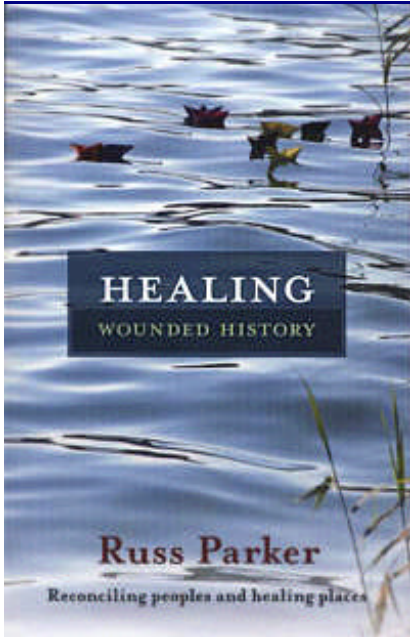


Healing and Bereavement



Healing Wounded History

Reconciling Peoples and Healing Places

by Russ Parker

published by SPCK (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge)

in Paperback

(978-0-281-06625-4)

Jan 2012

at £14.99

Originally published in 2001 by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd.

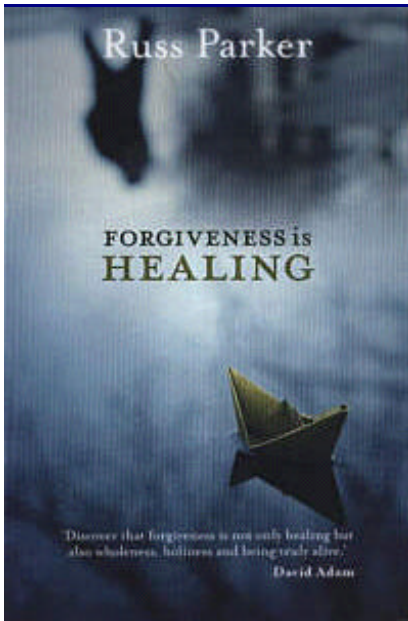
Books by the long-standing Director of the Acorn Christian Healing Foundation are always worth reading. This re-issued title is no exception. As usual, Russ Parker stretches our understanding of the meaning of healing. He writes that over more than twenty-five years of praying with people and seeking help for himself, he has learnt that 'the profile of healing is more complex than I had at first thought'. The healing agenda may begin with an individual's request for prayer, but we soon have to engage with the context of our lives. That context takes the form of a 'collection of group stories', with all their memories and emotions, blessings and wounds. - Parker explores the stories of several human groups: The Family Group, starting with 3 generations in the biblical story of Abraham's family; The Church Group, starting with the 2nd and 3rd chapters of Revelation (and including a fascinating chapter on 'The Christian Day of Atonement'); The Community Group, particularly the city and The Tribal or Nation Group. -

Reconciliation and the healing of group stories and wounds is the book's theme. Parker has much to say about 'representational confession' and the way in which Jesus is the representational confessor. -

He frequently refers to the workbook that is the essential companion to this volume as your use of - Healing Wounded History - will be incomplete without it. You can order the workbook on The Acorn Christian Healing Foundation website <http://www.acornchristian.org> via the bookshop. It is on sale for £2.95 at the moment, Feb 2012. -

Further information can be found from the links below.

Notes by [Barry Vendy](#)

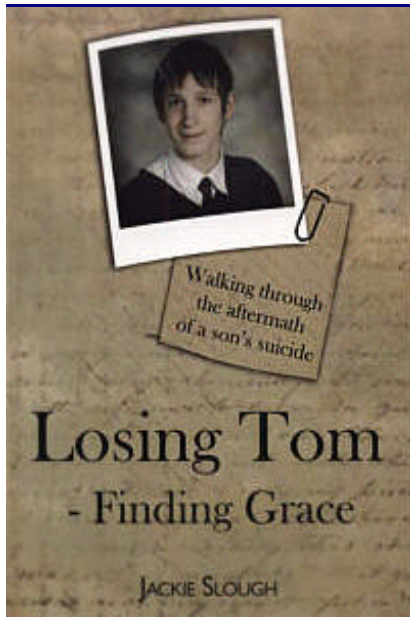


Forgiveness Is Healing

by Russ Parker
published by SPCK (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge)
in Paperback (978-0-281-06616-2) 09/09/2011
at £10.99

There can be no question of the importance of forgiveness, be it in the life of an individual, in a church, or in society. So I am pleased to see this reissue of Russ Parker's profound and practical book on the subject. It is full of cameos and commentaries from the Bible (for example, the man who was lowered through a roof in front of Jesus, and Jesus' healing of a man beside a pool in Jerusalem. Forgiveness is an issue in both those stories) and illustrations from the practice of healing (many of them drawn from Russ Parker's work as a minister and as Director of the Acorn Christian Healing Foundation. Some of these are reassuring, but some are very challenging!). Jesus, writes Parker, actually models the healing of relationships through forgiveness, and 'expected his disciples to be forgivers'. Do read this book if you are serious about taking up that challenge. Incidentally, I appreciated the chapters on the healing of the memories and deliverance, which receive much calmer consideration than they sometimes do.

