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IMPROVING THE TEACHING MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH THROUGH
EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to search as well as locate the necessary approaches that must be in place in order to have an effective teaching ministry in a local church. An effective teaching ministry in a local church is that which is characterized by a) members who are experiencing transformed lives in character, conduct and attitude, b) members who are maturing attaining Christ likeness in every area of their lives and relationships, c) people growing in their leadership skill who are willing to raise others leaders and, d) members discovering their spiritual gifts and using them for ministry. Searching through related literature, this researcher filtered out as necessary approaches that must be put in place before an effective teaching ministry could be executed in a local church, 1) support of the senior pastor, 2) appointment of a full time trained education minister, 3) use of creative teaching methods , 5) applying a learner centred approach to teaching, 6) writing and implementation of lesson aims and objectives 7) effective system for recruitment of committed and gifted teachers, 8) regular training of teachers and, 9) evaluation and planning. This research which was library based in scope was aimed at examining and analyzing each of the parameters listed above which are required for effective teaching in the church. It was discovered during this library research that improvement of the church's educational ministries can be attained through:1) The support of the church pastor who will create a suitable environment by mobilizing each local congregation to see the benefits of teaching in the church. 2) The appointment of a trained and qualified education minister to give leadership to the total educational aspects of the church's total programme.3) Careful enlistment and training of volunteer teachers who will work with the education minister in administering education in a local church. 4) Motivation of volunteer teachers in the various educational programmes to write and implement lesson aims and objectives.5)Exploring dynamism and creativity through use of different teaching methods which will match the needs and characteristics of the learners.5)Subjection of each educational programme to regular evaluation and planning. This paper made recommendations that local churches should take an appraisal of their present teaching ministries and ask hard questions about their effectiveness. They should therefore as matter of urgency embark on deliberate action of improving their education ministries utilizing the approaches and structures recommended in this research which will lead to effectiveness and vibrancy of the church's teaching ministry when implemented.

Conclusion

This research effort sought to locate the necessary approaches that must be executed in order to have an effective teaching ministry in a local church. These beneficial approaches are: 1) support of the senior pastor, 2) appointment of a full time trained education minister, 3) use of creative teaching methods, 5) applying a learner centred approach to teaching, 6) writing and implementation of lesson aims and objectives 7) effective system for recruitment of committed and gifted teachers, 8) regular training of teachers and, 9) evaluation and planning.

An effective teaching ministry in a local church should, therefore, be producing: - members who are experiencing transformed lives in character, conduct and attitude; members who are maturing attaining Christ likeness in every area of their lives and relationships; people growing in their leadership skill who are willing to raise others leaders and members discovering their spiritual gifts and using them for ministry.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made with the firm belief that if teaching is effective in the local church, the results will include maturing and growing members, raising of leaders and effectiveness in individual ministry of each member of the church. The following recommendations are made from this study:

1. Local churches should take a radical evaluation of their education ministries to determine the level of effectiveness in the areas of developing the members spiritually and in leadership. The local churches should embark on deliberate action of setting up effective teaching ministries utilizing the approaches recommended in this research.

2. Since teaching plays a very pivotal role in the life of every local church, each church should seek to appoint an education minister to administer and guide the members in the various education programmes in the church.
3. Evaluation and planning should be a regular characteristic of each local church's teaching ministry weekly, monthly, quarterly and annually.
4. Variety of teaching methods and dynamic learner centred approaches should be incorporated into teaching sessions in the local church.