



### Ex-gays?

*A Longitudinal Study of Religiously Mediated Change in Sexual Orientation*  
Stanton Jones and Mark Yarhouse

- IVP Academic 2007
- £11.39 Pb 414pp
- ISBN 0 83082 846X

In the words of the authors, this book about the effectiveness of 'Ex-Gay' ministries 'catapults us into the eye of a storm'. On the one side, it is argued that attempts to change somebody's sexual orientation subvert three decades of progress towards 'accepting people for who they are'. Opponents of 're-orientation therapies' (and religion-based programmes offering the chance to explore change) believe these approaches re-stigmatise homosexuality, re-cast gay people as somehow sick or disordered, and risk untold psychological damage. They say that such therapies are unproven, unethical and that they should be proscribed.

On the other side, advocates question the validity of the whole concept of sexual orientation. They point out that our categories of homo- and heterosexual are relatively modern inventions with poor biological validation, and they cite evidence of cross-cultural and within-individual variations in sexual desire and behaviour. They highlight anecdotal narratives from people who say they have walked the journey from gay to straight, in both secular and religious contexts. Above all, they believe that people with unwanted Same Sex Attractions (SSA) have the right to choose for themselves whether they want to explore the possibility of change.

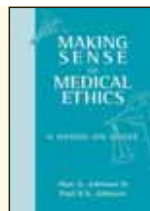
So where does the truth lie? Mark Yarhouse and Stanton Jones, two US psychology academics, have made a significant contribution to this debate. Their book is essentially a

research report from a longitudinal study of outcomes in 98 people who undertook some form of 'Ex-Gay ministry'. They find that, whilst major change happens in a relatively small proportion of subjects, more individuals can achieve substantial satisfaction in managing diminished levels of SSA, even if that means a life of celibacy. One of the most important findings was that there were few examples of psychological harm as a result of participating in the programme.

The authors recognise that, given their methodological limitations, they need to be cautious in interpreting their findings. Quite so. There are potential problems with sampling biases, reporting biases, attrition in follow-up, the handling of missing data, and debates to be had over the choice of measures. Further, whilst around 15% achieved substantial change and 23% achieved satisfaction with chastity (that is, diminished SSA but little kindling of other-sex attractions), at follow-up some 29% were still 'continuing' (with uncertain outcomes) and the remainder achieved little change. So expectations need to be modest and realistic.

Evaluating these programmes is a work in progress and it is difficult to draw hard and fast conclusions on current evidence. However, for those interested in one scholarly overview of this contentious field, this is a recommended read.

*Glynn Harrison is a consultant psychiatrist in Bristol*



### Making Sense of Medical Ethics

*A Hands-on Guide*  
Alan G Johnson and Paul R V Johnson

- Hodder Arnold 2007
- £17.99 Pb 224pp
- ISBN 0 34092 5590

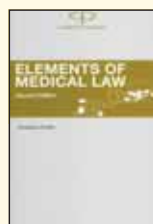
This book, written jointly by CMF's late President Alan Johnson and his son Paul, has the look and feel of a practical guide to the sometimes confusing field of medical ethics. Its simple layout, diagrams, and illustrations make complicated concepts accessible for medical students, doctors and lay people.

The authors set the scene in the first chapter and then explore the ethical theories and value systems that inform ethical principles. They discuss Beauchamp and Childress's familiar four principles in detail and untangle some of the conflicts between them, with clinical cases as examples. The

chapters on ethical pathways give the reader a tool to unravel ethical dilemmas for themselves, making this book of practical use rather than just a good explanation of ethical theory.

Some issues are mentioned a little too briefly to satisfy the reader that the basic issues have been identified, and the section on aging seems to be muddled with the preceding paragraph about medical enhancement. Nonetheless, this valuable legacy from our late President would be an excellent purchase for all medical ethics teachers and interested novices.

*Emma Hayward is a GP and ethics teacher in Leicester*



### Elements of Medical Law (2nd edition)

Charles Foster

- Clarendon Publishing 2007
- £30 Pb 175pp
- ISBN 978 1 905895 01 4

This short text provides an accessible account of a select range of complex medico-legal issues. It is a much improved second edition, revised and expanded to incorporate recent developments including the Mental Capacity Act. The first chapter examines 'legal issues before birth' and contains a useful overview of the law of genetics, fetal rights, and some of the issues arising under the HFE Act 1990 such as cloning and designer embryos. Some attention is paid to European jurisprudence, including recent case law on the protection given by the European Convention on Human Rights to the unborn child. Three chapters explore the law of consent, confidentiality and

clinical negligence. Those hoping for detailed analysis may be disappointed. A number of underlying tensions, such as that reflected in the legal distinction drawn between a child's consent and refusal, are not pursued. The final chapter considers the 'law of death' and includes a discussion of murder and euthanasia, medical manslaughter, treatment withdrawal, advance directives, resource allocation, and the use and ownership of body parts. Brevity invariably limits its nature and scope, but this book is a distinctive and welcome addition to the medical law literature.

