

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Sixth Annual Interdisciplinary Conference on
Human Trafficking 2014

Interdisciplinary Conference on Human Trafficking
at the University of Nebraska

9-2014

Reconstructing A College Model for Countering Human Trafficking

Ron D. Petite

Bryan College - Dayton, TN, petittro@bryan.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/humtrafcon6>

 Part of the [Criminology Commons](#), [Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence Commons](#), [Gender and Sexuality Commons](#), [Health Policy Commons](#), [Human Geography Commons](#), [Human Rights Law Commons](#), [Immigration Law Commons](#), [Inequality and Stratification Commons](#), [Law and Gender Commons](#), [Place and Environment Commons](#), [Social Control, Law, Crime, and Deviance Commons](#), [Social Welfare Commons](#), and the [Social Work Commons](#)

Petite, Ron D., "Reconstructing A College Model for Countering Human Trafficking" (2014). *Sixth Annual Interdisciplinary Conference on Human Trafficking 2014*. 15.

<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/humtrafcon6/15>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Interdisciplinary Conference on Human Trafficking at the University of Nebraska at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Sixth Annual Interdisciplinary Conference on Human Trafficking 2014 by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

Reconstructing
A College Model
for
Countering Human Trafficking

RON D. PETITTE, D.P.A., Colonel, U.S.A. (Retired)

Director, Center for Leadership & Justice,
Director, The Justice & Mercy Initiative;
Professor and Head of the Discipline of Politics & Government;
Bryan College 7806
721 Bryan Drive
Dayton, Tennessee/TN 37321-6275
TEL [423] 775-7311; FAX [423] 775-7330;
petittro@bryan.edu; <http://www.bryan.edu/petitte.html>

Reconstructing a College Model
for
Countering Human Trafficking

Preface¹

Assessment is a hallmark of 21st Century academia. Accordingly, the 2013 college model for countering human trafficking² was reviewed and assessed by the author, leading to a restructuring of the model, in order to present developments that have occurred since the October 2013 Interdisciplinary Conference on Human Trafficking, at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, as well as attempting to engineer a more practical and effective model:

There are two areas of research that link directly to the spectre of human trafficking. The first is economics; and, the question that is raised: “Is human trafficking, today, the result of unjust economic structures?”³ The corollary to this question is: To what extent is poverty the underlying cause of human trafficking? It should be noted that this is the latest research area for Gary Haugen, founder of the International Justice Mission (IJM), which operates world-wide to rescue victims of human trafficking.⁴ The second area is the plight of orphans and their vulnerability to human traffickers, e.g., orphans in Ukraine may be among the most vulnerable children in the world today. Couple this with the turmoil that is roiling the country, driven in large part by Russia’s threat to Eastern Ukraine, and the plight of these children begs for a solution that goes beyond diplomacy and multinational agreements. Save the children⁵ takes on new meaning in this light.

The “take away,” for conference participants and Digital Commons⁶ readers, is the Bryan model, which will be freely offered to all interested parties. Consider this an exercise in doing more with less.⁷

¹ Formerly, the Abstract.

² Ron D. Petite, “A College Model for Countering Human Trafficking,” paper presented to the 5th Annual Interdisciplinary Conference on Human Trafficking, held at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UN-L), 2013 and published by the Digital Commons of UN-L. Note, please: Subsequent references to this and the 2014 conference will not be capitalized.

³ Tyler-Wigg Stevenson, “The World Is Not Ours To Save,” Bryan College, April 9, 2014.

⁴ Gary Haugen & Victor Boutros, *The Locust Effect*.

⁵ An international organization devoted to the rights of children.

⁶ The web host for UNL human trafficking conference proceedings.

⁷ U.S. Army thesis.

Introduction⁸

Creating awareness is part of education and non-awareness is 90 percent of the problem in countering human trafficking. Human trafficking is not on the radar screens in most educational institutions of higher learning, nor in most churches. This is the need Bryan College, through the Center for Leadership & Justice (CLJ) and, in particular, the Justice & Mercy Initiative (JMI), is seeking to meet. Our Vision Statement for 2013-2015 calls for such near term goals as: Sponsoring subject matter experts to address college forums; lending financial support to Students Stopping the Trafficking of Persons (SSTOP); enabling Bryan students to travel to trafficking hot spots, such as Cambodia, to witness first-hand the effects of trafficking on women and children; supporting initiatives such as the International Justice Mission (IJM)'s Global Prayer Gathering; lobbying legislators at the Tennessee Capitol; creating and implementing a series of academic courses dealing directly with national and international trafficking; developing and implementing, academic programs that incorporate this series of academic courses and linking them to established courses offered in fields as diverse as, Politics & Government, Criminal Justice, and Psychology⁹; publishing research on the subject; directing students to effective learning internships, such as with IJM and the U.S. Departments of State and Health & Human Services; and, seeking grants to enable this vision to unfold.

Law, nursing and medicine, criminal justice, psychology, business, politics and government, and communication studies,¹⁰ provide avenues by which students can make a life time difference countering human trafficking. Such pursuits link to Bryan's long term goals, whereby our graduates are actively pursuing careers to counter trafficking.

