



Iowa Religious Media Services

eNews

August 2017

Regular Business Hours

Monday-Thursday
9:00 am-4:00 pm

Office Closures

Monday, Sept. 4, 2017
Labor Day

A Streaming Video thought for August!

IRMS has expanded its video streaming offerings to include **NEW** access to a video clip library. Watch this space for monthly thought-provoking moments of reflection for you or your next group meeting.

For more video clips and streaming information, contact us at questions@irms.org or (515) 277-2920.

Your video clip for August plays off the hype generated by this month's solar eclipse:

[Be Like a Sunset](#)

Password: 2EED57ECDH

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Even as people reach for the last moments of unscheduled summer, schools are gearing up for the **new** school year. Likewise, churches are focused on a **new** year of Christian education. We hope this eNews will help you in your preparations! Our *Featured Resources* presents **new**



additions to the collection secured over the course of the summer. These **new** resources include two thought-provoking documentaries, a small-church elementary curriculum, a confirmation program, plus a couple of timely books.

Our *Resources in Use* segment shares the experience of one adult Sunday school class that tried a different approach to their small group discussion this summer - a video study with a popular presenter. There is nothing like a **new** process to break the usual routine! Finally, our *Meeting the Challenge* section offers a group of books **new** to IRMS for leaders to use to lay the foundation for a successful middle school program.

As I conclude a summer packed with denominational events and enlightening conversations, I return to the office with lots to consider. At this time I am also preparing for another autumn filled with additional opportunities to talk with you about resources. If you did not have a chance to visit with me this summer, you may call the office and speak to any staff person about your particular resource needs. We are all eager to help you set up the best fall program ever!

Yours,

Sharon

P.S. With all the hoopla about the eclipse this month, IRMS offers you another perspective on the sun with the **new** streaming video clip you may access in the left hand column!

Paying for your subscription or making a donation to IRMS has never been easier!

Just go to www.irms.org, click on the PayPal icon, and enter the purpose of your payment.

Where in the World is the Executive Director

August 26 - Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) All Congregational Gathering - Christian Conference Center, Newton - display

September 12 - United Church of Christ New Pastors' Day - Des Moines Plymouth Church UCC - presentation and display

September 20 - IRMS Executive Board Meeting Iowa Religious Media Service offices, Urbandale

September 26 - IRMS Preview Committee Meeting Iowa Religious Media Service offices, Urbandale

The Peace Light will again be here to illuminate your Advent season.

The light of Peace from the Grotto of the Nativity in Bethlehem will return to Iowa in early December. Make plans now to use it in your church and share it within your community.

For more information go to the [Peace Light](#) website.

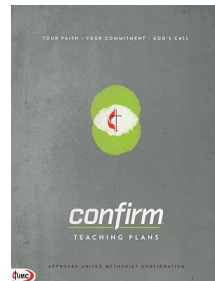
FEATURED RESOURCES: What's New?



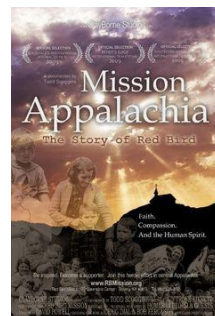
Race: The Power of an Illusion (DV1534) (NEW) questions the very idea of race as innate biology, suggesting that a belief in inborn racial difference is no more sound than believing that the sun revolves around the earth. However, this three session, three-hour series also illustrates that even though differences in race may not exist in biology, the concept of race is very real, shaping life chances and opportunities. (Adult)



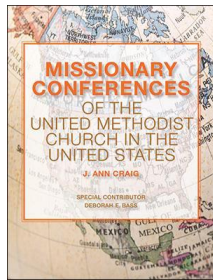
Character by God's Design: Volume 2 (DV1536) (NEW) is the second in the series, **Character by God's Design (DV1488=)**, equipping kids with the character qualities they need to become the person God created them to be. Rooted in Scripture and engaging kids to grow to be like Jesus, these thirteen lessons present the character qualities of trust, honesty and obedience by using support videos, a lesson book and reproducible handouts. (Early-Upper Elementary)



