PHI815 History of Integration of Religion and Society

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Select One (1) Core Essential Element from the Syllabus Outline:

a. Weekend Residency: Create a 350-word original discussion paper (with cited

sources) during the week of the residency. Post this document in DIAL.

b. Professor will check for quality of content and word-count requirements. Grade

assigned will be Credit or No Credit (CR/NC).

**Christianity’s Influence on Society**

Historically, Christianity’s influence on society has been quite significant from both a cultural mandate and progress of civilization and redemptive battle against structural evil in society. Christianity’s influence in society can be seen in many ways, given that Christians work throughout the world whether within the church or through societal construction in education and science and technology, most work and advancement is given by God. For the purpose of this paper, as a social worker, I will focus on Christianity’s influence on society through its provision of social services such as compassion and aid to the Needy and Provision of Education.

One of the most apparent Christian influences on society is through work with the downtrodden and needy. From a biblical perspective there are a number of teachings and examples for caring for the poor. In Deuteronomy 5:7, 11, it reads, “If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother.” and verse “For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, “You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.” Additionally, the Christian church practice is clear on how it offers service to the poor through feeding programmes, housing of the homeless and other services (Christopher, 2012). This is in contrast to Marx's famous expression “religion is the opium of the people” suggesting a placating of the suffering of the poor and downtrodden (Yilmaz, 2018).

Education is another area that is a key part of Christianity’s influence on society. There are thousands of Christian schools in the world, beyond this however, Christianity has always been at the forefront of education. In the Caribbean throughout our history during and after slavery and the colonial years, missionaries were key in the development of people through education (Contreras, 2013).

Educational ministry and the Poor Relief Ministry show a historical and modern influence of the Christian Faith. Both social services are a reflection of cultural mandate and progress of civilization, given the history and needs of society and also a redemptive battle against structural evil in society, based on the nature of the roots of these challenges in societal structural inequality.

WORKS CITED

Contreras. (2013). Perspectives on the educational ministry work of the church in the Caribbean.

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Christopher, J. C. (2012). *Rich Church, Poor Church: Keys to Effective Financial Ministry*. Abingdon Press.

Yılmaz. (2018). Religion as the Opium of the People. *Krisis (Amsterdam, Netherland : 2000)*.