

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD
NATIONAL YOUTH AND DISCIPLESHIP DEPARTMENT
JAMAICA



National Sunday School Seminar 2023

Theme:

SUNDAY SCHOOL AN EFFECTIVE TOOL: LOVING AND SERVING JUSTLY



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2023
MANDEVILLE CHURCH, 18 KNOWLES ROAD, MANCHESTER

REV. DR. KEVIN A. PAGE
National Director of Youth and Discipleship

REV. STANLEY IVEY
National Director of Christian Education Unit

MODERATOR: REV. DIEGO DUNCHIE
National Youth and Discipleship Board member



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Theme: SUNDAY SCHOOL AN EFFECTIVE TOOL: LOVING AND SERVING JUSTLY"

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NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD
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NATIONAL YOUTH AND DISCIPLESHIP BOARD MEMBERS

1. **Rev. Kevin Page** - National Director
2. Rev. Diego Dunchie
3. Rev. Nichola Walcott-Robinson
4. Rev. Geraud Brown
5. Rev. Markel Wright
6. Rev. Everton Robinson
7. Rev. Dr. Stenneth Davis
8. Rev. Orane Williams
9. Rev. Kemar Campbell
10. Rev. Stanley Ivey

NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Sharon Campbell - Administrative Assistant

Rev. Jermaine Lawrence - National Tertiary Student Ministry (NSTM)

PLEASE MEET THE MEMBERS OF

NATIONAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UNIT



1. **Rev. Stanley Ivey**- *National Director of Christian Education Unit*
2. Rev. Dr. Stenneth Davis –*National Youth and Discipleship Board Liaison*
3. Rev. Dr. Ajilon Ferdinand
4. Rev. Sophia Brown-Gordon
5. Rev. Odane Eubank
6. Rev. Korri Morris
7. Dr. Claudette Barrett-March
8. Nadine Simms
9. Rhoniel Parkins



VISION

The vision of this unit within the National Youth and Discipleship Department is to develop a properly structured, well executed program that seeks to address the critical needs of our youth concerning their continued discipleship through theological/Christian education. Producing rounded young people, grounded in the faith, relevant to the time and unapologetic to every challenge contending against the faith, which was handed down by the elders.

Mission

To communicate the full council of God to the youth of our church through the effectual dissemination of theological information to our youth population. To promote Spiritual development by utilizing the training and skills acquired over the years to communicate the salient, factual, and profound truths which form the pillars of our evangelical faith.

To encourage in-depth study of the Scripture and Spiritual doctrines of the Christian faith through the hosting of seminars, symposia, and fora, on issues relevant to a deep understanding of the faith.

ILLUMINATING THE THEME

Theme: SUNDAY SCHOOL AN EFFECTIVE TOOL: LOVING AND SERVING JUSTLY"



Another

year has passed so quickly, and we are again gathering for another time of training and assessment of our journey this far. On the behalf of our National Youth Director, Rev. Dr. Kevin Page, the National Youth and Discipleship Board, and the Christian Education Unit, I want to extend a very warm welcome to all of you present here today. We do appreciate the many ways you have planned and sacrifice to be here today.

This year, God has given to us another opportunity to meet again face to face after over two years in virtual space. Things have change is many ways than one and as such we are focusing on doing some assessments and taking a fresh look on how we can both strengthen and grow our Sunday schools to the glory of God. Hence our theme: "Sunday School an Effective Tool: Loving and Serving Justly." Our nation Jamaica and elsewhere is experiencing increase incidents and situations that speak to the need for justice and love for our neighbors. As a church we want to equip our Sunday school departments to help counter this negative trend. We want our Sunday schools to help foster the discussions and then direct our students to the solutions that are written is the scriptures. We desire to see and hear reports from each local church that Sunday school has rebounded face to face and that the attendance has even surpassed what it was in pre-Covid 19 years.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank my team of committed and hard workers who have continued to think and work for the betterment of all our Sunday schools. I want to welcome to our team Rev. Odane Eubank, Rev. Kori Morris and Intern Minister Rhoneil Parkins.

This year, we want to grow our Sunday schools by making a deliberate effort to continue to reach all those who got disconnected and to connect persons who were not members of our Sunday schools. We have also noted that a lot of our church members and regular visitors are not attending Sunday school. We hope to reverse this trend going forward in all local churches. This alone will see our attendance numbers increase significantly to the glory of God. We want to have outreach Sunday schools becoming a part of in-house Sunday school and new believers as we continue to evangelize. We continue to use virtual space to teach and reach students and or do a hybrid method where and when possible.

Keep up the good work and continue to advance the Kingdom of God.

Rev. Stanley Ivey

National Director of the Christian Education Unit



NATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL SEMINAR 2023

Saturday, February 11, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.-3:00p.m.

Theme: SUNDAY SCHOOL AN EFFECTIVE TOOL: LOVING AND SERVING JUSTLY"

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Moderator:

Rev. Diego Dunchie

National Youth and Discipleship Board member

9:30 a.m.-9:45a.m.

PRELIMINARIES

- **Devotion**

Rev. Stanley Ivey

National Director of Christian Education Unit

- **Welcome**

Rev. Dr. Donald Roberts

District Overseer/Host Pastor of the Mandeville Church/Past National Youth Director

Introductions & Instructions

Dr. Claudette Barrett- March

National Christian Education Unit member

Greetings

Rev. Dr. Kevin Page

National Director of Youth and Discipleship

Video Greetings

Bishop Lance Colkmire

Managing Editor of the Church of God Publications
Cleveland Tennessee, United States of America.

