

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

March 2010

Dear Youth Leaders,

This past weekend I was updated on all the resources offered by Mennonite Church USA, so now would be a very good time to ask me about study materials!

One of the most interesting things I heard about is a new radio program called *Shaping Families*. It's a 15-minute, weekly program offering practical help, encouragement and inspiration for families from a Christian perspective. What will be most helpful to you as a youth sponsor or teacher is their web site www.shapingfamilies.com, where you can listen to the programs and also find practical resources on topics relevant to youth. This week, listen to Kerri's story of depression and cutting. Other recent programs have addressed mental illness, drug addiction and forgiveness. Listen for your own enrichment or play a portion of a program to spark a discussion with your youth.

Blessings to you in this important work,

Shana

More help for discussing tough topics



Is there a tough issue you need to address with your youth? *Close to Home* pamphlets tackle topics like depression, eating disorders, bullying, drug addiction, pornography, acquaintance rape, gambling and more. A pamphlet costs just 75 cents each and the study guides are free! Download the [free study guides](http://www.faithandliferesources.org/supplies/closetohome/) at <http://www.faithandliferesources.org/supplies/closetohome/>.

Here's an idea: work with your pastor—he or she may be happy to order a set of pamphlets to display at church. Then, they'll be at your fingertips, and other people at church will have access to them too!

YOU get a special price when you buy *Merge*

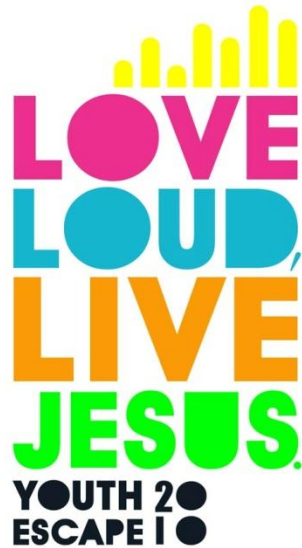


Last month I introduced *Merge*, the new guidebook for youth groups doing service projects. I want you to have this great guidebook. It will help you plan activities and Bible studies before, during and after your service trip. So I worked out a deal with Faith & Life Resources **just for Central Plains youth leaders**. You can buy *Merge* for just \$11.19—30% off the regular price. When you order it from the [MPN web site](http://www.mennoniteplains.org), enter the code “CPmerge” in the “discount code” box in your shopping cart. OR, mention this code when ordering by phone: 1-800-245-7894, ext. 220.

Upcoming Events

[Central Plains Annual Meeting](#) Thursday through Sunday, June 24-27

It will soon be time to identify a youth delegate from your congregation to participate in Annual Meeting 2010, hosted by the churches in Mountain Lake, Minnesota.



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

...at [Twin Lakes Christian Center](#), Manson, Iowa. Registration forms and posters will be mailed to you soon! Be sure your group **and their parents** know about Youth Escape and have it on their calendars! Here's the Youth Escape logo; the yellow bars evoke the equalizer bars on a stereo, reflecting the image of living "loud." The T-shirt design builds on this same concept. I think the kids will like it!

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.

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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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