“Global knowledge: What we know; and, what we need to know,”¹¹ only can be enhanced, when colleges and universities have in place a model to counter human trafficking. It goes without

⁸ From the Introduction to “A College Model for Countering Human Trafficking,” Ron D. Petite, author. Presented to the 2013 University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 5th interdisciplinary conference on human trafficking. So much of what was presented last year in this Introduction, not only still is relevant, but needs to be said again; accordingly, I have taken the liberty of including it, in this year's presentation. Note: I have expanded this introduction, in order to incorporate new programs.

⁹ A Major Option in Human trafficking, as well as a Minor, in the same subject, were approved by Bryan College's Academic Council, on 30 September 2014, subsequent to the initial writing of this Introduction, which I am updating, as per the statement at the end of Note 8.

¹⁰ With especial thanks to Laurie Lawrence, Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

¹¹ The theme of the 2013 University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) interdisciplinary conference on human trafficking, held Oct. 10-12, 2013. Please, note: This is the recurring theme for the continuing series of UNL human trafficking conferences. Reference Dr. Dwayne Ball. When one has such an excellent theme, why change it?

saying that the value of such a conference, as this, is in the contacts that one makes, as much as it is in the information and knowledge that is disseminated. We, here, at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, are beneficiaries of such shared contacts, information, and knowledge.

The Backstory, Revisited, in Brief¹²

In January 2007, four of my students were selected to represent Bryan College at a conference sponsored by Students Stopping the Trafficking of Persons, or SSTOP, and hosted by Bard College in New York State. This conference brought together these four students with Ms. Christine Dolan, one of America's foremost advocates for the monitoring and combating of Human Trafficking. This, then, was my indirect introduction to human trafficking.

In April of 2007, Bryan College's Commoner Forum, under the, then, Bryan Center for International Leadership¹³ hosted an evening session for Bryan students, to be briefed by Ms. Dolan. Over one-third of Bryan's student body came out, on the Thursday evening before final exam week. The success of this venture led the Center for International Leadership¹⁴ [now the Center for Leadership & Justice] to co-host, with Bryan's Center for International Development,¹⁵ and Bryan's newly established chapter of SSTOP, a national conference to combat Human Trafficking. Titled "Scourge – Human Trafficking: Slavery in the 21st Century," the Bryan Conference brought together, January 25-27, 2008, spokespersons from the U.S. Department of State (Mr. Abraham Lee); Ms. Dolan; student representatives of SSTOP; student representatives from campuses throughout the Southeast; and Bryan's Bible, Christian Thought, and Philosophy Disciplines, to address the subject.

Again, it goes without saying that the value of such conferences and forums is in the contacts that one makes, as much as it is in the information and knowledge that is disseminated. We, here,

¹² For the complete Backstory, see, "A College Model for Countering Human Trafficking," presented to the fifth annual human trafficking conference at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), which is available through UNL's *Digital Commons*.

¹³ The author directed this center.

¹⁴ I suggested the name change to Center for Leadership Initiatives, as some people were confusing the Center for International Development with the Center for International Leadership; the current title is Center for Leadership & Justice, which should not change.

¹⁵ Bryan's Center for International Development, led by Mr. Dennis Miller, serves as a complement to Bryan's Department of Business. Mr. Miller's center is active in the fight to counter human trafficking, as is the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's College of Business Administration. I am continually impressed with the counter trafficking efforts of Business faculty leaders, such as Dr. Dwayne Ball and Dr. Ron Hampton, at UNL

at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, are beneficiaries of such shared contacts, information, and knowledge.

Today's Story

Today¹⁶

Counter Trafficking Programs at Bryan College

Academic Programs:

In Spring 2012, I designed and taught the first counter-trafficking course for Bryan College, a bricks and mortar offering that attracted the largest number of students I have had in one class [54] for a senior-level “seminar,” for which very few of the registered students could receive any credit, other than three credits toward graduation, for an enrichment experience.

As with earlier movements for abolition—education plays a decisive role. Bryan College is emerging as a significant educational partner to equip future and current anti-trafficking professionals. Key educational programs include a focused course sequence on human trafficking.

Courses in this sequence include:¹⁷

- Introduction to Human Trafficking – A general survey of the realities of human trafficking and abolition around the world. Special attention also will be given to philosophical and theological perspectives on abolition.
- Human Trafficking in the United States – An intermediate study of the realities of human trafficking and abolition in the United States. The primary forms of domestic human trafficking will be considered with attention to psychological, political, economic, cultural, legal and sociological factors.
- Human Trafficking around the World – An intermediate study of the realities of human trafficking and abolition around the world. Primary forms of human trafficking will be considered with attention to geopolitical, economic, cultural, legal and sociological factors.

¹⁶ This is an annual update on that which was presented at the 5th interdisciplinary conference in 2013.

¹⁷ Credit Mr. Ben Norquist, as the primary developer of the four courses detailed below. See Note 18, below.

