



crossroads farm

Down On The Farm

The Quarterly Newsletter of Crossroads Farm

July, August, September 2011

Your Influence Please



Click on These! . . .

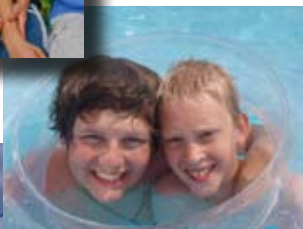
We live in a world that is completely connected. We know things that we never imagined. Expertise is only a Google-click away. I have intimate knowledge of celebrities' lives. I am instantly informed about my children's grades, my credit report and world need.

This socially networked world has created a bit of a crisis. We are overwhelmed by causes. For most of us, we simply do not know where to start. Many of us, in our young lives desired to make a difference. Now we cannot help but feel a tad, well, helpless.

As a ministry, we have a crisis of conscience. You see, what calls us into these ministries is the voice of God to do something. What keeps us here is, frankly, others hearing God's voice to help us do something.

There is something that I want to ask you to do for us... these students, actually. I was wondering if you could connect with us, engage in a conversation with rural America through Crossroads Farm. Daily, we connect friends to friends.

Introduce us to your friends. *(Continued on page 3...)*



Intern Falls In Love

My name is Alyssa Hobson, and this past summer, I had the wonderful opportunity to intern at Crossroads Farm. Even in the (way too short!) month I was there, God allowed me to fall in love. I led a Bible study and fell in love with my middle school and freshman girls. I called local schools to compile a community calendar and fell in love with the behind-the-scenes part of ministry. I prayed for donors and students by name, sent postcards, and fell in love with the people that make this ministry happen. I traveled to Hiawatha Youth Camp with our group and fell in love with bus drivers, fast food stops, and the long conversations that only come with a long road trip. I fed a cow, hung out laundry, went for long walks, and fell in love with the country and cornfields. I am incredibly thankful for the time God allowed me to spend at Crossroads. It truly was life changing, and my heart is forever linked with this ministry and this county.



Prayer Closet

Yahoos:

- *Fresh new school year
- *Significant CRF Board Retreat @ The Essenhuis in Sept.
- *The team of volunteers God has put together
- *Averaging over 100 students per week in regular programming

Take It To Jesus:

- *Office manager/bookkeeper needed
- *Missionary staff candidates Shaun Hayes and Jerry Bernard in their support raising venture
- *More than we could ask or think in the lives of students and staff this school year
- *New RCI (Rural Church Initiative) churches to share in ministry



Hiawatha Youth Camp has always been the place where God whispered to me the loudest. This summer, I had the privilege of accompanying 32 wonderful students on Crossroads Farm's summer trip to HYC. Watching God's whisper reach their ears was an incredibly powerful thing. From the first minutes boarding the bus at the Far, the Spirit worked to connect my heart to each of our students in unique ways. We laughed, talked, and joked most of the way to the camp.

Starting Sunday morning, I could see God working in their hearts. As the week progressed, I wiped away tears, gave out hugs, sat and talked, screamed cheers until my throat was sore, and sometimes, just offered a smile as I watched "my" kids experience their Savior in brand new ways. One girl told me that her parents had never encouraged religion, and God had become real to her for the first time. Another sat with me for over an hour as we discussed godly relationships and waiting on His divine timing.

Once we got home, two students came (Continued on page 4...)



Back to School Wish List

1. Toilet paper
2. Paper towel
3. Cleaning supplies (Clorox wipes, windex, 409, dish soap, pledge, etc)
4. Hand soap & hand sanitizer
5. Copier paper 8.5 x 11
6. Candles
7. Prayer breakfast supplies (cups, plates, napkins, tableclothes)
8. Ping pong balls
9. Cue sticks -pool
10. New video games*

*Contact office for more details

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

Peggy Bernard.

Attitudes of a Servant Leader

Hello, my name is Ben, and I came to start volunteering when the Routledges came to my church during the summer, and having been to the farm before, was very interested in helping out. As a first year volunteer Coach at Crossroads Farm, I went to the training retreat not knowing very many people, and unsure of what to expect. Over the course of the weekend, I heard Doug and Dawn Routledge along with other full-time staff and returning volunteer staff all talk about how things run at the Crossroads Farm ministry. I was talked through the background of how the ministry began, the people who support Crossroads Farm, and also how this tightly-run organization functions on a regular basis. I slowly began to learn names and faces, and by the end of the weekend, I felt such a part of the group, for I was accepted



readily as another follower of Christ with a passion for rural youth.

Being a college student, Tuesday nights with middle school youth does not work with my schedule, and so I have been volunteering on Sunday nights with the high school kids group. The first week of the fall we had a really cool laser tag event

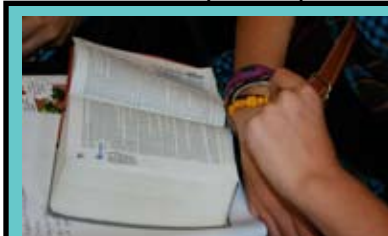
out at the farm. This was a great way to meet high school students, and bond through high intensity rounds of team-based combat. The first week at the Ministry Center we began setup early for a band, and then we all got together and prayed for the youth soon to arrive, and for the event. As the band began to start playing, I started the slides for the music. Though I was new at this and messed up a couple times, I was amazed at the full-fledged worship as students sang out praise, not worrying about my

(Continued on page 4...)



"I Need A Hero" @ Crossroads Farm August 2011

Thank you Earl Musick, Thank you Bill Hobson, Thank you Mark Recop, (LOVED the batmobile!) Thank you Grant's Catering, Thank YOU. Thank YOU. Thank YOU. May every dollar invested into the lives of students matter for eternity.



(...Attitudes continued)

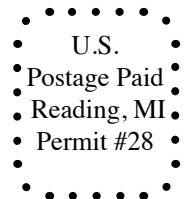
mistakes.

I am very glad to have become a part of the volunteer staff. I am becoming more diligent in my reading of the Word. As I grow closer to the staff and we are growing together as one body, we are reaching out in the rural communities to the youth who need the ministry of Crossroads Farm.

In his grace,
Ben Dvorak




Change Service Requested



Loving The Rural Teenager 

(...Hiawatha continued)

into the office to pick up something they had left behind. We got to talking, and Jack* shared that he had led 3 people to the Lord at the skating rink that past weekend. This is the reason we take kids to camp... not for the games or the friendships (they're just added bonuses!), but for lasting life changes. 

The Scarecrow Killer!

Middle School, Friday, Oct. 21st

High School, Saturday, Oct. 22nd

\$5 Band: Maze. 6:30pm
Mystery.



Cider and donuts.

(...Your Influence, continued)

Take a few minutes each week to simply visit our website, check out our Facebook page or follow us on twitter. While there, read a little bit about what God is doing here in the country. Then, after we've caught up a bit, pray for the students and staff here.

Finally, you can comment, share, like, follow or friend us. These things matter. We just need a handshake. God can do the rest. 