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Ethics of Helping

By Matt Cromwell

I’d like to continue a conversation that John Hansen started with his article concerning Run For Shelter in the Week 3 issue. John had an encounter with a man he called “John Love” who asked for money to get to a shelter in Santa Barbara. Later that day John saw “John Love” again and rather than being in Santa Barbara he had purchased drugs. Living in the L.A. area, some of us here may have encountered similar situations and have similarly walked away just as confused and/or frustrated either with the individual or ourselves.

These responses and feelings are very valid considering the Church’s current inadequate “ideology” on issues of social reform including homelessness. It seems that the Church has simply adopted ideas of humanitarian reform and concluded that the difference is that those doing the reforming happen to be Christians rather than humanists. This serves the Church more as an evangelistic gimmick rather than a true theology of the poor.

A line must be drawn between charity and compassion. It is my belief that these two are all too often confused; causing more damage than good between the parties giving and receiving. Today, charity is the act of giving money to a cause without expectation of any return (besides a carefully scrutinized tax write-off). It has become a form of pity or even self-gratification. Instead I would like to say that charity is a form of worship. We have been given much and the Bible only specifies a 10 percent tithe. Charity does not serve as a tithe but an offering above a tithe that is much more direct than what one can give in the offering plate.

Offering (that given above a tithe) given in the offering plate at church is considerate but can also serve as a form of self-gratification rather than generosity out of concern. Offerings go to the Church, which one easily puts his or her trust in. So charity is also an offering, but one that eliminates the middleman of the Church. This is not to replace the role of the Church at all but to allow one to give out of the abundance of his or her heart, directly and out of concern rather than blind generosity or obli-

HELPING: Continued on page 2

Handy Helpful Hints for Scholarships... pg 3

Co-Laborers in Christ

Sophie Barbara Eurich-Rascoe, Director of Student Development, began her association with Fuller a quarter century ago when she started the M.Div. program in 1975. In addition to earning her degree, Eurich-Rascoe has been involved in various activities and offerings at the seminary. She was part of the inaugural Women’s Concerns Committee when it began in 1977. And on May 10-11, her office will sponsor the 16th annual Women’s Lectureship. The SEMI asked Eurich-Rascoe about the lecture-ship and gender issues at Fuller and within the evangelical church.

SEMI: In what ways has Fuller led the evangelical church in addressing gender issues?

SBER: In the early ’70s, many among Fuller’s faculty were supporting the development of female church leaders. They were doing this in a variety of ways: by researching Scripture and God’s intentions for women and men; by teaching women at a time when many seminaries were still refusing women admittance; by encouraging women who demonstrated gifts for ministry; by taking unpopular political stands in their various denominations for women’s participation in teaching and governance of the church; by bringing a couple of women onto the faculty; and by challenging male colleagues and students to take scripture and women seriously. Our faculty remains strongly committed to preparing women for all forms of ministry and leadership.

SEMI: In what ways has Fuller lagged?

SBER: As is often the case, living up to one’s best intentions is challenging and our successes are incremental. One expression of the Church’s ongoing limitation that is obvious to state but difficult to determine the meaning of is the continuing limited involvement of female (and non-white) leadership in senior positions in hierarchical institutions.

The other lag in how gender is a continuing issue is more difficult to articulate and comprehend because it has to do with cultural norms and practices that are usually experienced subtly in interpersonal interactions and are not often consciously available for evaluation in the moments of exchange. These behaviors
that invites the world into relationship with the role of compassion. To be the love of God I
nice if that were true of our churches? That is compassion might be fostered. Wouldn’t it be
is a place in which relationships and likewise his involvement with Run for Shelter, which
wounds, filling his or her stomach for an hour, or even pointing the person in the right direc­
expectations with our gifts. Moral expectations are only appropriate through relationship.
So, we should either praise God for the opportunity to give and pray for the best or a
call to compassion might be in order.

Charity can serve as a beautiful stepping stone into a life of compassion. But charity has its limits. And, where charity falls short compassion redeems. I cite the story of the Good Samaritan to say that compassion cannot be confused with licking someone’s wounds, filling his or her stomach for an hour, or even pointing the person in the right direction. Rather compassion is relationship. It is not an emotion, or a fuzzy feeling that makes us cry but a conviction to act.

John sets a good example for us here in his involvement with Run for Shelter, which is a place in which relationships and likewise compassion might be fostered. Wouldn’t it be nice if that were true of our churches? That is the role of compassion. To be the love of God that invites the world into relationship with lives. If we have built our lives so securely around possessions, meetings, vocations and even sermon planning that we have no compassion we know that there is something wrong structurally with our lives.