*Wendy Hiscox is Lecturer in Medical Law at St Mary's University College*



### Miracle at Tenwek

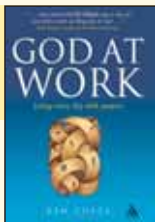
Gregg Lewis

- Discovery House Publishers 2007
- \$12.55 Pb 312pp
- ISBN 978 1 57293 222 7

**M**iracle at Tenwek chronicles the incredible life of Dr Ernie Steury, from a bashful backward farm boy to his leading and developing one of the premier mission hospitals in the world. His humility, gentleness and faithful service inspired me so much after spending a summer shadowing him as a university student that I vowed to be a missionary just like him. We served together in Kenya for eleven years and much of who I am today is a reflection of God living through Ernie's life. Ernie loved people into the kingdom, was a brilliant surgeon/diagnostician and developed a four-room clinic into a 300-bed tertiary care

hospital that now trains doctors, nurses and chaplains. His passion that no patient would ever leave the hospital without hearing the gospel resulted in four or five thousand people coming to Christ each year. Ernie embodied the characteristics of the Great Physician. The local people called him 'Mosonik'. I can still hear an elder of the tribe telling me 'We Kipsigis people know that if we go to Tenwek Hospital and just touch Mosonik...we will get better!' Ernie Steury was a medical missionary giant of the 20th century. His life changed mine. His story will change yours.

*David Stevens is CEO of CMDA in the USA*



### God at work

Living every day with purpose

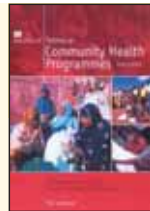
Ken Costa

- Continuum 2007
- £7.99 Pb 193pp
- ISBN 0 8264 9635 0

**K**en Costa is a banker and chairman of Alpha International. The business world is the background for this book. His claim is that the underlying issues discussed are the same for all Christians, whatever their background. I agree. The messages are relevant for all engaged in the difficult challenge of living out their Christian faith at work, including those in medical practice. *God at work* addresses the problems that confront us all – stress, disappointment, failure and making difficult decisions. There is advice on maintaining a good work-life balance and achieving spiritual renewal. Another area Ken highlights is the concept of joy in

work. I found one quote quite unforgettable: 'My work station is my worship station'. He points out that an eternal perspective on life can put the stresses and strains of a career in context. In medicine, the problems of the reconfiguration of NHS services and the MTAS fiasco are but two examples where application of this perspective would be beneficial. Christians are not taken out of the world but Jesus did pray that we may be protected from the Evil One who loves to confuse and discourage. I found this book stimulating, thought provoking and encouraging. I recommend it.

*Rodney Burnham is a consultant gastroenterologist in Romford*



### Setting Up Community Health Programmes

Ted Lankester

- Macmillan Education 2007
- £13.30 Pb 417pp
- ISBN 978 1 4050 8602 8

**W**hat is new in the third edition? First, there are nearly 100 extra pages. Also new is the large number of experts who have commented and assisted in the revision. This book is a practical manual, not a textbook. Chapters cover basic community development issues such as participatory appraisal and how to work with communities; common diseases (mostly infectious but also maternal health, nutrition, and environmental); and management of projects, people and money. The book is not comprehensive but covers 90% of the health issues in the developing world. There are no chapters on mental health

issues and on health beliefs. Maybe in the fourth edition? If only I'd had a copy when I went to Uganda to run community health, and was soon asked to become the medical superintendent of a rural mission hospital, having done my GP VTS, but with no formal management training or experience. Who should buy it? Anyone interested in community health, or who wants to know more about this neglected field; those already working abroad especially; and elective students and those on short-term trips (who can leave their copy behind).

*Nick and Kate Wooding worked in Africa and are planning to return*

### The Dawkins Delusion

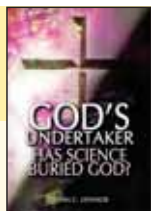
Henry Callahan

- Lulu 2007
- £12.99 Pb 224pp
- ISBN 978 1 84753 095 0

**T**his is a Christian response to Richard Dawkins' *The God Delusion*, with helpful insights which counter the Dawkins onslaught, including a short history of distinguished scientists who are also Christians, an outline of scientific method, some philosophy of science, advice on how to read the Bible properly, and quite a bit of theology. Within this he challenges many Dawkins' statements, not least: 'Who designed the designer?' There is also a chapter answering the allegation that the Bible contradicts itself. The last chapter argues that 'faith' is reasonable. There is very little science, but he does go over the Irreducible Complexity

ideas of Michael Behe. Many of the things he writes need to be said loudly, and I am glad he has done so in considerable depth and with passion. There is at times a sense of personal outrage and a belittling of Dawkins, which I feel is unhelpful. There is also a lack of clear structure – the book gives the impression of being rather rushed. This is a pity because what he says is important. The title is the same as Alister McGrath's widely read book and this will cause confusion, but if you want another critique of Dawkins then I encourage you to get it.

