



## Servant's Corner

February 2015

### **“Help” That Hurts**

By Rich Henderson, Love INC Director

*For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread. 2 Thess. 3:11-12*

Thoughtless giving can cripple. Those involved in charitable work in past centuries seemed to understand this much better than we do today. Listen to their wisdom in this regard from Marvin Olasky's article, "Giving That Works" in World Magazine:

To give to one who begs . . . or in any way to supersede the necessity of industry, of forethought, and of proper self-restraint and self-denial, is at once to do wrong, and to encourage the receivers of our alms to wrong doing." (1835 declaration by 23 Boston charity societies.)

"Intelligent giving and intelligent withholding are alike true charity." (Statement by the New Orleans Charity Organization Society)

The *Charities Review* magazine was critical of "that miscalled charity which soothes its conscience with indiscriminate giving."

Olasky sums it up well with this observation: "We tend to think of generosity in a linear way as the opposite of selfishness, but there's actually a spectrum: Generosity is in the middle, the selfishness of not giving at one end, and the selfishness of giving that warms the giver's heart but hurts the recipient, on the other."



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