

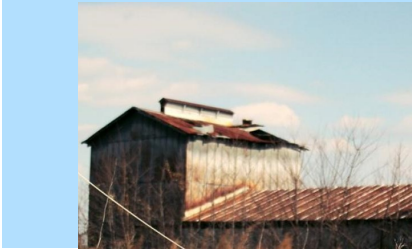
June 2022

Hutterthal
Mennonite
Church

Connection!

Making a CONNECTION with one another





REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR RANDALL

Hearing the Story

We tell stories a lot. When we get home from work for the day, when we sit with friends around the table, and even when we gather for church each week on Sunday mornings. The books of the Bible are each their own story within the unfolding much larger story of God calling human beings to be who God had created them to be.

The past two weeks, I took a seminary class called Biblical Storytelling, in which several classmates and I explored with our professor the story of Jesus as told in the gospel of Mark. One of the big takeaways from our time together was that these books of the old and new testament, or the Hebrew and Greek scriptures, would have almost always been heard by audiences, not read. Reading the scriptures is a relatively new thing within the life of the church, and even in the ancient world of the Hebrew people before exile, only priests and scribes might have been functionally literate enough to read from the scrolls that we know now as the writings of the Hebrew scriptures.

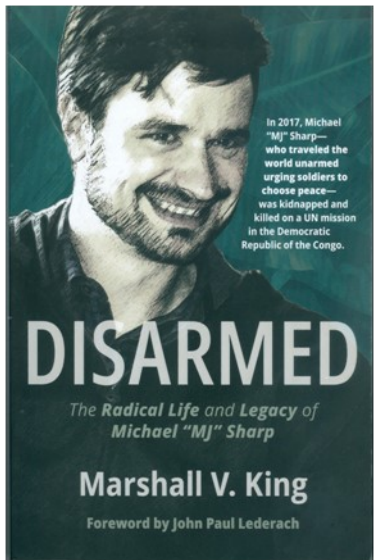
Yet, even in our worship services and our gatherings, we often read the words of scripture rather than telling them to those gathered around us as the stories that they are. Next time that you are reading your Bible, take a moment to imagine what it would have been like to only have ever heard someone speak this particular piece of scripture around a table or a fire in the evening. Then if you're feeling really brave, try telling the story to someone and see what changes about the particular scripture as you learn to tell it.



HMC LIBRARY REVIEW

Submitted by: Norman Hofer

Disarmed: The Radical Life and Legacy of Michael "MJ" Sharp
By: Marshall V. King



The story of a Mennonite PK (preacher's kid) who was murdered at the age of 34 in Democratic Republic of Congo doing what he loved best. Michael was a rambunctious boy, with a lot of energy and spunk. He was a mischievous teenager. One of his college pranks is still talked about to this day.

Studies came easy to Michael. He loved electronics, adventures, world travel, different languages, poker cards, computers and challenges. He took his last semester at Bethany Christian High School at Goshen, Indiana to live in Costa Rica, with his missionary uncle and Aunt, David & Pat Sharp to learn about indigenous tribes in the jungle. He graduated from Goshen College and got his masters degree from Marburg University, Germany.

Michael accepted an assignment in 2012 with Mennonite Central Committee serving in Rwanda/Burundi & eastern Congo, working with food distribution and teaching agriculture. This area has been the scene of tribal warfare for decades. Thousands of their people have been killed. Families have starved to death because of tribal battles in this area.

Michael's passion was "Why does the human race have wars, why are we always killing each other"? There has to be a different way! He was fearless as he traveled unarmed, back and forth among the militant tribes, learned their languages, hearing their stories and living with them in a simple lifestyle, trying to settle disagreements and wars. When asked if this is dangerous, his reply was "All of life has its risks".

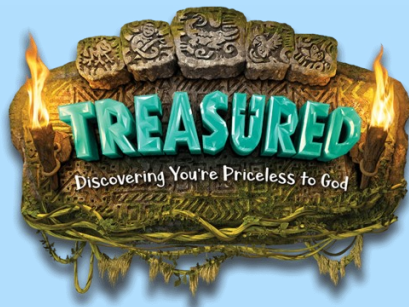
The United Nations learned about his work and success in this area. He was hired by the UN in 2015 to be part of "Group of Experts" trying to bring peace to this area. It was on one of these travels back and forth that Michael Sharp and Zaida Catalan of Sweden, both UN workers, disappeared.



HMC LIBRARY REVIEW CONT.

Their bodies were found days later, both with gunshot wounds, and Zaida was beheaded, both buried in shallow graves.

Five years later the mystery of who murdered these two UN workers is still not solved. When Michael's father, Rev. John Sharp, was asked what justice he wants for his son's murder he replied **"I don't want revenge or justice, let the perpetrators be sentenced to 20 years of walking through the forest unarmed to serve internally displaced people carrying water and digging latrines"**.

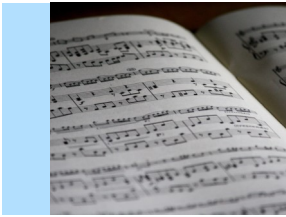


At *TREASURED VBS*, Kids will discover that their value doesn't come from their own accomplishments or the number of "likes" they get; it comes from God.

As they unlock action-packed, faith-filled adventures they'll explore what it means to be priceless to God.