9:45 a.m.-10:45a.m.

SESSION ONE

A Call to Serve: Roles and Responsibilities of the Sunday School Workers

Rev. Orville Plummer

National Secretary Treasurer

Question and Answer

Coffee Break

10:45a.m.-11:15a.m.

11:15a.m. - 12:15p.m.

SESSION TWO

An Evaluation Tool for an Effective Sunday School

Rev. Dr. Stenneth Davis

National Youth and Discipleship Board member

Question and Answer



NATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL SEMINAR 2023

Saturday, February 11, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.-3:00p.m.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES CONT'D.

12:15p.m.-1:15p.m.

Growing the Sunday School Within

Rev. Odane Eubank

Mocho Church

Growing the Sunday School Without

Rev. Kori Morris

Chalky Hill and Hermitage Churches

Question and Answer

1:15 p.m. -1:45p.m.

DEPARTMENT'S UPDATES

- **Regional Talent Showcase Competition**
Saturday, February 18, 2023
- **Regional Children & Teens Bible Quiz Competitions** Saturday, March 11, 2023
- **Pastors and Leaders' Impact Conference**
April 12, 2023 at the Mandeville Church
- **National Youth Congress**
April 14-15, 2023 at our Convention Centre



1:45p.m.-2:00p.m.

Closing Activities

- Closing Prayer
- Blessings

2:00p.m.

LUNCH BREAK



NATIONAL
CHRISTIAN
Education
MINISTRY

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD JAMAICA

PROFILE PRESENTERS

PROFILE OF REV. ORVILLE PLUMMER



Rev. Orville Plummer was educated at the Glenmuir High School, Jamaica Theological Seminary and the University of the West Indies. He is currently reading for a Doctoral Degree in Leadership in Higher Education from the Delaware State University.



Rev. Plummer is an ordained Bishop of the New Testament Church of God and has served in a number of capacities over the past 27 years. These include: National Camp Director, National Teen's Ministries Director, Pastor, District Overseer and National Director of Youth and Christian Education and National Director of Ministerial Care and Development.

He presently serves as the National Secretary/Treasurer of the New Testament Church of God, Jamaica.

Rev. Plummer is married to Paula (a school principal). They are the proud parents of three sons. He is a Justice of the Peace, a committed Jamaican, a passionate Christian and a transformational leader.

PROFILE OF REV. DR. STENNETH DAVIS



Rev. Dr. Stenneth Davis is an Ordained Bishop of the New Testament Church of God in Jamaica with International Offices in Cleveland Tennessee, United States of America.

He holds a Diploma in Education, a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Theology, a Master of Arts in Leadership and Management, and a Doctorate in Transformational Leadership.

Dr. Davis is the District Overseer and Pastor for Brown's Town District of Churches in St. Ann. He serves as well as the District Overseer and Pastor for Newport District of Churches in Manchester. He is the Principal of Baillieston Primary and Infant School in Clarendon. In addition, he is a member of the National Youth and

Discipleship Board. He has served as the former Assistant Director of the Evangelism Board in the New Testament Church of God.

Dr. Davis is happily married to Velma and the Union has produced two fast growing young men.



PROFILE OF PRESENTERS



PROFILE OF REV. KORI MORRIS



Rev Kori Morris is the pastor of the Hermitage and Chalky Hill New Testament Church of God.

He was employed for ten years with Flow communications formerly known as LIME. when he received the call for ministry to pursue his studies in Theology at the Bethel Bible College of the Caribbean, Jamaica where he obtained a degree in Theology, minor in Guidance and Counseling and now lecturers at the extension in St. Ann's Bay.

Rev Kori Morris is a graduate of the University of Technology with a diploma in Electronics and Telecommunications, and also a graduate of the University of the West Indies with a degree in Management Studies.

Rev. Morris has the opportunity of serving as the School Chaplain for the Priory Primary and Infant School in St. Ann and sits on the School Board for the Chalky Hill Primary and Infant School in St. Ann. He also served as the Academic Dean of the North Coast School of Ministries.

Rev. Morris is married to Donnette and the union has produced one child Nevaeh Destiny Morris.



PROFILE OF REV. ODANE EUBANK



Rev. Odane Alex Eubank is a Minister of Religion. He is from the Good Hope community in Kellits, Clarendon. He has been a minister in the New Testament Church of God, Jamaica for seven (7) and half years. He had the privilege of pastoring the Bog and Leamington and the, Mandeville Church as an Associate Pastor.

He attended the Edwin Allen and Kellits Highs Schools, and graduated from Bethel Bible College of the Caribbean, Jamaica with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theology and a Minor in Guidance and Counseling and is currently pursuing a Master of

Divinity Degree at the Luther Rice College and Seminary.

Rev. Eubank presently serves as the pastor of the Mocho New Testament Church of God in Clarendon. He is a part-time lecturer at the Bethel Bible College of the Caribbean, Jamaica teaching the Certificate programme. He is a member of the National Discipleship Unit Board and serves on the Christian Education Unit of the National Youth and Discipleship Department

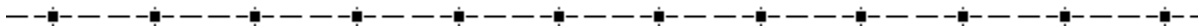
Rev. Eubank is passionate about Christian ministry and Christian education. He loves Bible teaching and believes without a doubt that there is nothing more powerful on earth than the preaching of gospel of Christ which leads to disciple-making.

