

Dr. Hoy holds a clinical faculty appointment in Medical Humanities at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. A popular speaker for groups of caregiving professionals across North America, Dr. Hoy has counselled with people in grief and has worked with the professionals who care for them for nearly 30 years. Prior to going to Baylor, Bill directed the bereavement program at Pathways Volunteer Hospice in Long Beach California for more than 16 years. In addition to his university teaching schedule, he provides dozens of professional continuing education workshops and keynote addresses every year.

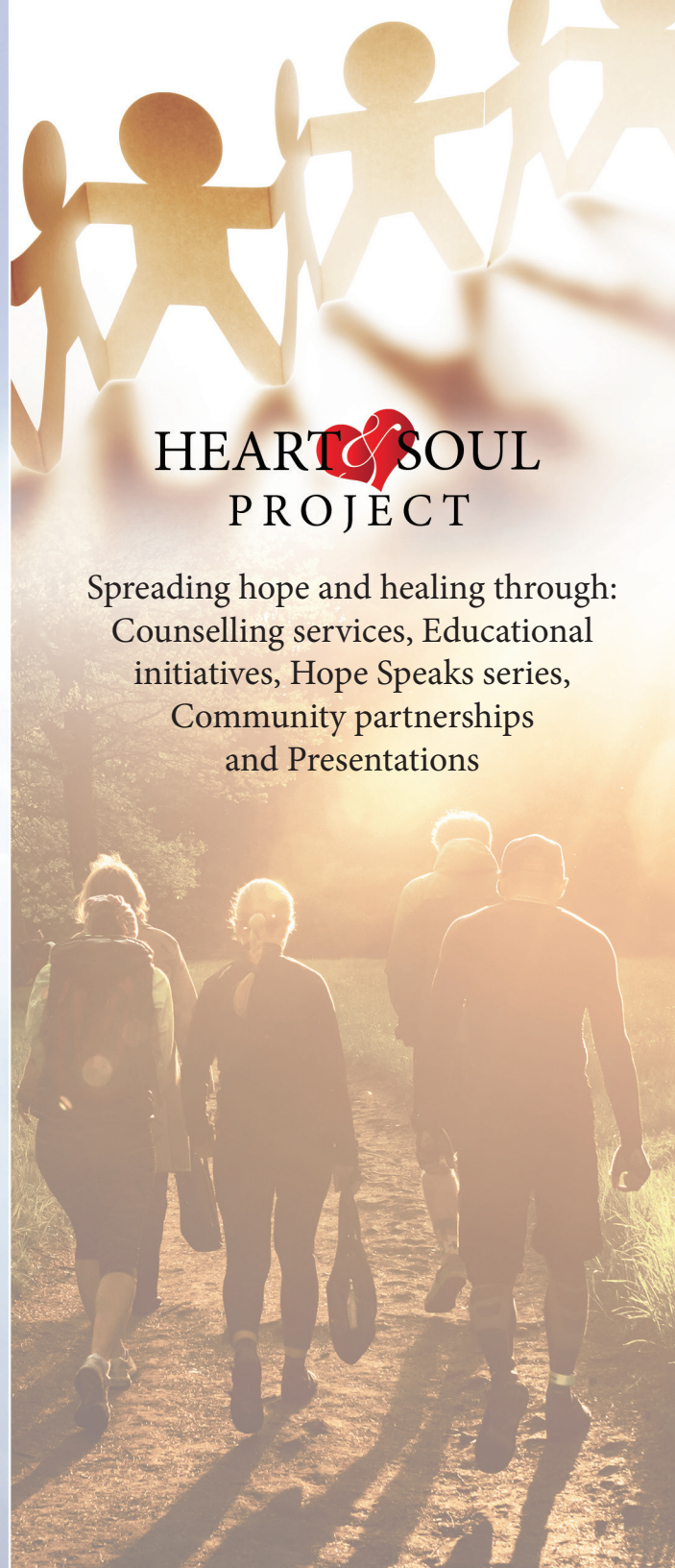


Dr. William G. (Bill) Hoy

Active in the leadership of the Association for Death Education & Counselling, Dr. Hoy holds the organization's advance practice credential, the FT (Fellow in Thanatology). Since 2013, Bill has served on the Association's board and in 2014, Bill was elected to a three-year term as the association's Treasurer.

Bill edits *GriefPerspectives*, an email newsletter read every month by more than 4,500 caregiving professionals and volunteers. His book, *Guiding People Through Grief* (Compass, 2007) is in its fourth printing and the newer volume, *Road to Emmaus* (Compass, 2008) is in its third. Along with Dr. Laura Lewis (University of Western Ontario), he co-authored the chapter "Bereavement Rituals and the Creation of Legacy" in the recently-published *Grief and Bereavement in Contemporary Society* (Routledge, 2011).

His newest book, *Do Funerals Matter? The Purposes and Practices of Death Rituals in Global Perspective* (Routledge, 2013) takes a practical anthropologist's look at the "anchors" present in funeral rituals around the world and throughout history. Additionally, he has written more than 100 journal articles and educational pamphlets for bereaved people and the professionals and volunteers who care for them.



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WHAT TO READ WHEN YOU'RE GRIEVING

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Bereavement is an often-lonely journey. Many people in grief, however, find solace in reading about other people who have made the journey—discovering strategies that work, ideas about coping, and explanations of what the terrain ahead might include.

