



# Down on the Farm

The Quarterly Newsletter of Crossroads Farm




New Missionary Staff-  
Worship Arts Associate

July, Aug., Sept,  
2016



**D**aniel Beckwith, aka Spankee (nickname-involving snowballs, a cop car, and his dad...), **joined the full time missionary staff of Crossroads Farm** the third week of August, under the title of Worship Arts Associate. Daniel serves one of our RCI (Rural Church Initiative) Churches, North Reading Baptist, as their worship pastor, in addition to directing the worship department of Crossroads Farm.

Daniel has both enjoyed and been challenged by

the new technology that is a part of our new barn, The Shed. He has appreciated learning it for the benefit of training others to use it effectively as a tool to encourage worship. "Training students to be effective 'worship ushers' to our King is what excites me the most," Daniel said. Between his RCI church and CRF, he is currently working with a team of 11 students and several more adult volunteers to this end. Daniel is giving one on one music lessons as a part of fostering our future worship teams. "Being able to use and develop my gifts and talents to serve God as my job, in my opinion, there is no other higher calling." 

## Cutting The Twine That Binds

**A** hymn, **Great Is Thy Faithfulness**, the garden sheers that snapped a fifteen-foot piece of binder twine and the flood of people through the doors of The Shed were symbolic of the days to come. The ceremony on Saturday, August 27th, served as much more than an "Open-house" event. It was a celebration of 17 years of ministry in an old church building in downtown Reading. It was the epiphany of lives reached and the crescendo of future lives to be touched.


The day itself began with Dawn Routledge emotionally sharing her vision for rural ministry and a few stories that now have embedded themselves into the fabric of this new building. Her grandfather, Eugene Baker, a former Youth For Christ director during the 1950s in Hillsdale County, and the owner of the old cow barn that is now re-purposed in the interior of the Shed, prayed the prayer of dedication. It represented the merging of decades of ministry and the wood inside as a passing of a mantle.

It was incredible to be able to share this modern day miracle with the people

(continued on page 2)



## Why We Mail This To You

**Y**ou hold in your hands this quarter's testimony of God's ongoing work in the life of this ministry and little peeks into how it plays out in the lives of students through programs and people. Thank you for taking the time to read it. We boldly ask you to pray for us when you do. This paper has no value unless it translates into you **praying and giving financially and or in service to where God is working here in rural America.** That is the why. We need you. 

# Relationships of a Servant Leader

-Emily, Leadteam Coach

**T**he 2016-2017 Crossroads' lead team (adult volunteers and student leaders) year kicked off with a fun, energetic, worshipful weekend at Camp Michindoh with 41 in attendance! As a Hillsdale College student I heard about Crossroads Farm last year a few days after the leader training retreat. After volunteering with Crossroads all last school year, this year's retreat provided such a wonderful opportunity to grow in my relationship with Christ, to develop greater friendships with the staff and volunteers, and to engage in meaningful conversations with others. Relationships were actually the key to the weekend. Not only did this theme stand out in my personal experience, but our **training for this coming year focuses on the Relationships of a**



**Servant Leader.** Doug led us through the general outline for our study, and then we spent time specifically talking about God as our Abba – our Father. This time of study and the time of worship we had both around a camp fire and on Sunday morning really encouraged us as volunteers to develop and invest in our relationship with God our Father. God is on the move and that is so exciting to see!

While the retreat prepared us for the year with times of Bible study and practical tips, it also allowed us time to get to know each other. I loved hav-

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*(Cutting the Twine...continued from page 1)*

who helped build it. As we listened to the "Ooohs," and "Ahhhs," well over 200 people moved through the ministry center, resting in the places designed for kids. They sat by the fireplace, leaned on the pool table, perused books as they reclined in the library and flopped in the mega-sized Xorbee beanbag couches. Photos were being taken of every nook and cranny. Supporters marveled at the art, read the montages of verses and words on walls, and scanned the pictures on the walls for recognized faces.

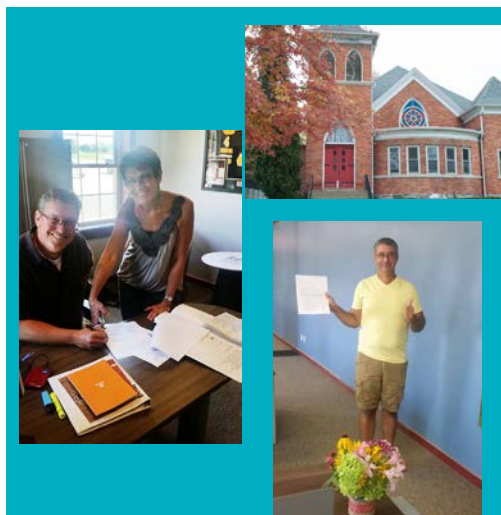
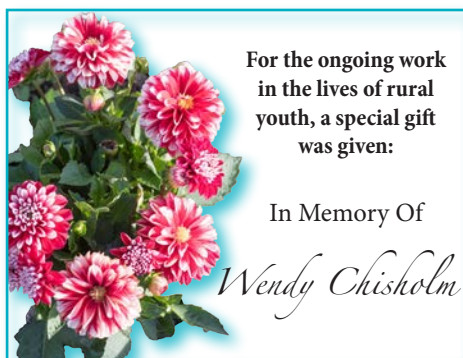
The artisans who have labored to make this building more of an art piece than an office or meeting place answered questions about the staircases, book shelves, cow station handrails and décor.

