

IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDIES

The qualitative findings of these studies^{2,3,4} have implications for religious and health professionals. The changing identities of miscarriage and stillbirth hinge on technicalities and organisational factors which do not necessarily reflect personal experience. The invisibility of miscarriage and stillbirth in liturgical texts means that bereaved parents slip through the spiritual net which takes little account of their grief. The explanations about why in some religions there is no funeral or mourning prayers are inconclusive. It may be because of the precarious existence of the baby or fetus; another justification is that pleas to the deities for redemption are redundant: the evidence is fragmented. Religious functionaries, like medical professionals, work within male-dominated contexts. Rituals are written in or excluded from the texts but who writes the scripts, and why have pregnancy losses been so neglected?

It is not the weeks of gestation but the personal significance of the loss which determines the extent of parents' bereavement and their need to grieve. Individual needs and emotions do not necessarily fit in with changing medico-legal definitions or religious liturgy. The caring professionals, as well as the community at large, need to bear this in mind when dealing with miscarriage and stillbirth. **BC**

This article is based on a plenary given at the 5th international conference on The Social Context of Death Dying and Disposal, London, 2000.

Correspondence to the author should be sent to 26 Fairfax Road, London NW6 4HA.

References

1. Lynch T. *The Undertaking: Life studies from the dismal trade*. London: Vintage, 1998.
2. Lovell A. Death at the beginning of life. In: Field D, Hockey J, Small N (eds). *Death, Gender and Ethnicity*. London: Routledge, 1997.
3. Littlewood J, Lovell A. Debating death and negotiating life: tracing professional care for women having a miscarriage. *Proceedings 58th International Council of Psychologists, Padua, Italy, 2000*. In press.
4. Lovell A. Some questions of identity: late miscarriage, stillbirth and perinatal death. *Social Science and Medicine* 1983; **17**: 755-761.
5. Schepper-Hughes N. *Death Without Weeping*. Bognor Regis, UK: University of California Press, 1992.
6. Confidential Enquiry into Stillbirths and Deaths in Infancy (CESDI) Annual Report 1993, Part 2. London: Department of Health.
7. Johnson MP, Puddifoot JE. Miscarriage: is vividness of visual imagery a factor in the grief reaction of the partner? *British Journal of Health Psychology* 1998; **3**: 137-146.
8. Chalmers I, McIlwaine G (eds). *Perinatal Audit and Surveillance: Proceedings of the eighth study group of the Royal College of*

Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG). London: RCOG, 1980.

9. Hutchon DJR. Understanding miscarriage or insensitive abortion: time for more defined terminology? *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* 1996; **179**(2): 397-398.

10. Durkheim E. *The Rules of Sociological Method*. Glencoe, Scotland: The Free Press, 1950.

11. Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society (SANDS). *Pregnancy Loss and the Death of a Baby: Guidelines for professionals*. London: SANDS, 1995.

12. Thomas J. *Supporting Parents When a Baby Dies Before or Soon After Birth*. Buckinghamshire, UK: Mrs M Brown, 1990.

13. Kohner N. A Dignified Ending: Recommendations for good practice in the disposal of the bodies and remains of babies born dead before the age of legal viability. London: SANDS, 1992.

14. Polkinghorne J. Review of the Guidance on the Research Use of Fetuses and Fetal Materials. Command 762. London: HMSO, 1989.

15. Disposal of the previable fetus. Editorial. *Lancet* 1988; **2**: 611-612.

16. Davies H. Early pregnancy loss – fetal

disposal. Unpublished paper presented at National Childbirth Trust Conference, 1984, London.

17. Moulder C. *Pregnancy Loss: Perspectives and issues in care*. London: Macmillan, 1998.

18. Lake M, Johnson T, Knuppel R. Evaluation of a perinatal grief support team. *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* 1987; **157**: 1203-1206.

19. Rajan L, Oakley A. No pills for heartache: the importance of social support for women who suffer pregnancy loss. *Journal of Reproductive and Infant Psychology* 1993; **11**:75-87.

20. Parkes CM, Laungani P, Young B (eds). *Death and Bereavement Across Cultures*. London: Routledge, 1997.

21. Klass D, Silverman PR, Nickman SL (eds). *Continuing Bonds: New understanding of grief*. Washington/London: Taylor and Francis, 1996.

22. Gunaratnam Y. Culture is not enough: a critique of multi-culturalism in palliative care. In: Field D, Hockey J, Small N (eds). *Death, Gender and Ethnicity*. London: Routledge, 1997.

