

lost by foregrounding Yoder in these explorations? The contributors give no evident attention to these questions.

Such weaknesses and concerns aside, this volume is a welcome addition to the literature on Anabaptist-Pentecostal intersections. Speaking personally, as a Christian whose own denominational tradition, the Brethren in Christ Church, blends Anabaptist and holiness theologies, I found myself resonating strongly with many of the experiences recounted by the authors in this collection. Overall, it will be most useful for readers interested in accessible, personal reflections on the relationship between Anabaptism and Pentecostalism. As Mittelstadt notes in his introduction, readers would do well to think of this book through the framework of “testimony,” that form of spiritual autobiographical reflection well known in both Mennonite and Pentecostal traditions. Like testimonies shared in worship services, Mittelstadt contends, the essays in this volume “call listeners to an active faith” and “witness—dare I say prophesy—to a growing chorus, that is to collective voices committed to the best of both traditions” (xvi). Readers seeking this kind of reflection will benefit from this collection.

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Marshall V. King, *Disarmed: The Radical Life and Legacy of Michael “MJ” Sharp*. Harrisonburg, VA: Herald Press, 2022. Pp. 216. Hardcover, \$40.79.

Disarmed is a moving and inspiring story of a young man’s deep and abiding commitment to peacemaking in contexts of violence. It is the story of someone taken too soon and one in which the questions of how and why will never fully be explained. Michael “MJ” Sharp was the son of a Mennonite pastor, educated at a Mennonite college, and someone who demonstrated a gift for compassionate listening early on in life. He continually demonstrated efforts to approach others with acknowledgement and a desire to understand rather than judge, and this gave him the ability to connect with people in a variety of contexts and on a level that very few can manage.

Michael’s family and friends chose Marshall V. King, an award-winning journalist based in Goshen, Indiana, and adjunct professor of communication at Goshen College, who also, like MJ, graduated from Eastern Mennonite College. King interviewed more than one hundred friends and colleagues from around the world to build a

profound composite of who MJ was and what he meant to the people with whom he shared his life.

The book begins with the words “Michael J. Sharp knows he is in trouble” (17). Many readers already know the end result of that fateful day in March 2017 when MJ and his United Nations co-worker Zaida did not return home. They were kidnapped and killed on a UN mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The story hit the news and, because of the Mennonite connection, was communicated in many churches. MJ was a peace worker who, by principle, travelled into contested spaces unarmed and urged soldiers and militia leaders to consider and choose peace.

King thoroughly traces MJ's life and paths from his birth in Elkhart, Indiana, in 1982 to his show of wit and sense of humour, his deep intelligence evident throughout his school days, and his enthusiasm for building relationships. It is a moving human portrayal that displays quirks and foibles as MJ's pranks are described and as stories reveal his many girlfriends, his strengthening commitment to peace, and how his poker playing paid his college tuition. Michael was a complex human being and King seeks to unravel the many strands of his life.

Michael accepted a position with Mennonite Mission Network (MMN) in Germany working with soldiers seeking conscientious objector status. He learned German for that job, one of many languages he learned as he moved into different peace work sectors. During that time, Michael joined Hausgemeinschaft, an intentional community. This was a place where Michael formed friendships that he carried with him throughout his life, with people who became sounding boards to the many complicated questions that emerged from Michael's work and contexts. Michael stayed in Germany after his term with MMN and applied for a master's degree program in peace studies and conflict resolution from the Philipps-Universität Marburg.

Michael moved back to Indiana after graduation to become a salesperson for the company that produced the qualitative analysis software that he had used for the data in his thesis. He realized quickly that he was not ready to settle down and needed to be doing work for which he had passion. Suzanne and Tim Lind, Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) country representatives in the DRC, were looking for someone to work in the eastern part of the country, the context for crowded refugee camps and active armed groups, to teach nonviolent methods of peacemaking. Michael was offered that position and in July 2012 he set off to learn French and work in DRC. This was the country that would capture his heart. After MCC work, Michael was hired to coordinate the DRC United Nations Group of

Experts based on his reputation for team building and ability to build a diverse set of relationships with leaders from armed groups. And it was on a visit to some of those leaders that he and Zaida were killed.

Michael was a much-loved son, brother, friend, and colleague. Many said of Michael that he lived “fully engaged” (30). The brief video that was eventually received of Michael’s last moments of life reveals him fully engaged in conversation with his captors. The C. S. Lewis quote utilized in one of the last chapters aptly asserts: “Submit with every fiber of your being, and you will find eternal life. Keep nothing back” (214). This story is a must-read as an inspiration to what a life committed to peace can look like. It counters apathy and prompts reflection, for all who read it, as to what one can do for building peace. Michael leaves a legacy, asserts Congolese Bishop Bulambo Lembelembe Josué: “Michael taught us to strive for peace, justice, and social cohesion,” he said. “His fight is our fight today” (135).

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William Janzen, *Advocating for Peace: Stories from the Ottawa Office of Mennonite Central Committee, 1975–2008*. Kitchener, ON: Pandora Press, 2019. Pp. 169. Softcover, \$24.95.

In 1975, Mennonite Central Committee Canada (MCCC) opened its Ottawa Office with the purpose of monitoring, responding to, and influencing government policy impacting their areas of humanitarian concern, both nationally and internationally, on behalf of Mennonites and the Brethren in Christ. Janzen was the first director of the MCC Ottawa Office and served in that capacity for thirty-three years, and *Advocating for Peace* is his focused memoir of that time.

Janzen organized this slim book around stories on eighteen selected topics. Domestic topics include capital punishment, refugee settlement in Canada, constitutional reform, abortion, conscientious objection, and Amish milk cans. Equal space is given to international concerns in such places as Vietnam, Cambodia, Palestine, Israel, Iraq, North Korea, and the USSR. Within his advocacy anecdotes, Janzen describes his work mostly in the contexts of writing letters to prime ministers or detailed submissions to parliamentary committees and building personal relationships with politicians. All