

Down on the Farm

Future Ashton Youth Barn-
offices and training center

The Quarterly Newsletter of Crossroads Farm
October, November, December 2025

Christmas Party

Generosity. In the greatest sense of that word, that is what Christmas represents. Our Heavenly Father gave His only Son to be born-for us! 13 students accepted God's only Son as Lord and Saviour at the CRF Christmas parties in late December!! Generous volunteers prepared loads of incredible food, homemade cookies, wrapped gifts, gave gifts and finances to give gifts...so much WOW surrounded the beautiful Christmas atmosphere of love, worship, games, and gifts at each branch. Students were immediately using many of the things they received: putting on necklaces, testing their multi-tools, wrapping themselves in blankets, putting on hats and gloves, looking through their devotional books, frosting and eating cookies...Thank you. YOU are a gift to Crossroads Farm, and in all the ways you give to us, we give to rural youth for the glory of God. 🎁

"The best Christmas present you guys gave me is that you gave my brother deodorant" - (HS girl)



"Look at what I got!" *shows his multi-tool in the palm of his hand* -MS boy



The Mine



"I can take this bag to the Winter Retreat!" - (HS girl)



"When do we get to go get food? You guys always make it so good!" - (HS boy)



The Lanes



The Shed



"Can you take a picture of me and my brother for my mom?" - two different girls

"Wait- are the red bags for girls and the green ones for guys?" "Yes." "Oh, ok. I was wondering what the boys would do with makeup." (MS girl)





From the Desk of the President

December 2025

Hebrews 11:1, 2

1 Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see. 2 Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation.

Christmas is thrust upon us. Thanksgiving came and went with a bottle of Tums and a switched playlist. Our bins of Christmas decor have thrown up in our living room, but in just a few short days, I'll live each day in a wonderland. In a buffer week after, nostalgia will give way to this year's last memories. Family will resume their lives, a bit too distant. It is the meeting of joy and sorrow.

Happy New Year! I am hoping your holiday season presented you with plenty of reflection, a little too much food and enough family to consider your cup full... As I write to you I am constantly reminded these hopes are not the same for each of us as some stood at the cusp of the upcoming annum like a bouncer wanting to usher 2025 to the curb. Sickness. Disappointment. Tragedy. Loneliness all may have been the motivator for a "Good Riddance," more than a celebration.



I have always linked the two holidays, Christmas and New Years Day, but not simply because of the weather, excessive amounts of feasting or the relaxed week between them. My connector is one phrase. "This could change everything." This common thought is uttered both by people who have a hope in Jesus and by friends whose sole hope is in random change.



These are the two most normal responses entering the NEW YEAR! The third type, a bit less common, is a person who has given up on hope. Our hope is found in the way we define "Faith." Fundamentally, most people tend to think of faith as something they possess. It is something we bring to the situation and in most cases, if we just had enough of it God would do what we needed or desired. We speak of a personal faith, but scripture defines faith as a possession of the Spirit.

When Jesus is speaking to his disciples who have just asked him to give them more faith about faith, He uses the phrase, "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you." The inference is this, they didn't have faith.

Faith shows the reality of our hopes.

It has more to do with who God is, than how much I believe it. God is the object and the source of faith. We experience the hope of an omnipotent God. We trust in a love which comes from the God who defines it. Grace, peace, mercy all find their power in God through Jesus. The manger was more significant than we give it credit for.

Our faith has dictated we work into the next things God intends to accomplish through us. I wonder if you have reconciled the power of God resting in our hearing His voice, seeing evidence of His intentions and moving in obedience?



You have already received the "next" intentions, of Crossroads Farm.

It comes with the heading of, "BOLD!" And why not? The only things that we desire for God to do should be bigger than our best possibilities. It has been what we have experienced over the the past 26 years. With that in mind, we have stepped into the most aggressively dependent leap for the sake of rural students across the country.

I'd encourage you to take the moments necessary to see where God has called Crossroads Farm to forge. With much prayer and anticipation we are launching a building campaign toward the National offices and training center. These offices will become the home of the team responsible for researching, developing, planting and empowering the next CRF branches reaching from the

east of the country through the great Midwest and NorthCentral regions of the United States.

I'm praying you will be stirred. Not in the goal, the building, or even the personnel who will be God's tools, but instead by the greatness of our faithful God. If you are inspired, then please pass it on. You will be a great part of what God intends. In truth, in order for God to use us to do the miraculous He asks for His people to step into His plans through small steps of obedience.

An early mentor asked Dawn and I if we had ever considered we may be the answer to our own prayers. We hadn't.

These many years later we have realized, while God does all of the work, He still requires us to participate. It has occurred to me, most people desire the experience of The Red Sea Crossing without the Egyptians pushing from behind or the desert ahead.

I suppose what we have asked from you, is to walk with us into what is destined to the future of God's great plan for rural American revival.

I can't wait for what lays ahead in 2026.
Want to come with us? 🌟

Doug Routledge

Doug Routledge
President
Crossroads Farm



Alien Invasion Murder Mystery Outreach

Crossroads Farm desires for every secondary student in our surrounding area to hear the Gospel of Christ and have the opportunity to say yes or no to that message. God is answering this prayer of vision we share with you!

