

Theses

1. Nurturing for faith (including catechesis in the church or in state schools) is more than cognitive education. This is a complex teaching and learning process, where the affective and personality-forming aspects have important roles besides the cognition. The Holy Scripture confesses it in Jesus' great commission which puts a high emphasis on living discipleship. During the church history, the spreading of the printing influences the oral catechesis by making and using Christian Education (CE) textbook.

2. There is a narrow professional literature about the theoretical and practical issues of how to make, construct, design and use CE textbook in Hungarian Reformed Church. Studying and researching the main questions of this area, it is necessary for creating useful, effective and helpful CE schoolbooks. The research of CE-textbook theory includes the next points:

- how CE schoolbook developed and changed during the centuries;
- what are the roles, functions and potential helping tools of the CE textbook;
- making a theoretical and practical criterion-system for the effective CE schoolbook;
- examining the views of the CE textbook;
- traversing the linked documents and economical issues of a CE schoolbook.

3. During the reformation era there was a claim for helping the Christian Education by books within the families (including children and adults). Our most important catechisms primarily served the aims of teaching. The Hungarian reformed CE textbook-history of the next centuries shows a development of the CE schoolbooks. This development was formed by the theological, catechetical, church historical, social and pedagogical view and innovations of the actual period.

4. The research of the CE textbook-theory confirms that the book named "Hundred and four saint histories from the Bible" by John Hübner (was published in 1714) was a methodology turning point in the history of the CE schoolbooks. No wonder that this book was published in Hungarian at 1754 and it had been used until the beginning of the 1900's. The original text of the book, the translations and different book adaptations were very popular (published in 270 times, in 15 languages until the beginning of the 20th century). Besides this, the original structure of the Hübner's lesson became the paradigm of teaching the Bible stories. Why the paradigm is still affecting:

- Before the innovations of the modern pedagogy, Hübner uses the method of elementarization in telling the selected biblical stories.
- The methodology culture of the lessons are various (including full of experience, storytelling in a biblical way, questions for thinking of the topic; summary of the dogmas; application into the children's life; opportunities for working alone or together; prayers and songs).
- Besides cognitive education, the book wants to form the complex personality.
- In storytelling the book uses humor and playfulness too.

5. The effective and useful CE textbook is a transmitting and helping tool between the child and the CE curriculum. This book collects, systematizes, sums and transmits the basic principles and fundamentals of Christian faith and discipleship in an understandable way. Nowadays we can discover the claim of the student-centered CE schoolbook which is biblical, authentic and invites toward Christ. This textbook has to continuously point out the Triune God by its language, style and contents. The schoolbook has to help student to understand and internalize God's invitation word in his/her own life. The CE textbook has to consider the

typical, general student's cognitive, emotional and affective characteristics and the students' differences (including background, gender, race, etc.) as well. It also has to keep in mind the expectations and the reality of the church.

A useful CE textbook contains a curriculum for a longer time (e.g. one year). This is the source of the lexical knowledge, and it is able to develop the student's abilities too. The most effective textbook is a member of a student-centered CE textbook-family. The other important members of this family are the CE teacher guide and the CE complementary book (student activity book).