

THUMBNAIL OF COUNSELEE

48-year-old farm worker, Baptist background
 no relatives
 arterial problem; possible leg amputation
 simple man, simple background: overwhelmed
 by hospital-industry surround

COUNSELOR is CPT under the hosp. chaplain

PROCESS-EVENTS (Use other side of this sheet
 for essential verbatims.)

the second visit
 patient died during operation next morning

[ref: chapt.3 ("Ministry to a Hopeless Man"),
 Henri J.M. Nouwen's THE WOUNDED HEALER:
 MINISTRY IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY (Double-
 day/72)]

PSYCHOSOCIODYNAMICS ANALYSIS

THEODYNAMICS ANALYSIS

"EVENT" (OUTCOME & CONSEQUENCES)

Counselor, after the death, went to the chaplain, explaining that in his opinion the deceased was not a likely candidate for pastoral help.

COUNSELOR'S SELF-EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE

Couldn't, as he said, "get anywhere"; felt frustrated, let down. Nouwen, 55: "Only when he started to write, read and reread his conversation and to discuss with his supervisor what had actually happened, was he able to develop the distance necessary to see the painful condition of Mr. Harrison....which John had to feel and taste deeply before he could be of help."

INSTRUCTION: Study the verbatim (over), then fill in the two clean boxes above, using the bottom half of each box to suggest what you might have done differently from what John did (and why).

name

date



1. Study the verbatim on this page, then process as instructed on the bottom of side one of #621A. I give you only the clue that this case sneaks up on Frankl's THE WILL TO MEANING.

2. At 4.15pm we'll group decide (a) to plenum what you've written on psycho-socio- and theo-dynamics, (b) to subgroup for this processing (dyads? triads?), or (c) to skip to #621B, which is xeroxed from p.71 of Henri's THE WOUNDED HEALER and is, in my opinion, the nub of his book, which reports on the convergence in him of his Catholic monasticism and his Kansas [Menninger Clinic] psychotherapy. [The whole chapter [III], "Ministry to a Hopeless Man"--esp.sec. III (pp.71-8), "Principles of Christian Leadership."]

JOHN: Mr. Harrison, I'm . . . I came by . . . to see you the other day.

MR. HARRISON: O yes, I remember.

JOHN: How are things going?

MR. HARRISON: Well, I'll tell you. They were supposed to operate on me last week. They got me drugged, took me up there and my heart flew up. They decided they'd better not try it then. They brought me back down here and I'm supposed to have the operation tomorrow.

JOHN: You say your heart flew up?

MR. HARRISON: Yes, they thought it might be too risky to go through with it. [PAUSE] I guess I'm ready for the operation. I think I can make it.

JOHN: You feel you're ready for it.

MR. HARRISON: Well, I'm not ready to die. But I think the operation is necessary or I'll lose my legs.

JOHN: You're not ready for the end, but you want something to be done if possible so you won't lose your legs.

MR. HARRISON: Yeah [nodding]. If this is the end, this is one who's gonna be lost.

JOHN: You feel the cause is lost if you don't make it through the operation.

MR. HARRISON: Yeah! Of course they tell me there's not too much to the operation. They're gonna dope me up right here and keep me here until it's time for the operation. They said they're going to put some plastic tubes inside me and that oughta save my legs. You see my foot here [takes shoe off and shows his foot]. This toe here gets blue when I stand on it. They could amputate here by the ankle, but this way they might save my legs.

JOHN: It's worth the operation if you can use your legs again.

MR. HARRISON: Yeah. Course I don't want to die during the operation. I'd rather die a natural death than die through anesthesia.

JOHN: You know the possibility of death is present during the operation, but the only way you can get well is to have the operation.

MR. HARRISON: Yeah, that's right.

Pause

JOHN: You got much waiting for you when you leave the hospital?

MR. HARRISON: Nothing and nobody. Just hard work.

JOHN: Just a lot of hard labor.

MR. HARRISON: Yeah, that's right. Course I got to gain my strength back. I figure I'll be ready about the time the tobacco crop is ready.

JOHN: You'll be working with the tobacco crop?

MR. HARRISON: Yeah, picking starts around August.

JOHN: Mmm-hm.

Pause

JOHN: Well, Mr. Harrison, I hope things go well for you tomorrow.

MR. HARRISON: Thank you. Thanks for coming by.

JOHN: I'll be seeing you. Good-by.

MR. HARRISON: Good-by.