

customs were hard on the masses...feudalism kept them in an impoverished state and the unsettled economy made life hard The church did not take the role we might have wished for it, but whatever was done in education, medicine, etc., the church of that time was a major player.

6. The Reformers were greatly concerned with the Gospel but all favored education and relief from social oppression. Luther did not favor the revolution of the working class in Germany (the Peasants revolt in the 16th century) but he was a "law and order" man and while he decried the action of the masses he preached an equality of persons that showed a great concern. Calvin refused to flee Geneva when the Black Death plague came to the city...he stayed in town to preach and minister to the sick in a forceful manner. The Reformers were very much set against the economic situation pressed by the Papacy in which the welfare of the people did not mean much if the cathedral was sufficiently glorious.

*Geneva Academy*

7. Perhaps the greatest impetus came in the 19th century with the work of the Booths (Salvation Army) and the growth of Raikes' Sunday School movement. The missionary work of Carey, et al, provided the Gospel but also economic and industrial help and relief in many poor territories

YMCA

8. Shortly thereafter the "Social Gospel" became a great issue and soon became a thorn in the flesh to evangelicals as it tended to replace the Gospel with humanitarian works rather than use humanitarian works to augment the testimony. It was a big force behind the Volstead Act in the United States. Not a part of the movement, rescue missions, hospitals, schools, etc., had become a standard part of church life and mission activity. No doubt some of it was misused but a lot of it went to the relief and care of disadvantaged people.

*Disciples*

9. Summary: There are times in church history for which we feel no pride...times when abuse was more common than kindness. But one the whole, an enormous number of societal aids originated in the Christian community and we can feel thankful for that!