

JESSE J. THOMAS, Ph.D.

Personal Information:

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Family: Widower; Married to Bonnie Grihalva-Thomas, d., 2010. Parents of 8 children/stepchildren and 10 grandchildren

Education:

1955, B.A., Taylor University. Major Field: Psychology

1959, M.Th., Garrett Theological Seminary. Major Field: Systematic Theology

1960, Morava Travel Grant to Europe for a Seminar on the Study of Religious Art

1965-67, Danforth Foundation Fellow, Northwestern University Graduate School

1967, Ph.D. Northwestern University. Major Field: Religion. Minor Fields: Modern Literature, and Philosophy. Dissertation Subject: The Phenomenology of Literary Heroes in Jean-Paul Sartre and 6 American Novelists

1975, Post-Graduate Diplomate in Gestalt Methods. Gestalt Institute of Cleveland,

Advanced Clinical Training in Hypnosis for Chronic Pain Patients, U. C. San Diego School of Medicine

Professional Experience:

Pastoral:

1956: Ordination as Deacon in the North Indiana Conference, United Methodist Church

1960: Ordination as Elder in the North Indiana Conference, United Methodist Church

1956-59: Pastor of Orland-Nevada Mills churches, North Indiana Conference, UMC (2 small churches in the lake region of northern Indiana).

1959-1962: Director of the Wesley Foundation at Ball State University (including preaching at the Sunday morning student service at College Avenue Methodist Church, attended by 250-300 students).

1962-63: Transferred to Rock River Conference of U.M.E. (now renamed Northern Illinois Conference), served the Gross Park Methodist Church in Chicago

1963-1969: Appointed Minister to Methodist Student Foundation at Northwestern, functioned as pastor to Methodist students, job description including service as instructor, teaching courses each semester in the Religion Department at Northwestern.

1967: Accepted appt to Saginaw Valley State University, described below.

College Professor and Psychotherapist:

1962-1967, Lecturer, Department of the History and Literature of Religions, Northwestern University

1967-77, Assistant Professor (1967-71), Associate Professor (1971-77), Saginaw Valley State University. At the time I was appointed there, SVC (later SVSU) was a new, experimentally oriented state college in Michigan, Interdepartmental appointment in the Humanities Division, teaching Modern Literature, Philosophy, and Interdepartmental Humanities courses.

Became credentialed as a psychotherapist at the Gestalt Institute of Cleveland in 1975. Moved to California in 1977.

1977-82, Staff Member, Gestalt Institute of San Diego, La Jolla CA. Began teaching on the adjunct faculties of CSPP, SDSU, and USD described below, during which time I moved my practice from the Gestalt Institute to the Scripps Memorial Hospital office complex.

1982-91, Private Practice in Psychotherapy, Scripps Memorial Hospital, La Jolla CA Specialty: Chronic Pain Treatment.

1979-87, Adjunct Faculty, California School of Professional Psychology, La Jolla CA
1979-present, Faculty, Religious Studies Department, San Diego State University. Specialties:
Native American Religion, Psychology of Religion, Science and Religion, Religion and Society.
2 year leave while at Rafa Counseling Associates, noted below, in the San Francisco area.
Returned to SDSU, at first half-time in 1993 and then full time in 1994. In 2007 I formally retired
but continued to teach half time (2 courses per semester till leave in 2010 leading to wife's death
and following.)

1989-91 and 1994-2006, Adjunct Faculty, Department of Religion, University of San Diego
1991-1994, Therapist, Rafa Counseling Associates (a Christian Counseling Center), Pleasant Hill,
California. Specialty: Forensic Medicine, Disability Assessment, Chronic Pain Treatment.
1995-2004, Private Practice, 2740 First Avenue, San Diego CA Chronic Pain Treatment.
Re-appointment to 3 year contract teaching 2 courses per year at SDSU, beginning Jan, 2011.
2010-present, Professor of Religion and Society and Dean of Students, Veritas Evangelical
Seminary. Murrieta Hot Springs, Murrieta, CA

Professional Organizations:

ASCH (American Society of Clinical Hypnosis), 1977-2004

ABFE (American Board of Forensic Examiners), 1986-2004

AAMFT (American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists), 1977-2004

CAMFT (California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists), 1977-2004

American Academy for the Advancement of Science 2010-present.

