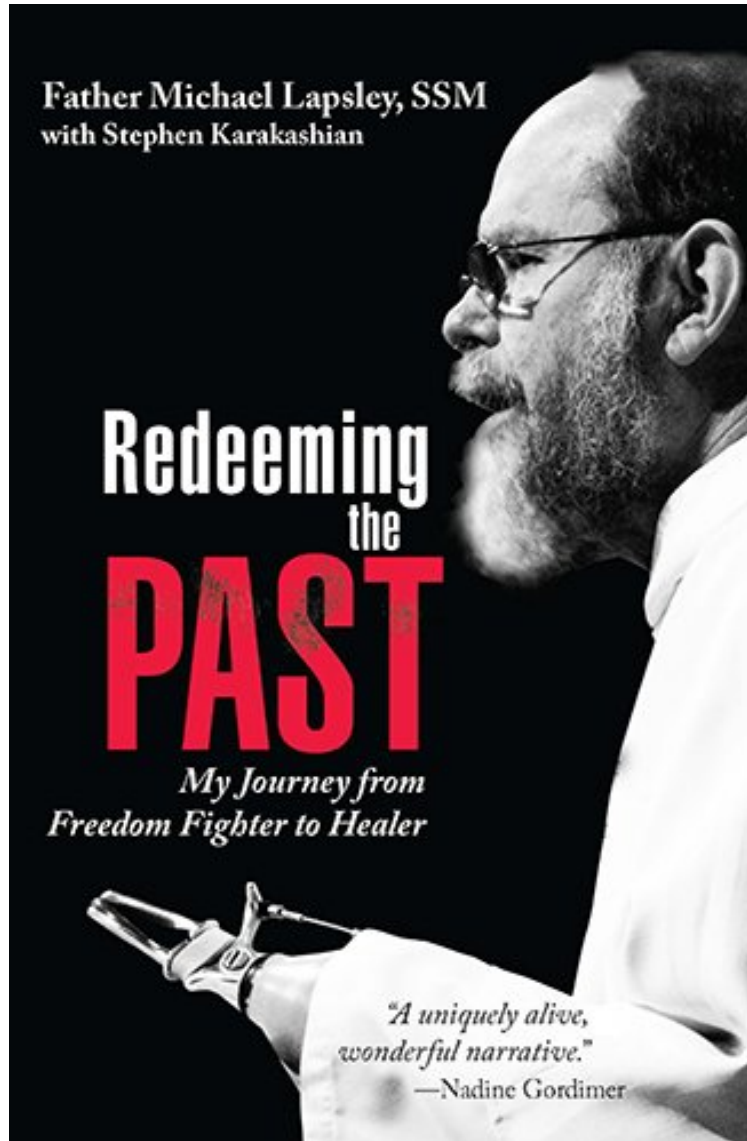


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## Redeeming the Past: My Journey from Freedom Fighter to Healer

*Michael Lapsley, Stephen Karakashian*  
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**Michael Lapsley, Stephen Karakashian : Redeeming the Past: My Journey from Freedom Fighter to Healer**  
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Redeeming the Past: My Journey from Freedom Fighter to Healer:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. With a heart of both defiance and compassion is this journey recountedBy hmawUndeniably, much harm has been rendered throughout history by many who profess to be staunch representatives of their various religions. But life is never as cut and dry. Herein this book, one finds a man who has