Our annual Murder Mystery Outreach found 597 students between The Shed, The Lanes and The Mine! Solving the mystery took place through eight fabulous creative clue sites in two corn mazes and one wood lot over two nights. Three bands, four student testimonies, 200 community volunteers, 214 dozen donuts...that is a lot of numbers! Will you please praise and pray for the most significant number of all? 73 students made first time decisions to follow Jesus! 🌟



Testimony:
Matthew



Testimony:
Miryam



Testimony:
Scarlett



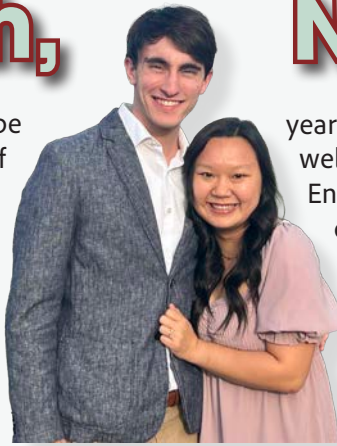
Testimony:
Piper



News Flash,

Nolan and Anneliese Nohr are excited to be joining Crossroads Farm missionary staff as a Program Associate for Crossroads Farm the Shed and as the Executive Assistant for Crossroads Farm National, respectively.

Nolan grew up in Quincy, MI, and was a student at Crossroads Farm (CRF). He has continued serving at CRF as an adult Coach volunteer for five years and graduated from Hillsdale College in May 2025 with a degree in Religion. During that time, God gave him a desire to remain in his hometown and invest in rural youth in the same way CRF leaders invested in him as a high school student. Anneliese, originally from Virginia, first began volunteering with CRF during her freshman



New Staff!

year at Hillsdale College and later became a Coach as well. After graduating in May 2025 with a degree in English, she felt called to work in ministry, and God opened the door for her to use her administrative gifts and passion for rural youth at CRF.

Nolan and Anneliese are eager to continue building relationships with students—both in the ways they've already experienced as Coaches and in new roles that allow them to use their strengths more intentionally. They are grateful for the opportunity to serve rural teens through CRF's mission and excited to grow alongside the ministry in these positions. They are also thankful for the opportunity to work side-by-side in both marriage and ministry, having celebrated their first year of marriage in August 2025! 🏡



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

In Memory Of

*Andy Hutyera
George Carpenter
Gary Zimpher*



Missionary Staff Conference

"This was the best conference I've been to in quite some time. The mix of teaching and worship was edifying both individually and as a team."

Dr. Megan Marshman, Levi Lusko, and Dr. Kathy Koch, were just a few of the speakers who challenged and inspired our missionary staff team at the Youth Pastors Summit in November, hosted in Orlando. Complimentary tickets to Universal closed out our shared time together, and it was so much fun! We are so grateful for these needed opportunities as your missionaries to rural America. 🏡

"There is something so rich about worshipping together with 1,500+ brothers and sisters who 'get it' — they understand youth ministry. We don't all work in the same context, but we have an inherent understanding of one another and of the work in which we share. And when we worship God together, that mutual love for Him and for the lost and found teenagers of our communities is felt. I love that part of a good youth ministry conference and this was a very good youth ministry conference."



Drive-by Prayer

November highlights our annual Drive By Prayer event. Literally hundreds of homes were visited "in secret" as students across our branches prayed for their friends and then snuck up to their homes to leave candy and a note. 🏠



"Are we getting close to their house? Can we pray yet?"

"I don't have an exact address but I know where it's at" and we ended up on a one lane gravel road in the sticks.



Samara* started out by just repeating after her carecell leader in prayer, and by the end, she prayed by herself.



- "Drop the candy on the porch!"
- "What candy?" (The 7th grader who left the candy in the car)

"I got to take 8 of my girls using one of our new vans! We only got lost a few times and a brand new student joined us for the night."

Brand New Vans!



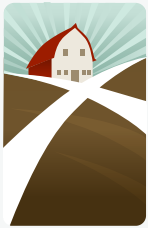
60 more students have the opportunity to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ and have the opportunity to say Yes or No to that message! Through generous donors and a wait of two years, God provided four 15 passenger vans for each of our CRF branches. Amen and Yahoo!

One of the vans was put to use just three hours after they arrived in our parking lot! We sent the vans out to pick up students for our Middle School Murder Mystery outreach event! Since that time, these vans have been a part of Drive By Prayer, an all nighter for student leaders, and of course, our weekly program. 🏠



National Board Retreat

November found the national board of Crossroads Farm at The Mine branch in Harrison County, OH, for their every other year strategic planning and prayer retreat. We take this opportunity to visit a different branch of the ministry each time to hear from their directors and to do a driving prayer tour of their RCI churches and places where our CRF vehicles pick up students. There is lots of work, laughter and games, but this particular retreat also found us in a powerful shared prayer time of communion. Please pray for the national board of CRF as we set our feet for the next. Galatians 5:25. 🏡



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Loving The Rural Teenager



Prayer Closet

Yahoos:

- New Vans!
- First time decisions for Christ!
- New missionaries!
- Our opportunity to show tangible love to our students this Christmas

Take It To Jesus:

- Ministry and Administrative Directors needed for two branches!
- Winter Retreat February 20th-22nd, scholarship provision, salvations, fun!
- That students will take bold steps of faith in this second semester
- National Building Campaign 🏡

