

Oct., Nov., Dec 2011



Down On The Farm

The Quarterly Newsletter of Crossroads Farm

by Nancy

Seasons of Change

by Anne

It's amazing to watch God change lives. As a part of CRF's Professional Staff, I've had a front row seat to some of the most incredible life changes EVER. More than a few of those incredible changes have been in my own life.

One of the biggest changes in my life recently has been a change in my place of employment. Earlier this year, God shifted me from ministry with CRF into a different field within the local community where it is once again my privilege to see Him change lives.

I never thought I'd leave Crossroads. I thought, honestly, that I would be here until I was the oldest, most gray-haired person on the staff. Still, it's been such a joy and privilege to have been a part of CRF's staff

for such a long time (6+ years!). I've absolutely loved getting to know you through printing newsletter and prayer postcard labels, processing your gifts, registering you or your teens for events, and so on. What a joy it's been to pray for and with you, to hug you, to fellowship with you, to thank God for you, to love you because I can and God allows me to. So if you're reading this, I love you.



As I sit at my desk, a desk I have occupied now for just over a month, and try to write this paragraph of introduction, I agonize over what words and phrases to use to quickly and concisely give you a snapshot as to who is Ann Davis, Crossroads Farm's new office manager. I could share with you what God has so generously done for me over the last forty some years of my life. I could share with you the fact I have been married

to my husband Jim for 25 years and we have six children, two grandson's and a third grandchild on the way. I could even share with you about my previous work history, my recent return to college or the fact I love basketball. None of these topics however really address my position here at the Farm. Taking this position at Crossroads Farm is allowing God to further expand my

many years of involvement in the ministry of "Helps". 1 Corinthians 12:28 tells us, "And God has appointed these in the church...helps administrations..." I have long served in different "Helps" ministries at my local church but I am now looking forward to what God has in store while I further that ministry in support of the missionaries, staff and volunteers that are so faithfully and eagerly furthering the kingdom of God here at Crossroads Farm.



This is the season of jammed mailboxes. Seasonal greetings from friends and end of the year pleas for your final tax write off donation spill out from your arms to the table. Plea from Crossroads Farm? Gosh, there is nothing more thrilling to us than to see God transforming lives. Offering eternal hope to rural youth. Should you be involved financially with a special end of the year gift? That's completely between you and God. We only ask that you ask Him. Thank you for making this year possible for His glory. We love you.

The Scarecrow Killer

By the numbers, more students flooded the Farm than ever before; 600 middle and high school students!! Plus loads of community volunteers pouring an atmosphere of love in time, cider, flames of a bonfire and flashlight beams. **For entire minutes** our founders, Doug and Dawn, glimpsed what God had shown them 13 years ago was possible.

While we freeze frame those minutes, we anticipate the next!! 10 students made first time decisions for Christ. Pray for them as they

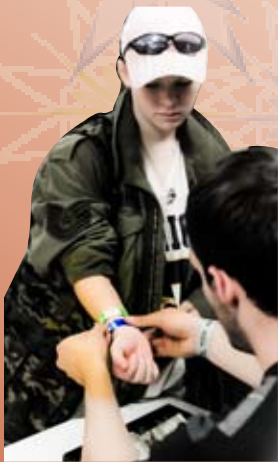
maze their way through so much more than corn in this new relationship. A special thanks to Sing Love Sing for the music and our area businesses for their generous donations, helping to make what we do possible. 📷



I Pledge...

Silver Ring Thing, a program sponsored by Alpha Omega, was yet another catalyst event in the lives of students. Crossroads took 100 middle and high schoolers to participate in a challenge to remain sexually pure. An onslaught of opposition has stormed

those who took the pledge and now wear a ring to signify their decision. Pray for our students. 1 Jn. 4:4! 📷



Ministry & Fellowship

A special night of shared ministry with Berean Baptist from Portage, MI, took place in November. Drama, games, student testimony and music allowed students to freely connect and be encouraged by other students. Thanks Berean! 📷



A CROSSROADS FARM TESTIMONY

Hello, this is Mark Medley, Senior Pastor at Fayetteville Church of the Nazarene. I recently spent the bulk of my sabbatical (6 weeks) working at Crossroads. Why? Simple. I believe in the ministry and I believe in their leadership. The teenagers of Hillsdale County and the surrounding area need this ministry. While working at Crossroads I attended a variety of churches in the



area and I attended the Crossroads student worship services and activities. What I saw at Crossroads was the best of the best; simple, clear and straightforward teaching of the Bible on a level they can understand and apply. It was truly a blessing to worship with this group.

During my time at CRF I did a variety of work mostly under the heading of maintenance / repair and improvement. The bulk of the work was of the low tech variety, the kind of things that most homeowners have done for themselves. The need was great because the staff is stretched so thin that these things

(continued on next page)

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

by Megan

During the Murder Mystery this year, 3 jr.high girls accepted Jesus Christ. A few days later I started to take them through the CRF follow-up book. Before we even met our first time, we had a girl ask if she could join because she wanted to learn this stuff too! Sweet! After that 1st meeting 3 more girls asked if they could join! I explained what we would be doing and that this was a serious time to study God...they still wanted to join! (I did have one girl drop out of the study half way through—she really

(continued on back)



Thank you so much for all the amazing gifts. It is so thoughtful. The letter brought tears to my eyes. My favorite was the blanket.

