

# World food problem needs 'good Samaritan,' layman says

By MARGARET MILLER  
If the Christian church takes seriously the story of the Good Samaritan, says one of this area's leading laymen, then it should give its support to birth control and family planning.

The two go together, believes Donald M. (Hoppy) Hanson, because emergency food may save life but only tackling the over-population question can begin to improve quality of life for many in the world's underdeveloped areas.

"I realize an idea like this is political and theological dynamite," said Hanson, a member of a Presbyterian Church, "but I feel it's such a serious issue it should go into the Judeo-Christian ethic."

Long action in the distribution of food from this country to the hungry overseas, Hanson said he has become increasingly convinced this is only part of the church's missionary duty.

"Shipping food overseas is dealing with the symptoms rather than the cause of a very serious problem," he said. "We have kept people alive without any thought to the fact that their lives may be almost animal-like."

THE GOOD SAMARITAN story comes into the picture in Hanson's view, because in that parable told by Jesus the helpful passerby not only gave immediate aid to a needy traveler but also made provisions for checking on his future well-being.

Translating that into today's terms, he suggested that "if we feed people and do nothing about the population explosion in many countries we're responsible for their pitiful existence."

"We must look at what we can do at the other end of the scale in the areas of birth control and family planning."

"There must be more of a motive to help than making ourselves feel good."

HANSON, a retired officer of the U.S. Navy, was one of the initiators of Operation Handclasp, a program in which U.S. military personnel extended help to starving people beginning shortly after World War II.

Stationed in Asia in 1946 and 1947, he said he and his wife saw first-hand the "desperate need and starvation" in China.

"There were 160,000 refugees on the edge of starvation, and the missionaries there could help no more than half of them," he said.

When Navy men launched Operation Handclasp, he said, "we were dealing with human needs."

"I thought then it had to be done, and I still think it has to be done now," he added. "We have to be re-

sponsive to deal with desperate situations. No way could I say cut off the supply of food."

BUT HANSON FEELS the move on the part of church groups to supply food for the starving has become sort of a race to see who can supply the most.

"I have little doubt," he said, "that we could, if not feed the whole world, then at least make a good stab at it. I note the impetus at this mass shipping of food comes from farm belt leaders."

"But this sort of program, standing by itself may be of more benefit to us than to the people who need help."

THERE HAVE BEEN some first steps toward birth control programs in some Asian countries, Hanson said, "but the idea never has really been able to get off the ground and I see it as a political problem in the church hierarchy."

"It's going to take some hard talk on the part of some religious leaders but I think some one is soon going to have to take this stand," he added.

Going back to the Good Samaritan, he remembered being in Shanghai in 1946 and seeing terrible living conditions.

"Thousands were starving," he said, "but the Quakers were about the only people doing much to help. Others tended to shy away, because there's an old Chinese belief that if you save a life you are responsible for that person."

That responsibility, he said, is what the church is failing to accept today.

"The Good Samaritan went the whole way, and I think we should too," he concluded.

Hanson is a resident of Redford Township and a member of Village United Presbyterian Church. He heads the Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps at Bentley High School in Livonia.

ed with church organizations as to proper structure and dynamics.

Rev. Tootikian's contention is that the Armenian Christian heritage is one of the strongest resources of the Armenian Christian church, and that communicating this ethnic, cultural and Christian heritage to the rest of the world should be one of the church's continuing ways of operation.



Donald M. (Hoppy) Hanson talks about feeding the world and also controlling its population. (Staff photo by Bob Woodring)

## Armenian church forms youth group

The Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit announces the formation of a new youth group, ACYF (Armenian Congregational Youth Fellowship), the program of which will include serious study and discussion as well as fellowship and recreational opportunities.

The group elected officers for 1975-1976. They include: Howard Kabejian and April Arabian, co-chairpersons; Ann Tootikian, corresponding secretary; Kathy Marburger and Janet Darian, recording secretaries; Carl Darian, treasurer; and Julie Kabanjian, liaison.

After a series of informal sessions

The weekly sessions of the new

youth group, to be held mainly on Sunday days, will consist of a formal hour of business and discussion in the morning and various projects or activities in the afternoon.

ACYF is under the supervision of a group of adults including Robert Kachadourian and Kathy Darianjian, both teachers in Detroit area public schools; Robert Koolagian, a curator at Henry Ford Museum; Dr. Richard Marburger, vice president and professor at Lawrence Technical Institute; and the Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, pastor of the church.

The goals of the members of ACYF are twofold: to learn and explore Armenian Christian origin, history and culture; and to become well acquainted

### YWCA plans holiday party

A Christmas party for the whole family will be held Sunday, Dec. 7, from 3:5 p.m. in the Northwest Branch YWCA, 2590 Grand River, Redford Township.

The Y is planning a tree-trimming event for pre-schoolers which can be observed by other members of the family.

Ballet classes from the Y will present two performances of "Les Fata Morgues." Music will be provided by the Thurston High School Christmas Minstrels and the Farmington High School chorus.

Santa Claus will also put in an appearance.

The event is open to everyone, no membership required.

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