Notes by [Barry Vendy](#)



Losing Tom – Finding Grace

by Jackie Slough
published by Onwards and UpwardsPublishing
in Paperback (978-1-907-50907-0) Summer 2011
at £9.99

My son is long through adolescence but what if.....? How many mothers have wondered. -

Jackie Slough had no idea suicidal thoughts were going round the head of her seemingly well adjusted lovely teenager. It was only in retrospect that she could think what could have been done and said differently. She, her husband Alan and Tom, were all baptised members of their local Baptist church. With Tom's older brother James, they were all very involved with church life, very busy with their dogs and their work, a happy family they thought till Tom's death. -

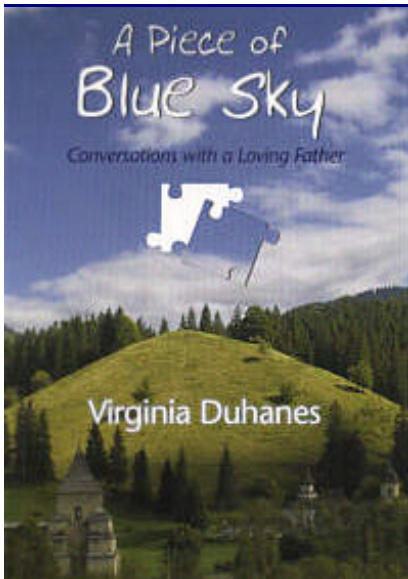
Their faith is what has held them together – just; and knowing Tom's great faith has given them the assurance that he is now at peace with his saviour, Jesus Christ. -

Jackie wrote a journal through the first difficult months, not intending it for publication, but was subsequently persuaded that it could help other mother's struggling in like circumstances, so she continued adding to it and this is the story of those first five years.

It is a no holds barred account of her feelings and actions though this traumatic time, grippingly readable, and interspersed with poems written by Jackie which express so poignantly what she was going through at the time of writing. -

At the end of the book is more of these, and some of Tom's own writings too. Heartrending stuff, but well worth reading.

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)



A Piece of Blue Sky

Conversations With a Loving Father

by Virginia Duhanes

published by TLM Trading for The Leprosy Mission

in Paperback (978-0-902-73185-1)

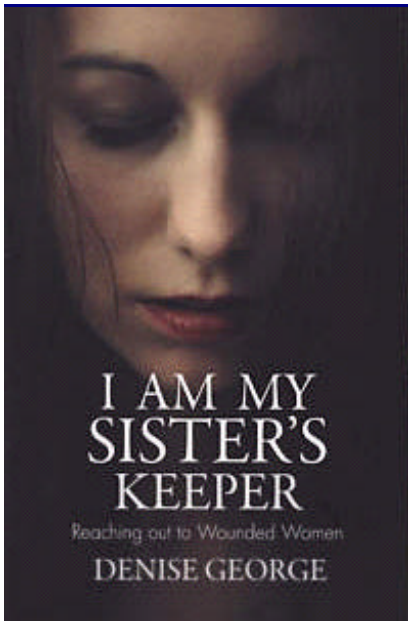
2010

at £5.00

How best would I describe this book, probably a series of short memoirs and remembrances from one woman's life, in which there are interspersed moments of her prayer life and the active voice of God she heard when listening in her quiet times with him. These moments include some times of real pain and growth, times at which understanding and hearing the voice of God in our lives can be the hardest, and through these recollections she helps to show that God is always there and perhaps offers comfort to others going through these times, raises awareness of the fact that we are all called to be in conversation with our Lord and that he yearns to speak to us. -

I think this is very much a book that would help some going through hardships and would certainly appeal to those who like - The Friendship Book - or of course the writings of Eddie Askew.