23. Khoei I. *Articles of Islam Acts*. Pakistan: Islamic Seminary Publications, 1991.

BOOK REVIEW

LAST RITES

The work of the modern funeral director

Glennys Howarth

Amityville, New York: Baywood Publishing Company, 1996, \$42.95 hb, 224pp. ISBN 0 895 03134 5

In *Last Rites* Glennys Howarth provides us with an 'ethnographic snapshot' of the funeral industry based on a year of observations and interviews with staff and others associated with a small, family-owned funeral company in the East End of London. It is probably the most comprehensive account of modern undertaking practice, or to use her term, 'deathwork', that has ever been written. Using a method known as dramaturgical analysis in which 'social life is seen as analogous to the theatre', Howarth explores in minute detail the social world of funeral directors as they manage the 'theatrical production' of the funeral.

Howarth begins with a broad historical and sociological analysis of the funeral ritual and a meticulous account of the day-to-day workings of the funeral company chosen for the study. She covers every facet of the work from the physical handling of dead bodies, the legal and bureaucratic procedures, to dealing with grief-stricken relatives. The stigma associated with this work and the defences that staff develop to cope with the psychological onslaught of repeated exposure to death are also discussed.

This is a fascinating book which illuminates a subject that continues to be a source of mystery, fear and suspicion. Howarth has left no historical, sociological nor psychological stone unturned. However, there is an air of cynicism about the book that I found disappointing. Having worked alongside funeral directors for seven years as a

social worker in an Australian funeral company (which had its origins in England) I felt that Howarth's portrayal of funeral directors as 'experts at making a drama out of crisis' who 'aspire to theatrical presentation' was rather unfair. Death is by its very nature, dramatic and disturbing – the drama is not necessarily manufactured. Rather than 'deathworkers', most funeral directors would see themselves as 'lifeworkers' serving the living – the bereaved who are left behind after a death – offering competent and efficient care and safe passage through an often overwhelming, traumatic and unfamiliar event.

As for the claim that funeral directors deliberately humanise the corpse through embalming and cosmetics, I have seen the enormous benefit and comfort that the bandaging of a severely damaged head or the softening of extreme discolouration through decomposition can bring to the bereaved. Rather than seeing this as a pseudo-professional role which usurps traditional family involvement, I see this intervention as necessary and humane. Although the study is based on one small English funeral company, I also think that Howarth could have said more about the enormous contribution that funeral directors have made throughout the world over the past two decades in bereavement support and community education. *Last Rites* is nonetheless a book that all those concerned with death, bereavement and ritual will value and find useful as a basis for discussion of these sensitive issues. **BC**

Irene Renzenbrink

Director, Development of Hospice Bereavement Services

when more advanced counselling skills are needed, requires further consideration (quite apart from the question 'what is a counsellor?')

The following quote from Riches and Dawson (core list) sums up what, above all else, I would like readers to take from their reading of these books:

the model of professional support we offer sees the 'practitioner' as an explorer and companion rather than an expert. To be sure, some of the landscape the bereaved...inhabits may seem familiar to us, and we may think the maps we already possess might help in guiding them through this territory. But it is *their* journey, not ours, that has to be travelled. **BC**

My thanks to social workers and bereavement service volunteers at St Christopher's Hospice, for some of the suggestions in this list.

CORE LIST

***Abrams R.** When Parents Die: Learning to live with the loss of a parent, 2nd edn. London: Routledge, 1999, £12.99. 0 41520 066 0.

Danbury H. Bereavement Counselling Effectiveness: A client-opinion study. Aldershot, UK: Avebury, 1996, £41.00. 1 85972 292 X.

***Dickenson D, Johnson M, Katz JS (eds).** Death, Dying and Bereavement, 2nd edn. London: Sage, 2000, £16.99. 0 76196 857 1.

Doka KJ. Disenfranchised Grief: Recognising and treating hidden sorrow. San Francisco, USA: Jossey-Bass, 1999, £22.00. 0 78794 376 2.

Ford JK, Merriman P. The Gentle Art of Listening: Counselling skills for volunteers. London: Bedford Square Press, 1990, £7.95. 0 71991 283 0.

***Ironside V.** You'll Get Over It: The rage of bereavement. London: Penguin, 1997, £7.99. 0140236082.

***Klass D, Silverman PR, Nickman SL (eds).** Continuing Bonds: New understandings of grief. Philadelphia, USA: Taylor & Francis, 1996, £23.99. 1 56032339 6.

***Lendrum S, Syme G.** The Gift Of Tears: A practical approach to loss and bereavement counselling. London: Tavistock/Routledge, 1992, £14.99. 0 41507 349 9.

Martin T, Doka K. Men Don't Cry – Women Do. Philadelphia, USA: Brunner/Mazel, 1999, £15.00. 0 876 30995 3.

Nelson-Jones R. Theory and Practice of Counselling and Therapy, 3rd edn. London: Cassell, 1995, £19.99. 0 82645 193 4.