Rev. Eubank has been married for 6 years to Abigail Eubank.



A CALL TO SERVE: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKERS

Presenter: Rev. Orville Plummer



PURPOSE AND OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

1. Present a Biblical foundation of the Sunday school
2. Articulate the alignment to the of the Sunday School to the New Testament Church of God strategic plan
3. Propose an organizational chart for an effective and efficient Sunday School
4. Explain the roles and responsibilities of Sunday School personnel
5. Share best practices for recruiting and developing Sunday School workers

THE BIBLICAL FOUNDATION OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

1. Deuteronomy 6:4-7:
2. "*Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the Lord your God, and observe to do all the words of this law*" (Deuteronomy 31:12) typified the key elements of the Sunday School:
 - a. Sunday School as the **reaching arm** of the church (Gather)
 - b. Sunday School as the **teaching arm** of the church (Hear and Learn)
 - c. Sunday School as the **winning arm** of the church (Fear)
 - d. Sunday School as the **discipling arm** of the church (Observe)
3. Jesus' activities in the temple in Luke 2:46-47 exemplifies the Sunday School (*...sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers*)
4. Luke 2: 52 indicates that the Sunday School is foundational to the holistic development of believers (*And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man*)
5. The systematic teaching-learning programme of the Sunday School is essential for effective discipleship(acts 2: 42-43)
6. The Sunday School is essential in maturing the believers and equipping the believers for ministry and producing Christ likeness (Eph. 4:12-15)
7. The primary motivation for Sunday School is the Great Commission ([Matthew 28:19-20](#)).



THE SUNDAY SCHOOL & THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD STRATEGIC PLAN

According to Hemphill & Taylor (2001, p. 13), the “*Sunday School is the foundational strategy in a local church for leading people to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and for building on-mission Christians through open Bible study groups that engage people in evangelism, discipleship, ministry, fellowship, and worship.*” An effective and efficient Sunday School is therefore essential in achieving the following core elements of the NTCOG strategic plans:

1. **Vision:** We are a Kingdom-advancing, Bible-based, Christ-centred, Spirit-filled, Disciple-making, Family-focused church, positively impacting people and the nation.
2. **Mission:** The Mission of the New Testament Church of God in Jamaica is to advance the Kingdom of God by growing healthy churches that are committed to effective evangelism, Spirit-filled worship, sustained prayer, deliberate discipleship, biblical stewardship, compassionate service and godly relationships.
3. **Core Values:** Reverence For God, Christ Centeredness, Spirit Empowerment, Care and Compassion, Integrity, Unity and Excellence
4. **Strategic Focus**
 - ✓ *Growing Healthy Churches* – Strong, balanced and effective local churches that are committed to core functions of discipleship, fellowship, prayer, worship, stewardship and service
 - ✓ *Members’ Care and Development* – Each local church giving priority attention to the care and development of each member
 - ✓ *Financial Management and Accountability* – The church becoming financial stable and debt-free by demonstrating excellence in financial management and accountability at all levels
 - ✓ *Ministerial Recruitment, Training, Development and Care* – The church implementing an integrated and sustained programme of recruitment, training, development and care of ministers
 - ✓ *Administrative Effectiveness and Efficiency* – The church developing and implementing an administrative structure, policies, procedures and practices that facilitates the effectiveness and efficiency of the local church, ministries and personnel at all levels.
 - ✓ *Family Enrichment and Support* – The church promoting positive family values and providing a wide range of support towards fostering strong and healthy families.
 - ✓ *Community Outreach, National and Global Missions and Evangelism* – The local and National Church lovingly serving the community and positively impacting the nation and the world.



PROPOSED FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SUNDAY SCHOOL PERSONNEL

