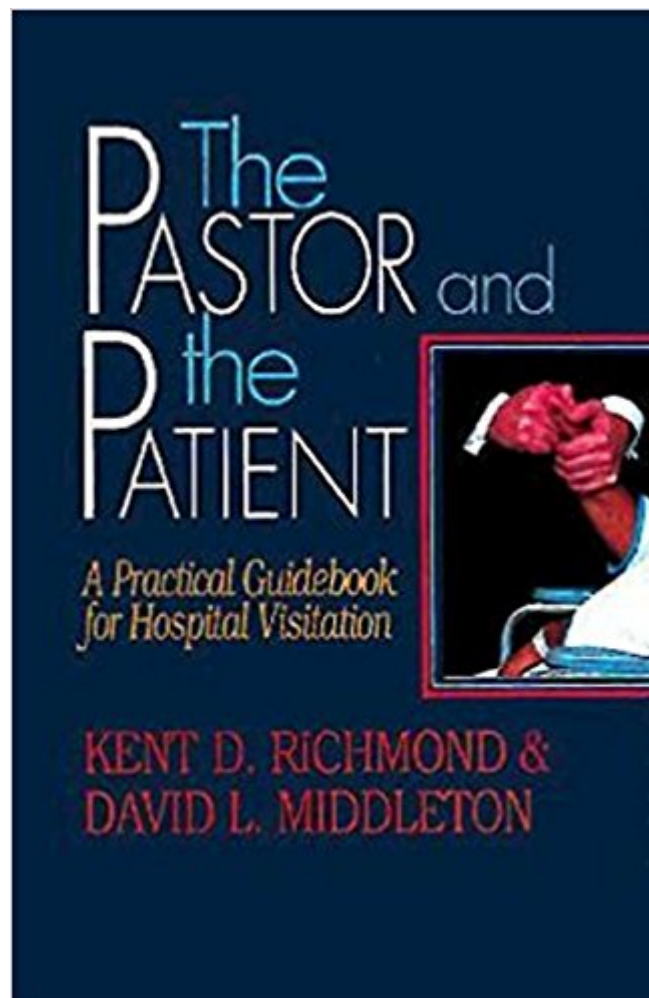




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# The Pastor And The Patient: A Practical Guidebook For Hospital Visitation



## Synopsis

After establishing a sound theological understanding of pastoral visitation, the authors examine the theological and ethical homework that the pastor must do as preparation for effectively doing hospital ministry. Concluding chapters deal with the patient's needs, the pastor's spiritual resources, the pastoral visit, and continued pastoral care after hospitalization. Key Benefits:~ ~ Helps pastors understand the hospital context/culture;~ ~ Helps pastors deal with defense mechanisms of patients;~ ~ Helps pastors recognize the healing functions of guiding, healing, and sustaining;~ ~ Helps pastors identify and utilize local resources within the hospital;~ ~ Explains appropriate use of spiritual resources such as prayer, confession, and communion in the hospital sick room;~ ~ Helps pastors and leaders to look inward at personal anxiety in the midst of illness

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Kent D. Richmond is Chaplain at Coronary Intensive Care. He is a frequent speaker for clergy retreats and pastor schools. David Middleton is Director of Clinical Pastoral Education at Lutheran General Hospital, Park Ridge, ILL.

This book is required for my chaplain internship. It offers helpful insights into providing effective pastoral care. Good study tool.

Good

To begin, "The Pastor and the Patient" is poorly organized. The book begins on a firm footing by suggesting that there are three pastoral functions, healing, sustaining, and guiding. It would have been more utilitarian if the authors had organized their material into three phases then explored the actual visit from the perspective of the three pastoral functions:

- \* Pre-visit: Chapter 1 - A Pastoral Theology
- Chapter 3 - The Pastor's Homework
- Chapter 4 - The Pastor's Bio-ethics
- Chapter 7 - The Pastor's Spiritual Resources
- \* Visit: Chapter 2 - The Hospital Community
- Chapter 5 - Finding Your Way in the Hospital
- Chapter 9 - The Pastoral Visit
- Chapter 6 - The Patient's Needs
- \* Post-visit: Chapter 8 - After Hospitalization
- Chapter 10 - Follow-up

The Pastor and the Patient seeks to demystify hospital visitation and ease concerns on behalf of the Pastoral Visitor, however, the problem is, in doing so it is too general and too basic. The topics that it addresses are too broad; they range from pastoral theology to moral dilemmas associated with abortion and euthanasia. As such, none of the topics are, nor could be, adequately addressed. Such broad moral issues may have been better addressed by exploring their individual dilemmas more broadly. That is to say, it might have been more utilitarian to examine the gap between human pathos and divine ethos rather than to suppose the readership would agree with the authors' theological conclusions. Statements such as, "It seems clear that the fetus has no moral status" invite more debate than they are useful. In short, the authors' invite critical discussion with respect to their stand on moral issues which could have been avoided by limiting the discussion to the dynamics surrounding those issues and cautioning the Pastoral Visitor to be prepared for an open discussion of the issues with their patients and the patient's families. The Pastor and the Patient is at best a simple dialogue for the lay visitor. It lacks in depth, clarity and organization. The book starts off strong with a quick look at a pastoral theology which could and should have been better fleshed out. There is sufficient material in The Pastor and the Patient to provide direction with respect to pastoral visitation, but it is not a road map. I personally appreciated chapters 7 and 9. Chapter 7, The Pastor's Spiritual Resources, provides limited insight into the ecumenical nature of Chaplaincy and is useful if only to introduce the idea of interfaith needs. In chapter 9 it was interesting to read the authors' approach to the pastoral dialogue by means of the verbatim. Bottom Line Save your money on this one, it's too shallow and lacks focus.

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