secular volunteers, and hours per year volunteered, religiously affiliated population of Canada, 1997 to 2000

(regression estimates)	Secular volunteers			Hours volunteered per volunteer		
	r bar squared=0.089; n = 24,388			r bar squared=0.020; n = 13,054		
	B	t statistic	significance	B	t statistic	significance
Constant	28.18	4.3	0.000	-23332	-5.0	0.000
French Catholic	na	na	na	-21.624	-1.9	0.051
Non-French Catholic	-0.056	-4.8	0.000	-24.063	-2.8	0.005
Liberal Protestant	-0.004	-0.3	0.738	na	na	na
Conservative Christian	-0.049	-3.4	0.001	-43.327	-4.0	0.000
Non-Christian	-0.069	-3.6	0.000	-43.889	-2.5	0.014
Worship attendance	0.002	10.2	0.000	0.290	2.5	0.013
Religious background	0.075	11.9	0.000	20.957	4.3	0.000
Religiosity	0.000	-1.0	0.327	0.097	0.3	0.794
Age (natural log)	-0.083	-12.7	0.000	50.395	9.1	0.000
Female	0.016	3.0	0.003	-27.833	-6.2	0.000
University degree	0.198	23.0	0.000	-5.770	-0.9	0.374
Post secondary	0.089	13.0	0.000	2.684	0.5	0.647
High school graduate	0.042	5.4	0.000	4.742	0.7	0.488
Immigrant	-0.130	-16.7	0.000	-9.401	-1.3	0.195
Resident under 2 years	-0.089	-10.9	0.000	-21.880	-2.9	0.003
TV under 5 hrs/week	0.015	2.3	0.023	24.842	4.7	0.000
Very satisfied with life	0.068	12.1	0.000	12.672	2.8	0.005
Atlantic provinces	-0.021	-1.5	0.124	8.744	0.9	0.387
Quebec	-0.103	-8.7	0.000	13.962	1.5	0.144
Ontario	-0.029	-2.7	0.007	-5.025	-0.6	0.538
Prairie provinces	0.058	4.8	0.000	-17.730	-2.0	0.045
Year	-0.014	-4.3	0.000	11.655	5.0	0.000

Refer to notes in Appendix 1.1 and Table 1.1. Worship attendance is the estimated number of worship visits per year. "na" = not available; variable dropped from equation because of lack of significance.

Source: Statistics Canada's National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating, 1997 and 2000.

Appendix 1.7 Predictions of religion volunteers, and hours per year volunteered, religiously affiliated population of Canada, 1997 to 2000

(regression estimates)	<i>Religion volunteers</i>			<i>Hours volunteered per volunteer</i>		
	r bar squared=0.176; n = 24,388			r bar squared=0.051; n = 4,095		
	B	t statistic	significance	B	t statistic	significance
Constant	3.10	0.8	0.410	2042	0.3	0.768
French Catholic	na	na	na	45.647	1.9	0.053
Non-French Catholic	-0.056	-8.2	0.000	1.688	0.1	0.906
Liberal Protestant	0.004	0.6	0.553	na	na	na
Conservative Christian	0.044	5.2	0.000	1.622	0.1	0.899
Non-Christian	-0.035	-3.1	0.002	10.660	0.4	0.701
Worship attendance	0.004	41.9	0.000	1.303	6.5	0.000
Religious background	0.060	16.6	0.000	2.571	0.3	0.739
Religiosity	0.003	9.7	0.000	3.293	6.9	0.000
Age (natural log)	-0.022	-5.8	0.000	2.347	0.3	0.776
Female	0.004	1.4	0.162	-24.416	-3.5	0.000
University degree	0.061	12.3	0.000	3.887	0.4	0.685
Post secondary	0.021	5.3	0.000	15.281	1.7	0.090
High school graduate	0.015	3.2	0.001	40.204	3.8	0.000
Immigrant	-0.043	-9.5	0.000	-8.477	-0.9	0.368
Resident under 2 years	-0.029	-6.2	0.000	16.211	1.4	0.172
TV under 5 hrs/week	0.019	4.9	0.000	38.089	5.2	0.000
Very satisfied with life	0.020	6.1	0.000	19.362	2.7	0.007
Atlantic provinces	-0.019	-2.4	0.016	-5.787	-0.4	0.682
Quebec	-0.049	-7.1	0.000	5.255	0.3	0.774
Ontario	-0.019	-3.1	0.002	-6.517	-0.6	0.553
Prairie provinces	0.018	2.6	0.008	-26.243	-2.2	0.025
Year	-0.002	-0.8	0.420	-1.024	-0.3	0.768

Refer to notes in Appendix 1.1 and Table 1.1. Worship attendance is the estimated number of worship visits per year. "na" = not available; variable dropped from equation because of lack of significance. Source: Statistics Canada's National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating, 1997 and 2000.

NOTES

¹ Managing Director, *Christian Commitment Research Institute*, and Adjunct Professor of Economics, *University of Ottawa*. The author alone is responsible for any remaining errors in this study. We thank Warren Clark and George Mori of Statistics Canada, and Martha Sanipe of Public Works Canada for their reviews of this paper.

² Frank Jones, "Satisfaction with life in Canada, 1997 and 2000" *Religious Commitment Note 02-09*, Christian Commitment Research Institute, 2002.

³ Frank Jones, *Religious Commitment in Canada, 1997 to 2000*, draft of an unpublished monograph.