

*Ethics of Faithfulness for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Adventist Healthcare*  
*Columbia, MD May 7-8, 2018*

# Bioethics and the Faith Factor: Personal Reflections

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Professor of Medical Ethics, Loma Linda University

Some things change

Some things stay the same

## Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same  
yesterday and today and  
forever.

# Vermont seasons



# Spring



# Summer



# Fall



# Winter





# Personal Appearance Changes



grade 1 - age 5

grade 2

grade 3

grade 4

grade 5

grade 6



grade 7

grade 8

grade 9

grade 10

grade 11

grade 12  
1958 - age 17



Raised in a Christian home

Raised in the church

Is that enough?



**Raised in the church**



## **Houghton College – Christian liberal arts & sciences**

Double major in biology and chemistry

Required course in ethics

# Graduated from Houghton

- 1962 BS
- A year of Bible
- A semester of ethics
- But, science was the center of my focus



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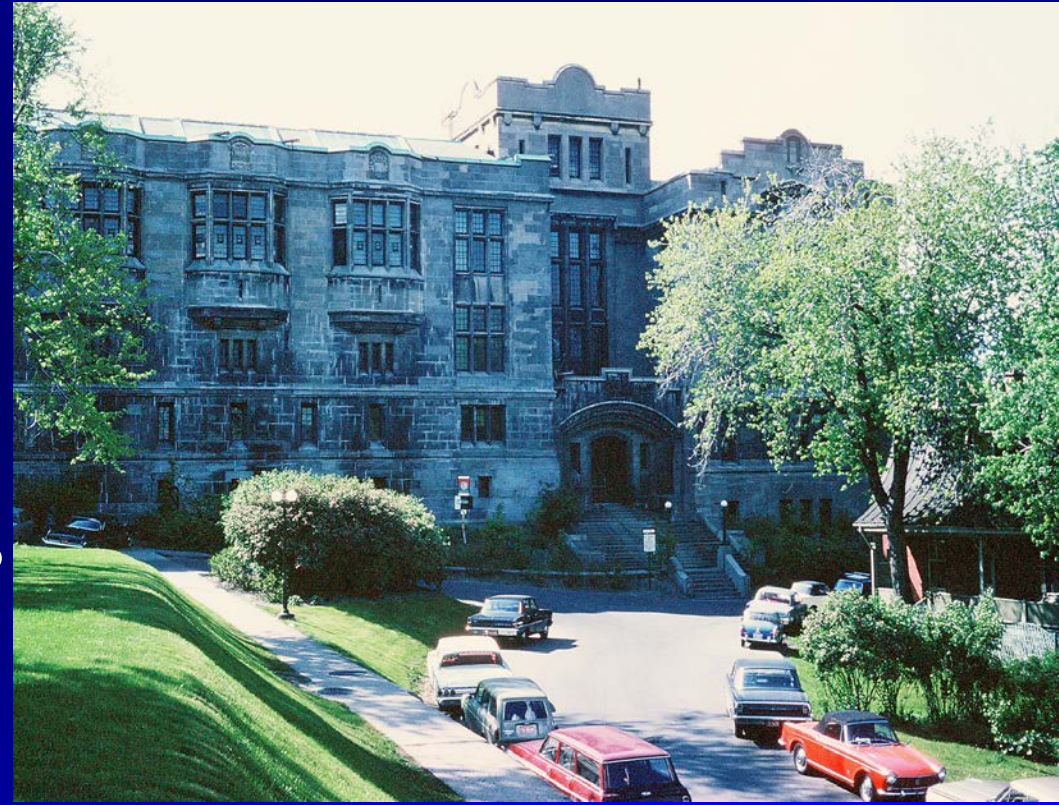


**McGill University**

Montreal, Quebec

# Strathcona Hall

- “old medical building”
- marble hallways & stairs
- wooden amphitheaters





# New medical building

- “Beer can in the sky”



