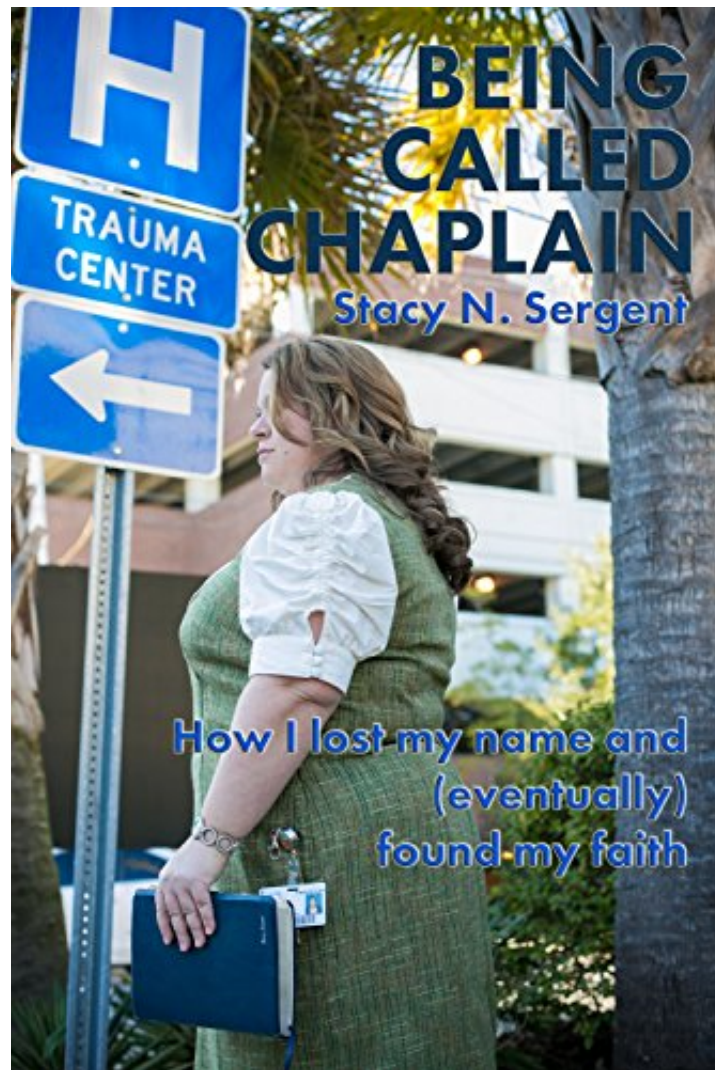


# Being Called Chaplain: How I Lost My Name and (Eventually) Found My Faith

*by*

Stacy Sergent



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## Synopsis

The story of a first year chaplain who finds herself confronted by the tragedies of life. As a chaplain she is supposed to be offering hope and healing, but what does she do if she can't find her own faith? Follow her story through her first year as a chaplain.

## Sort review

About the Author Brian Bantum is a professor of theology at Seattle Pacific University and author of *Redeeming Mulatto*. He is a sought-after speaker on the issues of Christianity and race relations. --This text refers to the paperback edition.

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## What people say about this book

S. Perkins, "Vulnerable, honest, inspiring. I despise reading books electronically. Any I buy end up not being read, but this one I could not put down. I found Stacy through her blog and heaven only knows how I found that. I love reading her blog and finally decided at \$5.99 I really had no reason not to read it. I wish I could copy and paste from it to draw attention to all the sentences that spoke to me in this book. Stacy shows a vulnerability in her story that makes it hard not to love her because you can see yourself in her. Most authors are not as daring as Stacy to lay their souls open in their first book and I commend her on her bravery. I think you get to know more about her in her first book than you know about some authors by their third book. We always seem to look up to ministers as these people with unshakeable faith and it's just not true and I think it's a good thing that we are shown that doubt is a part of faith and a part that strengthens faith. Stacy's writing is remarkable and I look forward to reading more books from her in the future."

Anne L., "a must read for those who work in the healthcare setting. I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Honestly, I purchased it because the author is a relative of a former co-worker and I wanted to support her work. I ended up thoroughly blessed by reading it. It IS spiritual, it DOES contain scripture--lots of it. But the author showed great spiritual insight as she doubted/evaluated/studied/prayed/lived life/did her job. As a nurse who now deals daily with high risk and life changing situations (and as a former hospice nurse), her real life stories of her overnight hours as chaplain were very thought provoking. I was fascinated to "see" her Chaplain thought processes as she pondered how to handle each situation individually. I greatly appreciated her realization of the signs of burnout and the importance of self care. I think those of us who work healthcare ignore ourselves far too much. I hope to see more of her work in the future!"

