

BOOK REVIEWS



George Fitchett and Steve Nolan, eds., *Case Studies in Spiritual Care: Healthcare Chaplaincy Assessments, Interventions and Outcomes* (London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2018), 285 pp.

This is a helpful spiritual care book for anyone providing health care across the board: for spiritual care providers—CPE students, practicing chaplains, or enthusiasts—and other clinical professionals alike. It demystifies some aspects of what happens in the therapeutic relationship between a chaplain and a patient/client and their loved ones. The book's aim is to present spiritual care visits as research material, narrated as case studies.

The book starts with case studies, followed by critical responses by care providers from various disciplines. Personally, I enjoy stories; hence, reading the book gave me multiple glimpses of stories of other chaplains' visits and experiences. All the case studies that were presented are about patients with a Christian faith or background, with one exception. They varied across age, gender, health care setting, country, and severity of illness. The case studies did not always mention the race of the chaplain, patient, or family members. As far as I could discern, only one chaplain identified as African American, and most of the chaplains, patients, and families identified as Caucasian or White. I wish there had been more examples of other races, faiths, and/or cultural identities, reflecting the diverse reality.

I find it noble that Nolan, one of the editors, was willing to show his vulnerability by presenting a case in which, as he later reflected, he might have responded to his patient differently at a particular moment. As a preceptor with CPE students, I would use this book not only to teach how to present cases and analyze critical response as part of research but also as a

lesson in humility, learning to provide care in ministry from critical reflection on other ways to engage pastoral opportunities. In summary, this book gives compelling narratives and cases on how to respond to and present spiritual needs as part of one's research.

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