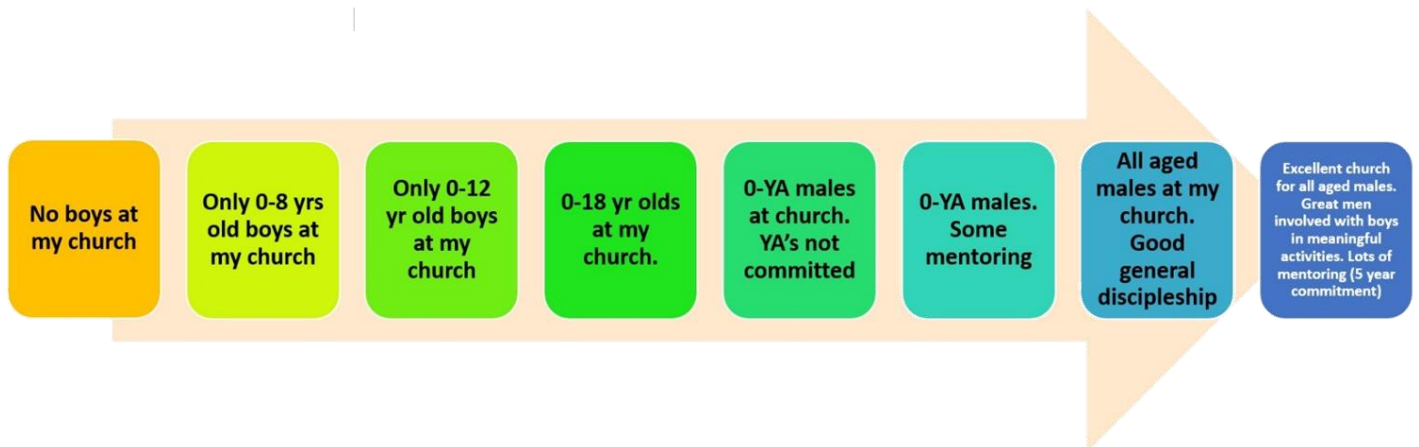


## The Thin Red Line in our Communities of Faith

Boys have been leaving our communities of faith at a rate of up to 80% every 10 years since World War II. Recent statistics show that most of this shift is not to atheism, but to SBNR. Spiritual But Not Religious. It suggests that our young men have found the church to be places that are mostly irrelevant and lacking in inspiration for them as look ahead to the next stage of life. What is lacking? Good men or older role models who are interested and invested in the next generation. You assess the culture of your church's commitment to the emerging generations by noticing the ages that boys are absent or starting to not turn up.

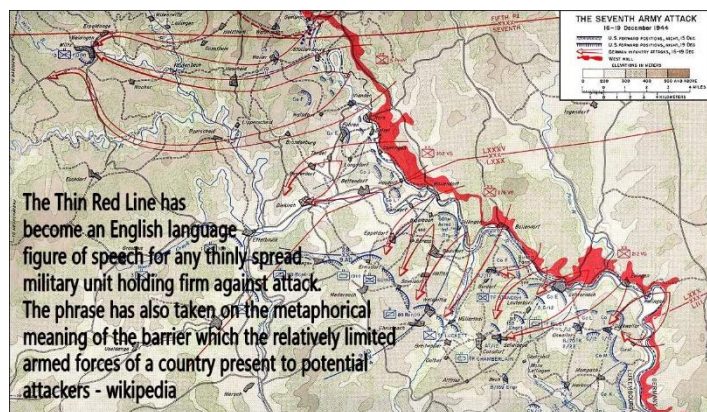
Here's a continuum to help you know where your community of faith is at:



If boys are disappearing from your church at a certain age, then something hasn't been happening right for a while before this happens. Superficially it might not appear catastrophic when this happens, but underneath there are some [alarming symptoms](#).

### The Thin Red Line

A small group of men standing together with a clear strategy of how to fight against an army of much greater numbers has had historical precedents. The Thin Red Line in your church is the age where boys are disappearing. The reason boys are leaving has much less to do with external reasons and much more to do with your awareness of the



needs of the battle and having your men in formation to hold and push the line forward. All boys who return from GENTS Camp as men are committed to serving their communities of faith and extending the Thin Red Line further into the enemy's territory. If you want to be as strategic as possible with how your men make a formation in this battle, contact Hamilton McNicol about Gents 'My Tribe' ministry; [hamilton@susa.org.au](mailto:hamilton@susa.org.au)