

Youth Escape 2010 Planning Committee

Saturday, December 12, 2009

minutes

Present: Johanna Bontrager, Renee Neufeld, Steve Oswald, Tim Springer, Karla Stoltzfus, Shana Peachey Boshart

Absent: Cristian Aleman, Kate Friesen

1. We introduced ourselves to each other.
2. Scott Larsen gave us a brief tour of the facilities.
3. We did a brief overview of the publicity and other literature produced for Youth Escape 2008. Shana showed the group some of the evaluation results from 2008.
4. We had a generous lunch provided by Judy's Home Cookin' (Judy Boedecker) of Rockwell City, 712-297-8608.

5. We reconvened in The Inn to share what we have learned recently about youth and youth ministry.

Johanna: holistic ministry; everything intentionally tries to meet the purpose; practice for being Christian in the rest of your life; pray before every activity—make it “normal.”

Tim: challenge youth to get out of Mennonite bubble; quit preaching to the choir; how to reach out to people who need Jesus; bring hope to the hopeless; help kids live out in the world what they do in camp; how do we help kids be missional

Renee: Kids need to be challenged to do something; they've heard it all before; “blessed to be a blessing”

Steve: They need to know “how;” how do we empower youth to take what they've learned and apply it.

Shana: Maybe equip them with tools like a process of action and reflection.

Tim: Sometimes kids are more ready to do stuff than adults; kids are ready

Karla: How can Mennonites reach out more, be less self-contained; was inspired by youth's interest in Anabaptist history; “making Jesus second nature” Adults have more to protect, youth are more free to act; I'm learning to let the youth lead; we could give them a chance to lead at YE; pair adults and youth to lead worship, music, recreation...identify youth to take responsibility with follow-up activities back home after YE.

Shana showed map of conference; we did not have any urban groups come to YE 2008. In CPMC, the typical size of a youth group is 8-12, most are led by two sponsor couples, most will drive 3-4 hours to get to Twin Lakes, must be public school kids, most churches have youth groups that have 3-6 schools represented; total of 55 congregations 40-45 with youth groups

Youth Escape 2008 was attended by 10 youth groups; 15-17 different congregations were represented.

I believe that God has a vision and a plan for what will happen at Youth Escape 2010.

Steve: What would a symbolic event to affirm emerging leaders look like? Could be a turning point in a young person's life.

6. We spent 10-15 minutes in prayer with our Bibles open, asking God to bring to mind God's hopes and plans for the weekend. When we got back together, we shared what we heard in this time.

Tim: Ephesians 2:10 we are His workmanship, created for good works; what's the workings of a Christian: salt & light, new in Christ, art & prayer, all participate in making a big collage

Steve: I don't spend enough time praying like this—allow God to speak to me while I am still; “communication with God” it's easy to pray, hard to listen to God; give youth a chance for solitude & listening, discipline of solitude

Karla: paying attention to songs, dreaming God's dream, leadership needs to be called out for a purpose; helping youth discern my passion/gifts & what needs in the world capture my heart; Matt 5 how can we be salt & light, how to equip youth to be salt & light in the world; practical things we can do to identify gifts in kids and needs in the world.

Renee: Matt 5:14 What happens here shouldn't stay here II Cor. 6:2 NOW is the acceptable time

Idea: dramatic acting out of scripture at a campfire (Tim: or act out scripture)

Tim: one of the biggest needs with youth is discovering their own gifts

Johanna: Let our light shine/go out and be salt so people will see good works and glorify God (Matt 5:16) an obstacle is that we're too busy to do this; parable of the Good Samaritan—too busy to do God's work right here right now.

Shana: Living the Jesus Life Life as opposed to death is what Jesus gives us.

What themes did we hear? What ideas were repeated?

spiritual gifts

different ways of listening to God

practicing faith in creative ways: through the arts, prayer, service

we want what happens at YE to be taken back home; EQUIP youth to take it home

7. Decisions to Make

A. Possible Themes:

Gather to Scatter

Bursting Out

Making Jesus Second Nature

What Happens at Camp Leaves Camp

Building Up, Bursting Out

Affirm where they are now and build them up and send them out and send them out with the church.

Karla suggested this progression for the sermons:

1. You are a beloved son/daughter of God.
2. You belong to God's beloved people.
3. God has given you unique gifts/passions
4. God has a plan for the world and you have a place in it.

B. Speaker. We brainstormed ideas for speaker.

Shane Claiborne, Immanuel Sila, were the final two, in that order. If we need to go to a third choice, we'll email.

Johanna agreed to fill out and send in the form for Shane, Tim agreed to be a contact person too.

- C. Music. We will invite Cristian Aleman to lead the music.
- D. Fireside/campfire on Friday night?

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting will be held by conference call and scheduled by email.

Minutes by Shana with help from Johanna's notes.

Youth Escape 2010

Friday through Sunday, July 30-August 1, 2010
at Twin Lakes Christian Center, Manson, Iowa

Purpose of event:

To connect Central Plains Mennonite youth to Jesus, the church and each other.

Secondary goals:

provide leadership opportunities for Central Plains young adults

network and equip youth leaders

connect youth to broader church opportunities (service, college)