I myself have been struggling to find my way to compassion since I moved here in August. I spent my four years of college building relationships through my school’s ministries like AIDS Outreach, Homeless Outreach and a community home called Kingdom House. I still keep in touch with many of those people, but I am seeing more and more how my very studies become forefront to compassion. Fortunately, I have also seen how my studies have led me toward compassion, which is another story. We are the Church and must continue to seek to live as the Church with and through each other.

Matt Cromwell is the SEMI’s Production Editor and a first-year theology student working toward an M.A. in Theology with a concentration in Ethics. He believes that ethics is not argumentation but is vital to the Christian life in helping our practices of compassion, service and evangelical strategies become more like that of Christ.

CORRECTION

The SEMI regrets the misspelling of one of the VOICES respondents in the Spring Week 6 issue. His correct name is G. Alan Coler.
Graduate With No Debt?
You’ve Got to Be Kidding

By Valla Penrose Walker

I had a vision five years ago—at the age of 45—I wanted to go back to school. God was calling me to be a therapist. I believed then, as I believe now, that God not only provides visions, He also provides provisions.

Five years ago I also had significant debt, a total in excess of $100,000, not counting the mortgage on my home. I determined in my heart that I would not borrow money for school. Instead I told God that I was counting on His provision for schooling. I believed if this was His vision then He would provide. I also determined to do my part as God led me to sell my property in San Francisco and sell most of my furniture and possessions. I continued working as a part-time real estate agent, enrolled full time at Bethany College, and applied diligently for scholarships.

In May 1999 I graduated with my bachelor’s degree on my 50th birthday totally debt-free. Since 1996 I have received more than $35,000 in scholarships. I tell you this story not to brag about myself but boast about God and His wonderful ways with us, and to encourage others to look to Him for provisions as well. My heart is sad when I hear that many will leave Fuller with debts of $50,000 to $100,000 and more. I’ve been there, and it is not a comfortable place to be.

There is a tricky balance between doing it “ourselves” and trusting God. I’ve tried it both ways. God has taught me through personal experience that I am to trust Him and to exert myself within my passions, talents and desires as they line up with His will. May I therefore share, out of my passion, strategies for allowing God to bless you with provisions of scholarships and grants?

1. Make a commitment to develop scholarship strategies—this will take mostly time and just a little bit of $$ (Not much money I promise you, just enough for small things like transcript requests, printer paper, envelopes, a small file system and binder, postage, etc.)

2. The place to start is right here at Fuller in the Financial Aid office. Don’t simply rely on student loans. Focus on scholarships, and grants, both at Fuller and outside Fuller.

   • Get to know the folks in Financial Aid. They are committed to helping you pay for school.
   • Complete a Fuller Financial Aid Application on time or early. Be one of the first to be reviewed. Let the staff know you want scholarships and grants.
   • Read the SEMI every week. Financial Aid gives information and deadlines on many Fuller and outside sources for scholarships and grants. I received $2,400 in November from a scholarship I heard about in the SEMI. And just recently, I received $2,500 from another source listed in the SEMI.

3. Look everywhere for information on scholarships: grocery stores (where I found scholarship opportunities from Annie’s Pasta, a brand sold in major grocery stores like Ralph’s and Von’s), bookstores (essay contest for students at Barnes & Noble), newspapers, bank, everywhere. My best source for scholarship information has not been books on scholarships. I spent endless hours during my undergraduate years in bookstores and libraries doing the research, writing the letters—all to no avail. Much of the information was incorrect or out-of-date. Where I have been successful (besides through the Financial Aid office) is on the Internet. There are many, many web sites offering free scholarship information, like <collegenet.com>, <fastweb.com> and <finaid.com>. I have a collection of probably 15-20 different web sites.

4. Have a resume, biographical essay, list of voluntary efforts, goals after graduation, etc., already written with copies in a file and the original saved on your hard drive. Also be prepared to write various essays as requested.

5. Keep extra copies of transcripts in a file, both photocopies and official copies in the sealed envelopes, as well as copies of reference letters. While some scholarships require new references, many are okay with a copy of one from the past year or so.

6. Enclose a recent photo of yourself. Although this is seldom requested, I include one with every application. I make sure it’s a good photo—recent, flattering, professional—one that conveys my spirit of enthusiasm. Have the photo convey your own unique self.

7. As you write about yourself, emphasize those traits or qualities that make you unique, that set you apart. It is also okay to say good things about yourself.

8. Be consistent. Count on 1 to 2 hours a week to work on scholarships, all year round if you can. Allow more time between December and April, as that is the heaviest period for application deadlines. You should always be working in one of three areas: completing applications, gathering materials or researching on the Internet.