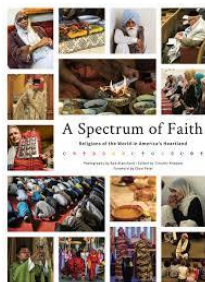
Confirm (KT373) (NEW) is an easy-to-follow, fully customizable United Methodist confirmation program that can be used within a wide variety of schedules in virtually any church setting. With flexible and easy-to-understand, theologically sound materials, **Confirm** ensures that confirmation is more than just a decision. Rather, it is the beginning of a conversation about what it means to be a Christian, living into one's faith, commitment and God's call. (Upper Elementary-Jr. High)



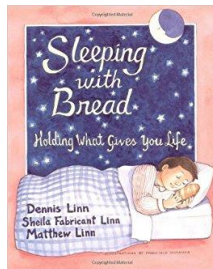
Mission Appalachia: The Story of Red Bird, second edition (DV1535) (NEW) chronicles very personal stories of the hopes of individuals who live deep within the forests of eastern Kentucky. Described through a 65-minute documentary, the nearly 100-year-old Red Bird Mission is a community of refuge. Described as the most comprehensive mission site in the world, Red Bird maintains a unique relationship with the Appalachian mountain people it serves. (Sr. High-Adult)



[Missionary Conferences: Together in Mission \(DV1532\) \(NEW\)](#) offers an overview of the three missionary conferences in The United Methodist Church: Red Bird Missionary Conference, Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference and Alaska United Methodist Conference. The four-part study examines the objective of mutuality in mission, partnership and collaboration, while exploring how to overcome the legacies of oppression, animosity and fear as the church seeks to move toward unity. (Adult)



[A Spectrum of Faith \(BK1982\) \(NEW\)](#) invites readers on a vivid pictorial journey into the diverse religious communities of greater Des Moines. Iowans from the world's major faith traditions - Sikhism, Buddhism, Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, and Islam - extend the rich history of welcome in our state to readers of all faith backgrounds. This beautiful book encourages you to discover the mosque, temple or gurudwara that is tucked away in a neighborhood near you. (Adult)

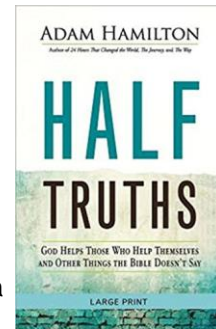


[Sleeping with Bread: Holding What Gives You Life \(BK1998\) \(NEW\)](#) asserts that when we ask ourselves for what we are most and least grateful, we are better able to hear the voice of God guiding us from within. Authors Dennis Linn and Sheila Fabricant encourage the reader, regardless of age or culture, to determine the answers to these questions, thereby gaining clarity in decision making and problem solving. (Young Adult-Adult)

RESOURCES IN USE: A Change of Pace with a Popular Presenter

Recently, Patty Trump, First Baptist Church of Des Moines, stopped by IRMS to share her enthusiasm for the Adam Hamilton study, [Half Truths - God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say](#)

[\(DV1416\)](#). An eclectic gathering of adults of various ages and backgrounds, her small group had been in search of a short-term study that would offer a change of pace for the summer, but still cover some contemporary issues. Patty shared that she had previously read a book by Adam Hamilton and had really enjoyed his writing. She thought **Half Truths** might be a good fit. Of Hamilton, Patty says, "He has a very interesting background. He was raised a fundamentalist and was educated at Oral Robert University, but felt a calling to a more 'middle way' approach to theology. He ended up going to a United Methodist seminary and now pastors a huge United Methodist church in Kansas." The group found his presentation style warm and conversational, while pushing the participants to see things through a more loving and merciful lens.



The videos and lesson suggestions helped Patty encourage every member of the class to participate in the discussion. Patty shared, "My favorite activity happened during session #3, *God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle*. I had generated a list of comments people often make when someone is experiencing grief or difficult time, and we discovered that often what we say is either useless or downright insulting. We had a great discussion about the importance of just being present rather than trying to find the right words."

