Dr. Jennifer Wojciechowski

CHRISTIANITY AND SOCIAL REFORM

BIBLICAL PRECEDENT (NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST!)

Learn to do right; seek justice.

Defend the oppressed.

Take up the cause of the fatherless;

plead the case of the widow. (Isaiah 1:17)

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." (Matt 25:35-36)

"Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone. (Luke 11:42)

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. (James 1:27)



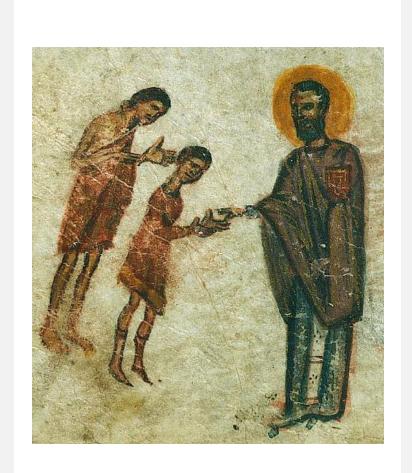
WORKS OF CHRISTIAN CHARITY ARE AS OLD AS...CHRISTIANITY

From the very beginning:

Churches collected alms to help those in need, which priests and deacons distributed to the community.

Deacons and Deaconesses visited the sick.

Widows (which was an official office in the early church) were expected to help those in need—particularly women.



THE ROLE OF MONASTERIES



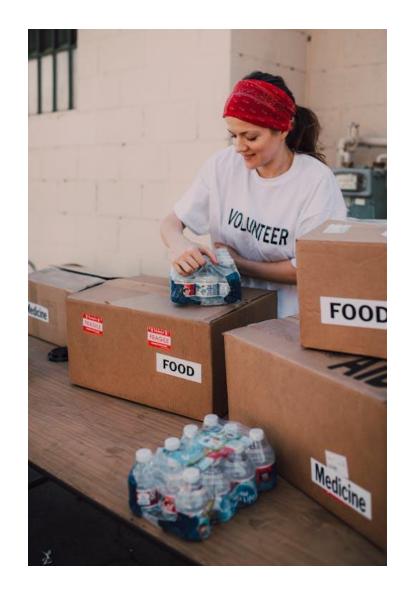




SISTERS OF CHARITY AND DEACONESSES

In the 18th and 19th centuries, we see a rise in women's orders participating in works of charity in different ways than before.

BUT CHARITY ISN'T NECESSARILY SOCIAL REFORM...



AI HAD THIS TO TELL ME ABOUT SOCIAL REFORM...

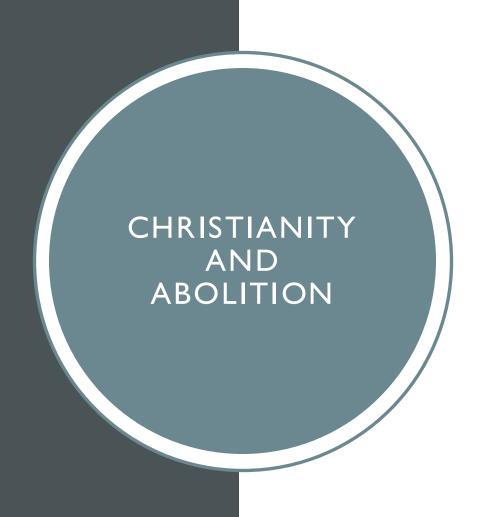
Social reform is the process of addressing social issues and working to improve societal conditions. It often involves:

- Raising awareness: Using statistical profiles to highlight social injustices and mobilize political participation
- Reshaping norms: Changing culturally accepted laws and norms to reflect new cultural paradigms
- Promoting change: Working to create a more just and equitable society

THE SECOND GREAT AWAKENING

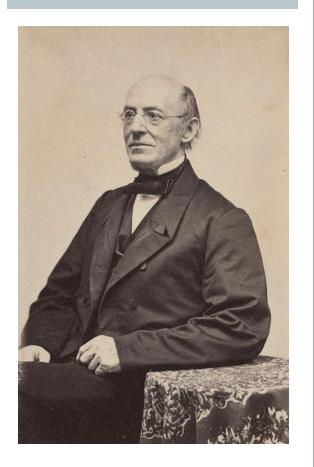
- While the primary emphasis of the Second Great Awakening was the conversion of souls, a strong secondary aspect was moral reform.
- The nineteenth century becomes a time social perfection.
 - Abolition
 - Temperance
 - Universal Suffrage
 - Female Reform
 - Sabbath Laws
 - Literacy (opening of public schools)





- I 400s: the Portuguese started selling slaves.
- At the beginning of the 1500s, African slaves were brought to the Caribbean.
- In 1619, the first slaves were brought to Jamestown.
- In 1807, both the US and England outlawed the slave trade, but it did not make slavery illegal. There were about 4 million people enslaved in the US at that time. The slave trade would continue until the 1860s in parts of the Caribbean and Brazil.
- In 1833, the English outlawed slavery throughout the British Empire. Probably the biggest name in the fight to end slavery in England was William Wilberforce who was a committed Christian.
- 1861-1865, The American Civil War
- In 1865 the Thirteenth Amendment ended slavery in the US.
- 1888, Brazil abolished slavery. It was the last of the Latin American countries to so.



