

I am grateful to The Soul Repair Center for work that lifts up lament, creates bridges of understanding, and points the way to hope, reincorporation, and healing. It engages in this work in ways that feel like ceaseless prayer, enabling all its partners to offer gifts in service to others.

- Rev. Raymond MacDonald, Ph.D., Chaplain, Loma Linda VA, U.S. Army Veteran

What the Soul Repair Center did for me was liberating in a profoundly existential way: it demonstrated to me that I did not need to put off my own experience or the experiences of other veterans as theological questions to be answered later. The experiences of the morally injured are now a foundation of my scholarly toolkit rather than an afterthought, and I owe that to the Soul Repair Center.

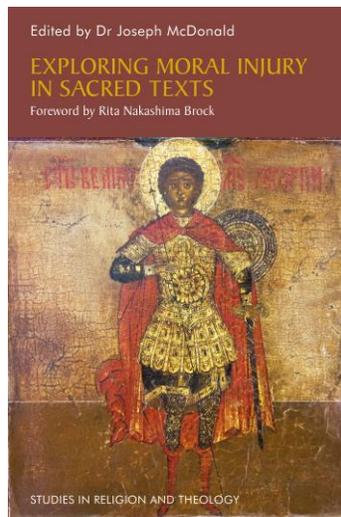
- Rev. Michael Yandell, Doctoral Student, Emory University, U.S. Army Veteran

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NEWS ABOUT THE CENTER AND ITS PARTNERS

Hot Off the Press!



The new book on *Exploring Moral Injury in Sacred Texts* has just been released by JKP Press. Edited by Dr. Joseph McDonald, with a foreword by Dr. Rita N. Brock, it contains essays from Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, and American civil religion. Contributors include former and current Soul Repair Board members Rabbi Dr. David Blumenthal, Dr. Amir Hussain, and Rev. Michael Yandell. In addition, Brite Professor Dr. Warren Carter contributed an essay, and others include leading scholars such as Dr. Kelly

Denton-Borhaug, Dr. Brad Kelle, Dr. Nancy Bowen, Dr. John Thompson, and Dr. Daniel Maguire.

To receive a complimentary copy signed by Drs. McDonald and Brock, make a donation of \$100 or more to the Donation Challenge fund, described below. If you donate, the Center will also provide a code for ordering additional copies at a 20% discount.

Center Receives \$100,000 Donation Challenge!

A donor has given the Center a generous gift that will match donations in any amount, up to \$100,000. The gift enables the Center to move in new directions outlined in the strategic plan created by its National Advisory Board a year ago. The Center will use the funds for a transition year to identify new sources of funding and new partnerships with TCU that can enable implementation of the strategic plan. To make a matching donation, go to: <https://brite.edu/programs/soul-repair/donate/>.

It's hard to believe the five years of Lilly Endowment, Inc. funding that launched the Soul Repair Center ends May 31, but we have many accomplishments to celebrate that far surpassed our expectations and goals for this start-up phase. Now, it is time for the Center to enter work for the next five years and beyond.

Updates About Center Staff

The Soul Repair Center Director, Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock, will be leaving her position to become Senior Vice-President of Moral Injury Programs for Volunteers of America (VOA) and moving to the Los Angeles Area. VOA serves over 30,000 veterans a year, and this new position enables her to develop moral injury programs not only for veterans, but for a wider public. She will begin her new position on June 26 to oversee a pilot program in two of the thirty-two states served by VOA: the Los Angeles and New York affiliates. This new program for veterans will use an intensive, peer-led process for recovery from moral injury (more about the pilot below under Center activities). As has been her approach at the Center, Dr. Brock will continue to work in collaboration with other organizations and initiatives, and she expects in the future to expand and to maintain existing partnerships with other people and organizations working on moral injury, including the Soul Repair Center.

In the fall 2017-spring 2018 academic year, the Center will be led by an acting director as it seeks funding for future work and new partnerships and searches for a new director.

