

# False belief that killing can destroy evil

Jerry Falwell is reported to have said that he would push the button to unleash a nuclear war. The statement is quoted as having been made on the "Late Night America" television program.

I was discussing the report when my son said that he was astonished that a minister would launch nuclear missiles. He had come to believe that a minister stands for God's love, forgiveness and peace. He could not unleash weapons which would kill millions of people.

It is hard to understand how a person who espouses the law of love of one's enemies can decide to kill them. It is equally puzzling to comprehend the

pressure even among religious people to institute a death penalty. ALL OF THIS is difficult to understand until one sees how some religious people and clergy view life. They believe that evil is so awful it must be destroyed.

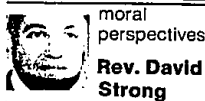
It is difficult to understand this position until we see that these people believe that a cosmic warfare is going on between good and evil. The only way this war can be won is to destroy evil. They fail to grasp the idea that God will redeem his world in his own manner.

An even more important point is lost in this view which sees a cosmic battle between good and evil. An American

Baptist medical doctor in Haiti, Dr. William Hodges, describes the world outlook of people in Haiti who follow voodoo.

THEY EXTERNALIZE evil so that life becomes a constant battle between good and evil. He contrasts this with a Christian understanding. He says, "When we admit the inner nature of evil which is sin, we need no longer call . . . the evil influences outside of ourselves and beyond our power."

Christian and Jewish understandings of evil bring us to see that evil also resides within the human heart. Each



moral perspectives  
**Rev. David Strong**

person seeks the grace to be free of this brokenness. Life is not simply a matter of good people destroying evil out there in the world.

A story from scripture illustrates this idea. A group of men had caught a woman in the act of adultery. They decided to eradicate this evil by killing the woman.

Jesus said that the one who is without sin should throw the first stone. Each of the men slipped away one by one. The woman's accusers left because they had been forced to acknowledge their own sin.

THE RELIGIOUS and moral person will take sin seriously. They will acknowledge that sin is a condition within

all persons. They will support ways in which evil can be contained and controlled.

They will trust in God as the major influence and actor in this issue. They will not make the fatal mistake in thinking that evil can simply be destroyed. In its ultimate expression this leads to genocide.

The ultimate goal in religion is repentance. This is the recognition that evil proceeds from the hearts of all persons. Therefore, it must be our goal to change hearts. It must be our goal to forgive and to restore persons to peace.

## volunteers

The Oakland County Volunteer Bureau (OCVB) 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, call the bureau at 642-7272.

**LIBRARY CLERK** — The Academy of the Sacred Heart in Bloomfield Hills needs someone who likes detail for light typing, filing, arranging books and other related tasks. Time is flexible.

**INFORMATION CLERK** — If you're at least 18 and can get along with others, you are needed by the American Heart Association to work in their information center. Answer phone, give out heart-related information, make out memorials, etc. Three hours minimum per day, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday.

**HOME AIDE** — The Royal Oak Senior Center has openings for persons to provide light housekeeping, meals and other duties for those recovering from illness. Also need volunteers for transportation, respite care and programming.

**COMPUTER ASSISTANT** — Volunteers 16 and older with experience on the Apple IIe computer are needed by the Baldwin Public Library to assist entering data on microcomputer for membership files and mailing list. Time flexible.

**OFFICE HELP** — Women, 20 years and up, with office or public experience are needed by the Michigan Cancer Foundation to answer phone, meet public and other procedures. Typing not necessary. One day per week.

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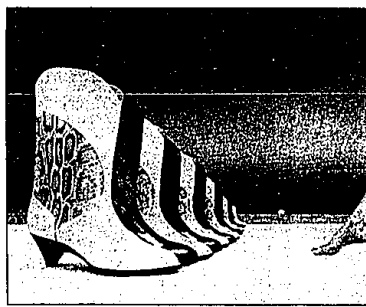
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Holiday Inn - Jackson  
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Thursday, Nov. 29, 7:30 p.m.  
Holiday Inn - Lansing  
7501 W. Saginaw Highway  
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Friday, Nov. 30, 7:30 p.m.  
Weber's Inn - Ann Arbor  
3650 Jackson Road  
(2 3/4 miles west, 2 blocks west of I-94, Exit 172)  
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Saturday, Dec. 1, 2:00 p.m.  
Holiday Inn - Farmington Hills  
38123 W. 10 Mile Road at  
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Farmington Hills, MI  
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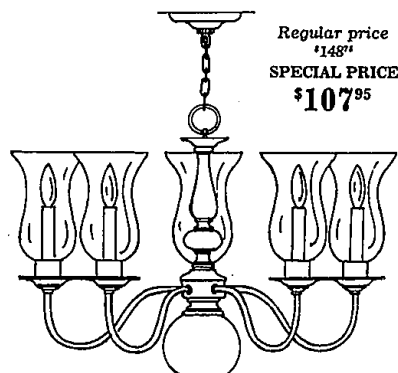
Saturday, Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m.  
Holiday Inn - Troy  
2517 Rochester Court  
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Sunday, Dec. 2, 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.  
Holiday Inn - Mount Clemens  
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Observer & Eccentric Newspaper

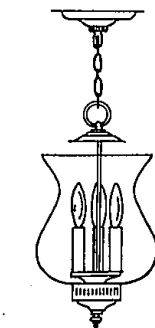
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