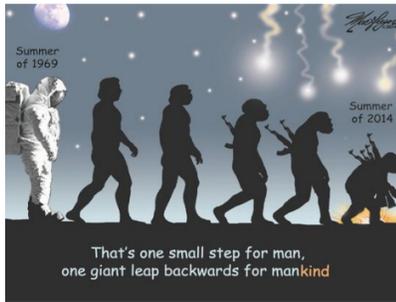


# Rapid Response: Short takes on two big questions

Rapid Responders 12:15 p.m. PDT August 3, 2014



(Photo: Doug MacGregor. The (Fort Myers, Fla.) News-Press )

## Americans, what should our response be to the global suffering?

As bad as it is, and as much as we would like to prevent it, we are not God.

— Kent Wilson, Salem

Before going global, let's feed and house the almost 50 million Americans living in poverty. Not much chance of that happening since it is not in the best interest of Congress.

— Gary Kertz, Salem

Become a more-informed citizen. Learn something about a particularly troubled area of the world. Try to understand what's happening and why. Learn how to apply context to headlines. Become a savvier consumer of the news. Don't just react to the opinions of others or a 140 character "tweet."

— Steve Baxter Salem

Prayer. I have very little influence over global affairs, but I believe that God does have influence. It does little good to question why he allows suffering. God is still God in good times and the bad.

— Richard Pine, Salem

The USA is an enabler of instability. We go into trouble spots, meddle with legitimate governments, further destabilize by throwing unaccountable money around to all sides and are perplexed when wars break out or worsen. We should butt out except for humanitarian relief through international relief agencies.

— Jack Lyon, Salem

Follow the example of Rotary International. In Salem, we have 500 Rotarians who donate funds each year to eradicate polio from the world, joining the over 1 million colleagues in 200 countries. We are almost there in completely eradicating this disease.

Our corps of Rapid Responders considered the same two questions we posed to other members of the community this week. Here's what they submitted:

As

## Oregonians Answer The Questions:

We asked Oregonians to answer two questions regarding the issues surrounding the Summer of Human Suffering

### Summer of Human Suffering: Oregonians confront the chaos and calamity

[\(http://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/opinion/editorials/2014/08/03/summer-of-human-suffering/13510387/\)](http://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/opinion/editorials/2014/08/03/summer-of-human-suffering/13510387/)

### What should our response be to the global suffering?

[\(http://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/news/2014/08/03/response-global-suffering/13511167/\)](http://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/news/2014/08/03/response-global-suffering/13511167/)

### What can we do as individuals this week?

[\(http://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/news/2014/08/03/can-individuals-week/13511405/\)](http://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/news/2014/08/03/can-individuals-week/13511405/)

### Rapid Responders answer both questions

[\(http://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/opinion/2014/08/03/short-takes-two-big-questions/13496413/\)](http://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/opinion/2014/08/03/short-takes-two-big-questions/13496413/)

— Geoffrey James, Salem

War has finally hit its limits in the 21st century. Witness the images of dead children and barbaric treatment of a crash site by armed thugs. All nations must leverage diplomacy and strict economic sanctions to solve conflicts over missiles and guns. Citizens should demand no less from their leaders.

— Kathleen Mason, Salem

Global suffering will always exist. By simple definition it is part of the human experience. We can't control it, even in our community.

— Fred VanNatta, Salem

Stop selling or providing arms to every country which asks for them and try to get other nations to do the same.

— Calvin Collins, Salem

Pray! Give! Send! Go! The world is filled with good and evil, both here and abroad. We must overcome evil with good, calling it out at every turn. There are no simple remedies.

— Neal Jones, Salem

The U.S. should work with and through the United Nations and any other multi-national organizations to offer humanitarian aid. We are not and cannot be the world's savior on our own, nor do we have the right to sanction one religion over another.

— Beverly Alm, Salem

Our response is to care for what we can care for, and avoid things that we shouldn't be involved in. If they ask for help, certainly consider doing that. If they don't ask for help, leave them alone.

— Tony Weaver, Woodburn

Let's be honest: We have no idea what the suffering of people half way around the world, or even next door, is like. Our compassion is conceptual. We try to imagine how we would feel if we were in a dreadful situation we've never experienced. So I don't try to respond in any special way to suffering. There's no point.

— Brian Hines, Salem

We are a generous people and should support efforts by our government and NGOs to help people, including children on our borders, who are fleeing violence. Love should triumph over hate and fear of the "other."

— Paul Krissel, Salem

Do what we can to help those involved, whether it be in the form of food, clothing and shelter for those in need in non-conflict situations, or arms, air cover and diplomatic pressure in support of the those being bullied in conflict situations.

— Woody Tiernan, Dallas

We should do everything we can diplomatically to assist in brokering peaceful solutions to military conflicts. If we meddle in countries such as the Ukraine by supplying arms and technology, then we are no better than Putin, who is providing these to the pro-Russian Ukrainian rebels.

— Don Snowden, Salem

What can we really do? So much of what happens in the world is beyond our control.

— Harold Hans, Salem

Offer our assistance to those who need it, regardless of political considerations, but don't force it on anyone or attach "strings."

— Claude Shinn, Salem

The U.S. sends out more aid to other countries than any other power. We should continue this endeavor, but shift focus to the most needy areas. We can't wait a year for Congress to change the focus.

— Fred Thompson, Salem

Everybody lives in their own world and within that space, we all can see suffering. If we become a "big brother or sister" to one or more of those who are suffering, we could make this world a better place. Adopt a homeless person. Show love with your resources.

— Chuck Sides, Salem

The United States should be doing all that it can to provide for peaceful political solutions and providing for humanitarian aid only. We should not be sending arms, if we want to find peace. We also need to continue to get the support of other nations rather than doing things unilaterally.

