

"Spirituality, Disability and Coping Strategy – Its Implication for Faith Communities"

**Reverend Olutayo Stephen Shodipo, University of Alberta
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A little explanation about this service.

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Transcription is provided by Virtual Ability, Inc. The transcriptionists are:
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(NOTE: The above did not appear in this particular presentation's transcript, but is attached as an explanation about the transcription process)

[2018/10/06 12:36] Elektra Panthar: The following initials in the transcription record will identify the speaker:
RS = Reverend Olutayo Shodipo

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[2018/10/06 12:36] Elektra Panthar: GH: Gentle Heron
In case of problems the organizers take over so I'm going to introduce our next speaker

[2018/10/06 12:36] Gentle Heron: Reverend Olutayo Stephen Shodipo is a Nigerian Baptist minister who has years of experience in Pastoral care and counseling and Educational ministry.

He is currently pursuing his Doctor of Ministry degree, researching "The possibilities of incorporating spirituality into the therapeutic process for persons with developmental disability" at St Stephen's College, University of Alberta, Canada. Reverend Shodipo will speak about "Spirituality, Disability and Coping Strategy: Implication for Faith Communities"

[2018/10/06 12:36] Reverend Shodipo (vaipresenter3): Thank you

[2018/10/06 12:39] VAIPresenter3 Resident: It's a great honour to be here. I thank the organisers of this conference for their invitation to share my thoughts with you on the above subject matter.

My name is Rev. Olutayo Shodipo

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The content of my paper is structured as follows – Introduction, People with disabilities and their needs, People with disabilities and spirituality, and Implications for faith communities, which is the conclusion.

At the end of the presentation, questions will be welcome. Thank you all for your listening attention.

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Needs of persons with disabilities manifest themselves differently according to circumstance or medical conditions.

[2018/10/06 12:41] Elektra Panthar: RS: Who am I, what is my purpose? - These are questions many ask themselves

My experience all around the world has taught me that needs with PWD manifest differently

[2018/10/06 12:42] VAIPresenter3 Resident: There is usually an interface of health, well-being and spirituality.

Therefore, there is every likelihood that the core need might transcend time and place.

Human beings seek symbolic expression that speaks of meaning that connect us to something larger than ourselves.

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The lived experiences of most people with disability is that of rejection, marginalisation and segregation. These barriers come from the society: the environment, the attitudes, and possibly the organisations.

[2018/10/06 12:44] Elektra Panthar: RS: Acceptance should be one of the values highlighted in society, according to one of the contemporary writers about disability rights

This imbalance of power needs to be addressed

[2018/10/06 12:44] VAIPresenter3 Resident: Social model theory of disability suggests that persons with disability tend to be viewed through a process of power which separate them from the mainstream society, possibly because of their impairments.

People with disabilities have various needs: physical, social, psychological and emotional, need for independence and so on.

There is an undeniable need of human expression that takes a spiritual dimension: the need for meaning, purpose, connection and communication.

(slide 5)

While some consider spirituality to be an important component of their support and services, others see it as just being part of their illness and healing experience.

However, spiritual or religious beliefs may affect the decisions people with disabilities make about their health, support and treatment choices.

Spirituality has been found to be an important coping mechanism among people with disability.

[2018/10/06 12:48] Elektra Panthar: RS: The general view is that spirituality is the search for meaning in one's life

Spirituality has been found to be an important coping mechanism for PWD

[2018/10/06 12:51] VAIPresenter3 Resident: Some spirituality stances can lead to negative coping, more depression, poorer quality of life, and callousness towards others i.e., disability seen as a punishment from God.

[2018/10/06 12:51] Elektra Panthar: RS: This is something I heard while visiting Christian families in my neighborhood. "Why is this happening to me? I am so angry at God"

[2018/10/06 12:52] VAIPresenter3 Resident: In any case, spirituality views life as a journey, where good and bad experiences can help individuals to learn, develop and mature.

[2018/10/06 12:52] Elektra Panthar: RS: Spirituality also gives us a sense of being connected to others and the world

[2018/10/06 12:52] VAIPresenter3 Resident: (slide 6)

Persons with disabilities are valued members of faith communities, and therefore must be given choices on how best to express their spirituality.

