

You're Teaching My Child What?
Miriam Grossman

- Regnery 2009
- £16.99 Hb 243pp
- ISBN: 978 1 59698 554 4

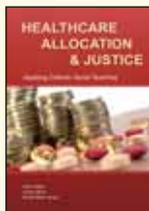
With children as young as seven being taught in class that touching their clitoris or penis gives them a nice feeling without warning that such touching can be inappropriate (or even constitute sexual abuse depending on who is doing the touching), it's not only Christian parents who are becoming concerned about what is going on in the classroom under the guise of sex education.

This book, by a US orthodox Jewish psychiatrist, is just the thing for concerned parents to read and pass to friends or their child's teacher and also get into their local libraries. It clearly

exposes, without using any religious language, the dangers of early sexualisation of young children through explicit sex education.

The book gives parents the facts they will need to be able to convince teachers and governors that the effects of sex education in the US are far from positive. It will reach people that more overtly Christian books on this theme will not, and I highly recommend it for all CMF members who have or work with or care for children.

Trevor Stammers is Programme Director in Medical Ethics and Law St Mary's University College, London



Healthcare Allocation & Justice
Applying Catholic Social Teaching
Paul Gately, Ashley Beck and David Albert Jones

- CTS (Catholic Truth Society), 2011
- £3.95 Pb 62pp
- ISBN: 978 1 86082 717 4

Around the world, demand for healthcare is growing and it is increasingly recognised that we cannot simply increase the proportion of national wealth spent on services. Difficult decisions are thus inevitable, and the aim of this pamphlet is to show how Catholic social teaching can be brought to bear on the question of allocation.

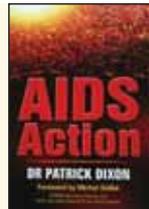
Divided into three sections, the authors first explore healthcare allocation in the context of the United Kingdom. They then set out intellectual resources for addressing the problem, before applying these to the issue.

Drawing from Catholic social teaching, the body of social principles and moral teaching articulated by the church since

the late nineteenth century, the key principles of relevance include the dignity of human persons and subsidiarity or 'neighbourliness'. Giving preference to the poor and reducing inequality receive mention, although much of the book's focus in this area is on care for the elderly, rather than tackling socioeconomic inequalities - a key aim for the NHS in recent years.

Healthcare allocation in many ways reflects our priorities as a society and is thus something the church should be engaging with. This pamphlet provides an alternative perspective for those wanting to think around the issue in more depth.

Helen Barratt is a Specialty Registrar in Public Health



AIDS Action
Patrick Dixon

- ACET International Alliance & Operation Mobilisation 2010
- Pb 218pp
- ISBN: 978 0 95475 493 8



Church Communities Confronting HIV & AIDS
Gideon Byamugisha et al

- SPCK 2010
- £12.99 Pb 110pp
- ISBN: 978 0 28106 239 3

These two books aim to challenge, encourage and enable readers to respond practically to the challenge of HIV and AIDS in their own communities and globally. The books take similar overall themes - what is HIV? How can churches and individual Christians respond to the needs for prevention, care and compassion? Dixon's book is more didactic with main themes summarised in bullet points; Gideon's is no less rigorous, but

pauses regularly for the reader to respond to the challenges raised in each chapter with personal prayer and reflection. Both raise challenges, not least in the areas of theological approaches to harm reduction, the use of condoms, and how sex and sexuality can be addressed in churches. Two scripturally based approaches to something that is still a key issue for the church.

Steve Fouch is CMF Head of Allied Professions Ministries



On My Way To Heaven
Facing Death With Christ
Mark Ashton

- 10publishing 2010
- £1.75 Pb 26pp
- ISBN: 978 1 90617 308 1

Having only sneaked into the 2006 National Student Conference by virtue of my wife still being at medical school, I was greatly encouraged by Mark Ashton's talks on Matthew - well at least by the two I managed to hear before leaving early to start a week of nights!

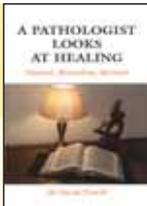
Only a couple of years later, Mark was diagnosed with metastatic cancer. This short but profound work was written in the final few months of his life, prior to his death in April 2010.

His confidence that the gospel is true pervades this book; but he's also honest about the struggles, both physical and practical. The changes in his priorities as life nears its end are

sobering, and led me to reconsider what is really important. The resurrection features heavily, not only to encourage, but also to remind us to proclaim it powerfully in our words and actions.

I not only gained encouragement in my faith as I read, but also remembered that the perspective of dying patients for whom I care may be very different from what I might expect. Though mainly aimed at Christians who are terminally ill, and those who don't yet believe, I think that any doctor caring for dying patients will learn from this book, whatever their beliefs.