David B. Gladson, "Authentic and inspiring look behind the ministerial facade.... Countless professional chaplains have experienced the quandary of trying to help our communities understand the unique role we play in the lives of the suffering. More than a few persons have come to us wanting to follow in our footsteps and wondering what life as a professional chaplain must be like. ACPE Supervisors are expected to guide new chaplains into their calling. Enter Stacy Sergent's new book: *Being Called Chaplain: How I Lost My Name and (Eventually) Found My Faith*. In this striking memoir, Sergent gives an insider's view not only into the profession itself but more importantly into the inner world of a compassionate professional who successively struggles to find hope even as she is providing hope. In this refreshingly authentic account, each chapter tells another vignette in her quest to work through her own grief and near burnout after multiple losses in succession of cherished friends and pediatric patients. Only two weeks after her first infant loss, Sergent faces the loss of a deeply loved friend and mentor that leaves her asking the same questions anyone would ask both personally and professionally. "If

things this horrible can happen to people as good as Patsy and Eli and Dr. Goodman, how do you know God is really listening and really cares or even exists. In a religious world where one often feels she “should have figured all of this out in divinity school,” Sergent lays bare her own wrestling with theodicy, doubt and anger that is reflected and healed in the stories and conversations with her patients –conversations that Sergent weaves one by one into a new and unfolding path for personal healing. Sergent opens up her soul as she persistently struggles with coping skills and self-images that leave her raw and tender, perceived inadequacies that get triggered as she faces religious sexism in healthcare institutions, and the impact of her mother's mental illness on her own sense of security. She readily reveals the internal voices that all good chaplains have asked in the face of such immense suffering: “What if you can't do it? What if you screw this up?” All of these struggles weave together in a narrative as she grows more confident in herself, her skills and her pastoral authority as a vibrantly, new and effective chaplain on her units and floors. Throughout, as she engages in theological reflection with the “God of Gethsemane” guided by her spiritual director and her pilgrimage in Israel, she “senses God's nearness as certainly as in any majestic sanctuary” in the very “bloody mess of trauma bays, where a dozen human beings give their best to save another.” As many of us are trying to step up our game in the face of increasing of performance initiatives in our institutions, Sergent's genuine openness allows the reader to breathe as she lets us “get close enough” to “see the cracks of [our] ministerial facade.” As such, this short book calls us back to the reason and purpose for our calling. Reviewed by David B. Gladson MDiv BCC, Clinical Care Manager of Psycho-Social-Spiritual Care, Interim HealthCare Hospice, Greenville, SC”

Ebook Tops Reader, “Inspiring. I found this deeply personal story very honest, reflective and above all, inspiring. Although the author and I differ in doctrinal interpretation, I found myself relating to her struggles, moved by her pain and rejoicing in her triumphs. This is more than a story of one woman's journey of faith, it is a call to all of us to do some self-evaluation and ask ourselves what we believe and why.”

dwgodby, “Excellent View From a Chaplain.. This was an exciting book to see the calling and daily duties of a chaplain and how those daily events impacted their life. A must read for every new chaplain.”

Janet R. Culpepper, “Jan Culpepper. I was one of the lucky ones who saw part of this book in its infancy. What a treat to read it now in its final form! Stacy' s voice is so real and so true to who she really is that reading the book made me feel like I was listening to stories over coffee. When I would pause and look up from my reading, I half expected to see her sitting across from me. Her struggle with faith, especially in the face of tragedy, is a universal struggle. Her willingness to share that struggle so honestly, especially while wearing the badge of chaplain/minister, is both courageous and a gift to us all.”

J. Leach, "great book. As a healthcare provider who depends on the services of chaplains, I found this a refreshing perspective. The author is clearly Christian but struggles with many of the same things and the non ordained. While not devout, I see much of myself in the author as she deals with her life and those of others during some of their most important moments! I'm glad I downloaded this one!"

Hollie Spinn, "Amazing Book. As someone who is studying to become a chaplain, it was great to hear Stacy's stories from her first year. I couldn't put her book down and it has lit a fire under me that has caused me to become even more excited for my vocational calling. Thank you, Stacy, for a great book! I will definitely buy your next one!"

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