

# Seminar 1

## *Resources For Christian Education*

NORTH JERSEY MISSIONARY  
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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## RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SEMINAR I 3/23/09

### INTRODUCTION

#### **Terminology Clarification and Definitions**

Spirituality - We are 'spiritual' by creation.

*And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the 'breath of life; and man became a living soul. (Genesis 2.7)*

*All humankind has been created in the 'Image of God' and will be restless until they discover and acknowledge their gift from God.*

What is spirituality? The concept of spirituality may be difficult to define. In basic terms it is that we are more than just our physical bodies. We also have a spirit. Being spiritual is the action part of spirituality. Being spiritual involves more than going to an organized religion. Many people go to organized religions without applying the principles taught. These individuals are not truly spiritual.

Spirituality can be defined as a search for the sacred, a process through which people seek to discourse, hold onto and, when necessary, transform whatever they hold sacred in their lives [the sacred includes the concept of God, divinity, transcendence, and ultimate reality].

Spiritual development is the process of growing the intrinsic human capacity for self-transcendence, in which the self is embedded in something greater than the self, including the sacred. It is the developmental "engine" that propels the search for connectedness, meaning, purpose and contribution. It is shaped both within and outside of religious traditions, beliefs and practices.

#### Christian Education

Christian education deals with the process of teaching and learning (that is, the principles and practice of teaching and learning) conducted by Christian teachers for Christians. Both teacher and pastor/teacher must be controlled by the Spirit of God, bringing all truth into a living relationship with the truth of the Words of God. This is for the purpose of integrating the whole of the pupil's personality with a Word-

centered, Christian, theistic world view, for the purpose of enabling humankind to better serve and glorify God.

Christian education is a guided, graded process and presupposes the four essential elements of pastor, teacher, learner and an environment in which learning may successfully take place. This process must assist the student in making the learning experiences his own, enabling him to develop as a person, acquiring what is needed to ultimately become an individual who is capable of achieving his/her full potential. Nowhere are character or behavioral change and vital personal development more essential than in Christian education.

### Objectives in Christian Education

1. To foster a consciousness of the reality of God in human experience and seek to develop a sense of personal relationship to him.
2. To foster such an understanding and appreciation of the personality, life, and teaching of Jesus as will lead to experience of him as Savior our Lord, and such loyalty to him and his cause as will manifest itself in daily life and conduct.
3. To foster a progressive and continuous development of Christ-like character.
4. To foster the ability and desire to participate in and contribute constructively to the building of a world order in which the spirit of Christ Jesus will be manifest in all-human relationships.
5. To foster and participate actively in missions.
6. To foster an appreciation of the meaning and importance of the Christian family,
7. To foster a Christian understanding and worldview of life and the entire universe, and the ability to see in them God's purpose and plan.
8. To foster an understanding and love of the Bible, an acceptance of the Bible as God's revelation, and an appreciation of other stories of Christian experiences.

### Worldview

'A collection of beliefs about life and the universe held by an individual or a group'  
A person's worldview, whether it be Christian, humanist or whatever is a personal insight about meaning and reality. It is how a person interprets, through his or her own eyes, a personal belief about the world. A person's worldview tries to give reasons for how the facts of reality relate and tie together. The summation of these facts provides the big picture into which the daily events of a person's life should fit.

It is from this worldview that an individual derives an understanding, interpretation and response to the world in which he or she lives. To each individual, their own worldview should provide a coherent, but not necessarily authoritative, manner in thinking about their world. An individual's worldview will be shaped by far more than the surrounding physical world. Religion, philosophy, ethics, morality, science, politics and all other belief systems that impact on that individual will play a role in shaping a worldview.

An individual's worldview is his or her basis for answering such questions as:

Who am I?

Where did I come from?

Where am I going?

What is true and what is false?

How should I conduct my life, or act?

Does God exist and if so what is my response to Him?

### **The model for the perfect worldview**

The most simplistic definition for a biblical worldview is to have the mind of Christ. That would mean that one would think like Christ; love like Christ; act like Christ; walk like Christ: have the humility, patience, longsuffering and all of the other Galatians 5:22–26 fruits of the Spirit. Christ would not only be the model but the individual's worldview would be an exact copy. That is the final target of the committed Christian's process of sanctification. Prior to reaching that glorious point, Christians will have more or less of every aspect of Christ's worldview reflected in their biblical worldview.

