

have a voice will find wisdom for healing and wholeness in this book.

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Ministry with Persons with Mental Illness and Their Families

edited by Robert H. Albers, William H. Meller, and Steven D. Thurber

Fortress, Minneapolis, 2012. 245 pp. \$29.00.
ISBN 978-0-08006-987-4.

SOME YEARS AGO, as a local church pastor, I was puzzled by a few unknowing encounters with persons with psychiatric conditions. Since these conditions rarely come with a label, I could not tell what was troubling these persons, though I did have a vague sense of uneasiness or concern. When I learned that a church member had committed suicide, I reviewed my recollections of him. I had thought of him as eccentric, maybe quirky, but it had not occurred to me that he might be suffering from depression. By the time the scales fell from my eyes, it was too late for my understanding to do him any good.

Ministry with Persons with Mental Illness and Their Families aims to inform clergy and other caring professionals about the major psychiatric illnesses, so that they will be more astute than I was and, one hopes, more helpful in their pastoral encounters. The book is the result of a dialogue between 18 medical and religious professionals, who rely on their respective disciplines as they describe each illness cluster. Case studies frame each chapter, illustrating characteristics persons with various conditions might exhibit when seeking help in religious congregations. The chapters cover a broad spectrum of conditions, ranging from mood, psychotic, and personality disorders, to

substance abuse and eating disorders, to autism and cognitive decline. The authors supply up-to-date medical information on each condition's etiology, symptoms, and treatments, as well as insights into the particular needs for spiritual care that persons with the illness and their families may have. The book argues for the dignity of all persons, who are understood as more than their diagnoses or their symptoms, but as whole human beings.

Though the quality of the writing in this book is uneven, the overall value and impact of the text are impressive. Albers' introduction is poorly written; the subsequent chapters surprise the reader with clear information, examples, and practical wisdom. The most poignant chapters, such as ch. 9, "Acquired Brain Injury," include a first-person reflection written by someone who suffers from the condition. The spiritual dimensions of these experiences are woven into these vivid and moving first-person stories. The book offers an integrated, respectful, and compassionate approach to ministry that is accessible to religious professionals and laypersons alike. Students in seminary and divinity school classrooms will benefit from this compelling and informative text.

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Work Matters: Lessons from Scripture

by R. Paul Stevens

Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 2012. 176 pp. \$16.00.
ISBN 978-0-8028-6696-7.

CAN ONE FIND GOD AT WORK? Questions like this demand the attention of pastors and teachers endeavoring to speak to the ranks of the growing "spiritual but not religious" crowd who are