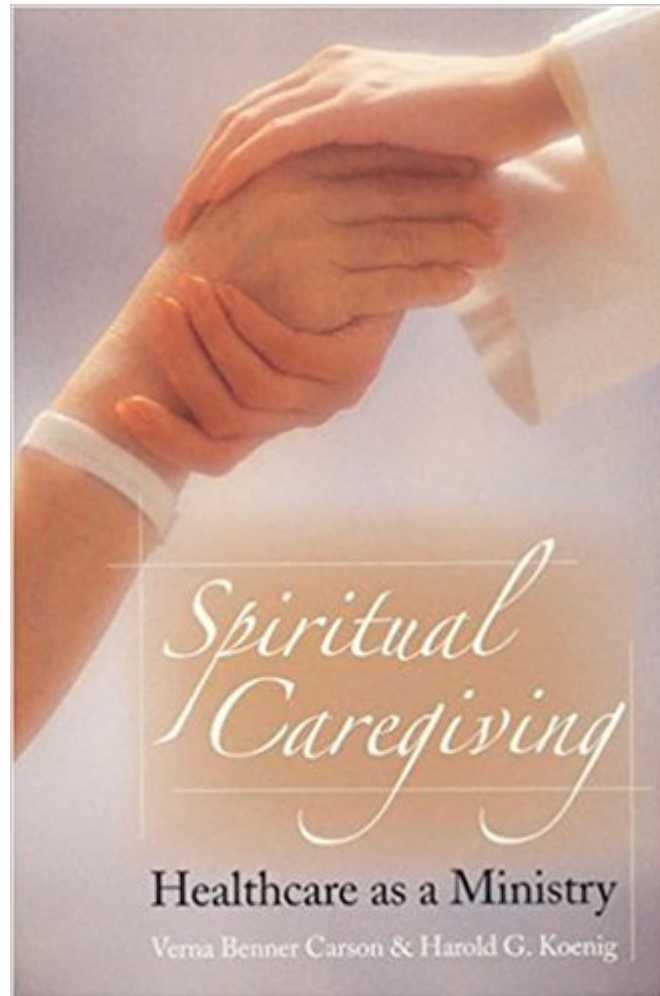




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Spiritual Caregiving: Healthcare As A Ministry



Synopsis

With today's cumbersome insurance procedures, government regulations, endless paperwork, and concerns about malpractice rates, many health care professionals are asking: "Why am I doing this? Am I making a difference to my patients? Is there a better way?" and if so, what is it?" In this book, Carson and Koenig examine the state of the health care system with the goal of providing healthcare professionals and caregivers the inspiration and practical tools to reclaim their sense of purpose. The book begins with an evaluation of the current system from the perspective of the spiritual vision that initially motivated and nourished many caregivers. The authors then pose a vision of a health care system that supports and nurtures the spirituality of patients and their families, of which some elements already exist. An overview is provided on the preparation necessary for health care professionals to offer spiritual care when there are major implications "for people with chronic illnesses, psychiatric issues, devastating injuries, and those preparing for surgery, facing death, and those living with chronic pain. Also explored are ways that health professionals and caregivers can maintain their own spiritual health even as they work to bring about healing, comfort, and solace to others. Woven throughout the book are the personal narratives of physicians, nurses, chaplains, health care educators, community resource workers, administrators, therapists, and psychologists" all from a wide range of religious traditions. Their examples inspire and assist professionals in renewing the spiritual focus of health care.

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Customer Reviews

Verna Benner Carson, PhD, is the president of C&V Senior Care Specialists, Inc, a consulting firm that provides clinical training combined with operational and marketing support for two programs she developed: "Becoming an Alzheimer's Whisperer" and "Road to Wholeness Behavioral Health." She is also a clinical nurse specialist in psychiatric mental health nursing, an associate professor at Towson University in Baltimore, Maryland, where she teaches undergraduates the importance of loving the patients that God puts in our care, and the author of eight other books, including *Spiritual Caregiving*. Harold G. Koenig, MD, is board certified in general psychiatry, geriatric psychiatry, and geriatric medicine. He is on the faculty at Duke as professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences and associate professor of medicine. Dr. Koenig is Director of Duke's Center for Spirituality, Theology and Health and has published extensively in the fields of mental health, geriatrics, and religion, with over 350 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters and close to 40 books in print or in preparation. He is also a registered nurse.

I highly recommend this book not only for those in spiritual ministry, but especially for those who are doctors, nurses, therapists, and counselors. The authors recognize the fullness of anthropology. Humans are not just physical machines. We have a spiritual component that requires nurturing and healing as we attend also to the needs of physical body. One of Carson's key statements is: "At the heart of a ministering person is seeking to hear and understand the story of the suffering person standing before us and to encourage hope in that person in developing the next chapter of the story." [p4] Why might this be important? Everyone has a story. They know where they have come from. They know where they are. But, the story of a suffering person has been interrupted and they ask, "What is to become of me?" How is the caregiver to respond? They are to take the role of companion to another's journey rather than problem solver or rescuer. Be prepared! This book is full of stories. Get this book!

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I give this book to each volunteer during orientation. It offers a clear vision in ministering to people of different backgrounds and helps you step into their spiritual pain to bring healing.

These books are for work.

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