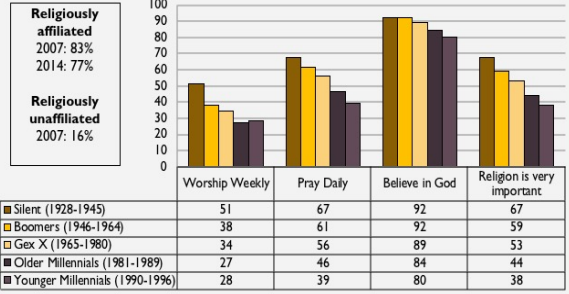


# THE FUTURE OF MINISTRY WITH BOOMERS

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## Religious Practices and Beliefs of U.S. Adults - 2014

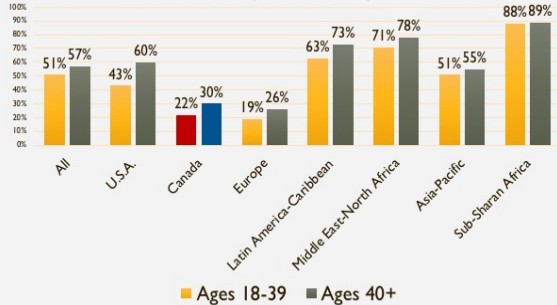


Pew Research Center: U.S. Becoming Less Religious.  
[http://www.pewforum.org/files/2015/11/2011.03\\_RLS\\_II\\_full\\_report.pdf](http://www.pewforum.org/files/2015/11/2011.03_RLS_II_full_report.pdf)

## Four Greatest Needs of Boomers



## % of Adults who say Religion is Very Important to Them



<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/06/13/younger-people-are-less-religious-than-older-ones-in-many-countries-especially-in-the-u-s-and-europe/>

"One of the things we found in our study of baby boomers — particularly among the older boomers — was that many are now more likely to be churchgoers or engage in spiritual practices than they did in their middle years," Bengtson said. "One in five of the 599 boomers in our study reported they had increased their religious or spiritual activities in recent years."

1. More time to pursue spirituality
2. Desire to set their house in order before they die
3. Finding comfort and hope in the face of a health crises

Vern Bengtson, University of Southern California

<https://news.usc.edu/140334/baby-boomers-and-religion/>

**The pliable brain**

Three Keys to Understanding the Brain

- 01 The brain continues to change
- 02 Connections form our identity
- 03 Experiences imprint memories

The brain is **flexible** – it's like plastic. John J. Ratney, *Spark*, iKids, p. 42

The **connectome** is the totality of all our connections. Sebastian Seung at MIT, iKids, p. 35

Interactions with people **influence** our brain's structure and function. Center on the Developing Child at Harvard, iKids, p. 32

If sexual and economic needs can be met on an individual basis and if any lifestyle is acceptable, what scarce commodity do people have to offer to one another in today's world? The answer is companionship—not love, not money, not sex, not material goods, but spending quality time with a person over weeks, months, and years. For boomers, **the scarce commodity** they seek is not someone who will sleep with them, but someone who will stay with them even in their darkest hours.

*Boomer Spirituality*, p. 49

**THE CHALLENGE OF ALZHEIMER'S**

**Caregiving Needs**

- Monitoring safety to stop wandering or walking at night
- Helping with bathing, dressing, & physical appearance
- Managing behavior problems like anger & depression
- Providing for daily needs, like meals and housing
- Going to doctor's appointments
- Providing for in-home care
- Dispensing medicines

500,000      937,000

2016      2031

Canada's health-care system is ill-equipped to deal with the staggering costs. By 2031, the cost is expected to increase by 60 per cent, to \$16.6 billion.

<http://alzheimer.ca/en/Home/Get-involved/Advocacy/Latest-info-stats>

**BOOMER LEGACY**

- Wisdom
- Spiritual values
- Financial resources
- Post-retirement giving back

As boomers reinvent the second half of life, their spirituality will inform their decisions and choices. Throughout this book, we have been reminded that the values and beliefs we hold affect the whole of our lives—relationships, work, goals, faith, and most fundamentally, our self-understanding. It is not enough just to wander through life on a yellow brick road that leads to nowhere. Instead, each of us must be challenged to look anew at life and to ask, **"What is my legacy?"** Each of us must be challenged to willingly inquire, **"God, what are you calling me to be?"**

*Boomer Spirituality*, p. 176

[www.boomerspirituality.org](http://www.boomerspirituality.org)

**Boomer Spirituality: Seven Values for the Second Half of Life**

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*Boomer Spirituality: Seven Values for the Second Half of Life*

*iKids: Parenting in the Digital Age*

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[www.boomerspirituality.org](http://www.boomerspirituality.org)

<https://flipboard.com/@ckennet/boomers-in-canada-noobovh0y>