

The 'ORERE SOURCE' Abstracts from Pastoral Journals

AUTHOR(S).. Priscilla Alderson and Christopher Goodey

TITLE..... Theories of consent

JOURNAL.... British Medical Journal

VOLUME..... 317 # 7168 (7 Nov 1998) pp. 1313-1315

ABSTRACT... Consent by a patient for the treatment they are going to receive, or to be a subject in a research study can be understood in a number of different ways. In this third article in a series about the importance of theories and values in health care and research, the authors review the advantages and limitations of theories about: real consent, constructed consent, functionalist and critical consent, and postmodern choice. Each is located within a theoretical framework which was described in the October 10th issue of the journal. The analysis of these theories provides useful clarification about the advantages of and the problems associated with obtaining consent that is ethically acceptable.

AUTHOR(S).. Philip Blake

TITLE..... Towards a Biblical theology of chaplaincy *JOURNAL*.... Ministry, Society and Theology

VOLUME..... 12 # 1 (July 1998) pp. 27-36

ABSTRACT... Blake begins by defining chaplaincy as "a ministry of pastoral care which involves "coming alongside" those who are for shorter or longer periods, away from home." (P.29) He draws upon insights from the old and new testaments concerning the needs and problems of persons who are away from home. He examines the concepts of paroikia and diaspora. He then discusses the task of coming alongside, focussing on parakletos, "one called alongside to help." Blake indicates that he is not attempting to present a systematic theology of chaplaincy, but rather to point in the direction of such a theology. The paper was awarded the 1998 Geoffrey T. Sambell Memorial Essay prize in Australia. It is awarded annually by the major pastoral care and pastoral education organizations in that country.

AUTHOR(S).. Syvil S. Burke and Ann R. Matsumoto *TITLE*..... Pastoral care for perinatal and neonatal health care providers

JOURNAL.... JOGNN

VOLUME..... 28 # Z (Mar/Apr 1999) pp. 137-141

ABSTRACT... An overview of the roles that a chaplain can play in perinatal and neo-natal environments. They also present in detail a case which highlights pastoral care for both family members and for staff. The denote the supportive roles as: a creator meaning, a trustworthy listener, a pastor away from home, a calming presence, a fellow sojourner in the land of bereavement, a generator

of ethical concerns, and an educator. The author's are an administrator in a large medical center and a former chaplain.

AUTHOR(S).. Henry T. Close

TITLE..... Pastoral care for an unconscious patient *JOURNAL*.... Journal of Pastoral Care

VOLUME..... 52 # 2 (Summer 1998) pp. 175-181

ABSTRACT.. Close presents a case study of his ministry to an unconscious and dying woman, and then provides a commentary on the subtle, but effective methods he used as he gave pastoral care. He notes in his conclusion: "This kind of pastoral care comes from a different area of the psyche than the pastoral care that takes place in dialogue." There have been few articles about pastoral care to persons who are unconscious. This one makes a major contribution.

AUTHOR(S).. R.J. Connelly

TITLE..... Death with dignity: fifty years of soul-searching

JOURNAL.... Journal of Religion and Health

VOLUME..... 37 # 3 (Fall 1998) pp. 195-213

ABSTRACT... Connelly provides in this one article a comprehensive description of the ways in which thinking about death and dying in the U.S. has changed since the 1950s. His central focus is the progression in the belief and acceptance of the importance of the individual person's right to control their dying process. He finds evidence in court decisions, books written on the subject, and the actions of individuals and groups. He also describes the contribution of the Roman Catholic Church, which has been one of the strongest voices against suicide and euthanasia, but also a source of ethical definitions and distinctions that have played a significant part in the debates concerning death and dying. In a final section, he turns to the future and comments on the alternatives offered by hospice, pain management, and the importance of the recognition and management of depression in the elderly. A model of clarity, this is a first-class overview of the struggle to improve the quality of the process of dying in the U.S.

