



crossroads farm

Down On The Farm

The Quarterly Newsletter of Crossroads Farm

Jan., Feb., Mar., 2013

Jericho March



Joshua 6...walls come down in the name of Jesus. Desiring to give students a variety of opportunities and exposure to prayer, this quarter we encouraged the Jericho Prayer March that took place in four of our public schools where CRF staff and students silently walked halls and interceded for what takes place there. 38 participated in the early morning hours. Here is an excerpt from one of our volunteer staff that participated with the students:



I am so thankful for having the opportunity to walk around

one of our local schools and pray! Not ever doing a "Jericho March"

before in and around a school, I was very excited. Recently moving to Allen township, and having one day off in the week (being Tuesday), meant that I needed to drive all the way down to Waldron by 7am!! Well, of course I did, and meeting up with others, we proceeded to walk and pray. Some of us went together and prayed out



loud, and the others went alone and prayed quietly. I went alone and prayed for teachers by name (cause their name was next to the door), prayed at random lockers, prayed at the gym entrance, the main entrance, the office door, and the locker room doors. There were two times/areas, while I was praying that I got quite emotional, and felt like they really needed that boost. I felt charged up after that morning and wished and wondered why we couldn't do it more often. How

badly our schools need Christ~ His forgiveness, love, and the strength to carry some of the burdens that these kids and yes, even adults deal with. On my way back home I felt like I was shining!! I had my radio blasting praise and worship music and smiled when I turned a corner and noticed the sun was beating on a garage with the clothes line casting a shadow on it: A cross!!!! God was telling me "thank you"!! And I said right out loud: "thank you!!!!!" -Connie

The Jacket



Crossroads Farm honors Andy Meyer, Gus, with his 5 yr. volunteer letter jacket!! Gus was one of our very first students at Crossroads Farm and is now a well loved and appreciated volunteer for both middle and high school! Gus is also a part of our RCI, Rural Church Initiative, working with the students of First Baptist of Hillsdale. Congrats Gus!



For the ongoing work in the lives of rural youth, special gifts were given:

In memory of *Emily Hard*



Winter Retreat: Surviving Relationships



Year after year, retreat after retreat, God is faithful and students discover Him in new ways. It's hard to truly "report" on all the emotion, facts, etc. The following article reflects the heart of one of our volunteer staff members, Nancy.



A tale of two retreats

I had the privilege this year of attending both the middle school and the high school winter retreat with CRF. I was pumped as MS retreat rolled around. I had HUGE expectations for what God was going to do. There's a girl I've been praying and agonizing over for some time. Imagine my surprise when she showed up as a last minute addition to go with us on Friday! What a clear sign that this was going to be an EPIC retreat! Yahoo, God! I had to do a little snoopy dancing on the spot.

Despite starting with a much-longer-than-expected bus ride on much-more-hazardous-than-expected-roads (complete with magnificent driving by Steve and Teresa), the weekend did not disappoint at any level. The band, Only



Yep, they're that good. Our speaker's challenges were simple and just simply incredible. His points really hit home with me and, from the number of kids who responded Saturday night, resonated with the teens as well.



The big competition of the weekend was a massive relay race that had every

Absolutely loved the winter retreat. You can never go wrong with spending time with God and friends who care about you!!!!
-Matt



teen participating and covering the entire camp. The race started with a search for clues through a ginormous snow pile and culminated in an archery competition with flaming arrows. Yes, I said flaming, flying arrows. It was beyond EPIC. There were kids who couldn't ski or swim that did! There was rope untangling, puzzle solving and knot untying. And running. Lots and lots of running.

For me, it's Saturday night before bed that I recall most clearly. It was after chapel. Some of the girls were getting ready for bed. The teen girl I'd been praying for came in from sledding, changed her clothes and then, to my surprise,

curled up beside me on my bed. Three other girls soon joined us. . .and then another. . .and another until the whole cabin was hanging out in an informal circle. . . it was so awesome! We were just hanging out. All getting along. And – there was NO drama! Woo-hoo! More than two middle school girls and no drama? That's a miracle right there!



Yep. You prayed. God responded. Lives were changed. Best retreat ever.