American Scientific Affiliation, 2010-present.

Selected Publications:

5 Book Review articles on *JBL* (Journal of Biblical Literature) and *JAAR* (Journal of the
American Academy of Religion), 1966-71. List available on request.

The Existential Hero: A Phenomenological Study, University Center Monograph Series,
University Center MI, 1974.

"Rock Art and the Phenomenology of Language," *American Indian Rock Art*, Vol. V, 1981, 168-
184.

"Rock Art and the Religion of the Sky," *American Indian Rock Art*, Vol. VII, 1983, 119-132.

"Therapeutic Bedtime Stories for Children" (A series of audiotapes with foldout instructional
inserts, reviewed very favorably in *Children's Magazine*, *Washington Post*, etc.) published by
American Hospital Division of American Eagle, Inc., 1988.

"Hypnosis and Psychotherapy," *A Clinical Hypnosis Primer*, George Wiley & Sons, New York,
1989, 217-232.

"From Joy to Joy: C.S. Lewis and the Numinous," *Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies*, XII,
2000, 109-124 (published in an earlier version resulting from a lecture "C.S. Lewis and the Issue
of Physician Assisted Suicide" presented at a Discovery Institute and recorded in their archives
at www.discovery.org).

The Youniverse: The Spirit of the Twenty First Century, 4th Edition, Pearson Education, Boston,
MA, 2001 [Original edition in 1978 with a different text and subtitle, followed by other
editions to the one in 2001.]

Review of Josef Seifert's *The Meaning of Life*, *JIS*, XIII, 2001, 213-215.

"Wisdom Literature and Higher Education," *JIS*, XIV, 2002, 117-140.

"God in the Universe: Projection or Reality?" one of four morning addresses made at the
International Christian Studies Association World Congress at Pepperdine University on the
subject, "Science and Religion: The Missing Link," 2002, followed by discussion. Also
chaired discussion of four other addresses later in the conference and the discussion
afterwards..

Marriage and Its Values, 3rd Edition, Pearson Education, Boston, MA, 2003 [1986].

"Rings, Wardrobes, and Star Wars: The Adventures of Tolkien, Lewis, and Lucas," *JIS*, XVIII,

2006, 173-190.

“Psychology of Religion” entry in the new *Dictionary of Theology and Religious Studies*, eds.

Orlando Espin and James Nickoloff, Liturgical Press, Collegeville MN 2007, pp. 1101-1103.

“Review of Steven Palmquist’s book *Kant and the New Philosophy of Religion*,” *JIS*, XX, 2008, 197-199.

“Who Is the Ghost in the Machine?” paper presented at the International Christian Studies Association conference titled: *The Ghost in the Machine: Intelligent Design and Artificial Intelligence*, July 31-Aug. 2, 2009.

“Overlapping Magesteria: Science and Religion,” *JIS*, XXI, 2009, 162-180.

“Creation and Creativity in Science and Religion” *JIS*, XXIII, 2011, accepted for publication pending revisions.

Professional Honors and Responsibilities:

Fellow at Discovery Institute, Seattle WA. Specialties: works of C.S. Lewis and ethical issues in physician assisted suicide, 1999-2004.

Senior Fellow, the Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies, Pasadena CA, 2002-2011.

Member of the International Editorial Board of the *Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies*, 2002-2011.

Selected Avocational activities:

Bass soloist in performances at Taylor University of Handel’s *Messiah*, Hayden’s *Creation*, and in the role of Figaro in Mozart’s *The Marriage of Figaro*, 1954-1956.

Bass soloist, touring Japan, sponsored by the Kyodan, The National Church of Japan, in 1955.

Bass soloist performance at the Mendell Performance Hall at UC Berkeley in 1993.

Bass Soloist at the Gala Performance of the California Ballet, at the Luther Burbank Concert Hall in Santa Rosa, California in 1993.