Notes by [Melanie Carroll](#)



I Am My Sister's Keeper

Reaching Out to Wounded Women

by Denise George

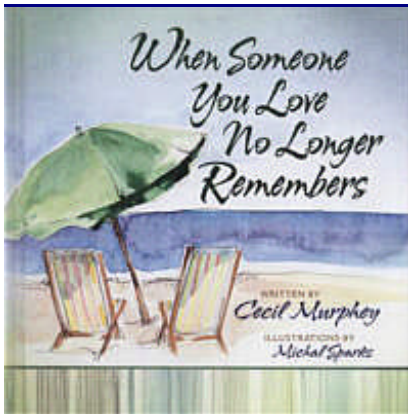
published by Christian Focus Publications

in Paperback (978-1-845-50717-6) 2011

at £7.99

The title of the book indicates that the readership is intended exclusively for women. The author, Denise George has written this book as a tool through which God can speak to every woman, and the reader can be encouraged to reach out to hurting sisters seeking solace in friendships in Christ. Denise draws on all sorts of women's stories here, from Biblical examples to modern, hurting women. There are women trapped in unhappy marriages, those who have experienced divorce and need to forgive their ex-spouses. There was one prostitute who wanted more than anything else to be a lady, and gave her life to Jesus when a young man informed her that the Lord could wash away the stains on her soul. There was a chapter on loneliness and another on suicide. These are two taboo and misunderstood subjects which I felt Denise did well to explore, even if I felt the section on loneliness was a little too neat and over-sentimental. It's worth it for the reader to look at the back, as well – there are lots of useful questions and subjects to explore for Bible studies. A great resource for those wishing to show Christ-like compassion for suffering women.

Notes by [Alice Collins](#)



When Someone You Love No Longer Remembers

by Cecil Murphey, illustrations by Michal Sparks
published by Harvest House Publishers
in Hardback (978-0-736-93871-6)
at £6.99

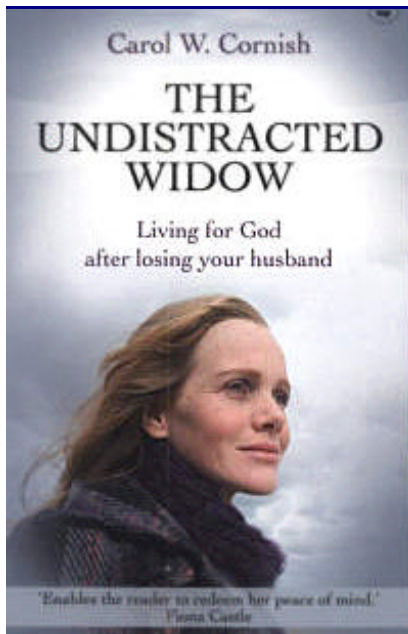
Jun 2011

Approximately six inches square, (580mm) this little book is intended to be given to a caregiver, to help them deal with the situation they find themselves in. Twenty four contributors tell of how this situation feels, how they have come to terms with it and how prayer and coming closer to God has enabled them to win through. Each piece is very brief, but very telling, twenty four different experiences yet all very similar as any caregiver can tell you. Reading these pieces could help lessen the sense of being the only one in this position, the loneliness of being tied down by looking after someone you love but who is changing irrevocably. -

The Appendix has suggestions of how to care for yourself, how to communicate with your loved one, advice on exercise and activities, expecting the unexpected and helping your visitors to know how to act, practical advice from someone who knows. -

A gentle book, enhanced by the illustrations and one I can recommend as a gift to a man or a woman.

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)



The Undistracted Widow

Living For God After Losing Your Husband

by Carol W. Cornish

published by IVP(Inter Varsity Press)

in Paperback (978-1-844-74491-6)

Sep 2010

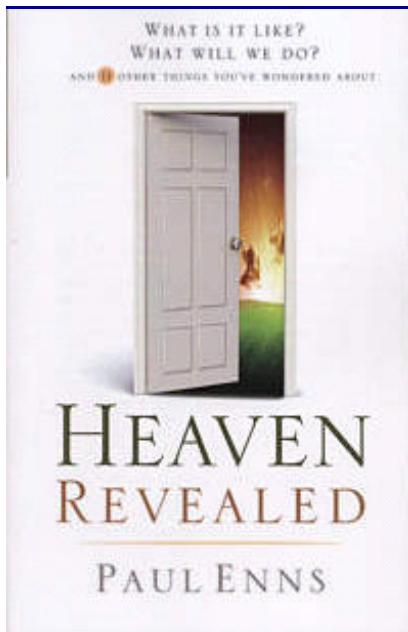
at £8.99

Carol was married to Roland for 38 years; he died just 11 months after being diagnosed with lung cancer. -

Written from the heart, this book is intended to help Christian readers to see God at work in the midst of mourning. It certainly points to comfort and hope, but I feel that anyone recently bereaved would not have the attention span to read such a 'meaty tome', and those feeling angry with God or who are wallowing in self-pity might be made to feel inadequate and guilty for not putting their trust in Him. - However there is much in the book which I found helpful – particularly the well-chosen excerpts from the book of Psalms, the examples of biblical widows, and a chapter on 'stretching forward'. The Appendix 1 'How to help a widow' has sound practical advice. -

This is, in my view, a book to read before widowhood strikes. Maybe it could be stocked in your church library as it would help congregations in dealing with the bereaved, be they widows or widowers.