### **THE CHURCH ATTAINS ITS TRUE MISSION THROUGH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

The Christian church is, or should be, more interested in character than in anything else. It offers *salvation from something* – things that distort character; and *salvation to something* – richness of character in Christ. The chief purpose of the church, then, is to produce Christian personalities.

This means that the task of the church is, primarily, Christian education. Here understood, it includes both the transforming influences of evangelism and the guiding and developing influences of creative teaching and preaching – which releases spiritual, intellectual, and volitional forces. There is no activity of the church – worship, evangelism, preaching, money raising, missions, service, fellowship – that does not respond to the educational approach.

Since this is true, emphasis must be placed upon the fact that Christian education belongs, not upon the fringe, but at the very heart of the church's ministry.

### The Pastor Is the Key Agent of Vision In the Christian Education of a Congregation

1. The central role of **Vision** in our faith experience as a powerful resource for Christian education. **Vision** embraces the 'promise' and how the people of God respond to it. . The key to leadership is participating in the common task of living *toward* or *into* the **Vision**. They must identify the events that have enlivened it in the past, the burdens and its hopes. Pastor will discern himself as an Agent' of the future. This act of discernment of the Church's destiny may not be as dramatic as Isaiah's encounter but it is within mystery. **Vision** empowers and becomes a resource in Christian education. **Vision**, in other words, is one way we engage the content of mystery. It symbolizes the human experience allied with the intent of Gods created order of relationships.
2. **Soul Stories** can engage leaders, teachers, and students in a dialogical process of quest and exploration, linking their stories of everyday struggle with Scripture in such a way that these stories become a potent resource in Christian education. **Story** may include many historic African American experiences with God.

## Conclusion

A **Vision** is more than a picture of an alternative to our present experience. It is more than a mental image that draws us into some new future. Instead, as we encounter the power of vision, vision claims and compels us to live into it. It functions as a Moral Imperative. Christian Education is a Moral Imperative. The pastor, possessed by a Vision, is an *Agent and Resource* in the education of a congregation of faith.

**Story linking** is a process whereby persons connect components of their everyday life stories with the Christian faith story found in the Scripture. Participants also connect their personal stories with Christian faith heritage stories of African Americans found outside of Scripture. This linkage helps persons to discern the liberating activity of God and call to vocation – living in the image of Christ – in both biblical and present times.

## The Traditional Role of the Black Church in Christian Education

*Black Church was the Primary Custodian* of the Black community societal values

1. Clarified religious and moral values
2. Determined the nature of good and evil
3. Determined the communal spirit, which formed the basis for collective experience, racial identity solidarity.

*Black Church Revealed and Designated* the World View of Black Americans (Worldview-defined© A set of assumption, concepts, values, and practices that constitute a way of viewing reality for the community that shapes them) and in their principal lenses for Black assessment of everything affecting their everyday life.

*The Black Church* played the most prominent role in shaping, maintaining and enhancing social order and community solidarity.

*The Black Church* provided its people a fundamental moral response to adversity- from slavery through reconstruction, sharecropping, segregation and discrimination.

*The Black Church* has provided shared values expressed in symbols, ideas, rituals and pronouncements which constitute a 'Cultural Paradigm-

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***Syllabus***  
***Resources For Christian Education***

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**Seminar I**

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Objectives in Christian Education

Worldview

The Church Attains It's True Mission Through  
Christian Education

The Pastor is the Key Agent of Vision in the Christian  
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The Traditional Role of the Black Church in Christian  
Education

The paradigm Shift – Hip Hop Culture

**Seminar II**

Educational Planning

Goals For Christian Education

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Program and Action Plans

Identifying Needs

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Youth – Middle – High School

Young Adult – Middle Adults

Older Adults – seniors

Parents

Single Adults

Married Persons

Formerly Married Persons

Person in Intergenerational Groups

Children and Parents

Youth and Parents

Children and Youth

Extended Families

Parents with Special Needs

Physically handicapped

Retarded

Disturbed

How Do Identify A Congregation for Educational Purposes?

Basic Questions

Process of Selecting Curriculum

Six Key Elements

Workshop Activity

### **Seminar III**

Resources Defined: Resources are persons and things which

Will be helpful and available in achieving objectives:

Such may include"

1. Persons for leadership

2. Printed Materials

3. Partnering with others with similar missions

4. Space and equipment

5. Finances

Identifying Available Resources

Objectives will guide resource needs

Strategies for Adaptation

### **Seminar IV**

**Catalogue Bazaar**

**Prototype Resource Workshop**