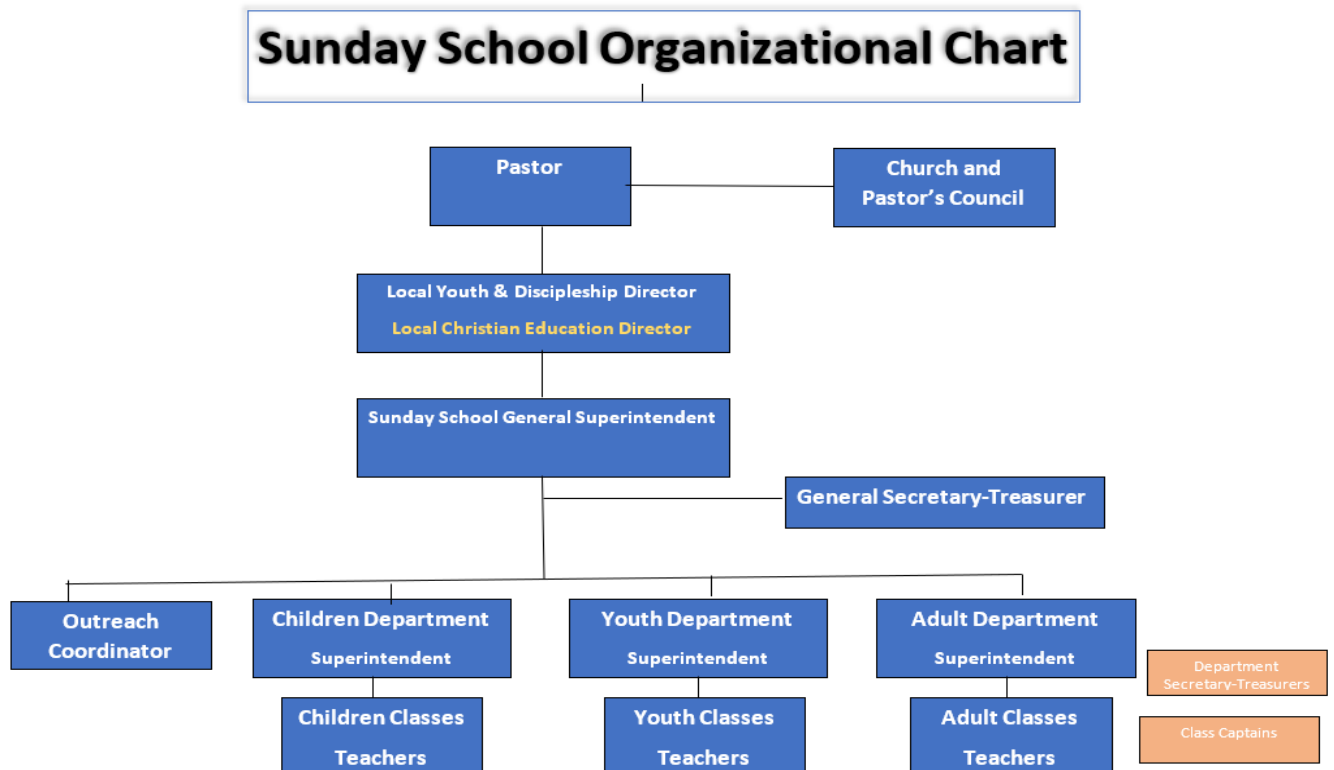
The Sunday School is as strong as its staff. The quality of the Sunday School's ministry depends, to a great degree, on the selection of the individual workers. The church which takes seriously its obligation to provide the best possible leadership for its Sunday School is already on the road toward success. On the other hand, the church who would appoint and maintain mediocre and ineffective staff will continue to have mediocre and ineffective Sunday School.

The Pastor and Church Council

In a local church, the pastor and the Church Council are ultimately responsible for the organization, leadership, equipping, resourcing, monitoring and evaluation of the Sunday School. To a large extent, the success of the Sunday school is dependent on the pastor and council vital, visionary and visible leadership. Some of the key roles and responsibilities of the pastor and the church council are:

Provide overall leadership, vision and a plan for the church that would guide the Sunday School Ministry Team (SSMT)

1. Appoint competent and called leaders of the Sunday School
2. Communicate and promote the overall mission of the Sunday school to the church.
3. Guide Sunday school workers to spiritual maturity and help them develop the



skills that will enhance their ability to fulfill their responsibility.

4. Establish policies and procedures to support growth and effectiveness of the Sunday School (e.g., a requirement for church leaders and workers to be regular Sunday School attendees)
5. Facilitate training and developmental activities for Sunday School leaders and workers
6. Work with the SSMT to set goals and evaluate all aspects of the Sunday School
7. Set positive example in the life and ministry of the church

“There is no substitute for a pastor with a vision for the church, the understanding that the Sunday School is the way to grow a church, and the commitment to give the time necessary to help his staff do the work of the Sunday School.” – Jerry Squyres, in *Secrets of Sunday School Success for Ministers of Education*, Joe Haynes, compiler. Convention Press, 1992.

Superintendent/Director or Coordinator

The Sunday School Superintendent serves as the general administrative leader of the Sunday School Ministry. The position requires solid Christian Education knowledge and strong administrative leadership competence. The Superintendent is tasked to lead the Sunday School Ministry Team (**SSMT**) in planning, organizing, enlisting, equipping and mobilizing the church to achieve the goals of the Sunday School. Specifically, the roles and responsibilities include the following:

1. Collaboratively formulate and articulate clear vision, goals and objectives for the Sunday School
2. Establish and implement an efficient and effective organizational structure for the Sunday School
3. Establish and implement an efficient and effective administrative system for the Sunday School
4. Establish an operational budget and secure resources for the efficient operations of the SSM
5. Meet regularly with the **SSMT** for prayer, communication, planning, assessment, team building, etc.
6. Supervises departmental/divisional heads, general secretary, outreach coordinator and other direct reports
7. Constantly promote the Sunday School and keep church leaders and the congregation up to date on relevant developments
8. Meet regularly with the **SSMT** for prayer, communication, planning, assessment, team building, etc.
9. Organize and lead the Sunday School in expansion and outreach
10. Lead in efforts to recruit and develop Sunday School personnel
11. Conduct ongoing assessment and evaluation of the Sunday School
12. Involved in personal development and be available for seminars, workshops and other training and developmental activities.



13. Prepare and submit monthly, quarterly and annual SSM reports
14. Strive for personal growth in the spiritual, social, physical and mental spheres and maintain a spirit of excellence
15. Stay in contact with the National Youth and Discipleship Department for updates, resources and networking

Department Superintendents

1. Coordinate the work of the departments and determines its needs
2. Collaboratively formulate and articulate clear vision, goals and objectives for the Sunday School
3. Assist in recruiting and training teachers and departmental secretary
4. Collaboratively develop a budget for the department
5. Organize and lead the department expansion and outreach
6. Coordinates the use of resources and supplies
7. Meet regularly with the department's staff for prayer, communication, planning, assessment, team building, etc.
8. Leads in evaluation of the work of the division
9. Represents the interest of the department on the SSMT
10. Strive for personal growth in the spiritual, social, physical and mental spheres and maintain a spirit of excellence

Sunday School General Secretary-Treasurer

The General Secretary-Treasurer assists the General Superintendent by providing vital support related to **record keeping**, reports and other communications; securing Sunday school supplies and other resources; and coordinate the distribution of resources. The role of the secretary/treasurer is vital to the success of the Sunday School. Statistics is useful in measuring growth; the secretary/treasurer is the one with access and the ability to compile such statistics. Larger Sunday Schools need **Department Secretaries** who, in turn, send their reports to the general secretary.

