

Ladder without Rungs

People who face hardship and trauma often use metaphors to describe their experiences. They are trying to express the unimaginable, the inexpressible, and so must draw upon comparisons to other, more expressible, realities. Some say that the journey from trauma to transcendence requires one to change metaphors: to identify the metaphors of hurt and loss that dominate their lives, and to find new metaphors of hope and health that will guide them into the future. Metaphor, in short, plays an important role in making sense out of hardship and finding ways to transcend it. This exhibit explores metaphors of suffering and trauma from both sides of crime: metaphors used by survivors of violent crime to express their experiences, and metaphors used by life-sentenced prisoners to describe the sentences they are serving. Photographs and interviews by Howard Zehr and paintings and reflections by Manas Ghanem and Judah Oudshoorn.

For adults. Churches, schools, and other civic groups may reserve the exhibit by emailing exhibits@mcc.org or contacting MCC U.S. at (717) 859-1151. Groups pay shipping and handling plus a \$50 rental fee.