

Living Thoughtfully, Dying Well
Glen E. Miller, MD - Herald Press, 2014

Doctor Miller, in this small book illustrates with many stories that Americans are not well prepared to face the challenges that come with dying in the 21 century. In other words, we are not “living thoughtfully” and preparing to die “well”.

Death in our day is not a simply matter of stopping breathing. If Dr. Willard Krabill is correct in stating that as many as 75% of people will die ‘managed deaths’ then this book is of extreme importance.

There are challenging questions/choices that we will face in our dying. Dr. Miller strongly recommends that thoughtful, prayerful discernment be made prior to the time of death. He makes a strong case for Advance Directives - helpful to the medical profession but also extremely helpful to the survivors. We will do ourselves and our families a great favor by documenting our desires regarding the dying process and discussing those choices with our loved ones now.

We were somewhat surprised at the stories Miller includes where these directives were in place but ignored by doctors or families. Implying that we must be assertive in making our wishes known.

This is an interesting and challenging little book. One that has motivated us to update our Advance Directive today.

Lynn and Janice Miller