The Sunday School General Secretary-Treasurer functions include:

1. Meet regularly with the superintendent and the SSMT
2. Process and maintain records for the department and compile reports as requested, including prospect information
3. Coordinate ordering and distribution of Sunday school books and other supplies
4. Meet regularly with the church Secretary-Treasurer (Clerk) relating to recording keeping and reports
5. Set a positive example by visible involvement in the Sunday school and as an authentic of Christ



The Sunday School Teacher

Jesus typified and elevated the role of teacher. No wonder he was not called healer nor preacher but 'Teacher'. The importance of teaching is seen when it was included in the Great Commission: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations... teaching them to observe all that I commanded you..." (Matthew 28:19-20, NASB). Sunday School teaching is one of the greatest opportunities for believers serve God. Loremy (2022) put the role of the Sunday School teacher in its proper spiritual perspective:

Teaching Sunday School is different from most teaching. It involves a supernatural curriculum, the Bible; it involves a supernatural command, the Great Commission; it involves a supernatural notice and endowment, God's call and bestowal of gifts; it involves the supernatural power, the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, the teacher who teaches in Sunday School should be more than an instructor who teaches the Bible. He also has a responsibility for the spiritual welfare of his students.

It should be emphasized that the Sunday School teacher has the same responsibility to his class as the pastor has to his flock. The Sunday School teacher, like the pastor, has a threefold responsibility: **to lead, feed and protect the flock**(1 Peter 5:2-4). As in general education, teacher quality is proven to be the most important school related factor in determining students' success.

The major responsibilities of Sunday school teachers include:

Prepare adequately to teach the lesson

1. Lead the class in meaningful bible study
2. Cultivate a positive relationship with students and prospective students before, during and after classes.
3. Use creative ways to communicate the message of the lesson
4. Field and respond to students' questions and concerns
5. Lead students to faith in Christ and guide them to serve him in evangelism, worship, fellowship, discipleship and ministry.
6. Evaluate and inform the Sunday school superintendent of the resources needed to enhance effective teaching-learning
7. Be a positive example in attitude, behaviour, enthusiasm and involvement in the church's overall ministry.
8. Involved in personal development and be available for seminars, workshops and other training and developmental activities



Assistant Sunday School Teachers

1. Assist Sunday school teacher with preparing materials for class: handouts, props, supplies, etc.
2. Be available to lead the class in the Sunday school teacher's absence, or as scheduled.
3. Distribute handouts or other instructional material in class
4. Pray for class members and visitors
5. Greet and encourage students

Outreach Coordinator

Works under the supervision of the Sunday School Superintendent in expanding the Sunday School to the wider community and beyond the confines of the church premises

Class Captains

The introduction of Class Captains in the Sunday School is a good way encouraging students' responsibility, fostering leadership development and providing training for prospective teachers. Class Captains can assist in a number of ways including:

1. Assist the teacher in physical class preparation
2. Taking class attendance
3. Distributing handouts
4. Maintaining class social medium group
5. Communicating class information

It maybe be useful to rotate Class Captains

BEST PRACTICES & RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RECRUITING AND DEVELOPING SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKERS

1. Appoint assistants to each position (e.g., Assistant Superintendent, Assistant Teacher)
2. Do occasional position rotations (e.g., Teacher – Superintendent)
3. Invite general membership to participate in Sunday School workers' training activities
4. Treat the Sunday School as SCHOOL in respect of recruiting and developing staff
5. Develop and implement job descriptions/job requirements for all workers
6. Incorporate workers' recruitment in Sunday School Expansion Drive
7. Appoint and train class leaders/captains and class secretaries
8. Have continuous recruiting of workers (not just in August-September)
9. Identify teenagers and young adult with potential
10. Bethel Bible in collaboration with the Youth and Discipleship Department to develop and deliver standardized and certified training for Sunday School personnel.



CONCLUSION

1. Charles Spurgeon: "Let no Christian parents fall into the delusion that Sunday School is intended to ease them of their personal duties. The first and most natural condition of things is for Christian parents to train up their own children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord".
2. Denzel Washington: "The lessons I learned in Sunday School have kept me on track"
3. Robert Fulghum: "All I really need to know about how to live and what to do and how to be, I learned in kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate-school mountain, but there in the sand pile at Sunday School".
4. Steve Parr: "Research has revealed that participation in Sunday school makes a dramatic difference in the assimilation of a new believer. The survey questioned people who had received Christ as Savior five years earlier. Of those who immediately became active in Sunday school, 83 percent were still active five years later. By contrast, only 16 percent were still active if they did not become active in Sunday school immediately after becoming a believer. What a dramatic difference"

SOURCES

1. A Coach's Guide to Sunday School: A Sunday School Director's Manual (2nd Edition), Kiely Young. https://www.mbc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/a_coachs_guide_to_sunday_school_a_sunday_school_directors_manual
2. *An Effective Sunday School In The Midst of The 21st Century*, Stephene Timothee Loremy
3. *How To Sunday School Manual*, Wayne Poling, LifeWay Press, 2009.
4. *What Every Pastor Should Know About Sunday School*, Elmer L. Towns and Stan Toler, Regal Books, 2002.
5. *Ten Best Practices To Make Your Sunday School Work*, Ken Hemphill and Bill Taylor, LifeWay Press, 2001.
6. *Building A Great Church Through The Sunday School: A Pastor's Guide*, James E. Fitch, Compiler, Convention Press, 1992.
7. *Secrets of Sunday School Success for Ministers of Education*, Joe Haynes, compiler. Convention Press, 1992.



