



crossroads farm

Down on the Farm



The Quarterly Newsletter of Crossroads Farm
April, May, June 2025

CRF The Lanes Dedication

It's so hard to describe the emotions of what happened at April's ribbon cutting at The Lanes. From the day we walked into the bowling alley in June of 2018 to the day we opened the expansion with The Lanes fully remodeled, it feels like we've already seen a lifetime's worth of God's provision!

we bowled and enjoyed dessert, was a perfect way to celebrate God's work.

Then on Sunday night, April 27th, we reattached the ribbon so our students could experience their own special dedication and fanfare. The prayer of dedication



On Saturday night, April 26th, 150 people gathered for the official ribbon cutting and grand opening of our new space. Offices, small group meeting rooms, restrooms, and brand new entrances might not seem like much, but it is a game-changing space for ministry to students in Northwest Michigan!

We celebrated with music, an incredible magic show from a long-time friend of CRF, Danny Ray, a sweet testimony from a student, a look back by Administrative Director Jerry Bernard, and a heartfelt call to the future from President Doug Routledge. The fancy hot dog bar, and our own house band playing over the lanes while

was moving, and students loved walking through the new space, opening every door, and taking selfies at new desks.

So, how do you try to express the feelings in just a few paragraphs? One of our guests, a prayer warrior/donor/volunteer, said it so well: "Nothing has grown my faith more in the last few years than watching how God has opened doors and answered prayers here at Crossroads Farm." Indeed, our students, our leaders, our missionaries, our community...all of us...have seen God's faithful hand in bringing CRF to Kalkaska County, and we are confident His work is just beginning! 🙏

Beyond Imagination

What a true blessing to partner in this ministry of Crossroads Farm with YOU! In April, scattered across three dates on the calendar, we got to share what God is doing with many of you face to face.

Through student testimonies and drama, live music and live painting at The Shed, it was an evening to celebrate God's history of faithfulness as four generations of students and Coaches shared their interconnected stories.

Danny Ray, renowned Illusionist and prayer warrior for this ministry, returned to our stages in WOW, at The Lanes and The Mine, where students served and gave testimony, and guests were enthralled by what God is doing.



All three events featured delicious food, challenges from our Directors and time spent together. They truly were evenings that celebrated what God is doing and is yet to do...Beyond Imagination, at Crossroads Farm. "Thank you" and "Let's Do More" go hand in hand in loving the rural teen. 🌿



"Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think." Ephesians 3:20

Relationships of a Servant Leader

Do you remember nine months ago when we published an article on our fall Training Retreat? Yep, that was nine months ago! In May, the 74 Crossroads Farm Leadteam (adult volunteers and student leaders) across our branches completed the Relationships of a Servant Leader Training (John 15:12-17). An extra huge YAHOO for CRF The Mine, who celebrated their first Leadteam to finish ALL FOUR years of the ARMS of a Servant Leader Training! 🌿

"This training has helped me learn more about my strengths and weaknesses, and helped me learn how to reach my peers with the Gospel without overstepping."
-Ben, student leader who completed all four years



CRF at Summer Camp with Spring Hill



Scan QR
code for two
student camp
testimonies.

101 attended summer camp...yes, that does mean we went for the one! 698 students were registered across our branches in the 24/25 school year. Every. Single. One. of those were personally contacted about this trip and many of those more than once!

(Continued on page 6)

Scan QR code
for a camp
recap video.



"I grew up in this place. The best part was always the worship and the small group time, but I don't think I ever missed a trip—they were all great!"—
Evalyn, Senior Girl.

Senior Night, Farewell School Year, Bonus



Most of you reading this have loved a graduating senior. At Crossroads Farm, we love whole classes of them over and over and over again. What a privilege to love students in sixth - twelfth grades, but an extra yahoo for our graduated seniors.

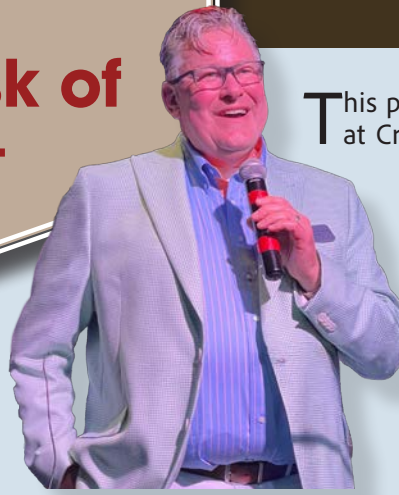
It's one of the "lasts," of our program year. For the 74 seniors across our branches, that includes a certificate, gift, cake and time to share with other students from the stage. It's also a month of closing out the school year programming with special features like bonfires and Water Wars! Some students even have the benefit of a bonus night with their branch for one more night of spiritual challenge, food, and competition before summer programming begins. Please pray for our students as they lean into CRF summer trips and Bible studies. For many, summer can seem long and needs can go unmet. Please pray that students and staff alike will know Jesus all the more as Friend. 🙏





From the Desk of the President

June 2025



This past week, in celebration of 26 years at Crossroads Farm, we asked our team to step away from the daily grind for six hours to listen for God's voice.

I was apprehensive. Would God be upset with me? Would He reveal something broken in me? These past few months have come with difficulty—even opposition. Would He send us into battle? Hand down

new commandments? Truthfully, my recent quiet times have felt one-sided.

