



crossroads farm

Down on the Farm



The Quarterly Newsletter of Crossroads Farm
October, November, December 2022

Murder Under the Big Top Outreach

Crossroads Farm, the ministry of which you are a part, held FOUR outreaches in the month of October for rural youth across our THREE branches. 552 students participated. 198 regular and community volunteers participated. 59 students made first-time decisions for Jesus Christ!



Acres of land that included barns and a warehouse garage welcomed Matt Moore (The Lanes), Sean BE (The Shed), and Attaboy (The Mine) - bands that had students dancing, singing, and engaging... preparing them to be ready to receive student testimonies followed by the Gospel presentation. At The Mine, in Harrison

County, OH, it was their very first launch event! Students who had literally never heard the Gospel filled a borrowed old barn that had been cleaned and powered and made (Continued on page 6)



Drive By Prayer



If you have been a part of the Crossroads Farm family for any length of time, you know that prayer is one of our values. One of the ways we value prayer is through events that teach students how to pray and give them outlets in which to do it. Drive By Prayer is one of the favorite prayer events of the year! "You have been a victim of Drive By Prayer. We prayed for you. Love, Crossroads Farm" - these notes were taken with candy and snuck to various homes of our students'

(Continued on page 5)

A Student Christmas of Light

Hundreds of students attended Crossroads Farm Christmas celebrations over the weekend prior to Christmas. Four different parties were hosted between the three branches. The most important piece of information is that 19 students received the gift of Christ. The heavenly host celebrated this Christmas as they did on the first.

Each branch enjoyed their own flavor of celebration... literally. Everything from ice cream to an incredible homemade party food buffet line was featured at The Lanes, The Shed and The Mine. There were Christmas carols, ugly Christmas sweater contests, a Christmas story time by the fireplace and a message, concerning Jesus' words for us: "I came so that man may have light."

(Continued on page 3)



"This will be my new favorite Bible because it has the red letters."

"You know all those Christmas movies where Santa gets arrested? Ours kinda looks like that!"



"Jolly Ranchers! Green ANNNND Blue!! I'm all stocked up!"



"Glad I came tonight."



"My water bottle is my favorite color!"

Even the water looks like Christmas.



"I got socks!!!!!!"



"This is my first Bible!"

Me: What was your favorite part of the night?
 Student 1: The quilt
 Student 2: The quilt
 Student 3: For sure the quilt



"The necklace is my favorite part. My bracelet from last year just broke- I cried."



"My favorite gift was the toothbrush- I hope I don't loose this one before next Christmas"



"I got deodorant! I needed that today!"



"This is like a lifetime supply of oatmeal!"



"These cookies are so good!"




"I have 2 Bibles now- that means I can ruin one!" Her friend "I know- my other one is filled up with notes and highlights"



"I marched my happy butt all the way across the room to get you to sign this" (A Shed leadteam student to a staff member, talking about her new Bible)

("A Student Christmas..." continued from page 2)

Nearly 200 volunteers put together gifts for each student, gave, baked, shopped... Some gifts were as extravagant as homemade quilts, as practical as gloves, socks, water bottles and hats, as personal as jewelry, or as spiritually important as Bibles (with the words of Christ in red adding to our Red Letter Words teaching this school year) and daily devotionals. Words do not do justice to the effort or the impact. Because of people who love well, Crossroads Farm is also able to love students well. Our students received Light. 



From the President

December 2022



Hebrews 4:8-10

“But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless, and its curse is imminent. In the end it will be burned.

9Even though we speak like this, beloved, we are convinced of better things in your case—things that accompany salvation. 10For God is not unjust. He will not forget your work and the love you have shown for His name as you have ministered to the saints and continue to do so.”

Yesterday, I had the privilege of speaking at one of our nearly 30 participating RCI (Rural Church Initiative) churches, while visiting CRF The Mine-Harrison County, OH. It felt like home.

Mount Shiloh Baptist Church had fallen victim to a dreaded flu virus sweeping through Harrison County. When a small rural church experiences sickness, it begins duct taping regular things together. If the same church sees illness for a more prolonged period of time, they begin to use gum instead of duct tape. Things on Sunday morning were cobbled together on the fly. The Pastor, and what was left of his family after the epidemic went door to door, filled in the gaps. That’s when it dawned on me.

This is what we talk about creating in ministry. We desire to show teenagers, older persons and recent believers, they are important. We want them to grasp that they make a difference and they need to be serving each other. It’s funny when a flu-bug does a better job of creating value and service than a seminar at a national conference.

Challenge rallies the body around a mutually shared need.