Notes by [Margaret Walker](#)



Heaven Revealed

What is it Like? What Will We Do?

by Paul Ennis

published by Moody Press from Trust Media Distribution

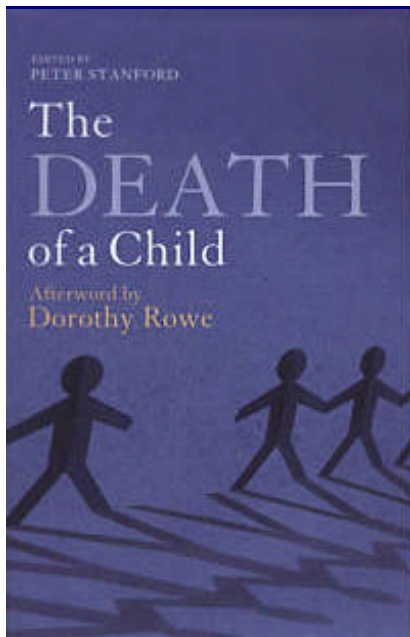
in Paperback (978-0-802-44982-5)

Apr 2011

at £8.99

Paul Ennis makes an intriguing journey into a much-misunderstood concept. One of the most important things to understand about him is that he lost his wife after a 45-year marriage, or, as he called it, a forty-five year honeymoon. This is such a tragedy, yet Paul is far from bitter. He chooses, instead, to dwell on the eternal. I have always found the subject of heaven an uncomfortable one, as most ex-Catholics, I suppose, might. I was taught to feel that I was are not good enough and that I had to earn it, whereas the truth is Heaven is open to all who believe in God. Heaven is already glimpsed at in the Bible; Elisha, Elijah, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel all peeked into Heaven. Paul explains that our bodies will be transformed into recognisable, imperishable, glorified, powerful and spiritual bodies, with no limitations. Paul also dwells on the truths about the new heaven and new earth, and adds that the new heaven will be on earth during Jesus' millennial reign. I liked this book a lot, and I would love to point it towards all those Christians who are afraid of death.

Notes by [Alice Collins](#)



The Death of a Child

Edited by Peter Stanford

published by Continuum

in Hardback (978-1-441-18303-3)

16/06/2011

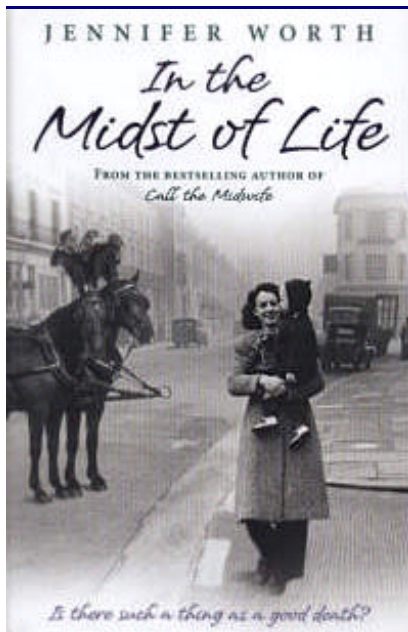
at £16.99

Twelve Mothers or Fathers have each told of the death of their child or sibling, and how that has impacted on their lives. I found comfort in reading the afterword by Dorothy Rowe a clinical psychologist and writer, before I read the sometimes heart rending stories of the bereft parents. So many different circumstances, many different ages and causes, but all tragedies in their own right. -

No parent expects to be pre-deceased by their child. Most of the contributors are writers by profession, not all. I am loathe to pick one story out from among the others for fear of seeming to denigrate others. All are written with deep love and recognition that life will never be the same again. The impact on parents and siblings is for ever.

Recognising the depth and longevity of grief by others can be supportive, and at the end of the book is a glossary of useful organisations. A proportion of the royalties raised by this book will go to the Child Bereavement Charity.

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)



In the Midst of Life

Is There Such a Thing as a Good Death?

by Jennifer Worth

published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson from Gardners Books

in Hardback (978-0-297-85958-1) 2010

at £14.99

A disturbing and thought provoking book on a subject which should be of deep concern to Christians and non-Christians alike.