Stephen Finocchiaro, Brite M.Div. student, has worked as an assistant at the Center for the past two years, and he will take on new responsibilities in his support role for the next year.

Administrative Assistant, Elia Whitworth, who has ably served the Center since August 2015, will move in June to the office of finance at TCU.

Center Activities

Courses:

The Center Director, Dr. Brock, offered an intensive weekend seminar March 3-4 at Union Theological Seminary called "Moral Injury and Soul Repair in Veterans, Trauma-

Survivors, and Care-Givers.” The 29 participants included graduate students and members of the Union community. The course focused on multiple forms of trauma, including potential experiences of moral injury, and on awareness of trauma contagion in care-givers.

The week of May 22-26, Dr. Brock taught a course for Doctor of Ministry students at Brite, “Theological Perspectives on Moral Injury and Soul Repair.” An intensive reading course, students were encouraged to engage deeply with theological questions raised by moral injury, work that could inform their doctoral projects. Guest speakers in the class included Michael Yandell, doctoral student in theology at Emory University, and Kristen Leslie, national expert on military sexual trauma and Professor of Pastoral Theology at Eden Theological Seminary.

A Crucial Consultation

In May 2017, Volunteers of America (VOA) received a grant of \$918,000 from the Bristol-Meyers Squibb Foundation to create and implement a peer-led moral injury processing model for recovery. VOA, through the leadership of Dr. Jon Sherin (a member of the Center Board), created a “Battle-Buddies” program that uses the strength of trust and shared experience among veterans to expand access to services, which is being used in this new program. The Soul Repair Center committed an in-kind contribution to the project by agreeing to recruit and host an expert design team to create the model to be implemented.

As a commitment to the program and in hopes of securing the funding, the Center hosted a planning meeting of the design team the weekend of March 10-12. This new pilot created by the Center builds on the battle-buddies model in combination with the Center’s research on ways to address moral injury and is called Spiritual Resiliency Training (SRT). The team of experts included:

Co-Chairs: Dr. Jonathan Shay and Dr. James Monroe. Drs. Shay and Monroe worked together for many years at the Boston VA.

Dr. Shay, a MacArthur Fellow and psychiatrist, combined his critical and imaginative interpretations of Homer’s *Iliad* and *Odyssey* with his work counseling Vietnam veterans and contributed to public understanding of the effects of warfare on combat veterans. His book, *Achilles in Vietnam: Combat Trauma and the Undoing of Character* (1994), was the first to use the term moral injury in relation to veterans. In *Odysseus in America: Combat Trauma and the Trials of Homecoming* (2002), he used Odysseus as a metaphor for the veteran’s long and harrowing journey to return home from war. A passionate advocate for veterans, Shay has worked for structural reform of the ways the U.S. armed forces are organized, trained, and counseled.

Dr. Monroe is a licensed psychologist who currently has a private consulting and training practice. He worked with the Boston VA Healthcare System for 35 years specializing in Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder with combat veterans, and from 2010-2013, he was Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Boston University School of Medicine. He has also served as the Clinical Director of the

Veterans Improvement Program, Director of the PTSD Outpatient Clinic, and Site Training Director for the Psychology Internship program. He developed non-stigmatizing approaches with Iraq and Afghanistan veterans to reduce stigma and improve access to VA services.

The Design Team:

Dr. Timothy M. Barth, Professor of Psychology and Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies, Texas Christian University, teaches courses in neuroscience, psychology, problem-solving, and ethical decision-making. Recently he has helped TCU develop a new undergraduate program in the Psychology of Leadership. Dr. Barth's areas of expertise and research are in behavioral neuroscience and ethical decision-making.

Mr. Michael Desmond is Manager of Veteran Peer Support and Special Initiatives and Veteran Community Advocate for Volunteers of America in Illinois, based in Chicago. He is an M.A. student in Public Health at DePaul University and a military veteran (USMC).

