

*May our sons in their youth be like plants full grown,  
our daughters like corner pillars, cut for the building of a palace.  
Psalm 144:12*

# Plants Full Grown

a newsletter for Central Plains Mennonite Conference youth leaders

April 2010

Dear Youth Leaders,

I just read a story in the [Mennonite Weekly Review](#) about a high school student in Canada who heard of conscientious objection for the first time when her Mennonite grandmother suggested she write a paper on it. Abby Landon found the web site [www.alternativeservice.ca](http://www.alternativeservice.ca), which tells the stories of conscientious objectors in Canada during World War II.

Abby was so inspired by the stories she found on the web site that she sent an email of thanks to Conrad Stoez, archivist at the Mennonite Heritage Center, which created the site. "I found it very encouraging to hear how Mennonites, my relatives, pursued a Christ-like life even when it was extremely difficult," she wrote. "It has made me consider the dedication of my actions for Jesus and my 'separation' from the influential aspects of this world."

I am struck by the fact that what impressed Abby most about Mennonite conscientious objectors was their "willingness to just completely separate...from worldly values." This ability to distinguish between Christ-like values and worldly values is important in every aspect of the Christian walk, not just regarding military participation. Following Jesus makes us different, and many youth are ready and willing to stand out for their beliefs.

Blessings to you as you mentor and equip youth to follow the Way of Jesus.

*Shana*

## Speaking of conscientious objection...

Both Mennonite Central Committee and the Center on Conscience and War have updated their web resources on conscientious objection. Check out their sites at <http://co.mcc.org/us/co> and <http://www.centeronconscience.org/>. When youth have questions about this topic, refer them to these excellent sites.

## Podcasts for youth leaders

There is a wonderful series of reflections on youth and young adults called "Cloud of Witnesses" on the web. These were originally produced as CDs, and I listened to and appreciated several of them. Download a few to your mp3 player or listen to them from your computer while doing household chores. They will inspire you and equip you in your ministry to youth. [Click here](#) or find them at <http://www3.ptsem.edu/offices/coned/iym/default.aspx>, click on "Resources" then "Cloud of Witnesses."

## Graduation gift ideas

***Take our Moments and our Days*** \$22.99 at [www.mpn.net](http://www.mpn.net). A four-week cycle of daily prayers steeped in scripture and focused on the words and teachings of Jesus. This prayer book provides a format for a daily devotional time that is grounded in Anabaptist theology and practice.

***Three Simple Rules*** \$10 from the bookstore at [MMA-online.org](http://MMA-online.org). College students and young adults are often targeted by credit card companies and unscrupulous lenders. *Three Simple Rules* is an easy-to-read and easy-to-apply overview of the three underlying principles to all financial situations: spend less than you earn, save now and buy later, and know debt.

## Upcoming Events

### **Central Plains Annual Meeting** Thursday through Sunday, June 24-27

Every congregation is entitled to send one voting **youth delegate** to Central Plains Annual Meeting in addition to its regular delegation. Consult with your pastor to discern whom to invite to be a youth delegate. Think together of those who show an interest in leadership, ministry or the broader church. Youth can find information about being a youth delegate on the [Annual Meeting](#) page of [www.centralplainsmc.org](http://www.centralplainsmc.org).

### **Youth Escape 2010** Friday through Sunday, July 30-August 1

...at [Twin Lakes Christian Center](#), Manson, Iowa. **Who can come?** Youth Escape is for your whole youth group to experience together. Because it takes place in late summer, you may want to bring your incoming freshmen to help them bond with the group and lay a foundation for the coming year. Some youth groups include junior high youth, and those groups should feel free to bring along kids who've been in seventh or eighth grade this (2009-2010) year. Kids who've been in sixth grade or younger this year should probably wait to attend Youth Escape in 2012.



**Registration** The registration form for Youth Escape is attached and can also be found on the web site. Print and fill out one for each person who registers. **Please keep in mind** that a lot of youth groups will want to register for Youth Escape 2010, and the lodging space at Twin Lakes is limited. Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

*Plants Full Grown* is published the fourth Friday of each month for Central Plains youth leaders. Please include items from this newsletter in your church bulletins and newsletters.

Find archived issues at [www.centralplainsmc.org](http://www.centralplainsmc.org).

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Central Plains Mennonite Conference leads congregations as they proclaim and become a sign of God's reconciling work in the world.

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