activated religious doctrine with a universal humanism that is at once authentic and life-affirming. He is a priest from New Zealand who ended up living in the midst of Apartheid South Africa. So spiritually unsettled was he by the macabre nature of this State gone mad, that he enlisted within the ANC's struggle. The subsequent price would be a near-death experience via a letter bomb that cost him both his hands and one of his eyes. But as life would have it, Father Michael Lapsley survived this tragedy and lived to see a liberated South Africa. This book is a tale of sordid evil and yet soaring hope; and therein lies its charm. It documents the life of a man who refused to be paralyzed by the inertia of a putatively apolitical church, instead enlivening a theology that humanely spoke of and fought for a truly inclusive freedom for everyone. Although Father Michael writes through a religious lens, his journey is more undergirded by a spiritual experientiality that we all share and it is recounted with a heart of both defiance and compassion. Amidst the din of much human suffering and rampant apathy, this story arises to remind us that the longest night has an end, and of the hope-engendering and healing potency within human brokenness. As Michael pens "hope is not naive; it requires commitment, hard work, struggles and sacrifice." May our too often faint hearts dare to emulate but an iota of this man's courage.

Dr. Hakim Mohandas Amani Williams  
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Liberation and Healing  
By Fr. Dennis Moorman  
While reading "Redeeming the Past: My Journey from Freedom Fighter to Healer" by Fr. Michael Lapsley and Mr. Stephen Karakashian, I was inspired and deeply moved to recommit myself to living in solidarity with those who suffer from injustice and to moving into deeper channels of healing and reconciliation within myself and in our broken world. As a trauma therapist and Catholic missionary priest, I appreciate the way in which Fr. Michael told his story to help me gain fresh insight and a new perspective on the important historical events that led to the transformation of South Africa from the oppressive reality of apartheid through the pain, and into healing, reconciliation and liberation. This story is deeply personal, communal and universal!

While doing my own trauma work as well as accompanying others on the journey of healing, I have observed that many of us try to resolve our own pain and trauma by becoming activists and fighting against the injustices of the world we see on the outside while often neglecting the inner work of healing (which is also social) and which must accompany the dismantling of any unjust structures so that a reconstruction based on truth, justice and love may prevail. I appreciate Michael sharing with us his "passion narrative" of love and suffering, which is also the story of South Africa and her people as well as the story of so many others who suffer under unjust systems. May your testimony and healing work continue to challenge and encourage us to move beyond the prisons of unjust structures of society and religion as well as the prisons within to a place of authentic healing that leads to the fullness of liberation and joy for which we have been created to enjoy!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. this is one of the best books I ever read  
By Customer  
undoubtedly, this is one of the best books I ever read. It offers a travel to the past of South Africa when the Apartheid regime conducted reprehensible atrocities against human rights. Father Michael Lapsley represented the poor and oppressed people and fought actively for them. After he is bombed and lost the sight of one eye and his two hands, became a healer to redeem the past of all of those who carry burden, It means for all of us.

In 1990, Fr. Michael Lapsley, an Anglican priest active in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa, opened a letter bomb that nearly killed him, Though he survived, the blast took both his hands and one of his eyes. This memoir tells the story of this horrendous event, beginning with the journey that led him there particularly his rising awareness of the radical demands of the gospel and his growing identification with the freedom struggle. But that was not the end of his inspiring journey. In post-apartheid South Africa, Fr. Lapsley saw a whole nation in need of healing. He discovered a new vocation: drawing on his own experience of trauma to promote the healing of others, in South Africa, and ultimately throughout the world.

Michael's life represents a compelling metaphor . . . a foreigner who came to our country and was transformed. His life is part of the tapestry of the many long journeys and struggles of our people. --Nelson Mandela, former President of the Republic of South Africa  
With dry, self-deprecating wit, Lapsley treats readers to an emotional, gripping tale of a priest, his prosthetics, and his promise, as St. Teresa of Avila put it, to be Christ's hands in the world. --Publishers Weekly  
About the Author  
Michael Lapsley, born in New Zealand, joined the Society for the Sacred Mission, and was sent to South Africa in 1973. There he became active in the anti-apartheid movement, ultimately joining the African National Congress. After surviving an assassination attempt, he returned to South Africa to found the Institute for Healing of Memories. Stephen Karakashian is an American psychotherapist who has worked with Fr. Michael and the institute in South Africa and the United States. He lives in Portland.