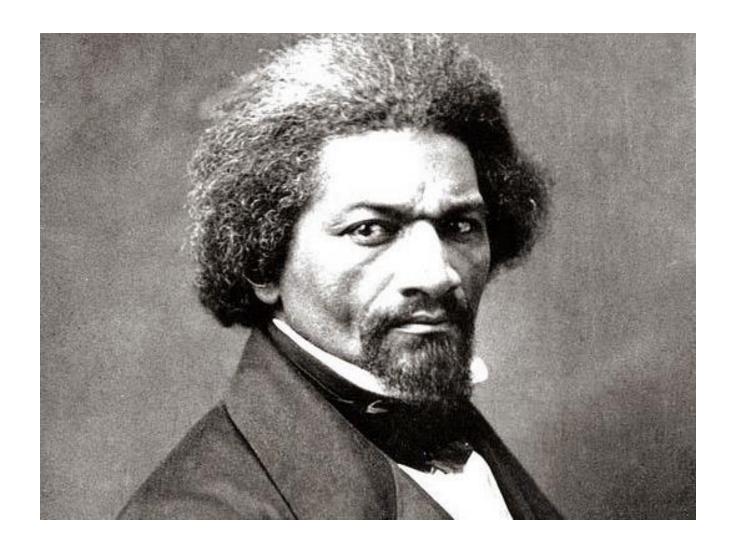


SOJOURNER TRUTH WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON

Both were active in abolition efforts through the 19th century.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS

1818-1895



HARRIET TUBMAN

1822-1913

This photo dates from the late 1860s.

She was an abolitionist, advocate of women's rights, and she even opened a home for the aged (not to mention her military service!)



FIRST WOMEN'S RIGHTS CONVENTION

- Seneca Falls, NY
- 1848
- This grows directly out of the Abolition movement. In fact, check out Fredrick Douglas's name on the attendees at Seneca Falls (he is listed fifth under the Gentlemen section).

This card was issued for the chaloration and at Secretary Falls in 1908 and is added to this book by the rich with the

Containing all the

Signatures to the "Declaration of Sentiments" Set Forth by the First

Woman's Rights Convention,

Seneca Falls, New York

July 19-20, 1848

LADIES:

Lucretia Mott Harriet Cady Eaton Margaret Pryor Elizabeth Cady Stanton Eunice Newton Foote Mary Ann M'Clintock Margaret Schooley Martha C. Wright Jane C. Hunt Amy Post Catherine F. Stebbins Mary Ann Frink Lydia Mount Delia Mathews Catherine C. Paine Elizabeth W. M'Clintock Malvina Seymour Phebe Mosher Catherine Shaw Deborah Scott Sarah Hallowell Mary M'Clintock Mary Gilbert

Sophronia Taylor Cynthia Davis Hannah Plant Lucy Jones Sarah Whitney Mary H. Hallowell Elizabeth Conklin Sally Pitcher Mary Conklin Susan Quinn Mary S. Mirror Phebe King Julia Ann Drake Charlotte Woodward Martha Underhill Dorothy Mathews Eunice Barker Sarah R. Woods Lydia Gild Sarah Hoffman Elizabeth Leslie Martha Ridley

Rachel D. Bonnel Betsey Tewksbury Rhoda Palmer Margaret Jenkins Cynthia Fuller Mary Martin P. A. Culvert Susan R. Doty Rebecca Race Sarah A. Mosher Mary E. Vail Lucy Spalding Lovina Latham Sarah Smith Eliza Martin Maria E. Wilbur Elizabeth D. Smith Caroline Barker Ann Porter Experience Gibbs Antoinette E. Segur Hannah J. Latham Sarah Sisson

GENTLEMEN:

Richard P. Hunt Samuel D. Tillman Justin Williams Elisha Foote Frederick Douglass Henry W. Seymour Henry Seymour David Spalding

William S. Dell James Mott William Burroughs Robert Smallbridge Jacob Mathews Charles L. Hoskins Thomas M'Clintock Saron Phillips William G. Barker Jacob P. Chamberlain Ellas J. Doty mes Honardonathan Metcalf Nathan J. Milliken S. E. Woodworth Edward F. Underhill George W. Pryor Joel Bunker Isaac VanTassel Thomas Dell E. W. Capron Stephen Shear Henry Hatley Azaliah Schooley





THE WCTU (1874)



THE PROGRESSIVE ERA AND THE THE SOCIAL GOSPEL



LET'S LOOK
AT A COUPLE
GLOBAL
(AND
MODERN)
INSTANCES...



MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA



WOMEN OF LIBERIA MASS ACTION FOR PEACE MOVEMENT



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- I. Where in your life have you seen religious groups participating in social change?
- 2. What types of social justice ministries is your church involved in?
- 3. How does your Christian faith inform your participation or your financial support of such ministries?

