ABSTRACTS

Conjugal bereavement and well-being of elderly men and women: a preliminary study

Nieboer AP, Lindenberg SM, Ormel J. *Omega* 1998-9; **38**(2): 113-142

Considerable variation in the effects of the loss of a spouse have been reported, and there is a lack of agreement regarding the effects on well-being of gender and bereavement. The objective of this article was to examine time-differences in the consequences of bereavement for married or widowed men and women in late life.

Analyses showed that bereaved participants scored significantly lower on well-being than those who were still married, and a clear gender effect was found in connection with the length of the bereavement, men scoring much lower than women when they were two years bereaved, but no lower when the bereavement had lasted for longer than this period. The methodology is painstakingly described, but the article itself is repetitive and rather confusingly written, while offering few fresh insights into the problem discussed.

Spiritual beliefs and the search for meaning among older adults following partner loss

Golsworthy R, Coyle A. *Mortality* 1999; **4**(1): 21-40

This study explores the role which spiritual beliefs played in the reactions of a small number of older people to the death of a partner. Nine convinced Christians, all over 50 years of age, took part in the research, which explored their sense of loss within the context of their faith.

Discussions ranged over the degree of support that they received, both spiritual and practical; ongoing relationship with the deceased; the likelihood of meeting the dead partner in an afterlife; the creation of an explanation for the death; and future prospects. The conviction of all the participants that they were supported in their loss by a supreme being helped them to find meaning in their lives. Despite understandable periods when life without their partner seemed very bleak, optimism and hope even in the face of despair were apparent among all the participants, and their religious convictions seemed to enable them to face the future with great self-reliance and internal control.

Complicated bereavement and post-traumatic stress disorder following fatal car crashes: recommendations for death notification practice

Stewart AE. *Death Studies* 1999; **23**(4): 289-321

Because car crash injuries remain a leading cause of death, it is likely that many people will experience the sudden loss of a relative over the course of their lifetime. Between 1990 and 1996, 289,928 persons died from such injuries in the United States. This article reviews how four characteristics of car crash deaths – suddenness, untimeliness, preventability, and violent, mutilating injuries – may contribute to complicated bereavement syndromes or to the development of post-traumatic stress disorder.

At least 75% of all the deaths involved one or more of these characteristics. Recommendations for telling the survivors of their loss are discussed in detail, providing sensible guidelines. Suggestions for further research are also provided, since this is an area which has been neglected, and which is of great importance both to the survivors and to those who have to carry out the death notifications.

Chronic sorrow: the experiences of bereaved individuals

Eakes GG, Burke ML, Hainsworth MA. *Illness, Crisis & Loss* 1999; **7**(2): 172-82

This article, the authors state, describes the first research that has been carried out into the nature of chronic sorrow based on the experience of a single loss episode, rather than on an ongoing loss situation. The authors conducted interviews with 34 individuals who had experienced a bereavement – of a child, a spouse, or a family member – not less than two years earlier. All but one of these individuals experienced chronic sorrow, though the periodic nature of their grief allowed for periods of happiness. The article describes the various strategies – action-orientated, cognitive and interpersonal – which the bereaved individuals used to cope with their grieving. The authors believe that their findings bring into question the expectation inherent in traditional grief theories that the grieving process will always, at some point, come to an end.

Shelia Hodges and John Bush

INDEX TO BEREAVEMENT CARE

Volume 18 Spring 1999-Winter 1999

Key: A = article, Ab = abstract, R = review; No.1 = Spring issue, No.2 = Summer issue, No.3 = Winter issue

Adam L (R); No 2: 28
AIDS-Related Loss (R); No 2: 31
Archer J (R); No 2: 30
Art of remembering, The (A); No 3: 35-37
Ashfield J (R); No 2: 31

Bereavement Information Pack (R); No 1: 12-13
Bereavement Counselling Effectiveness (R); No 1: 14
Bereavement recovery following the Rwandan genocide (A); No 3: 40-42
Bird of My Loving (R); No 2: 31
Black D (R); No 3: 46
Blank JW (R); No 3: 47
Bonanno G (A); No 2: 19-22
Bowman T (A); No 1: 3-4
Bracken P (R); No 2: 29

Center for Grief Education (R); No 3: 47
Children and Bereavement (R); No 3: 47
Children and Grief (R); No 1: 13
Chronic sorrow: the experiences of bereaved individuals (Ab); No 3: 48
Conjugal bereavement and well-being of elderly men and women: a preliminary study (Ab); No 3: 48
Communicating with bereaved children: a drama therapy approach (Ab); No 2: 32
Comparison of the grief reaction of children and adults: focusing on pet loss and bereavement (Ab); No 1: 16
Complicated bereavement and post-traumatic stress disorder following fatal car crashes: recommendations for death notification practice (Ab); No 3: 48
Coping with Bereavement (audio casette) (R); No 2: 32
Coping with Bereavement (R); No 3: 47
Cornish U (R); No 1: 14
Cotgrove A (A); No 1: 5-8
Couldrick A (R); No 1: 11
Counselling and Supporting Children in Distress (R); No 3: 46
Counselling Children (R); No 1: 14
Cowie H (R); No 3: 46
Cranwell B (Video) (R); No 1: 13

