



crossroads farm

# Down On The Farm

July,  
Aug,  
Sept,  
2012

The Quarterly Newsletter of Crossroads Farm



Heath McNease and  
The King's Offspring  
Rocked the Barn!

Silos! Laser Tag at the Farm!

Crossroads Farm school year programming came roaring in with the school year and it couldn't be better. More kids. More love. More excitement. More of Jesus...please, please, more of Him in the lives of students, our staff, who we are at CRF! Pray for us. These are your kids. This is your ministry. By the time you receive this newsletter, the Murder Mystery Out-



reach will be upon us. (Oct. 19 and 20)  
This year's theme is: Survivor! Relationships. Every Sunday night for high school Barnyard, and every Tuesday night for middle school Trough, we will tear apart our investment in relationships with authority, God, parents, siblings, the opposite sex, etc and how they impact our lives. 📖





# 3 out 3 IN 3 up

Crossroads Farm takes its role in lives very seriously. In fact, each year, volunteers, professional staff and

student leaders go through nearly 40 hours of youth ministry training. The CRF training model has been called "the most comprehensive youth ministry training available by youth ministry professors, pastors and youth workers. Simply stated, after four years as a volunteer with CRF, a volunteer is capable of running their own youth ministry.



This month, we took 25 of the people that make up our leadership team to Michindoh Conference

Center outside of Hillsdale, Michigan. Aside from the fantastic food, lots of play time, including a few hours of a game called Archery Tag, the weekend was an immersion of training, team building and specifics planning.



The Crossroads Farm training model is based on the ARMS of the servant leader. It is an acrostic for Attitudes, Relationships, Mind and Skills of the Servant Leader. Each year we tackle one of the

four critical elements in nine separate facets. They are divided into 3 bodies of information. People have asked us how it works. It's simple. We need to develop attitudes, relationships, knowledge and skills that are aimed at God, ourselves and others. Each year we take nine months to examine 3 Upward ARMS, Inward ARMS and Outward Arms.



I think that you would need to be a part of our training just to appreciate how complete the equipping is. We hope that you will continue to pray for us as we develop excellently trained youth workers. We are so thrilled to be entrusted with this task. 🙏

~Take It To Jesus~

## The Prayer Closet

~Yahoos~

\*Missionary candidate, Jerry Bernard, at 70%...almost here!

\*Murder Mystery Outreach, Oct. 19 and 20

\*We are understaffed. May God raise up new volunteers and pro staff missionaries, especially for the MS program

\*Relationships with new RCI churches



\*The school year has begun with record numbers of students on program nights

\*Incredible renovations due to special gifts and grants on the Student Center

\*The volunteer staff team~fantastically committed and taking leadership in specific areas of ministry

\*Capitol Campaign, "No Debt But Love," is moving forward through the generosity of donors (mortgage debt eliminated soon!) 🙏

# Student Spotlight



My name is Patty Hookstadt. I've been a member of Crossroads Farm for three years now this my second year on lead team and this is my testimony. I wasn't raised in a Christian family. My mom was the only one

who raised my brother and I because we grew up without a father. The only thing I knew about God is that people went to church on Sundays. The three of us were constantly moving from place to place and never settled in one town so I never had many friends besides my brother.

But I didn't really have any friends because I was a terrible kid. I was a liar, a thief, the police had been to my house a few times. I never went to school. Sometimes at night time I would sneak downstairs and unplug my moms alarm clock just so I wouldn't go to school the next day. I would say that its too late to go to school and it would be pointless. Because of my grades and behavior in and out of school I got put into a foster care system when I was in the 4th grade. It just happened to be that my foster dad was a pastor at a church which I still attend now, Betzer Community Church. Every Sunday he would drag me to church and I did not like going. I wanted nothing to do with it.

Every Sunday I would sit in the very back row and draw. As the week went on I found out that people also went to church on Wednesdays and I wasn't a big fan of that either. So this went on for about four years. Now it's my 8th grade Summer and Paul Miller became the youth pastor of my church at Betzer Community and he started making me sit in the very front row the church which meant I couldn't draw anymore. A few weeks went by and then he

started to make me sing. I wasn't a big fan of that either but I eventually started to do it. Then he introduced Crossroads Farm to me and when he first told me what it was all about I really didn't want to go because I really didn't want to go to church three days a week. It seemed like the worst thing for me. But I started going and the first year was life changing.

The whole God thing started to click for me and I started to go back every Sunday because it was so much fun. That first year is when I accepted Christ into my life! Even after living with a pastor since fourth grade it took a pretty long time for it to click. It was just last year that I got baptized, on May 15, because I was just so on fire for Christ and wanted to do everything for him. It was one of the highlights of my life so far and now every chance I get to just reignite that fire such as going to different camps like Hiawatha or Winter Retreat I go because its amazing every time.

Because I have Christ in my life now I feel like a better person than I did when I was younger. And next year when I go out to college, I know that I will be a better student because I have Christ in my life. The verse I live by is Matthew 19:26 and in that verse it states that with God all things are possible and I live by that because when I look back at how I was when I was younger I would think that it would be impossible to be where I am today but I guess that turned out false because I'm here so it turns out that with God all things are possible. 🙏







The night is cold, the clock is ticking audibly, and the wind chimes are blowing on the porch. I snuck back into the Farm

house for some warmth and to record a bit of the emotion of the evening and a life that was instrumental in making it happen. The Farm yards are LOUD tonight. Huge inflatables are scattered between the trees and barns and 100 middle schoolers are screaming, laughing, calling, running and playing amongst them in a mass game of laser tag. Doug gave a challenge tonight about hitting what you are aiming for. Our lives aren't random. Either are our decisions. God has a plan for our lives!!



I wish I could walk the almost quarter mile across the tracks and pass the swamp to Ruth's house. Her lone living room light would be on and she would be up waiting for me to bring her a late night dessert

and to gush about the night and what God did on their Farm. She would quietly listen, ask a few question, chuckle from time to time and say, "well, well, ..." And from there she would encourage me. REALLY encourage me. She was often beyond wow at the numbers, the events, the effort. Ruth never really wanted to pray out loud with me~that only happened a handful of time. But she always wanted to pray with me, so holding her hand and

sometimes letting tears fall, we would pray together...for more than we could ask or think for the ministry that was unfolding on the acres of Farm land there on Card Rd.

Ruth is with Jesus tonight. Her husband Harold gone before. They believed first. Harold said he hoped maybe, since the family didn't assume the Farm that maybe some of his great grand kids might accept Christ through this ministry... some did. Our focus is ministry and program for students~but someday, there will be a fully restored cow barn, the Ashton Youth Barn. One wall is designated on the engineered plans for Ruth's Art Gallery, that will showcase students' art from the county.

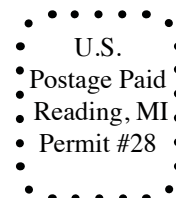


"Well, you can have it," were the words I heard coarsely over the phone lines in our house in Mason, MI (1999). Ruth was so matter of fact in her delivery and I was jumping up and down in a kitchen over an hour away. The words that opened the door for Crossroads Farm to purchase and found a life changing ministry for rural youth at 5520 W. Card Rd. in Reading. Legacy. Sometimes, the clock does tick audibly. Another cheer just erupted from the yard. I got chills, my heart smiled, and I'm letting only one tear fall. I'm so very grateful that Harold and Ruth had the faith to believe in a crazy dream and vision extending into the lives of now literally thousands of rural teenagers. 🌟



Crossroads Farm

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# Loving The Rural Teenager