***Parkes CM.** Bereavement: Studies of Grief in Adult Life, 3rd edn. London: Penguin, 1998, £8.99. 0140257543.

Parkes CM. Coping with Loss: Helping patients and their families. London: BMJ, 1998, £14.95. 0 72791 068 X.

Riches G, Dawson P. An Intimate Loneliness: Supporting bereaved parents and siblings. Buckingham, UK: Open University Press, 2000, £18.99. 0 33519 972 0.

Stroebe MS, Hansson RO, Stroebe W, Schut H. Handbook of Bereavement Research: Consequences, coping and caring. Washington, USA: American Psychological Association, 2001, price £50.50. ISBN 1 55798 736 X.

***Wallbank S.** The Empty Bed: Bereavement and the loss of love. London: Darton, Longman and Todd, 1992, £7.95. 0 23251 853 X.

Walter T. On Bereavement: The culture of grief. Buckingham, UK: Open University Press, 1999, £18.99. 0 33520 080 X.

***Wertheimer A.** A Special Scar: The experiences of people bereaved by suicide. London: Routledge, 1991, £15.99. 0 41501 763 7.

***Whitaker A.** All In The End Is Harvest: An anthology for those who grieve. London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 1991, £8.99. 0 23251 624 3.

***Woodward J.** The Lone Twin: A study in bereavement and loss. London: Free Association Books, 1997, £15.95. 1 85343 374 8.

***Worden JW.** Grief Counselling and Grief Therapy, 2nd edn. London: Routledge, 1991, £15.99. 0 41507 179 8.

***Wright B.** Sudden Death: A research base for practice. Edinburgh, UK: Churchill Livingstone, 1996, £20.00. 0 44305 459 2.

References

1. Lee C. Good Grief: Experiencing loss. London: Fourth Estate Ltd, 1994.
2. Richardson R. Talking About Bereave-

- ment. London, UK: Macdonald and Co, 1991.
3. Mooney B. Perspectives For Living: Conversations on bereavement and love. London: John Murray Ltd, 1992.
4. *Raphael B. The Anatomy of Bereavement: A handbook for the caring professions. London: Hutchinson, 1985.
5. Osterweis M, Green M, Solomon F (eds). Bereavement: Reactions, consequences and care. Washington DC, USA: National Academy Press, 1984.
6. Jacobs S. Pathologic Grief: Maladaptation to loss. Washington DC, USA: American Psychological Press, 1993.
7. Rando TA (ed). Loss and Anticipatory Grief. Lexington, USA: Heath and Company, 1986.
8. Rando TA, Kanfer FH (eds). Treatment of Complicated Mourning. Champaign, USA: Research Press Company, 1993.
9. Rando TA. Grief, Dying and Death: Clinical interventions for caregivers. Champaign, US: Research Press Company, 1984.
10. Bowlby J. A Secure Base: Clinical applications of attachment theory. London: Routledge, 1988.
11. *Jewett CL. Helping Children Cope with Separation and Loss, 2nd edn. London: Free Association Books, 1994.
12. Stroebe MS, Stroebe W, Hansson RO (eds). Handbook of Bereavement: Theory, research and intervention. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1993.

* All asterisked books are available from Cruse Bereavement Care, 126 Sheen Road, Richmond TW9 1UR, UK. crusebereavementcare.org.uk

BOOK REVIEW

BUT I DIDN'T SAY GOODBYE

Barabara Rubel

New Jersey, USA: Griefwork Center, 1999, 85pp.
\$14.95 pb. 1 89290 600 7*



Rubel has harnessed the passion of personal experience of suicide – her father 'completed' suicide while she was in labour with her triplet sons – to professional knowledge, and produced a very useful text. She aims to explore children's experience of the crisis of suicide and offer guidance on the issues they are uppermost immediately and in the longer term.

The book follows a case study format. Each chapter focuses on a stage in the aftermath of suicide and explores topics of which parent and professional alike should be aware. Rubel offers a list of questions that facilitate the child's examination of their feelings and thoughts. The language she uses is clear, simple and child-friendly. Possible responses to the prompts are

described in detail in the relevant episode of the case study, so there is plenty of reassuring guidance for the adult.

One of the strengths of Rubel's book is the way in which she highlights the volatility and intensity of children's mood states and how confusing and frightening these can be for the child. She pays particular attention to the power of anger and the way in which anger challenges and threatens the love the child may feel for the deceased person. This dilemma is neatly resolved by validating the anger and locating it within the act of suicide rather than being a characteristic of the relationship with the deceased.