Capt. (Chaplain) Kyle Fautleroy serves as Command Chaplain of the Pacific Surface Fleet, his final assignment before retiring in July 2017 after 30 years of military service. Before this recent assignment, he was Director of the Naval Chaplaincy School and Center, as well as Director of the Armed Forces Chaplaincy Center, where he integrated training in military sexual trauma. He has also served as Senior Chaplain at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and as Executive Officer at the former Naval Chaplains School at Newport, RI.

Rev. Dr. Kristen Leslie is Professor of Pastoral Theology and Care at Eden Theological Seminary and a leading national expert on military sexual trauma. From 2013-2014, she traveled to U.S. Naval Bases throughout the world to train military chaplains in how to handle military sexual trauma. Her research has focused on intercultural pastoral theology; womanist and feminist pastoral counseling; and pastoral theological implications of sexualized violence, particularly on pastoral counseling issues for survivors of acquaintance rape.

Rev. Dr. Sheryl A. Kujawa-Holbrook is Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty and Professor of Practical Theology and Religious Education at the Claremont School of Theology. Dr. Kujawa-Holbrook is a priest of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, a professor of Anglican Studies, and an educator, historian of religions, and practical theologian.

Brother Michael Nguyen is a mindfulness instructor, Trauma Release/Tension Release Provider (TRE), and counselor. His father fought in the South Vietnamese Army and brought his family to the U.S. at the end of the war, when his son Michael was five years old. Brother Michael served in the U.S. Marine Corps, deploying to Desert Storm and Desert Shield (1991-95). He was ordained as a novice monk by Zen Buddhist Master Thich Nhat Hanh on May 26, 2002.

Susan Marie Smith, M.T.S., Ph.D., is priest in charge at Church of the Nativity in Indianapolis. She was formerly Rector of St. Alban's Episcopal Church near Columbus, Ohio and was Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship at St. Paul United Methodist School of Theology in Kansas City, MO.

Soul Repair on the Road

This spring, Center Director Dr. Brock has offered lectures and workshops across the country at:

- Church of the Savior in Austin, TX
- Modern Art Museum, Ft. Worth, TX
- Denison University, Granville, OH
- The Franciscan Center, Scottsdale, AZ
- The Arizona Coalition for Military and Families, Tempe, AZ
- Volunteers of America Annual Meeting, Dallas, TX
- LA County Mental Health and Spirituality Annual Conference, Los Angeles, CA
- Minnesota Coalition for Death Education and Support, Minneapolis, MN

Soul Repair Work by Our Partners

Quaker House in North Carolina

Thanks to Lynn Newsome for this report about her work on moral injury.

We spoke at the New Garden Friends Meeting community forum on moral injury. Several veterans attending shared their experiences, but when it was over and people were leaving, I noticed one man still seated with his head bowed. I asked him if he was OK, and he said, "No." Then he told me that he had received help from Quaker House 44 years ago. In his hands he clutched a small manual on Conscientious Objection that he had saved all these years.

I invited him to come to Fayetteville and get support from our counselor, Joanna, and he promised that he would. Moral injury often worsens as a person grows near the end of his or her life.

We were the featured speakers at the Tony A. Biles Clergy Convocation in Concord, NC, sponsored by the Carolinas Healthcare System Northeast Spiritual Care Department, Faith Community Health Ministry Department, and NorthEast Foundation. About 300 clergy, veterans, healthcare professionals and chaplains attended. I asked one of the Vietnam veterans if the information had been helpful. "Yes," he said, "but 30 years too late."

At the annual Forward March Conference in Fayetteville, Lynn gave a copy of *Help for Moral Injury: Strategies and Interventions* to an attendee as a door prize. The Forward March Conference brings together the military and the community to provide education on military culture and the difficulties they face. We did a program on moral injury for the social workers at the Asheville VA. We invited Matthew Hoh to speak about his personal experiences with moral injury and he was fantastic, as always. Peer support veterans who attended were especially moved by what we presented. One told us that we were truly doing God's work.