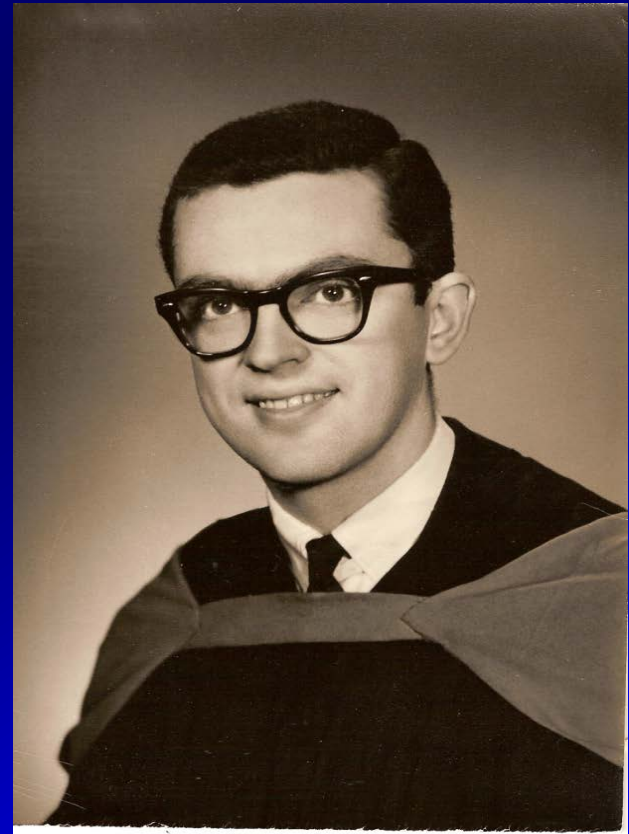


## **McGill University Faculty of Medicine**

1 hour lecture on “medical ethics”

# McGill University

- MD,CM 1966
- Class of 112, only 1 with goal of family medicine



# U.S. Navy

- Internship at USNH  
Bethesda, MD
- Residency at USNH  
Jacksonville, FL
- Service at USNH  
Roosevelt Roads, PR



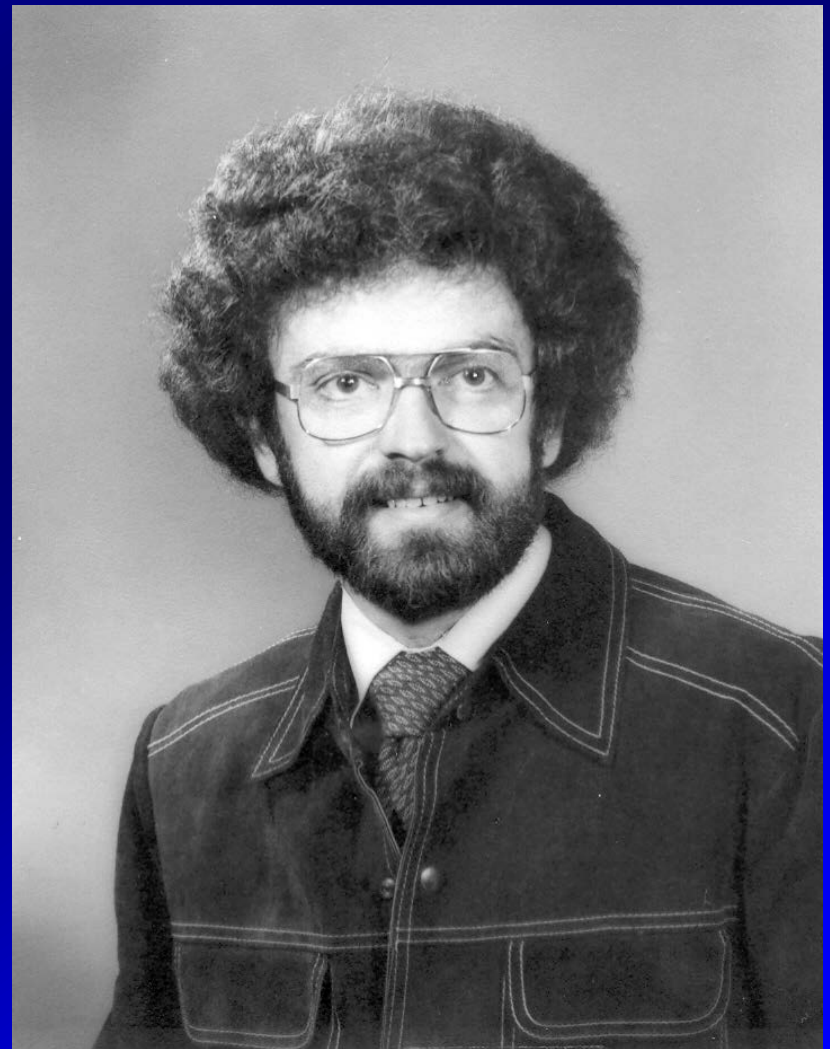
# LCDR(MC)

- Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico
- Began teaching adult Sunday School, applying scripture to life situations



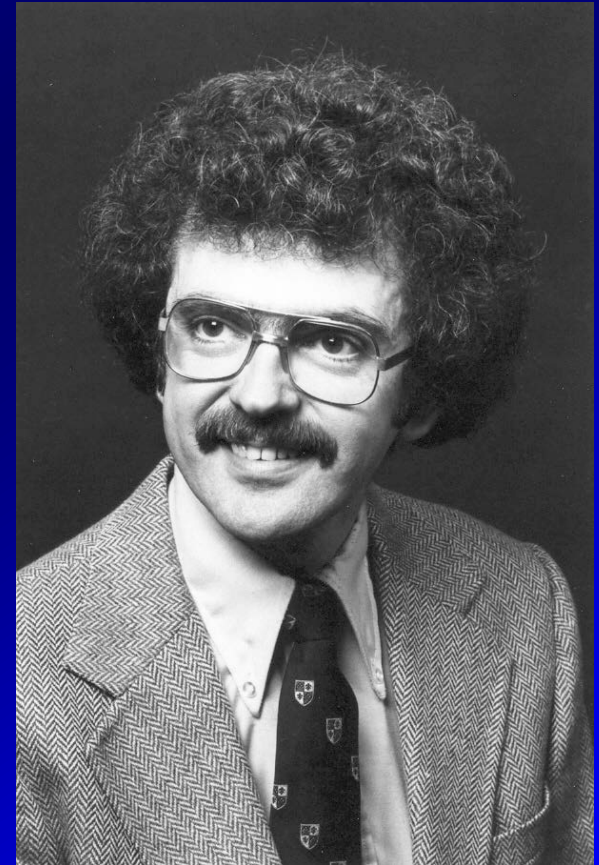
# Family Practice – Brattleboro, VT

- Some things change
  - early 1970's (post-military)
- office, hospital, house calls, nursing home, obstetrics
- 18 years



