moral perspectives Rev. Charles

Erickson

Old assumptions fail in deciding values

MANY CELEBRATE the 10th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision protecting the right of choice in abortion, and many lament 10 years of the murder of several million unborn. These extremes of position drive me to larger questions.

These extremes of position drive me to larger questions.

A long view reveals opinion on old assumptions which are no longer valid. Changes in the past two thousand years bring a surprise that humanity is doing better. Situations have improved in many ways. Morality requires alding the progress as much as we can.

People used to be trapped by assumptions that where you start determines where you firsts. This is no longer an acceptable view. Prophets have impired people to believe decisions can change altuations, so the future is not determined by the past. Consider examples.

SOCIOLOGY is destiny. Revolutions deny this assumption. Rigid caste systems have been dismantled. Defeats in deny this assumption. Rigid caste systems have been dismantied. Defeats in social structure can be overcome. Equality is demanded, A person should be free to move through society rather than to be restricted to schools, John, bousing or recreation limited to different "kinds" of people. The United Nations Declaration of Human Rights clarifies that governments are responsible to protect freedom for each citizen to change and develop.

Character is destiny. Criminal justice reforms keep challenging the assumption that character defects require. Jimiting the person. The new assumption is that people can change. Moral defects can be overcome. Of course, it doesn't always happen, but despite many horrors, we are trying. Government has a responsibility to return a functional person to society in each case where it hat all possible.

PAMILIV is destiny. (Id assumptions

FAMILY is destiny. Old assumptions sacrificed the young for the benefit of senior citizens or even ancestors. Now there is a high value of each person in worldwide opinion. Infanticide is virtually wiped out. So many human defects are merely a matter of degree that we change the family to protect the life and nature of each member. The value and freedom of each person threatens the family as a unit.

Governments and religious demand commitment as the act of creating a family. Responsibility for each other and to each other become a crucial personal responsibility. Outsiders and laws cannot guarantee the security and stability needed in a family as a foundation of development by each member.

We are each responsible to balance commitment with freedom so family is a place where we grow from roots rather than live either as cut flowers or as plants so root bound no blossoms can develop.

BIOLOGY is destiny. The validity of this assumption has been wiped out by medical science. Health defects can be overcome. Birth, growth, disease and death no longer are assumed to be in the hands of some gods. Concelving a now life is no longer regarded as a gift from the Lord.

from the Lord.

Why a child was conceived was an irrelevant question, but now it must be faced. When abortion was not a medical skill we had death, disease, and mutilation or we had extended family units to care for what we now call an unwanted child. Governments can be responsible for insuring adequate health care and nutrition for pregnant women.

women.
Responsibility to love a child into life falls on individuals, so society cannot guarantee it. The consequences of carrying a fetus to full term must be welghed by mother and doctor. The results of abortion or delivery are the responsibility of one person.

HEALTH in all its physical, psychological and solcal meaning is determinative. A biological blessing or accident of conception is not the sole factor in assessing the span of the years a child needs nuture.

Old assumptions don't guide us when the questions are so different. Rights and freedom of choice now locate responsibility differently. Law defines which responsibilities are the burden of governments and which rest on people.

The value of each person and freedom of choice to become better people is better than some centuries ago. We improve by asking the largest possible question.

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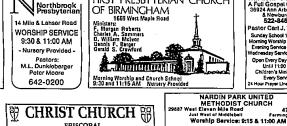
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consumer mailbag **Grace Gluskin**

Nutritional goals explained

How can I improve my families eat-ing habits? I have been preparing meals using the four food groups as a guide. Can you recommend other nutri-tion information that would belp?

neatin.

During the last several decades, nutritional deficiency diseases have all but disappeared. However, chronic and degenerative diseases such as heart

Approximately, 5,000 Camp Fire girls and boys in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Livingston counties will be earning money for summer camp and gaining some first-hand business experience by selling candy, Feb. 18-March 17.

gaining some first-hand business experience by selling candy, Feb. 18-March 17.

This year, the Detroit Area Council plans to sell 130,000 candy bars. The council or capable of the capab

Camp Fire girls to sell candy

disease, hypertension, cancer, etc., have become leading causes of death and disability. It was these health changes that focused on the need to develop more comphrehensive dictary

velop more comphrehensive dictary guidance.

In 1977, as a part of its report, the select committee on nutrition and human needs of the U.S. Senate published "Piletary Goals for the United States." These goals addressed the relationship between diet and beath and offerred suggestions for food selection and preparation.

These recommendations are included in a free booklet available from Concern Detroit Inc. To receive a copy of "Nutrition, How Much Can Government Help?" send a 20-cent stamp for each copy to Concern, 1 Northfield Plaza, Troy 48098

Eco Tip: Betty's Grocery Store, 877 Hunter, Birmingham offers one-hour tours, nutrilional lectures, and sam-pling sessions throughout the year to school groups, senior citizens, Brownies etc., for information and reservations call 644-2323.

Consumer Mailhaa answers you questions. Let us hear from you. Write to me Grace Gluskin c/o Concern Detroit, 1 Northfield Plaza, Troy 48098.

fund-raising effort of Camp Fire De-troit Area Council. The proceeds pro-vide 34 percent of the council sy penty operating budget and also help to main-tain Camp Wathana.

The 370-acre resident camp facility is located near Holly. Camp Wathana is open 10 months a year for a variety of camping experiences for non-members as well as Camp Fire members.

For further information on Camp Fire candy, programs or camp, tele-phone the Camp Fire office, 833-2670, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

PISCOPAL CHURC OF THE ADVENT 3325 Middlebell Road Orchard Lake, MI 338-3505 ev. Gregory R. Sima, Roct 82RVICES

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9 00 AM Holy Eucharist
+ 9.30 AM Choral Eucharist
11:00 AM Christian
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Thursday: 7:30 PM Choir Rehearest iday: 6.30 AM Holy Euchariet *Nursery Provided

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