

CHURCH-SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649401079

Church-school administration by E. Morris Fergusson

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E. MORRIS FERGUSON

**CHURCH-SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATION**

Church-School Administration



By
E. MORRIS FERGUSON, D. D.
Author of "How to Run a Little Sunday-School"



NEW YORK
Fleming H. Revell Company
LONDON AND EDINBURGH

Copyright, 1922, by
FLEMING H. REVELL COMPANY

Printed in the United States of America

New York: 158 Fifth Avenue
Chicago: 17 North Wabash Ave.
London: 21 Paternoster Square
Edinburgh: 75 Princes Street

To
the memory of
EDMUND
(1899-1920)

whose radiant life exemplified
the ideals of religious education

Preface

FOR the practical superintendent, for the pastor and director seeking the best in methods of local religious education, for the student of church-school method, and for the teacher in need of a class text on church-school administration, this book is written. It embodies views, experiences and convictions gathered in thirty-six years of active Sunday-school work, field and local; and it aims withal to represent the latest viewpoints and standards of our rapidly changing church-school situation, and to forecast the further changes which now impend.

I have tried not to forget the situation and needs in the little Sunday-school of the rural and frontier fields, whose workers constitute so large and significant a section of our Sunday-school army. The principles laid down, and most of the precepts, are for them no less than for the worker in the church school of city size and departmental development. But for the specific study of little-school problems as such, the reader is referred to my earlier book, "How to Run a Little Sunday School."

The treatment starts with a general view of the steps needful in organizing the school for efficiency of operation. It closes with a review of those features of church-school life which minister to personal

religion and lead to holiness of character and dedication to Christlike service. Between these chapters the main topics with which the administrator must deal are duly considered and his practical problems discussed.

Most of the chapters open historically. I have sought to show how our present modes of work have grown out of those current in the last generation, and in the times before. I hope thus to enable such of my fellow-workers as still follow the old ways to see the path over into the new and the reasons why the new ways are better. Perhaps, also, some of those whose approach to religious education has been modern and academic may be strengthened in sympathy and respect for the conservative wing of our common host, through these glimpses at the progress of each specialty to its present stage of educational development. If the church-school worker of to-day matches his predecessors in faithfulness and eagerness for the best, he will do well.

I have been greatly helped by the criticisms of my Sunday-school friends who have read the manuscript in some of its earlier forms.

E. M. F.

Auburndale, Mass.

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