

## **QUESTIONS - A LOOK AT DEATH AND DYING**

1. When you were a child, how was the issue of death dealt with in your family?
2. What do you think causes most deaths?
3. Do you believe that psychological factors can predispose someone toward dying?
4. In your thinking, what role does god play in the areas of illness, suffering and death?
5. What does death mean to you? (Use words or phrases to express what you feel.)
6. What aspect of your own death is most distasteful or frightening to you?
7. If you could choose, when, where and how would you die? Who would be with you?
8. Does the possibility of massive human destruction by nuclear war influence your present attitudes toward death? How?
9. When do most people face the reality of death?
10. Do you believe in a life after death? Why?

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## **PERSONAL SPIRITUAL SURVEY**

1. Explain in a few brief sentences who God is for you.
2. Of what does your belief system consist?
3. What form does your prayer usually take?
4. When you question the meaning of life for yourself, what convictions strike you most clearly or deeply?
5. When you try to fathom the “why” of illness and suffering, what thoughts or feelings are conjured up within you?
6. If you have spent some time considering your own death, what strong thoughts or feelings about it do you have? If you have not, where would a consideration of your own dying take you?

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\* from Jacik, Miriam. “Spiritual Care of the Dying Adult.” In Carson, Verna Benner. Spiritual Dimensions of Nursing Practice (Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders 1989) p259, 277.