



## MennoMedia

An agency of Mennonite Church USA  
and Mennonite Church Canada

**MennoMedia is developing** a new children's curriculum, *Shine*, to succeed *Gather 'Round*, which is in its next-to-last year. This new project will continue in partnership with Brethren Press (and Church of the Brethren). We feel encouraged to develop our new

curriculum, not only by our own Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada congregations, but also by the many participants from other mainline Christian and evangelical denominations who deeply appreciate the emphasis of our children and youth curricula. We heard this last year:

Many of us have lamented the fact that some of the flashiest and most widely marketed curricula teach children about God, the Bible, and the Christian life in ways that students will need to unlearn when they reach adolescence and adulthood. We've hoped and prayed for curricula that would lay a foundation in childhood that will still serve as students come of age. I'm grateful that *Gather 'Round* is a creative leader in this needed approach. I'm so glad to have finally discovered them.

**An original and new multimedia project** of MennoMedia last year was the documentary *Weaving Life* and its companion book, *Making Friends among the Taliban*. The film was aired on ABC-TV starting October 21 and the book was launched October 27. Created by students at EMU, the documentary traces the life and impact of Dan Terry, a humanitarian aid worker killed in Afghanistan in August of 2010, along with Glen Lapp of MCC. Besides being an excellent documentary, the project hopefully pilots a new way of partnering with college students at Mennonite colleges, one of the dreams we had when MennoMedia was formed. The project itself profoundly touched and transformed the students who worked on it. The book, written by Jonathan Larson, deepens and expands the story and we see it selling already in wider markets.

**Herald Press**, the book imprint of MennoMedia launched a new bestselling cookbook in the spring of 2013, *Mennonite Girls Can Cook Celebrations*. This book combines hospitality, community, family and deeply grounded personal faith stories. Why is it important that we do cookbooks? Besides the fact that they provide good income, many of our cookbooks are what we call "tangentially theological." David Swartz, in his recent book *Moral Minority: The Evangelical Left in an Age of Conservatism*, said: ". . . in Doris Janzen Longacre's *More with Less Cookbook*, [Evangelicals] learned that kitchens were moral places where a theology of simple living could be practiced."

MennoMedia also caught up on new **digital technology**: at the start of 2013 we had nearly all of our printed books available in ebook format, including many of the scholarly books on Anabaptist theology and history (some of which had gone out of print). All new Herald Press books are now routinely available in ebook format as soon as they are published.

Two new multi-media projects of MennoMedia will be available by summer 2013. ***Claim(ing) Faith: Youth Discover the Confession of Faith*** invites youth and their leaders to embrace the basic beliefs and practices of Mennonites. Insightful and engaging, this print and video study contains dynamic personal stories, reflections, and discussion starters. ***Dig In: 13 Scriptures to Help Us Know the Way*** asks participants to dig in to their context and experiences as a lens for interpretation. The 13 sessions include video segments with personal stories about how people across the church have been affected by and interpret these Scripture texts.

Please keep abreast of our vision and plans for the future via our new blog at [www.Mennobytes.com](http://www.Mennobytes.com).

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