



crossroads farm

Down on the Farm



The Quarterly Newsletter of Crossroads Farm
January, February, March 2026

Baptisms

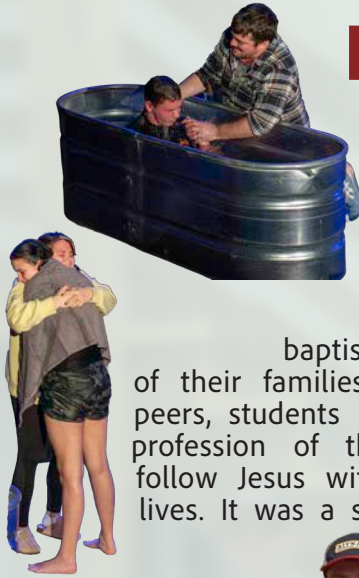
On Sunday, March 15, we got to celebrate as a family as students took the next step in their relationship with Jesus. The Shed branch celebrated six students'

baptisms. In front of their families, friends, and peers, students made a public profession of their desire to follow Jesus with their whole lives. It was a sacred moment.

"To prove that I'm not the same person as I was before."

Tears and cheers filled the room as we got to celebrate God's transformation in their lives. We then turned to Matthew 5 and were encouraged to be the salt and light of the earth to "level up" (our teaching theme this year) in godliness in our walks with Christ. 🙏

"I wanted to take that next step in my faith and be serious with it."



"I just feel like I make a lot of sins, and I don't want to do that and carry that anymore. I just want to be closer to Him."



CRF Team Veterans

Faithful! Available! Teachable! Respectful! These Coaches have been modeling those attributes for five years, as volunteers at Crossroads Farm, and have earned their green sleeved letter jacket. This year, we threw in Hockey Jerseys as a nod to our Founder, for those who have served for 25 plus! Pray for these servant leaders as they continue to love the rural teen for His glory. 🙏



Photo, from left to right:
Doug, Dawn (CRF National); Janelle, Faith, John (CRF The Shed) Rich (CRF National); Randy, Cody (CRF The Lanes); Dan, Marlys, Dave (CRF The Mine)

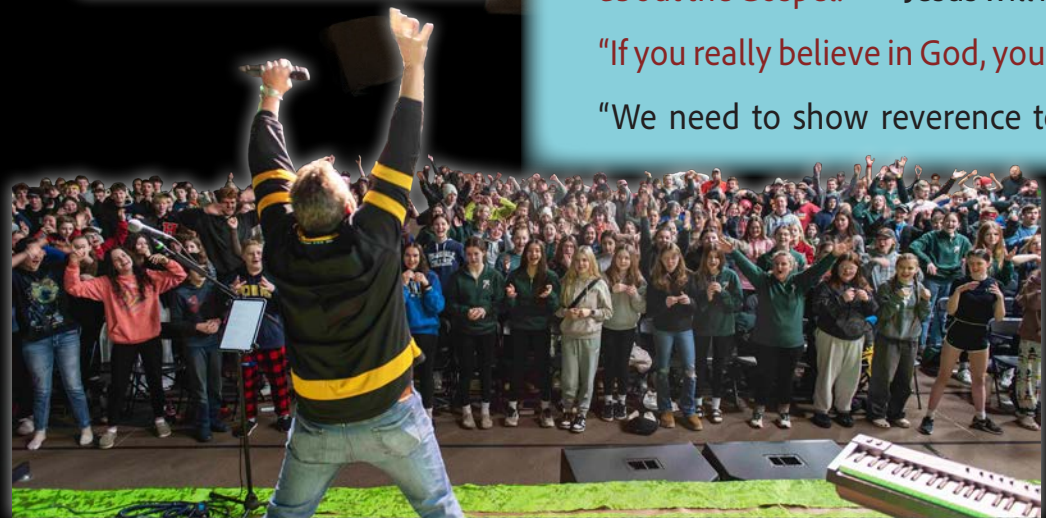


Crossroads Farm Winter Retreat

God blessed in and through your prayer and financial giving. 7 buses, 5 vans, and 3 trucks brought RECORD NUMBERS for our annual CRF Winter Retreat-333! 32 of those made first time decisions for Jesus Christ! We'll let the following quotes tell the story of what God did:

"God is there even when you don't feel like He is." "I need to be better at letting my flesh die and the Spirit live in me." "I learned more about the presence of God." "The Bible can get crazy." "I gave my life to Christ." "I need to go to church." "I need more Jesus." "Everything can change once you truly experience the presence of God." "I thank God for accepting me and guiding me under His Word, and I pray He can guide others to fulfill His Word." "We can never lose in life as long as God is with us." "This is a Bible, and if you read it, it will speak to you." "I made the decision to be proud of my faith." "If you want to be more like the Light, you have to spend time with the Light." "I decided to tell others about the Gospel." "Jesus will not let you go anywhere He's not." "If you really believe in God, you will follow Him no matter what." "We need to show reverence to God." "Do what God has told

you to without fear." "God can save you." "People seem to idolize others but not God." "The fire show was the craziest part." "The craziest part was when the circus person tried a trick with a bowling ball." "The craziest part was the fire dancing-not even I can drink lighter fluid." "The funniest part was hanging out with my friends and laughing." "The best part was being with my friends and learning more about God." "The best part was the big game." "Steve and Garrett the Garbage man really came out of the portal." "I had 14 cookies on the way there, 3 ice creams, a whole lot more cookies, and 10 and counting on the way home." "The funniest part was having a dance party in our cabin." "I didn't know what to think of the retreat, but once I did the big game, I was really glad I came." "This is way better than going to a dance with some girl." "I'm totally coming next year!"





