



**Face the Future: Books 1 & 2 for seniors**  
William A M Cutting

- Onwards and Upwards, 2014, £8 inc P&P, Pb 216pp and 230pp, ISBNs 9781907509971 & 9781910197110. Available from Amazon, bookshops and [william.cutting@talktalk.net](mailto:william.cutting@talktalk.net)
- Reviewed by **Andrew Fergusson** who is over 60

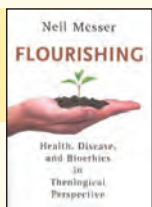
Following mission work in India, CMF member William Cutting had a wide-ranging international career with paediatric trainees, but after retirement in 1998 ‘the paediatrician metamorphosed into a concerned amateur geriatrician’ and these first two volumes of a tetralogy arise from his pastoral care for ‘seniors’, those over 60.

Described as ‘a doctor’s collection[s] of stories, biographical glimpses, jokes, poems, and practical advice with Christian devotions about health and wellbeing’, the books’ presentation suits the elderly. They are easy to hold, with big print, lots of white space, and occasional illustrations. The content is geared to older

readers: delightfully digestible, always thought provoking, and with a gentle devotional edge that would not put any senior off.

Book One reminds seniors that they ‘can inspire, apply wisdom and moral values’ and Book Two presents ‘challenges, joy and faith’. I read them while leading a weekly Bible study for a very mixed group, mostly my age or older, and I had enormous pleasure recycling some of the jokes. Their points were appreciated by the whole group.

Book Three will consider making the most of one’s own health and of the health services, and Book Four practical matters including facing dementia and preparing to finish well in this life.



**Flourishing**  
*Health, disease, and bioethics in theological perspective*  
Neil Messer

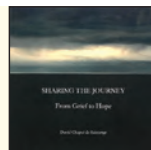
- Eerdmans, 2013, £23.99, Pb 238pp, 9780802868992
- Reviewed by **Cheryl Chin**, CMF Public Policy Researcher

There are times when I wonder what exactly I’m doing as a doctor. If we think the purpose of medicine is to defeat death, the failure rate is 100% – death comes to all of us. What should we understand by health, disease and illness? And what difference does loving and following Christ make to our understanding of these concepts? What does it mean to ‘flourish’ in light of what Jesus has achieved on the cross?

In this book, Neil Messer traces and reflects on the varying accounts of health, disease and disability to guide us into a comprehensive theological understanding of health and disease. He draws from theological giants such as Aquinas and Barth to form a

complex and nuanced perspective. ‘Health is a penultimate, not an ultimate good.’ Our ultimate end is our union with God and therefore human good such as health must be placed within the context of understanding our ultimate end.

This book has an academic tone and would appeal to the philosophically and theologically astute reader. Messer painstakingly combs through varied accounts of health and disease in order to synthesise and conclude his theses regarding health; the last two chapters are worth their weight in gold. Our understanding of these fundamental concepts, now often forgotten, have important consequences for health practice and for life practically.



**Sharing the Journey: From grief to hope**  
David Chaput de Saintonge

- PRIME, 2014, £9.95 Pb 68pp, ISBN 9780955952760
- Reviewed by **Anthony M Smith**, retired palliative care consultant and PRIME tutor

This is a book of deeply sensitive poems and photographs. David shares his experience during the five years after being diagnosed with incurable cancer until very close to the end of the path. Since publication, David has gone to be with the Lord. Selections from his photographs beautifully illuminate the story.

The poems trace David’s life through reminiscences of childhood, memories of courting and holidays in Devon and the Lake District. Throughout, the poems meditate on separation and loss, but increasingly there is confidence in God’s care and trust in the sure and certain hope of life to come.

David Chaput was a brilliant medical doctor and a deeply

spiritual Christian. After taking early retirement he became Director of Education for PRIME, the charity of which he was a founder trustee. There he continued to occupy his skills and intellect in teaching and training medical and nursing students and fellow professionals about whole person medicine.

Yet in these pages he acknowledges a sense of isolation and hopelessness at times on his own journey of weakness and dependency. In all these experiences he tells us he increasingly recognised the importance of asking the deep and difficult questions about purpose and direction. David wishes to assure us, in the words of his introduction, that we do not travel alone.



**Single mission**  
*Thriving as a single person in cross-cultural ministry*  
Dr Debbie Hawker and Rev Tim Herbert (eds)

- Condeo Press, 2013 £7.00, Pb 302pp, ISBN 9780989244039
- Reviewed by **Mary Hopper**, missionary nurse/midwife and counsellor

Here is a long-awaited resource for single missionaries and anyone working alongside them, both on the field and supporting from home. It draws upon appropriate theory and is scripturally based, but its biggest impact comes from the lived experiences of over 30 individual contributors serving around the world in a rich variety of roles and settings. I have great appreciation for their honesty in sharing often intimate details of their personal struggles with singleness. Issues regarding ministry are openly discussed, validating the role of the single person and dispelling the myth that there is something inherently wrong with them that will

be rectified once they are married. Difficulties in the area of sexuality and dealing with the assumptions and expectations of others are raised sensitively, acknowledging their significance. The highlights and lowlights of the journey from singleness to marriage, and occasionally back to singleness again, are discussed with personal examples from each leg along the way.

Useful appendices offer resources for cross-cultural marriage, dealing with abuse, and ideas for coping with loneliness, none of which are exclusive to single people. Indeed a further publication might focus on lived experiences and specific issues for married couples in cross-cultural ministry.