Patty encourages adult groups of all ages to use the resource. "I think Adam Hamilton's unique personal background makes this a wonderful resource for any denomination whether conservative or liberal. He obviously understands both sides of the issues that so often divide us. He provides strong scriptural support for his positions but is very sensitive to differences of opinion."

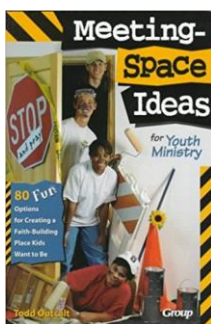
Adam Hamilton is a popular presenter, for very good reason. IRMS has all of his resources in our collection. We encourage you to review our Adam Hamilton offerings and if your group hasn't tried one, select one to preview.

Meeting the Challenge: Laying the foundation to meet the middle school challenge!

Q: *We would like some new ideas for activities and talking points to jump start our Middle School youth*

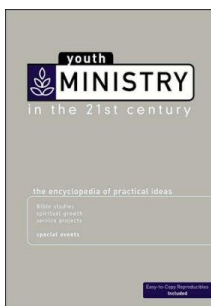
program. What have you got to help our leaders develop a plan to facilitate their groups?

A: IRMS continues to grow its collection of resources to assist in children and youth ministry. We have recently added several new books to help youth group leaders. We highlight just a few of our newest additions here, but encourage you to review our online resource catalog at www.irms.org or call us at 515-277-2920 to find more.

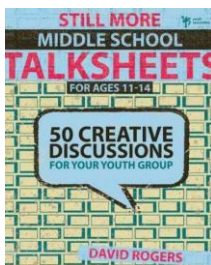


[Meeting-Space Ideas for Youth Ministry \(BK1994\) \(NEW\)](#) provides practical help for creating a place where your teens feel comfortable, whether you meet in a youth center or the back of a church bus. Encouraging youth to participate in decision making ensures your meeting space is the place your kids want to be and will help them grow closer to God and to each other. (Jr. High-Adult)

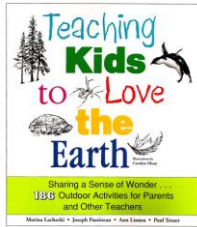
[Youth Ministry in the 21st Century: The Encyclopedia of Practical Ideas \(BK1996\) \(NEW\)](#)



is filled with reproducible worksheets and activities and provides over 100 helpful hints to support a relevant youth ministry. Filtered through a Biblical perspective, the volume offers youth group appropriate worship ideas, discussion starters, object lessons, family activities, outreach and more. (Jr. High-Sr. High)

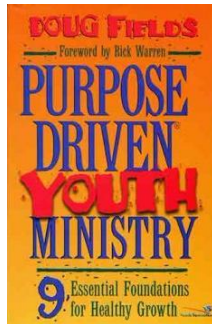


[Still More Middle School Talksheets for Ages 11-14 \(BK1997\) \(NEW\)](#) is filled with thought-provoking reproducible handouts, helpful hints and activities that facilitate conversation. Since Middle school kids are already a talkative group, this book will help you encourage the students to engage in more meaningful discussion that covers the issues of life and faith. (Upper Elementary-Jr. High)



[Teaching Kids to Love the Earth \(BK1989\)](#) (NEW) leads children of all ages through activities designed to help them experience and appreciate the earth. Each of the seventeen chapters contains a story, instructions for a main activity and suggestions for related activities, as well as a list of additional resources. (Pre-K-Adult)

[Purpose Driven Youth Ministry: 9 Essential Foundations for Healthy Growth \(BK1987\)](#) (NEW) presents



an easy to follow guide with practical advice to help you create a solid spiritual team, equipped to build the foundation of Christian faith in the lives of young people. Based on nine purposeful principles, this book by Doug Fields is a component of the larger Purpose Driven Life ministry. IRMS also has [The Purpose Driven Life Small Group Series \(DV101=\)](#). (Adult)

IOWA RELIGIOUS MEDIA SERVICES is an ecumenical multi-media resource center and lending library supported by six mainline denominations in Iowa and the Upper Midwest.