

mmct communiqué

The MMCT COMMUNIQUE is a periodic digest of member care resources and events delivered to your agency or personal e-mail. Click [HERE](#) to remove your address from future mailings. Click [HERE](#) to subscribe to the MMCT COMMUNIQUE or update your email address.

this month's communiqué focus: *suffering*

Dear Friends,

More than a decade ago, missionary, author and counselor Laura Mae Gardner noted that core beliefs are often tested and shattered during times of crisis. "Examining and clarifying these beliefs beforehand," she wrote, "is [necessary to establish] our foundations (character, belief systems, life) so we can endure the inevitable and unavoidable storms of life predicted by Jesus (Matt. 7:24-27). When asked why his report to Moses was so different from that of the others who spied out the land of Canaan for Moses and Israel, Caleb answered, 'I gave a report according to my convictions.' We therefore need to examine our convictions; they will be severely tested in time of crisis" (*Spiritual Factors Worksheet, 1999*)

Here, then, are some recommended resources to help you examine and clarify your beliefs about suffering before -- or perhaps after -- the crises come.

The Mobile Member Care Team



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“If it is human to suffer, then the principal theological question when we are confronted by loss and grief is not ‘Why do we suffer?’ but ‘Who suffers with us?’ In the last analysis it is the assurance that God suffers with us that is the rock on which we stand in all the turbulence of grief.” *All Our Losses, All Our Grievs*

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- Page 5: [books on suffering](#)
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*Links to resources are in **blue**...*

***Pictures** are linked too.*

Viewing Tip:

This issue of the [communiqué](#) has been formatted so you can see an entire page on your computer screen without scrolling.

For best viewing choose:

“View” > “Full Screen Mode”
in the **Adobe Reader** menu



If God is Good, Why is There So Much Evil in the World?
Tim Keller

"How are we to understand God's love for us in the midst of evil and suffering?"

Making Sense Out of Suffering
Peter Kreeft

"The answer to the problem of suffering must be someone and not something for the problem is about someone - God."

[Text Version](#)



Sovereignty, Suffering, and the Work of Missions
Steve Saint

"Why is it that we want every chapter to be good when God only promises to make everything clear in the last chapter?"

Seeing God's Gracious Hand in the Hurts Others Do to Us
Mark Talbot.

"Some explanations don't strike us true; it seems impossible that God has ordained all suffering for our good."



Suffering for the Sake of...
Joni Earekson-Tada

"God shouldn't mind that I was bitter... I was paralyzed... I didn't care how much joy was set before me; this was one cross I wasn't going to bear. "

Also by Joni Earekson-Tada:
[Theology of Suffering](#) (video), a talk given at Dallas Theological Seminary

media resources

Job: Five Sermons on Suffering John Piper

"It's one thing to experience a sudden tragedy. It's quite another to live with the misery of that tragedy for months and years."

**Joining Christ in His Sufferings** and **God's Redemption of Our Sufferings** Scott Shaum

"In order to grow into maturity we must suffer. God has designed the redemptive process to include suffering."

Also by Scott Shaum:

Born for Adversity:

Joining God in His

Purposes of Affliction

(article)

media resources

Will not the End explain

The crossed endeavor, earnest purpose foiled.

The strange bewilderment of good work spoiled.

The clinging weariness, the inward strain;

Will not the End explain?

Meanwhile He comforteth

Them that are losing patience; 'tis His way.

But none can write the words they hear Him say,

For men to read; only they know He saith

Kind words and comforteth.

Not that He doth explain

The mystery that baffleth; but a sense

Husheth the quiet heart, that far, far hence

Lieth a field set thick with golden grain,

Wetted in seedling days by many a rain;

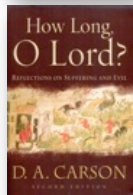
The End - it will explain.

Amy Carmichael, *Toward Jerusalem*

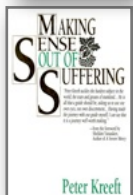
books on suffering



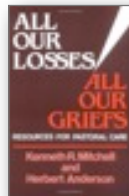
A Grace Disguised: How the Soul Grows Through Suffering by Jerry Sittser speaks from the terrible experience of an auto accident in which the author lost his wife, daughter and mother.



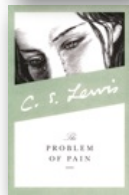
How Long, O Lord? by D.A. Carson was written to provide a Christian understanding of suffering before the suffering comes. It contains outstanding insights for those who are called to minister to others who are suffering.



Making Sense out of Suffering by Peter Kreeft notes that billions of normal lives have been touched by apparently pointless and random suffering and asks, "How does one make sense out of this pain?"



All Our Losses, All our Grievs by Mitchell and Anderson points the way to becoming a better caregiver for those who are suffering by answering three questions about grief: What is it? What are its dynamics? How can those who are suffering be helped?



The Problem with Pain by C.S. Lewis. "I am not arguing that pain is not painful," writes Lewis, "only trying to show that being made perfect through suffering is not incredible."



When God Weeps by Joni Earekson-Tada and Steve Estes offers a message of deep reliance on God--and keys to radical, life-transforming dependence on him in spite of our doubts, fears, longings, and questions in the face of suffering.

Adversity: Its Benefits

by **Patricia
Morris-Stuart**

“Our fear and the way we handle adversity touches our core beliefs about who God is and what He is willing and able to do for us,” writes Patricia Stuart in these notes from a talk given at the 2005 Cross World Family Conference.

**articles and
reflections
on suffering**

The Call to Prophetic Ministry

by **Dr. Claude Mariottini** The confessions of Jeremiah provide insight into the personal and spiritual struggles he experienced as a result of his call to the prophetic ministry.

Toward a Theology of Suffering

by **Ken Williams** Suffering is God’s plan for us but in western cultures suffering is seen as very bad, to be avoided at all costs...

The Fellowship of His Sufferings

by **Caroline Cox** There are more Christians suffering persecution in the world today than at any other time in history.

Does God Care?

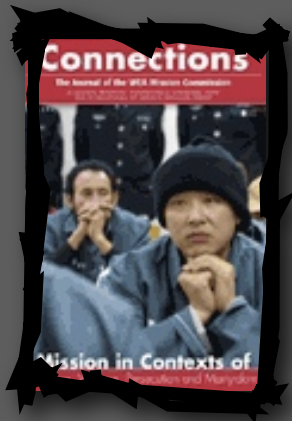
by **John Bowen** A Christian perspective on Evil and Suffering



suffering and the spread of the gospel



Desiring God Ministries offers a very large collection of free sermons, conference talks, seminar presentations, articles and downloadable e-books about suffering for the gospel on its [Resources on Suffering](#) page.



All of the articles in the July 2008 issue of **Connections**, the Journal of the World Evangelical Alliance Commission, are about **Mission in Contexts of Suffering, Violence, Persecution and Martyrdom**. It was “a difficult and painful journal issue to craft because its contents are laced with challenging, painful and discouraging realities

All of the articles in the January 2010 issue of **Mission Frontiers**, the Bulletin of the U.S. Center for World Mission, are dedicated to **Recapturing the Role of Suffering** in missions. “Suffering is an inescapable part of living in this world,” writes the editor, “and God does not spare even His most faithful servants from it.”

