

# LIFE DELTA

COUNSELING

Listening in dialogue is listening more to meanings than to words. . . . In true listening, we reach behind the words, see through them, to find the person who is being revealed. Listening is a search to find the treasure of the true person as revealed verbally and nonverbally. There is the semantic problem, of course. The words bear a different connotation for you than they do for me. Consequently, I can never tell you *what you said*, but only *what I heard*. I will have to rephrase what you have said, and check it out with you to make sure that what left your mind and heart arrived in my mind and heart *intact* and without distortion.<sup>1</sup>

—John Powell, theologian