HELP

By Susanne Schwartzkopff

Help is a very simple concept easily understood even by children: where there is a need we lend a hand so as to stave off this need.

But is it really that simple? Let us investigate this apparently so transparent concept.
In our time, need has reached seemingly insurmountable dimensions. War and homelessness have caused misery of never before seen proportions; wails and desperate calls for help are heard from all sides.

There are helpless old people , children who lost their parents, bombed out people, homeless people , refugees who look for work or a safe place where they can live without fear of being driven away again.
Discouraged and helpless, we stand before so much misery. Is it possible to dry this sea of tears?
It would be possible, if help were given where it is truly appropriate and by addressing the need in a way that would soon put an end to it.

First and foremost, it is necessary to distinguish between genuine and false need.
Considering the current state of humanity, it cannot come as a surprise that many jump the queue, begging for help, who are too lazy to move and help themselves.

Frequently, help is given indiscriminately to the loudest beggars whose hands are filled while the bashful poor person who is embarrassed by his need is often left emptyhanded.

Open eyes to recognize true need of life and soul is the first step to true help. Someone truly in need is ready to help himself in order to get out of his crisis.

The beggar keeps on begging, he lives off the unconsidered charity, false compassion, and takes up the space of those who are far more deserving of help. He basically loves his misery, his neediness, because it relieves him of the diligence and effort required to overcome his need.

Whoever supports such people not only offers help inappropriately but even becomes guilty.
Am I not guilty if I support a human being in his lethargy? If I help him so that he does not have to pull himself together and be diligent rather than to sink deeper and deeper into the swamp of laziness? It would be better to shake him up by refusing help and pointing out to him that it would be far better for him to help himself. Indiscriminate help creates guilt all around which must be redeemed by all participants.

For a sensitive person there is always something shameful in having to accept help from strangers.
It results from the realization: I myself am too weak, too unfit; I have to ask others for help. And the nagging question: ” why must I be so needy?” will paralyze inner resilience, vitality and courage.
All these sensations contain certain truth! They should not be suppressed but examined more closely. -

Shouldn't everyone really be able to take care of himself? It is, after all, what the Creator gave him his talents and strengths for; and if he is somehow handicapped or seriously injured, he should ask himself: "how was it possible for me to get into this situation?" there must be a reason for it. More about this later.

The right helper should assist people who have the genuine desire to get out of their needy situation, in such a way as to help them help themselves as fast as possible, put them back on their own feet, encourage them, and give them the opportunity to help themselves.

This alone is true help for it gives strength to the one in need, so he does not have to walk on the crutches of stronger ones. It creates inner healing, regardless of whether the need is of the body or of the soul. It is true, need of the soul can also be healed best in this way.

Take the one who is suffering by the hand and show him the way to the Truth, to clarity; and then tell him: you have to walk the path yourself, only then will you become free of your need, and with each step you take courageously, your strength will grow!"

Help must always be only temporary, permanent support leads to laziness. How much happier it makes one to stand on one's own two feet! Always being dependent on others is humiliating .
To be counted among the wrong kinds of help is very often financial assistance. How often does money tempt a weak person to satisfy trivial desires or bad habits.

No, do not simply toss alms because you feel you must give something, to keep up with others. It accomplishes nothing. Lifting up, supporting, giving work, sometimes simply by keeping order, this is the right kind of help that really conquers the need.

And one more thing: help must not only be given at the right time and place, it also must not be imposed or forced on anyone.! ---

Whoever needs help should ask for it! It is the only way to attain a just balance. The one in need offers please and thanks, the helper offers effective help. The scales are properly balanced which is the way it should be. ---

This does not mean humiliation of the one suffering and in need, for - it needs to be said - there always has to be a reason for someone to get into a situation of severe need. Does anyone believe that God, the loving Father of mankind , would want man to suffer? That they would have to be tested and purified through suffering? This has been an age-old consolation conceived by man so as to shift the blame for his need away from himself and make it into a "testing". Which makes it seem easier to bear. But here is a point where we need to change our way of thinking.

God, who is Love, does not put burdens on us; we burden ourselves with guilt that we incurred at one time. –

How could our merciful God intend for us humans to suffer so miserably? No, He wants happy, joyful creatures who gratefully rejoice in being alive; and whoever genuinely walks in God's ways, not just with weak volition or in vain self-delusion, has a light heart and a cheerful disposition, for he always

receives help, everything always turns out for the best, even when evil volition of others aim to harm him.

The Father in Heaven does not let his children suffer innocently. To think differently would be to doubt the justice of God. Has He not created His glorious Creation for us to take joy in it? When this is not possible, when disease and need prevent it, there must be a reason; and this reason can only lie in our own attitude toward God.

This may have occurred in a past life and our present suffering signifies our trespass, and it is better for us to face this truth than to wimpishly feel sorry for ourselves. We will have to make the effort of redeeming our old debt, be that simply by bearing our suffering in an exemplary manner.

No one is innocently burdened with suffering. God's eternal justice would not permit this. However, no one need despair, if proper help is offered in the proper way by people with clear, open eyes and strong hands.

May there always be many such people!