

NBTS
M Div.
043e

**AN EVALUATION OF THE EFFECTIVENESS
OF SUNDAY SCHOOL
IN THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, KANO**

An Essay Presented
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ABSTRACT.

The essay topic: "An Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Sunday School in the First Baptist Church, Kano", has been chosen in order to see if the Sunday School of the Church still exist to fulfill the purpose for which the Sunday School was established many years ago and to suggest recommendations for improvement where there are lapses.

The populations involved in this exercise are Sunday school teachers and members, past Sunday school directors and the children's Church Pastor.

The instruments used in this project work include: Questionnaires, interview, observations and materials from books and magazines.

The essay is divided into five chapters as follows: chapter one which is the introduction highlights the background of study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, Research Questions, the significance of the study, Delimitation of the study and the definition of terms.

In Chapter Two, the writer Reviewed of Literature on: a brief history of Sunday school, the purpose and the tasks of Sunday school as well as the organization of Sunday School.

Chapter Three shows Research methodology. With First Baptist Church, Kano as a case study the writer includes in this chapter, the historical background, and current feature of the Sunday School – the organization of members, organization of work, the record and personnel, the setting, training, visitation and the attendance.

Chapter Four presents results from data collected on Training, Attendance, Visitation, Organization, Setting and Evangelism.

Chapter Five concludes the work with a summary and recommendations for the future, which the writer believe, will help raise the standard, hence the effectiveness of the Church's Sunday school.

From the texts read it can be seen that though the Sunday school started as a lay movement, it has, within a short time of its establishment, become the teaching service of the church. The Sunday school is organized to help fulfill the mission of the church.

All writers agree on the importance of an effective Sunday school. they emphasize that each area of Sunday School work, must be effective if effectiveness is expected in the overall work of the Sunday School for lapses in one area will lead to inefficiency in the other. For example, a poor learning environment will result in poor Bible study, which will inevitably slow down the growth rate of the school.

It can be seen that while efforts have been made and are being made to vary the methods of reaching and teaching the people, all authors speak with one voice on the unchanging purpose of Sunday School to teach the Bible.

The yardstick for evaluating effectiveness differ among the authors e.g. while Johnson spoke of C.A.R.E, Caldwell wrote of the Sunday School Standard as evaluation tool. However, all agreed that effectiveness can be achieved only when human effort combines with the working of the Holy spirit.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION

When one considers the fact that First Baptist Church, Kano, was organized in 1934, it would be expected that the church's Sunday school could have gone through some of what could be considered as its 'teething problems' such as stated in the statement of the problem discussed in chapter one. However part of the problem is associated with (i) the church's location and its attendant's problem – a Muslim dominated environment. (ii) the fact that there was little effort to constantly remind the people of the purpose of Sunday school backed up with the motivation to vigorously pursue the purpose.

The writer employs such instruments as questionnaires, interviews and observation to get to the root of the problems. In the course of the exercise, it is discovered that some problems serve as breeding ground for other problems. For example, people will stop going to where they are not welcomed, so the way visitors are received influences attendance. The work shows how each activity in the Sunday School relates to the other and how each activity affects the overall tone and effectiveness of the school.

The findings provide answers to the questions asked under Research Questions (page 2-3). The essay brings to light some points of the church's Sunday School; for example, the Bible is extensively used and the fact that 97.5% of the people that filled the questionnaire believed that the Sunday School of First Baptist Church can grow. The mind set for growth gave the writer the boldness to conclude the work with some recommendations that will help to march the Sunday School forward to becoming a standard school.

It can then be concluded that the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Sunday School of First Baptist Church, Kano, is an exercise in the right direction especially since efficiency test was applied to both materials and methods. It is hoped that the recommendations made will be examined and applied.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The writer recommends the following for the Sunday School of First Baptist Church, Kano based on the findings in the research conducted:-

- (i) That the church develop a positive attitude towards children's ministry especially their Sunday School.
- (ii) It is recommended that each year the church sends Sunday School delegates to the annual Sunday School National Conference, there should be a delegate from the children's Sunday School to the conference. The Church's annual Sunday School Seminar should always have topics relating to Children's Sunday school.
- (iii) The setting in the Pre-School and Children Division should be improved upon especially the furniture should suit the age.
- (iv) It is recommended that a Cradle Roll Department be started by the school to "catch them young".
- (v) The church should organize Workshop for Children's Workers and would-be workers to ensure availability of adequate and well-equipped workers that would make age grading system possible and effective.
- (vi) The members should be educated to know that everyone must be involved in visiting. The Superintendent sets the example by visiting teachers; teachers motivate class members to visit one another. Cards inviting people to Sunday School specifying the time of Sunday School can be taken along so that prospects are given the card. With the card, prospects can easily locate the church. The school can benefit by using the C.C.C. method to make them think Sunday school.
- (vii) It will help the Sunday school if it has a prospect file and another file for visitation report. This will make follow-up to be very easy and effective.
- (viii) Visitation should be made to members, absentees and prospects.
- (ix) Appreciation of teachers should not be limited to class members. The church should set a Sunday to appreciate Sunday School teachers, for example this could be by praying for them.

