Institute for Research on Unlimited Love – Books Produced

From: Stephen G. Post
Re: IRUL Books and Special Issue Journals TOTAL = 88
Date: 2014

Single Author Books by S.G. Post/MT Lee (n = 7)


S.G. Post and Jill Neimark. *Its Good to Be Good: How Daily Giving is the Key to Health, Happiness and a Longer Life* (New York: Random House/Doubleday-Broadway Books, 2007). This book took two years to write. It advances the scientific connection between unselfish love, happiness, spirituality and health. It contains new IRUL science, engaging stories, theological ideas, and “how to” exercises. All costs were handled by Dr. Post directly via advance from Broadway Books. A major website/blog domain was created (www.whygoodthingshappen.com) and developed, also out of pocket, by Dr. Post. The book includes a *Foreword* by Pastor Otis Moss, Jr.

As of June 2011, this book has sold a total of 40,200 copies in English. *WGTHGP* was translated and published in Japan, Brazil, Russia, Portugal, India, Sweden, Indonesia and Taiwan.


This book includes *major sections on agape love* as the crucial expression of spirituality and religion in society. Most of this book was completed in 1999 and 2000 with a special small grant from the Templeton Foundation via the Becket Institute at Oxford.


S.G. Post, *More Lasting Unions: Christianity, the Family, and Society* (Series on Religion and the Family Edited by Don S. Browning) (Grand Rapids, Mi.: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2000). Dr. Post finished this book just as IRUL was being conceived. Throughout, the book focuses on the science and theology of love within the context of the family.
Edited Books by S.G. Post/M.T. Lee (n = 8)


S.G. Post, ed., *Altruism and Health: An Empirical Perspective* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007). This book includes chapters by 23 premier scientists and theologians, breaking completely new ground in connecting the health benefits of giving with group selection theory in evolution, and with *Why Good Things Happen to Good People*, which refers to a number of the major new research studies contained in this Oxford collection.

S.G. Post and Robert H. Binstock, eds., *The Fountain of Youth: Cultural, Scientific, and Ethical Perspectives on a Biomedical Goal* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004). This was a special project developed in conjunction with Dr. Harper’s conference. The book pertains directly to unlimited love because in various chapters, authors argue that with regard to human enhancement, the central thrust must be growth in unlimited love rather than in biotechnological innovations. Love is posited as the only credible form of enhancement.


John Wall, Don S. Browning, William Doherty, S.G. Post, eds., *Marriage, Health, and the Professions: If Marriage is Good for You, What Does This Mean for Law, Medicine, Ministry, Therapy, and Business* (Grand Rapids, Mi: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2002). This is a book about married love and benevolence, breaking new ground in the epidemiology of more lasting unions. It was supported in part by the Lilly Foundation.

**Single Author Books by IRUL Investigators (n = 26)**


Andrew Flescher and Daniel Worthen, *The Altruistic Species: Scientific, Philosophical, and Religious Perspectives on Human Benevolence* (Philadelphia: Templeton Press, 2007). These authors won a university course award from IRUL, and attended the awardee’s conference at the Claremont School of Theology.


Bill Kramer, *Unexpected Grace: Stories of Faith, Science, and Altruism* (Philadelphia: Templeton Press, 2007). Kramer worked closely with IRUL-funded scientists, including site visits, interviews with PIs and subjects. A nationally distinguished writer and journalist, Bill writing a full volume based on interviews with IRUL-funded researchers, in which he will examine their motives in studying unlimited love as scientists. This is, in effect, an example of IRUL attempting to follow the pattern of *Science and Spiritual Quest*, a Templeton Foundation project in which scientists disclose and reflect on their religious beliefs. Mr. Kramer devoted an entire year to this project, and travel widely to the research locations IRUL was supporting.


Thomas J. Oord, *Defining Love: A Philosophical, Scientific, and Theological Engagement* (Gran Rapids, Mi: Brazos, 2010).


