

Introduction to Family Ministry
The processes of Family Life
Diana R. Garland

Activity 3.4

Raney

This assignment is based on the student's reading and reflecting on the novel *Raney*, by Clyde Edgerton

Edgerton, Clyde, (1992) *Raney*. Ballantine Books.

Write a response to Edgerton's *Raney*, using the following scenario to guide you: Imagine that you have just been hired by the Baptist Association in Listre, Georgia, as Director of a newly created agency, the Christian Family Resource Center. One of your assignments is to provide family ministry for the churches in the association. Your assignment has been defined broadly to encompass not only the Southern Baptist churches in the community, but also other Baptist and non-Baptist churches, in an effort to provide needed "Christian counseling" for the families of Listre, Bethel, and the surrounding counties. A community mental health center is currently the only such resource in the area, and its staff is only part-time and unable to address all the needs. Consequently, the pastors in the community have united in support of the Christian Family Resource Center, and although the majority of the center's budget is underwritten by the Baptist association, several other churches are contributing substantially to the Center's budget.

You have taken some time to acquaint yourself with the churches and the culture of this community. You have met Raney and Charles Shepherd, who have been referred to you by a psychologist at the community mental health center, who is leaving. The psychologist thinks that they need to continue in counseling, and that perhaps an educational group for young married couples would be most useful for them and others like them. What do you think? What kind of ministry do you think would be most useful? Why? How would you communicate your recommendation to Raney and Charles, and if you choose to involve others, to other potential participants? What would be the content of the ministry you would offer? Why? What processes would be important?

What cultural issues would be particularly important for you to address in your work with this couple and others in this community? In what ways is this culture different from your own, and how would you deal with those differences? In other words, how would your services be different than they would be if offered by you in your home town, in Atlanta, or in Chicago? In short, put yourself into this novel as having recently moved to this community with the professional task of providing ministry with families. What would you do? How? and Why?

If this assignment creates considerable difficulty for you for some reason and you would prefer to work with a different scenario (e.g., your major interest is narrow and limited to the aging, or children, or some other population other than married couples) please talk with the professor about an alternative base from which to do this assignment. You might choose a different novel, television family, movie, etc., but it must be familiar to the professor.

Recommended length: 8-15 pages

<http://www3.baylor.edu/CFCM/old/TR/activity03-4.htm>