AUTHOR(S).. George Fitchett

TITLE..... Spiritual risk and patient care

JOURNAL.... Ministry, Society and Theology

VOLUME..... 12 # 2 (Nov 1998) pp. 7-29

ABSTRACT... In recent years there has been a significant increase in the amount of research that correlates religion and health. Fitchett looks at one of the major implications of this research, namely, the task of developing a way of assessing "spiritual risk" with persons who are hospitalized. If such assessments could be adequately done, Fitchett suggests, those who need more intensive spiritual

assessment and care could be identified. He describes how his understanding of spiritual risk has developed starting with the work of Mason and Mills in the 1960s. Then he turns to the problems associated with the development of a screening instrument to allow chaplains to screen for such risk. The reader is introduced to the work of Gary Berg (Spiritual Injury Scale) and Pargament et al (the Brief Religious Coping Scale). Fitchett makes some specific suggestions that chaplains might follow to broaden their understanding about spiritual risk and how to respond to it. He concludes by discussing some of the implications of his work for spiritual care.

AUTHOR(S).. Thomas T. Frantz, Barbara C. Trolley and Megan M. Farrell
TITLE..... Positive aspects of grief
JOURNAL.... Pastoral Psychology *VOLUME*..... 47 # 1 (Sept 1998) pp. 3-17
ABSTRACT... Can any good things follow from a tragic death? The authors report their findings from interviews with over 300 adults who had had a loved one die approximately one year prior to the date of interview. They were asked whether, despite the tragedy, anything good had come about as a result of the death. They were also asked what they and others had done that was helpful to them in their grieving. The study revealed that significant positive things had resulted for an overwhelming majority of the persons interviewed, and they report what they had told them. (They also remind readers that mentioning this future possibility to a grieving person will be perceived as unhelpful.)

AUTHOR(S).. Peter Gee
TITLE..... The case for Christian residential communities for the "mentally ill" *JOURNAL*.... Ministry, Society & Theology
VOLUME..... 12 # 1 (July 1998) pp. 63-75
ABSTRACT.. Contends that congregations have much help to offer persons who are mentally ill. One form of help is the creation of therapeutic communities. Within a religious/theological framework he crafts an argument that it is a religious responsibility to do so. He then describes the therapeutic phases through which a person can travel in such a community, using a strong inter-personal model for understanding both illness and therapy.

AUTHOR(S).. Trisha Greenhalgh
TITLE..... Narrative based medicine in an evidence based world
JOURNAL.... British Medical Journal
VOLUME..... 318 # 7179 (30 Jan 1999) pp. 323-325
ABSTRACT... In this last of five articles concerning narrative based medicine, Greenhalgh attempts to bridge the gap between hard-science

doctors ("evidence-based" practitioners who argue for the importance of "evidence" alone) and those who believe that clinical method is an interpretive act in which the physician integrates the overlapping stories told by patients, clinicians and test results. This series may interest chaplains for several reasons. First, it lays to rest the myth of the objectivity of medicine. Second, and more importantly, it will remind the chaplain of the fundamental importance of stories, of needing to know the "facts" from patients, but of being able to understand the story that is being told.

AUTHOR(S).. David O. Kylo
TITLE..... Relationships in coping with stroke
JOURNAL.... Topics in Stroke Rehabilitation
VOLUME..... 5 # 2 (Summer 1998) pp. 1-5
ABSTRACT... Kylo, a chaplain at the Rehabilitation Institute in Chicago locates the "intangibles" that make the difference for persons needing rehabilitation in relationships. They are "the web of significance," a phrase he takes from James Hoopewell's book "Congregations."

AUTHOR(S).. James N. Lapsley
TITLE..... Vengeance: the half hidden pillager of our lives
JOURNAL.... Pastoral Psychology
VOLUME..... 46 # 4 (Mar 1998) pp. 255-266
ABSTRACT.. Writing in light of the Oklahoma City bombing (19 April 1995), Lapsley considers the nature of vengeance, "a desire to act motivated by an elementary sense of injustice." He discusses what exactly vengeance is, distinguishes it from retribution, considers the source of the powerful feelings that energize individual persons to seek vengeance, and then looks at the public and cultural aspects of vengeful behavior. In conclusion, he considers the role of Christianity in dealing with some of the evil effects of human needs for vengeance.

