



Central  
District  
Conference

A conference of  
Mennonite Church USA

# focus

April 2022

KNOWING CHRIST'S LOVE—ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

Peacemaking, the Bible, mission

## New books by conference authors

### ***A Field Guide to Christian Nonviolence: Key Thinkers, Activists, and Movements for the Gospel of Peace***

Baker Academic, 2022

By David Cramer and Myles Wertz

*David Cramer is Managing Editor of the Institute of Mennonite Studies at Anabaptist Mennonite*

*Biblical seminary*

*(AMBS) and*

*Pastor of Keller*

*Park Church,*

*South Bend, Ind.*

Eight streams of Christian nonviolence are explored, featuring lived examples of each. This diverse picture emphasizes that all Christian

nonviolence cannot be pigeonholed as a single, unified position. It also identifies forms of violence that Christian pacifists have often overlooked, such as sexualized violence and the "slow violence" of climate change.

<http://bakerpublishinggroup.com/books/a-field-guide-to-christian-nonviolence/389590>



### ***Disarmed: The radical life and legacy of Michael "MJ" Sharp***

Herald Press, 2022

By Marshall V. King, *member of Assembly Mennonite Church, Goshen, Ind.*

This account of MJ's life, death and legacy explores what compelled Sharp to travel the world working for peace and the ongoing impact of his life and death in Christian peacemaking.

<https://www.mennomedia.org/9781513808338/disarmed/>

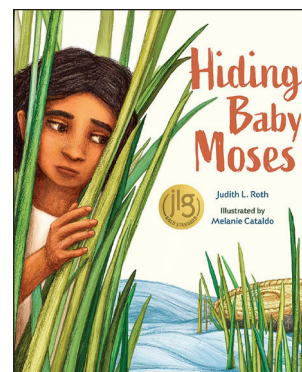
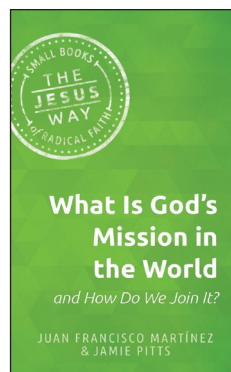
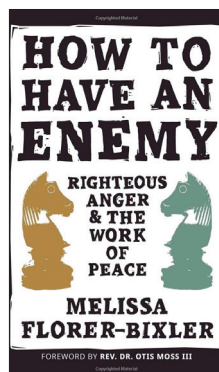
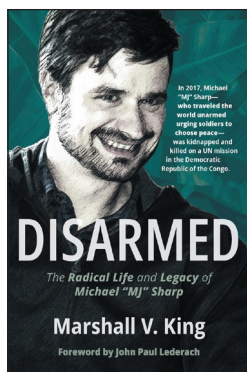
### ***How to Have an Enemy: Righteous Anger and the Work of Peace***

MennoMedia/Herald Press, 2021

By Melissa Florer-Bixler, *Pastor of Raleigh (N.C.) Mennonite Church*

A close look at what the Bible says about enemies—who they are, what they do, and how Jesus and his followers responded to them. The result is a theology that allows us to name our enemies as a form of truth-telling about ourselves, our communities, and the histories in which our lives are embedded.

<https://www.mennomedia.org/9781513808130/how-to-have-an-enemy/>



### ***Leaving Silence: Sexualized Violence, the Bible, and Standing With Survivors***

Herald Press, 2021

By Susannah Larry, *Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies, AMBS; member of Keller Park Church, South Bend, Ind.*

This book opens new insights into some of the Bible's most difficult texts and releases its ancient stories to serve as a powerful healing witness to the God who has shared in the experience of sexualized violence.

<https://www.mennomedia.org/9781513808178/leaving-silence/>

### ***What is God's mission in the world and how do we join it?***

Herald Press, 2021 | Series: The Jesus Way: Small books of radical faith

By Juan F. Martinez and Jamie Pitts  
*Jamie Pitts is Associate Professor of Anabaptist theology at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, secretary of CDC and member of Hively Avenue Mennonite Church, Elkhart, Ind.*

The authors help readers understand what mission means, why Christians in the past have made missteps, and how we can learn from Christian communities that are spreading the good news of Jesus today.

<https://www.mennomedia.org/9781513805665/what-is-gods-mission-in-the-world-and-how-do-we-join-it/>

### ***Hiding Baby Moses***

Flyaway Books, 2021

By Judith L. Roth, *member of Hively Avenue Mennonite Church, Elkhart, Ind.*

Melanie Cataldo (Illustrator)

Meet the family of baby Moses in this lyrical retelling, and see how God's faithfulness can be revealed through one small person who takes a big risk for someone she loves. The book includes original music for the song Moses's mother sings. (For children age 4-8.)

<https://www.flyawaybooks.com/books>

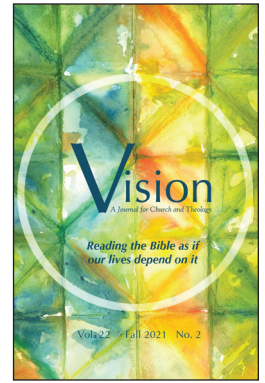
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### ***Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology***

Published two times a year  
by Anabaptist Mennonite  
Biblical Seminary and  
Canadian Mennonite  
University



**Vol. 22 No. 2 (2021)** is dedicated to the lifelong work of Mary H. Schertz, *Professor Emerita of New Testament at, AMBS and member of Assembly Mennonite Church, Goshen, Ind.* Mary challenged students to “read the Bible as if their lives depended on it” as this issue is titled. Two contributions come from CDC pastors:

#### ***The God of our ancestors: A sermon on Exodus 3:13-15***

By Isaac S. Villegas, *pastor at Chapel Hill (N.C.) Mennonite Fellowship*

<https://press.palni.org/ojs/index.php/vision/article/view/714/653>

#### ***God finds us, still: Christocentric hermeneutics without violence***

By Melissa Florer-Bixler, *pastor of Raleigh (N.C.) Mennonite Church*

<https://press.palni.org/ojs/index.php/vision/article/view/719/625>

Read full issues of *Vision* online:

<https://www.ambs.edu/vision-a-journal-for-church-and-theology>

### ***Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program***

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's distance-friendly nondegree Journey program supports learners as they explore spiritual leadership in their local churches and communities and deepen their understanding of Anabaptist theology and ministry with a dedicated mentor.

The Fall 2022 cohort begins Sept. 9; apply by July 12 and save \$100. See more:

[ambs.edu/journey](http://ambs.edu/journey)

CDC is a sponsoring conference; contact the CDC office for more information.