



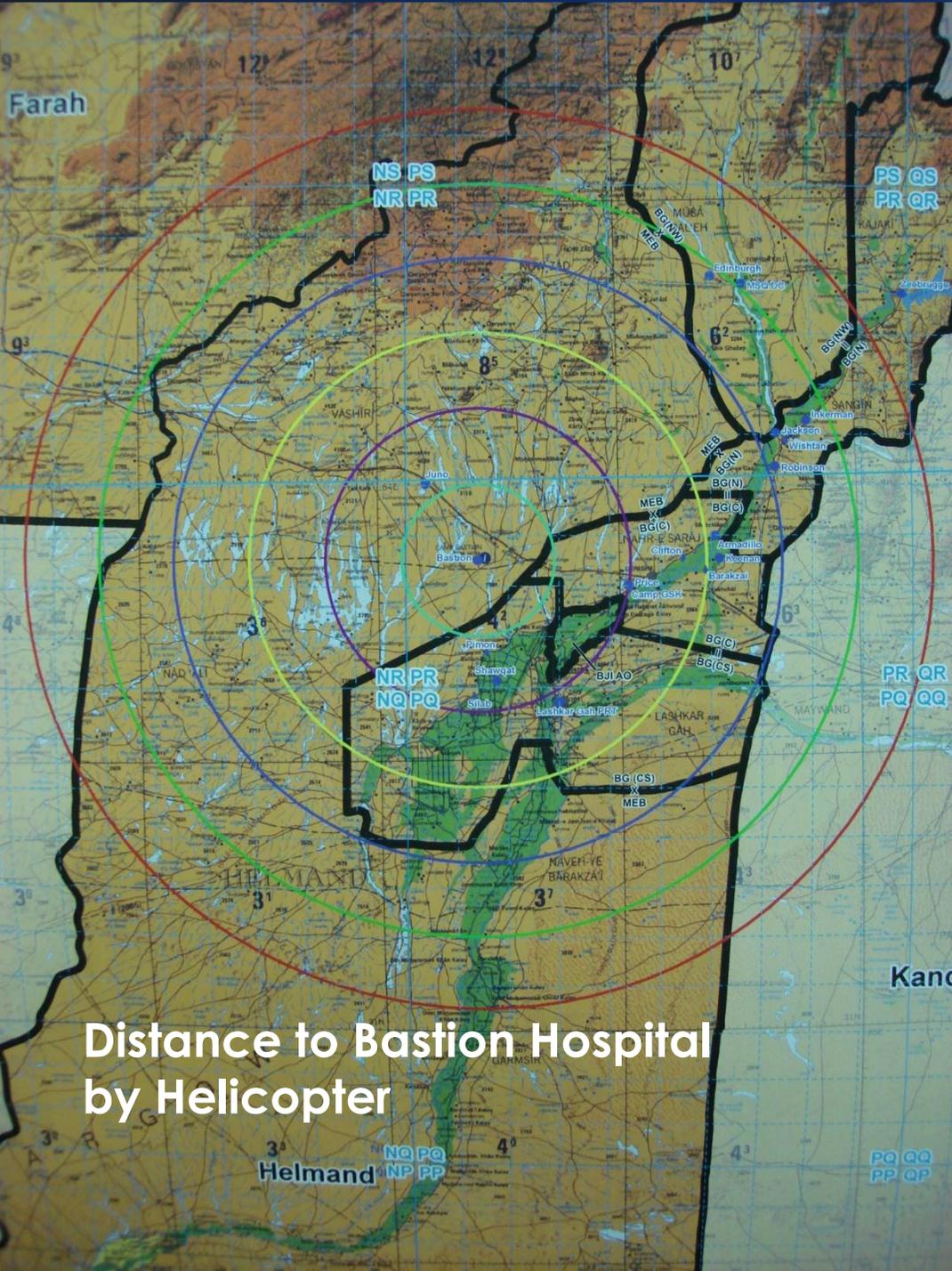
# MORAL INJURY IN MEDICAL MISSION



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“MORAL INJURY”

THEN TO THE MISSION FIELD WHERE...

# MORAL INJURY DEFINITION

COMMITTS  
IS PARTY TO  
FAILS TO  
PREVENT

An  
Act

Violates  
One's Own  
Deeply Held  
Values

Guilt

Shame

ALSO...  
BETRAYAL.



