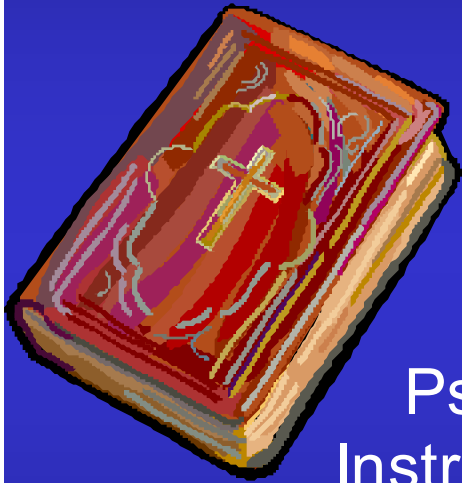


“OH YE OF LITTLE FAITH”

Delivery of Culturally Competent Mental Health Care to Evangelical Christians



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OBJECTIVES

- Explore diff explanatory models (EM) of emotional symptoms in the evangelical community
- Evaluate the implications of EM as barriers to Rx
- Describe options to integrate strengths and positive aspects of faith into treatment plan

MENTAL HEALTH:

Culture, Race, and Ethnicity

(2001)

- Call to provide appropriate and accessible mental health services to all regardless of race, ethnicity, culture, **religion**, sexual pref, etc (Supplement to the Landmark Mental Health: A Report of the Surgeon General 1999)
- Challenges state mental health agencies to develop culturally competent supports and services to diverse groups

SIGNIFICANCE

- 1/3 individuals believed to need formal mental health treatment receive it
(Surgeon General, 2002)
- Individuals are more likely to approach a religious leader to address mental symptoms (Sprangler, 2001)
- FBL play a pivotal role in influencing health care seeking behaviors
(Campbell, 1999)

ONE NATION UNDER GOD

- Evangelical/Born-Again: 35 % (over 102 million people in 2003.) Gallup polls
- 41 percent of the population identifies as Born-Again using a broad definition
- Only 8 percent accept all the tenets in a list of strict conservative doctrinal beliefs.

EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN (FUNDAMENTALIST)

- Not dependent upon church attendance or the denominational affiliation of the church attended.
- Respondents were not asked to describe themselves as "evangelical."



EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN (FUNDAMENTALIST)

- The Bible contains no errors.
 - The virgin birth of Jesus is literal.
 - Jesus died on the cross to atone for sin.
 - The bodily resurrection of Jesus is literal.
 - Jesus will literally, bodily return to earth.
 - The Biblical miracles are authentic.

EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN

(FUNDAMENTALIST)

- Wide range of beliefs and practices
- One crude identifying factor may be the client's attitude towards the church, pastor, and Bible.
- Language may be used that indicates a view of the church and/or pastor as an authority in the client's life.



SIGNIFICANCE

- Religious leaders are viewed as credible although their training in counseling is diverse and frequently is limited.

INSPIRATION



- Clinical practice in the Bible Belt
- Personal encounters in faith communities
- Research findings

SIGNIFICANCE

- Limited information is available about what religious leaders are saying about mental illness.
- Antidotal evidence suggests that differing and conflicting models explaining MI exist

METHODS

- ◆ 400 televised sermons videotaped over 3 months daily except Saturdays during primetime hours on 2 Christian channels
- ◆ 100 random sermons were viewed by PI and 1 member of research team



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Mattox 2005

METHODS

- ◆ 40 Sermons containing references to **physical*** or **MI*** were transcribed
- ◆ After sermons were transcribed, they were entered into Ethnograph, a data management system
- ◆ 2 of 4 coders reviewed each sermon transcript
- ◆ Themes identified

EXPLANATORY MODEL

- Exploring the *EM* of illness increases insight into patients and families (Anthropologist Arthur Kleinman)
- Ask *What, Why, How, and Who* questions

EXPLANATORY MODEL

- What do you call the problem?
- What do you think the illness does?
- What do you think the natural course of the illness is?
- What do you fear?
- Why do you think this illness or problem has occurred?
- How do you think the sickness should be treated?
- How do you want us to help you?
- Who do you turn to for help?
- Who should be involved in decision making?



QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS RESULTS

- Etiology (relationships, faith, LOC, etc)
- Management (talking, thinking, prayer, etc)
- Attribution of symptoms (sin, temptation, etc)
- Content versus interpretation
- Implications for treatment plan

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TREATMENT PLAN

- Develop with patient and family* after taking a spiritual history
- Explore barriers at the onset of treatment and utilize different approaches to minimize barriers
- When appropriate and desired, integrate strengths and positive elements of faith
- Examples

***Blessed (happy)
is the man
that walketh not
in the counsel
of the ungodly***

Psalm 1, KJV

THE UNGODLY

- Psychiatrists were less likely to classify themselves as Protestant or religious and more likely to classify themselves as spiritual but not religious



A stage with red curtains and a spotlight on the floor.

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