- Seminar on Human Trafficking – A course focused on advanced readings and research in the area of human trafficking. Students will be expected to read the most significant and current literature, view related media, and engage in research in the field of modern slavery.¹⁸

Newly approved¹⁹ programs, include:²⁰

- A Major Option in Human Trafficking, i.e., the Politics & Government: Option in Human Trafficking, which option offers two tracks: A domestic track, Human Trafficking in the United States, which track links the course of the same name (see, above) with “State & Local Government;” or, Human Trafficking around the World, which course is linked to “International Relations.” Students take “Introduction to Human Trafficking, the entry level course in the program, followed by either the domestic or international track (two courses); the option culminates with a Seminar on Human Trafficking, for a total of 12 hours. Notes: This option only is available to students majoring in Politics & Government. A parallel option is passing through the academic approval process, which option will be incorporated into the Criminal Justice (CJ) discipline, but, as with options in general, it only will be available to students majoring in CJ.
- A Minor in Human Trafficking, which includes the four human trafficking courses listed, sequentially, above, as well as courses in Social Psychology and the Law of Criminal Justice, for a total of 18 hours. Note: This minor does not offer the tracks available in the major options, but is open to any student in the college, regardless of major discipline.

¹⁸ Ben Norquist. “Counter-Trafficking Programs at Bryan College.” Undated pamphlet, prepared by the Office of Faith & Mission, Bryan College, 2013. Mr. Norquist served as Director of Faith & Mission at Bryan College through the 2013-2014 academic year. He now serves at Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois.

¹⁹ 30 September 2014.

²⁰ The author developed these programs.

From what I can determine, these programs may be the first of their kind to be offered in the American Academy.²¹ As an example, according to their catalogue, Harvard University offers one course in human trafficking, under the rubric, International and Global Affairs (IGA), i.e., “Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery;” and, one course in Sociology, “Human Trafficking, Slavery, and Abolition in the Modern World;” these courses appear to mirror one another; no specific program is offered.²²

Students Stopping the Trafficking of Persons (SSTOP), now, comes under the Justice & Mercy Initiative of the Center for Leadership & Justice, at Bryan College:²³

- SSTOP seeks to raise awareness among students and the community about the global problem of human trafficking; urge those in power to use their resources to prevent trafficking; and support and participate through local and international work, to restore trafficked victims.
- At SSTOP, “we” pursue a call to engage in the fight against human trafficking. Our team hosts international conferences, acclaimed speakers, holds regular prayer meetings, partners with international and local ministries and provides opportunities for student engagement.²⁴

As a case in point: Street Grace²⁵ mobilizes community resources — financial, human and material — to help individuals and organizations effectively fight Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST)²⁶ through awareness, empowerment and engagement. Street Grace is

²¹ America refers to the United States of America.

²² The Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, in Harvard’s Kennedy School, offers a research program on human trafficking and human slavery; such a program is distinguished from an academic major/minor for the purposes of this model. Harvard offers a number of courses in human rights, a much broader and more general subject area than human trafficking; in fact, human trafficking may be categorized, as a subset of human rights studies and issues.

²³ A combined initiative of Dr. Kevin Clauson, Interim Academic Vice President, Mr. Tim Hostetler, Vice President of Student Services & Ministries, and this author.

²⁴ Norquist. Ibidem.

²⁵ “Street Grace is a faith-based organization leading faith communities, organizations, and individual volunteers on a comprehensive path to end Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST) in Metro Atlanta and throughout the United States.” This quote taken from Street Grace’s website, i.e., “Who we are.”

²⁶ Street Grace defines DMST as sexual activity involving a person under the age of 18, in exchange for monetary or non-monetary gain, or the promise thereof, to the child, or another person or persons.

working to end DMST in Atlanta, with a vision of ending it throughout the United States. Bryan College has partnered with Street Grace in several ways. Bryan hosted Street Grace last year to screen a film they've been involved in distributing called *The Candy Shop*, a film that educates about DMST. Bryan also has leveraged its short-term missions program to create a service-learning experience for a team of Bryan students to be with Street Grace each year in March, for a week, to learn about the realities that face these children and to serve in ways that promote the mission of Street Grace in the city.²⁷

Leadership in Action

“Today’s Story Today” would not be complete without the all important contribution of leadership. Dr. Stephen Livesay, the President of Bryan College, in his almost twelve years of leadership,²⁸ has been pro-active in his support of the efforts of all those at Bryan College, who have joined the fight against human trafficking: I could not have done what has been set forth, here, in “Today’s Story, Today” without the ardent, compassionate, and faithful support and encouragement of Dr. Stephen Livesay. When the Oxford Round Table Advisory Committee first extended an invitation to me to travel to England and present a paper dealing with human trafficking, at Pembroke College, i.e., in the Oxford Union, Dr. Livesay financed the trip in its entirety. The book, *Civilization at Risk: Seeds of Strife*, recently released by Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle upon Tyne, England, first unfolded in the Oxford Union, on March 19, 2008. Leaders support, encourage, and find ways to advance the work of their people. Dr. Stephen Livesay is such a leader.

No less ardent, compassionate, and faithful supporter and encourager, is Dr. Kevin Clauson, newly appointed Interim Academic Vice President for Bryan College. Kevin has been stalwart in his support, encouraging me, in my efforts to do as much as I can to counter human trafficking. In his short time in office, Dr. Clauson, has raised the bar, significantly, bringing to the Academic Council a Major Option in Human Trafficking, which recently was approved and which will reside in the Politics & Government (P&G) Discipline. In addition, a Minor in Human Trafficking has been approved, the distinction being that the option only is open to P&G students, where the minor is open to all students, regardless of major.²⁹ Dr. Clauson, who has served as a small college president; who has taught law at the college and university levels for more than 32 years; and, who is an expert in Criminal Justice (CJ), is supporting an identical Major Option in Human Trafficking, to be offered only to CJ students. Collectively, these programs will enable Bryan College to offer one of the, if not the, most comprehensive counter

²⁷ E-mail from Mr. Norquist to the author [no applicable subject title]. October 2, 2013.

