

Following on from the CASE Medical Ethics Conference ('Medical Ethics: Christian Perspectives on Life and Death) on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2009 we have put together a list of **Recommended Texts in Bioethics**. The texts below are all suitable for the general reader without a medical or philosophical background.

**Megan Best 2009**

### **1. General bioethics:**

These books are good introductions to the main themes in bioethics, discussed from a Christian perspective.

**a. *Matters of Life and Death: Today's Healthcare Dilemmas in the Light of the Christian Faith.*** Dr John Wyatt. Inter-varsity Press, 1998.

**b. *Does God Need Our Help? Cloning, Assisted Suicide, and Other Challenges in Bioethics.*** John Kilner and C. Ben Mitchell. Tynedale House Publishers, 2003.

**c. *Issues Facing Christians Today.*** John Stott. This book looks at a broader range of social and moral responsibilities facing Christians, including medical ethics. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Zondervan, 2006.

**d. *21<sup>st</sup> century living...1<sup>st</sup> century wisdom.*** SMBC Press, 2008. A biblical approach to modern life. This book deals with a variety of challenging matters for Christians, including chapters on several bioethical topics - stem cell research, cloning and abortion.

### **2. More specialised texts for those with special interests:**

#### **i. Euthanasia:**

**a. *Dignity and Dying: a Christian appraisal.*** John Kilner, Arlene Miller, Edmund Pellegrino (eds). Paternoster Press, 1996. This book explores the ethical issues surrounding health care at the end of life. Note that this book is from North America, and the legal and health care details do not always apply to the Australian experience.

**ii. Cloning and stem cells** are really moving too quickly to have a relevant text, though you could consider looking at the following:

**a. *The ethics of human cloning.*** Leon Kass and James Q Wilson. The AEI Press, 1998. This book contains essays representing both sides of the argument. While it does not cover a distinctly Christian perspective, Kass' essay 'The wisdom of repugnance' is a modern classic.

#### **iii. Abortion**

**a. *Giving Sorrow Words.*** Melinda Tankard Reist. Duffy and Snellgrove, 2000. Women's stories of grief after abortion.

#### **iv. Reproduction**

**a. *The Reproduction Revolution.*** John Kilner, Paige Cunningham and W David Hager (eds). Eerdmans. 2000. Covers a wide range of ethical issues surrounding reproduction. Note this book is from America where the regulation of assisted reproduction is quite different to that in Australia.

**b. *The infertility companion: hope and help for couples facing infertility.*** Sandra L Glahn and William R Cutrer. Zondervan. 2004. This is a helpful book for couples facing infertility and considering assisted reproduction. Note that this book is from America where the regulation of assisted reproduction is quite different to that in Australia.

**v. Genetics**

**a. *Genetics turning points: the ethics of human genetic intervention*** James C Peterson. Eerdmans, 2001. Helpful discussion of the science as well as the ethics of genetics.

**vi. Biotechnology**

**a. *Cutting-edge bioethics: A Christian exploration of technologies and trends***. John Kilner, S Christopher Hook, Diane B. Uustal (eds). Eerdmans, 2002. 15 essays discussing Christian approaches to new and controversial areas in biomedicine, including xenotransplantation, artificial intelligence, cybernetics and nanotechnology.