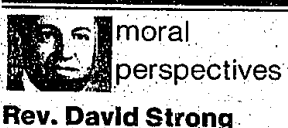


We are one world and must act accordingly

TRAVEL TO EUROPE by Americans is up 15 percent. A family we know plans to go to the Orient this summer. A fellow clergyman is currently traveling to Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador. I will be going to Haiti with a work group of young adults in December. Americans like to travel. Let us hope that for many it is with a new purpose, to understand better the whole world. Amongst some we see this change. Global education is being taught at a local high school. I hear young people saying that they want to spend a year overseas. Those in the auto business tell me that the industry is moving rapidly to a world production and world market.

Yet there are those who say that we are still that most provincial people on earth. Perhaps this is understandable. Most of us have spoken only one language and have experienced only one culture. Our physical isolation has been a blessing and at the same time a cause of our narrow vision. There remains a narrow view which suggests that we would have "eyes only for our own."

INSTEAD WE need to realize that we are part of one world and we are responsible for one world. This



Rev. David Strong

moral perspectives

family on earth is not unlike the family most of us know. We are each responsible for enriching and maintaining the values which make a family function. What children, teens, parents and grandparents do or do not do affects the family experience. So it is in our world.

Robert McClure, moderator of the United Church of Canada, has aptly said, "It is as absurd for First and Second World people to look upon the Third World with unconcern as it is for passengers in a ship's first class to look down on those in steerage and remark, 'It seems your part of the ship is sinking.'"

We are one world and we need to learn how to be this one world. The only place that I believe we can begin is to love our particular part of the globe and realize that this part is a sample of the whole. I find this is often true of the people I encounter in the church. These individuals care about their own community and the people in it. They appreciate beauty around them. They also have a concern for missions, for people and places far away. Their donations of time, money and concern touch these many levels of life.

OUR LOVE and our care also needs to extend to all of life upon the globe. We are part of nature and how we treat nature ultimately becomes our own blessing or curse. We in the Detroit area face an air pollution problem. We dislike the idea that our cars may face yearly pollution control tests. The acid rain that is caused by our pollution drifts on to Canada and the Eastern seaboard. There it kills the lakes and the forest.

The crisis of the ecology of the globe is a problem which we must not ignore just because it does not affect us at the moment. We are one with all of cre-

ated life. Our religious traditions are full of such awareness.

Pyotr Dostoevsky, in "The Brothers Karamazov," has one of his characters express it this way: "Brothers, love all God's creation; the whole and every grain of sand in it. Love every last, every tiny, God's light: Love the sabbath; love the plants; love everything. If you love everything, you will perceive the divine mystery in things."

Such an attitude towards our oneness and our solidarity with all life is basically a religious belief. It is hard to sustain in our society. Such an attitude runs contrary to prevalent attitudes of seeking after one's own success and fulfilling one's own needs.

It is a religious sensitivity which comes out of the belief that God is involved in the future of this whole planet. It is a viewpoint which some people call stewardship. It is a vision of the planet which anyone who is concerned with the world and its future must have.

It is a religious sensitivity which comes out of the belief that God is involved in the future of this whole planet. It is a viewpoint which some people call stewardship.

Is plastic surgery right for her?

Dear Joe:

I am in my late 40's — maybe I'm too young to be writing to a gerontologist. Anyway, I have some questions that I think you may be able to answer.

I'm proud of my age. I take particular care of my personal appearance as I work with the public. For about five years now I have noticed that the skin on my neck is quite wrinkled and is even beginning to sag. I have laugh lines around my eyes which I think are becoming — but my neck is pretty bad. This seems to be a family problem as both my sister and father have loose and wrinkled skin in this area.

I wear turtleneck sweaters and scarves to cover my problem, but with summer not too far off, I'd love to have a firm and wrinkle-free neck. I would like to have plastic surgery done, but I don't know who to talk to, how much it will cost, whether or not the surgery is painful, and how long the results will last.

Sometimes I think I should just forget the whole thing as perhaps I'm too young, or I might suffer an allergic reaction to the anesthetic or worse. I'd appreciate your reply to these questions.

Dear Reader:

Since gerontologists look on aging as a life process, no one is too young or too old to seek our advice. To begin with the average age for a first face-lift is 52,



A. Joayne Farrell

gerontology

so I doubt if you're too young. If you do not like the appearance of the skin on your neck, I doubt if you're going to "forget the whole thing." Since you do not know the name of a plastic surgeon, you can ask your family doctor to recommend one, or you can call your county medical association for the names of plastic surgeons in your area. I suggest you make an appointment and discuss your concerns with the plastic surgeon of your choice.

The work is expensive. The cost of the surgery ranges from \$1,500 to \$5,000 and is not usually covered by insurance. Plastic surgery is paid for in advance.

The surgery, often done on an out-patient basis under a local anesthetic, is uncomfortable, but not painful.

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