²⁸ Dr. Livesay took the helm of Bryan College on 1 February, 2003, from his predecessor Dr. William E. Brown.

²⁹ Intentional repetition; See P. 6, above.

trafficking programs in American Academia.³⁰ And, perhaps, most importantly, Dr. Clauson has restored the budget for the Center for Leadership & Justice, which had unceremoniously been eliminated by an administrator no longer with the college, which cut would have had a seriously negative impact on Bryan's efforts to counter human trafficking. Leaders support, encourage, and find ways to advance the work of their people.

Once More We Go Back To The Future³¹

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln, has a sister student organization to SSTOP,³² NUSAMS, which stands for Nebraska University Students Against Modern Slavery.³³ We should bring these two organizations together. In the Spring Semester of 2015, February timeframe, Bryan College's SSTOP organization will host its second counter trafficking conference.³⁴ Encourage Nebraska-Lincoln students to attend, if at all possible, just as Bryan College students visited Bard College for their conference in 2007. As the director of the Center for Leadership & Justice and the Justice & Mercy Initiative, I have been given carte blanche to raise monies to counter human trafficking. This effort is on-going; and, if successful, in the short run, assistance will be offered UNL students to attend our conference.

The Micah 6:8 Initiative³⁵

The Justice and Mercy Initiative is responding, today, to the ancient prophet Micah's clarion call: To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with [y]our God (6:8, NIV).³⁶

³⁰ See Note 21, above.

³¹ See Note 61, below.

³² See, above, "Today's Story Today."

³³ With especial thanks to Dr. Anna Williams Shavers, Cline Williams Professor of Citizenship Law, University of Nebraska College of law.

³⁴ SSTOP hosted its last conference in February, 2013, which was funded, in part, by the Center for Leadership Initiatives, the forerunner of today's Center for Leadership & Justice.

³⁵ Presented to the 2013 University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 5th interdisciplinary conference on human trafficking. Much of what was presented last year, not only still is relevant, but, I believe, needs to be said again; accordingly, I have taken the liberty of including this "chapter," in this year's presentation. See Note 8, above.

³⁶ The author's contribution to the Faith & Mission's publication, here, expanded.

Creating awareness is part of education; and, this is what the Justice & Mercy Initiative of the Center for Leadership & Justice does. A record of success, in the fight against modern day slavery, is accomplished by educating young people with a goal to service: Bryan College has a 2010 graduate working full-time with the International Justice Mission (IJM) in the United Kingdom (UK), as IJM UK's Advancement Executive. She has spoken before the European Parliament and was the featured guest speaker at an International Film Festival held on the Isle of Jersey. This alumna was tapped by the Director of IJM, UK, to lead a fact-finding and investigative team to Mumbai, India in September 2012.³⁷

A 2011 graduate completed a year-long internship with IJM in Cambodia. She subsequently aligned with a Christian church and mission to continue to counter human trafficking in Cambodia. From the State Department, the Department of Health & Human Services, and the Department of Justice, to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as IJM, employment opportunities are increasing exponentially in this new field; and, Bryan seniors are applying to law schools for the express purpose of better fighting human trafficking.³⁸

Accordingly, it is the developing vision of the Justice & Mercy Initiative, which has, as its primary focus, fighting modern day slavery, to attempt to double its efforts and, hopefully, its funding, i.e.: To encourage like-minded people, who will take on the warrior's mantle in this fight, to include those individuals and organizations, who are willing to partner with the Justice & Mercy Initiative and are positioned to assist through financial contributions (<http://bryan.edu/jmi.html>) to expand the model that has been established and which has yielded success in creating awareness.³⁹

We at Bryan College seek to inspire and encourage today's Augustines and Lincolns, Wilberforces and Nightingales.⁴⁰

³⁷ Ibidem.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

Telling Stories and Building Models in 2014⁴¹

I have told the story; now, it is time to complete the model.

The capstone of this model is leadership, defined by a vision, which frames a mission that leadership will embrace and carry out. Bryan College examples are:

1. Dr. Kevin Clauson, whose ascendancy to the position of Academic Vice President, could not have been better timed. He was instrumental in taking off the table and adeptly moving through Academic Council a proposal for a major option in human trafficking, as well as a proposal for a minor in human trafficking, both of which had lain on the table for 19 and a half months. In addition, he quickly refunded the college center leading the fight to counter human trafficking, when it had been stripped of its funding, unbeknownst to the director, by a previous administrator.
2. Dr. Stephen Livesay, an example of the last shall be first,⁴² who took the helm of Bryan College at a critical time in the development of Bryan's overall vision for the college's role in the fight against human trafficking.

The four cornerstones of this model⁴³ are:

1. Education: Educating students, community leaders, and interested parties. This is the beginning of a continuum that will enable the fight to be carried by and for the next generation. Internships are a vital part of such education.⁴⁴
2. Political involvement and lobbying: Although some foundations will eschew such politicking and not grant money if political involvement and lobbying are incorporated, the support of a governor, e.g., Bill Haslam in Tennessee, or Sam Brownback in Kansas, can do as much as a foundation can, with its money. The best case scenario is to have both foundation stones, political involvement and financial backing,⁴⁵ as complementary cornerstones of the model you are building.