AN EVALUATION TOOL FOR AN EFFECTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Presenter: Rev. Dr. Stenneth Davis

The question lingers, should we use evaluation in our Christian education programs?

As an educator, I believe, evaluation is essential, as it assesses/measures performance at all levels of the organizational chart. A cricketer's score is an evaluation of his play on a given day; a dieter's weight serves as an assessment of progress on a new weight loss program. In the field of education, the performance of our students at a given task serves as an assessment for the teaching and learning process. Evaluation is indeed a way of life, and I conceive, very few organizations including the church can endure through time without a systematic measuring of their effectiveness.

It is critical that a Sunday school lesson is properly planned, hence the need for our teachers to embrace the 5Es approach to lesson planning. This approach is a student-centric learning program. It was developed by the Biological Sciences Curriculum Study in 1987. The philosophy behind it maintains that students learn much better when adding experience to their knowledge.

Five (5) Es Lesson Plan

So, what is the 5e lesson plan and how can you use it to improve the quality of life in your Sunday school?

In this presentation we will break down the 5Es of lesson planning (engage, explore, explain, elaborate, and evaluate). We will also associate the same principles with the process of proper lesson planning among our Sunday school teachers. I am assured we will be able to use these methods to improve the quality of teaching and learning as we see the Sunday school as a replica of a normal classroom.

Engage

The purpose of the engagement stage of the 5E lesson plan is to conduct a quick activity that will immediately cause the students to draw them into the learning process. We want them to be exciting about what they are learning. Yep, even the "boring" stuff can become fun when we present it in creative ways.

What you want to think of here is the anticipatory set. You can read more about this by clicking [here](#) to access my article about anticipatory sets.

The activities that you choose to do to grab your students' attention need to be pretty short, no longer than 5-10 minutes. Some great examples are:

1. Video introducing the subject
2. Short Game
3. Display with items relevant to the subject



4. Short story related to the subject
5. Quiz game
6. KWL chart
7. Role playing
8. Short interview with someone in the field
9. Related food



Remember the goal of this is to introduce the day's or week's lesson in a way that excites your students. As long as it fits into a short period of time, you can do just about anything that is fun and related to the subject at the same time.

Explore

Now that your students are excited about what you have for them to learn about today, the next step in the 5e lesson plan is for them to explore the subject and learn new things about it.

Once again, the more hands on you make this, the better the students will retain the information. Having an open class discussion is one of my favorite ways to do this. First, I capitalize on what the students already know by asking pointed questions. Then we start taking that knowledge and building on it. That can take many forms:

1. Experiments
2. Art Projects
3. Shared readings
4. Videos
5. Interviews

It is important that the projects are done before class discussion so that during the discussion time you can fill in any gaps that were not covered. It also allows them to process the information better when there are tactile aspects to their lesson.

Explain

This is one of my favorite parts of the 5e lesson plan. I love seeing the students start to recognize what they have learned based on the projects and instruction they have already received.

Students love the freedom of presenting what they have learned in their own style. And this activity makes them comfortable with getting up in front of the class and making presentations. Having their small group up there with them while they present also makes them feel less on the spot. This will be helpful for your more introverted students and help them to come out of their shell just a little bit more.

Elaborate

The elaborate phase of the 5E lesson plan uses the information that the students have already showed mastery to build even further on their knowledge. This would be an even more in-depth activity. So, it could start with some lecture but build quickly into a more hands-on approach. Once again, classroom discussion works well here because it allows

the students to draw from what they have learned. Now they start making conclusions based on what they are learning and how they are able to put all the pieces together.

The strength that the students learn from this activity is so valuable in helping them to see the power of lifelong learning. And it takes the pressure of the teacher to teach facts to a test. It also allows the students to take pride in their ability to stretch themselves academically.

You could also add case studies here for students to be able to see how what they have learned is applied. This can be in any form you can come up with. Some suggestions are:

1. Video
2. Craft
3. Experiment
4. Game

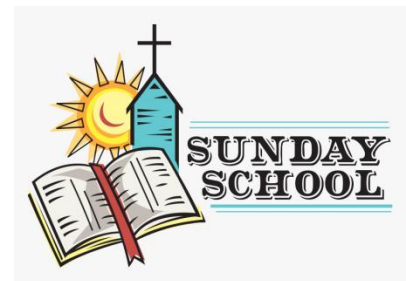
You will want this project to be different than what you have already done. So, if you have already done a video or experiment, go with a craft or game. Not only does the variety keep your students engaged, it also reaches more students' favorite activities.

Evaluate

Finally, after the objectives are taught, it is time to assess. What have students effectively learned? What do they not understand? What should be done to help them?

