

# Strength isn't always in numbers

Some say it's hardly worth the effort. There were six churches participating and only about 100 people came. Should we continue?

We continue to gather together as churches, not because it is popular to do so but because it is right. We must witness to the unity of our faith.

It is unusual for people to do things today because they are right rather than because they are successful. Everywhere we are lead to believe that the number attending something is the most important criteria. People want to identify with events that are successful. No longer do we ask, is it right? We ask instead, is it popular?

HOWEVER, within the heritage of the Jewish and Christian faiths is the tradition of the remnant, the few who have kept their belief alive in spite of the trends. For them, the increase of numbers may in fact suggest that people are abandoning the truth.

What is right and true? For Christians, it can be said that it is right and true to the faith to cooperate rather than compete with one another.



## moral perspectives

Rev. David Strong

It is right and true to say that Christians are called to accept one another and stop short of judging others for their differences. The test question is, do we tell the truth in love? There is a creative tension then between holding to a religious truth and doing so in love of the other.

A current emphasis upon the numerical growth of churches sometimes implies that we may do anything to promote such growth. An emphasis upon social stands will drive some people away. They want a religion which will restrict its focus to the individual. The implications is that if you want to be successful, stick to individual piety.

PROPHETIC religion says that the truth must be proclaimed and practiced whether it leads to success or to apparent failure. This is a difficult stance to take when we see such a dense today for a winning team.

If we speak the truth in love, we hold to what we believe, yet we communicate with people in a considerate way. Persons who believe strongly can also be people of reconciliation. What I object to are the two extremes: those who bend the truth of their faith so that they can be successful, and those who are so dogmatic that they do not consider other human beings worthy of dialogue. The middle path, speaking the truth in love, is a more difficult way.

Although it reflects the great commandment, to love God, neighbor and self, it seldom shows up in the statistics as a successful strategy for religious institutions.

WE NEED to rethink the whole issue of what makes a religious effort successful. Clarence Jordan tells the story of how after coming to a southern Baptist church as the pastor, he preached racial integration. The members began to leave his church. Several people raised an objection saying that soon there would not be any members left. Jordan said he would preach the church down to a handful if necessary and then begin from there.

This is an unusual story because he was able to accomplish this feat by telling the truth in love.

It is an unusual story because I believe it is rare among our current religious institutions. We worry too much about how to get more to come, and more to give. We need to worry more about proclaiming and practicing the truth in love.

# There's a right way to visit doctor

Dear Jo:

Every time I visit my doctor I get so nervous that I forget to tell him many of my health problems. Is there some way that we older citizens can prepare for these visits?

Mrs. D.W.

Dear Mrs. D.W.:

You are not alone. Many persons of all ages become nervous and forgetful while visiting their doctor. If you assess your own health needs and plan up your visit several days before your appointment, you shouldn't forget any of your health problems.

To complete the assessment part of your visit, I suggest that you sit down, undisturbed, with pen and paper and list with your most serious problem first. Serious problems are those that you consider to be the most threatening to your physical well being. Examples are: shortness of breath, chest pain and unusual bleeding. Report these serious symptoms as to when and where you experienced them, how long they lasted and any other details that you think are important.

Other reportable problems are: dizziness, falls, swelling of the ankles, persistent coughing, weight loss or gain, appetite



## gerontology

A. Jolayne Farrell

changes, indigestion, any changes in bowel or bladder habits, pain or weakness in muscles or joints, tremors or lack of coordination, persistent aches or pains, skin changes such as redness, swelling or itching, headaches, changes in sleep patterns, changes in vision or hearing and any reaction to food, drugs or household products.

Plan the day of your visit so that you will arrive early for your appointment. Arrange for such necessities as a pre-visit questionnaire or medical tests are complete in advance of your appointment time.

During your visit, try to be brief and to the point when reporting your concerns. Ask questions. Make sure you understand any instructions. Report your smoking and

drinking habits as they may have to be altered if certain medications are ordered. If your doctor prescribes a new drug, it is essential that you know the name of the drug, its purpose, its action, how and when to take it, the length of time it should be taken, if the prescription can be refilled and where it should be stored.

After your visit, you should feel a certain amount of satisfaction as to your continued vigilance of your own health care. It ought to be clear to you exactly what your responsibilities are after the visit and then proceed to follow through. If you are still concerned about a problem or something is not clear, you should feel free to call the office and ask either the doctor or his/her nurse for clarification.

I hope this fairly organized approach to medical care will be helpful to you. It takes time and organization, but at the end of your visit, you'll not be frustrated with your forgetfulness and should feel a sense of accomplishment.

Readers can write to Jolayne Farrell at P.O. Box 66, Postal Station G., 1075 Queen Street East, Ontario, Canada.

Thursday, May 3, 1984 O&E

(U.S. F&W)

## volunteers

### Variety of skills needed

The Oakland County Volunteer Bureau has a current file of volunteer opportunities for more than 200 agencies. Non-profit organizations needing assistance may list with the bureau. For more information about these and other volunteer openings, please call the bureau at 842-7272.

**COMMON GROUND** — Many over 18-year-olds are needed who have good communication and organizational skills to work as

information and referral services, four to five hours per week Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., especially during daytime hours. Also needed is a receptionist 17-year-of-age, warm and open to answer the phone, greet visitors and help with office duties. Training for both positions will be provided.

**SINAI HOSPITAL GUILD** — Several individuals who are pleasant, dependable and organized are needed to assist in the hospital gift shop one day a week for four hours minimum, Monday through Thursday, 4-8:30 p.m. or flexible

daytime hours.

**OCVS** — The volunteer bureau needs persons who are friendly and sympathetic to conduct face-to-face or telephone interviews with prospective volunteers and/or to solicit volunteer opportunities for Oakland County agencies. Volunteers are needed for three hours any morning Tuesday through Friday or Tuesday or Friday afternoon.

**OAKLAND FAMILY SERVICES** — Partial coaches are needed to visit homes of expectant/first-time parents to counsel on parenting. Persons aged 20 and up are needed for two hours per week, days and times are flexible. Volunteers also are needed who have group experience to work as group facilitators four hours a week.

**OCAM** — There are many openings for volunteers in public relations with Concerned Citizens for Arts, Michigan. Enthusiastic persons are needed for office duties, PR assistance, brochure distribution and speakers.



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