

"Books-in-action"--for Loree and I--means book we use in our ministry centering in our home, and so apt to be picked up around the house [bedroom, counseling room, livingrm.]. Well, this thinksheet is some of these books as they bear on "S.&L.," just as I picked them up [without deliberate subcategorization]. Browse the list and comments just as you'd do if you were at our house:

Corrie TenBoom's PRISON LETTERS [Revell/75] and Bonhoeffer's LETTER AND PAPERS FROM PRISON [Mac/74], and almost any other prison literature of high quality, speak to this and other experiences of separation and loss [hereafter, just "S" and/or "L"]....Trina Paulus' HOPE FOR THE FLOWERS [Paulist/72] is a powerful parable preaching intimacy against the alienating drive to get ahead....BOKOTOLA [Association/77] is Millard Fuller's biographical account of God's delivering him from getting ahead, and using his gifts to overcome a number of separations (copies purchasable from me)....Olive Wyon's ON THE WAY: SOME REFLECTIONS ON THE XN LIFE [SCM/58] is something we've used in reading groups, e.g. for text-reading in breakfast groups....Edgar Jones' THE TRIUMPH OF JOB (SCM/66] shows that while this book of the Bible has for context undeserved suffering, its intent is to explore the absence/presence of God--and so it's more accurate to say that it's about L (as Job loses everything) and S (as he's separated from everything meaningful to him, except the absent/present God)...."Mental illness," so called, can be fruitfully conceived as self-S or outer-world withdrawal into the inner world, with at least temporary L of the outer world. Anton Boisen taught as to look at this trip as heuristic, in his classic EXPLORATIONS OF THE INNER WORLD (based on his experiences as a "mental" patient, before he invented clinical pastoral training). Fiction has given us a chance to experience the trip: Joanne Greenberg's classic I NEVER PROMISED YOU A ROSE GARDEN [Signet/64]. And try, here, also the hilarious ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST [Ken Kesey, Signet/62--and don't miss the film!].....S & L, in the course, mean chiefly involuntary; but some spinoffs from chosen separation, e.g. meditation as solitude rather than loneliness. Three we've found helpful: Ardis Whatman's MEDITATION: JOURNEY TO THE SELF [S&S/76]; Lawrence LeShan's HOW TO MEDITATE: A GUIDE TO SELF-DISCOVERY [L,B/74]; and Morton Kelsey's THE OTHER SIDE OF SILENCE: A GUIDE TO XN MEDITATION [Paulist/76]....Books by a great and lonely solitary: Simone Weil's THE NEED FOR ROOTS [Beacon/52] and WAITING FOR GOD [Harper Torchbook/73].... Depression contains elements of failure and grief and meditation and loneliness. On it, try Georgia Harkness' THE DARK NIGHT OF THE SOUL: FROM SPIRITUAL DEPRESSION TO INNER RENEWAL [Abingdon/45]; and Catherine deHueck Doherty's POUSTINIA: XN SPIRITUALITY OF THE EAST FOR WESTERN MAN [Ave Maria Press/75]; and Dorothy Payne's WOMEN WITHOUT MEN [Pilgrim Press/69]; and Jn. Powell's WHY AM I AFRAID TO TELL YOU WHO I AM? [Argus/69]; and Andrew Greeley's LIFE FOR A WANDERER: A NEW LOOK AT XN SPIRITUALITY [Image/71]; and, in a very different and syncretistic mold, Nikos Kazantzakis' THE SAVIORS OF GOD: SPIRITUAL EXERCISES [S&S/60]....Loneliest seem to find Earl Jabay's books helpful--such as SEARCH FOR IDENTITY: A VIEW OF AUTHENTIC XN LIVING [Zondervan/73]....Our favorite marriage book is Howard and Charlotte Clinebell's THE INTIMATE MARRIAGE [Harper/70]....The great psychiatrist Karl Menninger nails many diversionary tactics against S and L in his WHATEVER BECAME OF SIN? [Hawthorn/73]....On S & L in life-stages, see Barbara Fried's THE MIDDLE-AGE CRISIS [Harper/76]; Lewis Sherrill's classic THE STRUGGLE OF THE SOUL [Mac/68]; and Gail Sheehy's runaway seller PASSAGES: PREDICTABLE CRISES OF ADULT LIFE [Bantam/77]...Kafka's THE CASTLE; Jn. M. Cuddihy's THE ORDEAL OF CIVILITY: FREUD, MARX, LEVI-STRAUSS, AND THE JEWISH STRUGGLE WITH MODERNITY; Antony Flew's BODY, MIND, AND DEATH ["What is consciousness?"]; Philip Slater's THE PURSUIT OF LONELINESS: AM. CULTURE AT THE BREAKING POINT (1970); Camus' THE PLAGUE; Kuebler-Ross's ON DEATH AND DYING: WHAT THE DYING HAVE TO TEACH ...; Thos. JJ Altizer and Wm. Hamilton's RADICAL THEOLOGY AND THE DEATH OF GOD; Bernard Martin's IF GOD DOES NOT DIE [Paul Tournier Preface]; Henry Miller's TROPIC OF CAPRICORN; Douglas Steere's ON BEGINNING FROM WITHIN; Pauline Réage's STORY OF O; W.H.C. Frend's MARTYRDOM AND PERSECUTION IN THE EARLY CHURCH; Wm. F. May's A CATALOGUE OF SINS: A CONTEMPORARY EXAMINATION OF CHRISTIAN CONSCIENCE; Rainer Maria Rilke's STORIES OF GOD; Langdon Gilkey's SHANTUNG COMPOUND: THE STORY OF MEN AND WOMEN UNDER PRESSURE....How difficult to end the list! The subject of this course has so many ramification in human life that one can make connections with most books of any human/humane significance! Try, from this standpoint, examining the books on your own shelves. When you find a book well within the province of "separation and loss," ask yourself why you bought it.