

AN INVESTIGATION OF THE NEED FOR SPIRITUALITY

By HENRY H. REITER

Maslow¹ presents a theoretical framework of needs which include the physiological, physical, social and psychological, but does not list spirituality as a need category. This investigation represents a survey into whether or not there exists a "spiritual need."

METHOD

The present study utilized 90 males, 30 each of Jews, Catholics and Protestants, who were randomly selected at their places of worship at non-holiday or non-sabbath times. The subjects' ages ranged from 27 to 55 with no age difference between religious groups.

A 20-item questionnaire was administered to the subjects individually. Eleven questions are asterisked and were used only as fill-ins, so that a total raw score of nine was highest. The entire questionnaire appears below:

- *1. How old are you?
- *2. Do you have difficulty in understanding sermons?
- *3. What is your pastor's name?
4. Are you in good health?
5. Have you ever prayed to your God to grant you a favor?
- *6. How long have you been a member of this congregation?
- *7. Do you feel that members of other sects are, perhaps, misguided?
8. Have you ever told a "white-lie"?
- *9. Do you think that (Catholics, Protestants, or Jews) are inferior to (Catholics, Protestants, or Jews)?
10. Are you a religiously devout person?
11. Do you pray solely for the glory of your God?
12. Do you have a feeling of impending difficulties, financial, physical or otherwise, for anyone near and dear to you or, perhaps, yourself?

¹ A. H. Maslow, *Motivation and Personality*, Harper, New York, 1954, chapter 5.

- *13. Do you ever question the canons, tenets or traditions of your religion?
- *14. How long have you been a member of this religion?
- 15. Do you know of any instances where your God has granted wishes to the devout?
- 16. Have you ever been granted a wish through the medium of prayer?
- *17. How far do you live from your (temple, church)?
- 18. Is there such a thing as a spiritual need?
- *19. Did you ever feel that God has forgotten you?
- *20. Did you ever feel that you may want to convert to another religion?

RESULTS

The Table presents the mean number of affirmative answers for each group. The greater the number of affirmative responses, the greater the "spiritual need." Note that the mean scores were very similar for the three groups. Statistical tests of significance revealed non-significant differences between the groups.

| | JEWISH | CATHOLIC | PROTESTANT |
|----|--------|----------|------------|
| N | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| M | 7.0 | 7.5 | 6.7 |
| SD | 3.2 | 3.7 | 4.5 |

It is interesting to note that over 90 per cent of the subjects replied positively to the question: "Is there such a thing as a spiritual need?"

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The data indicated that no one religion has representative members with greater spiritual needs. Furthermore, all the subjects indicated their belief in the human need for spirituality, despite their own religious affiliation. The subjects were thought to be religious people in light of their attendance at regular (non-holiday) religious services, and therefore were expected to respond affirmatively to the questionnaire.

The major finding, therefore, was not that there does exist a spiritual need, but that religious affiliation is not a discriminatory factor in the belief in the need for spirituality.

RACE, PSYCHOLOGY AND EDUCATION : WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

BY H. M. ROLAND AND DONALD A. SWAN

This article is a preliminary report on racial differences in psychometric intelligence and scholastic attainment in Wilmington, North Carolina, and is part of a larger study on racial differences in mental growth and educational achievement throughout the United States. It is the purpose of this article to describe some of the Wilmington test results, compare them with similar studies in other areas, investigate briefly the origin and source of any reported group differences, and discuss the educational significance of such differences.

THE WILMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Wilmington, North Carolina, is a Southern city with a population approximately two-thirds White and one-third Negro. At the present time there are more than 12,000 White and 5500 Negro students in the elementary, junior high and senior high schools of the city.

Negro education in Wilmington began in 1865 when several schools were established by Northern missionary societies and the Freedman's Bureau. Throughout the Reconstruction Period missionary and public schools for Negroes were established and maintained on an extensive scale. On the other hand, White public schools were closed in 1863 during the Civil War and partially reopened in 1872. For all practical purposes White schools ceased to exist or were poorly supported until 1900.

Wilmington currently maintains a biracial school system, with separate schools and teaching staffs for the White and Negro students. The White and Negro schools are substantially equivalent in terms of capital expenditures, operating expenditures per student, teacher salaries and teacher qualifications. Both races have benefited from an extensive building program. There are now sixteen elementary schools, four junior high schools and one senior high school for White students, and six elementary schools, two junior high schools and one senior high school for Negro students.

THE WILMINGTON TEST RESULTS

Tests of psychometric intelligence and educational achievement have been administered in the Wilmington public schools since the early 1920's. These psychological tests have proven invaluable.