AUTHOR(S).. Bryan McIver
TITLE..... Life after sudden death *JOURNAL*.... Mayo Clinic Housecall
VOLUME..... - # - (16 Nov 1998) pp. 1-14
ABSTRACT.. In a seven-part series, McIver, a physician doing research at the Mayo Clinic describes his experience of an unexpected heart attack, after which he is revived and begins his rehabilitation. He had not been expected to live. The value of the series lies in his description of the entire series of events, supplemented by words from the diary of his "guardian angel," the nurse who found him dying in the hallway and who initiated the code that led to the restoration of his heart-beat. In the final part ("The important things in my life") McIver describes what he has learned. He writes in part: "One of the most useful roles, which I think I'd underestimated in the past, was that of

the religious counselor. In my case this person was a truly practical advisor - a person who could listen and help me come to terms with my problems. It was immensely useful. He is somebody I will call on in the future to help my patients." This is a resource to help persons new to chaplaincy to understand what happens when one has a heart attack, during a code, and afterwards if the outcome is successful.

AUTHOR(S).. Hugh McKenna
TITLE..... The "professional cleansing" of nurses *JOURNAL*.... British Medical J
VOLUME..... 317 # 7170 (21 Nov 1998) pp. 1403-1404
ABSTRACT... In a blunt article, McKenna, a professor of nursing in Northern Ireland describes the degrading of nursing services within the NHS. He quotes numbers of those in the profession, and those in training. He also states that "Modern hospitals are becoming large intensive care units, with few low dependency patients. Compared with 10 years ago nurses have a higher workload, with mainly critically ill patients." In the same issue there is a personal view expressed by a G.P. Clare Hamon. She states that "Some NHS is unacceptable" and asks: "Are we prepared to accept inhumane hospitals? Are we prepared to condone staffing levels which we know will inevitably push staff beyond the limits of their stamina and compassion, and will cause patients to suffer?"

AUTHOR(S).. Maryam Mostoufi
TITLE..... Muslim patients - are you prepared to meet their needs?
JOURNAL.... Healing Ministry
VOLUME..... 5 # 6 (Nov/Dec 1998) pp. 31-33
ABSTRACT... A Muslim chaplain describes his ministry to Muslim patients. The article, brief though it is, gives an excellent sense of what a Muslim chaplain does in her ministry to meet the needs and encourage the practices of Muslim faithful when they are hospitalized.

AUTHOR(S).. Thomas St. J. O'Connor and Elizabeth Meakes
TITLE..... Hope in the midst of challenge: evidence-based pastoral care *JOURNAL*.... Journal of Pastoral Care
VOLUME..... 52 # 4 (Winter 1998) pp. 359-367
ABSTRACT... The concept of evidence-based practice was developed by McMaster Medical School in Canada in the 1970s. Initially medical students but now other health-science disciplines use the approach in their training and clinical practice. The authors, two Canadian chaplains describe evidence-based pastoral care, its origins and characteristics and then by means

of a case study demonstrate the approach. The dynamic relationship between research and clinical practice is clarified, and they conclude by making suggestions about the use of this approach in chaplaincy.

AUTHOR(S).. Parker J. Palmer
TITLE..... All the way down
JOURNAL.... Weavings
VOLUME..... 13 # 5 (Sept/Oct 1998) pp. 32-41
ABSTRACT.. A reflection on a journey into depression, and of the healing that led to a new sense of wholeness. Particularly challenging are his descriptions of the words of persons who tried to help him in his depression, the persons who acted "like Job's comforters." (pp.34) He also tells us the words that were to help him begin to grow stronger again, and of the man who helped him by massaging his feet every week.

AUTHOR(S).. Nancy J. Ramsay
TITLE..... Compassionate resistance: an ethic for pastoral care and counseling
JOURNAL.... Journal of Pastoral Care
VOLUME..... 12 # 1 (July 1998) pp. 217-226
ABSTRACT.. Ramsay presents an ethic for ministries of care and counseling which she says should be grounded "in the empowering love of God and the possibilities of our love for one another." Her ideas and beliefs about the power of love have developed out of her research into the theological dynamics of recovery from child sexual abuse. She describes God's love as "fierce tenderness." The suffering she is describing she calls "radical suffering." The twenty-third Psalm structures her ethics of care.

