

Resource Advocate Report September 2012

A new option for adult groups is [*Real Life, Real Families: Listen & Talk Series 1*](#). This is a faith-based curriculum to help participants learn from the real-life experiences of others, and encourage them in addressing family needs or problems in healthy ways, based on the [*Shaping Families*](#) radio program.

Recommended for small groups, Sunday school, or parenting classes, each of the twelve ready-to-use *Real Life* sessions focuses on a different issue facing families. Audio interviews feature people who have either faced the issue themselves or are experts on the issue, and commentary, and the study guide includes Bible texts, prayers, and discussion and activities to draw participants into the topic. Session topics include Parenting after Divorce, Teenage Substance Abuse, Media, more.

Available as a booklet with CDs, or as a download including PDF study guide and MP3 audio files.

Also new for adults are additional titles in the series ***With the Word: A Bible Study and Devotional Guide for Groups or Individuals***. This offers adult groups or individuals brief Bible study sessions with devotionals on the same text and theme. New to the series is a study on *Isaiah* joining Matthew, Luke, and Psalms. Two more studies are planned to be out next spring.

Coming in October: [*Breathe It In: God Gives Life*](#), MennoMedia's 2013 Vacation Bible school curriculum, will invite children in early childhood through Grade 5 to discover the life-giving breath of God! (Please note the change in age range, as past VBS materials have been recommended through grade 8.)

MennoMedia is pleased that VBS 2013 will be out earlier this year. This is in response to congregations who have been unable to consider MennoMedia materials in the past because they needed to make a decision before the materials were available. Watch the VBS webpage for more details coming soon.

Here are some of MennoMedia's newest and upcoming books:

(Do you know about the savings available on books through the MennoMedia Study Shelf? Groups and classes may order five or more copies of any Herald Press title and save 25%.)

- [*Making Friends among the Taliban: A Peacemaker's Journey in Afghanistan*](#) by Jonathan Larson, tells the inspiring story of American aid worker Dan Terry. Terry, who lived and worked in Afghanistan until his violent death in 2010, offers a model for living authentically wherever we are. A new documentary, [*Weaving Life*](#), about Terry's life, is also available. The documentary was produced by students at Eastern Mennonite University.

- ***[The Power of All: Building a Multivoiced Church](#)***, by Stuart Murray and Sian Murray-Williams, offers a biblical basis and resources to encourage a multivoiced approach to worship, learning, discernment, and pastoral care.
- ***[Laughter is Sacred Space: The Not-So-Typical Journey of a Mennonite Actor](#)***, by Ted Swartz, details Swartz's life growing up in the Mennonite church, working in the family butcher shop, attending seminary and becoming involved in acting, as well as the tragic suicide of his creative partner and confidant Lee Eshleman.
- ***[Please Pass the Faith: The Art of Spiritual Grandparenting](#)***, by Elsie Rempel, encourages all older adults to consider their role in shaping the children and youth of the church. Read the introduction and see the table of contents.
- ***[Relentless Goodbye: Grief and Love in the Shadow of Dementia](#)***, a true story by Ginnie Horst Burkholder, offers inspiration and insight on the topic of dementia as well as illness and health, faith and doubt, grieving and acceptance.

These are just a few of the rich resources we have available to us. I will have these titles and others at my Browse and Buy table the weekend of Celebration!

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Notes & news:

MennoMedia has a great variety of videos and DVDs for adults and youth, on peace and justice, social issues, Bible studies, and more. Also available for youth midweek programs are downloadable **Generation Why Bible studies**, and **Fast Lane Bible studies** for junior youth.

Fall 2012 is the first quarter that *Adult Bible Study* has been available for purchase in Spanish. The Spanish version of *Adult Bible Study* is available as a download. Find it [here](#), and know that you can also browse and purchase other Spanish resources from MennoMedia.

MennoMedia has reorganized the *Faith Markers* ministry resources to be free, downloadable materials to support faith formation. These include ideas and materials to acknowledge significant faith events in the lives of children and youth. Look for an overview chart with suggestions about marking faith milestones; worship resources for faith marker celebrations such as Parent-child dedication, Entering Sunday school, Entering first grade, Bible presentation, Entering teen years, Entering adulthood, and Baptism; sample faith marker gifts, a list of books and resources by age category, and more. Check these out and let others in your conference know about them!

- **Gather ,Round Bible curriculum** offers [free customizable ads](#), which can be used to invite others to attend Sunday school. Tell churches to add their contact information and place in local papers, newsletters, or on your church website.
- MennoMedia's quarterly newsletter ***Links@MennoMedia*** offers a behind-the-scenes look at MennoMedia projects. Anyone may sign up for this or other e-mail subscriptions, including "A Sip of Scripture," "Peace Story," "Media Matters," and "Another Way"—all of which feature interesting content with a faith perspective.