

## Moral perspectives

# No simplistic answers to complex problems

It seems everyone with any audience has commented on the tragedy in Guyana, so why add to the words? Surely we suburbanites have no special wisdom about this horror. But we need to see how easy it is to beguile ourselves into disastrous pursuits.

I have no inside information different than media reports. This calamity centers in religion, however, so clergy should voice what people are trying to articulate.

News brings tensions from anywhere in the world into our homes daily. The atom bomb is an example of threats we live with constantly. We struggle to maintain balance in a frightening world. The most popular aid is the type of religion offering unquestionable answers to life's perplexities.

Search for security diminishes our time. As a solution to our common need one could praise the People's Temple as a logical attempt at providing answers. The people lived religious commitment and were led by a minister. An idealistic community addressed a yearning in all of us so we need to see where it went wrong.

Every religion offers a vision of an ultimate goal which encourages a sense of destiny. But any movement is fatally flawed if it suggests we have gone as far as we can or are in utopia. Good sense is to run the other way as fast as we can when we start hearing or thinking "this is it." Quick sim-

plistic answers to deep complex problems are extremely dangerous.

Josephson shows us again how easy it is to allow violation of the responsibilities of leadership. Any religious community creates windows for seeing through to the divine and if we think we see the divine within the program we should turn on a bright red stop light. Good leaders are transparent so we see through to truth, justice, mercy, and love. If we are transfixed by a leader or rhetoric we abandon our human dignity.

The hope to serve human need and solve monumental social and economic troubles creates admiration and stirs desire in us. What was attempted in Guyana was religion—and it was moral. Withdrawal from tensions in society is suspect if not downright blasphemous and immoral if one believes reality stems from a divine creator.

Choice is the meaning of morality and walking away from evil is abdication. Commitment as the heart of religion and morality becomes self-serving when devotion is to utopian solutions. Good must be defined so all humanity is included. Good and evil are always intertwined so daily choices include both commitment to good and action to fight evil.

I have never needed the word depravity in describing human nature. I just don't see totally corrupt people. But the loathsome events in Guyana suggest a wickedness beyond rescue in all of us. My safeguard is to be quite open about skeletons in our closets. Admitting best intentions going wrong turns us from disaster.

Each year many Americans take this old nursery rhyme to heart by giving generously to one cause or another. During this season, shoppers frequently are solicited by mail, by telephone, door-to-door, in stores and on street corners. The Better Business Bureau has a few tips for evaluating some of these appeals.

If an appeal for charity is received through the mail, be sure to check the following:

- Does the appeal make a clear statement of purpose and need?
- Is it easily understood and not disguised as a bill or invoice?
- Does it make clear that there is no obligation to pay for or to return any enclosed unordered items, such as stamps, key rings, etc.?
- Does it include an address to write for further information?
- Does it indicate whether donations are tax-deductible for federal income tax purposes?

MANY CHARITABLE organizations use the telephone as a means to solicit funds. At Christmas time, especially, callers request donations for merchandise made by the handicapped, magazine subscriptions with proceeds benefiting a charity, and many other causes. Before promising to give money, prospective donors should ask the following questions:

- Does the caller immediately, or on request, provide identification including the name of the sponsoring organization and purpose of the call?
- Will the solicitor give information on how to obtain more details on the charitable organization?
- Is the solicitor sufficiently well-informed and willing to answer reasonable questions?
- Is the solicitor willing to put the request in writing?

AT THIS TIME of year, too, a knock at the door may mean a visit from-

## Check out the charities before writing checks

"Christmas is coming and the geese are getting fat; please put a penny in the old man's hat."

Each year many Americans take this old nursery rhyme to heart by giving generously to one cause or another. During this season, shoppers frequently are solicited by mail, by telephone, door-to-door, in stores and on street corners. The Better Business Bureau has a few tips for evaluating some of these appeals.

If an appeal for charity is received through the mail, be sure to check the following:

- Does the appeal make a clear statement of purpose and need?
- Is it easily understood and not disguised as a bill or invoice?
- Does it make clear that there is no obligation to pay for or to return any enclosed unordered items, such as stamps, key rings, etc.?
- Does it include an address to write for further information?
- Does it indicate whether donations are tax-deductible for federal income tax purposes?

