

August 9, 1968

PROBLEMS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE
(Thirty-ninth in a series)

POOR: PAST AND PRESENT

By T. B. Maston

Retired Professor of Christian Ethics
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

I grew up in a home of poverty. My father was in turn a farm laborer, a section hand on a railroad, and a sharecropper, although we were not acquainted with the term "sharecropper."

Although we were poor, my dad, typical of an East Tennessee hillbilly, was radically independent. He believed that a man should stand on his own feet and work out his own problems. He would not have thought of accepting aid from anyone or from any agency.

He and Mother planted in our minds the idea that poverty did not have to be a permanent handicap to us. They inspired us to believe that we could move up and out of it. They also insisted that while we did not have much we would be good stewards of what we had. The tithe box sat on the mantle above the fireplace. Also, Mother frequently said: "We may not have much but we can keep what we have clean." And she did.

Like some of you, my experience has made it difficult for me to understand the poor of the contemporary period. Some of us need to recognize that there are some important differences in the poor of the past and the present.

When Dad was a section hand we lived in a small town. It was easy then for boys who wanted to work to find employment. I started when I was ten years old working before and after school, on Saturday, and during the summer months. From that time on I paid for my own clothes. Also, we had a big garden that provided more than enough vegetables for the family.

When we became sharecroppers, we had a rent-free house in which to live. We not only had a garden but also chickens, hogs, and a couple of cows. We had much of our living on the farm. Mother also sold eggs, milk, and butter. We did not always have a balanced diet, but we had enough to eat most of the time.

In contrast, many of the poor in the contemporary period are crowded into the ghettos of our larger cities. Rent has to be paid. All the food for the family has to be brought in from the outside. Frequently the father does not have the skills to compete in an increasingly technical society. If he has work his income is inadequate to meet the mounting costs of housing, clothing, and feeding a family in an urban area.

Furthermore, relatively few even of the teen-age children can find any type of employment. Many of them develop an attitude of hopelessness. They see little if any chance for them to improve their status. They feel that they are trapped. Poverty tends to become a way of life for them and in turn for their children.

Most of the contemporary poor have grown up in a time when more and more people have looked to the government to solve their problems. This has not only been true of the poor, it has tended to be true of farmers, laborers, businessmen, and people in general. In our complex society this dependence on the government may be more or less necessary, but it has weakened the desire and the determination of many people to do what they can to solve their own problems. The preceding statement should not be interpreted as blaming the poor for their situation. Rather, it is an attempt to point out that the poor of the present, to a considerable degree, are victims of the system.

(BP)---FEATURES
produced by Baptist Press

August 9, 1968

PROBLEMS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE
(Fortieth in a series)

POVERTY: MORE THAN MONEY

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Local, state, and federal governments can pour billions of dollars into the anti-poverty program and yet not solve the problem. Any effective approach to the problem and particularly any permanent solution for it requires more than money.

This is not an appeal for less money. There is entirely too much complaint by some people about the amount that is being spent to relieve some of the problems of the poor. A recent article in the New York Times said that Americans would spend more than \$700 million this year to purchase dogs and puppies. Less than half that amount goes into the Job Corps and only approximately \$630 million into all the Community Action Programs.

The Times story also said that an additional \$450 million would be spent by the American people just for accessories for dogs such as collars, leashes, etc. This will be more than the annual cost for the Headstart program. Certainly we should not complain about the amount of money being spent in the anti-poverty effort. We may properly raise some questions about how efficiently it is being used.

Also, we do believe that money alone will not and cannot solve a problem that is moral as well as material. Many who work with the poor and many of the poor themselves recognize that something in addition to money is needed.

One thing that is tremendously important is the desire, the motive, or the drive to come up out of poverty. To accept dependence on others as something that is permanent impoverishes the soul or the character of the poor. Some way there must be aroused within them a deep hunger to help themselves, to stand on their own feet, to contribute in a worthy way to the solution of their own problems.

This, it seems to me, is where the family, the school, and the church can make a significant contribution. For example, churches may have some responsibility to provide for the material needs of the poor, but their greatest contribution will be the creation within the poor and particularly within the maturing children of the poor the inner urge or drive to help themselves. The church can also cultivate within them the faith to believe that the Lord will strengthen them as they seek to surmount their environment.

The preceding will not be easy for a church in the ghetto or in a pocket of poverty. Some way, however, the leadership of those churches must inspire the churches to become islands of hope. If the churches succeed in doing this they can be instruments of God in lifting the community itself to a higher level of living, to a spirit of genuine self-help.

And let parents also remember that even in the most impoverished circumstances they still have a responsibility to build basic character into their sons and daughters. They can do this by what they say but even more important they can do it by the kind of lives they live.

There was a story in our daily paper a few days ago about a poor family that did something for their children. The father was a Negro handy man. He and the mother of his children had very limited education. They did, however, have a strong desire that their children have an education and that they improve their status.

There were nine children in the home. They had to live away from home with relatives and others to finish high school. Today all nine of those children are college graduates with four of them holding master's degrees and one a Ph. D. Admittedly, this is an unusual family, but it at least reveals that something can be done where there is the desire or the will to do it.