Danbury H (R); No 1: 14
Death of an Adult Child, The (R); No 3: 47
Death Without Weeping (R); No 2: 29
Death, Mourning and Caring (R); No 1: 12
Dictionary of Medical and Pharmaceutical Terms (R); No 2: 31-32
Disenfranchised grief (A); No 3: 37-39
Doka KJ (A); No 3: 37-39
Doka KJ (R); No 1: 15
Duffy W (R); No 3: 47

Eedle S (A); No 1: 11
Enhancing the concept of disenfranchised grief (Ab); No 2: 32

Farrant A (R); No 2: 28
Forbes P (A); No 3: 45
Fourth international conference on children and death (Report); No 3: 43-44
Frazer H (A); No 3: 35-37

Geldard D (R); No 1: 14
Geldard K (R); No 1: 14
Going Forth (R); No 2: 31
Grainger R (R); No 1: 15
Grief Transition and Loss (R); No 1: 15
Grief Support Programme (R); No 2: 28
Group design: bereavement group for widows (Ab); No 1: 16
Gupta L (A); No 3: 40-42

Hard Medicine (Video) (R); No 3: 47
Harris-Hendriks J (R); No 3: 46
Hawtoin K (Pack) (R); No 1: 12-13
Hemmings P (A); No 2: 26-27
Herbert M (R); No 1: 11
Hill K (Pack) (R); No 1: 12-13
Hitcham M (R); No 2: 28
Holland J (R); No 3: 47
Homicide (R); No 2: 29-30

Inside Grief (A); No 2: 22-25

Jay C (R); No 1: 11
Journey through grief: an analysis of an adult child's grief in the loss of a mother (Ab); No 2: 32

Kapp E (A); No 2: 25-26
Kirkpatrick B (R); No 2: 31

Lansdown R (Report); No 3: 43-44
Laughter during bereavement (A); No 2: 19-22
Leading a bereavement group (A); No 1: 3-4
Living with Grief After a Sudden Loss (R); No 1: 15
Lockyer-Scrutton P (R); No 2: 31
Longitudinal changes in mental and physical health among elderly, recently widowed men (Ab); No 2: 32
Loss adjusters, The (Ab); No 1: 16
Loss through Suicide (Video) (R); No 1: 13

Malmberg A (Pack) (R); No 1: 12-13
Marrone R (R); No 1: 12
Mezey G (R); No 3: 46
Mourning the loss of a pet (Ab); No 1: 16
Multiple AIDS-related loss (Ab); No 2: 31

Nature of Grief, The (R); No 2: 30
New understanding of grief :counsellor's perspective (Ab); No 1: 16
Newman M (R); No 3: 46
Nord D (R); No 2: 31

Oats WE (R); No 1: 15
Older people, crisis,and loss (Ab); No 2: 32
Organ donation from an Asian perspective (A); No 1: 9-10

Parkes CM (Obituary of M Torrie); No 3: 44
Petty C (R); No 2: 29
Planting the garden (A); No 1: 11
Playing away (A); No 3: 45
Potter M (A); No 2: 22
Psychological Trauma (R); No 3: 46

Randhawa G (A); No 1: 9-10
Rethinking the Trauma of War (R); No 2: 29

Scheper-Hughes N (R); No 2: 29
Sharp S (R); No 3: 46
Sheepshanks M (R); No 2: 31
Sibling Bereavement (R); No 2: 28
Sick child, The (A); No 2: 25-26
Silva E (A); No 1: 5-8
Simkin S (Pack) (R); No 1: 12-13
Social Symbolism of Grief Mourning (R); No 1: 15
Somewhere Over the Rainbow (R); No 2: 28
Spiritual beliefs and the search for meaning among older adults following partner loss (Ab); No 3: 48
Spoiled memories: problems of grief resolution in families bereaved through murder (Ab); No 1: 16
Spungen D (R); No 2: 29
St Helena Hospice (R); No 2: 28
Supporting Bereaved and Dying Children and their Parents (R); No 1: 15-16
Sutcliffe P (R); No 1: 14

Thomas J (R); No 1: 11
Torrie, Margaret (Obituary); No 3: 44
Treasure weekend: supporting bereaved siblings (Ab); No 2: 32
Tufnell G (R); No 1: 14

Using humour, art and music with dying and bereaved children (Ab); No 1: 16

Volcano of anger, The (A); No 2: 26-27

What If? (R); No 2: 20
When Faith is Tested (R); No 1: 15
When a Child Grieves (R); No 1: 11
Widowed Men (Ab); No 2: 32
Worden JW (R); No 1: 13
Working with the Dying and Bereaved (R); No 1: 14

Youth Suicide and Bereavement (A); No 1: 5-8

Zurheide JR (R); No 1: 15