Two weeks later, I got on the bus for the senior high winter retreat, and was even more pumped for this retreat, God had just rocked my socks off two weeks previously – what would He do at this retreat? But this retreat was different. Completely different. The competition was great. Yeah, yeah - been there done



that two weeks ago. The band, Sing Free, was great. Of course they were - I'm expecting them to be great! The chapels were amazing. Yeah, yeah. They were two weeks ago too. This time, though, he talked pretty consistently about how God answers every prayer, every time, emphasizing



"I came up out of
the water
Raise my hands
up to the Father
Gave it all to Him
that day
Felt a new wind kiss my face
Walked away, eyes wide open..."



I was baptized
tonight at Cross-
roads Farm. I

finally did what I've wanted to
do for a long time :) Thanks
CRF and for
my family
coming out
tonight.

-Jesse



I took the next
step in my faith
tonight and got
baptized! :D

-Kayla



Several students have made
first time decisions to follow
Jesus this school year. Six
of them took the next step in
their faith through baptism.



that He often answers in ways we
don't expect or ways that don't
make sense to
us (Isaiah 55:8).
The whole
weekend I kept
waiting for
God to answer
prayer in huge
ways-like fireworks huge. And He
wasn't. Or at least, I didn't think
He was. I spent time asking God
on the way home why He didn't
answer my prayer. How could this
retreat be compared to the other
retreat?



God answers every prayer. Every

time. Just not in ways we expect.
I expected fireworks but got quiet
power instead. Yet, quiet was ex-
actly what I needed that weekend.
Quiet was what I needed to rec-
ognize that God is both the Great
Creator who spoke this world into
existence and the God who quietly,
unexpectedly set a teen girl free by
enabling her to forgive those
who murdered her cousin.
The same God who will-
ingly and lovingly sacrificed
His son for us also quietly spoke
to Jessi about changing her life by
choosing Him. And then let me
see her fall asleep reading her new
Bible. God is both a God of fire-

works prayer and behind the scenes
answers. He is the God that moti-
vates and energizes the supporters
of CRF to pray for teens they don't
even know – and answers those
prayers by changing attitudes,

behaviors, and situations in
ways that can only be from

Him. It took me a few days
to realize that the High
School Winter Retreat
was even more amazing
than the Middle School

Winter Retreat. Because
God answers every prayer. Every
time. Just not in ways we expect.



Just Shy of the Sistine Chapel

CRF says "Thanks" to the two different work
crews who served this quarter. One
group came from Northpoint Church in Dewitt, MI, and another from Hillsdale College.
The first crew painted all of the walls in the main room of the student center, cleaned all
the kitchen cabinets, washed dishes and windows. While this work crew was here I had
three students from CRF join us. These students worked along side those from North-
point, and at lunch shared what CRF has meant to them, and what they learned at the
winter retreat. The second crew of college boys had fun high on the scaffolding painting
the ceiling. They also cleaned the ceiling-fan blades and the restrooms. I asked each of
these boys why service projects were important to them, and this is what one had to say:



"If you are going to lead anyone, you have to be willing to serve them.... It is something that builds in you a
servant's heart. That's really important!"

- Alessandro Pia (Senior at Hillsdale College)



One in the Office and One in the Oven!



In January, the Crossroads Farm community officially welcomed Jerry Bernard as a part of our full time missionary staff! Overseeing facility development, property use and maintenance are three of the priorities Jerry now wakes up thinking about and praying for...that is if he ever goes to sleep! ...By the time of this publication, Jerry and his wife, Andrea, will have welcomed their first child, Alexis, into their hearts and lives.

The Bernards will have been married 9 years this fall. Andrea currently works for Highfields, a nonprofit organization that strives to provide opportunities for children, youths, families and other individuals to be more responsible for their own lives and to strengthen their relationship with others.

Andrea and Jerry have been volunteering with Crossroads Farm since they moved to the area in 2006, when Jerry took a teaching job at Coldwater High School. Please pray for much fruit in their lives and ministry here in rural America. 🍷

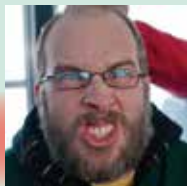
Yahoos:

- *The incredible volunteer and professional staff God has blessed us with
- *9 first time decisions for Jesus over winter retreats
- *Baptisms
- *continued improvements on the Student Center
- *New RCI church



Take It To Jesus:

- *discipleship and follow up with new believers from retreat
- *Rich Carpenter and his full time missionary support raising~25% and climbing!
- *May 4th Ultimate Date Night outreach with RCI churches and surrounding community
- *Summer trips/Alive-June 19-22, Hiawatha-July 21-27



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Loving The Rural Teenager