⁴¹ "Telling Stories and Building Models" was a key chapter in the 2013 College Model for Countering Human Trafficking.

⁴² The Bible. Matthew 20, verse 16.

⁴³ As has been previously noted, some "chapters" (sections) of the original college model to counter human trafficking, published in 2013, still have relevance and, accordingly, are included in this 2014 reconstruction, albeit with appropriate updating and expansion, as necessary.

⁴⁴ See reference to internships on pages 3 of this paper.

⁴⁵ See Nr. 3, immediately following.

3. Fundraising: You can't do without it. A case in point is my center, the Center for Leadership & Justice and the Justice & Mercy Initiative. Without the generous support of Chattanooga's Maclellan Foundation, which advanced consecutive grants to my center to fight human trafficking, my contribution would have been nullified. Dr. Kevin Clauson's decision to continue the Center for Leadership & Justice, by refunding the center, after it had been stripped of its funding by a previous administrator, without the director's knowledge, has been a God send. This funding gives my center independence, advancing the argument that the Center for Leadership & Justice is worth supporting, even if being self-supporting was proving difficult, in this time of economic austerity.
4. Research: Global awareness has neither been accomplished, nor satisfied; yet, the numbers of people world-wide, who now are aware of the scourge of human trafficking have increased exponentially, if you'll allow me that sensing. But work needs to be done beyond creating awareness; and, this sensing, coupled with a heightened commitment, has been confirmed by the University of Lincoln-Nebraska at Lincoln, which institution is offering an "Interdisciplinary Conference on Human Trafficking... formatted for those who have research results or ideas, who wish to inform their peers..."⁴⁶ In addition to UNL's six year investment in countering human trafficking,⁴⁷ a new effort is being made in Chicago, Illinois. The SAFE Coalition for Human Rights (SAFECHR) is hosting their initial conference, entitled, "Sex-Trafficking Awareness, Freedom, and Empowerment," at the end of October. Their "goals are to increase awareness, prevent vulnerabilities in our youth, improve interdisciplinary collaboration, and identify best practices, and many more clinically relevant psychological and social needs." One area for much needed research deals with after care: The most sensitive, yet emotionally draining and exhausting area of countering human trafficking, after care is the subject demanding, not just attention, but dedicated research to establish a system, not just for aftercare, but, ultimately, for soul care.⁴⁸

⁴⁶ University of Nebraska-Lincoln conference website. Note: The first of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's human trafficking conferences was devoted to awareness; and not by choice, as speaker after speaker offered a variant on Human Trafficking 101 (Credit Al Riskowski; Session Chair for the fifth human trafficking conference).

⁴⁷ This year, a banner advertising UNL's conference, hung at the conference hotel, the Embassy Suites, in Lincoln, Nebraska, announcing, "The University of Nebraska-Lincoln 6th Annual Human Trafficking *Research* Conference." Italics provided, by this author.

⁴⁸ One of Bryan College's newest programs is Soul Care, a minor originating in the Psychology Department and open to all students, regardless of major. Soul Care is "a Specialization of Christian Faith and Psychology" [From a newly published Bryan College pamphlet (undated) on the Soul Care Minor].

Two Areas of Research

The First Area: Poverty

When I included, in my 2104 abstract to this paper, the question that Mr. Tyler Wigg-Stevenson posed at Bryan College, on April 9, 2014,⁴⁹ I had not yet written the paper, for that is the purpose of an abstract, i.e., to illicit sufficient interest in an author's ideas that, e.g., a conference review board, conducting a peer review, will think the author's ideas, not only relevant to the chosen theme,⁵⁰ but of critical interest to the conference participants at large.⁵¹ Tyler's question: "Is human trafficking, today, the result of unjust economic structures?" is a book waiting to be written; but, unfortunately, is far beyond the scope of this paper. My apologies, for including, in this abstract, what sounded relevant and critical to me, at the time, but was clearly beyond the reasonable reach of a paper presentation; and, I should have known that. Accordingly, I am focusing on the corollary to Tyler's question, which I posed in the abstract, i.e., "to what extent is poverty the underlying cause of human trafficking?" To begin this discussion, let me use the words of a missionary to Ukraine, in order to describe "to what extent poverty is the underlying cause of human trafficking:"

Ukraine is a poor country, many struggle financially – how do you imagine orphans, with no familial help, will fare, entering the world that costs money, on their own, at such young ages?^{52 53}

Consider this, if you will:

My friend, whom I previously mentioned as having graduated from the orphanage and trade school, said that girls in the orphanage usually end up in one of two camps, those who become tough and hard and fighters, in order to protect themselves and others; and, those who give in, also a mode of survival, but this one giving in to the requests and demands, in order to get something in return, or just to get by. The life these children live steals their innocence – steals their childhood, steals the security children naturally should find and seek in a family.⁵⁴

Please, note this caveat:

⁴⁹ "Is human trafficking, today, the result of unjust economic structures?"

⁵⁰ Dwayne Ball, conference director, "What We Know and What We Need To Know," the theme of UNL's 6th annual human trafficking research conference.

⁵¹ The author's definition of an abstract.

