

OPEN FORUM

Thank you for the May-June issue with its articles on ways our churches are reaching out in the spirit of Jesus.

Each article was suggestive of what others can do. I was particularly impressed by the article which told of a congregation working with a mosque to send medical supplies to Iraq.

I am tired, disturbed, disgusted and discouraged by the infighting which has taken center stage in our denomination. This *Circuit Rider* issue points us in a direction which brings honor to the name of our Lord. Thanks.

Jerry Hyde
Franklin, IN

In your May/June magazine I noticed an advertisement from [an article about] World Vision.

While commending World Vision for their compassionate and creative ministry to the poor, I struggle with their faith statement. When I visited their website, I learned that they believe in eternal damnation for the lost (all non-Christians?).

That being the case, it seems inconsistent to show compassion towards our non-Christian neighbors living in this world while, at the same time, condemning them to eternal damnation in the next world because they adhere to a different set of beliefs!

Putting this another way, let us assume that most of humanity will suffer in hell because they are not part of the Body of Christ. In the midst of their suffering, will our brothers and sisters in World Vision show them any compassion?

Because of this glaring inconsistency, I prefer supporting hunger organizations like UMCOR, Heifer International, Church

World Service, and Bread for the World.

They take more seriously the boundless love, grace, and compassion of the God we know in Jesus Christ.

Bob Blackburn
Berlin, WI

It was with some concern that I read Tony Jones' article, (Are your youth outreach efforts the real deal?) in the most recent (May/June) *Circuit Rider*. I can't help but wonder just who "unsaved kids" are in our theological tradition.

Michael Lyle
Roanoke, VA

The Atonement

What are you preaching and teaching about Christ's suffering and death?

Coming in September/October 2004

Circuit Rider

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