9. Share information with others. Ask others for scholarship information that may apply to you. Check with your church and any organizations your family belongs to. One of my best scholarships came from a woman’s organization my husband’s family supports.

10. Pray and ask for God’s blessings and provision. Then give Him all the glory and praise.

This spring I applied for 12 grants/scholarships (these were carefully selected ones I felt I was well-qualified for) from January to April. So far out of these 12, I have received three awards, totaling $8,900 (that brings my total to $44,900). I have received three rejections and I’m still waiting for word on six others. Last year I only applied for four and I received one rejection and three awards totaling $7,200. This is all pretty exciting, yet it takes commitment and hard work. You must be persistent and strategic. Perhaps the most important thing is being optimistic and following through. I have heard several students say “I didn’t get around to it” or “I don’t think I really qualify.” Be hopeful and put your best effort into this. It pays off! For me it means NO DEBT! And that will be a blessing indeed!

Valla Penrose Walker is a first-year SOP student in the clinical psychology. She is open to sharing information, tips and strategies for scholarships and grants. You can email her at <valla@aol.com> or call at 396-1750.
Question of the week: What are the roles of women and men in ministry?

Gina Bolenbaugh, SOT, M.Div.

The particular roles of men and women in ministry are determined by individual gifting and built-in talents. Together, women and men in ministry “build up”—meaning to and bring to maturity the Body of Christ through proclamation, teaching, praying, affirming, empowering and critiquing (among other things). This general statement is fulfilled when women and men take their particular roles described above.

Luaao Leasiolagi, SOT, M.Div.

They must be vehicles of the prophetic message of God. The Church needs people who are radical enough to transform lives.

Ruth Vuong, Sr. Dir., Student Services

What is ministry? When we’re clear on that, then we’ll be clear on whether or not ministry has “roles.” When the context is sacrificial love or humble service, have you ever heard the question raised of who gets to do what? Or does it come up only in discussions about particular jobs where money or status are attached? So what’s that about? Honoring Jesus?

Steve Greear, SOT, MAT

I believe that men and women should complement each other in ministry. I mean that we are all equal in the Body of Christ and beliefs make it difficult to know why things are as they are, what they mean, and what positive and negative value they have. These culture rules often apply in cross-sex and cross-gender encounters, as well as in other cross-cultural (including cross-racial and cross-generational) experiences.

Let me give few examples. Who speaks first in a gathering? Who speaks longer? Who makes eye contact and who does not? Who gets what for whom and why? Who makes the final decision? Who is or is not consulted before decisions are made? Whose salaries are what? Who fills what kinds of jobs? For whom are exceptions made, and why? What behaviors are rewarded and which are not, and does it make a difference to that value depending on who has behaved? What kinds of expression are valued; what kinds are required or prohibited? Who communicates the rules and how are the rules communicated?

I began to explore philosophically and psychologically this gender and culture communication dilemma in my book Femininity and Shame. That work may help people explore further what it might mean for women and men to be becoming more truly “partners” in ministry (and in life).

SEMI: You joined the Women’s Concerns Committee when it began in 1977. Why did people feel that committee was needed, and has it been able to accomplish some of the objectives?

SEMI: Are you pleased with what the committee has done so far?

SEMI: Your office (prior to that office of Women’s Concerns) has sponsored the Women’s Lectureship for 16 years. What have you personally gained from the annual lectureship?

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Seminary Actually Helps in the Real World
By Karyn Grasse

After being away from Fuller for two years now, I thought it might be good to stop and reflect on the value of my seminary education. Okay, cheese-ball statements aside, I really am shocked just how often I suddenly benefit from my time at Fuller. And, I thought it might be nice to share these experiences with current graduate students. Especially at this time of year when you really start to wonder which will benefit your career most: going to Hebrew class or going to the nice warm beach? Before you grab your SPF-15, let me share with you my real-life observations and advice.

The first thing that I notice is that I now have a very impressive collection of books. I can even fill up the bookcase in my office. Of course, that isn’t too hard since my office actually is smaller than a hole in the wall, but nevertheless. The other amazing thing is that time and again I actually refer back to these books for useful information. (In contrast to my undergraduate books, which are now propping up the broken end of my coffee table. When will I ever use MacroEconomics?) Books like Celebration of Discipline, Church Growth, Philosophy for Understanding Theology and even Counseling Teenagers (effective even for some adults!) have been worth their weight in gold. And they make me look real smart, too!

