



moral perspectives

Rev. David Strong

# Trouble causes soul-searching

I have just returned from three weeks in Haiti with a construction team of persons from the Detroit area. Along with a crew of Haitians, we built a cement block building on top of a mountain. It will be used as a pastor's residence and guest house.

Each day our work team had to climb two miles up the side of the mountain to reach the building site. There are no roads in this part of Haiti.

On the way down from this mountain one afternoon, a member of our work team fell on the steep trail and broke both bones in her leg. A Haitian went to find someone with a donkey so that the person could be brought down from the mountain to a nearby highway.

That night as we were making arrangements for the person with the broken leg to be taken into a city for medical care, all of the money that two of our team members had brought with them as well as some of their clothing was stolen.

AS A result of both events happening in one day, our group was upset. Most of us

could not sleep that night as we turned the two events over in our minds.

We wondered who had stolen the money? Was it someone whom we had come to know? We wondered how our team member was doing with her broken leg. Would she have to go back to Detroit to get proper treatment?

We also struggled with this issue as Christians. We were upset by both events. How should we feel, and what should we do? Should we try to investigate the thief? Would we as a group collect money from each other to assist the couple who now had no money with them?

After sorting out our feelings we came to the conclusion that we must forgive the thief. Yet this was not to be the end of the issue.

A Haitian who had accompanied us during this time raised a deeper question: Would we pray for the thief? Still this was not to be the last question which was raised concerning these two events of that day.

WHEN A Haitian pastor in Port-au-Prince met with us a few days later he ex-

pressed his sympathy for these three people who had experienced a broken one or the loss of their money. Then he raised yet another question.

"How much is enough?" he asked. How much are we prepared to give to people in need and to God? How far are we prepared to go?

This question has stayed with us. Evil forces within our world are prepared to press their goals to the point of death. What about those who speak and act for God and all that is good and healing for our fellow people?

This is a root question of any religious faith. How much will we risk for what we believe? This alone would make religious people into fanatics. In addition, what will we risk to bring healing, reconciliation, hope and justice to this world?

How much is enough? This is a question with which we must be prepared to struggle in a world which moves ever closer to the precipice. This is an issue which eleven church folk who went to Haiti from America have upon their hearts.

## volunteers

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 further information about these and other volunteer openings call the bureau, 642-7272.

**FOCUS: HOPE** needs immediate assistance for their holiday programs. Volunteers are needed to answer telephones, pack and deliver packages to senior citizens and families with children. Adopt a family for the holidays — a tradition at Focus: HOPE.

**HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS** are needed to offer

support services to terminally ill persons and their families. Extensive training will be provided by Cranbrook Hospice Care. Volunteers must be able to commit to three hours, one day a week.

**ADULT ADVISERS** are needed to lead group discussions aimed at high school drop-out prevention. Volunteers work after school hours, one day a week at the Metropolitan Detroit Youth Foundation. Training sessions will be provided for those interested in working with high school students.

**SOUTH OAKLAND FAMILY BRANCH YMCA** needs assistants for the Handicapped Swim Program on Monday and Friday mornings after Jan. 1. No previous training is necessary.

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This exhibition is supported in part by the IMA Corporation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities and Cranbrook Academy of Art.