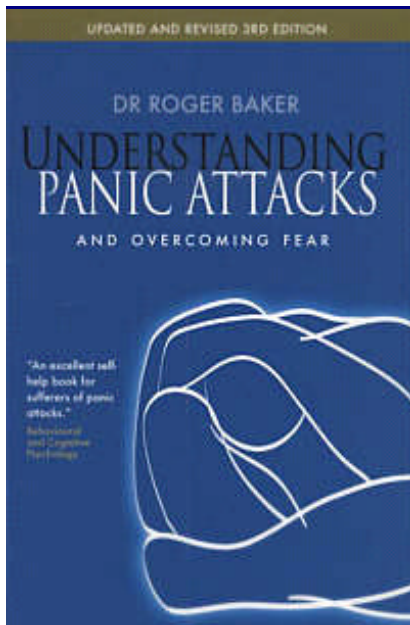
Did you know that a Doctor cannot sign a death certificate saying that you died of old age? That even a ninety-nine year old who dies in hospital will possibly suffer a resuscitation attempt and probably have an autopsy to discover the cause of death? We are not allowed to just 'wear out.' Pray that you die in a Hospice where a patient is allowed to die in peace surrounded by loving care.

Hospital death can be a violent affair, medical staff feel compelled by the fear of prosecution to prolong life at whatever cost to the patient. -

Jennifer Worth has a light touch to her writing that keeps you reading despite the scenes she describes; reminisces about cases she encountered while she was nursing, and others such as her Mother's death. She left the Nursing profession to pursue a musical and writing career but still retains a keen interest in the subject of death and dying.

The appendices at the end of the book are written by professionals, sympathetic to the purpose of this book. The suggestions for further reading are extensive and sources are given for further information and the glossary is helpful with legal and medical terms.

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)



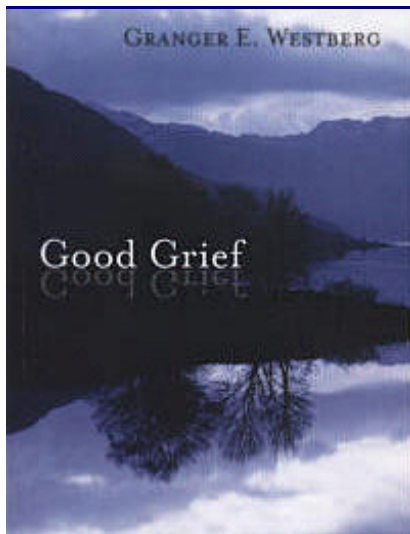
Understanding Panic Attacks and Overcoming Fear

by Roger Baker
published by Lion
in Paperback (978-0-745-95545-2) 18/02/2011
at £7.99

Agoraphobia and fear render so many prisoners in their own personhood. This 3rd edition rework is a concise and accessible guide with proven helps for all kinds of readers. Cognitive therapy, anxiety management techniques and pastoral care is well addressed in this very needful title. The myths about and root causes of panic attacks were particularly potent and with all else reflect the pooled wisdom of more than thirty years of professional practice. -

The author has extensive experience in serving patients with panic attacks and there are both medical and psychological explanations in the book. All symptoms of panic attacks are described explicitly. Possibility and hope permeate this writing. Unique, valued and redemptive!

Notes by [Johnny Douglas](#)



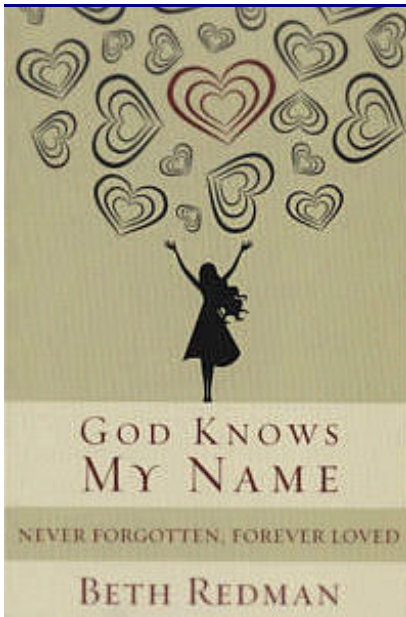
Good Grief

by Granger E Westberg
published by SPCK (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge)
in Paperback (978-0-281-06427-4) Feb 2011
at £4.99

Originally published 1962 -

It's rare for a 64 page book to be reissued as a "classic" when published less than 50 years ago, but Westberg gives a quick and robust defence for the need to grieve followed by descriptions of the 10 different stages a grieving person may go through, and enables, sometimes through humour, the mourner to know that the various emotions they face in such circumstances are totally normal.

Notes by [Paddy Beresford](#)



God Knows My Name

Never Forgotten, Forever Loved

by Beth Redman

published by Xlibris distributed by Gardners

in Paperback (978-0-781-40365-8)

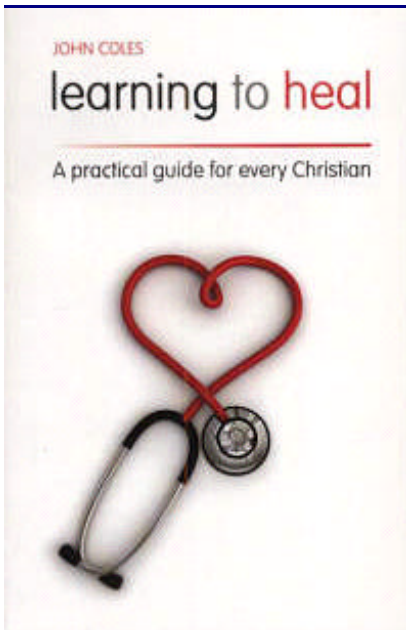
Jul 2010

at £8.99

This is a book written by someone who was abused as a child/teenager. During this time, both she and her mother were attending the local church. - The book shows us by quoting many passages from scripture such as John, Joel and Isaiah how God is always able to support us. Beth Redman shows in the book how she learnt to look forward in her life, not looking back at the problems she endured.

The book also has a study guide section if people want to study it in a group. - one thing I will say is the book seemed very much a book written for women rather than for men and women

Notes by [Barbara Stoneham](#)



Learning to Heal

A Practical Guide for Every Christian

by John Coles

published by Authentic Media

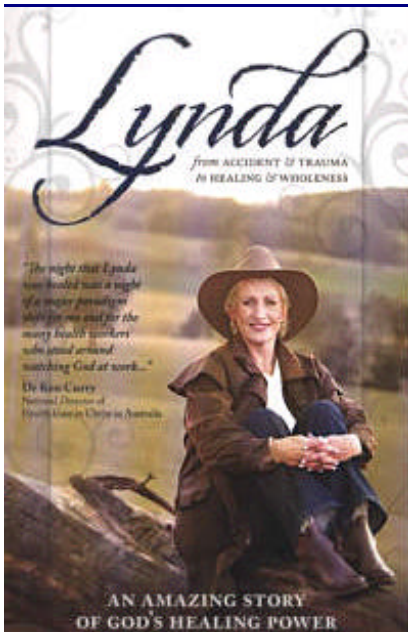
in Paperback (978-1-850-78857-7)

Aug 2010

at £8.99

This book from the Director of New Wine is a book on Healing that covers spiritual and physical healing. Using the catalyst that all are called to be like Christ and therefore all are called to minister healing it is an interesting look at what this means both for the individual and the Church from both biblical and practical considerations. Certainly it is worth study if one is involved in Christian Healing already, and if one feels called to undertake any form of praying for healing it again is worth a look, however it is nonetheless very much a charismatic look at healing ministry and I can see that perhaps for some this might make the ministry seem a little out of their area. There is still much to commend this book to those interested in the area of healing regardless of churchmanship.

Notes by [Melanie Carroll](#)



Lynda

From Accident & Trauma to Healing and Wholeness

by Lynda Scott

published by Sovereign World from Joining the Dots Distribution

in Paperback (978-1-852-40539-7)

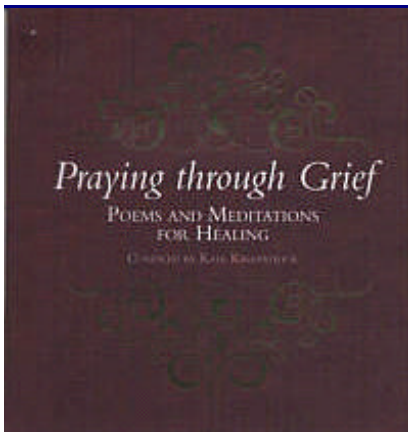
Nov 2010

at £9.99

This is an inspiring faith filled testimony to the love of God and his healing power. - Lynda has already trained as a nurse and been involved with outreach to the homeless in Sydney, Australia. She was fired up to serve Christ and went on a course at the Mission Training School despite not having a call from God to become a missionary. She was eager to join with other young people passionate about the Lord. The course involved physical Faith Trips, and it was on a badly run hike that she fell 30-35 feet into a ravine and was badly injured. This is the story of that event and the pain and suffering that followed, but it doesn't stop there! Lynda attends a Health Care in Christ conference where the speakers are Peter and Fiona Horrobin of Ellel Ministries and all present were witness to the miracle of Lynda's healing described in detail here. It was not only Lynda's life that was changed. -

Still not the end of the story or of Lynda's suffering, but as the cover shows, Lynda has come through the tragedy of losing two babies before birth and one as a cot death, to fulfilled motherhood and with her faith in a loving God intact. - A truly wonderful story.

