

*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  
February 2010

Dear Youth Leaders,

Friends, I've been busting to tell you this...

## **Shane Claiborne** is coming to Youth Escape 2010!

No, I am not pulling your leg, it's really true!

We filled out the form inviting him to come, waited prayerfully, and got a "Yes" in response!!

**Please tell your group right away**, and remind them of the dates, **July 30-August 1**, so they can put it on their calendar. (Better tell their parents, too!) In the next few weeks I'll start the Youth Escape 2010 web page at [www.centralplainsmc.org](http://www.centralplainsmc.org).

Shane is the author of *The Irresistible Revolution*, *Jesus for President*, and *Follow Me to Freedom*. He was a youth worship speaker last summer at Mennonite Church USA convention in Columbus. I encourage you to read and discuss one of his books with your group between now and Youth Escape. Also, you can search YouTube for videos of Shane. [Here's one](#) you might start with.

You will receive mailings with more information in the coming months. In the meantime, join with me in thanking God for this opportunity, and pray with me that Youth Escape 2010 will be everything God intends!

*Shana*

### **Making plans for a summer service project?**

Which service project have you settled on? **Please email me and let me know what your group is doing for your summer service project and when you are going.** Sometimes sponsors ask me if others are doing the same program they are doing, so for your benefit, please tell me your plans.

If you haven't made your plans yet, you'll find a list of options on the [youth ministry](#) page of our web site. Click on "ideas for summer service projects." Feel free to ask me your questions about these options; I'm here to help!



### **Merge: A guidebook for youth service trips**

Krista Dutt, the national program director for DOOR (Discovering Opportunities for Outreach and Reflection) has written a set of activities and Bible studies to help you and your group prepare for your service trip. This is a great resource! The first four sessions prepare your group for the trip, the fifth “session” provides Bible texts, journaling ideas and reflection questions for each day of the trip, and the last two sessions are for reflecting on the experience and integrating it into life after the trip is over. Using this guide will help make the service trip a spiritually grounded experience for everyone. Find it at <http://store.mpn.net/productdetails.cfm?PC=1182>.

### **!Explore application deadline nears**

February 19 is the deadline for high school youth to apply for this summer's !Explore program, the program that introduces youth to theological study. Anyone in grade 11 or 12 may apply to participate. Each youth joins a 16-day group experience at AMBS, and works with a pastor-mentor in their own congregation in a five-week internship. Read [excerpts of reflections from 2009 !Explore participants](#). See more information and find application forms on the [!Explore Web pages](#).

### **Did your group get together with another youth group?**

Please drop me a quick email to tell me what you did together.

### **Don't forget Bible reading guides: I'll send you as many as you want!**



Challenge your kids to read the Bible and track their progress. I will send you a Bible reading guide for every youth and sponsor—all you need to do is help the group to track their progress. The guide (pictured at left) is a pamphlet that allows the reader to check off the books and chapters of the Bible as they read them. Just tell me how many you need.

### **When you have questions...**

When you need a resource, ideas or advice, please call or email me! I'd love to hear from you! [shana@netins.net](mailto:shana@netins.net) or 319-646-2842.

## **Upcoming Events**

**Swan Lake Senior High Retreat** Friday through Sunday, February 19-21

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

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

*Plants Full Grown* is published the last 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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