

**THE IMPACT OF SUNDAY SCHOOL AS AN EDUCATION MINISTRY  
FOR GROWTH IN CHRIST HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH  
OGBOMOSO**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This essay is titled, "The Impact of Sunday School as An Education Ministry for Growth in Christ Heritage Baptist Church Ogbomoso. Sunday school has been an important dynamic ministry tool for church growth. It is a powerful tool which is capable of winning souls for Jesus Christ. The essay among other things aimed at showing the impact of Sunday school as an education ministry for growth in a particular local church.

The research was necessary by the observations over the years that the attitude of church members in terms of attendance and participation is negative with particular reference to Sunday School, despite the fact that Sunday School is a dynamic tool which is capable of winning souls for Christ, and aids church growth. The question addressed was how can we use Sunday School lessons to motivate and strengthen weak members and change the attitude of members to be committed and make them useful for the service of God, and to aid church growth.

To answer these questions, a review of related literature, use of questionnaire and oral interview for illiterate adults were carried out. The objective of the methods is to generate a rich data base that would be useful to the pastor, the Sunday School Superintendent, the Sunday School Teachers and Sunday School attendees to aid church growth hence a unique questionnaire was administered to each of the

samples used. ✓

The data obtained were analyzed using descriptive and simple percentages. The research revealed that Sunday School had in no small measure uplifted the spiritual status of the members, sharpened the pastor's methods of church administration, presented the effect of Sunday School on church growth, and also threw light to some areas of the Sunday School programmes that needed to be adjusted. It also revealed that through the Sunday school classes it is possible to reach, to teach, to win and to develop souls for Jesus Christ. The study further revealed that Sunday School is an effective tool to reach the unsaved people within a local church in the area. Visitation of the people reached through Sunday school gives room for proper follow up. The above shows that Sunday School contributes significantly to aid church growth.

The above notwithstanding, a lot of things would have to be improved upon if Sunday School would have to be what it ought to be. The following are therefore recommended by the researcher for future research work on the concept under consideration.

- "Pre-service Training" - people to be assigned in a church teaching programme should be certified as trained in the knowledge of the Word of God; after accepting Christ as their Lord and Saviour.
- Pastor, and Teachers of Sunday School are the architect of the success or failure of the Sunday School and there for commit themselves to the work of Sunday school. This will enhance

sustainable church growth. ✓

- The local church is being advised to make use of Sunday School teachers who are Christian to reach and win souls for Christ.
- The church should intensify effort to improve Sunday School teaching and learning by supplying materials needed for the department adequately and timely distributed to teachers.
- There should be opportunity for constant teaching practicals. The fact that practice makes for perfection proves it right that the teacher who is properly trained should constantly be given opportunity to demonstrate that ability.

Teachers should be attending retreat, seminars workshops and be involved in various training opportunities such as Bible Study, Prayer Sessions, Mission Outreach and Discipleship programmes of the church.

## 5.2 **Conclusion**

Sunday school has been recognized to be an important Christian educational agency in the Nigeria Baptist Convention

churches. This fact is made evident by Sunday school workers in Christ Heritage Baptist Church, Ogbomoso through their responses to the questionnaire forms sent to them and analysed. It can be concluded that Sunday school contributes to church growth both numerically and spiritually in the local church.

### 5.3 **Recommendations**

From the results of the findings and the researcher's experience while conducting the study in the researcher's Church: Christ Heritage Baptist Church, the following are recommended:-

1. The pastor, Sunday school superintendent and Sunday school teachers should work hand in hand to enhance an healthy Sunday school in their local churches.
2. Adequate space and teaching materials should be provided for all age-groups to make the atmosphere conducive to learning the Word of God.
3. Members should not be too many in a class in order to aid active participation of members in Sunday school lessons. A Sunday school teacher and attendee ratio of 1 to 15 that is 1:15 is therefore recommended.
4. Pastors in various Baptist Associations, Conferences and Convention at large need to come together to put in place pre-service training for Sunday school workers - This is an important basic input for all would be teachers.

5. The teachers who are properly trained should constantly be given opportunity to demonstrate ability. The fact that practice makes for perfection is strongly upheld in this study.
6. Apart from pre-service training, teachers should be involved in various skills such as Bible Study, Prayer Sessions, Mission outreach and Discipleship Programmes of the church.