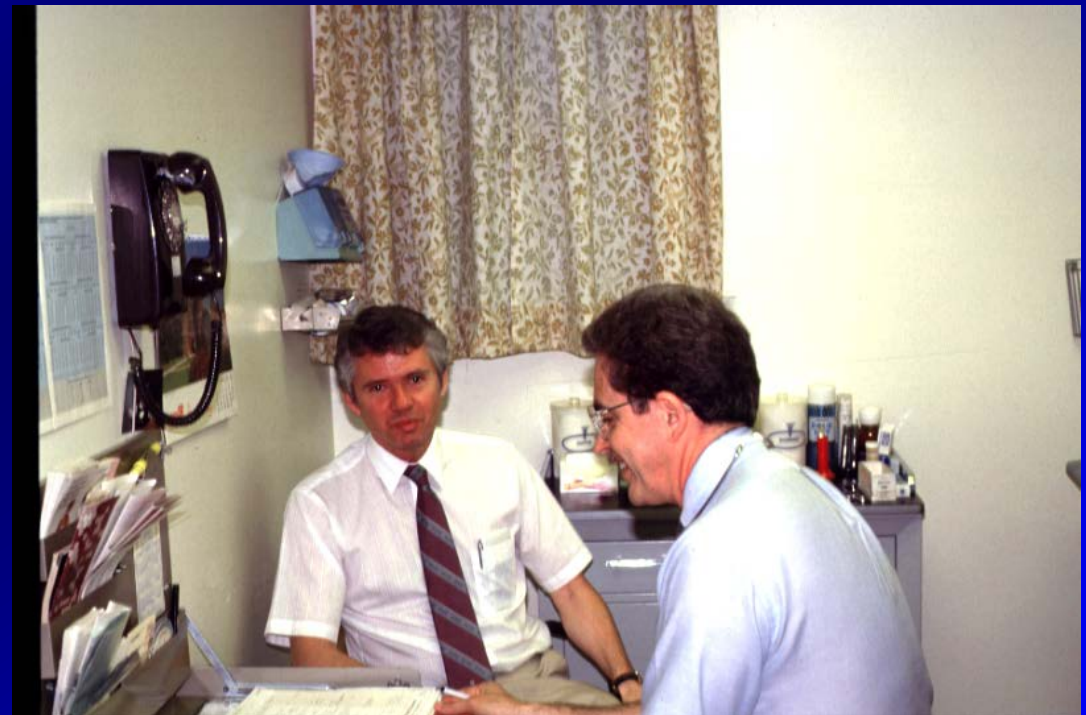
# Family Practice – Brattleboro, VT

- More change
- Ron: “How long have you had that mustache?”



# Family Practice – Brattleboro, VT

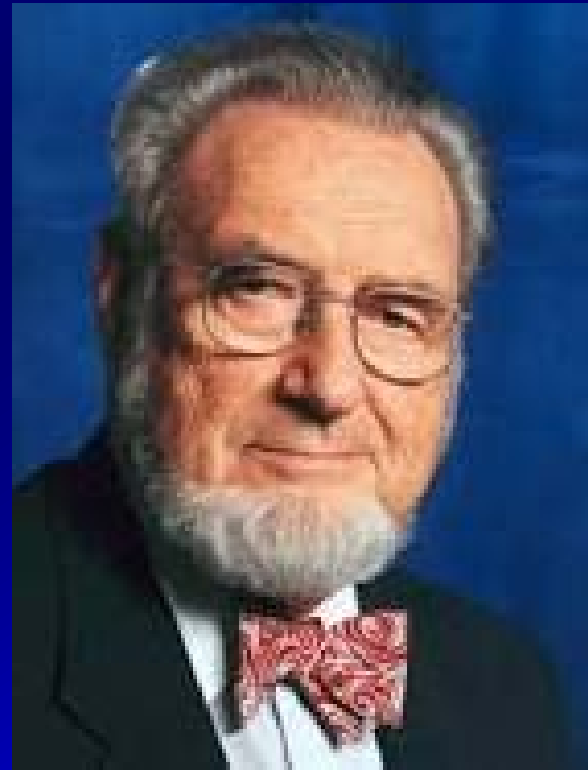
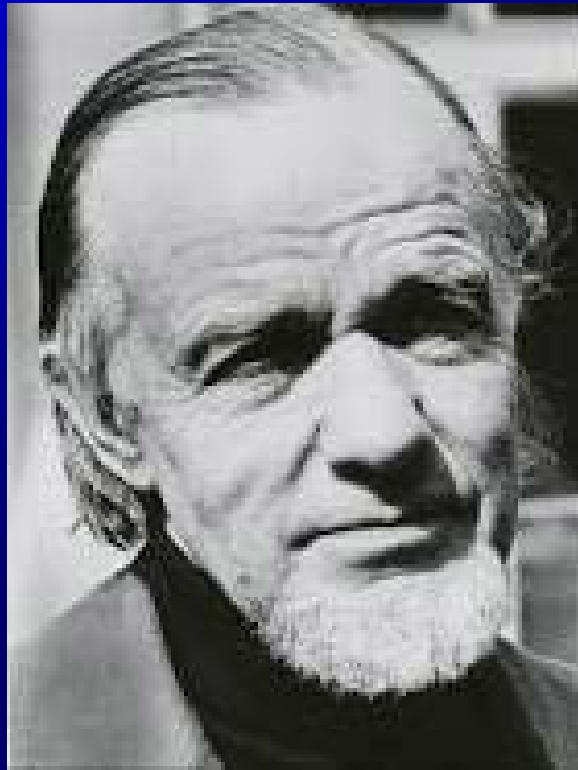
- Growing interest in life/death issues, especially abortion
- Started an ethics committee at BMH