We spoke at Chattanooga Friends Meeting. After the presentation, a young man approached us to ask about Conscientious Objection. It is time for our young men and women to be prepared for the possibility of the draft being reinstated!

To receive email newsletters from Quaker House, please email us at qpr@quaker.org.

Syracuse University

Susan French reports:

In early April, we held our third annual conference on Moral Injury. The centerpiece of the conference was a screening of the documentary, *Almost Sunrise*, about the journey of two veterans who walk from Milwaukee, WI to Santa Monica, CA.

One of the veterans, Tom Voss, and the film's director, Michael Collins, participated in a talk back after the film, which led to a powerful dialogue and beautiful dynamic in our audience of 120 souls.

Though there are several spiritual moments in the film, one that stood out was Tom's meeting with Father Thomas Keating, and a conversation about forgiving yourself and forgiving God. In the movie, this is a major turning point for Tom.

I recommend the movie because of the spiritual grounding.

We found that screening the film and having Michael and Tom present was very powerful. They each brought so much to our weekend, and we spent a long dinner at the end of the conference thinking about how we can continue to spread the word about Moral Injury.

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Moral Injury and Collective Healing: An Advanced Training Seminar](#)
[September 11-13, 2017 in Princeton NJ](#)

[Early Bird Registration Ends July 5. Space limited to 100.](#)

Details and Registration at: <https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/?eventid=1968769>



L-R top:to bottom Barnwell, Nash, Verduin, Parker, Williams
Brock, Braxton

The Center is partnering with the Braxton Institute and Volunteers of America to host “Moral Injury and Collective Healing: An Advanced Training Seminar.” The event is designed for those who want to implement or expand moral injury work in their organizations or ministries and teach about it to others. It offers CEUs for clergy and CEs for clinicians. [<https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/?eventid=1968769>]

The outstanding expert faculty include 1) Dr. Ysaye Barnwell, a music clinician who sang with Sweet Honey in the Rock; 2) Dr. William Nash, Director of Psychological Health for the US Marine Corps, who was a psychiatrist with the US Marine Corps for thirty years, including deploying to Fallujah, and served on the moral injury research team for the National VA PTSD Center; and 3) Jacques Verduin, Director of Insight Out, who has taught Buddhist mindfulness practices for many years in prisons in California.

In addition to the guest faculty, other teachers include members of the planning committee, Dr. Brock; Dr. Joanne Braxton, Director of the Braxton Institute and certified teacher of narrative medicine; Dr. Rebecca Parker, Prof. Emerita of Starr King School for

the Ministry and theologian; Cori Williams, practical theologian and Director of Ministry Education and Training for Volunteers of America. We expect also to have many in attendance with skills and knowledge of healing who can share with others. For example, Brother Michael Nguyen, a Zen mindfulness teacher and expert on TRE (Tension/Trauma Release Exercises) will offer two daily sessions during the seminar.

If this interests you, be sure to register soon. Capacity is 100, and we are already nearly half full. [<https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/?eventid=1968769>]

As this article by Dr. Brock notes, moral injury reaches beyond the veteran community and is a collective responsibility:

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/591f5660e4bob28a33f62c03>

THE FUTURE OF THE SOUL REPAIR CENTER

During fall 2017 and spring 2018, the Center will have an acting director who will develop new alliances to enhance the Center's work and seek new sources of funding that work. In addition, a national search will be conducted to find a new director of the Center.

Conversations have begun with potential new partners to establish a permanent institutional home for the Center that fits with its new strategic directions for work that includes care-givers, medical personnel, and chaplains. As conversations and negotiations move forward, any new developments will be shared through the newsletter.

