

# Priestly and Prophetic Roles in Health Care Mission



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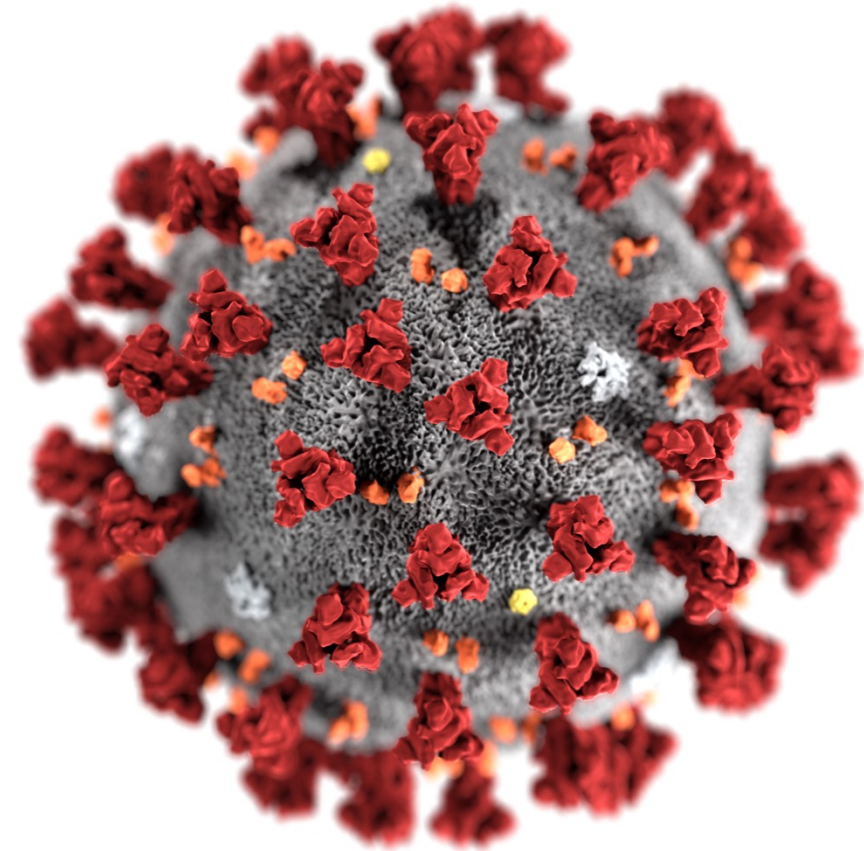


Interserve



## Question:

*Who did you or others  
TRUST in time of Covid for  
knowledge about what  
was happening, advice  
about what to do?*





# *Priest and Prophet*

- Biblical priests speak on behalf of the people to God and prophets speak God's words to the people (Israel, the nations)
- Health care in clinical medicine, public health
- Health missions in institutions of mercy (hospitals) and justice (government)
- Small group discussion, conclusion



# Priest: Heal/Cleanse Lepers (Lev 14:1,2, Lk 17)



Prophet: Unwilling to accept things as they are  
*"How long, Oh Lord?"*



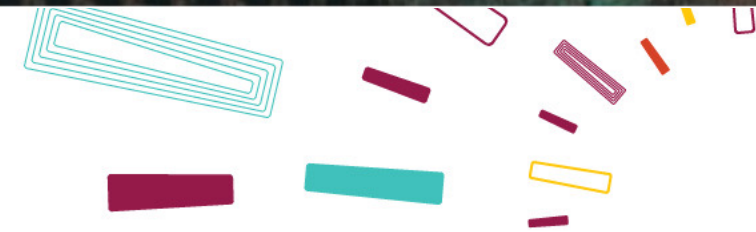


# False Priests and Prophets



*Phineas,  
Hophni  
Sons of Eli*

*Jezebel,  
Ahab  
False  
Prophets*





# Health Care: Priestly

- Curative medicine often technical
  - Diseases of affluence
  - Diseases of poverty
  - Diseases of despair
- Losing 'art' of medicine: personal
  - Dis-integration, no mystery/faith
- Dr. Kristen Collier *Physician as Priest: "biochemistry doesn't answer great questions of why and how.... Priest as type of physician under God."*