We have prepared this list of “best books” to encourage you on the pathway. If you are looking for books to help you face your grief, you will find no better starting point than these.

How To Go On Living When Someone You Love Dies by Therese A. Rando (Bantam Doubleday, 1988). This useful volume is an excellent resource for the person in grief, explaining many of the disturbing experiences of bereavement. Though most people in early grief have difficulty concentrating to read, this book’s organization make it easy to find help fast.

The Long Goodbye by Meghan O’Rourke (Riverhead Books, 2012) is a memoir of illness, decline, death and the grief that follows. O’Rourke, a professional writer by training and occupation, chronicles her own experience with caring for her dying mother in this heartfelt, helpful book.

The Grieving Teen: A Guide for Teenagers and Their Friends by Helen Fitzgerald (Simon & Schuster, 2000). Fitzgerald has used the stories of teens to help teens, and the author’s creative numbering and cross-referencing of sections makes it easy for a teen to quickly find what he or she needs at the moment. With each of the 111 topics Fitzgerald treats, she offers a section entitled “What You Can Do” that provides practical, useful ideas for adolescents (as well as those who care for them.)

When Parents Die: A Guide for Adults by Edward Myers (Penguin, 1986). Filled with sensitive, practical help, this book explores the experiences of adult children when a parent dies. Whether a parent dies after a long, debilitating illness or suddenly in an accident, murder, or suicide, the son or daughter will find help for dealing with the shock, sadness, and guilt that accompany a parent’s death. In addition to the chapters on how we face these losses, caregiving professionals and volunteers will find the sections on settling estates, family and personal changes, and support groups to be very useful.

The Grieving Child: A Parent’s Guide by Helen Fitzgerald (Simon & Schuster, 1992). One of the most practical resources for parents and professionals alike, this book provides helpful information in a question/answer format. Fitzgerald addresses trauma situations (like explaining suicide to children), funeral attendance, developmental concepts of death, and shares a multitude of other ideas.

Sudden Money: Managing a Financial Windfall by Susan Bradley and Mary Martin (John Wiley, 2000). Unlike many books on financial management today, this one deals with both the financial and emotional aspects of receiving a large sum of money. After overviewing some principles for managing money after a “windfall,” the authors explore the unique dynamics of several different kinds of windfalls such as an inheritance, a divorce settlement, or winning the lottery. The book ends with a list of “universal do’s and don’ts” for managing a large sum of money.

The Gift of Peace by Joseph Cardinal Bernardin (Image/Doubleday, 1997). Reflecting on his life dying from pancreatic cancer, this leading figure of the Roman Catholic Church in the U.S. shares his intimate struggle of diagnosis, personal issues, and discovery of the peace his soul experiences in the latter chapter of his life.

Dying Well: The Prospect for Growth at the End of Life by Ira Byock (Riverhead, 1998). Written by a renowned hospice physician, Dying Well brings readers to the homes and bedsides of families with whom Dr. Byock has worked. He artfully tells their stories of love and reconciliation in the face of pain. His chapters on accepting care when one feels like a burden and writing one’s family story are excellent.

A Grace Disguised by Gerald L. Sittser (Zondervan, 1998). After a tragic accident took the life of the author’s wife, mother, and young daughter, he chronicles his discoveries about the true meaning of God’s grace in such epic tragedy. He concludes that when we come to the end of ourselves, we are in a place to receive the grace only God can provide.

Grievors Ask: Answers to Questions About Death and Loss by Harold Ivan Smith (AugsburgFortress, 2004). This excellent compendium of ideas, written in a convenient Q&A format, provides insights from one of North America’s best loved bereavement professionals. Harold Ivan Smith has

done a masterful job of dealing with the common issues faced by newly bereaved people, including the duration of grief, questions about God, dealing with forgiveness, and chapters specifically related to parental grief and the bereavement of a child.

How to Survive the Loss of a Child: Filling the Emptiness and Rebuilding Your Life by Catherine A. Sanders (Three Rivers Press, 1992). Following her own experience with the death of a young adult child, Dr. Sanders reflects on her understandings of bereavement and the chaos that was part of those early months. She provides compassionate, practical advice and perspective for other parents from one who “has been there.”

Widowed by Joyce Brothers (Ballantine, 1990). After an 18-month battle with cancer, Dr. Milton Brothers died, leaving his well-know psychologist wife as a widow. In this readable book, Dr. Brothers tells her story and the stories of countless others with whom she has worked. She ends the book with a laundry list of one-page practical suggestions for dealing with the widow’s new station in life.

Healing After the Suicide of a Loved One by Ann Smolin and John Guinan. (Fireside, 1993). Written especially for the surviving family members and friends of people who complete suicide, the book’s individual chapters are filled with some of the key emotional experiences of the journey to healing—denial, guilt, shame and ostracism, ambivalence, and depression. The authors also devote a chapter to what they call “Pitfalls of the Healing Process” in which they discuss the survivor’s contemplation of suicide, dealing with anniversaries, dangers in substance abuse, and the importance of maintaining physical well-being. One of the book’s more helpful contributions is the individual chapters devoted to specific kinds of suicide: parents, children, spouses, and siblings. Great referral sources round out this volume.

This article was written by William G. Hoy, a counselor widely known to bereaved people and the professionals who care for them. After more than 16 years working with bereaved people and directing the bereavement counseling program at Pathways Volunteer Hospice in Long Beach, CA, Dr. Hoy now teaches in the Medical Humanities Program at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