Statement from the Outgoing Director

The Soul Repair Center was created in response to a recommendation from the November 2010 Report of the Truth Commission on Conscience in War. The Commission was the work of Dr. Gabriella Lettini and myself; Starr King School; students all over the U.S. who took our course on Truth Commissions; Luna Productions, especially producer Ian Slattery; Faith Voices for the Common Good; Union Theological Seminary; and individuals such as Stuart Fabregas and Betty Reuters-Ward. The inspiration began with Luna Productions' film, *Soldiers of Conscience*. The grant proposal that led to Lilly funding for the Center was also the work of many—especially Kathleen Hurty, Dr. Lettini, JoAnne Kagiwada, Rebecca Parker, Jim Eller, and Amir Soltani. Rev. Bob Hill was sure the Lilly Endowment would appreciate and understand this project, and put us in touch with Lilly Vice-President, Dr. Craig Dykstra, who was so committed to this work that he waited a year for us to find the right home for the Center.

Brite Divinity School has been a splendid home for the Center's first five years. When Chaplain Herman Keizer, Jr. and I began co-directing the Soul Repair Center in mid 2012, we were given a beautiful office suite and plenty of help from administrators and administrative assistants in furnishing it, getting staff hired, and figuring out all the institutional systems and policies at both Brite and TCU. We found ready colleagues at both institutions and supportive and enthusiastic Brite trustees.

In his two years as co-founder and co-director of the Center, Herm Keizer came with a wide ranging and deep understanding of the military, its cultures, and its leadership. His forty years of experience protecting moral conscience in the military and

his social capital offered us connections with chaplains, veterans, and the Pentagon that would have been impossible for me to establish. I believe we would not have accomplished so much without those crucial years with Herm, who willingly undertook a complicated monthly commute from Grand Rapids, MI, to Fort Worth, TX to spend time on-site in the Brite community. One of the greatest rewards of my time at the Center is to be able to call Herm Keizer my friend and to get to know his life companion, Ardis.

Throughout our five years, Newell Williams and Nancy Ramsay, especially, have committed extraordinary time and energy to helping us succeed. Tommy Potter, who recently retired as an advancement officer at Brite, was also a key to our success, not only in helping us raise funds for programs, but also in connecting us four years ago to his friend Mike King, President and CEO of Volunteers of America (VOA). VOA has become a major partner with the Center in moral injury work and has worked to integrate awareness of moral injury throughout their organization. That partnership will, I hope, deepen, as I take my new position at VOA and expand work on moral injury into new populations and communities.

In addition to the work of Center staff: Trish Cassaday, Naiomi Gonzales, Coleman Baker, Elia Whitworth, and Stephen Finocchiaro, and Brite's community of support, we have had great partners at TCU. April Brown, Director of Veteran Services, has invited us to their events and collaborated with ours. She and Dan Williams regularly had me speak in a class they offered that focused on students interviewing veterans. Nowell Donovan invited me to speak at the Council of Deans, gave multiple copies of *Soul Repair* away, and urged a military chaplain from Scotland to attend one of our conferences in Ft. Worth. Scott Williams enthusiastically raised funds to bring moral injury expert, Dr. Jonathan Shay to campus and remains an interested partner in our work. Finally, TCU's Harris College of Nursing was our very first institutional friend, and the dean, Paulette Burns, whose passing we still feel acutely, served on our National Advisory Board. Now Susan Weeks, her successor, has served on our National Advisory Board with enthusiasm.

We have had a wonderful National Advisory Board, whose members have contributed each in different ways to support our work. Some helped us raise funds, wrote for us, some created new connections and partnerships for us, some offered sage advice, and all contributed to our success. A year ago, the Board gave crucial input for a strategic plan for the next five years, and with Nancy Ramsay still at the helm as chair, I look forward to how that will guide its work with a new director.

I look forward to hearing about the future work of the Center, partnering with it in the future from the VOA side, and watching it flourish for years to come. Brite will always be the Center's spiritual home regardless of where it eventually goes institutionally, and I know that Brite will remain related to the Center, especially via the training of chaplains, which, with an LGBT friendly, gender-equal military, makes Brite's programs more important than ever in training competent chaplains who understand that they must protect the religious freedom and dignity of those they serve. That commitment to military chaplaincy does, I know, make Herm Keizer proud to have been at Brite, and we have been blessed by his model of love and respect for all who serve.