Following the walking tour our guests joined us in the massive tent to continue the party with the live musical sounds of "Joy Quartet." Of course, no celebration on the farm is complete without food. Our Grant Catering dinner of fried chicken, complete with mashed potatoes, gravy, salad and dessert was a fan-



tastic transition to the reason for the night. As students, present and past, walked up to the microphone to share about the change in lives and the transition of a miracle, there were very few dry eyes. The evening ended

*(continued on page 4)*



## Out with the Old

**G**od's provision and gifts for His glory...in August, the old Reading Baptist Church which served as the Student Center, our building for much of the CRF ministry over the past 17 yrs, was deeded to the Reading Area Chamber of Commerce. May those old walls continue to serve the community outside of our direct responsibility, and may this new Shed exceed the work and investment in lives that was done there a million times over!!



## CRF /HYC!

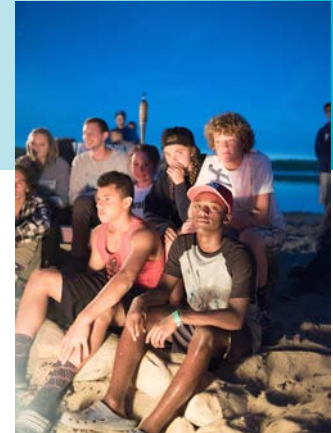
**A bus load of our CRF students traveled to HYC for a week in July. Only this time, we brought someone back with us...**

“So this year my world’s collided in a pretty strange way. I’ve been a Camp Hiawatha person for about 10 years now. From the time I was 12 until now being 21, Hiawatha was where I spent my summers. It’s where I grew, where I was challenged, and where I was motivated to be all I could be for Christ. For the last 4 years I’ve had the privilege of rostering on Staff and being that person I so looked up to for all my years as a camper. It’s a special place. My biggest revelations came from there. It’s where God showed me real life for the first time and revealed my broken heart, directing me straight into His arms like only He can do. I could take up every page talking about it but I’ll spare you some pretty weird stories, today...

Stephan, running through the tunnel.



Our group made a scenic stop on the way home!



Now this is where it gets interesting. About a month ago I moved about 3 hours from my hometown to a little town called Reading, MI. The reason being, mainly, was to work and serve at Crossroads Farm! How did I come across the ministry? I’m so glad you asked! As you may have guessed, through a little place called Camp Hiawatha! And because of it, I’ve known the Routledge’s for years, been good friends with their girls for about as long, and made relationships with Crossroads kids over many years of being both a camper and staffer. So here I am a few weeks ago at the 2016 Fall Kick-Off knowing quite literally just as many kids as not. Some that I haven’t seen for years! Others that I’ve literally poured out my heart to through counselor talks and devotions. You may have heard God referred to as the Grand Weaver, which is the title of a book written by Ravi Zacharias’. In it he illustrates how God is continuously tying in different aspects of our lives, which often

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A Barnyard Bash kicked off the 2016-17 school year with Mobile Laser Kombat on Sept. 18th! All Farm yards were filled w/ laser tag, bow tag, 9 square, volleyball, football, etc. **Doug challenged students 6th-12th grades to recognize their value based on the fact that they were made in the image of God!!**

Please pray for more WOW than we can imagine in the lives of students this year! 🙏



*(Cutting the Twine...continued from page 2)*

with our founding director, Doug Routledge, challenging us that because we now have a building that allows us to minister to twice as many students, we now have a responsibility to minister to twice as many students. The Shed may be done, but we are not!

Jared Bignell, a church planter here in Reading, and a former CRF student, talked about the significance of this place in that he now has sons who are attending Crossroads. Another student said that at the unveiling of our plans to build, her thought was, "Do they know that they are in Hillsdale County?"

The resounding answer on that Saturday, and on every subsequent program night since has been, "Maybe not, but God did." 🌟



*(Relationships of continued from page 2)*

ing the opportunity to get to know new people and further develop my friendships with others from last year. Long walks around the lake; riding on a huge water slide; playing games of Euchre, Things, and Pass the Pigs; interesting "get to know you" games and questions; and free time full of conversation helped further our relationships with each other.

Last year as a volunteer presented so many challenges, but was also such an amazing experience despite knowing no one at the beginning. This year I feel like I have a community at Crossroads: a community of people who love Jesus more than anything and who have become like a family to me during my time out in Hillsdale. 🌟



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## Loving The Rural Teenager



### Prayer Closet

For this quarters' "Yahoos and Take It To Jesus," we have bolded various lines throughout the entire newsletter. Use those bolded statements as springboards for prayer. Thank you for interceding for rural youth. 🌟

*(CRF/HYC! continued from page 3)*

times make little to no sense to us. All the while, He has an end goal in mind and it's incredibly beautiful. But the process of getting there is lesser than. I feel like I've experienced a little bit of that in moving here. I'm blown away by God's faithfulness in working all things out for good. I'm still shocked that I'm here, but so incredibly excited to follow Him on a crazy journey both here at Crossroads and wherever else He leads me. What an awesome God we serve. "



-Stephan, Leadteam Coach 🌟