



July, August, September 2010

Down On The Farm

The Quarterly Newsletter of Crossroads Farm

BARNYARD BEGINS!

by Andrea, H.S. Staff

The first night of CRF was electrified with energy – much of it nervous energy as the teens learned that they would begin their year with CRF by participating in the Bounce challenge course. Teams were divided into groups of 10 and adults assigned to groups and stations. I went to “monitor” at the cargo net. Just the previous afternoon, my husband, Jerry Bernard, CRF appointee; Doug Routledge and Paul Miller, full-time staff; and myself had put up the cargo net and tried our hands at scaling the 14 foot beast. I had made it over so felt confident in encouraging kids at this brand new obstacle.

It was exciting to watch as a few were up and down in almost the blink of an eye while others stretched themselves to listen to instructions, calm their fears, and face the height, narrowing net, and sight downward. At the end of the night, everyone seemed proud of themselves for pushing beyond what they thought was possible for them. One girl said to me, “I’m glad you pushed me to do what I did, I wish I would have even pushed myself further.” We are off to a good start – pushing one another to grow through the obstacles of life to an authentic and real relationship with the Lord Jesus and one another. 🏡



The Cargo Net

TROUGH TIME!

by Stephanie, M.S. Staff

This year for kickoff we got to break in the challenge course! On kickoff night for Trough the middleschool students were geeked about tackling the physical challenges of balancing, climbing and working as a team. Before we began Doug gave a talk on overcoming life’s obstacles, and it was neat watching the kids learn the lesson of tackling physical obstacles,

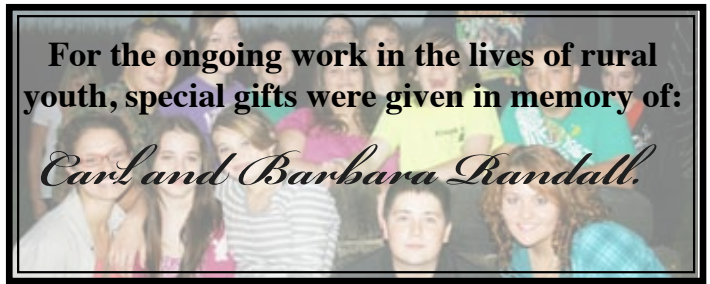
("Trough Time" continued)

in parallel. It was awesome to watch kids eager to climb the cargo net at the bottom realize at the top exactly how tall that was, wavering, and then deciding to take the step to swing themselves over the beam to the other side. It really felt like it was almost a night of lessons in faith for some of the kids – to trust that someone would physically



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

Carl and Barbara Randall.



be there to catch them at a platform on the other side of the several-feet drop beneath their tire swing. I'm looking forward to watching the kids in our ministry stretch their faith to greater and greater heights this year! The students liked it so much they want more time to do it in the spring! 📸

GET IN THE GAME! by Ellen Hobson

Each year I am amazed by the creativity with which the Crossroads Farm staff approaches their fall banquet...and this year was no exception! I have been connected to the Farm since its inception, yet they manage to come up with something new and different each and every year. This year, attendees entered an evening of baseball, complete with the right food, the right music, and the right speaker. (Frank Tanana) Even the presentation of the Farm's work was done as a baseball game... and fortunately, the commentators for the "game" made it exciting since we were unable to see the action!! (And despite "technical difficulties", the enthusiasm of the staff was not diminished in the least!)



Aside from the creativity, however, I always leave the banquet feeling so grateful for Crossroads Farm. I grew up in Hillsdale County. It is home. But I no longer live there. I am aware of the difficulties and challenges for the teens that do, and I am so thankful that Crossroads is standing there is the gap...for me. My heart will always be there,

but I am physically unable to minister there. Crossroads is. Each year I see or hear from someone at the banquet to whom I have a long-term connection, and I realize what a difference the Farm is making, not only in the lives of people I will never know, but in the lives of those I care about! I am afraid that the impact I made there while I was growing up was minimal...but through Crossroads Farm, I now feel as if I am making a difference in my hometown. It is truly a privilege to support their work. I am thankful that they have allowed me to "get in the game". I am not just a spectator, I am part of the winning team! 📸



"...And there was light!" A special thank you to Kandy Scott, Liberty Propane, for the donation of a mercury light and pole for the CRF parking lot!!