MANY CHARITABLE organizations use the telephone as a means to solicit funds. At Christmas time, especially, callers request donations for merchandise made by the handicapped, magazine subscriptions with proceeds benefiting a charity, and many other causes. Before promising to give money, prospective donors should ask the following questions:

- Does the caller immediately, or on request, provide identification including the name of the sponsoring organization and purpose of the call?
- Will the solicitor give information on how to obtain more details on the charitable organization?
- Is the solicitor sufficiently well-informed and willing to answer reasonable questions?
- Is the solicitor willing to put the request in writing?

AT THIS TIME of year, too, a knock at the door may mean a visit from-

someone asking for money for some charitable cause or another. Before giving, consider asking these questions:

- Does the solicitor have identification including a name and address of the benefiting organization?
- Is the solicitor a volunteer, employee of the benefiting group or working for a promoter?
- If the solicitor is selling such merchandise as candy or magazines, is it made clear how much goes to the sponsoring organization instead of to an individual?
- Will the solicitor accept a check made out to the organization instead of to an individual?
- Finally, will the solicitor provide a

source for obtaining further information?

Seasonal swindlers are as much a part of the holiday scene as street-corner Santas. Be on the alert for schemers who try to capitalize on the Christmas rush and shoppers' tendency to be more trusting at this time of year.

Americans are a generous people. Last year, approximately \$90 billion in time and dollars was given to charity. The Better Business Bureau urges donors to learn more about the organizations soliciting money and time before contributing. Those wishing to give should make out a check payable to the organization, never to the individual.

## OU sets pre-law testing

The personal assessment inventory, prerequisite for entry into the legal assistant program of Oakland University's Division of Continuing Education, will be conducted in Farmington Hills and Rochester before the winter 1979 term.

Prepaid registration is open for the inventory, which will be conducted Jan. 10, at Harrison High School, W. Twelve-Mile, off I-96 between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills and on campus in the Oakland Center Gold Room. All three inventories will be held from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Fee is \$10. The inventory is a series of tests which indicate levels of abstract and verbal reasoning and language usage skills.

The nondegree legal assistant courses begin the week of Jan. 22 on campus and at the Sterling Heights site. Registration for the inventory may be made by calling the continuing education office, 377-3120.

## Getting settled made simple.

New-town dilemmas fade after a WELCOME WAGON call.

As your Hostess, it's my job to help you make the most of your new neighborhood. Our shopping areas. Community opportunities. Special air-conditions. Lots of facts to save you time and money. Plus a basket of gifts for your family. I'll be listening for your call.

WELCOME WAGON

CALL

356-7720

## Consumer Mailbag

Food questions have increased to almost 35 percent of the total mail received by Concern, Inc., Detroit's Consumer Mailbag since the column began 2 1/2 years ago. In response to this new interest in the foods we eat, shown by our readers and the community at large, Concern, Inc., Detroit offers you "This Can't Be Healthy, I Like It." It is a new cookbook that aims to take everybody's favorite pastime, snacking, and turn it into a healthful experience.

Americans spend about 10 percent of their annual budget on medical care. Millions of dollars could be saved each year if people tried to change their eating habits. Many of us eat a diet rich in foods created in a chemistry laboratory. Most of the thousands of chemical additives used are assumed to be safe, but not infrequently a chemical widely used in our food is found to be dangerous, and is banned.

Concern's new cookbook, "This Can't Be Healthy, I Like It" is a collection of snack recipes for good foods that taste good. The recipes take the junk out of snack foods. No pre-

servatives, no additives, no pre-mixed, pre-packaged or preposterous. Just easy-to-make snacks the ingredients of which are available at local supermarkets. Kid and kitchen tested, the book is an adventure into a world of cravings that can be encouraged.

The proceeds from the sale of this book will be used to benefit the continuing environmental education programs of Concern, Inc., Detroit.

Copies can be obtained by sending \$4.61 per copy, which includes tax and postage, to Concern, Inc., Detroit, 1 Northfield Plaza, Troy 48068.

## Your Invitation to Worship

**For Church Directory Information**  
Please Call Pat 644-1100 Ext. 217

**NATIVITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
1125 W. 13th St. East of Luther  
SUNDAY WORSHIP  
8:30 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.  
Sister John C. Froeseburg  
at 37-33

**ST. JOHN AMERICANS LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
23225 Gill Road Farmington  
Charles F. Pastor  
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Worship  
9:45 Sunday School  
Nursery at 11:30 Service  
476-0584

**CLARENCEVILLE UNITED METHODIST**  
2000 Middlebelt, Livonia  
Pastor Gerald Foster 474-3444  
9 a.m. First Worship Service  
10 a.m. The Church School  
11:15 a.m. Second Service of Worship  
Nursery Provided at All Services

**NORTHBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
14 Mile and Luther Road  
Housing Worship  
and Church School  
9:30 & 11:00  
Pastors: R. Kent  
W. Dunn  
Phone 442-0200

**BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
A.L.C.  
5631 North Adams Road  
Phone 474-5121

**Church is for Everyone!**

**PEACE ON EARTH**

**QUINCY SCHEDULE**  
8:15 AM Majors Service  
Communion 3rd Sunday  
9:30 AM Sunday School  
11:00 AM Morning Worship  
Communion 1st Sunday  
Pastor W. McClain  
Deane F. Schuler Pastor  
MI 6-5041

**Bethlehem LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
33300 Eight Mile Road  
Farmington Hills  
Eldo H. TUOLI, PASTOR  
474-2579  
Worship & Church School  
10:30 A.M.

**Birk in the Hills PRESBYTERIAN**  
MINISTERS  
James F. Anderson  
Robert L. Lindley  
Ross H. Goech  
Worship Services and  
Church School  
Sundays at 9:30  
and 11:30 A.M.

**CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER**  
Episcopal  
18140 Cornet Rd.  
Southfield  
563-4418  
Sunday Services 8 & 10:30 AM  
1928 Prayer Book  
Services Only

**COVENANT BAPTIST**  
Covenant is a church where Christian Education is important. There is a place for you and your family to study and grow.  
- Church Service -  
SUNDAY 10:00 AM  
Worship 11:00 AM & 3:30 PM  
5800 W. Maple Rd.  
W. Bloomfield, Mich. 48303  
\*West of Orchard Lake Rd.  
855-9151

**Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church**  
25225 Middlebelt Road, Farmington Hills 477-1677  
Rev. S. J. Anthony, Th.D., Priest  
10:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Divine Liturgy English Sermon  
"Visitors Always Welcome"

**First United Methodist Church**  
1589 West Maple of Pleasant  
Ministers: James W. Wright, G. Bryn Evans  
John H. Bunce, Thomas H. Beaven  
Harold E. Wrenthall  
Church Services  
8:30, 9:30, & 11:00 a.m.  
9:30 - 11:00 a.m.  
Nursery Care Provided  
Nursery School Monday through Friday  
9:00-11:30 a.m.

**St. Andrew Lutheran Church LCA**  
855 Telegraph Rd.  
Birmingham MI 48026  
Worship Service  
10:30 A.M.  
Sunday Church School  
10:00 P.M.  
Charles Wagon Rector  
965-2007

**Salem United Church of Christ**  
Oakland at 56th River Farmington  
Church School 8:00 AM  
Worship Service 10:15 AM  
Church Office GR 4-8880  
Oakland at 56th River Farmington  
Rev. James A. Nelson Minister  
Farmington phone 474-2644

**NORTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
26275 Northwestern Highway near Lakeshore  
Southfield Mich. Phone EL 6-1660  
Come and Join Us for a Challenging Faith  
Education Experience Every Sunday Morning  
Rev. Paul H. Young, Jr. Pastor  
Dr. Harry M. Langford, Music Dir.  
Rev. David Howell, D.C.E.  
Bible Study 9:00 AM  
Morning Worship 10:30 AM  
Sunday School 10:30 AM  
Ample Parking Nursery Care  
No Stairs Provided

**FARMINGTON HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
28301 Middlebelt Road, 1/4 Mile N. of 12 Mile  
A FULL-SERVICE CHURCH  
SUNDAY 9:45 AM  
WORSHIP SERVICES 11 AM and 6 PM  
CHILDREN'S CHURCH 11:00 AM  
WEDNESDAY FAMILY NIGHT 7:30 PM  
Douglas B. Brown, Pastor  
851-0310  
Nursery Provided at All Services  
Ample Parking C.B.A. Approved No Steps

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**  
Missouri Synod  
12 Mile & Farmington Roads  
Behind Crowley's  
The Rev. R.A. St. Pierre-pastor  
Sunday Worship 8:30 and 10:45 A.M.  
Sunday School and Bible Class 9:30 A.M.  
Church Phone: 553-3380

**First Baptist Church**  
Barnes and Wilkins, Birmingham, Mich.  
Robert G. McDermott, Minister  
Dorothy E. Smith  
Homer J. Armstrong, Emeritus  
Church School 10:45 AM  
Worship Service 11:00 AM

**Bloomfield Hills Christian Church**  
The Community House  
380 South Bates, Birmingham  
SUNDAY 10:10 AM  
Bible School  
11:00 A.M. Worship  
6:00 P.M. Praise Service  
Wednesday 7:15 P.M.  
Bible Study  
851-8516

