

One method that they have used to recruit participants is to show each year in the Utah State Fair the mobile civil defense shelter display that was built by Fighting Chance for the State of Utah. Annual attendance at the fair is about 300,000 and each year about 10% of these people actually walk through the 9 foot by 24 foot mobile display shelter. Some of these people then join their civil defense organization, attend regular meetings, and become a part of the growing civil defense movement in Utah.

If you are going to build a shelter, there is a wealth of information in the Fighting Chance shelter plans, video tapes, and back issues of this newsletter that can be of help. Many people have provided excellent protection for their families on the basis of that information alone and occasional phone calls to Fighting Chance at (503)592-4142.

If you are going to build a shelter, however, you also would be very wise to contact Sharon Packer and Paul Seyfried. Their enthusiasm and experience can save money and time that you might otherwise spend by relying on published materials alone.

## **OPTIMUM LIFE VS. MINIMUM SUFFERING**

There are two fundamentally different approaches to the evaluation of efforts intended to improve the human condition. When an individual or group undertakes an effort that is honestly intended to improve human lives, they usually adopt, consciously or unconsciously, one of these two approaches.

One of these approaches is based upon the principle of the "minimization of human suffering." It basically accentuates the negative. While assuming that there is some positive reason to live, this system assumes that the best way to improve people's lives is to minimize the suffering that they bear in life. This can include suffering from disease, suffering from war, suffering from unhappy personal relations, and suffering from the many negative factors and circumstances that affect the basic human condition.

The other approach is based upon the principle of the "optimization of the quality of human life." It accentuates the positive. Life is viewed as a collection of experiences of differing value. The length of life (and therefore the number of experiences) and the value of these experiences gives a measure of the summation of the quality of human life.

Laurelee and I once founded a research institute with a senior colleague who held to the principle of the minimization of suffering, while we held to the principle of the maximization of the quality of life. Since we couldn't resolve this difference, we put both principles into the statement of goals of our research institute.

This is not a trivial philosophical difference! This is a very, very important difference that is at the heart of many of today's nation-wide and world-wide difficulties.