Laurence Crutchlow is CMF Associate Head of Student Ministries



A Pathologist Looks At Healing *Natural, Miraculous, Spiritual*

David Powell

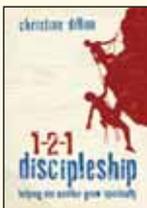
- Powell Charity Trust, 2010
- £7.50 Pb 140pp
- ISBN: 978 0 95623 361 5
- (Available from: 7 Maes Bryglass, Peniel, Carmarthen SA32 7HF)

David Powell qualified in medicine in 1952. He was awarded the MD (Commend.) Ed.1959, FRCPath 1974 and FRCP 1981. I say this to make the point that David is not a new boy to medicine. He has been around a long time and has given very careful consideration to the matters of natural, spiritual and miraculous healing. This is one of the few books that I have read twice where the second reading was more enjoyable and enlightening than the first. I read it initially in a hurry, but the author has written a thoughtful and reflective book which greatly repays the same disposition in the reader.

From his experience as a

Consultant Pathologist, he takes us through questions about 'normality', the ambiguities of prognosis, the nature of disease, the process of ageing and the business of dying. This sets the scene for an exploration of biblical, historical and contemporary healings. The book is well illustrated with quotations from his own wide reading – secular and medical, historical and contemporary. This is the most considered book I have read on this important subject, and written pastorally by a senior CMF member – in both age and experience – I warmly commend it.

Peter May is a retired GP in Southampton



1-2-1 Discipleship *Helping One Another Grow Spiritually*

Christine Dillon

- OMF Christian Focus 2009
- £5.99 Pb 158pp
- ISBN: 978 1 84550 425 0

In *1-2-1 Discipleship*, Dillon aims to explain what discipleship is and gives practical guidelines for discipling others.

The book contains numerous references to scripture and examples from Dillon's own experience. I was surprised to read a section on learning preferences that I had also come across during a General Professional Training (medical) meeting. It helpfully sets out broad general principles rather than propose any exclusive way.

The book is easy to read and designed with short chapters. There are reflection questions at the end of each chapter that allow the reader opportunity to pause and consider how the material can be applied.

1-2-1 Discipleship outlines how believers can help one another grow to be more like Jesus. Dillon hopes to pass on some of the things she has learnt to help others get started in discipling. I found the book practical, relevant and would recommend it for those hoping to encourage others to be more like Jesus.

Healthcare professionals are busy already, but the nature of personal discipleship is flexible, making it easier to fit into busy schedules. Meeting one to one with another believer can be mutually encouraging and fulfilling and this book will help you to get started.

Adrian Cheung is a Paediatric Registrar from Sydney



Better Never To Have Been *The Harm of Coming Into Existence*

David Benatar

- Oxford University Press, New York, 2006
- £39 Hb 256pp
- ISBN: 978 0 19929 642 2

This isn't a new book, but it is generating increasing discussion in university departments and elsewhere: hence this review.

The author's argument is that the only way to prevent suffering is for people not to exist, so the extinction of the human race is beneficial. There is no balance to be struck. The absence of pain is good, even if nobody enjoys that good. Absence of pleasure is not bad because if nobody exists then nobody is deprived.

Within its own terms the argument is correct, which matters, because if it gains

traction then Parliament, which currently recognises abortion as the lesser of two evils, and is exploring that stance with respect to euthanasia, might move to 'pro-death' as the principled default position.

The proper response is that a person is not simply an individual, but instead belongs within a web of relationships, so a person's birth and life can be good for others.

If you enjoy an ethical challenge, then read this book.

Malcolm Torry is Team Rector of the Parish of East Greenwich, and is married to a GP



Never Let Me Go [DVD]

Directed by Mark Romanek

Screenplay by Alex Garland

- 20th Century Fox Home Entertainment 2011
- Classification: 12
- Starring: Keira Knightley, Carey Mulligan

Based on Kazuo Ishiguro's Booker nominated 2005 novel, this film features Keira Knightley, Carey Mulligan and Andrew Garfield as Ruth, Kathy and Tommy, three young people who spend their childhood at a seemingly idyllic English boarding school. However as they grow into young adults, they find that they have to come to terms with a brutal reality – that they are actually clones who have been prepared, both physically and through social conditioning, to be living organ donors.

The film captures the existential angst of young people coming to terms with the awful reality that their sole purpose is simply to give life to others.

The most chilling aspect of the

film is the way in which they accept the inevitability of their fate apparently making no attempt to escape even as their inevitable 'completions' approach. They have been far too skilfully manipulated already to have any chance of breaking free.

As with any work that portrays a highly Utilitarian view of the value of human life we can see clearly the problems; concepts of 'duress' and 'undue influence' are dismissed out of an overarching belief that the good of society is of greater worth than an individual's life.

Steve Fouch is CMF Head of Allied Professions Ministries