Each person is different, so it is important to find out what works the best for everyone.

People with disabilities need to feel that they are loved, welcomed and accepted for who they truly are.

Faith communities must deeply pursue their foremost reason of existence by being inclusive - engaging meaningfully and providing environment for spiritual nourishment, warmth, love and acceptance.

(slide 7)

My email: olutayo@ualberta.ca

[2018/10/06 12:55] Elektra Panthar: RS: Faith communities need to be accessible to PWD, and listen to them in an helpful way

[2018/10/06 12:55] Elektra Panthar: RS: Thank you, and God bless. I welcome questions now

[2018/10/06 12:55] Slatan Dryke: thank you Rev!

[2018/10/06 12:55] David Weinland (gipsholger.seubert): god bless too rev. shodipo

[2018/10/06 12:55] Gentle Heron: Reverend Shodipo, you've given us a lot to think about this afternoon. I do have a question. What is the difference between faith and spirituality?

[2018/10/06 12:56] Elektra Panthar: RS: Faith is something that connects you with the divine

Spirituality is the expression of your faith

They walk together, they are two concepts that can't exist without one another

[2018/10/06 12:57] Gentle Heron: QUESTION- Do you think PWD struggle with faith and spirituality more than nondisabled people?

[2018/10/06 12:57] Elektra Panthar: RS: It depends on the background and their exposure

Those with a spiritual background come to terms with the disability in a different way
Some acquire spirituality later in life, by wanting to connect with something higher

[2018/10/06 12:58] Gentle Heron: [12:57] Mook Wheeler: QUESTION: The 'core spiritual needs' of meaning, purpose, connection and communication correlate *very* closely to 2 of the 8 'dimensions of wellness': 'social wellness'-- a dimension of wellness defined by our capacity to form healthy connections with others, manage conflict and stress constructively, communicate appropriately and have a good support system of friends and family; and 'spiritual wellness'-- the search and development of a sense of purpose and meaning in life. The other 6 wellness dimensions are 'emotional', 'environment', 'financial', 'intellectual', 'occupational' and 'physical'. Can a(ny) faith community meet the core spiritual needs of an individual without taking these other wellness dimensions into consideration?

[2018/10/06 12:59] Elektra Panthar: RS: It's possible, but they are connected together

They are all interwoven - the spiritual being is all encompassing

Faith communities are trying to strike a balance between spirituality and other human endeavours

[2018/10/06 13:01] Gentle Heron: [12:58] Shyla the Super Gecko (krijon): Many churches are run more as businesses. I was told I could acquire some services if I attended certain churches. I tried this technique, but found there was little I could give back. Some churches even pointed this out, suggesting they preferred to keep the number of disabled members low. What would you say to institutions who take this stance?

[2018/10/06 13:02] Princess Claire (clairedear) thinks maybe they can't afford to *shrugs*

[2018/10/06 13:01] Elektra Panthar: RS: Most faith communities recognize individual differences - their responsibility is to recognize and identify with PWD as well

This is one of the challenges of the faith community

What is the purpose of the church? Is it to serve the community?

It's a question of preferences and mission statements

Churches need to come to terms their purpose

Many have displacement of priorities

Of course money is important to function but taking care of the people should be the #1 priority

[2018/10/06 13:04] Gentle Heron: [13:01] Diana Da Silva (dianadasilvaa):

Question: How is faith and spirituality apart of a person's social determinants of health? (and)

[13:00] David Weinland (gipsholger.seubert): spirituality is for everyone, but everybody needs an individual spirituality, part times can you find your spirituality in buddhism hinduism or christianity.. but is not a special thing for only disabled ..

[2018/10/06 13:05] Elektra Panthar: RS: Spirituality can be expressed in many ways, not just within the faith community. It can be love for something else, arts, sports, depends on the individual

It goes beyond, into the world

[2018/10/06 13:06] Shyla the Super Gecko (krijon): I can relate to music as spirituality

[2018/10/06 13:07] Elektra Panthar: GH: How can music be spiritual?

