

*Damage Factor*  
David Seamands  
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Related terms

- ✓ Forgiveness/repentance/"healing"
- ✓ Inner healing – healing of memories
- ✓ Deliverance
- ✓ Neil Anderson calls this freedom in Christ
- ✓ Seamands calls this *Healing for Damaged Emotions*
- ✓ Christian counseling
- ✓ Transformation counseling
- ✓ Theophostic (counseling and ministry)

Adventists have typically have not known how to deal with this.

Various people have used these terms to deal with traumatic experiences in the past and/or some kind of supernatural, perhaps demonic influence in the past or present

I really think that the experience of repentance and forgiveness is the most healing things that can happen.

We treat forgiveness here like one lesson, but it's really the core of issues of life.

If this had been taken seriously the folks in mental institutions wouldn't be there.

Jenny Carter Stapleton dealt with this (Jimmy Carter's sister)

All of this stuff is relating to past or present trauma – religious, emotional, abuse, or war related.

There is a tremendous need in society because of the suffering of such emotional trauma.

Neil Anderson's books has sold by hundreds of thousands

Christian counseling—Meier-Minirth Clinics

Terry Wardle does transformational counseling

Terry Wardle and Neil Anderson do similar approaches.

Theophostic—Baptist minister (Ed Smith) dealt mostly with women who had been sexually abused.

Theo – God and phostic comes from light

Shining the light of God.

Takes folks back thru the experience and then invites Jesus to come in and speak to them for that occasion of trauma.

Jon watched a series of video tapes of what this pastor does. Unbelievable stories.

Dealt with a little girl who sees Jesus behind the counselor.

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#### Major Damage Factors (afternoon discussion, July 11, 2006)

1. Death or divorce of parents before 20
2. death or divorce of spouse – child
3. Physical and sexual abuse
4. Adoption
5. victim of violent crime or war
6. life threatening illness or addiction
7. family neglect or rejection
8. demonic harassment
9. Seamands issues
10. Cross cultural encounters
11. Racism, tribalism, castism, classism, gender prejudice
12. Misc.

Gave example of his children returning from the mission field to the church from a missionary kids' standpoint.

The next generation (postmodern culture) wants to see God at work...

Self-esteem is more of a pop phrase, but Jon prefers understanding that we are children of God—that makes us valuable.

#### Books on Counseling

Terry Wardle on Transformational Counseling

David Seamands  
Neil Anderson  
Ed Smith on Theophostic  
Ruth Carter Stapleton *Inner Healing*  
Matthew and Dennis Linn (healing of memories)  
Best general book on healing—Francis MacNutt

J. Cameron Peddie (Scottish minister)

God's presence has to be mediated through us.

Key Question: Do we know how to show Christ as the Healer in these above situations?

We probably shouldn't preach evangelism without including healing for people in the process.

#### Assessment #4

#### Death

In the past several years I've been affected by a significant number of deaths in our church and in our extended family. Cancer has claimed quite a few members...There have been breast cancer deaths, pancreatic cancer deaths, tragic car accidents. These have left me humbled and identifying with the grieving process of members' losses. I think of heart attack deaths of my uncle, head-on tragic car accident. The pain of loss of so many members have tempered my life and caused me to reflect upon the value of every moment of life in my relationships.

#### Divorce

My sister's divorce has affected our family and caused us to come together closer. It still has left my nephews at a distance from God; since the dad has influenced his children away from God. We still have close relations with my ex-brother-in-law, but pray daily for his conviction and lift my sister and her children up in pray regularly.

Also, I've seen the pain of separation and dealt with church members whose lives have faced separation and divorce. In that process I've seen spouses ready to commit suicide and been by their side to listen and befriend them in their extremity.

#### Physical or Sexual Abuse

We've gone through a lawsuit at our school over the past 5 years due to alleged sexual abuse between students. Anger and lack of communication in the litigious situation has led to separation and exclusion from our church by victims and members feeling abuse.

## Adoption

While not having been adopted myself or experienced it in my family, as a pastor I've seen the process of adoption bring joy to those who couldn't have children. I've also heard the anger from individuals who felt betrayed by never knowing they were adopted. I've watched the joy of a physician's family as they have adopted a little girl, but then had to go through the painful process of wondering if they could keep the child as the birth mother attempted to bring a lawsuit against the adoptive family and try to get the child back.

## War

On the West Coast I've worked with church members still reeling from their time in Vietnam. Nightmares and disturbing dreams have left them needing counseling and special therapy. They have needed treatment, but ultimately someone who listens and cares too.

## Natural Disaster

During the Northridge earthquake in CA I dealt with a family who were helping the Red Cross in Southern California to clean up after the temblor. While caregiving and serving there, their grandson burned up their home. I personally met the family at the airport as they returned to their home and saw the devastation and loss. I got to see how they handled their grandson and their personal tragedy. They were superb grandparents and trusting partners in God's stewardship.

## Addictions

Areas of my life have not always been balanced; so, I have constantly faced the challenge of trusting in Jesus and His grace facing my own personal sins. I have also dealt with a cousin who is gay. I officiated at his wedding and then he and his new wife called me after a year to let me know of the unresolved marriage over his bi-sexuality.

## Pernicious Perfectionism

My family has a strong German heritage which brings with it a strong work ethic. Thus, my parents have not always understood the free gift of God's grace. They were faithful in worship and church activities, but didn't always convey the grace factor along the truths and doctrines of the SDA church. I've battled with understanding grace in my life, but have grown to appreciate the balance of incorporating grace in the doctrines and practice of my spiritual journey.

## Toxic Theology

Several of my later pastorates have left me challenged with contemporary cultural practices that have been creeping into the church. I've been handicapped to know how to

relate to leadership who promote contemporary worship that leads away from our understanding of the sacred and the profane. I did not feel the support of several conference presidents going through that time of divisiveness with my congregations. God has providentially cared for my future and sent me a gracious wife and very supportive church members during the process of separation from one church.

### Sense of Justice

My wife experienced sexual abuse by a step-brother early in her life. This had a major impact upon her future. She has set aside the repercussions, but still lives with a strong sense of revenge and resentment toward those who do not stand up for the authentic, the pure, and the genuine and the fair practices of life. This can be traumatic at times when an issue surfaces which she will not back down from.