- ✓ Assessments do not have to be the traditional quiz or essay. It can be a reflection, project, book report, or model.
- ✓ Some individuals have the attitude that it is unspiritual to measure a Sunday School teacher's class session. However, even Jesus practiced evaluation. He would often teach his disciples, and then send them out to test their learning. He would give them a lesson on faith, and then ask them to cross a lake, knowing full well a storm would arise to test that faith. Ultimately, each believer will stand before Jesus as he assesses our faithfulness. This presentation seeks to purport, that for a Sunday school to be effective, four concerns should receive regular evaluation. These are: facility, program staff and Learner/ student. It will also suggest samples of evaluation questions and an actual evaluation template, along with ideas to create and finance a Sunday school budget.

It is my wish that after this presentation we will return to our varying localities to effect the changes of a growing and impactful Sunday school



Growing the Sunday School Within

Presenter: Rev. Odane Eubank

For growth in the Sunday school, there must be visible spiritual growth and consecration in the life of the teacher.

In order to grow the Sunday school “without”, growth and stability have to **first take place within**. This growth begins by realizing what Sunday school is. Sunday school while it is educational, is unlike regular educational forms of education. This is because Sunday school is primarily spiritual, it is a spiritual endeavor. What this means is that growth can only begin with the individuals at the helm.

Teachers and Sunday School Superintendents must then develop themselves by making way for spiritual growth. If they are to impart the word of God, in a way that will foster spiritual growth and transformation, they must be connected to God. They must be saved, filled up, controlled by the spirit, and certainly consecrated. Consecration is often overlooked in church endeavors, but without a consecrated life, connection with God is severed and growth is inhibited on the part of the teacher, and by implication the students. Consecration and spiritual maturity is essential for the teacher, both in the eyes of God and the eyes of man. An immoral lifestyle will do unthinkable damage to the Sunday school ministry. Sunday school fosters spiritual formation, this formation and transformation must be visible in the life of the teacher.

Like any other ministry in the church, Sunday school requires proper administration and discipline

There must be consistency and a clear sense of responsibility among leaders and teachers of the department. A carefree and casual approach will not do well to encourage students. If you don't care, why should they? Regular meetings should be held for proper planning and regular assessment. Teachers must be held accountability by the superintendent or pastor. Lack of planning, discipline and organization is a quick way to kill the Sunday. Even where growth is evident, over time, without proper administration which involves succession plans for teachers, the Sunday school will go down. If you fail to plan, plan to fail. Administration in the Sunday school ministry must always be directed by the Holy Spirit.

Teachers should continuously sharpen and develop their knowledge and gifts

While consecration is essential, it is primarily personal. The Sunday school teacher has to develop themselves to match the demand of the ministry. Here dependence on the Holy Spirit is



of utmost importance, but God wants the teacher to be diligent in their handling of His word. (2 Tim. 2:15). Certainly this development is deeply impacting the teacher in a spiritual and personal way, but the teacher is also motivated by his/her responsibility to make disciples and teach the ways of Christ. For the students to go deeper into the Word and things of God, the teacher must also go deeper in the Word and things of God.



Sunday School teachers and leaders must discover and deal with issues that may hinder its growth

There are often issues preventing the Sunday school growth within the church that are not tied to the teacher. Certainly, you can have a perfect teacher (which is not possible) and yet the Sunday school may not grow. Teachers, superintendents and sometimes pastors will have to carefully and prayerfully remedy these issues.

Sunday school must reproduce teachers within

Growth in the Sunday school will not continue if we only have one set of teachers for 10 or 20 years. Teachers and Sunday school leaders must be intentional about developing other teachers. Younger apprentice teachers must be intentional selected and mentored. Just as Israel was not to be left without a leader, the Sunday school must not be left without a teacher.



Sunday School Presentation Sunday School Without

Presenter: Rev. Korri Morris

Sunday School Without

- **Introductory Overview - Breaking from the tradition.**
 - The practice of having a Sunday School traditionally is governed by a particular time and a particular place.
 - We can be so focused on the goal being "time" and "place" to the point where these 2 things become the goal. This I will refer to as Sunday School "A Kip"
 - As Long as Sunday School "a Kip" at a certain time (before or after service)and a certain place, the goal is being accomplished, but is that so?
 - We must first seek to understand the main object of Sunday School in order to understand if the ministry of a Sunday School is effective.
 - Without an assessment of what a Sunday's Goal is, even if Sunday School "A Kip" a church could be doing the same thing each year but achieving nothing.
- **What is the Goal of a Sunday School?**
 - The High Level Goal of the church must trickle down to the various auxiliaries so each auxiliary is driven by the main goal and purpose of the church which is to - Make Disciples
 - The Goal of a Sunday School is not to ensure it is being held or that person come out, it's to make Disciples. In order for discipleship to take place competent teachers with adequate information and resources must be made available.
 - While we acknowledge the value and potential of the tradition Sunday School, while we endorse the traditional approach we must accept that what we know and accept as Sunday School was a practice that was implemented at some stage in the development of the





churches history. Just as there is no Biblical Record of a Sunday School indicating that it was implemented as a necessity based off what was happening as the church grew and develop. So too *Sunday School Without* seeks to assess our current environment and implement new strategies that expand upon the traditional methodologies of Sunday School to venture into areas that may not be traditional but helps drive the goal of making disciples.