*Love Always,
Daneel*



Thank you everyone so much for what you guys do in everyone's lives. I have grown so much in Christ through Crossroads. I'm thankful that we have a program like this where we can experience Christ like this. I'm going to pray for a special blessing on everyone of you. Merry Christmas to you all. I'm going to love the devotionals that they came with. Thanks so much from the bottom of my heart.

Brian

50
people in the
greater Metro Detroit
area came together to
provide tangible love to our
students...
a shot of our humble
thanks...

Oh My Goodness! Thank you so so so much! This is seriously brilliant! I can't even express my thanks.

*May God Bless
Thanks*

Maggie



Thank you so much for the gifts you have given me and everyone else. It amazes me that someone who doesn't even know us would do something so kind and that takes so much of their time. So for that I thank you so very much from the bottom of my heart.

Thank you again

*Brenna
God Bless*



(CRF Testimony: Mark Medley)

simply had to take a back seat to ministering to the spiritual needs of the teens. I tell you this because I know that many of you reading this newsletter are as capable as I am and could donate some of your time to help out at the farm. While working I did not have the luxury of a large budget. I recycled most of my material, bringing new life out of old items. This is just one example of the good stewardship practices of CRF.

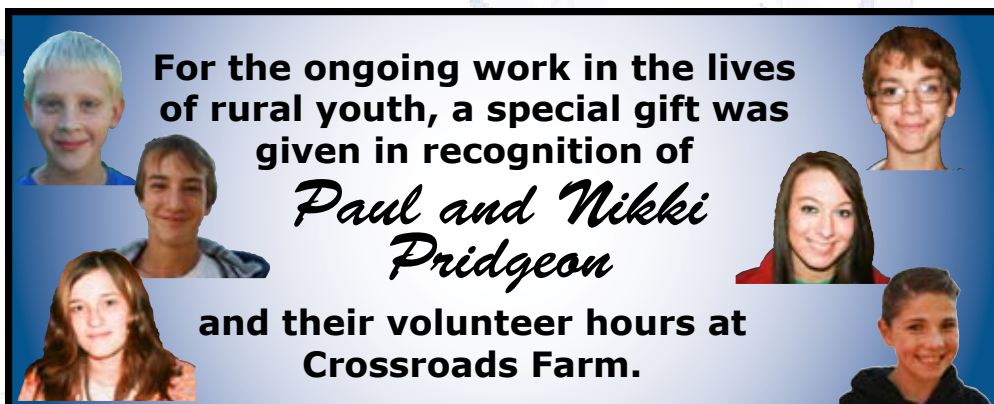
Finally I would like for you to know how blessed I was by my time at CRF. This truly is a place where a person can meet with the Lord. I came to CRF tired to my core in ministry. I left refreshed and renewed. The more I poured myself into CRF the more the Lord poured into me. If a pastor can come here and be blessed simply by being around the Farm imagine what can happen in the life of the teens who come here for ministry! I would challenge all you newsletter readers to pour yourself into the ministry of CRF. Give financially. Give regularly. Go to CRF and work. Go worship on occasion with them. You will find yourself blessed as you bless and your spirit renewed as you love the rural teenager by your investment of yourself in the ministry.



(Student Spotlight, cont'd) just wanted the fun of it and had not completed her book assignments, so she chose to cease attending the events.)

Last week, the 7 of us went to the only business establishment with seating in their small town, Friendly's Tavern. We packed around a large table, just a few seats away from the 4-5 locals sitting at the bar with their pints

of beer in Mason jars. Our table contained a few baskets of French fries, open Bibles and study books, and was filled with talk about how to be obedient and how cool it was that they were learning to pray. I pray that image will stay with me for a long time. You never know where you might end up being a light. 🌟

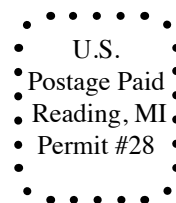


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Change Service Requested



Loving The Rural Teenager



PRAYER CLOSET

Yahoos!

★Record attendance for Murder Mystery Outreach

- ★Property donated to the Farm-12 Bacon, Hillsdale
- ★Freshman girl who accepted Christ at the Silver Ring Thing
- ★Ten students who accepted Christ at the Murder Mystery
- ★Grant from Trinity Church for improvements to student hang out center
- ★Donations beginning for winter retreat scholarships
- ★Paul (full time CRF missionary) and Sarah's wedding



Take it to Jesus

- ★Sale of donated property
- ★Discipleship and follow up with new believers
- ★Students who made a commitment to purity
- ★Winter retreats-MS Jan. 27-29, HS Feb. 10-12
- ★Jerry Bernard and Shaun Haynes in their support raising process
- ★Wisdom for CRF board of directors in moving forward decisions