

In Relief/Development Ministry:

Seven Deadly Sins...

1. Letting promotion dictate program.

“This is where the need is-- but ‘there’ is more promotable....”

2. Settling for the appearance of doing something--rather than actually doing it.

Bob Pierce comment to me, pointing out a visitor coming toward us on the streets of Saigon: “Buddy, there’s a man to whom appearing to do something is every bit as important as actually doing it!” (Sad to say, Bob was right.)

3. Being content just to ship commodities overseas, rather than making sure they reach the place of maximum need and optimum service opportunity.

“The longest journey ends with a simple step....”-- Ward

4. Letting the government (any government) tell you what to do and/or not to do.

“I checked with U.S. Aid (or Red Cross, or UN) and they said better to wait a while....” Let’s look “straight up” for our directions!

5. Ignoring the host government, especially at the place of target need.

I can cite numerous unfortunate incidents! Postponing a problem will not solve it. You cannot start too early, or be too open, with a host government.

6. Waiting too long to help... whatever the reason.

Spluttering reply of a relief worker instructed by his agency to enter a zone: “But there’s a war going on over there. They’re shooting real bullets!” I’m no hero, but I’ve been shot at a few times... and somehow God always turned those situations into our best service opportunities.

7. Shipping anything/everything to swell the “in kind” totals.

“Hungry people will eat anything” (?). Unfortunately, not true.

Example of well-meaning but misinformed church/radio ministry in Southern California which sent bent nails to Taiwan.

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