

Review

Healing Wounded History by Russ Parker (Darton, Longman, and Todd, 2001; 0-232-52251-0), pp. xii + 209; £10.95.

Reviewed by Neil Broadbent of the Sozein Trust; Council member of the CFPSS.

As you may be aware, the Revd Russ Parker is director of the Acorn Christian Foundation, Chairperson of the Fellowship of Christ the Healer and was founder Director of Christian Care and Counselling.

Healing Wounded History: Reconciling peoples and healing places is a Big and Important book. In it Russ Parker explores the power of stories from groups of wounded people and 'reveals how they affect the people and places where they first occurred. He shows how history repeats itself until we find ways to listen to it, locate where it is happening, and find healing for its consequences.' He addresses CFPSS issues from a charismatic, evangelical outlook, so the book is big on biblical quotations, on our 'right to reconcile' and our responsibility to bring healing. It introduces its evangelical readers to 'the role of reconciliation,' to 'Representational Confession: the Right to Reconcile' and to 'Jesus, the True Representational Confessor.' It contains many stories from around the world and quotes from political, Church and community leaders.

Most of chapter 4, 'The Powers that Shape Group Stories,' is on spiritual powers, 'strategic level spiritual warfare,' and the 'spiritual mapping' of 'spiritual strongholds.' Thankfully, Russ seeks personally to tone down 'spiritual warfare' in healing prayer. 'Our high calling,' a phrase used several times, is to be a resource to God, using our right to reconcile. It is good to see discussion of the representative nature of Jesus' life and work rather than the more usual substitutional view of the atonement. It is not followed through with the clarity of, say, Martin Israel or William Law.

There is a chapter on 'the Christian day of Atonement,' based on the Jewish day of Yom Kippur, with an apt story of the healing of a Baptist pastor's family illnesses through praying about the history of schism in that church.

The way in practice is shown in four chapters on an ever-enlarging scale: group stories of the family, the church, the community and the tribe or nation.

There is little from the discipline of psychology. Nothing from the theatre, psychic studies, the psychoanalysis of organizations or Kuhn's seminal work on 'the structure of scientific revolutions.' To call this work 'an emerging new discipline' is to overlook the work of the Roman Catholic Church in the USA in their *Alternative Futures for Worship* series of the 1980s and two thousand years of the Requiem Mass.

Nevertheless, may this reinvented wheel do sterling service for its readers for many years to come.