⁵² Undated, letter to the author, from a former missionary to Ukraine, who has asked to remain anonymous.

⁵³ Ibidem: Children are "phased out of the government orphanage at fifteen or sixteen and sent to trade school."

⁵⁴ Ibidem.

As grad orphans they are treated as second class citizens. They are not given the same opportunities as others.⁵⁵

If there isn't a more clear scenario, as to how poverty can be a root cause of human trafficking, I will listen to your argument.

Allow me, if I may, to borrow from Mr. Wigg-Stevenson just enough to establish a new premise, i.e.: "Is human trafficking, today, the result of economic structures?"⁵⁶ Now, you may say: "Petitte, do you, now, intend to write a book, as you suggested would have to be the case, were you to use Mr. Wigg-Stevenson's thesis?" And, that would be a fair question; but, I believe that a simple case can be made for the premise I am setting forth, without getting into the moral arguments necessary to such a just cause thesis, as Mr. Wigg-Stevenson sets forth.⁵⁷ I will leave that to him. Allow me to conclude this section with a quote from the authors of *When Helping Hurts*⁵⁸:

A long standing debate in the political arena concerns the extent to which people are materially poor due to their personal failure or to the effects of broken systems on their lives. Political conservatives tend to stress the former, while political liberals tend to emphasize the latter.⁵⁹

To my mind, this political debate is not so black and white: People fail and harm themselves and their families through various forms of abuse, e.g., alcoholism, drug dependency; sexual compulsion/addiction; criminal tendencies/behavior; violence, domestic and societal, *et.al.* And dysfunctional and corrupt economic systems lead to despair and the spectre of human trafficking, which flourishes under such systems. Finally, a strong economic system, such as we have in the United States, can be mismanaged and caused to yield negative results,⁶⁰ when politics is the driving force behind change, vice sound economic decisions and practices.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ Tyler Wigg-Stevenson wrote: "Is human trafficking, today, the result of unjust economic structures?" I deleted the word "unjust," in order to present my case.

⁵⁷ The term "just cause" is common to arguments involving "just war;" but, I think the phrase to be relevant to this discussion, as well.

⁵⁸ Steve Corbett & Brian Fikkert, Moody Publishers, Chicago, 2009. See also Note 63, below.

⁵⁹ Ibidem., P. 84

⁶⁰ The U.S. debt is a case in point. Here, I rely on Wikipedia, i.e., their article entitled, "Government debt": U.S. debt is currently at \$17,607 billion, which is 31.27 percent of the world public debt. This page of information was modified on September 23, 2014, at 13:46 hours; I accessed it on October 6, 2014, at 14:00 hours. Note, please: Government debt, public debt, and national debt are one and the same. Finally, in this case the mismanagement has been continuous, through numerous presidential administrations. Pick your starting point; and, write your book.

All this said, let's travel back to the future:⁶¹

Robert Rector recently wrote a commentary, entitled “The War on Poverty: 50 Years of Failure.”⁶² I offer of a quote from Mr. Rector's article:

This year marks the 50th anniversary of President Lyndon B. Johnson's launch of the War on Poverty. In January 1964, Johnson declared “unconditional war on poverty in America.” Since then, the taxpayers have spent \$22 trillion on Johnson's war. Adjusted for inflation, that's three times the cost of all military wars since the American Revolution.⁶³

And:

The U.S. Census Bureau has just released its annual poverty report. The report claims that in 2013, 14.5 percent of Americans were poor. Remarkably, that's almost the same poverty rate as in 1967, three years after the War on poverty started.⁶⁴

Mr. Rector presents a riveting argument that illustrates how LBJ's⁶⁵ vision “to give the poor a ‘hand up, not a hand out’” has been blacked out,⁶⁶ by well intentioned, compassionate individuals, as well as by groups of well-meaning people. Unfortunately, when political groups take hold of an idea and change its very focus to facilitate political gain, it is the innocent, in this case, the poor, who suffer, if not in the short term, but, then, in the long term, when self-sufficiency is discouraged and valuable work skills are lost.⁶⁷ This is why I present a case for human trafficking, today, being the result of economic structures. The United States has the strongest economic structure, in the world, today. Arguments as to the justness of such a structure, is for the book that I suggest needs to be written.⁶⁸ All this said, do not, for a second,

⁶¹ A great movie, starring Michael J. Fox and Christopher Lloyd; directed by Robert Zemeckis; written by Robert Zemeckis and Bob Gale; and, produced by Steven Spielberg: *Back To the Future* is the first film in a trilogy; it is a science fiction comedy, released in 1985. With especial thanks to Wikipedia.

⁶² Robert Rector is a senior research fellow in the DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at The Heritage Foundation. The Chattanooga *Times Free Press* published his article on September 23, 2014. It appeared in Section B, Page 7.

⁶³ Rector, *Ibidem*.

⁶⁴ *Ibid*.

⁶⁵ Lyndon Baines Johnson

⁶⁶ “It always looks darkest just before it gets totally black.” Charlie Brown. Charles M. Schulz, creator. Dr. Sanford Zensen, facilitator.

