



10-1-1980

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#### Recommended Citation

Bergin, Allen E. (1980) "Religious Approaches to Counseling and Psychotherapy: An Overview of Recent Trends," *Issues in Religion and Psychotherapy*. Vol. 6 : No. 4 , Article 2.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/irp/vol6/iss4/2>

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## GUEST EDITORIAL

# RELIGIOUS APPROACHES TO COUNSELING AND PSYCHOTHERAPY: An Overview of Recent Trends by Allen E. Bergin

*The reintroduction of religious concepts and values into psychosocial theory and practice is reaching the proportions of a new movement. Documentation of this trend was provided in my AMCAP Journal article on "Psychotherapy and Religious Values" (April, 1980). The present issue of the Journal illustrates, by means of reprints, the types of developments that are occurring. An attempt has been made to select good representations of the diverse array of current activity in English-speaking countries.*

Such approaches seem not to have developed as vigorously in other countries yet; but there are notable exceptions to this.

In addition to the collection of reprints herein, it seems helpful to describe some of the programs of research and technique development that are occurring in religious and academic communities around the

country. This is accomplished by providing at the end of this issue outlines of a selected sample of activities underway in various centers. Also, a brief, annotated listing of journals, books, and other resources for further inquiry is provided for the use of interested readers.

Generally, this overview shows that in many respects we are far behind other religious denominations in this effort. It illustrates the substantive way in which traditional, secular conceptions of disorders and their treatment are being challenged and replaced by viewpoints more compatible with the gospel of Jesus Christ. These developing viewpoints do not summarily dismiss the accumulating wisdom of professional inquiry, but they provide ways of reconstruing and integrating that wisdom within a traditional value structure and a spiritual image of human nature.