CHICS WITH ATTITUDE?!

The topic of one summer Bible study is found in the title of this article. (Phil. 2:4-5) Other Bible studies were lead on “how to study the Bible” and “What does the Bible have to say about social issues?” among other topics. These studies were lead by our volunteers staff and student leaders.

Here is what one student leader from Jonesville had to say:

“Hey, my name is Corin. I am on student lead team (Crew) at Crossroads and I lead a Bible study this summer for middle school girls. It went really well. I think the girls really enjoyed it. We studied the book of Philippians, and talked about how we can apply it to our lives today with school, friends, family, and things



like that. We met at the Hillsdale First Baptist Church on Thursdays every week for about a month. I had two sixth grade girls and two seventh grade girls. It was my first time ever leading a Bible study and I was a little nervous at first but once we got started it went really well. I loved doing it. I got to get to know the girls more and learn some things too. I am really looking forward to leading another study next summer.” 📖

Q: What was the funniest thing that happened at camp this summer?

A: When I won the sock over the Coke contest. (Ryan)



Q: What did your friends miss by not going to camp with you?

A: Hanging out with all the awesome people and hearing from God (Madison)

To Love Like Jesus,
To Serve Like Jesus,
and To Be More Like Jesus...that is our mission at CRF. Summer trips help to fill that mission in the lives of students. Hiawatha was our last summer trip, Bible studies came to a close, and fall registrations began...Loving the rural teen! Thank you-always-for your role in this opportunity.



Q: What was the best activity at camp this summer?

A: Thunder Falls Water Park (Justin)

A: Amazing Race (Justin)

Q: What was one decision you made at Hiawatha this summer?

A: To learn how to play guitar. (Matt)

A: To get closer to God. (Seth)

SKILLS OF A SERVANT LEADER

2 Timothy 2:15

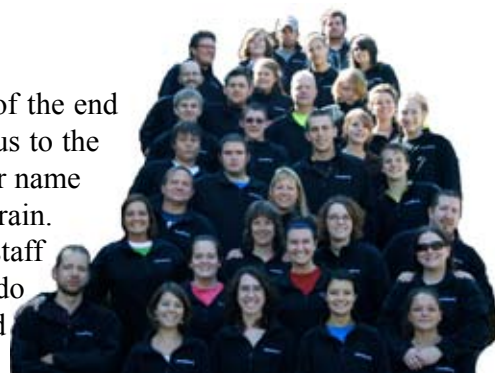
Ahhh, the annual CRF leadership training retreat. To me that means THE sign of the end of summer BUT the start of another new ministry year. This years' retreat took us to the wonderful grounds of Bair Lake Bible Camp where a great bunch of staff and our name on the camp marquee welcomed us in, along with a drizzly, fall Michigan all day rain.

While this years training dealt with the Skills of a Servant Leader, the staff



touched on the fundamental question of "Why we do Ministry," and paired it up with Commitment and Establishing a Discipling Family. The reminder of it's not whether we can learn these truths, but can

we teach this to others was always replayed in our minds. Being able to bond quickly and reunite after a summer apart has always inspired and amazed me at every retreat. The desire to serve Christ in kid's lives through this ministry keeps us all together all through the year, even if we aren't physically with one another. I may be a bit biased, but I think it's why I love this staff of adults and students the way I do. We listened, we shared, we loved; now it's time to serve like Jesus. 🙏



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Loving The Rural Teenager



YAHOOOS:

- *120 students at the Farm for our kick off nights!
- *A bus on the road picking up students!
- *Our great volunteers
- *A "New" enclosed luggage trailer to pull behind the bus!



The Prayer Closet

TAKE IT TO JESUS:

- *New missionary staff in support raising process- Jerry and Andrea Bernard/ Shaun and Sheri Haynes
- *For more than we could ask or think in students' lives this school year
- *The Murder Mystery outreach at the Farm Oct. 22 and 23
- *CRF is looking for prayer partners to match with our student and staff leadteam. Contact our office to recieve your intercessory assignment.