⁶⁷ Rector. *Ibidem*.

think that the United States is immune to human trafficking: There are estimated to be 300,000 child prostitutes in the U.S., to include free trade zones and military bases;⁶⁹ trafficking is rife on our border with Mexico, as gangs prey upon innocent families, kidnapping the women and children to be sold as sex slaves; and, 66,000⁷⁰ children have made their way into the U.S. from Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador, “to find shelter from mental and physical abuse, rape, and sex trafficking.”⁷¹

Just as \$22 trillion dollars has been spent fighting poverty in the United States, to little, or no avail,⁷² depending on one’s point of view, one tenth that stunning amount has been spent trying to help the poor outside the U.S., with dissimilar results:

Despite an estimated \$2.3 trillion in foreign aid dispensed from Western nations during the post-World War II era, more than 2.5 billion people, approximately 40 percent of the world’s population, still live on less than two dollars per day.⁷³

A word on dissimilar results: According to Rector, the

Census counts a family as poor if its “income” falls below certain thresholds. But in counting “income,” Census ignores almost all of the \$943 billion in annual welfare spending. This, of course, makes the Census poverty figures very misleading.⁷⁴

Ninety-six percent of poor parents state that their children were never hungry at any time during the year because they could not afford food. Some 82 percent of poor adults reported that they were never hungry at any time in the prior year.⁷⁵

Finally, I will not even get into the very high percentages of “poor” households who have middle class acquisitions from cable or satellite television, to include wide-screen HDTV; two or more

⁶⁸ A book that address this subject is: *When Helping Hurts, How to alleviate poverty without hurting the poor . . . and yourself*, by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert, Moody Publishers, Chicago, 2009; and, see, also, a monograph, *Entrepreneurship for Human Flourishing*, by Chris Horst and Peter Greer, AEI Press, Washington, D.C., 2014.

⁶⁹ Dr. Abraham Lee, U.S. Department of State, in a presentation to Bryan College, entitled “Overview of Human Trafficking.” I include Dr. Lee’s statement in *Civilization at Risk: Seeds of Strife*, published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle upon Tyne, England, in Chapter Five, “Aberrations,” Page 16.

⁷⁰ The latest figure; 57,000 was the original figure used in the press.

⁷¹ Ron D. Petite, “A Man Set under Authority,” sermon presented in Westminster Presbyterian Church, Dayton Tennessee, August 10, 2014.

⁷² See Robert Rector’s argument, above.

⁷³ Corbett & Fikkert, Pp. 141-142.

⁷⁴ Rector.

⁷⁵ Ibidem.

vehicles; and, other conveniences.⁷⁶ To sum up, poverty is relative to time and place, e.g., consider the contrast in what is considered poverty in the U.S., versus what is considered poverty in Ukraine; regardless, extreme poverty, such as exists in many countries around the world, is a breeding ground for human traffickers and their evil schemes.

The Second Area of Research

The Plight of Orphans and Their Vulnerability To Human Traffickers

Focus: “The Plight of the Ukrainian Orphan”⁷⁷

The following story “depict[s one of] the lowest places humanity can descend to”⁷⁸:

It was reported that the director of an orphanage in Ukraine offered two men, who met with him, before they led a team of volunteers to stay and work with the orphans, “any girl at the orphanage, if they wanted.”⁷⁹ To these men’s credit they were “appalled and heartbroken over this reality that the girls in the orphanage . . . face.” Needless to say, it is an “often-heard statistic that . . . girls . . . leave [the orphanage] and become trafficked, prostitutes, or taken advantage of.”⁸⁰ This latter reality, an innocent girl being taken advantage of, is the invisible statistic, a sin, if not a crime,⁸¹ that we know happens; but, one which we cannot begin to quantify, as we can, for example, the victims of modern day slavery.⁸²

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ The title of the letter from the former missionary to the Ukraine, who remains anonymous.

⁷⁸ Words of this missionary.

⁷⁹ Ibidem.

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ Unless it is reported and the criminal justice system carries out its mandate.

⁸² 30 million slaves world-wide, a common statistic, now, and one which can be broken down into various categories, e.g., sex slaves, labor slaves, *et.al.* One presenter at UN-L’s 6th annual human trafficking research conference, used a figure of 12.3 million. When I asked where she got this number, she admitted it was her own calculation, a calculation that, unfortunately, seriously undercuts attempts at creating awareness, in that it minimizes the problem: 12.3 million is 41 percent of 30 million. Making up a figure is not research. It should be pointed out that the U.S. Department of State relies on the International Labor Organization (ILO) to supply the statistic covering the estimated number of slaves in the world. The ILO number is significantly less (approximately 20.9 million forced labor slaves). Moreover, a labor organization is going to focus on labor statistics, not statistics on sex slavery, which I think is the more heinous of the two categories.