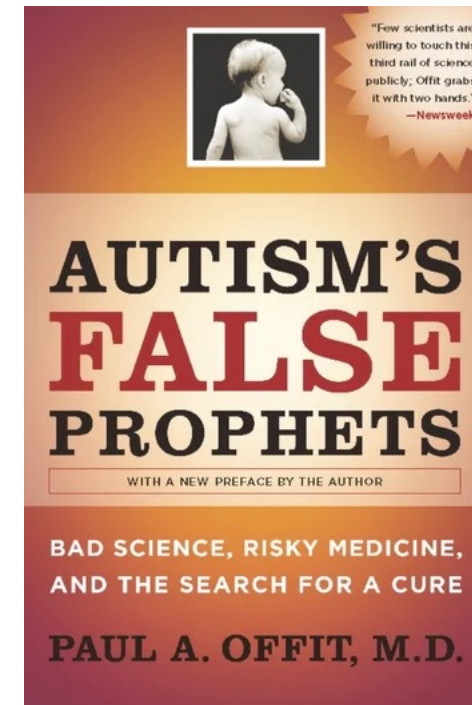
# Health Care: Prophetic

- In public health: reduce inequities
  - Social determinants of health
  - Environment, geography, education, poverty, health care access
- *Just and Lasting Change*
  - Top-down leaders, gov't advocacy
  - Bottom-up community action
  - Outside-in new alternatives
  - *The last shall be first, the first, last*



# False Priests, Prophets

- *Lies, Damn Lies, and Medical Science*: reversals of findings
  - Aspirin, less fat (led to more sugar)
- Covid: mask or no, virtual school
  - Mental health, academic regression



# Health Mission: Priestly, Prophetic Institutions

- Groupings of social practices where beliefs are lived out in service
  - James KA Smith, Christian philosophy professor at Calvin College
  - ‘Embodied anthropology’ *liturgy*
- Hospitals, Government
  - Practices can be carried out without the beliefs: hollow, dis-integrated
  - *False priests, prophets: corruption?*
  - *Can interpret as security > service*
- Church: Christians a tiny minority



# Health Mission: Priestly Institutions of Mercy

- Demonstrate ethics
  - *Quality: speed vs teach?*
  - *Covid: patients vs staff?*
- *'Insider' with national society of Ob-Gyn for fistula care, prevention*
- Reintegrate: peace
  - Body, mind, spirit
  - Patient, family, society
    - and practitioners



17/10/2011



# Health Mission: Prophetic Institution of Justice

- Public health = both government and citizens
  - Bottom up: community, local elected officials, informal leaders
  - Top down: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Women & Children
  - *Outside in: transformative vision*
    - *Jesus and fishermen*
    - *Common grace, 'theology on the run'*



# Health Mission: Risk of False Prophet, Priest

- Volunteer service, but it doesn't make sense to tax officials
- Short term workers on tourist visa
- Covid time: national staff felt neither fear nor ideas were heard
- Staff hired/promoted on merit as professional > loyalty or Christian



# OPPORTUNITIES

- Power v. partnership
  - *WAY* Micah 6:6-8
- Rhetoric v. reality (ethics)
  - *TRUTH* Mark 10:45
- Technical v. wholism
  - *LIFE* John 10:10





# YOUR Opportunities

- Who are you?
  - *Priestly mercy, mediator*
  - *Prophetic justice, truth*
- What draws you?
  - *Compassion to vulnerable*
  - *Public health partnership*
  - *Advocacy*