The only criticism I could make is that the text does not address the complicating factors of family myth and taboo in any detail: these are often highly significant elements in a family's management of the aftermath of a suicide. It also does not consider developmental issues beyond childhood. However, these minor shadows aside, this is a handbook that many professionals and most parents of primary school age children will find an invaluable resource in understanding children's experiences and helping them to do the same. **BC**

Peta Hemmings

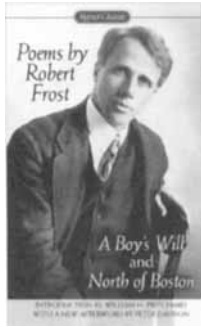
Senior Practitioner, Barnardo's Orchard Project

* Available from Barbara Rubel, Griefwork Center, PO Box 5104, Kendall Park, NJ 08824, USA. Griefworkpress@aol.com

HOME BURIAL

Robert Frost

First published in 1914. 2001 edition, New York: Signet/
New American Library, 176, £3.36. ISBN 0451527879



Robert Frost's son Elliott, the first of his six children, died at the age of three. The year was 1900: Frost was 26 and had been married for four and a half years. In response to the child's death Frost's wife entered into a deep, persisting despair. Jeffrey Myers¹, in his biography of Frost, writes 'Luxuriating in her grief, alternating between glowering silence and wounding accusations of selfishness and neglect, she opposed him [Frost] with her stillness and her sharp retorts, and neither cared nor understood how he felt. Instead of consoling each other, the Frosts exacerbated each other's misery'.

Later, 14 years after his son's death, Frost published a long narrative poem, 'Home Burial', dramatising a searing confrontation between bereaved parents. Frost claimed that the poem was based on his observations of acquaintances whose marriage foundered after the death of their child. Without question it also was based on his own experience.

The poem begins with the mother staring out of a window on a narrow staircase. Against his

wife's wishes the father insists on seeing what his wife is looking at and realises that from the window she can see the grave of their infant son. The father then pleads for his wife to accept that he too is grieved, but she rejects him:

If you had any feelings, you that dug
with your own hand – how could you? – his
little grave;
I saw you from that very window there,
... I thought, Who is that man? I didn't know you.'

The mother is now at the door but her husband, in his overbearing way, pleads that she not go:

There, you have said it all and you feel better.
You won't go now. You're crying. Close the door.

And when he realises that a neighbour may witness their quarrel, 'Amy! There's someone coming down the road!' But that her husband should be worried about a neighbour at a time like this is more than the mother can bear. She leaves, even as her husband blusters that he will follow and bring her back.

This is, of course, fiction, its action heightened and condensed beyond anything real life is likely to provide. Nevertheless, it is based on close observation and self-observation and captures much that can become problematic in the marriage of bereaved parents. The mother and father, though each grief-stricken, deal with their grief differently. Perhaps just because each is under stress, neither has the energy to suspend his or her own view and understand the other's. Each is, in consequence, alone, alienated from the other.

The mother yearns to protect her child from hurt. In her eyes her child was being abandoned when it was put into its grave by her husband. She sees her husband's matter-of-fact acceptance of their child's death as utterly unfeeling – almost brutal. Now, after having himself abandoned their

child, he insists that she too abandon it. Outraged, and desperate to defend the child, she holds her memory of it close to her, as she might have held the child itself, and fiercely resists her husband's intrusion.

The father deals with his grief as might many men. He puts the pain aside as best he can, and goes on. He has already done what had to be done: he has dug the grave and buried the child. To continue to be the husband and father he requires himself to be, he must be constructive and protect his wife as well as the memory of his child. He needs his wife's reliance on him. Her rejection of him leaves him doubly bereft.

Husband and wife are both angered by the other's failure to understand, sympathise, and care. The wife is appalled by her husband's ability to go about his business after having consigned their child to the ground. She is also threatened by his heavy-handed intrusiveness. The husband feels betrayed by his wife's refusal to acknowledge how devotedly he works for her and how much he does to keep their lives going. He is angry, too, because his wife seems so unrelenting in her silent criticism of him.

Frost did not include this poem in any of his many readings of his poetry; he said it was too sad. It is indeed sad, the more so because it offers no suggestion for how the couple might find their way toward each other. Yet it is among the most valued of Frost's poems, perhaps for its reminder of how much partners in marriage affect each other for good and for ill as they respond, often differently, to the vicissitudes of life and, should that most dread of events occur, to the death of a child. **BC**

Robert S. Weiss

Research Professor

I. Meyers J. Robert Frost. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1997

BOOK REVIEWS

THE MOURNING FOR DIANA

Tony Walter (ed)

Oxford, UK: Berg, 1999, 286pp. £42.00 hb,
£14.99 pb. 1 85973 2380; 1 85973 233X



Of all the books about Diana, Princess of Wales, this must be one of the most scholarly. Written by a group of academics and researchers, it considers in depth the wide range of reactions to the death of the princess and, in an

absorbing and thought-provoking way, examines the possible uniqueness of the public mourning that followed her totally unanticipated death.