“An Image of Peace Undermined by the Menace of Violence”⁸³

As the battle between insurgent and government troops closes in on the city, the 130 or so children living at Donetsk Orphanage No. 1 find themselves in the middle of a tug of war. The insurgents say the children will be better off in Russia. Ukraine says taking them outside the country would be tantamount to kidnapping.⁸⁴

And, in what may be one of the saddest statements written on geopolitics: “Both sides appear to be using the orphans for propaganda.”⁸⁵ Russia claims to have 22,000 Ukrainian child refugees;⁸⁶ and, every indication is that they never will be returned. To illustrate the dilemma these children face:

Men bearing automatic rifles arrived recently to lay down the law about moving to Russia, terrifying everybody.⁸⁷

As if it is not bad enough for armed men to invade an orphanage, terrifying children by screaming at them, weapons in hand, these renegades took the children’s passports, which, in this surreal world created by Russia’s invasion of Crimea and *de facto* invasion of Eastern Ukraine, leaves these children stateless, compounding the tragedy of their orphan status.⁸⁸ This is the plight of orphans in Ukraine; their vulnerability to human traffickers increased exponentially by the illegal actions of Russia and her surrogates.⁸⁹

The Plight of the Homeless

At the intersection of the poor and the orphan, lie the homeless, who just may be even more vulnerable to human traffickers, than the poor, or the orphans. The streets of every major city in the world are home to the homeless, where cardboard boxes have a value far beyond what any

⁸³ Balint Szlanko, “Ukraine orphans become pawns,” *Chattanooga Times Free Press*, July 15, 2014, P. A3. This article originated with the Associated Press.

⁸⁴ *Ibidem*.

⁸⁵ *Ibid*.

⁸⁶ *Ibid*.

⁸⁷ *Ibid*.

⁸⁸ Taking a person’s identification documents, e.g., a passport, is a recognized violation of Public International Law.

⁸⁹ Public International Law is clear, as to the sovereignty of a nation state; what is classified as an invasion; as well as the conduct of combatants. Russia’s annexation of Crimea and the surrogate occupation of Eastern Ukraine, by armed renegades with unidentifiable uniforms, are violations of International Law. Unfortunately, the United Nations has no capability to right these wrongs.

recycling operation would put on them. To the street homeless, a cardboard box is shelter; and, shelter can be the difference between life and death.

The closest major city to Bryan College, is Chattanooga, a city of 163,000 people. This is not a large city; but, it is one of the most recognized cities in the South for scenic appeal⁹⁰ and attractiveness to residents, travelers, and tourists alike.

In a front page article, “Number of Homeless Students Soars, Population has doubled in Hamilton County schools since 2008,” Chattanooga *Times Free Press (TFP)* Staff Writer, Yolanda Putman, offers this:

Since the start of the Great Recession in 2008, the number of homeless students attending public schools in America has swelled.⁹¹

Across the nation, their numbers have risen by 85 percent – to a record 1.25 million – in the 2012-13 school year, according to the U.S. Department of Education. In Tennessee and in Hamilton County,⁹² the increase is even larger.⁹³

The number of homeless students in Tennessee is up 122 percent since before the recession to nearly 15,000, according to the Children’s Defense Fund. And in Hamilton County the number of homeless students has more than doubled since 2008, said Marsha Drake, the county department of education’s director of student services.⁹⁴

Administrators expect . . . more than 1,700 homeless students [will be] enrolled in Hamilton County public schools by year’s end.⁹⁵

I am thankful to Ms. Putman and to the *Times Free Press* for this revealing article; I also am grateful to churches and social services that step up, to provide assistance to the homeless, e.g., \$200 a week for housing.⁹⁶ All this said, I am appalled at these statistics, nationally and regionally. In one sense, it is a good thing that the stigma of homelessness is abating;⁹⁷ but, society needs to be on its guard that there may be a corresponding relaxation of any number of homeless persons, who will not make the herculean effort to rise above such conditions.

⁹⁰ Just as New Orleans is called “The Big Easy,” Chattanooga is called “The Scenic City.”

⁹¹ Putman, *TFP*, October 7, 2014, P. A1.

⁹² The City of Chattanooga is located in Hamilton County, Tennessee.

⁹³ Putman. *Ibidem*.

⁹⁴ *Ibid*.

⁹⁵ *Ibid*, P. A4.

⁹⁶ *Ibid*.

⁹⁷ *Ibid*.

Awareness must be followed by education and opportunity, if people trapped in a homeless situation ever can expect to rise above their current circumstances. In conclusion, this revelation, with which I was confronted,⁹⁸ upon reading the morning paper, caused me to reflect about my own high school years. From the Fall of 1957 to the Spring of 1961, I attended a large public high school in Neptune, New Jersey, a school that was integrated well in advance of most schools in this country; yet, I have no recollection whatsoever of any student, black or white, being homeless. Society in that time, in that place, was doing something right.

⁹⁸ October 7, 2014.

A Note About References

Many of the sources used in the compilation of this paper are primary. The subject matter, human trafficking, virtually requires that primary sources, not only be utilized, but that they be valued for their timeliness and currency. Other scholars may take a different approach; but, for the purpose of this work, I have found that such sources as: Web sites, e-mail, interviews, letters, and personal conversations, have been invaluable, in preparing this paper. There is no Reference List or Bibliography: Footnotes should provide all that is necessary, to this point in time.

Addendum

Contact Information

Page 23

CONTACT

Dr. Kevin Clauson, Interim Vice President of Academics and Professor of Politics & Justice

kclauson4864@bryan.edu//423.775.7324/7200

Dr. Ron Petite, Director, Center for Leadership & Justice, The Justice & Mercy Initiative, and
Professor of Politics & Government

petittro@bryan.edu//423.775.7311

Eric McEachron, Director, Outreach Ministries for Student Life

emceachro1574@bryan.edu//423.775.7251

Cameron Brock, President, SSTOP (Students Stopping the Trafficking of Persons)

sstop@bryan.edu

cbrock2365@bryan.edu