

# **KNOCKIN' ON HEAVEN'S DOOR**

**RELIGIOUS AND RECEPTIVE COPING  
IN MENTAL HEALTH**



**Marinus van Uden  
Joseph Pieper  
Hessel Zondag**

**INTERNATIONAL SERIES IN MENTAL HEALTH AND RELIGION**

# **Knockin' on Heaven's Door**

## **Religious and Receptive Coping in Mental Health**

# **International Series in Mental Health and Religion**

**1**

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Prof Dr Marinus H.F. van Uden



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**SHAKER  
VERLAG**

Aachen – Germany, 2014

Bibliographic information published by the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek  
The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche  
Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data are available in the  
Internet at  
<http://dnb.d-nb.de>.

Cover image by Maerten Prins, Nijmegen  
Text editing and layout by Olaf van Amelsvoort, Goirle

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Printed in Germany.

ISBN 978-3-8440-2696-2  
ISSN 2198-9419

Shaker Verlag GmbH • P.O. BOX 101818 • D-52018 Aachen  
Phone: 0049/2407/9596-0 • Telefax: 0049/2407/9596-9  
Internet: [www.shaker.de](http://www.shaker.de) • e-mail: [info@shaker.de](mailto:info@shaker.de)

# **International Series in Mental Health and Religion**

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KSGV is an independent Dutch association that aims to explore the relationships between faith/religion/meaning and mental health.

To this end, KSGV endeavors to inspire a scientific investigation of and reflection on current religious issues in mental healthcare and in society. It pursues a critical discernment regarding a mentally healthy approach of religion and meaningmaking.

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With this volume of collected papers on Religion and Coping, the authors continue and deepen their work on mental health and the religious dimension in coping. They address a pivotal topic not only for the psychology of religion but also for psychology in general and clinical psychology in particular.

The range of the topics is broad: it includes methodological questions, the development and testing of new instruments (the so-called Receptivity Scale and the Mature Religiosity Scale), the importance of ritual and prayer, personality and narcissism and the implications for practitioners. The variety of subjects is also impressive. The authors apply and test their theories within a forensic psychiatric hospital, with cancer patients, with students, with Christian parishioners and with outpatients and inpatients of different institutions.

Unlike other researchers in the field of religion and coping the authors of this book consider two important aspects of the field. Firstly, they acknowledge that religion is not always and automatically good but can be maladaptive regarding mental health and well-being. Secondly, the authors adapt the theory of religious coping to an increasingly secular society in Western Europe. Therefore they expand the concept to a perspective of spiritual coping and in this way address the current changes in worldview construction in modern societies.

Putting the pieces together: this series of papers is an excellent book for diving into current perspectives, problems, results and implications of the field of 'Religion and Coping'. Professionals in the medical domain, pastoral counselors and researchers in the field will profit alike.

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ISBN 978-3-8440-2696-2



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783844

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