The best thing that I ever did was to take very immaculate notes (I did this often to keep from falling asleep, especially since I averaged three hours of sleep a night.) What I didn’t know is that these notes would one day become a gold mine, especially when trying the daunting task of teaching others. “Now, didn’t someone teach something fascinating about the deity of Christ?” “What course was that in?” “Oh, and if you suddenly find out you have a patient on inhaler?”

Did I forget to mention interpersonal skills? Remember all those times you endured the guy in class who asked the most irrelevant questions? Well, if the patience you’ve developed will pay off, because those people are everywhere. Observe the class as a small social unit and notice the dynamics that take place. Remember how you had to tactfully suggest that the class move on to another subject without inciting a riot? Your skills in tact will enable you to deal with the myriad of unusual people you will one day be teaching. Be sure to watch your professors, and the other students—how they calmly intercept subversive questions or redirect extraneous comments while still validating the commenter. Learn from their amazing skills of diplomacy—you will need them one day. And those few people who annoy you? Take comfort in the fact that you will meet that personality type again and again. You might as well get a leg up and learn how to love them now.

Not only that, but you will learn to write amazing and incredible footnotes that will impress your superiors. So be sure to work on your footnote skills. Never write a footnote that is less than three sentences long. Be sure to reference two other sources, like The SEMI, Vol. I, Is. 1, and so forth. Speaking of which, this is a good time for me to segue into talking about book-reading skills. Your ability to read a 700-page book in about 2 hours will be invaluable. And you thought professors assigned all that reading material just because they had a kickback from book publishers. No, No! They assign all that reading to force you to learn the life-saving skill of speed-reading. This will come in very handy as you try to deal with the 15 different books that you “absolutely” must read this week—according to your mentor, your pastor and your boss. Seminary also taught me the value of reading the preface, introduction and footnotes, and even to check out what schools the author went to. I had no idea how much you could learn about an author’s particular spin from these few pages!

This brings me to the final skill that has carried me through these years. This is a skill that Fuller in particular was instrumental in building—namely, the ability to think for myself. Imagine that! As you sometimes find yourself surrounded by “ministry clones,” you will discover that you have the ability to see things from new angles. You won’t always agree with everything. You will however be able to articulate what you don’t agree with. You’ll even be able to admit at times that you just don’t know, but you are seeking the truth. Remember all those times you heard one professor make a profound statement, only to have the professor from your next class say the exact opposite? And remember all those times you came back from class and almost had a crisis of faith? Well, all that soul searching will pay off because you will have learned to seek truth. Not only will you have a theology, but you will know Theos.

Karyn Grasse graduated in June 1997 with an MAT from SOT. After perfecting the world’s most creative resume, she moved to Colorado Springs to join an international youth ministry (and take free classes at the Fuller Extension). Her accomplishments include: spending a year homeless, living on $500 a month and maintaining a sense of humor in ministry.

Fuller Recycling
The following items may be commingled in the blue recycling bins and white dumpsters:

- All white and color paper products (staples ok) • Cardboard
- Plastic beverage containers • Plastic aluminum cans & aluminum foil • Magazines
- Glass (all colors—food and beverage containers only) • Newspaper

If you have a larger load, please take it directly to one of the white recycling dumpsters:

behind 493 E. Walnut, behind 460 Ford Place, in front of ISS and between the library and 91 N. Oakland
CAMPUS EVENTS
Ministry Enrichment Seminar Shepherding with the Grieving
Tue, May 9, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.
The Rev. Kirk Mackie, Pastor of Fullerton First Baptist Church, will present “Shepherd Families Through Grief: How to Minister to the Dying and the Bereaved” in Payton 101. Come hear an experienced pastor address issues that pastors need to know about ministering to the dying, being present to bereaved families and conducting funerals.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Brown Bag Lunches with SOT Faculty Lunces are at noon in the Garth. May 10—Marianne & John Thompson; May 18—Jim Bradley, May 22—Ray Anderson. Drinks and desserts provided.

Hospital Internships
Chaplain Carmen Blair, M.Div., is offering a hospital internship at Queen of Angels Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center for the Summer Quarter. The internship, a 2-unit FE546 course, emphasizes spiritual care training and includes work in intensive care, emergency, oncology and general medicine. If interested, call Chaplain Blair at (323) 913-4863 or Gary Purtee, Field Ed, at 584-5377.

In addition, a 10-week Hospital Practicum (FE546) is being offered at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles for the Fall Quarter. It requires 18 hours per week, for which you will receive a $750 stipend and 2 units of academic credit. For more info, call Purtee at 584-5378 or Chaplain Karen Schnell at (323) 669-2482.