Last night, due to the fact that Dawn and I were already in Harrison County to observe a regular ministry night at The Mine, we were allowed to step in and fill a few gaps as the virus pillaged our newest branch’s worker base. Luke Marshall, who is the Ministry Director and regular speaker each Sunday, was sick. The worship and tech team was sick. The volunteer staff number was down significantly. They feared low attendance would be likely.

I spoke. Dawn registered students. A volunteer ran tech for the first time at The Mine. Luke’s brother and another volunteer led worship. Two new community volunteers made popcorn and sold snacks. Carrie Olson, The Mine’s Administrative Director, ran everything.

Value. Belonging. Ministry. Relationship.

The students didn’t seem to mind. The same amount showed up, as always, except the students who were sick had been replaced by a group of brand new students. God doesn’t miss a beat.

I have already written this letter once. I thought better of including it in the newsletter. Sometimes, things get stuck in your craw. It’s easy to feel negatively about the challenges in ministry. The reality of CRF in these past months is anything but negative.

It is true that Crossroads Farm is meeting needs during a massive shift in teenage culture, CRF has viewed these



days as an opportunity to speak truth in love to a community of people who need a rock upon which to build life. We are excited about the new ways we can demonstrate a God who values dignity and purpose, community and individuality, form and void.

Next week, across our three branches, hundreds of students will celebrate Christmas together. We anticipate hundreds of students to attend and perhaps double this amount of deep-fried Oreos™ to be consumed.

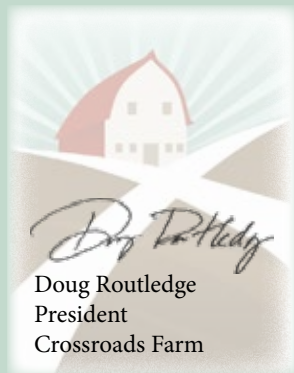
There will be students struggling with poverty and hunger. Some will be wrestling with familial disfunction. A large number will be lonely. Some are doubters. Many are determining how God speaks to their sexual identity in a world of dysforia. It is easy to look there: at the challenges. As the Bible says so clearly, “Even though we speak like this, beloved, we are convinced of better things in your case—things that accompany salvation.”

We see better.

As we move toward our fourth branch, as we see greater and greater commitment from the CRF branch directorships, we are embracing a God who sees broken as an opportunity to redeem, restore and demonstrate value and purpose to rural students across the United States.

You may see flu germs. God sees openings in our best laid plans for Himself.

I trust this New Year offers you just enough challenge to see God do what God desires to do. 🏠



(“Drive-by-Prayer” continued from page 1)

friends and families. In the month of November, approx 189 homes were prayed over by 27 different carecells across our branches. How powerful... and fun is that?!



Two of the groups celebrated afterwards by getting frostys.

One group went to the wrong house: “We drove away, then went back to check the address, and realized that we were at the wrong house. So the girls went back to rescue the package. They got freaked out by the older couple who lived there.”



One group, instead of dressing in stealthy black, wore Christmas attire with jingle bells.

One group hit a deer, but the car and the students were fine.



Another group drove around the same loop at least 5 times waiting for the student to get to the house and back to the car.

One group put on stealth face paint.

One student had both students she prayed for respond quickly and with appreciation.



One group had “Dave” in it. “Dave” is super quiet and doesn’t come to much of anything. But he came to drive by prayer. He was hesitant about praying at the start of the night. But at the end, his carecell leader was dropping all the boys off at Dave’s house. He said, “Wait, we have to pray for these folks (i.e. his parents).” He started by saying “We pray for this house. Please help them accept these 4 sexy boys.” Then he went on, but not much else is remembered because there was too much laughing.

One Coach is leading a MS and HS care cell. Her MS students don’t really have friends that they could go pray for, so she combined her MS and HS group allowing the MS students to watch the HS girls have a heart for their friends. 🏠





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Prayer Closet

Yahoos:

- 78 students made their first professions of faith this quarter across the three branches!
- We have received the title of ownership for The Lanes!
- Missionary staff and volunteers are pressing in deep to their mission of loving the rural teen
- Crossroads Farm was represented at the Urbana Missions Conference



Take It To Jesus:

- The Lanes Purchase and Expansion Campaign-75% to go!
- Follow up and discipleship relationship with new believers
- Winter Retreat outreach Feb. 24-26, all branches together
- Program associates needed at each branch 🙏

("The Outreach(es)" continued from page 1) available "for such a time as this."

A woodlot and corn mazes were privileged to student laughter and screams, groups of friends, solo kids finding friendship, and off-the-charts clue sites created by volunteers.

What a season of ministry!

Your missionaries and their fabulous teams of volunteers are tired, but the joy of the Lord is our strength. Big stuff! Big God! 🙏



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

In Memory Of
Naomi Haynes

In Honor Of
Bruce and Charlene Kaufman
Andrew Redlawski
Laura Benge