Here Diana is accepted as a 'super-icton' and the reaction to her death is compared with that of other 'super-ictons' such as Evita Peron, John F Kennedy, Marilyn Munroe and Elvis Presley. The conclusion is that in the mourning for Diana there was little that was entirely new and therefore capable of starting a new trend. Mourning for the princess did not constitute a cultural revolution, but it did have consequences. Some of these relate to very practical matters, such as aspects of policing an event like Diana's funeral. Others have to do with political aspects of the situation with particular

reference to the popularity of Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, and the role and functioning of the monarchy.

However, the most interesting and useful chapters are those dealing with the public grief – the leaving of floral tributes, the signing of books of condolence, the creation of shrines, and the spiritual aspects of the people's reaction. In particular, the chapter dealing with the psychological impact on the general public is insightful and immensely valuable. The authors provide evidence that for many individuals their responses to the death and funeral were not trivial and that, for significant numbers, high levels of stress and psychological disturbance resulted. At the other end of the scale of reactions, jokes about Diana's death are consid-

ered in an illuminating analysis of the role of humour following traumatic loss.

For anyone interested in death, grief and mourning, this is a well-written, stimulating and valuable book. It will appeal most to those with an interest in the sociological aspects of these subjects. The standard of the contributions is very high throughout the book and most of the chapters contain excellent references and bibliographies for further reading. A number of poignant photographs add much to the text and the general impact of the book. Of much greater interest and appeal than the title first suggests, I recommend this book in the hope that it will enjoy the wide readership it deserves.

John Beaumont

Counsellor and Lecturer in Bereavement

WHEN A CHILD HAS BEEN MURDERED

Ways you can help the grieving parents

Bonnie Hunt Conrad

Amitywood, New York: Baywood, 1998, 152pp. \$35.95 hb. 0 89503 186 8

This book describes the pain and grief experienced by parents in the aftermath of the murder of their child. It explains in detail the many complex feelings and emotions they may feel as they try to adjust to the tragic loss of their child through the socially unacceptable crime of murder.

I expected to have to say the section on the judicial system is not relevant to this country but I was struck by the similarities between the pain and trauma felt by people on both sides of the Atlantic when dealing with the judicial system. Bonnie Hunt Conrad emphasises the importance for the family of sensitive handling by the police and the consequences for them if the police do not respond to their needs. She explains eloquently that after the trial the bereaved are only just beginning to face the reality of the murder.

I would recommend this excellent book to anyone bereaved through murder or manslaughter, not just bereaved parents. It will also be of benefit to professionals working with families who have been bereaved in this way. It is one of the best I have read dealing with this painful subject.

Rose Dixon

Training and Development Officer, SAMM

BEREAVEMENT AT WORK

A practical guide

David Charles-Edwards

London: Duckwork, 2000, 213pp. £9.95 pb. 0 715 62861 5

While there may be many books that include chapters or sections on bereavement in the workplace, this one focuses exclusively on the topic. As a management consultant and counsellor, David Charles-Edwards is well placed to write on the challenges of responding to bereavement in the context of employment. Considering that, for most of us, work takes up the lion's share of our all-too-precious time, he makes an important contribution to understanding how work performance may be affected after a death and how grieving staff can be supported in their job.

The first few chapters provide both a commercial and humanitarian argument for organisations to take bereavement seriously. Various scenarios, from an

employee dying suddenly to a death in the family of a member of staff, are evoked and the message is clear – responding appropriately to bereavement in the work context makes commercial and organisational sense.

Charles-Edwards goes on to provide an overview of the experience of bereavement and the process of grief, quoting familiar theories but contextualising them in the workplace. The last sections include a very helpful discussion of specific issues including suicide, children's grief and euthanasia.

There is no doubt that a book like this is needed to highlight the importance of thinking laterally and creatively about bereavement support. For human resources/personnel managers it will be an invaluable reference; for bereavement support workers it will provide added insight into the complex web of pressures a bereaved person may experience in what they often call the 'real' world of their work. This book, very helpfully, locates bereavement well and truly in that real world.

Peter McBride

Cruse Regional Training Manager

GUIDING YOUR CHILD THROUGH GRIEF

Mary Ann Emswiler, James Emswiler

New York: Bantam Books, 2000, 286pp. \$13.95 pb. 0 553 38025 7

This well written and touching book deserves to be in the library of any specialist service which deals with the effects of bereavement and step-parenting, but in its present form would need revision before being suitable for extensive use in Europe.

It is the result of a bereavement and subsequent remarriage of a mental health professional, Jim Emswiler, to a colleague who became the adoptive mother of three children. The personal touch, combined with scholarship and writing well-suited to the readership – parents of bereaved children – will, I think, make it a valuable resource within the USA. However, the references and information about resources relate almost entirely to that location. Also, there is an assumption of a stable community and substantial resources available to bereaved parents and their children (eg the advice on seeking out a mental health professional: the implication is that there is a wide choice and that funds will be available for this work).