# Whatever Happened to the Human Race?

Frances Schaeffer & C. Everett Koop



# Family Practice – Brattleboro, VT

- Finally grown up
- Continued teaching
- Very concerned about:
  - Abortion
  - Infanticide
  - Euthanasia
- Started a volunteer hospice in Brattleboro





**University of Chicago  
Center for Clinical Medical Ethics**

1 year fellowship

“Medicine is inherently  
a moral enterprise”

Leon Kass and/or Eric Cassell

# Loma Linda University Medical Center

Director of Clinical  
Ethics 1990-2000

- Bedside consultation
- Teaching
- Center for Christian Bioethics
- MA in Theological and Medical Ethics



He has showed you, O man, what is good.  
And what does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy  
and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8

# Faith and Practice

- Values are very important in making medical decisions
- Wesley's quadrilateral
  - Scripture
  - Tradition
  - Reason
  - Experience





## **University of Vermont Medical Center**

Director of Clinical Ethics 2000 - 2006



# FAHC → UVMC

- 2000-2006
- Stormy time
  - CEO indicted & imprisoned
  - Resurrected ethics consultation service
- Recruited & trained help
- Retirement #1

Scholar in Residence, the Kilns  
March – June 2006



# CS Lewis' faith

- Raised in Church of Ireland
- Became a rational atheist during school and war years
  - death of his mother
  - horrors of war
- The Inklings – group of writers met for 25 years
- Came to believe in God, a theist, in 1929 under the influence of the JRR Tolkien and GK Chesterton
- Accepted the divinity of Jesus in 1931
- Worshipped as a 'mere Christian' in the Church of England

# The Kilns

- Built ~1920
- Purchased by Janie Moore, Jack & Warnie in 1930
- Jack lived here from 1930 until his death in 1963
- Sold to First family who made many changes
- Abandoned in early 1980's
- Purchased by CS Lewis Foundation, restoration completed in 1995
- Living quarters for Christian grad students 1995-2006
- Converted to C. S. Lewis Study Center in 2006