(Shay 2014, Norman and Maguen, Koenig 2021)

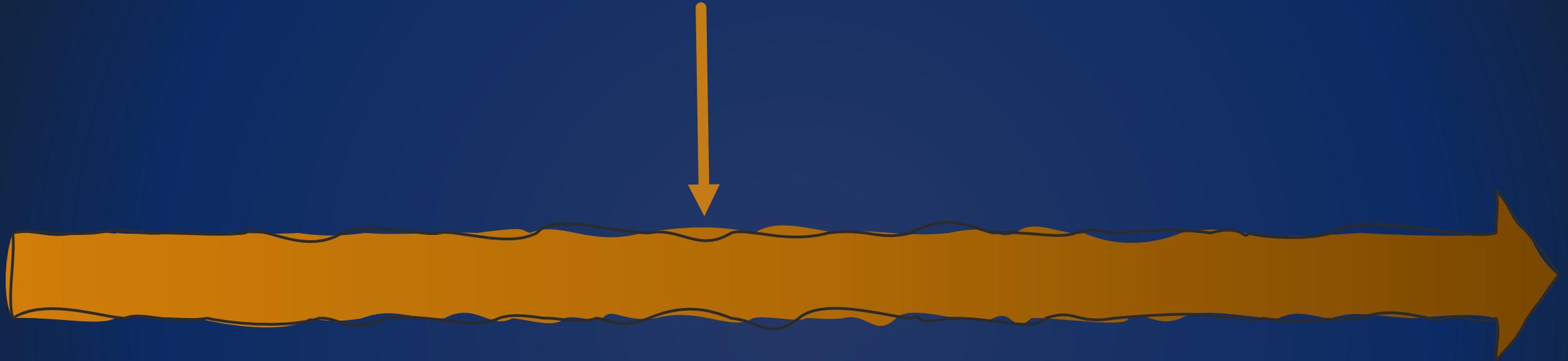
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# EXAMPLES

- PERPETRATING, FAILING TO PREVENT
  - ABORTIONS
- DISRUPTION OF EXPECTATIONS ABOUT OWN MORAL BEHAVIOR
  - DRIVE AWAY FROM RTA.

# POTENTIALLY MORALLY INJURIOUS EVENT (PMIE)



MILD MORAL DISTRESS

MORAL INJURY

MORAL INJURY "DISORDER"

*(Stephen M. Campbell et al., 2016; Anto Cartolovni, et al., 2021; Andrew Jameton, 2017; Harold Koenig et al., 2023)*

# MI IS STRONGLY ASSOCIATED WITH:

- PTSD SEVERITY
- DEPRESSION
- ANXIETY
- RELATIONAL ISSUES
- RELIGIOUS/SPIRITUAL STRUGGLES
- LOSS OF FAITH, LOSS OF HOPE
- SUICIDALITY



# CROSS-CULTURAL MEDICINE IS A MORAL INJURY FACTORY

TWIN BIRTH

“DISCHARGE IN.”



# DISCUSSION

- HOW HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED OR SEEN MORAL INJURY?
- CROSS-CULTURAL COMPONENT?
- WHAT VALUE WAS VIOLATED?

# UNDERSTANDING MORAL INJURY

- INEVITABLE
- CUMULATIVE
- CAN PREVENT AND  
“METABOLIZE.”



ADDRESS MORAL INJURY: IDENTIFY  
MUTATED “DEEPLY HELD VALUES”

# AMERICAN MEDICAL WORK ETHIC



- MARK 4:35-5 THAT DAY WHEN EVENING CAME, HE SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES, "LET US GO OVER TO THE OTHER SIDE." <sup>36</sup> LEAVING THE CROWD BEHIND, THEY TOOK HIM ALONG, JUST AS HE WAS, IN THE BOAT.
- MARK 5:45-6 IMMEDIATELY JESUS MADE HIS DISCIPLES GET INTO THE BOAT AND GO ON AHEAD OF HIM TO BETHSAIDA, WHILE HE DISMISSED THE CROWD. AFTER LEAVING THEM, HE WENT UP ON A MOUNTAIN SIDE TO PRAY.
- MARK 6:31-2 THEN, BECAUSE SO MANY PEOPLE WERE COMING AND GOING THAT THEY DID NOT EVEN HAVE A CHANCE TO EAT, HE SAID TO THEM, "COME WITH ME BY YOURSELVES TO A QUIET PLACE AND GET SOME REST." SO THEY WENT AWAY BY THEMSELVES IN A BOAT TO A SOLITARY PLACE.

“LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF”

-MARK 12:31

Related AMW:

Responsibility for Outcomes

God is Sovereign:

Deut 32:39 'See now that I, I am He, And there is no god besides Me; **It is I who put to death and give life.** I have wounded and it is I who heal, And there is no one who can deliver from My hand.