The writers, while making it clear that religious beliefs, or lack of them, are the responsibility of the bereaved, and

that mental health professionals must take account of such choices, refer in the book only to Christian, Jewish and agnostic belief systems. The passages on traumatic bereavement refer only to 'small-scale' (though of course overwhelming when they happen) losses within a family context and not at all to bereavements which devastate communities and support systems.

The book reaches, in a satisfying way, its target American audience and will also be of interest to those in other countries who build libraries of material relevant to this difficult field of work. However, a future edition which perhaps explains the literature on traumatic bereavement and takes account of wider cultural issues, and resources outside the USA, would be welcome.

Jean Harris-Hendriks

Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist

BEREAVEMENT COUNSELLING

Guidelines for practitioners

Dianne McKissock, Mal McKissock

*Terrigal, NSW, Australia: The Bereavement CARE Centre, 1998, 139pp. AUST \$38.50 pb. 0 646 35786 7**

Bereavement Counselling is primarily written for people who 'already have training and experience in general counselling', people who do not have time to work through the literature on bereavement, but who immediately need information to help them with bereavement cases. The text is wonderfully clear and direct, giving detailed attention to very many aspects of bereavement and bereavement counselling. The authors' experience, insight and humanity permeate every section.

So this is not a training manual, but rather a sharply focused discussion of four aspects of bereavement support:

- The counsellor – characteristics, supervision, training and self-care
- The client – culture, family, gender, health, personality and spirituality
- Various client issues and strategies – coping with couples, children, grandparents, the disenfranchised
- Counselling grieving clients (nearly half the book) – assessment, counselling style, session structure, counselling and comparative models, particularly from Attig, McKissock, Rando and Worden

There is little on psychological theory or basic listening skills, the section on training refers to bereavement associations in Australia and many of the recommended books are not quickly

obtained in the UK, and there is no index. However, for the general counsellor, this book offers a very powerful advocacy for the particular qualities of engagement, flexibility and humanity required for bereavement counselling, and for the need to avoid 'contamination' of bereavement issues by the client's prior psychological problems. For trained volunteer bereavement counsellors, even without a general counselling background, it offers an excellent overall review emphasising the place of good sense, thoughtfulness and imagination in their work.

Peter Bowie

Bereavement Counsellor and Trainer

**Available from PO Box 584, Terrigal, NSW, Australia 2260*

DEATH DYING AND BEREAVEMENT

Donna Dickenson, Malcolm

Johnson, Jeanne Samson Katz

London: Sage Publication, 2000, 388pp, £16.99 pb, ISBN 0 761 96857 1

This book is an updated edition of a text first published in 1993 as a reader to accompany the Open University course on death and dying. There are 64 contributions, ranging from literature to first-person accounts, from poetry to research. There are thoughtful, stimulating, and often moving accounts of issues surrounding death dying and bereavement. Unlike many books on bereavement, which use personal anecdotes to excess, this attractive book uses such accounts selectively and effectively, placing them in an appropriate and helpful context. A wide range of issues is considered, including (for example) palliative care, the controversy about euthanasia, differing religious and cultural beliefs and customs, gay and lesbian bereavement, and grief in those with learning disability. The contributions, which are concise, are often extracts from articles published elsewhere but skilfully edited (although one, by Mitch Albom, seems to end rather abruptly). Most contributions also give a bibliography for further reading. A couple of typographical errors were spotted, and I would have appreciated some biographical details about the various contributors. However, these small niggles do not mar an excellent book, which is recommended as a thoughtful and useful resource for professionals, for those who are dying and their families and friends, and for the bereaved. **BC**

Martin Newman

Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist

ABSTRACTS

Parental bereavement: the crisis of meaning

Wheeler I. *Death Studies* 2001; 25(1): 51-66

For parents, the death of a child, even of an adult child, is unnatural and untimely, reversing the sequence of events. This study looks at two aspects of the search for meaning in parental bereavement — the search for cognitive mastery and the search for renewed purpose. Bereaved parents (176) answered questions about the experience of their child's death and the meaning of their lives since the death. The great majority of the parents were able to find meaning through connections with people, activities — often involved with helping others — beliefs and values, personal growth, and memories of the child.

The role of volunteers in hospice bereavement support in New Zealand

Payne S. *Palliative Medicine* 2001; 15(2): 107-115

The purpose of this study was to assess the role of hospice bereavement volunteers in New Zealand. The

support offered face-to-face counselling, befriending, home visiting, telephone contact, social outings and loan of self-help books and videos. A large part of the article is concerned with the methodology, but it is clear from the response to interviews and questionnaires that, despite some negative aspects, the volunteers, who reported being highly motivated to help others, overwhelmingly regarded their work as valuable and enjoyable. The author remarks, however, that they 'appeared to be largely unaware of the need for specialist training, or supervision, which raises issues about the quality of services provided.'