— Susann Kaltwasser, Salem

The overwhelming suffering can make one feel hopeless, but there are people putting their lives on the line to minister to fellow humans. We can give money to vetted organizations to support them and make sure they have the resources they need.

— Anita Blanchard, Salem

There is no quick fix. Bad people cause problems unless they are convinced they will fail and be punished. America has allowed its military superiority and foreign policy to weaken and bad people to be emboldened. We must reverse this course, clearly define our intentions and follow through with strength.

— Wally Gutzler, Salem

Global suffering can only be eased through long-term programs of education and economic assistance. Much of the suffering is because of radical groups who have no respect for human life. Until those groups are brought under control, there is little hope for large gains in decreasing suffering.

— Jim Jaqua, Salem

Send food, medicine, and education, not arms. The "enemy" always seems to be heavily armed with American weapons. We figuratively are fighting ourselves. We have lost all wars since WW II, so that isn't working. Need a new plan.

— Lew Hundley, Salem

### **What can we do as individuals this week to make the world a safer, saner, more peaceful place?**

We have to be the change we want to see. We can practice civility and kindness. We can volunteer with local organizations that help others. Volunteering usually takes us past the sound bites to a different reality for others than we expected.

— Anita Blanchard, Salem

We need to have at least one younger person we are mentoring and one older person that is mentoring us.

— Chuck Sides, Salem

Be kind to everyone in your own little world, save the endangered species and hope for the survival of the human race.

— Calvin Collins, Salem

Support diplomacy over military response, and keep love in our hearts toward all people. Revel in differences rather than recoil in hate and fear.

— Paul Krissel, Salem

We can start by dusting off the old Golden Rule. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

— Woody Tiernan, Dallas

Don't be content with current societal standards and behave as mature and ethical role models for our children.

— Gary Kertz, Salem

Do what is necessary to protect what is ours, and let God handle the rest.

— Kent Wilson, Salem

Too many of us react to situations, rather than determine what the real problem is and how to resolve it. We all need to look for ways for all to get along with each other, despite our differences.

— Harold Hans, Salem

If people would stop playing the blame game and start looking for ways to collaborate and cooperate, it would be much a better place to live.

— Susann Kaltwasser, Salem

Think positively. We can reject negative statements and innuendo. We can be helpful to neighbors, the ill and the poor and give to charities that help those in need. We can drive our cars with respect for others. We can keep up on local, national and world events.

— Wally Gutzler, Salem

We can each work within our own circles of influence to make our families, work places, schools, and neighborhoods safer, saner, and more peaceful. Spend less time worrying about world affairs and more time being a positive local influence.

— Richard Pine, Salem

Contribute generously to charity. Try to aid our new lawful immigrants in assimilation. Educate your less-educated fellow citizens in the historic beneficence and generosity of America.

— Jack Lyon, Salem

Nothing, other than to be quality, peaceful individuals within our own communities. We vote for our elected representatives and give them the opportunity to make humanitarian decisions.

— Beverly Alm, Salem

The old saying goes, treat everyone as you would like to be treated. Just because it is old, doesn't mean it isn't right.

— Tony Weaver, Woodburn

The world is not our responsibility. We are responsible for what we can do close to home, which includes what good citizenship used to be about: participating in every election and making well-informed voting choices. I'm tired of being asked to do the job of elected officials.

— Brian Hines, Salem

There isn't very much the individual can do. We can hope and pray that we have elected intelligent representatives to our government who also have the wisdom so necessary to face the turmoil in our world and not turn away from making tough choices.

— Don Snowden, Salem

Be kind to one another in thought, word and deed.

— Steve Baxter, Salem

By example and by using our time and resources to help when we can. Won't stop it but could reduce it.

— Fred VanNatta, Salem

As individuals we can support programs to promote peaceful conduct between nations and provide economic activity that will promote the general welfare of all people. Supporting those programs through personal and financial involvement can encourage those managing such programs to stay focused on positive results.

— Jim Jaqua, Salem

What we can do is support organizations that are doing humanitarian work now, and badger Congress to do the right thing and support these efforts. And if they don't, vote them out. We need compromisers who can work together. We can't help the world until we can help ourselves, and have sane policies enacted.

— Lew Hundley, Salem

Rotary International and other service organizations have been working for international understanding and peace. They have thousands of exchange students to and from countries all over the world, international friendship exchanges for adults, peace universities, and effective programs even in the most troubled parts of the world.

— Geoffrey James, Salem

Read or Share this story: <http://stjr.nl/1nge54D>

#### **MORE STORIES**

**[Atiyeh's wit: Governor as peacock or feather duster \(/story/opinion/columnists/dick-hughes/2014/08/03/atiyehs-wit-governor-](#)**



peacock-feather-  
duster/13543969/)  
Aug. 3, 2014, 11:05 a.m.

(/story/opinion/columnists/dick-  
hughes/2014/08/03/hughes-  
wit-governor-  
peacock-  
feather-  
duster/13543969/)



**Hughes,**  
**you're wrong**  
**... but**  
**occasionally**  
**right**

(/story/opinion/columnists/dick-  
hughes/2014/08/03/hughes-  
wrong-  
occasionally-  
right/13543925/)

(/story/opinion/columnists/dick-  
hughes/2014/08/03/hughes-wrong-occasionally-  
right/13543925/)

Aug. 3, 2014, 11:03 a.m.



**'The poor door' — symbol of a**  
**truth we all know**

(/story/opinion/2014/08/03/poor-  
door-symbol-  
truth-  
know/13512077/)

(/story/opinion/2014/08/03/poor-door-symbol-  
truth-know/13512077/)

Aug. 2, 2014, 9:43 p.m.