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)



Praying Through Grief

Poems and Meditations for Healing

Compiled by Kate Kirkpatrick

published by Lion

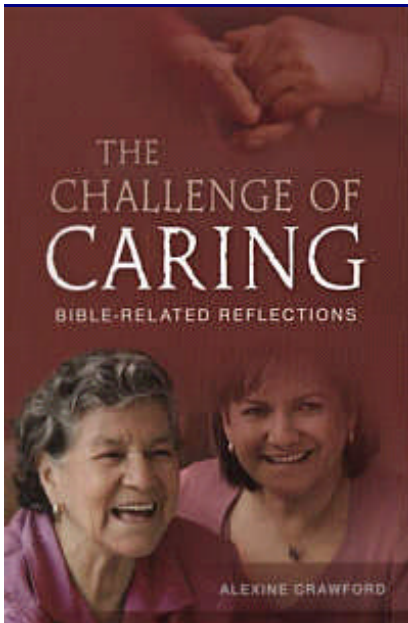
in Hardback (978-0-745-95510-0)

Sep 2010

at £6.99

I know that I would have found this book helpful during my days of mourning for my husband when he died six years ago. Not, perhaps, in the early raw days of grief when nothing at all seems to help, but later. It is subtitled - Poems and Meditations for Healing - and in the introduction the author calls it a 'companion for the grieving'. It is the sort of book that you can just dip into and each reader will find that some words speak more deeply than others. Even reading it now, though I am no longer grieving, has been a blessing and a reminder of God's faithfulness to us all in our greatest times of need.

Notes by [Jackie Rowe](#)



The Challenge of Caring

Bible Related reflections

by Alexine Crawford

published by BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship)

in Paperback (978-1-841-01748-8)

Jan 2011

at £7.99

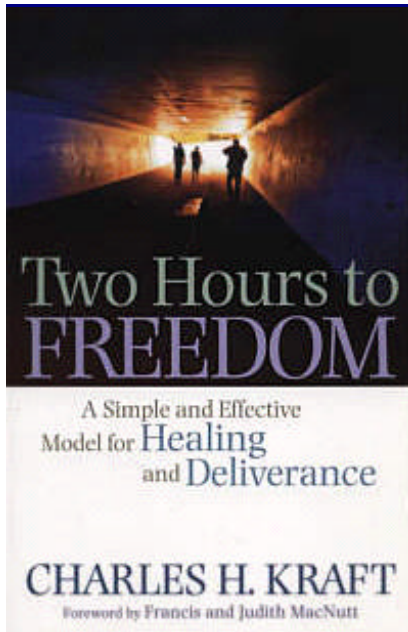
This was first published as - Never Too Old to Grow - in 2001 and at the time I wrote the following - -

Alexine Crawford has written of the intense learning experience of herself and her family as she cared for her Mother suffering senile dementia. Through bible passages that she has very obviously studied in depth, their interpretation, and anecdotes from her own and friends lives, I found great comfort and a new understanding of happenings in my own life. This left me wishing to recommend this book to a wide variety of readers, not only those who think of themselves as carers. The lessons the writer has learnt, and that she shares with us here, bring the opportunity for the healing of many of our relationships.' -

This re-publishing of a title I read ten years ago, prompted me to re-read it. I liked it then, I like it now and feel just the same about it.

Highly recommended – again!

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)



Two Hours to Freedom

A Simple and Effective Model for Healing and Deliverance

by Charles H. Kraft

published by Chosen imprint of Baker Pub from Lion

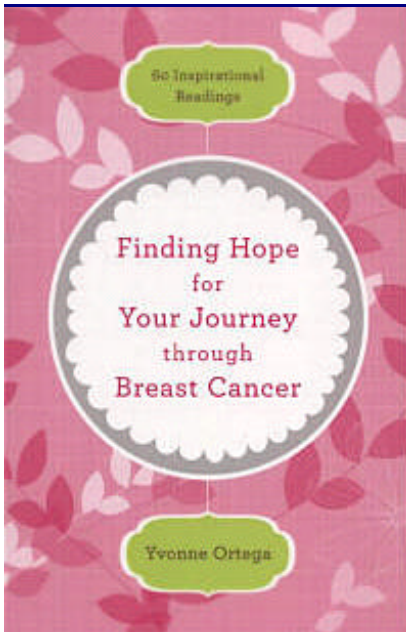
in Paperback (978-0-800-79498-9)