- Sunday School mirrors the traditional School environment - Where class are held typical students are grouped into age and in some case even gender. A curriculum or lesson plan is typically used to work through a topic of interest.
- Since Sunday School has found its effectiveness by mirroring the formal setting of a traditional class room it is only logical that we look again into some of the practices that the tradition classroom has turn to in an effort to become better able to teach and develop their pupils as society advances.
- **Areas that Offer Value outside of the Traditions**
- Flexibility with the Time and Place - For a long Period in the church's history if you weren't at the place and the time Sunday School was being held one would have missed Sunday School. However due to advancements in Technology this no longer has to be the case.
 - **RAR** - Lessons Can be Recorded and Archived, Revisited by Students. Topics can be fleshed out taught and left online for those who desire to access in a time when they deem more convenient.
 - **Soft Copies** - Gone are the days when the high price of printing and sharing materials becomes an hindrance since nearly every school age child has access to a tablet. Documents can be shared as softcopies which comes at a reduced cost to the budget of the local Sunday School. Also deliverable at the click of a button.
 - **Virtual Classroom** - With Flexibility of time Sunday School can have a monthly District level engagement session - virtually.
 - **Sunday School Previews** - Stirring interest in the upcoming Sunday School lessons

- *Sunday School Recap* - a weekly review of the previous weeks lesson. So that the concepts have a better chance of being imbedded in the long term memory of the students and also more likely to be manifested in behavioral changes
- *Access to Competent Teachers* through various online platforms- Having Access to Teachers who have the Ability to Teach - For long Periods of the Churches history the personnel a church had was all they could use. Basically even if the teacher/s weren't very good at their task one could only use what they had access to. - Today Through Advancements in Technology Students can have access to competent teachers with a track record of results anywhere in the world
- *More Opportunities for Continuous Training and Development Sessions*
 - National or Parish Weekly Online Sunday School Prep - Purpose to aid Churches where strong Sunday School teachers are lacking. Geared towards empowering Sunday School Teachers. Runs through the upcoming Sunday School topic
 - share best practices.
 - Give ideas for illustrations that can be used.
 - Suggest certain Songs that can be song or played.
 - Point to Supplementary videos that can be used to aid visual learners. Items that can be brought to help bring across the lessons to those students who learn through tactile interaction.
 - Goal Each Week Every Sunday School Across the Island would have a teacher who had been prepared to bring BIG impact to their local Sunday School.
- **Quarterly District/Parish/National Sunday School Online Quiz**
 - Knock out competition where churches participate in questions tied to the lessons that were taught from the Sunday School material.
- Conclusion –a Sunday School Without the shackles of the traditional methods will allow us to be better positioned to help effectively disciple this generation of Sunday School Students.



PRESENTERS NOTES –REV. KORI MORRIS

GROWING THE SUNDAY SCHOOL WITHOUT



NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD- JAMAICA
NATIONAL YOUTH AND DISCIPLESHIP DEPARTMENT
CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES 2022-2023

DATES - YEAR 2023	ACTIVITIES	VENUES
February 5-26	Sunday School Campaign/Expansion Drive (Children)	Each Local Church
February 11	Sunday School Seminar	Mandeville Church
February 18	<u>REGIONAL TALENT SHOWCASE COMPETITION</u> Eastern Central North Eastern Western	<u>Churches:-</u> Eastwood Park Old Harbour Oracabessa Montego Bay
February 24	Eastern Celebration of the Arts	Waltham Park Church
February 25	Regional District & Local Directors Training (Central)	May Pen
March 1-31	Bible Reading Month (Daniel)	Each Local Church
March 3	Western Celebration of the Arts Central Celebration of the Arts	Falmouth Church Old Harbour Church
March 10	<u>Talent Showcase</u> Extended Deadline for National Finals Entry Fee	National Office
March 11	<u>CHILDREN'S & TEENS BIBLE QUIZ COMPETITION</u> Regional Playoff	Eastwood Park, May Pen, Black River Oracabessa, Montego Bay
March 17-19	National Tertiary Students Ministry Retreat	TBD
March 18	Assessment of Department	Virtual
March 24	Deadline for Camp Workers' Application	National Office
March 25	God Style Lifestyle	Savanna la Mar
April 7-10	Easter Holidays	National
April 12	Pastors and Leaders Impact Conference	Old Harbour
April 14-15	National Youth Congress	Convention Centre
April 14	Talent Showcase Competition National Finals - Youth Congress	Convention Centre
April 15	Children's Bible Quiz National Finals - Youth Congress	Convention Centre

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD- JAMAICA
NATIONAL YOUTH AND DISCIPLESHIP DEPARTMENT
CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES 2022-2023

DATES – YEAR 2023	ACTIVITIES	VENUES
May	Child Month	Each Local Church
May 14	Mother’s Day	National
May 21	National Children’s Service	To Be Decided
May 19-20	Camp Workers Workshop	Campsite, St. Ann
June 17	Cornwall Regional District Directors Meeting/ Training	Virtual
June 18	Father’s Day	National
June 24	Youth Leaders’ Workshop (tentative)	Virtual
July 7-9	98 th Annual National Convention	National Convention
July 8	Youth Day/ Convention	National Convention
July 11-15	Children’s Camp	Campsite, St. Ann
July 17-21	Teens Camp Two Weeks	Campsite, St. Ann
July 31-August 4	International Teen Talent Competition	Lee University, U.S.A.
August 3-6	National Youth Retreat	Campsite, St. Ann
August 12	Bi-Monthly District & Local Directors Meeting & Assessment	Virtual



2023 SUNDAY SCHOOL SEMINAR NOTES...



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