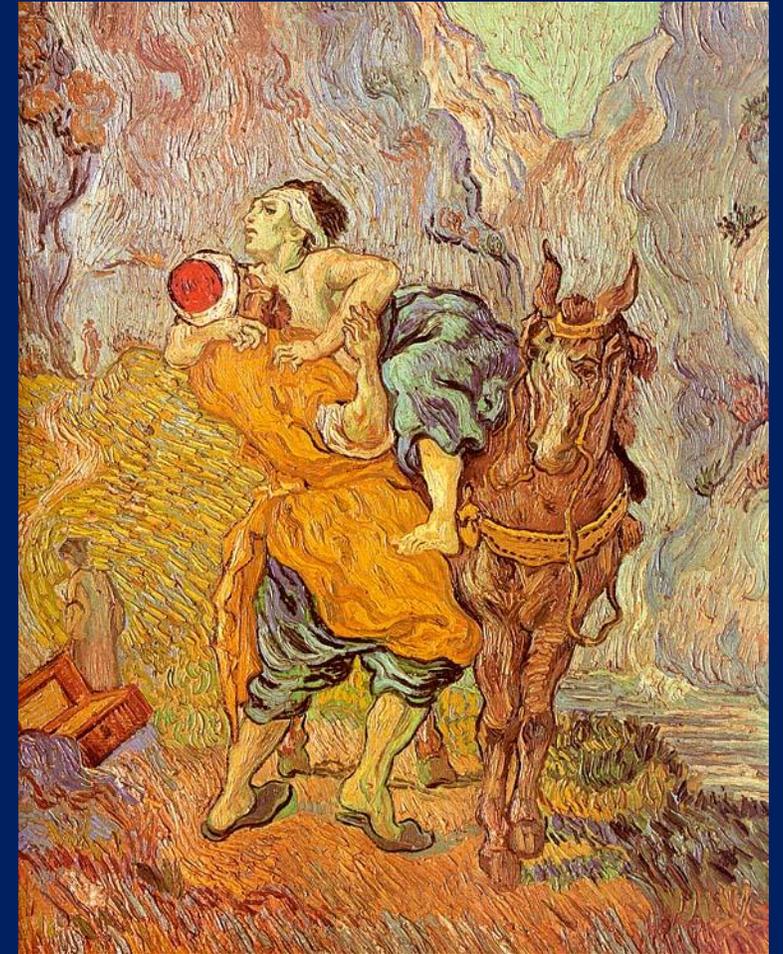
Ps 139:16 In Your book were all written the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there were not one of them.

# Free will/consequences/medicine

Luke 10:33-35

"But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, 34 and came to him and **bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them**; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him.

Responsibility for outcomes is not ultimately ours.



# MANAGING MORAL INJURY

- INEVITABLE
- CUMULATIVE
- CAN PREVENT AND  
“METABOLIZE”



METABOLIZING MORAL INJURY IS AN  
ESSENTIAL SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE IN  
CROSS-CULTURAL MISSIONS.



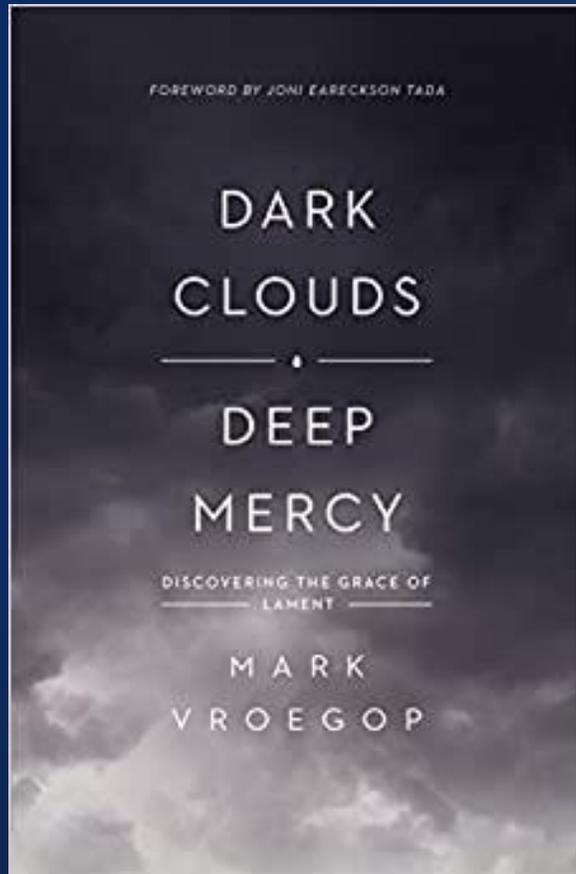
# STRATEGIES TO MANAGE AND METABOLIZE MORAL INJURY

- LAMENT
- SHARE THE BURDEN
- CONFESS AND RECEIVE FORGIVENESS
- TAKE TIME AWAY
- WORK TO REDEEM.



