



crossroads farm

Down on the Farm



The Quarterly Newsletter of Crossroads Farm

July, August, September 2026



Kickoff

With 323 students - a record number for Crossroads Farm - The Shed, The Lanes, and The Mine kicked off our 2026/2027 school year of ministry this September! Even with rain at two branches, students and Coaches had extended times of hanging out, food, and fun (car smashes, new shoes, and sock decorating!). Our



amazing staff and volunteers created an atmosphere of love to set the tone for the entire year. Our teaching theme this year is "Who are you? 30 Attributes of God," based on Romans 1:20 that tells us that God's eternal power and divine nature can be clearly seen. Please pray with us that our students discover who God is this year and that it changes their lives! 🙏



Annual Leadteam Basecamp: Skills of a Servant Leader



"The fire falls from heaven only on altars that are full of our lives as sacrifice. This fire represents the fire from heaven that we beg God to fall on our lives for His glory." -Doug Routledge



And with that, 92 torches were lit and the Leadteam (adult volunteers and student leaders) of 2026/2027 formed a large circle and worshipped, being commissioned into the new school year of ministry to love the rural teen. 🏡



Our Vision for the Future is

BOLD

crossroads farm

As of September 6th, the Bold Building Campaign is at 50%! As the Campaign progresses, this image of The Ashton Youth Barn will grow until it fills the page. Cheer. Pray. Share. Give. For His glory. 🏡

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



www.crossroadsfarm.org

Meet Ben!

Ben is the newest—
and first—
Ministry
Exploration
Intern for CRF
The Mine.



Ben's story with Crossroads Farm began in November 2021, when he and his dad, an RCI pastor, showed up at Luke and Raegan's house to welcome them to Harrison County. At the time, Ben was an 8th grader, and in anticipation of what was to come, we quoted him saying, "It will be nice to have people who care and maybe learn something. I know" (Continued on page 6)

Going Deeper Together

Every summer, our Coaches have the opportunity to host a Bible study with their Care Cell, creating space for students to go deeper into God's Word together. This summer, 15 Bible studies took place across our three branches!



Luke and Raegan from CRF The Mine led a joint study for high school students in their home. Along with way-too-early

mornings, students gathered for donuts, coffee, and a deep dive into Colossians. They learned Bible study techniques they can use on their own and explored themes like Jesus as King over all creation, navigating cultural pressures, and Christ's self-giving love.

One of the sweetest parts was hearing how encouraged students were to know their peers were also getting up early to study God's Word. By simply showing up, they reminded one another that they are not alone.



Thank you for investing in moments like these, where students can know Christ more deeply and encourage one another as they follow Him. 🙏



The Ashton Youth Barn—National
Offices and Training Center



From the President

September 2026

Fire.

2 Timothy 1:6-7 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

In my studies of spiritual fire, it seems that there are at least 10 occasions of fire falling from heaven. Five of these are direct judgments against specific rebels. One is at Pentecost, the only New Testament passage where fire implies the presence of the Spirit. Four of these references refer to God sending fire to consume sacrifice. The first is Aaron. Elijah and Solomon saw it. David experienced it.

This past weekend a group of 100 CRF leaders stood in a wide circle under a black star flecked sky. Each one of these servants held a torch representing two things. The first is sacrifice and the altar. The second is revival. The sight alone choked my voice and clouded my vision with tears. I wondered, "Is this what the temple's courtyard felt like?" Sin had been confessed, decisions made, and transgressions were burned on the bloody and charred platform.

"The secret is this; the fire of God only descends where there is a sacrifice waiting for it." A.W. Tozer

As we sat together for the 2026 ministry commissioning the challenge was first to lay our lives on the altar.

I told the story of Charles Hadden Spurgeon. His wife Susannah, sensing the enormity of the call of God on her and her husband's lives, had him lie on the church's altar while she prayed to commission him to God's service. This was the purpose of our campfire. As the torches were being lit there were several people who were crying. Some were laying costly sacrifices on the altar. Reading the widening circle and the expanding light of the torches was overwhelming if one considers what 100 lives, committed to paying the cost for revival.

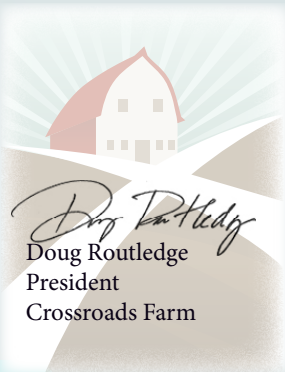


The word "revival," is not a common word in Scripture in regard to spiritual awakening. There are a few references that pinpoint revival as a result of repentance.

