Religion, Spirituality, and Faith in the Care of Torture Survivors

From the Field: Clinical Experiences from Two Torture Treatment Centers

Sharmin DeMoss, M.Div. Center for Survivors of Torture, Dallas, TX

Lin Piwowarczyk, MD, MPH Boston Center for Health and Human Rights

How do you view the importance of spirituality as a mediating factor in trauma healing?

What are the ways that you start a conversation about spirituality with a client?

How does spirituality fit in the reframing of the client's torture story?

Where does hope come from?

What about the everyday experience of clinicians involved with clients who do not appear to get much better. What does spirituality have to tell us about that?

Selected resources

Piwowarczyk, L. (2005) Torture and spirituality engaging the sacred in treatment. *Torture* 15(1), 1-8

Selected resources, Cont'd

From Sharmin DeMoss

- Brady, The Wisdom of Listening
- Chodron, When Things Fall Apart
- *Frankl, Man's Search for Meaning
- Henry/Henry, Reclaiming Soul in Health C are
- Kabat-Zinn, Full Catastrophe Living
- Kubler-Ross, On Death and Dying
- Lester, Hope in Pastoral Care and Counseling
- Means, Trauma and Evil
- Napier/DeMoss, Caregiver's Guide to Secondary Traumatic Stress
- Romero, Voice of the Voiceless
- Stone, Brief Pastoral Counseling
- *This is the only book I require for *all* our interns. Piwowarczyk also quotes this. Get the large print copy with room in the margins for post-it notes.
- **Ask me for revised edition after March 2010. I'm looking for readers/reviewers in November.