

THE HISTORY, PROBLEMS AND PROSPECT
OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES
IN
LAGOS BAPTIST CONFERENCE
NIGERIAN BAPTIST CONVENTION

An Essay Presented
To the Faculty of the
Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary

In Partial fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Divinity in Theology

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June, 2005.

Conclusions

Based on the findings reported and discussed in chapter four, the following conclusions could be drawn:

1. There is need to train more children's workers in the local baptist churches of the Lagos Conference of the Convention.

2. There is need to re-organise the children's educational department of the local Baptist churches.
3. There is need to provide adequate and effective children's educational curriculum programmes to meet the contemporary needs of the children just like that of the adults and young adult programmes.
4. There is need to have Children's Evangelism programme to be used for the spiritual growth of the children at the local churches.
5. W.M.U. Sunbeam programme is mission oriented.
6. There is need to conduct seminar/workshop for the Sunbeam Directors by the W.M.U. because most of the Sunbeam Directors indicated this in their responses.
7. There is need for more enlightenment programmes of the Ministry. Probably, it could be zoned to the conferences for better implementation.

Implications of the Study.

The results of this study attested to the fact that many of the local baptist churches in Lagos Baptist Conference are aware of the Convention Children's Ministry but the reflection of the Children's Ministry programmes could not be seen because there is still need to train more children's workers and re-organize the children educational department of Sunday School and Church Training where it exists and newly organize on where it is not being practised.

The consequence of neglecting the training of the children by some of the churches in the Convention can be catastrophic and devastating not only to the children but also to the family, church and the society. The future

generation is in jeopardy because some of the children that are not properly nurtured in the ways of the Lord can become delinquents and criminally indoctrinated.

The failure to grade the organizations (especially, the Children's Sunday School and Church Training) and use graded teaching materials would affect the real spiritual nourishment of the children. Children's Ministry should be seen as a complete and separate entity in itself that needs to be funded and developed by the church.

Recommendations

Deduced from the findings and implications of this study, the researcher recommends the following to the parents, local Baptist church, Association, Conference and Convention at large:

To the Parents

Parents should encourage their children to attend all children's programmes. They should also be role-models for them to emulate. They should attend seminars on Children's Ministry so as to train these children effectively well at home because "charity begins at home." They should also support the ministry financially and prayerfully. Parents at times could volunteer to work with the children in the children's church.

To the Local Baptist Church

The local Baptist church should try to encourage "Children Ministry" by recruiting and training enough workers for the ministry. There is need for a separate building for the children's section department. Therefore, the fundings of the children's ministry should be included in the church annual budget.

Church leadership has enormous work to do in this respect, and the entire membership collectively will have to be actively involved. In other words, we all have roles to play in the prospect of children's ministration of the Nigerian Baptist Convention as children programme writers and implementation of the programmes in our local churches.

To Baptist Association of Churches

Baptist association of churches should try to have periodic meetings where the work of the children's ministry of each local church should be reported and evaluated for higher prospects. The associations should organize training/seminars and workshops for the children's workers on programmes of the Convention children's ministry for wider coverage and better reflection at the local church.

To Baptist Conferences

The Conference should have periodic meetings of Associations and evaluate their reports to discover some problems that may affect the Ministry.

To the Convention

The following recommendations are made to the Convention Children's Ministries division to:

- Design a curriculum programme for children's discipleship.
- Prepare children's order of worship for the local Baptist church.
- Train more children's workers for educational department of the local Baptist church.
- Organise enlightenment programmes on Convention Children's Ministries.
- Make available curriculum materials for teaching the children in Church Training Departments of the local Baptist church.