

SECTION 3

A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Editor's Introduction



R*eflective Practice* has always sought to represent a diverse and global perspective. While maintaining our roots in theological reflection and the practice of ministry, we have welcomed perspectives, contributions, and dialogue from persons representing various cultures within and outside of the United States and various religious points of view. In recent years, I believe we have been reasonably successful in fostering these contextual and inter-faith perspectives, although more can be done and the challenge of finding a common language is ever before us.

In 2012, the editorial board of *Reflective Practice* decided to publish the journal online through Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada, in addition to our printed version. Most importantly, we also committed ourselves to making the online version open access, that is, free to anyone who has access to the Internet. One of the purposes of this bold decision was our desire to make the journal available to professionals around the globe, including those who do not have personal or institutional budgets that allow them to access *Reflective Practice* either via hard copy or in a membership-based electronic version. We are pleased to have globalized *Reflective Practice* in this way. We would welcome feedback from those of you who otherwise would not have access to this material.

All of us who are associated with *Reflective Practice* are also keenly aware that the International Congress of Pastoral Care and Counseling will be meeting later this year in San Francisco. The San Francisco Bay Area has been the home of *Reflective Practice* since its reformulation in 2006. We look forward to welcoming our readers from around the world to our “home” for an enriching time of conversation, learning, and fellowship. The dates are October 15-21, 2015. The theme is “Care in Our Global Village.” For further information, please see www.icpcc2015.org.

In light of the above considerations, I am pleased to share with you in this volume of *Reflective Practice* some perspectives on spiritual care around the globe. The first essay gives us a glimpse into a developing CPE program

in Jerusalem, Israel. Einat Ramon, who heads the CPE program connected to the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, authors an essay entitled “‘Loving Kindness and Truth Meet’: The Weaving Together of Caring (Love) and Law within *Marpah*.” Then, Kamal Abu-Shamsieh, a Muslim chaplain at Stanford University Medical Center and PhD student in Cultural and Historical Studies of Religion at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA, reports via an interview format on the state of Islamic chaplaincy around the world. He has been one of the key players in the promotion and development of hospital chaplaincy in Islamic countries. Kamal is a member of the editorial board of *Reflective Practice* and has also contributed a review of a book on Muslim chaplaincy later in this volume. Next, Suk Yeon Jang-Lee reports on her work as director/supervisor at the International Counseling and Coaching Center in Seoul, South Korea. She describes a series of supervision vignettes that illustrate the growing complexities of training and supervising pastoral counselors in a globalized, multicultural context. She invites us to reflect critically upon the interface between cultural identity and religious identity. Finally, Murray House and Mike Parker, who both teach at Avondale College of Higher Education in Australia, describe the college’s three-year experience with an immersion experience for ministerial students called Intercultural Service Learning. They now view intercultural experience to be an essential aspect of a complete education for women and men preparing for ministry in the 21st century. We could not agree more.

Scott Sullender,
Editor