**BAPTIST PRESS**

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August 9, 1968

Carden Report Draws Fire
From Texas School Heads

by Billy Keith

DALLAS (BP)--An efficiency analysis survey originally designed to evaluate and make recommendations concerning nine Texas Baptist colleges and universities has drawn fire from the schools' administrators, trustees and alumni throughout the state.

Most take issue with the recommendations made in a 545-page report prepared by William R. Carden Jr., employed by the Christian Education Commission of the Baptist General Convention to make a year's intensive study of the institutions.

The Carden Report recommends, among other things, that Howard Payne College in Brownwood, Tex., and Wayland Baptist College in Plainview, Tex., be sold to local tax districts that East Texas Baptist College in Marshall, Tex., become a special purpose junior college, that the University of Corpus Christi have an independent, self-perpetuating board which would determine its own future as a private or state-supported institution, and that a Texas Baptist university system directed by a chancellor and 13-member coordinating board be created to include operations of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex., and Houston and Dallas Baptist Colleges.

Only two of the report's recommendations were acted upon by the Texas Convention's Christian Education Commission: a committee of 12 was appointed to study the entire report for a year, and Mary-Hardin-Baylor College in Belton, Tex., and Baylor University, 42 miles away at Waco, Tex., were asked to study the possibility of operating under one board of trustees.

Meantime, reaction from across the state aroused intense debate on the report and a charge by the Baptist Standard that the report was surrounded by secrecy.

J. D. Moore, chairman of the Christian Education Commission which authorized the study, said, "It is going to be a long time before any of our colleges are closed if at all." Moore is president of Victoria College, a state-supported school in Victoria, Tex.

"The report was just one man's idea," he added. "Even if you accept a report it does not mean you approve all of it."

A trustee of Wayland Baptist College raised the question concerning who could close a Texas Baptist school. Graddy Tunnell, chairman of the school in West Texas, said, "The decision for closing any Texas Baptist college is vested completely in its board of trustees."

In a joint communique, the presidents of Howard Payne College, Wayland College, and East Texas Baptist College categorically denied that any of the schools would be closed.

Howard Bennett, president of East Texas Baptist College, pointed to increased enrollments in arguing against changing the nature of his school. Enrollment in the summer session is 12.8 per cent higher than last year, and there is a 22.6 per cent increase in fall semester applications, Bennett said.

The new president of the University of Corpus Christi, Leonard L. Holloway, said that the trustees there are not interested in severing relations with Texas Baptists.

Holloway added, however, that he would like to see the board expanded to include non-Baptist Corpus Christi residents "primarily because we serve all Corpus Christi and the surrounding area and it would strengthen our system."

Charles Pitts, president of Dallas Baptist College, commented, "If the schools close it would come not by action, but by inaction--inaction on the part of Baptists and other friends who have supported these institutions for years."

**Powerful Microscope
Added At Baylor Med**

DALLAS (BP)--A high-resolution electron microscope, the only one of its kind in Texas, has been added to the cancer research program at Baylor University Medical Center here.

The \$65,000 Philips EM 300 Electron Microscope was purchased with a grant from the Moody Foundation of Galveston, and will enable the Baptist Medical Center's researchers to see particles otherwise invisible in the investigation of viruses in connection with cancer.

The microscope can magnify particles up to 520,000 times where a regular light microscope capacity is 1,000 times, said Dr. Joe Lynn, researcher in pathology at the center.

Dr. Lynn said the microscope would be used in the study of the ultrastructure of human neoplasm, and for super-sophisticated research in the area of viral particles. "The big push now is to investigate viruses in connection with cancer study," he said.

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**Texas Paper Assistant
Joins Technical School**

8/9/68

DALLAS (BP)--LaWayne Hulse, editorial assistant for the Baptist Standard for the past four years, has been named assistant professor of technical communications at James Connally Technical Institute in Waco, Tex.

Hulse, a former Texas Baptist pastor and reporter for daily newspapers in Snyder, San Angelo, and Fort Worth, Tex., will teach English and technical writing at the Waco junior college, a part of the Texas A & M University system.

A graduate of Southern Methodist University and Texas Christian University with bachelor and masters' degrees in journalism and psychology, Hulse also attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth. His main responsibilities at the Baptist Standard have been copy editing and feature writing.

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**Baptist Women's College
To Graduate First Male**

8/9/68

BELTON, Tex. (BP)--Mary Hardin-Baylor College, a Baptist college for women here, will soon have its first male graduate in 123 years--a 34-year-old Lieutenant Colonel with five daughters who might be considered prospects for the college.

Lt. Col. James P. Smith will receive the degree, as he did his schooling, at Fort Hood, an Army base near this central Texas city. He earned the bachelor of science degree in business administration at the center operated primarily for men of the military.

A native of Pulaski, Va., Smith has been enrolled in the center since 1965. He studied previously at the University of Kentucky and at Temple Junior College, Temple, Tex., where he lives.

At the same time he gets his degree, Smith will also receive orders for duty in Japan, and will be ordained a deacon in Emanuel Baptist Church at Temple where he has taught a Sunday School class and served in other places of leadership.

On August 30, 1968
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