

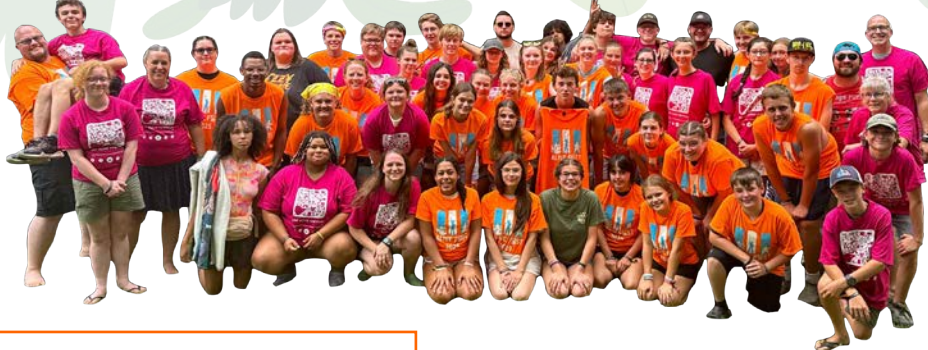


Down on the Farm



The Quarterly Newsletter of Crossroads Farm
July, August, September 2025

The Alive Music Festival in OH



"I learned about how other Christians have been applying the Bible to their life and then applying some of that to my life."

"I encouraged one of my friends to get baptized."

"The worship is awesome, and the speakers were really good and one of the best things that happened while I was there on the last sermon changed me, and I think everyone will have a chance to change while at camp"

All three branches of CRF, 30 bands, seven speakers, three days, great food, fun, and powerful life change! The Alive Music Festival was our experience trip this summer at Crossroads Farm.

"I had a ton of fun and I wish I was going to be around long enough to go again! But as it stands, I will have long since graduated the next time this trip happens. So, I hope that the people who go next time have just as much fun as we did this past weekend!"

"I wasn't sure I was ready to be baptized, so I asked God to send someone with me, and he sent Jessie! I've never been baptized before!" - (Her sister video called their mom while she was getting baptized)





From the Desk of the President

September 2025

You see it every time you drop someone off at the airport... family huddles, tears, and long hugs. These quiet moments in the din of the rush to get to the curb, the hurried luggage deposit on the pavement, and the anxious look toward airport traffic personnel all speak the question: how long can I say goodbye?

That was Dawn and me on Sunday morning.

We had already said our farewells to Madison and Benjamin earlier this particular day. We stood awkwardly near the “Big Apple” bound U-Haul. There were words and tears and lumping throats, one-last-looks as we anticipated the long familial drought to come. It is not the destination we fear, it is the separation; miles, hours, rhythms.



Now there we stood, not wanting to usher Lauren away. One of those emotional clumps, among so many others.

I believe there should be a limit as to how many partings a person must survive per month. I’ve set it at one. Even this is too many. Just a couple of weeks ago, we watched Raegan and her two beautiful boys load into the SUV and drive off. It seems we are in a season of long goodbyes.

We have dear friends who did not have enough time to whisper their final words to ones they cherish. I suppose we’d all rather not have to part ways.

The word we should use, no less painful, is release.

We received the call from Lauren less than 30 minutes after we deposited her at the terminal. She wanted to tell us she arrived at her gate, and the song playing through the speakers was “What Was I Made For.” Indeed.

This is the repeated recitation life (God) has worked me through. In order to be the one God made me to be, I must be released to be that. Someone must let go.

At CRF, Dawn and I have been able to steer the ship (prayerfully, in faith, with a good share of wise input) as long as it was one ship. Now there are three. There are two more in dry dock waiting to be christened (a word which finds its root in baptism, trustworthiness, and confirmation). There are other places in need of a ship. Thirteen communities have already had us perform due diligence for ministry viability. Many ships require many captains. Our role has shifted to one of strategy and deployment, but it has less to do with Xs and Os on a planning board and much more to do with spiritual position.

Submission. Humility. Patience. Trust.

