



# Down On The Farm

April, May, June  
2010

The Quarterly Newsletter of Crossroads Farm

## Serve Now!

Two perspectives on our summer service trip.

by Martha

--Reading High School graduate, 2010

Serve Now! Could the message have been any clearer to me? 15 hours before the bus rolled out for Cincinnati, I'm praying over the possibility of my participation in this service trip through Crossroads Farm. As I'm trying to work out all the details in my head, I'm confronted by the Spirit telling me to let God take care of the rest and just "serve now!" Well, who am I to argue with our Lord? So off I went to get fees paid and paperwork filled out.

Now, we're in the heart of Cincinnati doing our morning devotional before we re-group and head out into the ghettos to tell anyone and everyone we can find about outreach programs that the River of Life Church was holding. We read in our

Bibles the much heard story of Moses and the burning bush. The familiar story held new



insight for me this time as I read it. God was pushing Moses way out of his comfort zone and demanding that he Serve Now! God was giving me the same push to get out of my own comfort zone, forget my fears and apprehensions, and serve Him now and every time He called me to do His will. This hit me like a ton of bricks. I continued that day out into the inner city of Cincinnati to

serve my God who had called me to His will. The message was clear from the start. The Lord called me to Serve Now-and I did!



by James

--Waldron High School, 2011



As the bus pulls up before the break of dawn, I self consciously think, "Ugh I could be in bed!" I mean it is four A.M. We all load up onto the bus and the trip of a lifetime begins.

This is my

first mission's trip, so I didn't know what to expect. Our first stop was the Creation Museum and it was awesome! From the hands on exhibits to the petting zoo; everything was Christ based and for once I learned about God and not evolution. After the museum we headed toward downtown



Cincinnati. Downtown really means the Ghetto. As you look about you see graffiti and a lot of black people. Suddenly this skinny white guy jumps on the bus yelling about how awesome it is to have us here. I think to myself "Why can't he just talk in a normal voice?" (Come to

find out that is just 'Gordon', and he always yells). The second day we load into the bus for a personal tour of downtown. 'Gordon' shows us the place where he was saved, where we wrote his first rap, and where he witnessed a murder. Then we went and played some awesome dodge ball with kids from the ghetto in this castle type deal. Its hidden rooms and stair case made for an amazing game. Later that night we headed back to the church for another intense

(Serve Now!, cont.) game: 9 square (like 4 square except a lot more advanced). The whole day was spent side by side with 15 children from the inner city ranging in age from 3 – 12. I'm sure our corn fields are far from their



comprehension. The third and my favorite day we went door to door in the ghetto handing out flyers for a Bible camp that 'Gordon' is doing.

I was hoping I'd have some large, tall, strong, body builder in my group to protect me but that didn't work out. I was SO scared, I just kept thinking "well... If I die, I'm dying handing out flyers for Jesus." Amazingly, people were open to the Word of God and very welcoming. Later that day it was announced we would be going on a "surprise trip." We drove around for about 30 minutes to arrive at Benihanas, a Japanese steakhouse. They cook the food right in front of you all while the chef flips knives and spatulas in the air. After dinner we headed out for the second part of our surprise. We end up at this



huge mall for a scavenger hunt. The items on the list were crazy; Glitter, French fry, Employee name tag!?! The list was long and wild, but my team still won!

**K**yle: "My brother is the one who got me off my lazy butt and got me here. For the past 15 years of my life my dad hasn't been here ... I didn't know anybody here and didn't know the Lord well. The first day your staff was there for me and it has been a life changing sensation for me."

Fourth and final day we went to this MEGA church.



It was so large! They had vending machines and coffee and free food. There was an amazing band and a great Preacher. After service we headed home. Stopping for lunch I found myself talking to everyone and just loving every person I saw. We got home and while it felt good to be out of the city, I really kind of miss it. I miss the good times with friends. This missions trip was the best week of my entire summer by far. I got to help a community, meet some interesting people, and even learn to be thankful. This missions trip opened my heart and mind to God. I find myself loving others as a brother and sister in Christ. My service didn't end the moment I got off that bus.