Dates for VBS are May 30th-June 3rd: 9 - 12 pm

Contact Rebecca Hofer or Kylea Waltner
to register your child or sign up at vbspro.events/p/hmc2022



HYMN OF THE MONTH

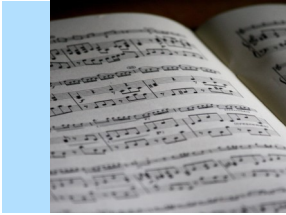
Chosen by: Rebecca Hofer
Submitted by Suzanne Koerner

His Eye is on the Sparrow

For Rebecca Hofer, several hymns have been meaningful to her throughout her life. From a camp song she learned as a teenager at Eagle Lake Christian Camp, “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing, and Be Thou my Vision, where she even enjoys the rock version or “my own slightly off key version.” Recently, another hymn has been especially dear to her. Rebecca said, “His Eye is on the Sparrow has always been a song that has touched me and reminded me of how He watches out for us, me specifically, and now my children and my husband. After He guided us all safely through that derecho, I constantly have tears in my eyes at that thought that He kept us safe and His eyes were on these sparrows.”

Written in 1904 by Civilla D. Martin from Canada, the lyrics are inspired by Matthew 10:29--31. “Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.” Civilla and her husband had developed a deep friendship with a couple by the name of Mr. and Mrs. Doolittle. Mrs. Doolittle had been bedridden for 20 years and her husband was crippled, having to propel himself to and from his business in a wheel chair. Civilla said, “Despite their afflictions, they lived happy Christian lives, bringing inspiration and comfort to all who knew them.” One day, when asked what was their secret to such hopefulness, Mrs. Doolittle replied, “His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.” Inspired, Civilla wrote the lyrics and sent them to Charles H Gabriel to write music.

Continued on the next page...



HYMN OF THE MONTH

CONT.

Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come,
Why should my heart be lonely, and long for heaven and home,
When Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is He:
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

Refrain:

I sing because I'm happy,
I sing because I'm free,
For His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me.

"Let not your heart be troubled," His tender word I hear,
And resting on His goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;
Though by the path He leadeth, but one step I may see;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,
When songs give place to sighing, when hope within me dies,
I draw the closer to Him, from care He sets me free;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.



SHALOM READERS

Photos Submitted by: Joline Thomas

The church conference has put together a reading list for young readers. Our church has several of the suggested books available to check out. Readers are asked to read seven books and record them on a chart. They are also asked to complete a project related to one of the books they read. This is usually a craft depicting a scene or theme, etc from the book. Their projects are displayed in the church foyer. Once the reader has completed all the steps, they get to select a book which they receive as a prize.





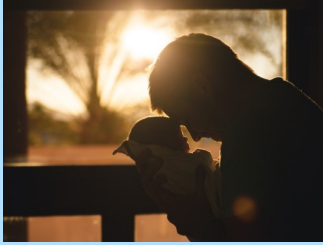
MCC RELIEF SALE FUNDRAISER

Photos Submitted by: Marcia Schrock

Special thank you to Edie Tschetter! She organized a delicious pizza luncheon to raise funds for MCC Relief Sale. We appreciate the several members who made and brought a variety of bars for dessert. This fundraiser meal raised a total of **\$1,285.00** for the South Dakota MCC Relief Sale. We appreciate your generous support!



I



I LOVE MY DAD!

Quotes submitted by: Suzanne Koerner

I love my dad because...

Addison: He is funable. He likes laughing a lot. He likes giggling.

Avery: He takes me on vacation.

Ethan: He goes farming with me.

Bridget: He takes me to the farm.

Vivienne: He plays guitar.

Isaac: He takes me fishing.

Otto: He makes me waffles.

Jessica: He is hilarious (Dad and stepdad).





HAPPY 25TH ANNIVERSARY



Happy 25th
Anniversary to
Darnell and Lori
Tschetter on
June 22nd!



CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES

**June Project:
Cash**

The congregational ministries project for June is Cash. Money raised will be used to cover the cost of the meal that MCC serves at the Banquet in Yankton.



CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays:

- 2) Marcella Glanzer
- 2) Rosella Glanzer
- 6) David Rensink
- 11) John Clem
- 15) Mary Rensink
- 19) Darnell Tschetter
- 21) Misty Bishota
- 22) Wayne Hofer
- 24) Anabella Lima
- 26) David Friesen
- 27) Lillie Eisenbeis

Anniversaries:

- 6) Billy and Clara Beseman
- 9) Sarah & Ryan Waltner
- 9) Gordon & Sharon Waltner
- 11) Ashton & Lee Dockendorf
- 12) Chad & Rebecca Hofer
- 16) Marlyn & Maureen Friesen
- 17) Vernon J. & Norma Hofer
- 22) Les & Mary Rensink
- 22) Darnell & Lori Tschetter
- 24) Brandon & Kylea Waltner
- 27) Kim and Jennifer Hofer
- 29) Larry & Edie Tschetter
- 29) Mike Miller & Michelle Friesen
- 30) Jessica & Chad Mills

***Connection!* Editor & Publisher: Morgan Koehler**

**Advisory Board:
Chair- Marcia Schrock
Suzanne Koerner and Joline Thomas**

HMC Links

- Website - www.hmcfreeman.org
- “Like” Us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/hutterthalmennonitechurch

July Connection! submissions are due on Sunday, June 26th.

DATE	ATTENDANCE	INCOME
May 1	60	\$3,245.00
May 8	67	\$1,419.00
May 15	50	\$2,379.00
May 22	67	\$2,014.00
Other Giving:		\$425.00

***Connection!* Published since April 2000**