This chapter describes the life issues that affect particular individuals who live with such worries as death, bodily deterioration, and isolation from the community. It illustrates the mental calmness and faith they have in God despite the demands of inner city poverty. These people hold on to relationships and memories as these provide comfort in the face of sadness and strength in the face of loss. The chapter also illustrates American poverty as the absence of money and resources more than survival from starvation and death.

Dying at the Margins: Reflections on Justice and Healing for Inner-City Poor gives voice to a most vulnerable and disempowered population—the urban dying poor—and connects them to the voices of leaders in end-of-life care. Chapters written by these experts in the field discuss the issues that challenge patients and their loved ones, as well as offering insights into how to improve the quality of their lives. In an illuminating and timely follow-up to Dancing with Broken Bones, all discussions revolve around the actual experiences of the patients previously documented, encouraging a greater understanding about the needs of the dying poor, advocating for them, and developing best practices in caring. Demystifying stereotypes that surround poverty, Moller illuminates how faith, remarkable optimism, and an unassailable spirit provide
strength and courage to those who live and die at the margins. As with his previous book, Dying at the Margins serves as a rallying call for not only end-of-life professionals, but compassionate individuals everywhere, to understand and respond to the needs of the especially vulnerable, yet inspiring, people who comprise the world of the inner-city dying poor.

Dancing with Broken Bones
David Wendell Moller

Published in print: 2012 Published Online: May 2015
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Publisher: Oxford University Press
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:osobl/9780199760138.001.0001
Item type: book

This book gives voice and face to a vulnerable and disempowered population whose stories often remain untold: the urban dying poor. Drawing on complex issues surrounding poverty, class, and race, the book illuminates the unique sufferings that often remain unknown and hidden within a culture of broad invisibility. The book demonstrates how a complex array of factors, such as mistrust of physicians, regrettable indignities in care, and inadequate communication among providers, patients, and families, shape the experience of the dying poor in the inner city. This book challenges readers to look at reality in a different way. Demystifying stereotypes that surround poverty, the book illuminates how faith, remarkable optimism, and an unassailable spirit provide strength and courage to the dying poor. The book serves as a rallying call for compassionate individuals everywhere to understand and respond to the needs of the especially vulnerable, yet inspiring, people who comprise the world of the inner city dying poor.

Epilogue
David Wendell Moller

in Dying at the Margins: Reflections on Justice and Healing for Inner-City Poor
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This book seeks to affirm that the poor, marginalized, and sick share a core human essence with each of us. Unfortunately, for the most part, as a nation and as individuals, we are not willing to recognize and honor that we share a fraternity with those who live in the shadows and at the periphery. The authors intent in this book is to become a voice for those who live, suffer, and die at the margins. The goal, simply stated, is to declare their humanity and nurture empathic understandings about
who they are through story-telling, espousing a moral obligation for the broader society to recognize that humanity and advancing ways of responding to their needs that enhance their dignity as human beings and relieve their sufferings throughout illness.