Assumptive world views and the grief reactions of parents of murdered children

Wickie SK, Marwit SJ. *Omega* 2000-2001; 42(2): 101-113

Child death is perhaps the most incomprehensible of all deaths, and when the child has been murdered the impact upon the parents is particularly devastating. The authors of this article explore the effect such a tragedy is likely to have upon parents: intense anger, the transformation of the world -

in their view - into a place which is no longer orderly or predictable; the unfamiliar social role they may be thrown into by a lack of support from family and friends confused as to what their reaction should be. Compared to parents bereaved by accidents, parents bereaved by homicide showed more negative views of the benevolence of the world, though the survey showed no difference between the two groups with regard to the meaningfulness of the world or the worthiness of the self.

College student bereavement, scholarship, and the university: a call for university engagement

Balk DE. *Death Studies* 2001; 25(1): 67-84

The prevalence of bereavement among college students should impel universities to help bereaved students on their campuses. (One study indicates that 22%-30% of college undergraduates in the USA are in the first 12 months of grieving the death of a family member or a friend.) Clearly, this can have serious consequences, both academic and emotional. In this thoughtful and well-reasoned article, the author argues that universities, which should be

communities of care and compassion, could do much to help bereaved students. He sets out a model for a university-based bereavement centre which would provide accessible, sensitive and effective outlets to help in grief recovery, such as training peer helpers, providing social support groups, and raising consciousness about bereavement.

A woman of many abilities

Sanders C. *Illness, Crisis and Loss* 2001; 9(1): 50-54

This is the second of two articles from an issue of *Illness, Crisis & Loss* devoted to the personal experiences of women leaders in thanatology. (Silverman's article, 'It makes a difference', was reviewed in the last issue.)

Catherine Sanders lost her seventeen-year-old son in a freak accident. Profound grief led her to explore the psychological basis for the continuing agony of loss. As a result of her research she believes that there are many different types of grief, and that there is no prescribed length for grieving. On the basis of her findings she devised a Grief Experience Inventory which is now widely used. **BC**

Sheila Hodges and John Bush

INDEX TO BEREAVEMENT CARE

Volume 20 Spring 2001-Winter 2001

Key: A = article No 1 = Spring issue
Ab = abstract No 2 = Summer issue
O = obituary No 3 = Winter issue
R = review

Adolescent parent mourning reactions associated with stillbirth or neonatal death (Ab); No 1: 16
After a terrorist attack: supporting the bereaved families (A); No 3: 35-36
Aftermath of traumatic incidents, The (A); No 1: 3-5
Agee J (R); No 1: 11
Assumptive world views and the grief reactions of parents of murdered children (Ab); No 3: 48
Baum RR (R); No 1: 15
Bendiksen R (Ab); No 1: 16
Bereavement at Work (R); No 3: 47
Bereavement Counselling (R); No 3: 47
Bergen MB (Ab); No 1: 16
Black D (R); No 1: 15
Bradbury M (R); No 2: 32
Brady D (A); No 3: 43-45
Brittain V (R); No 2: 25
Building up a bereavement library (A); No 3: 43-45
But I Didn't Say Goodbye (R); No 3: 45
Button sculpting (A); No 2: 29
Campbell S (R); No 2: 30
Changing identities of miscarriage and stillbirth (A); No 3: 37-40
Charles-Edwards D (A); No 3: 41-42
Christ GH (R); No 1: 13
College student bereavement, scholarship, and the university (Ab); No 3: 48
Companion animal death (R); No 1: 16
Conrad BH (R); No 3: 47
Cox G (R); No 1: 15
Crossley D (R); No 2: 31
David Charles-Edwards (A); No 3: 41-42
David Charles-Edwards (R); No 3: 47
Davies M (R); No 2: 31
Death, Dying and Bereavement (R); No 3: 47
Death, dying, and bereavement in relation to older individuals (Ab); No 2: 32

