

NEWS

A.S.L.A.N.



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Killing with Kindness?

In the website with the same name as our headline, you will be urged not to give food to the homeless - it only keeps them on the streets. Not to give money to the homeless - they'll only use it to buy drink and drugs. Just get out your chequebook and send a donation to a homeless charity (preferably one of the government-funded charities "singing the official tune" and sponsoring the website).

So there you have it. Two thousand years on, the priest and the Levite from Luke 10 have official encouragement to walk by on the other side!

ASLAN, on the other hand - like Jesus - prefers to

identify with the Good Samaritan. We, too, urge people not to give money to the homeless. But not because we want them to engage in chequebook caring. Instead, we want them to engage in practical Christian caring. By taking the homeless person for a pizza or a burger. Or at least getting a cup of coffee and a sandwich and giving it to them on the street. Yes, yes, you'll be in a hurry - aren't we all, always, in this society where we rush to earn money and rush to spend it. But the urgent is often the enemy of the important. So make time to make Jesus proud of you. Extend the hand of friend-

ship to someone who is lonely, lost, and desperate.

And if you'd like to make your caring into a regular habit, join us in ASLAN - we'd love to welcome you!

There's something rather sad about a society which urges its citizens to leave caring to the professionals. There's something rather sick about a society which arrests the destitute for begging. Or which tracks down any groups of rough sleepers which form for companionship and protection, and hoses them down with ice cold water, whilst still asleep, before dawn in mid-winter.