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Conclusion: The Overarching Dimension

Tom Pugh's legacy is his development of the personhood model as the center of emphasis for African-American pastoral care and counseling paradigm. This model emphasizes "being" rather than "doing" on the part of the care giver. The caring process is multi-dimensional, i.e., the care giver not only gives but receives. Reciprocity is the essence of the caring relationship. Therefore, Tom's admonition for the care giver is to come to grips with past experiences and feelings in conjunction with the caring encounter.

At the core of Tom's pastoral care and counseling model is the dialectic of helpfulness. Upon his return from Boston University, Pugh had acquired the necessary power to "be" and the ability to "help." Internalizing this, he returned to the African-American Community ready to serve, and in serving, contributing. No longer was he limited in being helpful to others who had experienced the negation of their personhood. He transmitted this power of helpfulness to several generations of African-American care givers, including graduates of ITC.

An example of Pugh's art of "overcoming limi-

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tation” is his struggle during the Civil Rights Movement to combat the treatment of the Black race as things. This same theme is echoed by African Womanist Teresia Hinga who coined the term “thingification” of human beings. Of course, such treatment of people as things nullifies their personhood.

A more recent perpetuation of Pugh’s paradigm of pastoral care and counseling is the acquisition of his personal library by the Department of Theological Services, Atlanta University Center, Robert W. Woodruff Library, Atlanta, Georgia, in December 1997. This collection of over 1000 titles represents the life and work of this “quiet giant”—a monumental contribution in memory of Thomas J. Pugh.