After four hours of prayer, confession, reading, and reflection, He spoke. One sentence. One application.

Some of you may be rolling your spiritual eyes. Really? God spoke to you? Yes. Others may be wistful—it's been a while since you've listened, let alone heard. And some are thinking, "Well? What did He say?"

In a still, small voice: "I am with you."

Breathe that in. He is with us.

These past few months have been preparation for the "next." They've been busy, rewarding, challenging, and filled with lessons in restraint, effort, rest, vision, and forgiveness. I fail as many tests as I pass—but He has been with us.



In our weekly CRF staff meeting, we've been studying *Leading For God* by Warren Wiersbe. As we've worked through it, I was reminded of a passage Dawn and I had read recently. If you know me, you know I milk passages for all they're worth. This one's been on repeat—and will be in the coming months.

Genesis 49:22 "Joseph is a fruitful vine—a fruitful vine by a spring, whose branches scale the wall."

Betrayed by his brothers, Joseph grew up in Egypt, yet God used him to spare his family and Israel's future. His blessing extended beyond himself, even to his sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, who received territory outside of Egypt.

That's our prayer. That God would extend Crossroads Farm's reach beyond our vision, our ability, and our territory. We don't presume His blessing, but we move in it. And we've seen it go over the wall.

We're about to step into something significant, beyond Dawn's and my influence. We're inviting you to pray for three specific things:

Staffing for CRF's Next Season

Expansion requires a different kind of leader, and deeper faith. Legacy takes full commitment. Few ministries grow beyond their Founders for this reason. Pray boldly for CRF's next national and branch leaders. Maybe you are the answer.

Courage to Hear and Respond

Pray for boldness to pursue the miraculous. Most won't



make it past the pictures in this newsletter. But you're reading. Ask God to help you trust Him for what's ahead. Is He inviting you into something miraculous?

Strengths for Current Leaders

To whom much is given, much is expected. Our leaders need energy, focus, and health. The enemy opposes what CRF has done—and what it will do. Pray for our marriages and children. Stand with us in something greater.

He is with us. 🏠



Doug Routledge
President
Crossroads Farm



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

In Memory Of

Bob Ward
Trevor James Hilborn
Paul Peppiatt

Good Friday

"I wish more students could experience it" (Junior). As Believers in the cross of Christ, isn't that the cry of our hearts too? We long for our neighbors, friends, peers... rural youth to experience the Truth of the Cross. Across our branches, a Good Friday Prayer Event is part of our annual calendar and includes a luscious spread of breakfast foods handmade by RCI churches and friends.

The majority of The Shed's event took place outside and in barns, with Stations of the Cross being their guiding program. The morning was holding back a storm and the thunder in the distance echoing across dark skies was a meaningful backdrop to their journey. Boys were observed removing their hats in private response to prayer and reflection, and one Coach and student were overheard talking about where the nails went after the event was over; students continued to engage with the topic long after.

The Lanes loaded their students on a bus and traveled to New Hope in Traverse City where they took in "The Promise," a powerful drama, with special seating as a group in the front. From the honor of place and the conviction of the cross and the empty tomb,

students engaged with the Gospel into life change.

The Mine students interacted in stations through the "Museum of Broken Identity," letting Scripture



combat lies as they took their mask on and off before finally nailing it to a cross in redemption. One volunteer embraced a student wracked in sobs at the cross at the realization of what Jesus had done for them. 🏠

(“Summer Camp” continued from page 3)

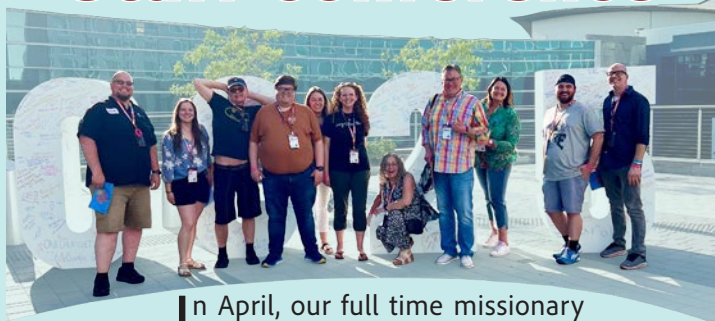


**“I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior”
-student**

“Sitting in a room like this with worship like this, there is so much power...It just...gets me...” Zane (MS boy).

Summer camp is a stretch of getting away to be immersed in fun, worship, and God’s Word, and for most students, into life change through Jesus. 🏡

Staff Conference



In April, our full time missionary staff team traveled to Atlanta, GA, to participate in the Orange Conference. Through powerful main stage speakers like Jon Acuff and Irwin McManus to breakouts that impact our personal ministries and volunteers, our staff came away both challenged and encouraged, and all the more grateful to be privileged to work with one another. 🏡



Crossroads Farm
5520 W. Card Road
Reading, MI 49274
(517)283-3982
www.crossroadsfarm.org

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Loving The Rural Teenager



Prayer

Closet

Yahoos:

- Dedication of CRF The Lanes building, Kalkaska County, MI
- God’s faithfulness and provision in another quarter year of loving the rural teen
- Crossroads Farm celebrated their 26th Anniversary year on May 27, 1999



Take It To Jesus:

- Our graduated seniors heading into their next step in life and faith
- Small group summer Bible studies and trips
- The coming building campaign for national offices and training space
- Ministry Director for CRF The Shed