



Jan., Feb., Mar., 2010

Down On The Farm

The Quarterly Newsletter of Crossroads Farm

crossroads farm

I "Survived" Crossroads Farm...

Sometimes the joy of

by Doug Routledge, Ex. Director

this ministry overshadows the long hours. Sometimes the relationships eliminate the struggles. Sometimes the rewards are so rich that the cost was a "pennies on the dollar" investment.

Our spring outreach, Survivor Hillsdale County, was all of that, and as I stood at the back of the auditorium with several agape and somewhat disgusted adults, I realized that I had the greatest call on the planet.

In the course of 54 hours, Mike Skupin ("Survivor" competitor, season 2, www.mikeskupin.com), the CRF staff and I crisscrossed

Hillsdale County with a message of adventure, alliances and decisions. Most of all, however, we were a part of a message that won several students to

Jesus Christ. Five school

assemblies, one RCI family outreach, one CRF student ministry outreach and one CRF Leadteam Survivor Party later, we just smiled at the results and the memories.

The Outreach itself went off as advertised.



Somewhere around 200 students arrived at the Gospel Barn and bounced,

hip-hopped and laughed their way through a Heath McNease concert

(myspace.com/heathmcnease).

The crowd had really come this night for one particular reason. They either wanted to test their metal by eating bugs or test their stomachs by watching others eat bugs.

At one point, a parent who had drifted into the back laughed as she asked me, "What are they really eating?" The large

screen video feed showed her that the competitors were indeed eating crawling critters.

Mike completed the night by sharing that God had healed his hands after a fall into the camp fire left him with third degree burns across 35% of his hands. His doctor said, 10 days after what was a debilitating injury and 15 minutes before his first scheduled

skin graft surgery, "That's Impossible." **Kids responded.**

As Mike explained, "You get to make any decision you want but you don't get to control your results." Fortunately, God does.

Thanks Mike, Heath and all of the participants in CRF's Survivor Hillsdale County.



Christmas Comes to Crossroads

by Megan, Program Intern

As we scrape the mud off our boots and eagerly anticipate the last of the snow [\[continued on last page\]](#)



...My Trip to Crossroads Farm in Hillsdale Country

by guest speaker, Mike Skupin

I think anyone who lives in Michigan has heard of Hillsdale, after all, there's a pretty large college there...isn't there? What I mean is, I've heard of it, but I've never been there and was only remotely aware of [\[continued on last page\]](#)



What's the funniest thing that happened at retreat?
 "Doug and Paul 'figure skating.' Doug doing the little bunny. How tired I was at the time. The smell in our room!"

"One decision I made during winter retreat was to talk to someone."



Sr. High Winter Retreat!! February 5th-7th Portage Lake Covenant Bible Camp

I'll always remember...

"Hearing the word of God and talking about it with all the girls."



"Thank you so much. This retreat was the BEST weekend of my life. I made new friends and became closer with Jesus."

"You have given me the experience of a lifetime."

I'll always remember...

"Rock climbing."

"Trying new things and meeting new people."



"One thing I will always remember is the 'Polar Bear Jump.'"

During this quarter, 7 students are involved in one-on-one follow-up!



"One decision I made at winter retreat is to focus more on God leading your life than you leading your life alone."



Jr. High Winter Retreat!! January 29st-31st Camp Barakel



"Thank you for making this retreat happen.
You are amazing."



"One decision I made is to seek God's joy in the trials I am going through."



Our summer trips: SERVE NOW and CAMP!

I'll always remember...

"When we met the one bongo dude and falling down skating when we were talking to him."



I'll always remember...

"...getting stuck in the fence when we went tubing."



"One decision I made was to stop putting on masks and the consequences that can happen when you do."

[“Christmas...”Continued]

melting, Christmas is far from our minds. Rewind with me for just a moment and sink back into the warm fuzzies of that glorious season.

Each year as part of our weekly program we throw a CRF Christmas party and this year it was better than ever! A friend of mine, who recently graduated from culinary school, graced us with his presence and talents, filling this old building with the luscious scents of bbq sauce and macaroni and cheese. His truck made the trip down to us overflowing with food that had been donated from many different hands.



A 15 ft Christmas tree lit up the room, making it extremely difficult to miss the fact that Christmas was here! Tables lined the walls, filled with many donated crafts for



each student to have the chance to bring home gifts for their families. You may have just thought, awww, but let me say it again. It was a few days before Christmas and some teens had not a single thing to give.

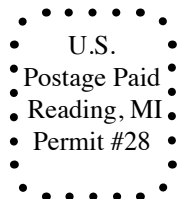
Watching a young girl’s face light up, because now she would have something to give her mom and dad, was not only humbling but bittersweet! Experiencing the ecstatic energy
(continued below)



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Loving The Rural Teenager



*****Can you find the bolded prayer and praise hidden in this newsletter?*****

as each teen received a brand new blanket and gift bag, and then hearing for the last 3 months how they sleep with them every night....precious. Knowing that as the **Gospel was presented; a handful of students gave their lives to Christ**, made all the hard work worth it. So many of you were directly involved in these Christmas celebrations and we are so grateful that you gave!

You took sad situations and made teens glad.

We didn’t have to plan the horse drawn carolers; they just showed up and brought tears to our eyes as we stood on our front steps, watching our cold breath escape into the black night, while snowflakes gently fell onto earth. No I didn’t read that from a greeting card, it really happened! It truly was a very Merry Christmas!



[“I Survived” Continued]

where it actually was. Being from Metro Detroit area, I knew it was west. I’m not even sure I even know of anyone who has been there.

I met Doug Routledge over a brilliant ministry idea and not only was impressed with the idea but had a great time with Doug, a very grounded guy. As we left we said the obligatory “lets have lunch” departure comment, although in this case it was, let’s do some ministry work together. It’s almost a cliché with ‘ministry folk’. Although it’s well meaning,

we all get busy and life usually gets in the way.

To my surprise Doug kept in touch and we planned...

... although I had a “to do” list a country mile long, I stayed an extra day just to hang out at the Farm. That may be the biggest testament of all to Crossroads Farm. Once you get there, you’ll never want to leave. I bet the kids feel that way too. 🌟

Annual Fundraising Event, “Take Me Out To The Ballgame,” Aug, 28, 2010