

THE APPRAISAL OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHING
MINISTRY IN THE NIGERIAN BAPTIST CONVENTION
CHURCHES

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ABSTRACT

One of the foremost goals of religious education and the Sunday school is to lead people to change their behaviour for better; unsaved persons are led to receive Christ and to start a new life in Christ. Christians are helped to grow to new level of commitment to Christ and Christian behaviour. The Sunday school is that department of the church that is responsible for the teaching of the bible. This makes it to be popularly known as "the bible school" or "the Bible Study School". There is no reason for the existence of the Sunday school except for the teaching of the Bible with a view to winning the lost and developing Christian character. The study, which is "The appraisal of Sunday School Teaching Ministry in the Nigerian Baptist Convention Churches is an attempt to find answers to the following questions: What is the Christian teaching ministry of a church? What is the historical background of Sunday school? How did it start and by whom in Nigeria? Through whose instrumentality has it developed in Nigeria? How can we make our good better, and our better best? Pastor and teachers of Sunday school are the architect of the success or failure of the school. Sunday school workers are expected to commit themselves to the work of Sunday school by practising the workers' covenant while following the standard of excellence. If our Sunday school teaching ministry should reach its zenith, all the above questions should be taken into consideration. By studying the past events and experiencing the present, we will be able to appraise and give recommendations for the future.

Sunday school teaching ministry: Our children's departments need to be properly organised. Though the Sunday school Division has provided materials for teaching them, yet the materials are not used as they should because of lack of the technical-know-how of their teachers. We thank God that a section is being established now in the Baptist Building to cater for our children

6.3 Recommendation:

In accordance to the outcome of the findings of this study, the researcher wishes to make the following recommendation:

1. That every church even in villages be encouraged to go by grading system of Sunday school for easy teaching and understanding.
2. All churches that have not got enough space or accommodation for all classes of Sunday school should endeavour to have it.
3. All churches even in villages should establish children's department which should be managed by competent hands always.
4. Since we have got a children's department now in the Baptist building, workers there could be called upon to teach and train teachers of children in churches so that they may be able to lead their children successfully
5. Teaching aids should be provided by the convention on current Sunday school lessons to be purchased at will. Instructional media should be made available for adult lessons.
6. Teachers of Sunday school should be trained for efficiency.
7. There were scathing remarks passed on the lateness of lesson materials getting to the hands of churches. The Sunday school division should be encouraged to send out her materials to be written to the programme writers early enough to forestall lateness in returning them.

8. The Sunday school division of the convention should be advised to employ more translators instead of hiring people to help her translate into any language.
9. Churches whether small or big should be encouraged to send their S.S teachers and superintendents to meetings and seminar so that they can come back to teach others, that there may be improvement in their teachings.
10. Every church is advised to have a norm on when to rotate a teacher from one class to the other, either every year, two years or three years. Those who do excellently well may be allowed to stay on a little longer before rotating them off.
11. No teacher should be allowed to teach a class for more than two years.