Death in the Family, A (R); No 1: 11
Death rites in the San Francisco gay community: cultural developments of the AIDS epidemic (Ab); No 1: 16
Dickenson D (R); No 3: 47
Dixon R (A); No 2: 21
Doka K (R); No 2: 30
Dying Game, The (R); No 2: 31
Easterling LW (Ab); No 2: 32
Emswiler J (R); No 3: 47
Emswiler MA (R); No 3: 47
Field D (Ab); No 1: 16
Figley C (R); No 1: 15
Fogarty JA (R); No 1: 13
Folkman S (Ab); No 1: 16
Forgotten Mourners, The, 2nd edn (R); No 1: 14
Franco MHP (A); No 1: 10-11
Frost R (R); No 3: 46
Fundis R (R); No 1: 15
Funeral and Memorial Service Readings, Poems and Tributes (R); No 1: 15
Gamino LA (Ab); No 2: 32
Gensch BK (Ab); No 1: 16
Gibson M (A); No 1: 3-5
Grief adjustment as influenced by funeral participation and occurrence of adverse funeral events (Ab); No 2: 32
Grief and Bereavement Center, São Paulo, Brazil, The (A); No 1: 10-11
Grief as a Family Process (R); No 2: 31
Grief reactions to the death of a spouse revisited (Ab); No 2: 32
Grieving healthcare provider, The (A); No 2: 26-29
Guiding your Child through Grief (R); No 3: 47
Harris-Hendricks J (R); No 1: 15
Harvey JH (R); No 1: 16
Healing Children's Grief (R); No 1: 13
Health care provider support and grief after perinatal loss: a qualitative study (Ab); No 1: 16
Hemmings P (A); No 1: 12
Hemmings P (A); No 2: 29
Hindmarch C (R); No 2: 31
Home Burial (R); No 3: 46
Howarth G (R); No 3: 40
International work group on death dying and bereavement (Ab); No 2: 32
It makes a difference (Ab); No 2: 32
Johnson M (R); No 3: 47
Kaplan T (R); No 1: 15
Katz JS (R); No 3: 47
Klass D (R); No 2: 31
Kraus F (A); No 1: 6-7
Last Rites (R); No 3: 40
Lovell A (A); No 3: 37-40
McKissock D (R); No 3: 47
McKissock M (R); No 3: 47
Magical Thoughts of Grieving Children, The (R); No 1: 13
Malkinson R (R); No 1: 14
Martin T (R); No 2: 30
Men Don't Cry - Women Do (R); No 2: 30
Midland D (Ab); No 1: 16
Monroe B (A); No 1: 6-7
Mourning for Diana, The (R); No 3: 46
Muddles, Puddles and Sunshine (R); No 2: 31
Never too Young to Know (R); No 1: 13
Older people's attitudes towards death in England (Ab); No 1: 16
On the Death of a Child: 2nd edn (R); No 2: 31
Papadatou D (A); No 2: 26-29
Papadatou D (Ab); No 2: 32
Parental bereavement: the crisis of meaning (Ab); No 3: 48
Parkes CM (A); No 2: 19-21
Parkes CM (A); No 3: 35-36
Perspectives on Loss (R); No 1: 16
Proposed model of health professionals' grieving process, A (Ab); No 2: 32
Putting the child in the frame (A); No 1: 12
Representations of Death (R); No 2: 32
Researching the bereaved: an investigator's experience (part 2) (A); No 1: 8-9
Responding to bereavement at work (A); No 3: 41-42
Responding to the needs of schools in supporting bereaved children (A); No 1: 6-7
Richards TA (Ab); No 1: 16
Role of volunteers in hospice bereavement support in New Zealand, The (Ab); No 3: 48

SAMM - support after murder and manslaughter (A); No 2: 21
Scott S (Ab); No 2: 32
Searching the literature on bereavement - a brief guide (A); No 2: 19-21
Sewell KW (Ab); No 2: 32
Shapiro ER (R); No 2: 31
Shimshon S (R); No 1: 14
Shipman C (A); No 1: 6-7
Silverman PR (R); No 2: 30
Silverman PR (R); No 1: 13
Silverman PR (Ab); No 2: 32
Smith SC (R); No 1: 14
Spiritual, Ethical and Pastoral Aspects of Death and Bereavement (R); No 1: 15
Spiritual Lives of Bereaved Parents, The (R); No 2: 31
Sque M (A); No 1: 8-9
Stewart MF (R); No 1: 16
Stirman LS (Ab); No 2: 32
Tackling children's primitive fears during the grieving process (A); No 2: 22-25
Testament of Youth (R); No 2: 25
Traumatic and Nontraumatic Loss and Bereavement (R); No 1: 14
Traumatology of Grieving (R); No 1: 15
Turnbull G (A); No 1: 3-5
Turner M (A); No 2: 22-25
Ujda RM (Ab); No 1: 16
Welch KJ (Ab); No 1: 16
When a baby dies: a standard of care (Ab); No 1: 16
When a Child has been Murdered: Ways you can help the grieving parents (R); No 3: 47
When a Community Weeps: Case studies in group survivorship (R); No 1: 14
When Father Kills Mother: Guiding children through trauma and grief; 2nd edn (R); No 1: 15
Widower: When men are left alone (R); No 2: 30
Williams MB (R); No 1: 14
Witztum E (R); No 1: 14
Woman of many abilities, A (Ab); No 3: 48
Wrubel J (Ab); No 1: 16
Zimmer ES (R); No 1: 14 **BC**