

Violence ultimately destroys those who express it

MORAL PERSPECTIVES



REV. DAVID STRONG

The violence of our nation bothers us all. Even more worrisome is the thought that we might become used to violence. Perhaps it is like war or AIDS. We only become motivated when it comes close to us through the agony or death of one we love.

We are living in a time when we want to keep violence at a distance. We distance ourselves from violence by saying that we can just turn the television off. We distance ourselves from violence by moving further away from where more of it exists. We decide to stay home.

Yet violence is a reflection of fear. It will not go away as long as we are afraid. Violence replaces positive action when positive action seems fruitless. Violence is a

thing of the heart. A friend of mine is very angry with another person. She believes that this anger is justified by what the other person is doing. Yet, my friend must realize that the anger is in her heart. It is eating her life away. Her anger is taking her energy and her love. She must realize that her anger must only be changed or it will destroy her.

Violence ultimately destroys the one who expresses it. There is an interesting saying. If one does not solve a problem, it will ultimately end either in homicide or suicide. The two are very close.

We do not want to hear this truth. When you destroy another person, you begin to destroy yourself. At a family level, spouse or child abuse destroys the person abused and the person who does the abuse.

Is this not what hell is all about? Hell is the refusal to receive and to give love. Why does this happen? We are taught the wrong things. We miss the posi-

tive influences in life. We fail to discern with both our heart and mind what is good and what is bad. We choose what we think will be the easy way out of a problem.

Recent reports of the killing of foreign tourists in Miami suggest that the victims were "gunned down like animals." Some of the violence we hear about in this metro area as well as in Miami is worse than animal behavior. God has created human beings to love with a capacity for great compassion and sacrifice. We must not forget this. We must not allow

this potential of the human condition to be overwhelmed by the darkness of violence.

If we claim to be more moral than animals we will bring God into the equation. We will work to find ways where love can transform violence and the conditions that lead to violence. There is no more holy task for us today.

We must not become weary of solving the violence problem in America. We also need to pray for and seek for new voices, new prophets. These will be people who will address the nation in ef-

fective ways. Among the many things which will solve this problem of violence must be a spiritual renewal. We must raise up reconcilers among our people. We must raise up persons who have the spiritual heart to address the conditions that lead to violence.

Bringing God into the issue of solving violence also means that we have a resiliency on our side. We will not give up or seek to escape the issue of violence because

we know that God is on the side of peace. We say, "How bad does it have to get before people wake up?" But we continue to believe that people will wake up. People will choose the good over the bad.

Rev. David Strong is pastor of Central United Methodist Church in Detroit. If you have a question or comment, call her at 953-2047, mailbox number 1878, on a touch-tone phone.

IN NEED OF
A NEW FURNACE
LENOX
FREE ESTIMATES
525-1330
UNITED TEMPERATURE
8919 Middlebelt • Livonia

GIVE BLOOD, PLEASE.
American Red Cross

CHIMNEYS
• Cleaned
• Screened
• Repaired
• New

ROOFS
• Repaired
• Re-Roofed
• New
• Leaks Stopped

Karney Denderian's CROWN CONTRACTING, INC.
42910 W. 10 Mile, Novi
427-3981
SINCE 1952

• LICENSED
• INSURED
• GUARANTEED

• Senior Citizen Discount

Sometimes, the lapses in her memory were worrisome!

A family member decided to **CALL 1-800-882-MOOD** to qualify for a **FREE** research program

By participating as an out-patient in an Alzheimer's Disease research study, she received physical & memory evaluations, lab tests, an EKG, investigational medications, & medical follow-up - at NO COST!

If YOU are over 50 and suffering from Alzheimer's Disease, the side effects of antidepressant medications, or Depression or Panic call today.

ALZHEIMER'S & SENIOR DISORDERS INSTITUTE

Robert J. Bielski, M.D., Director
Practitioner, Researcher, and Teacher since 1976

Brighter Tomorrows Through Investigational Research

National Audubon Society

DETROIT AUDUBON
SIXTEENTH ANNUAL WILD BIRDS SEED SALE
OCTOBER 23, 1993

Order Deadline: October 15, 1993
FOR INFORMATION OR TO PLACE AN ORDER
CALL DETROIT AUDUBON
313-545-2929

10th Annual
FALL ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW
October 2, 1993 • 10-5 pm

Admission \$1
NO STROLLERS PLEASE!
Please enter by Gate #2

Marcy High School
Eleven Mile at Middlebelt
Farmington Hills

Christmas Show - Nov. 27 & 28
Spring Show - March 12, 1994

FIDELITY INVESTMENTS

**Free Fidelity Seminar:
Getting Started
With Mutual Funds**

This educational seminar will cover:

- The Features, Benefits, and Risks of Mutual Funds
- Types of Mutual Funds
- Key Principles of Mutual Fund Investing

Seating is limited, Reserve your space now!

Tuesday, October 5 at 7:30 p.m.
The Townsend Hotel
100 Townsend Street
Birmingham

1-800-682-4746

Fidelity Investments

Fidelity Brokerage Services, Inc., 161 Devonshire Street, Boston, MA 02110.
Member NASD/SIPC



Give us a few dollars and we'll give you back change.

When we found him, Bear was chained to a fence—too weak to stand and weighing half of what he should. Today he's a different dog—a picture of health with a loving new home. Please, help us write more success stories like this. Write a check to the Michigan Humane Society during Be Kind To Animals Week (May 2-8), and mail it to: MHS, 7401 Chrysler Dr., Detroit, MI 48211. Or just call (313) 852-7420 with your credit card contribution. A simple investment can bring back a lot. In this case, it brought back Bear. All 120 lovable pounds of him.



Photos by Brad Stanley © 1993 Michigan Humane Society.