

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ITS IMPACT ON CHURCH GROWTH IN THE
GOSHEN ASSOCIATION OF THE OGBOMOSHO BAPTIST CONFERENCE

An essay in the department of theology the faculty of theological studies
The Nigerian Baptist theological seminary, Ogbomosho
In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the
award of master of divinity in theology

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12 / 0118

JUNE, 2015.

ABSTRACT

The Sunday school had for a very long time assisted the church in certain areas of its development. In this contemporary period however, it is observed that this organization within the church seems to be performing below expectation. Some prominent church leaders are even of the opinion that it has lost its usefulness as a tool of church development. This project is to evaluate the present position of the Sunday school on Church growth. It evaluates the operations of the Sunday school within the Churches in Goshen Association of the Ogbomosho Baptist Conference. The study adopted the quantitative and descriptive approach. Questionnaire and participant observation were used as tools for obtaining data. Churches of the Ogbomosho Baptist Conference were used as the study population for the research. There were a total of ninety-five (95) respondents to the questionnaire and data was analyzed using the descriptive statistics/ frequency counts and percentage scores. The study reveals that the Sunday school contributed immensely to the development of the church in some key areas, while performances in certain area are not quite encouraging. The areas of contribution according to our respondents are the numerical growth of the church; the spiritual development of children; the maturing of church workers; spiritual growth of Church members; enhancement of the commitment of members to church activities; encouragement of members in the study of the Bible and youth development. The challenges facing the Sunday school in these churches include the issue of inadequacy and incompetency of teachers; inadequate space within certain churches to expand the Sunday school classes; and inadequate teaching aids. The research recommends that pastors should realize the importance of the Sunday school in church development; make provision for the adequate training of teachers and see to it that relevant methodologies and teaching aids are employed in the process of teaching.

5.2. CONCLUSION

This study has done a lot to look into the place of Sunday school on Church growth in Ogbomosho Baptist Conference. The researcher observed that Sunday school hold important place in Church growth; knowing full well that, where there is no proper plan for growth in any organization, it will be difficult to record growth in such organization.

The research revealed that Sunday school is an aid to Church growth. We must first acknowledge and appreciate that when we talk of church growth, it involves majorly quantitative, qualitative, intellectual development, and economic growth of the Church. Qualitative growth deals with the spiritual development of the believers in the Church in general, quantitative growth deals majorly with the numerical increase of the Church, and intellectual development deals with the increase in the knowledge of the Church members, while economic growth deals with the increase in the Church's income level.

Finally, a church that is not growing will be "plateaua", "decline" or "die completely". To escape this great virus which works against Church growth in this conference, the Churches must arise and catch up with the use of Sunday school as a tool for Church growth.

RECOMMENDATION

In the light of the above discussion concerning the place of Sunday school on Church growth in Ogbomosho Baptist Conference, the research made the following recommendations.

Church growth pastors or lay leaders should use Sunday school as a means of enlisting the children to the Church of God or to the kingdom of God.

Sunday school should be used by pastors and leaders to reach unbelievers in for Christ.

Sunday school can be fully used for Church members to become mature in spiritual lives.

Pastors and leaders should adopt Sunday school as one of ways to recruit more workers into God's kingdom.

Pastors are advised to take it as a thing of pleasure in using Sunday school for developing intellectual knowledge of the Church's members.

Pastors should make their Sunday school a useful tool for Church growth in this twenty –one century.

Pastors or leaders should introduce proper training for their Sunday school teachers in order to increase their effectiveness.

Pastors should recruit and encourage more teachers for Sunday school and employ proper teaching methodologies.