

FROM THE STREETS TO THE PULPIT, an autobiography, by author- pastor Brian W. Jackson is an extraordinary new book of the abuse of a male child who through God's intervention was transformed. God's people-- pastors, counselors, friends, and strangers postured themselves in the author's long journey of transformation.

It was a difficult book to read, even though the writer's style was as easy as listening to conversation while seated. Though it may cause one to cry as the pages reveal the abuse by those whom we expect to care for the children --the family, its reading is of inestimable value to those who believe in and work for healing and change.

This book should be read, especially by pastors who often hear, in their role of confidant and counselor, the confession of those who suffer abuse. Those who suffer at the hand of abusers might well find comfort in their attempt toward recovery and transformation.

Persons in the secular world in faith communities who operate shelters for the homeless and in programs that feed and care for those marginalized by abuse might well need to read this book as another resource. Psychologists, psychotherapists, students who study behavior ...Church folks and the unchurched might well find in it the power of prayer and their kinship with others who pray for, work for, and wait patiently for the Lord to send forth those who work for legislation, for funding for organized societal entities who work in concert and apart to eradicate the root of abuse to children.

Brian Jackson's book is the story of forgiveness both of the abusers and of self in an extraordinary journey toward physical, psychological, and spiritual wholeness. It is possible to be transformed and move on. It is the story of a child who emerged "on the worst of the streets to the best of all places in the pastoral ministry. It is a "Must Have". It belongs on the bookshelf.

Brian Jackson is an ordained elder in the Baltimore Conference of the United Methodist Church. Committed to evangelism and outreach, he has served in the heart of Baltimore City and Calvert County Maryland.

*-Review by Bishop Forrest Stith*