Jack's correspondence desk





The 2006 Kilns crew

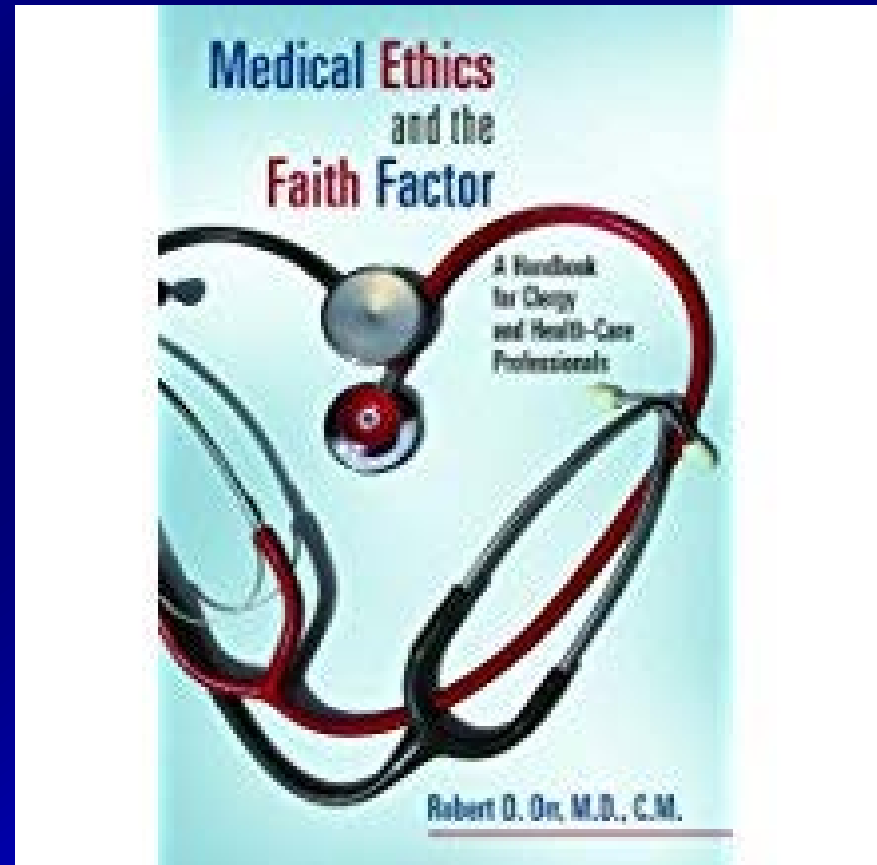




The book

# Written while at the Kilns

- Went with an outline of chapter titles and ~ 2,000 case consults
- Hoped to get 6 chapters done in 3 months; came home with 12 done



# Part I

## Ch 1 - An Ethical Foundation

- Principles
- Consent
- Capacity
- Surrogacy
- Ethics committees and consultation
- Limitation of Treatment
- Palliative Care
- Futility
- Conflict

## Ch 2 - A Theological Foundation

- Principles of Faith

# Principles of Secular Medical Ethics

some things change

- Non-maleficence      “First of all, do no harm”
- Beneficence      Seek patient’s best interests
- Autonomy      Self-determination
  - negative      - right to refuse
  - positive      - right to demand?
- Justice      Treat equals equally

# Principles of Faith

some things stay the same

- *Imago Dei* (God's image)
- Sanctity of life
- Fall, suffering, death
- Finitude of life
- Free will (Micah 6:8)
- Quality of life
- Miracles
- Justice
- Sovereignty of God
- Dominion
- Stewardship
- Ministry of health care
- Compassion
- Hope of eternity
- Ministry of Holy Spirit
- Priesthood of believers

# Part II

3. Heart Failure
4. Lung Failure
5. Kidney Failure
6. Failure of Eating & Drinking
7. Brain Failure
8. Mind Failure

# Part III

## 9. Cultural and Religious Beliefs

# Part IV

10. Neonatal Period

11. Children

12. Reproductive Technology

13. Pregnancy

14. Transplantation



# Part V

## 15. The Priesthood of Believers

# Returned to LLU

- 2006-2009
- Reinforced the ECS
  - Trained 5 ethics consultants
  - Developed “Clinical Ethics for Ethics Committee Members” curriculum
- Retirement #2
- Continued to teach clinical ethics on-line for Union University (NY) and Trinity International University (IL)
- Retirement #3 Feb 2018

# Things continue to change



# Clinical Ethics for Ethics Committee Members

<https://adventistbioethics.org/educational-resources>

1. Clinical Ethics: What, Why, Who, How, etc.?
2. Consent, Competence and Capacity
3. Surrogate Decision-Making
4. A Process & Format for Clinical Ethics Consultation

# Conclusions

- Many ethical dilemmas at the bedside arise because of different values, especially varying religious beliefs.
- The religious beliefs of patients should almost always be honored, even when we disagree.

# Hebrews 6:16-17

People swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath.