An Annotated Bibliography of Resources Concerning Healthcare and Medical Missions

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A. History of Christian Involvement in Healing and Healthcare Missions


   The first comprehensive and thoroughly referenced history of the emergence of Protestant medical missions, highlighting the ongoing discourse of its place within mission outreach in general.

   “Healing--as a multi-faceted response to suffering and evil--has been at the heart of Christian practice from the time of Jesus’ miracles to the present. Her sensitive treatments of the large place of healing in Christian missions and in the recent world expansion of Christianity”

   “The church was much more influential in healthcare that expected; and the modern hospital can be traced directly back to ancient and medieval Christian institutions.

   Now getting out of date, but summary of medical missions efforts.

   “Kelsey shows how healing has gone from being a central act of the church to being perceived as contrary to God's use of sickness as a tool for punishment, discipline and penance. The church then anoints people for death rather than healing. Kelsey shows the incongruity of this approach to sickness with the gospel and early church. His emphasis on the relationship between body, soul and spirit was more innovative than it is now.”


   A thorough history of missions using descriptive narrative and biography to detail the incredible sacrifice that has gone on before us.

B. The Biblical Mandate for Integral Mission – Healing is Good News
   The head of World Vision advocates for a more integral approach to the mission of the church.

   Fielding brings the preachers and healers together in the Person of Christ, demonstrating that like Jesus, and in obedience to Jesus, we are called to both preach and heal.

   “Over the last century, healthcare professionals focused on technology and spiritual leaders concerned with church-building have alike lost sight of shalom – the core of both physical and spiritual health. Nowhere has the interface between the good news, the church, health and healing been treated with this breadth and depth.”

4. Fountain, Dan. *Health, the Bible and the Church.* Wheaton IL: Billy Graham Center. 1989
   “A theology of human wellness that brings in the responsibility of the entire Christian community to promote health initiatives and recover their rightful role as partners with physicians.

### C. Vision and Strategy for Christian Healthcare in Mission

   “This text was written so that you and those you serve will benefit physically, emotionally and spiritually from the time and energy you commit.”

   An important look at the host of issues related to leadership, vision, conflict management and vision when carrying out healthcare missions.


   [https://www.medicalmissionsорм/learn/resources/prism](https://www.medicalmissionsorm/learn/resources/prism)
   A power point presentation of the PRISM study.


   “Sets out a conceptual framework and a set of case studies for a new agenda.
D. Biblical Theology of Healing and Role in the Church


   Biblical, historical and moral perspectives are synthesized to help all Christians, including those in health care professions, respond to our current (American-focused) health care challenges.


   “Health is God’s original created intent: whole persons, healthy relationships, a thriving environment, and ongoing interaction with himself. In the Bible, human health is body-based, community-based, and deeply integrated in a relationship with God’s creating Spirit.”


   "With his careful analysis of healing stories in the Bible, he reminds us that healing is always tied up in the mystery and wonder of relationships—with our self, with our community, and with God—and that health depends on the wholeness of both individuals and communities. James F. Hart, MD, Uof MN School of Public Health


   “Pilch examines the ancient Judeans understood healing, what roles healers played, and the different emphases on healing among the gospels, drawing on the anthropology of the Mediterranean as well as the models employed by medical anthropologists to understand peasant societies and their health-care systems.”


9. Lambourne. *Community, Church and Healing*


12. SCM Series. *Religion and Medicine Series*

**E. Transformational and Community Development**

   Discusses the integration of community development and culturally appropriate evangelism as a holistic endeavor.

   The Bible on transformational development. Good theological and missionlogical foundations. A fine resource with detailed bibliography and sources.


3. Farmer, Paul. *In the Company of the Poor: Conversations with Dr. Paul Farmer and Fr. Gustavo Gutierrez*


**F. Development, Missions, and Service in Africa**

   An appeal to cease the fruitless flow of funds from the west into Africa and instead equip local people to use local resources to reach local needs.

   This book impacts all aspects of ministry in Africa.

   A Burkinabe shaman’s perspective on the topic. Essential for gaining an emic perspective on a certain west African worldview.

   An older book from an African perspective that brings out the issues of transition in missions to cooperative work rather than paternalism.

A classic on following God’s initiative in Africa. Its premise is that God is work even in the context of African religious cultures.


G. Medical Missions Biographies of Africa and Middle East

A biographical account of the pioneer Covenant missionary who served as medical doctor in what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo.

“[Becker] will long be remembered for his contribution to quality health care in Africa, and by some as a well-meaning humanitarian. But to those of us who knew the man, he was one of those few who lived a life that modeled, not just in deed but in spirit, their faith in Christ.”

The story of mission medicine in Bahrain, started by Samuel Zwemer.

Relates the story of medical mission work in Saudi Arabia.

5. Percy, Douglas C. *Stirrett of the Sudan, the Beloved Physician of the Sudan*. Toronto: Sudan Interior Mission. 1948

H. Missions in General: Humility, Strategy, Dependency

The exegesis of “why missions?” from the now retired pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church and Desiring God Ministries. Powerful exegesis of the focus on God’s greater glory derived from more people groups giving Him praise.


Very helpful work in discerning the path to partnership between western churches and majority world opportunities.


Unmasks the hidden reality that even the best of intentions can go awry without carefully recognizing interior motives. Easy read. Highly recommended.


“A call to overcome the drawbacks of dependency by urging us toward true partnership and healthy expressions of mutual support, connecting both with a profound argument for a return to simple generosity and a spirit of covenant commitment.”


“A look at learning and ministering cross-culturally through the scriptural mandate to be servants of the master engaged in kingdom work. Powerful and practical insights for how to become an effective servant in another culture.”


The conversation on the ambiguity of wealth and Christian missionary outreach.


Statistical and graphical overview of Christian missions and the “unfinished task”.

I. Radical Christian Life and Commitment


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