

# Theology of Suffering and Risk Workshop Survey Results October 2016

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**Total responses** (Pre: N=12; Post: N=10)

### Pre-Post Comparisons

*The following statements were rated on a scale of 1-4 (1=minimal; 2=fair; 3=good; 4=very good)*

#### How do you perceive your current level of insight/understanding of the Theology of Suffering?

	Pre	Post
Weighted Average	2.67	3.22
% of good and very good	59%	89%

#### How do you perceive your current level of insight/understanding of the Theology of Risk?

	Pre	Post
Weighted Average	1.92	2.56
% of good and very good	17%	56%

### Post Questions

*The following statements were rated on a scale of 1-5 (1=strongly disagree; 2=disagree; 3=neither disagree nor agree; 4=agree; 5=strongly agree).*

**Percentages of those who *agree or strongly agree* are displayed below.**

2. I had the opportunity to examine and reflect on my current Theology of Suffering.	9/10 = 90%
3. I had the opportunity to examine and reflect on my current Theology of Risk.	8/10 = 80%
4. I was able to learn about and integrate Biblical principles or suffering into my life.	8/10 = 80%
5. I was able to learn about and integrate Biblical principles of responding to risk into my life.	7/10 = 70%
6. I was able to identify remaining questions and challenges that I have as I work towards a Biblical theology of suffering.	5/10 = 50%

7. I was able to identify remaining questions or challenges that I have as I work towards a Biblical theology of risk.	6/10 = 60%
8. I am committed to pursue learning and growth in the theologies of suffering and risk.	9/10 = 90%
9. My expectations of the "PTM Pre-Conference Theology of Suffering and Risk" were met.	9/10 = 90%
10. The facilitators created an atmosphere that promoted discussion and learning.	10/10 = 100%

## Narrative Compilation

### What were your primary takeaways from this workshop (things that were most impactful or that you most remember)?

- I enjoyed the varied perspectives and looking at this subject from different angles.
- John's devotional on presence and promise. The myths attached to risk. No one way to handle risk in any given situation. Each situation has to be taken on its own merit.
- The many accounts in Acts of risk and suffering; the passage in 2 Cor. 11 that lists decades of experience with danger. Paul's emphasis on what to expect is very, very clear.
- Risk is taken for the glory of God, for the sake of the gospel and by the leading of the Holy Spirit. We are to consider our motivations when taking risks.
- The spiritual growth that can come through suffering if we keep close to Jesus every step of the way.
- If God allows hardship into our lives as believers, then he's also committed to walk through it with us.
- That biblically there are several reasons why people suffer and we cannot know for sure which one(s) is the cause.
- It was so, so good to be able to share with a variety of people of different generations and experiences to remind me that I'm not the only one who deals with these issues!

### Please give an example of how this workshop has shaped your thinking or behavior.

- It encouraged me that others are thinking about this subject and that it is worth the time to study.
- In dealing with people who may face suffering and risk, I was encouraged to be more bold with Scripture as encouragement and help.
- For several years I have been working out a theology of suffering. The theology of risk is important to the work of CURE as we offer spiritual and physical healing

in difficult places of the world and as we interact with cultural attitudes towards disability.

- It has increased my awareness that we are also to show mercy and grace to each other and ourselves when taking or not taking risks.
- I have an inner peace while facing an unknown future that will no doubt include suffering.
- I appreciated going through the scriptures ahead of time and then walking through Acts there and seeing the different ways risk was handled. I know this workshop moved me in my understanding of both suffering and risk, and I appreciate all you did to put it together. It was very well organized and flowed smoothly.
- I see it as a very important topic for our grad students to hear about before they head to the field. Also, it is helping me process the death of a colleague who died from post-op complications the weekend after the PTM conference. It also made me more aware that I need to read and study more on the topic.
- The workshop (well, I'd really call it a seminar!) gave more perspectives and resources for evaluation suffering (real suffering – or pain resulting from needless imprudence and impulsiveness) and gauging risk for a larger than personal result.

### **What suggestions do you have for how we could improve this workshop?**

- This is a subject I'm very interested in so I would have liked to spend more time on it.
- More time to process, more practical application.
- The workshop is great on theology and practical ideas about care. That is what the workshop is for. I wonder what could be added (if anything) to help organizations develop policies for risk.
- I don't think I can contribute to any improvement. Through the discussions and literature I took home I have much to think about and share. Thank you so much!
- There was much discussion, but I would have appreciated more from the facilitators on what their views were on the topics. I learn from others as I am exposed to new ideas that teachers present. Would have appreciated a bit more of that.
- I think you guys did an outstanding job of planning and presenting the content of the workshop. I particularly appreciated John Wile's devotions.
- I thought it was terrific! Best workshop I've attended in a long time.
- Hard to say. Perhaps more examples from "secular" life and history to remind us more and more of our commonality with all humanity.

### **Any other comments you would like to make?**

- Thank you all!

- Thank you for working hard to put this workshop together. I very much appreciated the way you all worked together to share.
- Sometime it would be wonderful to talk with Darlene or Karen (again!) about how CURE might benefit from the MMCT model of member care. Again, thank you for the deep generosity in sharing from your work life.
- I'm grateful I took this pre-conference workshop.
- Will there be more on these topics at the next PTM?
- Thanks. I'd recommend repeating this and am going to use materials for this in my own conversations with missionaries, our agency and supporting congregations and persons.