Repent, then, and turn back, so that your sins may be wiped away, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus, the Christ, who has been appointed for you. Acts 3:19-20

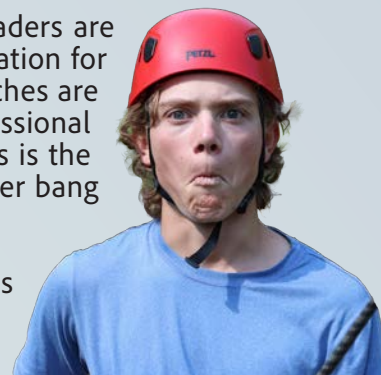
I can feel it in the air currents as they walk past. Energy, as I understand it, converts to other forms of energy. As the teams post pictures, make calls, set playlists, prep buses, rehearse worship sets, move furniture, and design stage sets among so many other expenditures of extreme energy, the anticipation is palpable. God is setting His feet for something.

This year feels different. I can feel a call for the altar. There has been a rumbling of revival in the business this year. There has been an invitation to an offering of confession. I have sensed a growing weight over the importance of being in the presence of God, convicted gently by his Spirit. It has happened a few times in our ministry. Fire has fallen from Heaven. I still hear from those students from time to time. They still have retained much of the original flame.



God is stirring people at a deeper level as well. Leaders are honing in on student leadership. Prayer lists in preparation for a mighty, rushing wind are being circulated. New Coaches are joining the ministry teams in record numbers. Professional staff are bracing. I overheard a director expressing this is the season of salary work where the ministry gets a greater bang for its buck.

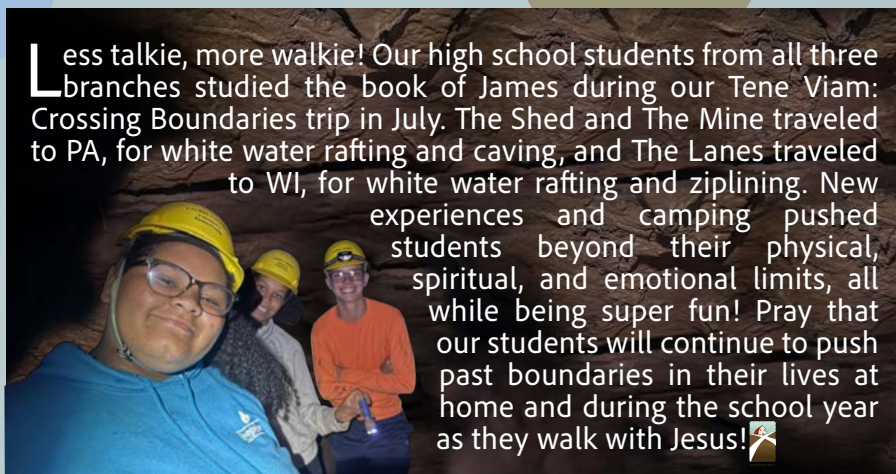
It is certainly busy in anticipation of God's miraculous movement. 🏡



Tene Viam: Crossing Boundaries Adventure Trip



Less talkie, more walkie! Our high school students from all three branches studied the book of James during our Tene Viam: Crossing Boundaries trip in July. The Shed and The Mine traveled to PA, for white water rafting and caving, and The Lanes traveled to WI, for white water rafting and ziplining. New experiences and camping pushed students beyond their physical, spiritual, and emotional limits, all while being super fun! Pray that our students will continue to push past boundaries in their lives at home and during the school year as they walk with Jesus! 🙏



how to hang out with friends, but I don't know how to get down to the business of God with them."

Ben went on to serve on The Mine Crew for four years. Following graduation, through a series of events and decisions, Ben decided to become an intern



with Crossroads Farm.

"This ministry is the reason I'm

such a passionate Christian, and I want to show these 6th-grade boys, who are such a privilege to serve, what it's like to be in a relationship with Christ. And also how blessed we

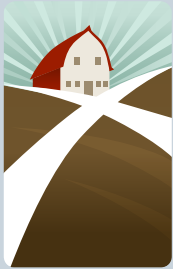


are to be supported by so many amazing people in so many amazing ways!!!! I love Crossroads, and this youth ministry has been so important in my life. And I want to continue to help

Ben has experienced Crossroads Farm as a student, a student leader, and now



as a Coach and an intern. The 8th grader who once said he didn't know how to "get down to the business of God" with his friends is now helping younger students discover what it means to have a relationship with Christ. What a beautiful picture of how God uses one season of our lives to prepare us for the next.



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Loving The Rural Teenager



Prayer Closet

Yahoos:

- CRF The Mine dedicated a new rental space where they can grow until it's time to build their permanent "Mine"
- Summer activities were blessed and produced fruit across all our branches
- The 2026/2027 school year has begun and it's our largest ever
- Five missionary candidates are in the support raising process to join various branch teams in the new year

Take It To Jesus:

- Ministry and Administrative Director level needed
- Monthly financial partners for all branches and CRF as a whole
- National Building Campaign-Ashton Youth Barn
- May students learn and apply, "Who Are You?" through the Attributes of God teaching series