AUTHOR(S).. Siroj Sorajjakool
TITLE..... Gerontology, spirituality and religion
JOURNAL.... J. of Pastoral Care
VOLUME..... 52 # 2 (Summer 1998) pp. 147-156
ABSTRACT... While it has long been recognized that many people's level of interest in religion tend to increase with age, it has only been in the last 10-15 years that there has been a movement away from positivistic towards descriptive phenomenological approaches to understanding this more deeply. The author quotes a number of different studies relating aging to spirituality and religion. He suggests that religion reframes reality and therefore tends to reduce suffering. He claims that to the extent that a person can reconcile their self-definition with their religious worldview, that one's level of anxiety will be decreased.

AUTHOR(S).. Robert Taylor
TITLE..... Superhumans
JOURNAL.... New Scientist
VOLUME..... 160 # 2154 (3 Oct 1998) pp. 24-29

ABSTRACT... "In conference halls around the world, geneticists and developmental biologists have been gathering to discuss what was once unthinkable - genetically engineering human embryos so that they, and their children, and their children's children, are irrevocably changed." This article is for readers who wish to be informed in relatively non-technical language about the science that will trigger the ethical debates that are about to unfold concerning gene therapy and germ-line engineering. The decisions made will be foundational for the evolving direction of the entire human species.

AUTHOR(S).. Linda L. Treloar
TITLE..... Spiritual care: assessment and intervention
JOURNAL..... JCN
VOLUME..... 16 # 2 (Spring 1999) pp. 15-18
ABSTRACT... Concerned that nurses do not routinely provide spiritual care, Treloar discusses the question "How shall we intervene?" She asserts that nurses should begin with two basic nursing diagnoses - spiritual distress, and, potential for enhanced spiritual well-being. She offers some basic questions, as well as additional questions that might be used for the spiritual assessment of children.
Included in her essay is Jurgen Moltmann's definition of health: "True health is the strength to live, the strength to suffer and the strength to die. Health is not a condition of my body; it is the power of my soul to cope with the varying condition of that body." (The Power of the Powerless" (1983) pp. 142)

AUTHOR(S).. Author Unknown
TITLE..... Spirit of the age
JOURNAL..... The Economist
VOLUME..... 349 # 8099 (19 Dec 1998) pp. 113-117
ABSTRACT.. An essay describing depression, which is characterized as "the world's great hidden burden." The author gives a sound introduction to what is known about the origins of depression, and what can be done to help people when they are depressed.
What is positively frightening are the statistics showing just how many persons are depressed world-wide, and the implications - both social and economic - of this epidemic-sized problem. It is estimated that 330M persons suffer from

depression worldwide, and 90% of them will not get adequate treatment.

AUTHOR(S).. Timothy J. Woods
TITLE..... A tendency to unaffected cheerfulness: theological reflections on Down's syndrome
JOURNAL..... Contact
VOLUME..... 127 (- 1998) pp. 17-23
ABSTRACT... On December day, Woods and his wife learned that their expected baby probably had Down's syndrome. They were encouraged to terminate the pregnancy - and resisted the suggestion. Four months later their son was born, with the syndrome. Woods briefly describes the nature of the syndrome, offers generalizations about people's responses to their son and to themselves. He then provides a moving reflection in which he makes "an effort to make sense of God in and through Down's syndrome. In part he concludes: The presence of our infuriating, loving, disabled and exhausting child speaks to us of another model of God.... a God of persons bound together in loving relationship who have not mapped out the future but are in the thick of it with us."

AUTHOR(S).. Paul Derrickson
TITLE..... Computer coding of pastoral ministry: contributions and challenges
JOURNAL..... Chaplaincy Today
VOLUME..... 14 # 1 (- 1998) pp. 23-26
ABSTRACT.. In the two preceding articles in this issue of the journal, Graham Gibbons (in Australia) and Will Kinnaird and Elisabeth McSherry (in the VA healthcare system in the US) describe systems they have developed to track the functioning of chaplains. In his contribution, Derrickson compares the two models by asking three questions of each approach:
1. Is the underlying administrative-medical model adequate for pastoral diagnosis?
2. If we use the model, is there an underlying theology/theory upon which these diagnostic categories are made?
3. How well does each model replicate the medical diagnostic model? Derrickson takes up these questions and reviews both models before offering a summary and conclusions.

The Rev. Noel Brown is the editor of THE OREERE SOURCE, a bimonthly compendium of his abstracts from the pastoral care and health-care literature.