There was a time, not so long ago, when the teaching we did was solely determined by me. I taught almost all of the Sunday nights. A few minutes ago, I left a curriculum planning meeting. There were five of us in the room. Five takes. Five bents. One spirit. It allows us to determine transferable lesson plans for directors of new branches. In short, it allows us to teach more effectively, to more students, in more locations, more often.

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.” Galatians 5:1



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Leadteam Base Camp Training

“Really convicting and a great way to prepare me for this!”-The Shed Coach, Aurelia

Have you ever asked yourself why a thing like Crossroads Farm got started?!...Genesis 13:14-15 was one of the challenges spoken to our nearly 100 adult volunteers and student leaders across our branches gathered for training.

Main stages on topics like prayer and developmental stages of students, breakouts like evangelism and parenting, worship, a commissioning illustrated with Mt Moriah and a fire, and of course lots of fun and laughter in learning and play filled our eager souls throughout the weekend.

“The commissioning is always a great time to set our minds, will, and souls to the task ahead.”
-The Shed Coach, John



“Our prayers and sharing with others play an integral role in the growth and vision of this ministry.”
-The Lanes Coach, Judy



“As the new year begins, I’m excited to connect weekly with my girls again and to think through where they are at and how to intentionally invest in their growth.”
-The Mine, Carrie





Kickoff

"Students spent hours away from their phones, having fun, listening to God's Word, and interacting face to face with other students! -Director

"I'm coming back next week!" 310 students had that same sentiment as they left the program year Kick-Off at their branch of CRF on September 14th. Our properties exploded with color wars, car smash, laser tag, great food, the Gospel, and an atmosphere of love filled with trained adult volunteers. It was awesome! AND, through a generous benefactor, every student received a brand new pair of name brand athletic shoes! Such tangible expressions of love. 🙌

"The giving of shoes gave me (director) another opportunity to talk with parents during the week following. Parents that were so thankful for the gift for their students. These parents were amazed with the shoes, the brands they cannot afford to buy, and not just hand me down shoes, but a new pair!"

"I've been involved in other ministries for years...And I've never seen anything like this!"

Small Group Summer Bible Studies

From backyards to benches, porches to ice cream parlors, 109 CRF kids were involved in small group Bible studies this summer with Crossroads Farm volunteers and directors. What a summer of impact through these gatherings full of meaning and purpose. Studies included topics like: Follow Up for New Believers, 1 and 2 Timothy, Names of God, and Measure of a Man. 🙌