# Prophet and Priest

- Field Clinic locked shut
- Community meeting
- Unlocked and open



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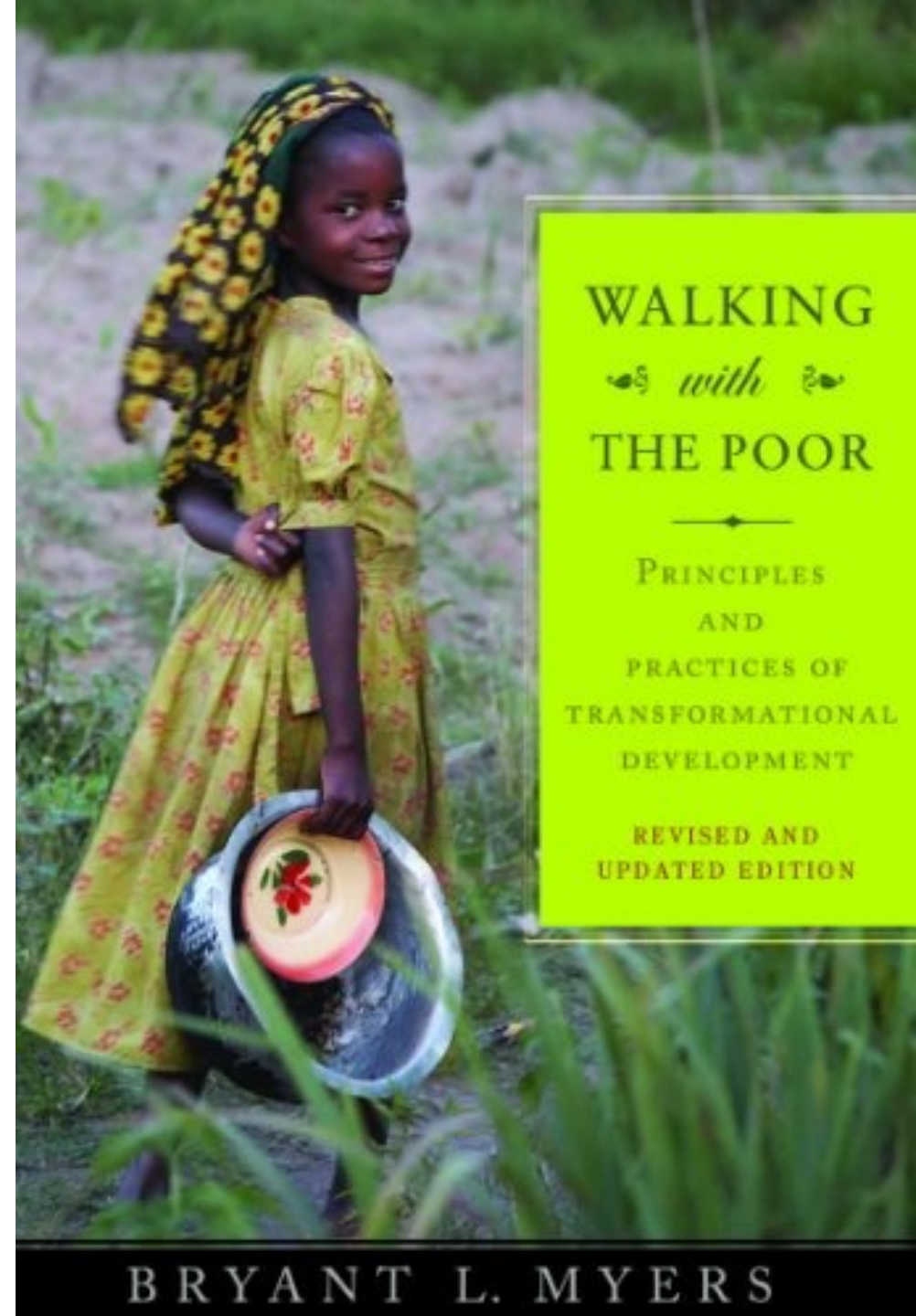
- Trust
- Partnership
- Rise Up!





# Books

- *Walking with the Poor*
- Bryant Myers, theology of poverty





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  - Bryant Myers, theology of poverty
- *Just and Lasting Change*
  - Daniel and Carl Taylor, primary health

SECOND EDITION

# JUST AND LASTING CHANGE



When Communities Own Their Futures

DANIEL C. TAYLOR AND  
CARL E. TAYLOR



# Books

- *Walking with the Poor*
- Bryant Myers, theology of poverty
- *Just and Lasting Change*
- Daniel and Carl Taylor, primary health
- *Learning to Listen, Learning to Teach*
- Jane Vella, adult education

