

Misguided Motives

1. A “Romanticism” about the poor and their needs
“It’s gonna be cool, helpin’ them out!”
2. A “Messianic Complex”, to “save” the needy
“Just wait till I fix the problem!”
3. An “Exaggerated View” about the needy
“They are so pitiful!”
4. A “Poor Self-Esteem” Perspective that is enhanced by working with the poor
“I feel so much more important around them!”
5. A “Utilitarian” perspective, that uses the poor for personal advantage
“It’ll look good on my resume
6. A “Guilt” Complex about the needy
“Man, I have so much that I’ve got to share!”
7. A “Duty-bound” obligation to the needy
“Guess I’ve got to do it. It’s the Christian thing!”
8. The “Titillation” of excitement among the poor
“Yeah! This is where the real action is.”
9. A “Masochistic” attraction towards the poor
“I like to hang around people hurting worse than me.”
10. The “Attention-getting” device
“Hey, everybody’s going to think I’m another Mother Teresa. . . Who knows maybe I’ll win a Nobel Prize some day!