



crossroads farm

# Down On The Farm

The Quarterly Newsletter of Crossroads Farm

Jan, Feb, March  
2015

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## THE BATTLE

-Natalie-Senior  
"Winter Retreat 2015 was cold. I don't really have a better way to describe it. As soon as we stepped outside every iota of warmth was swept away by the 35 mph winds and -30 degree temperatures. Any exposed area of skin was coated with a thin layer of ice within a few seconds. A once in a lifetime experience I assure you. I asked Ruben where my brother Nathan was he replied with a shrug, "I don't know." Suddenly a blur flies by in the blizzard swirling outside – it was Nathan. Later I found out that Nathan dug a tunnel through a drift, rescued a crying middle school student who got lost and stuck in the snow, and climbed a frozen tree. I was told he wanted to scale up the roof but "settled"



for the tree.

Allthmore was great, having fun with all of us students and led great worship sessions. Tim reminded us what it meant to view each day as a battle that we have been prepared to fight. God does not leave us vulnerable and on our own. He has given us the armor we need to face each day, and for that I am so thankful. Retreat is a weekend of insanity, little sleep, unique smells and lots of exhausted laughter. All of that aside, it's a spiritual rest. As a senior, I so very needed that. Second semester is well under way and sometimes I'm going so many different directions that I

They saved the princess.



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## Broken Chains

- Dawn -

The apostle Paul tells us that Satan "masquerades as an angel of light" (2 Corinthians 11:14), so that what he says and does sounds good and seems reasonable. But it is nothing more than a false appearance. Satan sucks.



be further from the truth. He loathes light. God is light. God is truth.

In the months of January and March, two guest

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It's one of my mantras when it comes to this ministry of loving students. Satan's lies destroy lives. And although he masquerades as light, nothing could

# BAPTISMS

"Go and make disciples...baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit."

Matt. 28:19

Please enjoy these three quotes out of the six baptisms in the month of March.

-Melissa - Sophomore

"I came from an abusive family. As a result, it's been easy to stray from God. I want to be baptized today to show that I have been cleansed from my sins and I want to be a true follower of God."



-Brenna - Senior

"Being baptized was the next step in my faith, but it was so much more than a simple step. I was proclaiming my love for my Savior (continued on 4)"

-Donovan - Sophomore

"I wanted to get baptized because I felt like that was the next step I needed to take and to me I knew where my faith was and that being baptized was like a visual for other people to know that I'm openly following God."



# JERICO MARCH



-Brianna - Junior

I got up early to support Crossroads and Hillsdale High School, by walking the school and praying before the majority of student or teachers arrived. I loved praying for the different teaching rooms

in the school and the hallways. I feel as though throughout the rest of the school day of the Jericho March there was a blessed presence throughout the school. (Hillsdale High)

-Israel - Senior

I prayed because the school is where God should be most prevalent, and it is sadly isn't. I prayed that God would be on the minds of all the current Christians and to let those Christians be a light to those who are not believers. I also prayed for a few individual friends who I had on my heart. (Reading High)



-Nolan - 8th grade

"Jericho March was a way that we could pray for the school and the people around us there. I liked being able to pray for my teachers, classmates and other people in the school. Oh, and the donuts from Crossroads after were good too." (Quincy Middle School)



An additional Jericho March at Waldron Schools is being planned for sometime in April, following spring break.





(Broken Chains continued from 1) speakers shed light and truth on some very difficult life issues during our High School program nights. Using principals from God's Word and the transparency of their own testimonies, Ruth Olsson and Jim Decke, helped students break chains! Self worth, eating disorders, sexual identity, who we are in Christ...satan distorts, deceives, and binds us in chains with his lies. Ps 107:14 He brought them out of the dark, out of death's shadow. He broke apart their chains.



We are grateful for the privilege of giving students a safe place to wrestle, ask the hard questions, and ultimately win in the power of Jesus Christ.

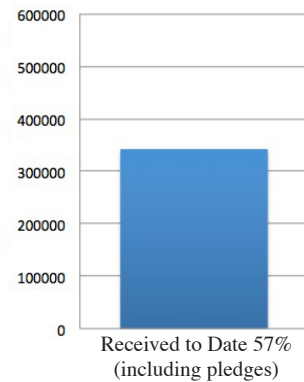
Jim left our students with 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. #truth

-Ellerie-Senior

"When the speakers came to Crossroads Farm to talk about Broken Chains, I was excited, but knew very well that my chains had been broken years ago on the cross. It wasn't until the first speaker, Ruth, actually started emphasizing how my chains have been broken that I realized what things that I cling to and remain chained to, despite my prior, established relationship with Jesus Christ. Almost every day now, I am reminded not only of how my past is gone and I have been set free, but how I no longer need to hold onto past failures, fears, and guilt. I am not only forgiven and set free, but I am allowed to continue through life without grasping onto the remnants of the ties that once held me captive."



### The Shed Campaign



We find ourselves praying even more as pledges and checks come into the Farm marked for The Shed. Much planning and preparation is in the works. By the time you read this, the building company will have been chosen. Lord willing we will break ground with our students on May 17, 2015! Pray with us! Give with us! Let's raise the Shed!! If you'd like to share the vision of The Shed and Crossroads Farm with a friend who may like to be involved, and lack the tools you need, please contact our office.



(THE BATTLE continued from 1)

don't even know what hit me. This retreat was it for me, my very last one, and the timing could not have been more perfect. Time with my God, my friends and my brother was precious and I will never forget the Battle of the Blizzard 2015."

-Nathan-Freshman



"Coming from the perspective of a second timer, this was just as good or better than the last winter retreat, the people, activities, speaker and food were all awesome. My personal favorite activity was crate stacking, where you basically create a jenga tower with you on top of milkcrates. We all learned a lot about the armor of God and how to use it to protect yourself from the devil's flaming arrows of temptation. Allthemore pumped everyone up for winter retreat with great music. Their singer, John, even played bowtag with us-his team often won. All of this and more is what makes winter retreat the place to be February 13-15."



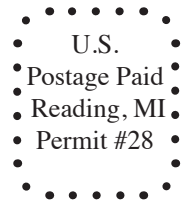


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Change Service Requested



## Loving The Rural Teenager



### "Sweet and Spicy"

In February, Crossroads Farm was represented at the Kwanis Chili Cook-off, a community event in Hillsdale County. We walked away with a 3rd place trophy for our efforts, and a reputation for being sweet...and spicy!



(BAPTISMS continued from 2)



in the biggest way possible! The water was freezing but inside I was warmed by Gods overwhelming love and mercy.

I saw this same warmth in the others being baptized. As they stepped in front of the microphone to share their testimony I could see how much they love God and how much he has changed their life for the better. All our sins are forgiven and we have renewed our faith in God!"



## Prayer Closet

### YAHOOOS:

- ✦ Six students were baptized in the month of March!
- ✦ By the time you read this, the builder will have been selected for The Shed!
- ✦ Two salvations during winter retreat!
- ✦ Ground Breaking for The Shed scheduled for May 17th with students!

### TAKE IT TO JESUS:

- ✦ Wisdom, passion and unity for each stage of The Shed project
- ✦ More full time missionary staff: ministry program, office support, facility
- ✦ Our graduating seniors~may they be driven to pursue Christ for each phase of their life
- ✦ The final 57% of the funding needed for The Shed

