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Review: The Effective Pastor

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BOOK NOTES

THE EFFECTIVE PASTOR by Robert C. Anderson

The ministry of the church in and to a world of needy, sin-entangled people always reflects the reality of continuity and change from methods that have gone before. The truth stays the same, but ways we communicate and apply that "once-for-all" truth will and must change in order to accomplish God's work effectively. Seeing the current lack in up-to-date works on the whole pastoral task, Robert Anderson, a seminary professor and Baptist pastor, has sought to fill the void with a text that will helpfully and realistically point out and portray the shepherd's role as it is in the latter part of the twentieth century. Anderson gives the reader an exciting, exceedingly balanced, and practical picture. Included are insightful discussions of the pastor's character, personal life, family and relationships (helpful in overcoming hurtful perspectives of the past), ethics, duties in both ministerial and administrative roles, and so forth. Indicative of Anderson's desire to show the possibilities for the pastorate as it is now is his discussion of ways to use available electronic and computer programs to best advantage. In all, he has provided pastors and those preparing for the pastorate a text that ought to be bought and read thoroughly. (Moody Press, 1985, 378 pp., \$14.95)

■ John D. Morrison

A SECRET HELL: SURVIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC by Claire Costales and Priscilla Barack

This is a well-organized and very readable approach to a problem the authors call "co-alcoholism." A co-alcoholic might be the spouse, child, parent, or sibling of an alcoholic. Because of various emotional, psychological, and interpersonal dynamics, the co-alcoholic actually feels responsible in some way for the alcoholic's problem. Therefore, the co-alcoholic will allow himself to be manipulated, deceived, and used by the alcoholic in order to "survive" his situation. Co-alcoholics usually experience the same denial and low self-esteem as the alcoholic. They do not realize that by excusing and covering for their alcoholic, they are actually

perpetuating their torment. The authors make the point that treatment for the co-alcoholic is as important as treatment for the alcoholic, in order to achieve full recovery. If you have an alcoholic in your life, you will benefit from this book. (Regal Books, 1984, 138 pp., \$4.95)

■ Mike Kachura

DYING FOR A DRINK: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ALCOHOLISM by Anderson Spickard, M.D., and Barbara R. Thompson

This much needed book addresses the problem of alcoholism and alcoholic treatment from a perspective that is clinically sound and consistent with biblical Christianity. The views presented are not based on opinions and whims, but on documented clinical research and experience. Thus the material is convincing, authoritative, and enlightening. Chapter 13 presents five myths of addiction that perpetuate the alcoholic's problem if not identified and corrected. The authors also address the important controversial issue of whether or not alcoholism should be considered a disease or simply a sin problem (pp. 134-135). Whether or not you agree with their reasoning and conclusions, you will find that their opinions deserve consideration. This

book is essential reading for pastors, laymen, or professional counselors who work with alcoholics. (Word Publishing Company, 1985, 201 pp., \$12.95)

■ M.K.

BELOVED ALCOHOLIC: WHAT TO DO WHEN A FAMILY MEMBER DRINKS by Janet Ohlemacher

This book is primarily a subjective personal account of the author's life-long struggle to help her alcoholic mother. She details childhood memories and impressions and provides a testimony of how God worked in her life to help her gain proper perspective on herself, her family, and particularly her mother, over the years. This is not a magic fairy tale with a happy, predictable ending, but an account of personal agony and spiritual insight. The author shares how she and her family managed through numerous alcoholic treatment programs, counseling processes, and alcoholic family support groups. Perhaps the greatest strength is the way she learns to trust God completely, even when His answers to prayer do not equal her expectations. This is easy, worthwhile reading for the person struggling to cope with an alcoholic family member. (Zondervan, 1984, 93 pp., \$4.95)

■ M.K.

Suggested reading if one you love is an alcoholic:

Wine: The Biblical Imperative: Total Abstinence, by Robert P. Teachout (Richbarry Press). Teachout relates the astounding statistics of alcohol abuse and gives sound scriptural reasons why Christians should totally abstain from alcohol.

Getting Them Sober, by Toby Rice Drews (Bridge Publishers). Basic reading for adult children of alcoholics.

It Will Never Happen to Me, by Claudia Black (MAC Publishing). A Ph.D. writes about the children of alcoholics and the long-term and often disastrous effects of growing up with an alcoholic.

Guide to Recovery: A Book for Adult Children of Alcoholics, by Julie Bowden and Herbert Gravitz (Learning Publications, Inc.) Marriage counselor Julie Bowden and psychologist Herbert Gravitz write about the steps adult children can take to heal the wounds caused by an alcoholic parent.

Now What Do I Do? by Ronald Rehrer (Concordia Publishing). A book about alcohol for young people.

God is for the Alcoholic, by Jerry G. Dunn (Moody Press). God wants the alcoholic to win over his addiction.