# METABOLIZE MORAL INJURY #1

## LAMENT

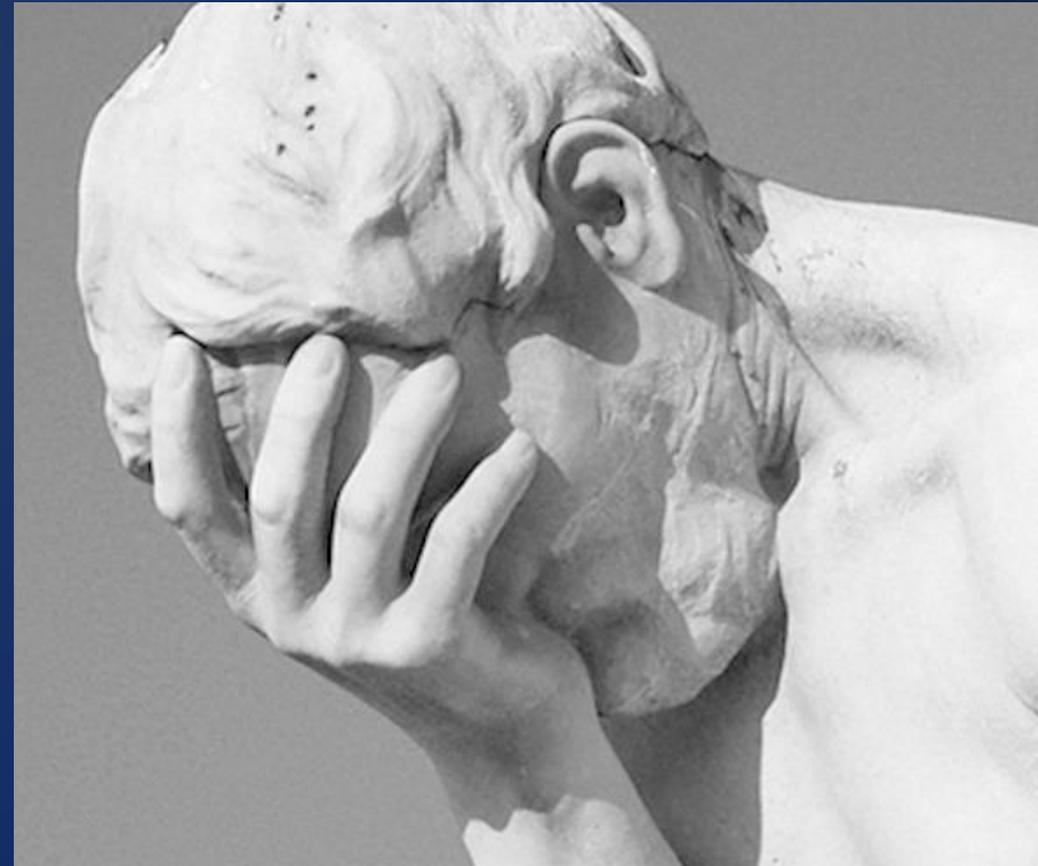


# METABOLIZE #2: SHARE THE BURDEN

MORAL INJURY AND SHAME CANNOT BE DEALT  
WITH BY OURSELVES

-AMY ANDERSON MA LPC

Also share the victories



# METABOLIZE, #3: CONFESS AND RECEIVE FORGIVENESS

- “**FORGIVENESS**, MORE THAN ANYTHING, IS KEY TO HELPING TROOPS WHO FEEL THEY HAVE TRANSGRESSED.”
- -WILLIAM NASH, CAPTAIN, USN (RETIRED), PSYCHIATRIST.

METABOLIZE#4:

TIME AWAY

# METABOLIZE #5: WORK TO REDEEM

- RIGHT THE WRONG
- HEAL THE INJURED
- PREVENT FUTURE INJURY
- SEEK CONSENSUS AMONG COLLEAGUES
- SET UP STRUCTURES TO SHARE BURDENSOME DECISIONS.



# WE (CHRISTIANS) CAN BE BEST AT METABOLIZING MORAL INJURY!

- LAMENTING TO THE ONE WHO UNDERSTANDS
- SHARING WITH EXPERTS IN GRACE
- CONFESSING WITH THE ONE WHO ULTIMATELY FORGIVES
- OUR SHEPHERD PROVIDES TIME AWAY.

# A TESTIMONIAL

- 40 YEARS WITH ABUSED AND ABANDONED CHILDREN



## A COUPLE OF RELATED CONCEPTS

- KEEP THE MAIN THING IN VIEW
- GRIT IS A KEY INGREDIENT
- HEALTHCARE MISSIONS IS PROFOUNDLY EFFECTIVE.

Albrecht Durer, 1513, Knight, Death, Devil

# “MORAL INJURY” IS A NEW TERM FOR....

- THE WAY THROUGH THE MINEFIELD OF SIN IS FUNDAMENTALLY BIBLICAL
- THIS IS OUR STORY...
- OUR SECULAR COLLEAGUES ARE LOST IN THE MINEFIELD
- AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EVANGELISM?

Please give us your feedback!

MORAL INJURY  
IN  
MEDICAL MISSIONS

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