

A WAKEUP CALL

In many congregations Bible school programs are experiencing tough times. In the average congregation the attendance in Bible class is about half of what it is in worship. Wednesday night classes are having a tough time too.

Many congregations can't remember the last time they had a teacher's training program. It is getting more difficult to recruit and train new teachers. Few want to teach.

As the Bible school goes, so goes the church. We can't afford to neglect this vital tool for edifying, equipping and preparing the membership for evangelism.

The field of education is changing almost every day. We are in our second generation of programmed people. People have more access to information than ever before. This means that our Bible classes, while remaining sound in biblical content, must evaluate our delivery methods and come into the twenty-first century.

The church must give special attention to becoming a learning church. This will not happen by accident. In a learning church the total education program is committed to learning. The classes and pulpit are on the same page. The church family learns together.

In order for teachers to be effective in this day of media challenges, they must not only know how to prepare relevant lessons, they must also have insight relative to how students learn. If the students aren't learning, something is wrong with the teaching.

This is a wakeup call for churches to take time and evaluate their Bible school programs, as well as all their educational activities. If we are going to have Bible classes, why not have the best?

LEARNING CHURCH SEMINAR

J.J. Turner, the author of *Healthy Churches are Learning Churches*, has developed a fast paced, biblical, relevant and workable seminar to assist churches in improving their total educational programs. Take the following brief evaluation to see if you may need this seminar:

Place a YES or NO beside each statement that follows:

___ We would like to improve our Bible classes

___ We want to improve our class curriculum

___ We would like to improve our Bible class attendance

___ We would like to recruit and train more teachers

___ We would like to double our Bible class attendance

___ We want to know how to meet the needs of our Bible class students

___ We want the best Bible classes possible

___ We want to become a learning church

___ We want to bring God glory through our educational program

If you answered YES to any of these areas, you probably need to invite Dr. Turner to come and conduct a *Learning Church Seminar*.

SEMINAR CONTENTS

The Seminar is flexible. A congregation may have specific needs to be addressed, or it may want the basic content of the regular seminar presented. Here are some of the topics covered in the seminar:

- What is a learning church?
- Is it Too Late to Turn a Non-learning Church Around?
- Factors Involved in Learning
- What God has Told us About Learning
- No Empty Seats: How to Double Bible Class Attendance
- The Training of Teachers
- A Closer look at Bible Classes and Meeting Times
- Jesus: The Perfect Teacher
- Selecting and Developing a Sound Curriculum
- Teaching that Makes a Difference
- How to Flunk Sunday School
- Developing Biblical Competencies
- Developing Servants: An objective of Teaching

SCHEDULING A SEMINAR

Questions:

1. *What is the suggested schedule for a seminar?* The suggested format is a Friday evening to launch the program, and then have Saturday morning sessions from 9:00—12:00; returning from lunch for sessions from 1:00—3:00. This is flexible. Sometimes a church may want lessons presented in the Sunday services.
2. *Who should attend the seminar?* All teachers, aspiring teachers, leaders, and members. There is something for everyone in the seminar.
3. *Who is responsible for promoting the seminar?* Each congregation is responsible for promoting their seminar.
4. *What materials are available in the seminar?* Various materials will be on display, as well as required materials for the seminar. The cost is minimum.
5. *What are the costs?* Like any special program, the church will be expected to pay travel and lodging expenses, plus a stipend to be determined before hand for the teacher of the seminar.
6. *What follow up should we expect?* The teacher of the seminar will be available for follow up consulting. This service is fee based and may be contracted during the seminar.
7. *When should we schedule a seminar?* As soon as possible. Dates are filling up quickly.

MEET THE TEACHER

The Learning Church Seminar is conducted by **J.J. Turner**, who has been in Christian education at all levels for over 35 years. He has a master's and doctorate degrees in education. He has spoken more than 10,000 times all over the world. He is the author of 90 books on various subjects. He presently serves as an elder and pulpit minister for the Lord's church in McDonough, Georgia. He has both TV and radio experience, and has served as an editor of two publications. He brings a vast amount of experience to the seminar.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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How to Double Your Bible School

The
Learning
Church
Seminar

How to Develop A Learning
Church for God's Glory