**Reference Works (n = 2)**

Yuhudit Greenberg, ed., *Encyclopedia of Love in World Religions, 2 vols.* (Santa Barbara, Ca: ABC-CLIO Reference, 2008). Dr. Greenberg, one of the premier religious thinkers on love, came to our Villanova conference in 2002 and we discussed the need for an encyclopedia on this topic. Dr. Post assisted her with navigating the reference publishers, and encouraged this major encyclopedia. She has succeeded, and with one of the major reference publishing houses.

**Edited Books by IRUL Investigators (n = 11)**

Craig A. Boyd, ed., *Visions of Agape: Nature and Grace* (London: Ashgate Publishing, 2008). This is another outcome of the 2004 Summer Institute at Calvin College. Dr. Boyd was Professor of Integration for Science and Theology at Azusa Pacific University.

Patrick M. Brennan, ed., *The Vocation of the Child* (Grand Rapids, Mi: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2008). This book examines how children can be raised to practice *agape* love. It includes all major theologians and social scientists working on the “best love of the child,” which is to nurture *agape* in that child. This is based at Emory University via an IRUL match with the Center for Religion and Law.

Timothy P. Jackson, ed., *The Morality of Adoption: Social-Psychological, Theological, and Legal Perspectives*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2005. This book emerged from an IRUL-Emory conference/roundtable based on Dr. Post’s contributions to the theology of adoption debate in the mid-1990s. There was also a special working group conference and public panel presentation at Emory.


Jacob Neusner and Brice Chilton, eds., *Altruism in the World Religions* (Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2005). This book that emerged from the Bard College forums in which scholars from the major religious traditions made in inventory of the place of Unlimited love in scriptures and theologies. Of special interest is that the volume clearly distinguishes “altruism” as bringing negative or neutral benefit to the agent from all religious concepts of love, in which love is a blessing to the agent. This entire project included:

*a major three-day conference at Bard with contributing scholars open to the public
*courses on unlimited love across-the-curriculum at Bard College for a full semester
*the book author stipends

Jacob Neusner and Bruce Chilton, eds., *Religious Tolerance in World Religions* (Philadelphia: Templeton Pres, 2008). This project also included a conference and courses at Bard College.
Jacob Neusner and Bruce Chilton, eds., The Golden Rule: Analytical Perspectives (Lanham, Md: University Press of America, 2009). This project included a conference and courses at Bard.


Special Edited Journals Devoted to “Unlimited Love” (n = 4)


Journal of Psychology and Theology: Special Issue – Love, Psychology, and Theology, Spring 2006, Vol. 34, No. 1. The volume was edited by Alan Tjeltveit, Professor of Psychology at Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania, who was one of the participants in the IRUL Works of Love Seminar convened at Calvin College in the summer of 2004. Dr. Tjeltveit won one of our IRUL article awards for publishing his piece originally presented at the Works of Love conference in Villanova in June 2003. This journal is considered a major venue in Christian evangelical dialogue between science and theology. The emphasis of the special issue is on developing a theologically- and scientifically-informed psychology of love of God and love of neighbor-as-self.

Humboldt Journal of Social Relation: Special Issue – Altruism, Intergroup Apology and Forgiveness as Antidote for a Divided World, Vol. 29, No. 2, 2005. Edited by Samuel Oliner, who was funded for IRUL research, this volume brings together 8 distinguished researchers on unlimited love.
Books (single author and edited) Funded by the Flame of Love/IRUL Project’s Competitive Awards Process (n = 10)


Amos Yong. God is Spirit, God is Love: Love as the Gift of the Spirit (Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2012).

Books (single author and edited) Funded by the Pursuit of Happiness (Scientific, Theological, and Interdisciplinary Study on the Love of God, neighbor, and Self/IRUL Project’s Awards Process (n = 20 est.)

A principal aim of this project was to foster more holistic and realistic public, if not popular, understandings of the meanings of “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” in all its varieties. We pursued this aim in part through the production of 19 new books, more than 100 new articles and essays, a series of public lectures, six new courses, and a major international conference on interreligious understandings of happiness.

After a series of 7 roundtable conferences, and 70 public lectures, the project culminated with the “Interfaith Summit on Happiness,” held October 16-17, 2010 on the Emory campus. The
conference included a series of public presentations and conversations on happiness and well being in comparative confessional and professional perspective.