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From the Desk of the President

March 2026

I am sitting in the living room of our farm home as spring makes a valiant attempt to conquer winter. The sun streams through our picture window. It feels like hope breaking through a long gray winter, anticipating the coming warmth. I am reflecting on the goodness of God and preparing to be a part of His work.

I am currently living in this revelation: The more I trust God through action, the more He faithfully brings honor and glory to Himself. Paul writes about our righteous acts bringing God glory. Philippians 2:15 says, "that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world."

God asks us to trust Him in areas where we have little faith or vision. This experience has been one of the central themes in my faith walk. We are faced with

"Red Sea Moments" constantly. The course we choose

determines opportunities for God to reveal Himself through the miraculous. We tend to chart safe courses that limit us to what we are able to do and protect areas we hope to remain safe, because allowing God to do the miraculous is always scary and risky. Instead, we try to make God's job easy for Him. I have an obligation to my Lord and God, to my Savior and Redeemer, to The Spirit of God living in me, to act at God's prompting. If you have ever heard me preach, you recognize this diatribe. For those of us living in affluent America, there are fewer opportunities to trust God because we are surrounded by comfort. Our communities often see little of God's hand.

I recently read something about our finances. If you know me, you know I am not one of those people who only thinks about money, but I will share it with you: Our finances do not have a voice. Our decisions give them their voice, their priority, and their soul. Our obedience is only measured by what we do. Our generosity can only be measured by our giving, and our souls are reflected in our actions. This is the reality of the impact of our actions.

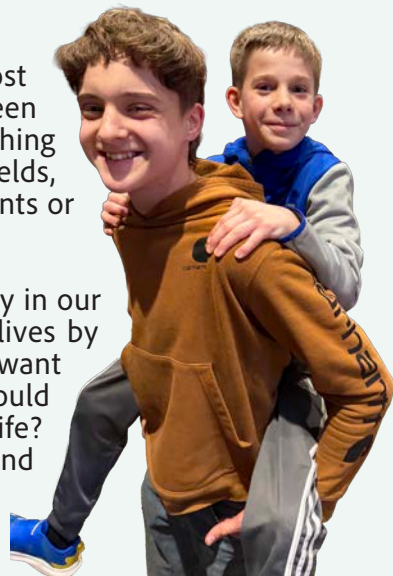
Our hearts are seen in the measurement of the pragmatic. They shine, or they don't. They bring God glory, or they don't. They attest to the miraculous, or they cling to the pedestrian. It is always our choice - to shine by allowing God to shine through us or not to. We have a world watching, however, and they are hoping for some fireworks.

We've seen God's hand move quickly in our most recent campaign. The campaign hasn't ever been about a building. It has always been about God reaching into the lives of rural teens across the unknown fields, woods, and hills. It has never been about monuments or placards but about one name—His name.

Sometimes we pray for God to work miraculously in our lives. Sometimes we pray for God to work in our lives by miraculously moving other people to do what we want them to. This is my challenge for you: Whose life would you rather attest to God's miraculous power? Your life? Or someone else's life? It's time to open our eyes and see what part of our lives God might be asking us to trust Him to work the miraculous in.

Doug Routledge
President
Crossroads Farm

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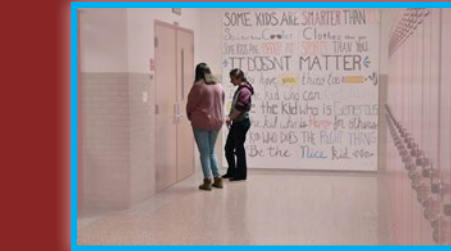
"Three coaches went to join the students at a school.



The students and coaches alike were touched by how meaningful



it was to be able to pray together, and the students were so excited to introduce their



CRF people to their school people!" - student



"The science teacher prayed with us at the flag pole. A couple other teachers said thank you for being there." - student



"I saw a student at the end of the hall, and ran down the hall to get him to come join us for prayer. A group of us have been doing prayer in the mornings once a month!" - student

Jericho March

Joshua 6:20b-21a, "...the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city. They devoted the city to the Lord..."

In the month of March, 102 students marched around the halls of 18 schools in the early morning hours, that the walls of sin might be broken. Breakfast and group prayer closed out their time before the morning school bells rung. Some of the new believers from Winter Retreat attended this event! May our students be devoted to the Lord, and in turn, the places where they go to school, in Jesus name.



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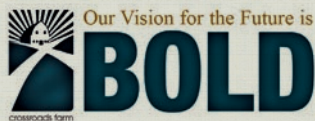
For the ongoing work in the lives of rural youth, special gifts were given:

In Memory Of

Gary Zimpher

In Honor Of

Ron and Joyce Cieslak



As of April 1, the Bold Building Campaign is at 15.3%. This image of The Ashton Youth Barn will grow to cover a full page spread as the campaign is realized. Cheer. Pray. Share. Give. For His glory. 🙏

Lanes - Kalkaska County, MI - Est. 2017

Med - Hillsdale County, MI - Est. 1999



The Ashton Youth Barn - National Offices and Training Center

Scan the QR code with your phone's camera to help grow this image.



www.crossroadsfarm.org



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Loving The Rural Teenager



Prayer Closet

Yahoos:

- New believers in Jesus Christ
- Winter Retreat with record numbers (and no trips to the hospital!)
- The official start of our BOLD campaign for the Ashton Youth Barn Offices and Training Center
- Further research and preparation were done through on site visits to CRF The Ranch, Rosebud County, MT, and CRF The Dairy, Waupaca County, WI, this quarter.

Take It To Jesus:

- Students and volunteers would stay diligent in their steps of faith-the spring season is easy to pull away
- Missionary staff positions, both directors and associates, needed
- Closing the school year well and preparations for summer programming and planning
- National board member addition that carries a missions voice 🙏