

# "Am I my brother's keeper?"



**From the Director**  
by Ann Dugger

An email making the rounds recently caught my attention and depicts, in allegory form, an issue very much in today's news.

It seems a mouse saw that a farmer and his wife bought a new mouse trap. Aghast, he ran to the farmyard and warned the animals: "There's a mousetrap in the house!"

The chicken clucked and scratched, raised her head and said, "Mr. Mouse, I can tell this is a grave concern to you, but it is of no consequence to me; I cannot be bothered by it."

"I'm so very sorry, Mr. Mouse," sympathized the pig, "but there is nothing I can do about it but pray; be assured you are in my prayers."

The cow responded, "Like, wow, Mr. Mouse, a mouse trap;

am I in grave danger, huh?"

Dejected, the mouse returned to the house to face the mouse trap alone. That night the farmer's wife heard the trap snap shut and rushed to see her prey. In the darkness she did not see the venomous snake whose tail was caught, and the snake bit her.

She went to the hospital for treatment and returned home, but still had a fever. Now, everyone knows fresh chicken soup is good for a fever, so the farmer killed the chicken for the soup's main ingredient. As the wife's sickness continued, friends came to sit with her around the clock, so the farmer butchered the pig to feed them all.

The wife did not get well; in fact, she died, and so many people came for her funeral the farmer slaughtered the cow to provide meat for all of them to eat.

So the next time you hear that someone is facing a problem and think it does not concern

you, remember that when the least of us is threatened, we are all at risk.

Almost every day victims come to the Justice Coalition for help with an emergency that, perhaps just a few days ago, they would never have

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imagined could happen to them or their family. Glen Mitchell stated in last month's VA that his family felt immune to the impact of crime; bad things always happened to someone else - then his son was murdered.

We read about missing children and feel sorry for the parents and concern for the kids, but until we experience it ourselves or witness the agonizing fears of family members as they desperately search for youngsters who have seemingly disappeared into thin air, we really can't relate to their anguish.

We've been hearing over and over about the plight of a brain-damaged woman whose parents are fighting for her life, and we may feel sad for them but think it really doesn't affect us one way or another. But it does!

Someone has said, "A long journey begins with just one step." One woman filed a lawsuit to abort her baby, and Roe vs. Wade set a precedent for millions of unborn babies to be legally killed. One woman filed a lawsuit to keep her son from praying in school, and decades later we see the results of removing prayer from our schools.

When Hitler started to gain power in Germany, one of the first things he did was institute euthanasia - pull the plugs on those who were not able to take care of themselves. Next he went to the mental institutions and got rid of the mentally ill. Then it was the old people who were not productive any more...and we all know about the millions

of Jews who were exterminated as a result.

So today we are faced with this question: Is removing the feeding tube from Terri Schiavo the beginning of euthanasia for those not able to care for themselves? If one judge can order a disabled person killed by starvation, it's easy to envision long-term consequences.

If a baby is born with Down syndrome or spina bifida, don't keep it alive; surely, it wouldn't want to live that way. If someone is severely injured, as Christopher Reeve was, let him die; he would be of no use to anyone. If Alzheimer's disease claims the minds of our parents, just starve them; there's no reason for them to continue living.

"Am I my brother's keeper?" Cain asked God in millennia past and God responded, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries from the ground." The Golden Rule instructs us to do unto others as we want them to do unto us, and Jesus said to "love thy neighbor as thyself; there is no commandment greater than this."

We are, indeed, our brother's keeper.

## Inspirational Thought

*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

— Matthew 5:16

*It is not what men eat but what they digest that makes them strong; not what we gain but what we save that makes us rich; not what we read but what we remember that makes us learned; not what we preach but what we practice that makes us Christians.*

— Source Unknown

# Faith Corner

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