[2018/10/06 13:07] Elektra Panthar: RS: Music is part of worship

Music has to have a content of engagement, and it can be with the divine

Music also speaks to me in many ways

In my ministry experience it helps PWD a lot, as well

It helps connecting them with the divine and the community

[2018/10/06 13:08] Dorie Bernstein: I discovered that once a disabled person is no longer a kid by the community's standards, that they get forgotten and ignored

[2018/10/06 13:09] Elektra Panthar: RS: There's a need for PWD, what is their connection among themselves and within the community, with whom they can connect spiritually, and it takes time sometimes

There's the need to explore opportunities among PWD for the senior citizens. It depends on the individual's preferences, what brings them comfort, meaning and connection

[2018/10/06 13:11] Gentle Heron: [13:07] David Weinland (gipsholger.seubert): I think music is a good part of spirituality... (and)

[13:08] iSkye Silverweb: as a deaf person, this kind of makes the idea of worship pretty meaningless for me: "music is part of worship" - um it isn't for me but I can see how it is so important for non-deaf people.

[2018/10/06 13:10] David Weinland (gipsholger.seubert): I think the gives other ways to worship in spirituality for deaf persons

[2018/10/06 13:11] Elektra Panthar: RS: That's why there can be several ways to express their spirituality

For some it's music, for some it's holding a certain object, etc

[2018/10/06 13:12] Gloriejoy (joycie.string): yes

[2018/10/06 13:13] Elektra Panthar: RS: Spirituality is also connection and how positively it affects you

[2018/10/06 13:13] Gentle Heron: How do developmentally disabled people understand faith if they have lower intellectual capacity?

[2018/10/06 13:14] Elektra Panthar: RS: I think the intellectual aspect of the human being is connected to someone's spirituality, but that is why there's the need for a support system and a community

Everybody needs to be cared for, no matter their impairments

[2018/10/06 13:14] Mook Wheeler: REVISED COMMENT: I appreciate the Rev's ideas re: music. It is said that "music has charms to soothe the savage breast". Music contains a very fundamental effect: it affects the body as well the mind -- one reason for this is that music contains the very powerful element of rhythm, pattern, narrative, story-telling. It is something the body can feel, and the mind can follow.

[2018/10/06 13:15] Elektra Panthar: RS: Yes, everything is interconnected

If the body responds positively to the soul and vice versa, the effect is of well-being

That's why all of these aspects must be attended to
There's a holistic approach to attend to the needs of PWD
[2018/10/06 13:16] Gloriejoy (joycie.string): agree

[2018/10/06 13:16] Gentle Heron: Are there any other questions? Otherwise I have one last question.

Is there anything our community can help you with as you pursue your studies?

[2018/10/06 13:18] Elektra Panthar: RS: I'd like to continue to engage with this community and see if my studies can impact the lives of those in this community and beyond

My studies have been to Africa, England, Canada, so I hope to extend my questionnaires to you as well if you'd like

[2018/10/06 13:19] Gentle Heron: Thank you very much for sharing with our audience today. We need to respect our differences and honor the spirituality in us all. Thank you.

[2018/10/06 13:20] Elektra Panthar: GH: There's a giver box with a dove on it, if you click on it you can find this presentation's bibliography

[2018/10/06 13:19] David Weinland (gipsholger.seubert): people of asia and africa actually more belief in jesus as usa and germany

[2018/10/06 13:19] Dorie Bernstein: Thank you so much for sharing with us and teaching us today

[2018/10/06 13:19] Reverend Shodipo (vaipresenter3): Thank you all. It's nice to be with all of you.

Thanks.

[2018/10/06 13:21] Mook Wheeler: Reverend Shodipo, I agree with you that everything is interconnected, and that the process of well-being is holistic.

Thank you so much for sharing with us!

[2018/10/06 13:21] Reverend Shodipo (vaipresenter3): You're welcome.

[2018/10/06 13:21] Elektra Panthar: RS: It's good to connect with you, I hope to continue this connection in the future