## Stock Tank Baptismal at Sunset

### An interview with Robbie, Freshman

**"I**'m looking forward to moving up to high school and not having all those "little kids" running around," Robbie says as he sits in my office. Paul laughs and says, "It wasn't that long ago that you were one of those little kids." Robbie just smiles and says "I know." "High school is going to



be harder with classes, but I want to lean on CRF to keep me strong in my faith. I love God and He is important to me." In fact, Robbie just got baptized in May. He was baptized when he was about 6, but didn't fully understand it so he remade his commitment to God and was plunged as a sign of taking the next step in his faith. "I have friends that don't believe in God and I want to help open their eyes to Christ by witnessing and telling them of God's love. CRF can help me learn the REAL truth so I can speak it into my friend's lives. I'm going to make CRF a priority and




**M**atthew: "When I first got here I figured it would be like every other group. I'd like to thank the staff; they are really affectionate, even to the point of being a little embarrassing at first."





**B**rittney: “I didn’t really know anybody my first year so I kept to myself but then I bloomed out. My challenge for the underclassmen is to try. Believe in yourself, and if you don’t know God, try.”

(Stock Tank..., cont.) plan my schedule around events so that I can be there. I just went on Serve Now, it was the biggest city I’ve ever been in and it was cool to touch people’s lives. Plus I met some really awesome high school guys and we became new friends. It will be nice to know I can ask them to help me adjust to being a big bad high schooler.” Welcome to Barnyard Robbie!! 

Crossroads Farm extends a “HUGE YAHOO” to the Adam/Janelle work crew from EMU and U of M. They once again worked the challenge course (Bounce) and pulled a mile of the 3 mile corn maze!



*Thank you!*

## “What on earth is Whirlyball?” By David, Senior

**H**ey! I am an officially graduated senior of Reading High school and have been coming to CRF on a regular basis since Winter Retreat. When a staff member first told me about Whirlyball I thought, “Man that sounds fun and totally cool!” I honestly had no idea what it was but I knew I had to do it. My circle of friends weren’t even going, but I didn’t care, I was going to be there! I didn’t know what to expect when I walked in the door, but it definitely blew me away. You drive around in these little bumper cars attempting to make baskets with a whiffleball while death gripping a lacrosse stick. Pretty intense. The carts could’ve been




**K**at: “I’ve been at CRF since I was in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. I fell in love with it and honestly don’t know where I would be without CRF. I’ve been through hell and back with family and everything and CRF has been there and brought me through it.”

faster in my opinion, but I still managed to make a sweet pass. The ball bounced off another car and she actually caught it! My team was awesome and I had a blast! Another senior shared her testimony with us at the end of the night.



She shared how her best friend had died and I was shocked that she had gone through something that rough. It made me realize that

God can use the bad things that happen for good, even when we can’t really see a happy ending. All in all, I’m way glad I got to go play this thing called Whirlyball! 

**S**teven: “You’ve been there for me through tough times, when I was 9 years old I turned away from God. I thought God hated me. I lived that way for 10 years until CRF helped me come back to God. Don’t turn from the LORD because He will always be there for you.”



# Crossroads Farm Welcomes New Board Member

Dr. Russ Baker:

>> Native of Hillsdale County, attended North Reading Baptist Church and graduated from Reading High School in 1977. Son of Eugene and Berna Baker, lifelong residents of Hillsdale.

>> Graduate of Huntington University (BA), Kent State University (MA), and Ball State University (Ed. D)



>> Currently Interim Chancellor of Ivy Tech Community College, Northeast. Will return to previous position of Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs on July 1.

>> Member of Blackhawk Ministries in Fort Wayne, IN

>> Married to Dolly, two children: Brianna (16—sophomore at Blackhawk Christian School) and Bryant (12—6<sup>th</sup> grader at BCS)



Crossroads Farm

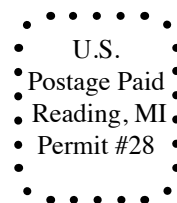
5520 W. Card Road

Reading, MI 49274

(517) 283-3982

[www.crossroadsfarm.org](http://www.crossroadsfarm.org)

Change Service Requested



## Loving The Rural Teenager



Carbon Copy Contribution  
coupon copy contribution

"...and my God shall supply all your needs..."

Crossroads Farm had a need for a bus to transport students into an environment where they could encounter Jesus.

We shared that need with you.

God chose to use you to meet that need!!!

Crossroads Farm was awarded a grant from the Hillsdale County Youth Foundation.

We had an initial donor challenge for you to match--and it WAS!

We can't wait for the next newsletter to show you pictures of our newest tool to reach rural youth.

A BUS HAS BEEN PURCHASED: 1999 Bluebird from BusMart in Daleville, IN.

