

Highlights from the Resident Scholars' Fall Lecture Series

- ◆ **Michael McGregor** kicked-off the series with a reading from the book he is writing on Robert Lax, an American poet and friend of Thomas Merton.
- ◆ **Glen Miller** gave three presentations on beliefs, values, and end-of-life healthcare decisions during his residency. He presented to a large group of St. Cloud-area healthcare professionals, a class of CSB/SJU nursing students, and a self-selected group of campus employees.
- ◆ **Carolyn Schneider's** lecture explored the confession of faith of the 13th century nun Mechthild of Magdeburg which powerfully influenced Martin Luther. Carolyn's lecture was based on her book, *I Am a Christian*.
- ◆ **Lauren Matz** delivered a lecture on Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey* that unpacked this classic work of Gothic fiction.
- ◆ **David Matz**, whose project explored the Apostle Paul's athletic imagery in light of ancient sports, presented an account of the history of the Olympics, beginning with the first race in 776 BC: a 200-yard dash.
- ◆ **Kathleen Norris** spoke about *acedia*, the ultimate in indifference and the inability to care. Two monastics—S. Josue Behnen (St. Benedict's Monastery) and Br. Paul-Vincent Niebauer (St. John's Abbey)—responded.
- ◆ **John Keenan**, along with Harold Kasimow, professor emeritus, Grinnell College, presented on the Buddhist doctrine of No Self and responded to the doctrine from their own, respectively, Christian and Jewish perspectives.

INSIDE
THE

COLLEGEVILLE INSTITUTE

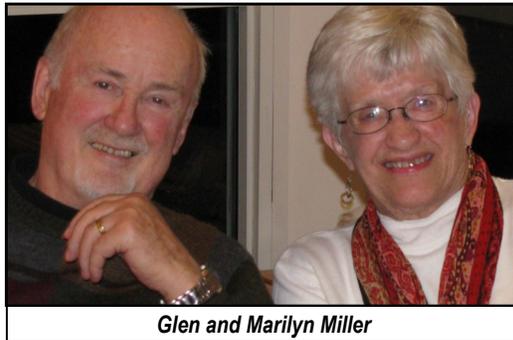


FOR ECUMENICAL & CULTURAL RESEARCH

Volume 6, Issue 1

January 23, 2012

Meet Institute Resident Scholar Glen Miller



Glen and Marilyn Miller

"I am dying. Hopefully not today, or even next week, but I am dying," says Glen Miller. "The medical evidence of someone who has suffered two heart attacks and a cardiac arrest is clear on this point."

Glen speaks about his health matter-of-factly, without drama or implicit appeal for sympathy. Moreover, he speaks of his condition from the perspective of both patient *and* physician, for Glen is *Dr. Glen E. Miller*, a retired medical doctor and hospital administrator.

Glen came to the Institute in the fall of 2011 in search of a place to advance the work on a book he is writing inspired by his heart condition. His book aims to help lay people better understand the choices available to them in the dying process; assist them in applying their personal beliefs and values to important end-of-life healthcare decisions; and aid them in preparing and planning for death with the same attention to detail that goes into planning for a wedding.

Glen hopes that the preparation for and choices made in the dying process can result in a

"good death," leaving survivors free of regrets concerning their loved one's medical treatment.

While on campus during his residency, Glen met a number of monks from Saint John's Abbey. During conversations with his new monastic friends, Glen gained insight into the "Benedictine way of dying." As someone whose life has been informed and motivated by his commitment to the Anabaptist-Mennonite tradition, Glen was surprised and delighted to learn that this "Benedictine way of dying" exactly reflects the kind of thinking and writing in his own work.

Citing the *Rule* of Saint Benedict, Glen comments, "St. Benedict reminds us 'to keep death before one's eyes daily.'" (RB 4.47) He continues, "The monks know that death is always before us, and they take great interest in and care of each and every monk facing death. They pay close attention to rituals such as the last anointing and bedside vigiling."

Let's back up, though, to an earlier part of Glen's story when in 1989, he chose an alternative path for his life.

