

NIGERIAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

**THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH IN EDUCATING CHILDREN IN
THE WAY OF THE LORD: A CASE STUDY OF WOMEN'S
MISSIONARY UNION OF NIGERIAN BAPTIST CONVENTION.**

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**A DEGREE ESSAY
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FACULTY OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES**

**IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
REQUIRMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE
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BY

FELICIA OLUBUNMI OLOPADE

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ABSTRACT

This essay is titled “The Role of the Church in educating children in the way of the Lord, a case study of the Women’s Missionary Union of the Nigerian Baptist Convention” survey study that was designed to examine the role of W.M.U. in educating children in the way of the Lord.

This essay is divided into five chapters. Chapter One presents the introduction, under which the background to the study, statement of the problem, the purpose of the study; scope and delimitations, methodology and the definition of key terms are discuss. Chapter Two focuses on the literature review, the biblical injunctions for training children, history of the Sunbeam Band and method of Missionary Education for the Sunbeam Band.

Chapter Three deals with the methodology, the population is the Sunbeam Band of Lagos State Baptist Conference, a selection of ten churches from five associations were involved and twenty people from each church given a total number of two hundred for the sampling, the only instruments used is questionnaire.

Chapter Four discusses the findings and some of them include: (i) Sunbeam Band has impact in making children what they are. (ii) Whatever a child becomes in future depends on the foundation laid when still young. (iii) The early participation of children in religious activities determines the personality in future. Chapter five concludes with the following recommendations (i) The larger body of the convention should embrace and stress the importance of good upbringing of children right from the home. (ii) The local churches should embrace Sunbeam Band activities, (iii) Mothers should be aware that children imitiate them and so should behave like Christians always.

B. Conclusion

From the responses of the Sunbeam band mothers, Sunbeam band leaders and other workers on the role of the W.M.U in training children in the way of the Lord, it was found that only a very insignificant figure of the respondents had negative views. This means that W.M.U. is playing vital role. Children are solidly rooted in the ways of the Lord, they are able to show the fear of God in whatever they do.

It was discovered that both the home and the church have vital role to play in catching the children young for the Lord. In addition to the church's role the W.M.U. is also playing a vital role with the Sunbeam band programme in which the children will interact with other Christian children during the week, this has gone a long way to equipping the children, for effective leadership, all this items according to this findings.

C. Recommendations

Based on the findings of this research the following are recommended:

1. The larger body of the convention should embrace and stress the importance of good upbringing of children right from the home as this will make it easier for the Sunbeam leaders to build more on the Sunbeam on the acquired morals. After all the church can not live in isolation of the home and the society.
2. That the local churches should embrace Sunbeam band activities and encourage them by showing interest in what they do, the Pastors should associate with them and encourage the workers.

3. The Sunbeam leaders should provide teaching aids to make the teachings more interesting to arouse the interest of the children.
4. Mothers should be aware that children imitate them and so should behave like Christians always.

Lastly, further research that can be carried out in this area include:

1. The role of home in training children in the way of the Lord.
2. The influence of Peer groups on the character formation of children from Christian homes.
3. The Church as a medium of character training in children.