

moral perspectives

Rabbi Irwin Groner

Help people feel free to voice their opinions, and help people feel secure

If you are someone who has the job of influencing others — whether you are a boss, a teacher, a parent, or someone who lives and works with other people, then you must have asked yourself a question, "How can I do this job effectively?"

Perhaps you have experimented and tried several approaches. But have you tried listening?

I am continually impressed by the profound effect it has upon my relationship with the person who speaks to me. We cease to be two individuals living in private worlds which do not overlap.

By listening, we are able to move into a common frame of communication as I grasp what the other person is saying — not just his work, but the meaning and feeling behind his words.

AS A RESULT of understanding the other person, I find myself appreciating him more as an individual and as someone of value. I see him differently than I did before.

I find myself asking him questions to clarify things I am not sure about, and in the process, helping him clarify some of his own thoughts and concerns.

The other person seems to grow in ecurity about what he is saying and he security about what he is saying and he is no longer struggling to convince me. He has no need to; he knows I am trying to understand him. In return, he seems to be much more desirous of hearing my views and more receptive to ideas I seek to convey to him. I have found that in the long run, I have much greater influence on people when I spend more time listening and asking questions than telling and providing answers.

STUBENTS OF communication have provided some basic rules for effective istening. Hold your fire. Don't judge until your comprehension is complete. Listen especially to people with whom you disagree. The biggest mistake we can make is tuning out people who make us angry. If we kill the messenger, we won't get the bad news, and we won't learn anything either.

A person is more receptive to the acceptance of new and different ideas, attitudes and modes of response when he has had ample opportunity to express his own feelings about the issue at hand and when his feelings are accepted as reasonable and valid for him.

Two essential steps must happen be-fore we can get other people to change their ways: We must help people feel free to voice their opinions, and we need to help people feel secure enough so that they are willing to try some-thing different.

When people don't listen, the costs are enormous in wasted time, frustrated relationships and emotional pain.

If you have the responsibility of influencing and guiding people, why don't you try listening? I am confident you will be successful. Perhaps the greatest value is that you, too, will undergo change in this process.



gerontology

A. Jolayne **Farrell**

If high blood pressure is not controlled, serious complications can result

Dear Jo:
When I had my blood pressure taken
on my physical exam, it was 140 over
86. Exactly what do these two figures
mean?

Sam G.

If you think of the heart as a pump that pushes the blood through the arteries, then the first number recorded is when the pump contracts and is in the phase called systole. So your systolic pressure is 140. The second number represents the reading taken during the relaxation phase of the heart. This is the phase called disable when the pressure from the heart is at its lowest. Your disable pressure, then, is 88.

The lower number is your basic blood pressure without the added push of the heart's contraction.

Dear Jo:

I have just been told by my doctor that I have bigh blood pressure. My father had high blood pressure and so does my brother. I would like to know if this condition is inherited and if it is

I'm sure that you are aware of the fact that if high blood pressure (hypertension) is not controlled, serious complications such as heart disease, stroke and kidney failure can result.

Hypertension does seem to run in families. Therefore it is advisable for tannines. Therefore it is advisable for these who have a family history of this condition to be checked regularly. Spe-cialists in the field of hypertension

have varying opinions on the subject of whether it is more common in men than in women. There is no definite an-swer to this at present. Blood pressure levels often, but not

Blood pressure levels often, but not always, increase as we age. A higher systolic reading is one of the most common findings. It is thought to be directly related to the loss of elasticity of the blood vessels. The diastolic pressure remains relatively normal in the healthy aging adult.

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The Oakland County Volunteer Bureau has weekly listings of volunteer opportunities. Further information about these and other odunteer needs at over 200 agencies may be obtained by calling the bureau at 642-272. Any non-profit organization needing volunteer assistance may call the bureau.

COURT AIDES — Pre-sentence investigators are needed to work with the 48th District Court in Birmingham. Volunteers would choose two-hour assignments on Tuesday or Wednesday

OFFICE AIDE — Oakland County React Inc. needs volunteers for office duties. Volunteer are needed Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

MAINTENANCE ASSISTANCE — The Institute for Advanced Pastoral Studies needs volunteers to help with general building maintenance. Volun-teers are needed on a flexible basis.

Madonna College in Livonia now is accredited for a master of science degree program in administration with specialties in business and nursing. Graduate classes will begin with the fall term. The program will consist of 36 semester hours, including six core courses, four or five courses including six core courses, four or five courses in business administration or nursing and one or two electives. Students are expected to complete the program in a maximum of seven years, although a two-year cycle of courses is recommended. Those interested in more information in the graduate level courses can call the college at 591-5049.

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9:30 am and 11:30 an

NORTH CONGREGATIONAL' CHURCH Southfield, MI PHONE: 356-1

WORSHIP SERVICE AND CHURCH SCHOOL: 10 AM



CENTRAL WOODWARD KRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

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> (Morning Prayer Weekday Eucharists Tuesday 10:00 am Wednesday 7:00 am

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