

## *The availability of the book:*

The book is still making its way into bookstores. Meanwhile it can be ordered direct from Emergency Ministry for AU\$25 (bulk discounts apply) plus \$5 package and postage Australia-wide.

## **International Postage:**

USA and Canada \$11.50 US

## **Payment by:**

Payment can be made by cheque, money order direct fund transfer or PayPal.

## **Order by:**

### **Email**

[sales@emergencyministry.com.au](mailto:sales@emergencyministry.com.au)

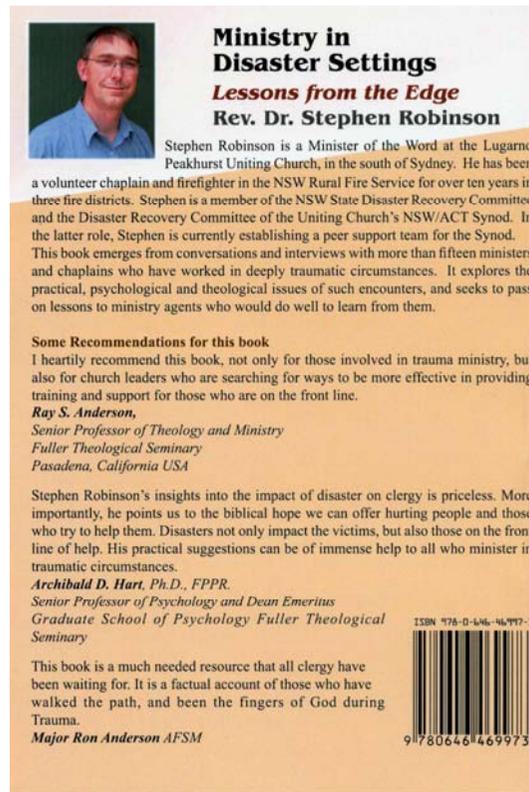
### **Phone or fax**

(61-2) 9153 8653

### **Post**

P.O. Box 69  
Lugarno NSW 2210  
AUSTRALIA

For more information check the website at  
[www.emergencyministry.com.au](http://www.emergencyministry.com.au)



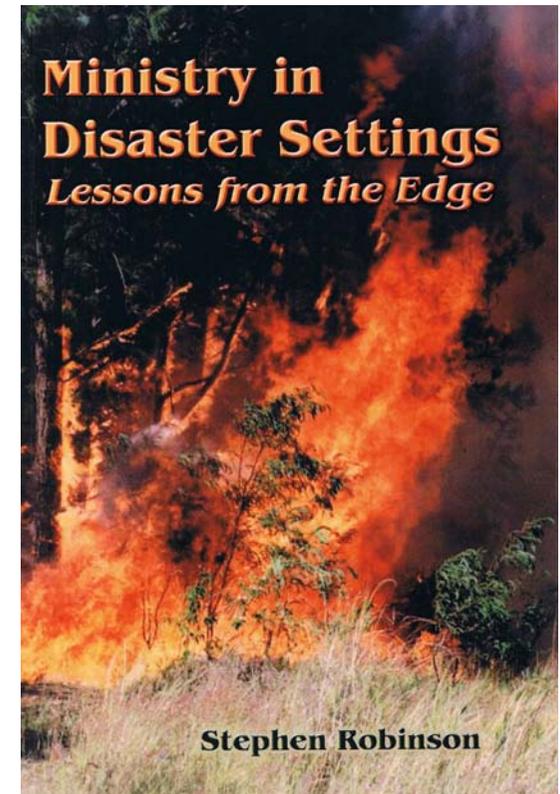
## **Ministry in Disaster Settings: Lessons from the Edge ISBN 978-0-646-46997-3**

PO Box 69  
Lugarno NSW 2210  
AUSTRALIA  
[www.emergencyministry.com.au](http://www.emergencyministry.com.au)

Phone/Fax (61-2) 91538653

## **“Ministry in Disaster Settings: Lessons from the Edge”**

by Rev. Dr. Stephen Robinson



**A long-awaited resource for  
preparation, survival and recovery  
from ministry in times of trauma.**

# MINISTRY IN DISASTER SETTINGS: LESSONS FROM THE EDGE

**BY STEPHEN ROBINSON**

---

Few people would doubt the place of the church in caring for those in need. In recent times our society has become increasingly aware of its vulnerability to loss and large-scale devastation through disasters of human and natural origin.

Until this time, very little has been written to address the issues of ministry in such circumstances. Little preparation in relation to trauma ministry has been given to church-based caregivers in their ministry training and little has been passed on from those who have experience to share.

This book came about through interviews with ministers and others who have shared the grace of God in the most intense of circumstances, specifically in major Australian disasters. It explores the realities of such ministry and its effect on ministry agents and explores the issues of post-traumatic stress and recovery. It brings some important lessons to bear on all ministry agents and those who care for them.

## What people have written about this book:

There is no doubt in my mind that clergy are at the forefront of disaster help. I experienced this first hand when, as one of the psychologists who went to help train relief workers after the World Trade Center disaster, I quickly discovered that hurting firemen and policemen digging for body parts down in the hell hole only wanted to talk with "chaplains" - not psychologists. We quickly learned to set aside our professional hats and spent our time holding burly firemen and policemen as they cried and we prayed. It wasn't psychotherapy they needed so much as an infusion of hope - new hope for the shattered hope that lay all around. Stephen Robinson's insight into the impact of disaster on clergy is priceless. More importantly, he points us to the biblical hope we can offer hurting people and those who try to help them. Disasters not only impact the victims, but also those on the front line of help. His practical suggestions can be of immense help to all who minister in traumatic circumstances.

**Archibald D. Hart, Ph.D., FPPR.**  
*Senior Professor of Psychology and Dean Emeritus  
Graduate School of Psychology  
Fuller Theological Seminary  
Pasadena, California USA*

I heartily recommend this book, not only for those involved in trauma ministry, but also for church leaders who are searching for ways to be more effective in providing training and support for those who are on the front line.

**Ray S. Anderson,**  
*Senior Professor of Theology and Ministry  
Fuller Theological Seminary*

Since 1962, when first joined an emergency service (Bush Fire Brigade), since 1973, when I became peers support/chaplain to a brigade/SES unit, since commencing ministry (1979 as a Lay Pastor and being ordained in 1991), having a passion for emergency services and being caught up in various disasters, I have dreamed of this book.

**Revd. Rob Dummermuth -**  
*Uniting Church Frontier Services -  
Esperance West Nullarbor Patrol,  
Western Australia*

This book is a much-needed resource that all clergy have been waiting for. It is a factual account of those who have walked the path, and been the fingers of God during Trauma.

**Major Ron Anderson AFSM**  
*Senior Chaplain NSW Rural Fire Service.*

Stephen Robinson's book "Ministry in Disaster Settings" is a great read for all those who know ministry at the edge. In particular, the reflections of those who have been there and survived, to lesser and greater degrees, I found helpful as a point of identity.

Stephen has captured both the joy and privilege as well as the sheer terror of working in trauma situations.

I found the Emmaus reflection particularly powerful.

**Revd. Alan Lowe -**  
*Senior State Police Chaplain NSW Police Force*

## WHO USES THIS BOOK?

---

A wide range of people find this book valuable: Minister and chaplains in training and in practice; peer and pastoral support teams; denominational leaders and other carers of clergy including clinical psychologists dealing with clergy recovery. This resource is also informative for lay people wanting to know more about the theology and practice of trauma ministry.