At the age of 58, after more than four decades of work in the healthcare profession, Glen retired from medicine so that he and his wife, Marilyn, could live modestly and devote their lives to service.

They served abroad for 11 years with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) in Haiti, India, Egypt, Cambodia and London.

Glen Miller, cont...

Glen recalls, "The seven years we spent in Calcutta, India with Mother Teresa was a particularly formative period. It was such a pleasure to be in Mother Teresa's presence. She was entirely focused on the needs of the poor, all for the glory of God."

Glen met Mother Teresa when she was the guest of honor on the occasion of the 50-year celebration of the MCC's establishment in India. Reminiscing, Glen says, "Mother Teresa and I sat in the front row as guests filed in behind us; for 30 minutes we talked."



November 1992. Mother Teresa was the guest of honor at the celebration of 50 years of MCC work in India.

In 1996, after Glen's first heart attack, he was hospitalized in Calcutta. While recovering, he received a card from Mother Teresa whose cover had the picture of *Jesus the Shepherd* carrying a small lamb. On the lamb in Jesus' arms, she wrote the word "you." On the backside she wrote:

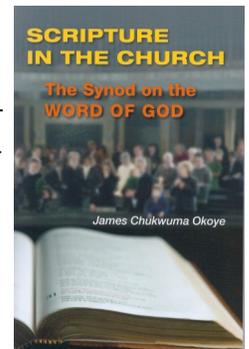
*Dear Dr. Glen E. Miller,
Be the little lamb in the arms of Jesus who
loves you. I will pray for you [to] get well soon.
God bless you, M. Teresa, MC*

Glen names Mother Teresa as one of his models, someone who has inspired him with her dedication to justice and care for others. His experiences with Mother Teresa and other models of service have helped him hone the principles that have guided his life both as a doctor and as a human being.

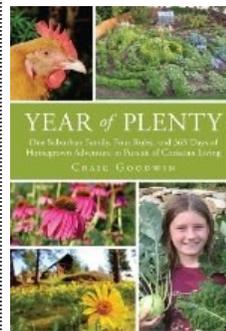
Glen and Marilyn have four children, nine grandchildren, and make their home in Goshen, Indiana. He is the author of *Empowering the Patient: How to reduce the cost of healthcare and improve its quality* (Dog Ear Publishing, 2009).

The Book Nook

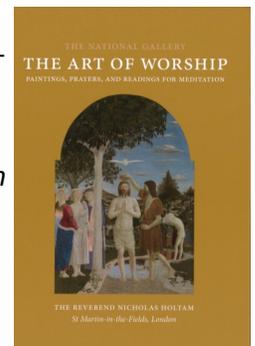
James Okoye's (2010/11) book, *Scripture in the Church: The Synod on the Word of God*, was completed during his Institute residency and recently published by the Liturgical Press. James follows the historical progression of the Synod on the Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church (Rome, October 2008), while highlighting the synod's important issues and topics.



Craig Goodwin's (Summer 2011) *Year of Plenty* (Augsburg Fortress, 2011) shares the story of his family's experiment to consume only goods that were local, used, homegrown, or homemade for one year. The foreword was written by Eugene Peterson, summer workshop facilitator, short-term scholar, and Institute friend.



Nick Holtam (Fall 2008) was consecrated as Bishop of Salisbury in October 2011. A copy of his most recent book, *The Art of Worship: Paintings, Prayers, and Readings for Meditation* (National Gallery Company Limited, 2011), was hand-delivered to the staff at the Collegeville Institute by Abbot John Klassen, OSB, who had attended Nick's consecration in the United Kingdom, and carried the book back with him to Collegeville.



Authored by John Keenan (Fall 2011), and edited by his wife, Linda, *I Am/No Self: A Christian Commentary on the Heart Sūtra* (Peeters Publishers and William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2011) is focused specifically on the Gospel of John as the basis for this comparative review. It is the fifth book in a series of Christian Commentaries on non-Christian Sacred Texts.