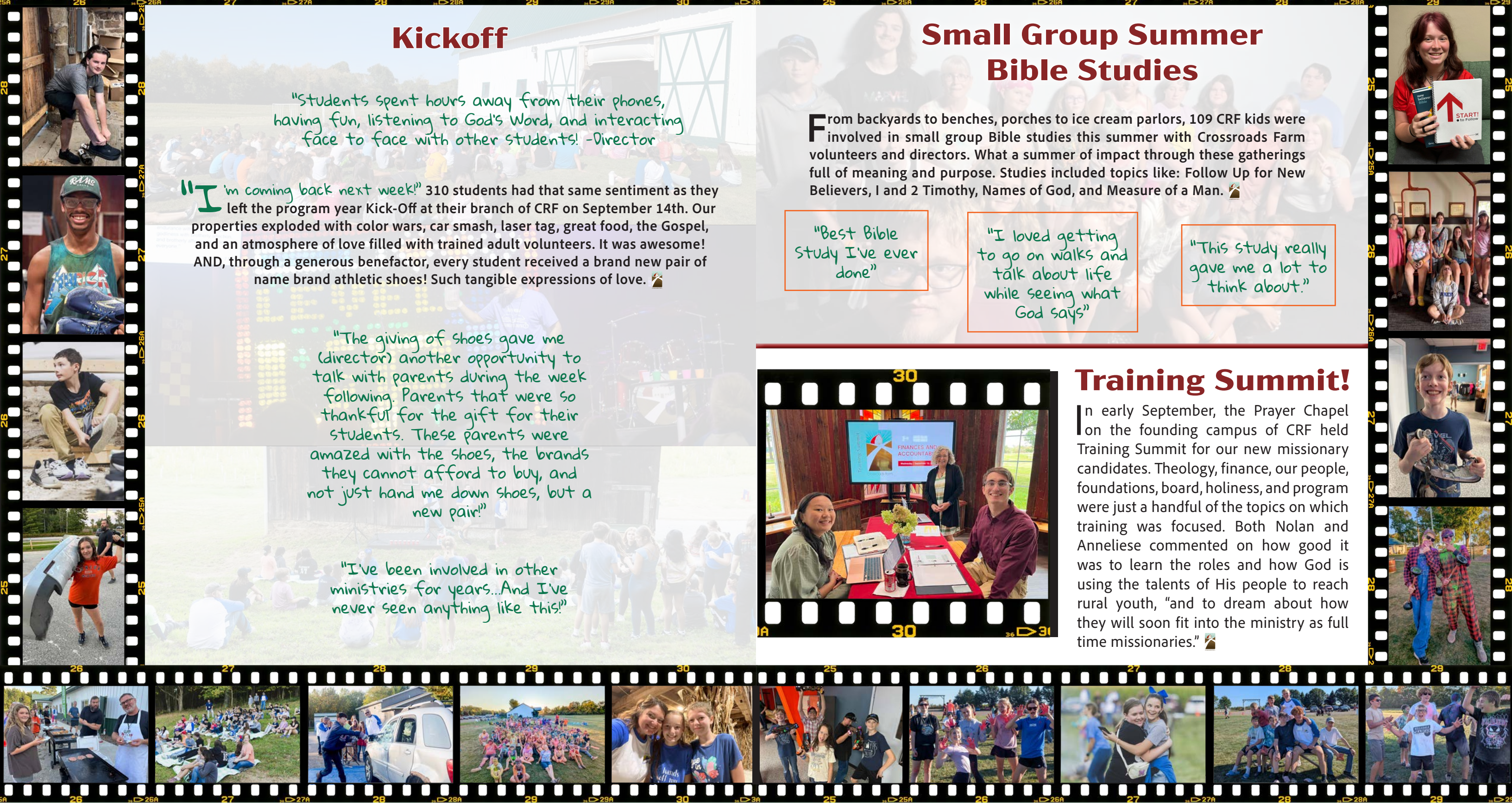
"Best Bible Study I've ever done"

"I loved getting to go on walks and talk about life while seeing what God says"

"This study really gave me a lot to think about."

Training Summit!

In early September, the Prayer Chapel on the founding campus of CRF held Training Summit for our new missionary candidates. Theology, finance, our people, foundations, board, holiness, and program were just a handful of the topics on which training was focused. Both Nolan and Anneliese commented on how good it was to learn the roles and how God is using the talents of His people to reach rural youth, "and to dream about how they will soon fit into the ministry as full time missionaries." 🙌



("From the Desk of the President"
continued from page 2)



Doug Routledge
President
Crossroads Farm

Each season, we release more and more of the responsibility of steering to those around us. This year, I will have the honor of commissioning our volunteers (Coaches), student leaders (Crew), and professional staff at our annual Leadteam Base Camp (training retreat). The weekend is one of my favorite allocations of time. Nearly one hundred leaders have committed to be God's hands, feet, rides, and hugs for this school year. With each of our adult Coaches, an understanding of the pledge to relationally be spiritually invested in at least 5 students each, represents a huge group of potentially discipled students... Hundreds of them.

What they were made for.

Acts 17:28 'For in him we live and move and have our being.'
As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

Would you be praying with us each day as we release our leaders to release our students? After all, they cannot be who God created them to be unless they are released. 🏡



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Loving The Rural Teenager



Prayer Closet

Yahoos:

- Our missionary staff and their families, from all branches, got together for a fun day in July
- Record number of students at school year kick off
- Record number of adult volunteers across our branches



The Ashton Youth Barn, to include offices and training center

Take It To Jesus:

- That students would desire to "Level Up" in their faith through the teaching and relationships this year (2 Peter 1:5)
- CRF National Building Campaign begins late fall, to include offices and training center
- Full time missionary staff, various positions, needed at National and across our branches 🏡