*Anthony Latham is a GP on the Isle of Harris, Scotland*



## God's Undertaker

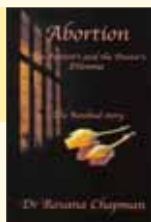
*Has Science Buried God?*  
John Lennox

- Lion Hudson 2007
- £8.99 Pb 192 pp
- ISBN 0 74595 3034

John Lennox is an Oxford lecturer in mathematics and the philosophy of science. This slim paperback is his much awaited contribution to the science-faith debate that, for many people, has become the key apologetic issue of the day. Lennox provides an excellent overview and is particularly strong on the philosophical underlay, historical background, and cosmology. His text is well referenced and packed with quotations. He provides a thorough critique of Dawkins' neo-Darwinist ideas and then introduces his own. He suggests that, like matter and energy, information is a fundamental component of our

universe. Lennox freely admits that the second half of his book is more controversial. Yet his arguments come with hefty mathematical reasoning, making this the most persuasive presentation of Intelligent Design I have read. Moreover, he rebuts the criticism that such arguments represent an unwelcome return to 'god-of-the-gaps' thinking. Lennox's style is very concise. Many readers will like this but the complexity of his language will undoubtedly be a barrier for others. Nonetheless, this work is a must for every enquirer who remains unsatisfied by Dawkins.

*Tim Hinks is a clinical research fellow in Southampton*



## Abortion

*The Patient's and the Doctor's Dilemma*  
Roxana Chapman

- Barham Press 2007
- £9.95 Pb 195pp
- ISBN 9780955188114

Dr Chapman has many years' experience as a gynaecologist in Russia, Australia and Britain. In this book, she uses a narrative approach to explore the issue of abortion.

A series of vignettes from Dr Chapman's practice lay out the various situations faced by some women, and also the dilemmas faced by their doctors. The different reasons for requesting abortion or for continuing a pregnancy are explored; the influence of culture, religion and social factors is also discussed. She looks at pregnancy after rape, fetal abnormality, sex selection and selective reduction for multiple IVF pregnancy. There are several stories about

women suffering the sequelae of abortion, including psychological distress and infertility.

This book is rather piecemeal. The many chapters each address slightly different issues but a clear sense of direction is often lacking. A number of typographical errors also distract the reader. This is neither a handbook on unplanned pregnancy consultation nor a systematic review of abortion. It is though a vivid illustration of abortion's many facets, focusing on the personal as well as the medical. As such, it cannot fail to make an impact.

*Roxana Whelan is a CMF Staffworker with students and a GP in Nottingham*



## Does God Still Do Miracles?

*An MD Examines*  
Brad Burke

- Kingsway Publications 2006
- £6.99 Pb 160pp
- ISBN 0 78144 2826

This excellent short book deserves to be widely read, not least by Christian doctors and church leaders. 'Health and wealth prosperity teaching' flourishes across the world. Bible teachers should understand what the Bible says about wealth, but medical people with pastoral hearts are needed in every congregation to unravel the 'mysteries' about healing. Dr Burke considers the distinctive features of Christ's miracles before comparing them to the apparent miracles of faith healers. He rightly focuses on Kathryn Kuhlman who has been so influential – Benny Hinn visits her grave to acquire 'anointing' from her bones! Her work was

devastatingly exposed by Dr William Nolen who volunteered as an usher for one of her miracle services to see closely what was going on. Similarly, Burke closely observed Hinn's performances, noting that patients with visible deformities were kept away from the stage. Their findings fit closely with my own investigations of Morris Cerullo and others. Burke draws on the views of well known Christian doctors and touches briefly on Lourdes. Finally, he discusses the main Bible passages healers use to justify themselves. I have very few criticisms of this book. It is readable, comprehensive and deeply compelling.

*Peter May was a GP in Southampton*



## Future Perfect?

*God, Medicine and Human Identity*  
Celia Deane-Drummond and Peter Manley Scott

- T&T Clark 2007
- £70.00 Hb 240pp
- ISBN 13 9780567030795

The Olympic authorities may ban Oscar Pistorius from competing because his carbon-fibre lower limbs give him enhanced power over athletes with the traditional two flesh-and-bone limbs. Is this a technical argument, or a deep philosophical and theological issue that begins with trying to establish exactly what it is to be human and then moves to look at whether adding technological fixes causes a radical change?

*Future Perfect?* is one of a growing list of books delving into this issue. A collection of essays, it benefits from having some chapters that are better than others. The general health warning for any reading in this

area is seeing how quickly the author slips from the possible to the most unlikely. I only got to page two of the introduction before reading 'We may be entering a new phase of human evolution'. The next paragraph contained assumptions that this new era is already here! In contrast, I enjoyed Søren Holm's dissection of poorly constructed arguments. This book is not light reading. However, if you want to be challenged to think harder about what it is to be a human being, and want to see some other good thinkers struggling with the problem, then it is a good, if expensive, foil.

*Pete Moore is a scientist and author*