**The Orchard United Methodist Church**  
20010 Farmington Road  
(between 11 and 12 Mile)  
SUNDAY 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM  
Church School & Nursery  
9:30 AM and 10:30 AM  
Social Program for  
Ecclesiastical Youth & Young Adults  
9:30 AM  
10:45 AM  
Pastors: R. Kent  
James F. Thompson

**The Congregational Church of Birmingham, U.C.C.**  
Woodward at Cranbrook  
Bloomfield Hills  
MI 4-4511  
Worship and Church School  
9:30 & 11:00  
Ministers:  
Rev. Charles O. Erickson

**Franklin Community Church**  
United Methodist  
at Farmington Hills  
9:15 & 11:15  
Services of Worship  
Nursery Care  
10:25  
Adult Study Class  
11:15  
Sunday School  
Nursery thru 6th grade  
Senior Minister  
Frank B. Cowich  
Associate Minister  
J. Chester Stubbs

**First Church of God**  
Farmington Hills  
23225 Farmington Road  
Pastor W. K. Kistner, Pastor  
Pastor James 474-5619  
Church School  
Sundays 10:00  
11:00  
Evening Service  
7:00 PM  
Wednesday Prayer  
7:30

**EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
23225 Farmington Road  
East of I-96 at 12 Mile  
Pastor 337-1848  
9:30 AM  
10:45  
Church  
The Rev. J. Alden Edmondson

**WARD UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LIVONIA**  
Farmington Road & Six Mile Road  
Worship & Sunday School 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.  
"Christmas: Complaint or Contentment?"  
Rev. L. Edward Davis  
7:00 p.m.  
"A Birthday Party for Jesus"  
Given by Ward Church Kids  
Wednesday School of Christian Education  
Family Dinner 6:00 p.m. Classes & Choirs 7:00 p.m.  
Activities for All Ages  
9:30 Sunday Service  
Broadcast WNUZ-FM 103.5  
Nursery Provided at All Services

**First Baptist Church of Farmington**  
Richard Duncan, Pastor Phone 474-0350

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** 9:45 a.m.  
**MORNING WORSHIP** 11:00 a.m.  
**EVENING SERVICE** 7:00 p.m.  
**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY** 7:00 p.m.

**FARMINGTON HILLS CHRISTIAN CENTER**  
Drake Rd. at Freedom  
Phone 475-1511  
Rev. Edmund L. Luthar Pastor  
9:45 AM-Sunday School  
10:45 AM - Worship  
7:00 PM - Revival Rally  
Thursday 7:30 PM  
Affiliated with the  
Assemblies of God

**SUNDAY SERVICES** 10:30 A.M.  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL** 10:30 A.M.  
**WEDNESDAY TESTIMONY MEETING** 8:00 P.M.  
**CHILD CARE ROOM** Sunday 10:15 A.M. Wed. 7:45 P.M.  
**READING ROOM** 350 East Maple & 654-7355  
Open Mon. & Tues. 9:30-5:30 & 5-9  
Wed. & Sat. 9:30-5:30 Thurs. & Fri. 9:30-9:00  
Except Sunday and holidays  
**FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST**  
FRANKLIN-MERIDOWILLAKE  
Maple at Inlet  
**SUNDAY SERVICES** 10:30 A.M.  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL** 10:30 A.M.  
**WEDNESDAY TESTIMONY MEETING** 8:00 P.M.  
**CHILD CARE ROOM** Sunday 10:15 A.M. Wed. 7:45 P.M.  
**READING ROOM** in Pine Lake Mall & 851-7720  
Orchard Lake Rd. at Lone Pine Rd  
**SUNDAY**  
9:45 AM-Sunday School  
10:45 AM - Worship  
7:00 PM - Revival Rally  
Thursday 7:30 PM  
Affiliated with the  
Assemblies of God

**SUNDAY SERVICES** 10:30 A.M.  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL** 10:30 A.M.  
**WEDNESDAY TESTIMONY MEETING** 8:00 P.M.  
**CHILD CARE ROOM** Sunday 10:15 A.M. Wed. 7:45 P.M.  
**READING ROOM** in Pine Lake Mall & 851-7720  
Orchard Lake Rd. at Lone Pine Rd  
**SUNDAY**  
9:45 AM-Sunday School  
10:45 AM - Worship  
7:00 PM - Revival Rally  
Thursday 7:30 PM  
Affiliated with the  
Assemblies of God