Children/Youth Ministry Opportunity
Come volunteer every Friday 4–6 p.m. to work with kids from Fuller families. Positions available to work with both jr. high and K–6th graders. Even if you cannot commit every Friday, please come for a short time. You can also earn your field education internship. For details call D. Kinoti Meme at 577-6742.

Work Study Position
Donations Coordinator position open in the office of International Student Services. The Donations Coordinator coordinates the process of incoming donations and their distribution to international students. For info, call Danielle McMartin at 584-5398.

Prayer Volunteers
Have you been looking for a high impact ministry that only takes one hour per week? Will you be at Fuller this summer? Do you love to pray? The Guideposts Prayer Hotline at Fuller is looking for summer prayer volunteers. Shifts are between 2-6 p.m. Mon-Thurs. Call Cindy at the OCC at 584-5322 for more information or an application. You will be blessed.

$ Fin Aid $
• May 15 is the deadline for Laguna Co. United Methodist Scholarship applications. Must be preparing for local church ministry, have financial need, and be a returning student.
• May 30 is the deadline for Matthew Reynolds Scholarship applications. Must have completed at least 1 year in seminary, be affiliated with the United Church of Christ, and have a desire to go into active pastoral ministry.
• May 31 is the deadline for Fukushima Memorial Scholarship applications. This scholarship is in memory of the Rev. J. K. Furushima, a pioneer pastor among Japanese Americans for 52 years. For more info, call the Montebello Plymouth Congregational Church at (323) 721-5568.
• If you have any questions regarding financial aid, call us at 584-5421 or e-mail <finaid-programs@dept.fuller.edu>.

Continued from page 1

we all will be the Church as Paul described it, “submitting to one another... “ (Eph. 5:21) and will be “the imitation of Christ” in how we treat each other.

SEMI: How can the women’s lectureship help prepare men for ministry as well as women?
SBER: It can give men a glimpse into the experiences of women, from both historical and contemporary perspectives. It can also provide opportunity for women and men to begin (or continue) conversations that will increase mutual understanding and enlarge the vision of how things might be.

I am sometimes told (sometimes asked) that the lecturership is for women only. It is not. It could not be so, because we women and men are in this experience of preparation for ministry together. God made it so when He created woman and man together and granted stewardship of creation to woman and man together. Men, we need you at the lectures and symposia as much as we need the women. PLEASE, Y’ALL COME.
This section of the SEMI is for the announcement of events or services not directly offered by a Fuller office or organization. For information about rates, contact the SEMI at (626)584-5430.

Note: Each person is responsible for checking on the quality and type of service before contracting or using it. The SEMI and Office of Student Services do not personally recommend or guarantee any of the services listed.

JOBS


SERVICES

Haircuts Students Special $9 for men $10 for women. Queenie's Beauty Salon 1644 E. Walnut St., Pasadena, 796-6484. Walk-ins welcome.

Therapy. Fuller alum provides therapy for those struggling with depression, anxiety and/or unresolved pain and conflict. Sliding Scale available. Supervised by Bonnie McLaughlin, MFC# MF31478. Call Jane Han M.S. at 568-7517.

Computer Help. Free consultation. Hardware and software upgrades and installations. System diagnostics and virus protection. Special education classes available. Call 396-1574 or email <Kalem@mail.com>.


Getting Engaged? Or just want a reliable jeweler? Many Fuller students have come to us and it has been a privilege to help them. We do not sell to the general public. Walter Zimmer Co., wholesale manufacturing jewelers with 82 years experience. Call (213) 622-4510 for hours, days open, and directions. Ask for Mel or Ken Zimmer. (Mel is a member of Glendale Presbyterian Church and is active in the healing ministry.)

Christians Need Cars Too! SIDCO Auto Brokers serves Christian Colleges, Missions, Staff/Students/Alumni. This is our 12th year serving only the Christian community. Fuller hotline (909) 949-2778 or (800) 429-KARS.

“A good name is chosen rather than riches.” Proverbs 22:1

Maybe you've seen the signs around campus and have wondered, “what is this gathering?” and “is it for everyone?”

TheGathering is a bi-monthly event that offers a unique opportunity for Fuller students from all schools and backgrounds to come together and participate in a powerful yet intimate time of corporate worship, ministry and fellowship. Come join in as we celebrate God together as His family!

The remaining Friday night meetings of the Spring quarter are: (meetings are in Travis auditorium at 7 pm)

May 12, May 19 (all praise night), June 2

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Kim Jenson at (626) 798-7324.
Big Book Sale

Thursday, May 4th thru Saturday, May 13th
(Closed Sunday May 7th)
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Even Greater Discounts On All Books!
10% more off New Books
20% more off Used Books
30% more off Overstock titles

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