01/11/2010

at £7.99

This important and original book is a blend of what might be called psychological counselling and “conventional” deliverance, with the author (who has decades of professional experience, and has apparently healed many people) describing his techniques comprising what I fancy was once called “depth-psychology”, added to more usual Christian deliverance methods. Thus, he tells (with real examples, or in describing his normal approach) the stages of taking “clients” back to their early years (and intra-uterine months) – albeit in the presence of Jesus, and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit – and “depth healing” the “inner selves” (or “inner parts”, or “inner children”), who may have suffered abuse, abortion attempts, rejection, or some other mis-treatment, leading to anger and unforgiveness. This negative emotion is then the cause of spiritual, mental – or physical – problems in adult life. Constantly Kraft says that such abuse has produced the “garbage” in peoples’ inner selves which allow “rats” (demons) to have “legal rights” to gather and attach themselves, where they then prolong the clients’ misery, and prevent healing. Normally, clearing out the garbage can be done by forgiving, and only when the garbage has gone, can the rats be evicted. Time and again, Kraft says that conventional psychology therapy can only aid clients (or, just “manage” the problem, as we might say) but only depth-healing – with the power and authority of Jesus – can fully heal. The intention of the book is that “ordinary” Christians can use the techniques to heal others – but it may certainly provide insight into one’s own psychology.

Notes by [John Thomas](#)



Finding Hope For Your Journey Through Breast Cancer

60 Inspirational readings

by Yvonne Ortega

published by Revell imprint of Baker Pub from Lion

in Paperback (978-0-800-73409-1)

01/10/2010

at £7.99

I wasn't sure which reviewer to offer this book to, so ended up reading it myself, and I am so glad! -

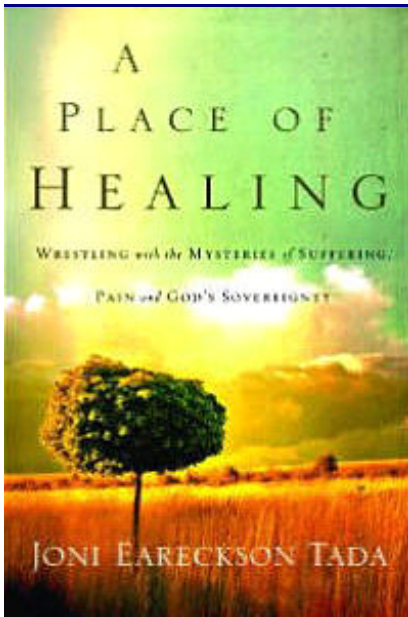
Yvonne Ortega tells of her journey through the trauma of the discovery of her tumour, through the rigours of treatment, to survival; honestly, movingly, at times heart-rendingly: but always hanging on to Hope. -

Each reading, her own reflection of what is happening to her, is quite short, with a verse of scripture from her chosen Bible reading quoted at the start and a short pertinent prayer at the end. -

In the introduction she talks about her hopes for the book. How sufferers, carers, families and friends, can all use the Bible readings as what she describes as 'Hope builders' as they learn more about what a diagnosis of breast cancer means for them. -

This is an American book, so of course, it talks about American facilities, but don't be put off. This is a very special book, wherever you live.

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)



A Place of Healing

Wrestling With the Mysteries of Suffering, Pain and God's Sovereignty

by Joni Eareckson Tada

published by Xlibris distributed by Gardners

in Paperback (978-1-434-70206-7)

28/09/2010

at £9.99

Joni has written this book at a time of suffering continual and excruciating pain, not to evoke sympathy from us, but to teach us that through suffering we can serve Christ by our very existence. By telling stories about herself and her friends, those who help her day by day, and those she knows from contacts worldwide as well as in her home country, she works through a series of chapters asking questions such as What benefit is there to my pain?: How can I go on like this? How can I bring him glory? And, How do I regain my perspective? These show the agonies of mind that she has been forced to address, yet she can also write chapters entitled Suffering - and the harvest: and, Thank you God for this wheelchair. - Such a positive book. Joni has found out the hard way, that praising God at all times – whether she feels like it or not – is the key to winning through the worst of times. Through her severe disability, with over forty years in a wheelchair, unable to do what most of us take for granted, she has been blessed with a ministry which reaches out to many many people, and her faith shines through to benefit all of us. A very worthwhile and surprisingly happy book to read. - - If you look at the Joni and Friends website, you can access their Wheels for the World charity.

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)