

NAZARETH NEWS

ISSUE NO. 4

October, November, December 1994

WHAT THE LORD REQUIRES OF YOU

by Sarah Jacobson

Life is a search for me. I feel like I'm seeking and longing to know God better, to understand more deeply what it means to call myself a Christian, and to relate more meaningfully and honestly with other people. God blessed me with the opportunity to personally grow while living in the framework of the Nazareth Farm principles. These are community, simplicity, prayer, and service. Saying these words is easy but integrating their meaning into my daily life is a continual challenge. What is simplified living? Why is structured prayer twice daily necessary? Is my serving helping to eliminate substandard housing or does this keep people dependent? And what makes this group of 9 people a "community"?

I would be foolish to claim that I have the 4 principles figured out; understanding them will be a life pursuit. Yet some things are clear. It is clear that God touches me through other people in this community. It is clear that respecting and listening to each other are bases for a healthy community. It is clear that choosing to have and use less resources drives me to live a life richer in intangibles. It is clear that we live in a global village so I need to be conscientious about how my purchasing choices effect my neighbor in Thailand...or West Union, WV. It is clear that praying together bonds a group of people and recognizes the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Gospel call to serve others is clear. And the joy felt by serving is clear.

Micah 6:8 appropriately speaks to these 4 principles. "You have been told, O man, what is good, and what the Lord requires of you; to do justice and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." May we all continue to grow in our understanding of the Nazareth Farm principles and in our relationship with God.

**COMMUNITY
SIMPLICITY
PRAYER
SERVICE**



CHRISTMAS PARTY '94

by Alicia Soszynski

Thanks to everyone's good will, patience, and helping hands, this year's Christmas Party was a tremendous success.

The children of Doddridge Co. enjoyed an afternoon filled with caroling, tree decorating, games, and above all, a visit from Santa Claus. The warmth of Christmas truly beamed from the park as the children opened their "hand picked" gifts. I can assure you every child and adult walked away with the true spirit of Christmas in their hearts.

We were truly blessed this year with the amount of gifts and donations received for the party. This enabled us to reach out to more families in the area thru the Community Resources center in West Union, as well as the pediatric ward at the local hospital. Hopefully some gifts will brighten their stay over the holiday season.

The children of this area had the best Christmas ever thanks to all the support and prayers that were given to us this year.

Thanks to the angels on the '94 committee: Jim and Janice Dugan, Vicki Carright, Jim and Jeannie Murphy, Beverly Johnson, and Sr. Mary Clark.

In addition to the county party we also played Santa to the families we worked with this year. Many bodies will be kept warm this Winter with coats, mittens, boots, and flannels. What a gratifying experience seeing the faces of our friends light up with holiday cheer! Thank you all!

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- "Remember When..."
- Thank You's, Up-date's
- Annual Report
- Yearly Appeal
- Four News! and more...

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NAZARETH FARM

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11/94

REMEMBER WHEN...?

by Betty Krupp, Board Member, Claredon Hills, IL

As the Farm celebrates it's 15th anniversary (did you send in your dollar a year donation? yes! Thanks! No! Please do...) our memories are many and varied. For all of us who have spent time at Nazareth Farm those memories are indelibly etched in our hearts.

Flashback – Can you remember!?

The Farm was a small farm house with a 6x8 kitchen, a Goat Barn—a.k.a. "Boys' Barn" and a "Girls' Barn" above a tool shed. All meals were eaten on the oil cloth covered picnic tables -- outside! Dishes were washed by the old dead tree near the creek and liturgies were celebrated around the fire -- outside! Patches and Moonshine were the Farm mascots and rabbit stew was always on the menu. Fr. Dave, Jo, Murth, Rita, Jim, 2 Mikes, Pat, Sue, Tom, and Nancy were on staff. Volunteers filled out county work sheets and morning prayer consisted of the "office" and 30 minutes of silent reflection, otherwise known as heavy eyes and head and heavy breathing time.

The families we worked with were the Pierces, Demastus, Cottrills, Elliot, Seigals, Kesslings, and Cuttrights...the Farm's old porch disappeared and a new one began to take shape.

Remember the year? Helpful hint...the following year the O'Connor room was 90% completed along with a large kitchen and dining area -- we could forever eat inside!

Call us if you remember the year.....

However, remember some things never change at the Farm no matter what year it is --

Orientation talks on the outhouses, snake warnings, house shoe rules, shower usage and work crew assignments. A memory for all was the welcome letters, community nights, morning prayer circles, and gifts from the home crew...how many rocks do you think have been taken from the creek for gifts?? Did you write your thought in the "Memory Book"? The days at Salem Pool, night fires, walks down the road, rope beds, creek baths

and outhouse usage are always part of the Farm experience -- as well as a ribbon tied to your bedpost, star-lit skies, volleyball games, and hikes up the mountain. Will there ever be anything for lunch except peanut butter and jelly or cheese sandwiches, fruit, cookies, and Koolaid --NO!! But be thankful the Koolaid is no longer weak and the bread isn't moldy! What would our good-bye be like at the Farm without the group picture sessions?

Thank you Farm community for the meaningful liturgies and prayer services.

Thank you Lord for our new found community, friendship and love.

All I ask of you is forever to remember me as loving you.

**WORK
TOGETHER**

SERVICE OUT OF SERVICE

In early Fall, Sharon, a parishioner of Sacred Heart Parish in Jeffersonville, Indiana approached the pastor, Fr. Jim Farrell to ask for help. Her roof was leaking and she didn't have the money to pay for the repair herself. Would the parish pay for the repairs and she would make payments to the parish? A professional, Tony Semones of the parish gave a bid on the work.

Cindy Black, the parish youth minister and Naz Farm veteran caught wind and had an idea. She told Fr. Jim that this would be an extension of the work she and some of the youth group did at the Farm. If they did it at the Farm, they could do it at home! It was agreed that the youth group would supply the work force, and what do you know, Tony Semones, who bid on the project and Paul, his father both volunteered their time to help on the project. Sharon fixed lunch: chili & hot dogs (what, no PB&J?) Tony, his dad, and the youth group and Cindy, three generations, all worked together and learned about each other at the same time, that is, when they weren't being pestered by Buddy the Frog Dog. 16 people total worked on the roof and it took only two days! Way to go Cindy and Sacred Heart!

ANNUAL REPORT OF FINANCES

Another wonderful and productive volunteer season was brought to a close in October. For the fifteenth year, Nazareth Farm was blessed with an abundance of energetic and caring volunteers who worked to make a difference in Doddridge County, West Virginia. As I reflect upon all that was done in the past year, I can't help but think about the sign that hangs on the red barn displaying the words "Expect A Miracle." Miracles do happen at Nazareth Farm! Last year, Nazareth Farm operated on a budget of only \$114,000. This is truly amazing when considering all that happened. For \$114,000, an average of 10 staff persons were supported including a stipend, room and board, and medical insurance; a fleet of six vehicles was operated and maintained; approximately 600 volunteers were hosted, resulting in over 9,000 individual meals served. In addition, three houses, four barns, sixteen animals, and 115 acres were supported and maintained. However, most importantly, \$15,000 in direct services not including donated materials were distributed to approximately 25 area families. A difference was made in their lives!

The two graphs represent income sources and the expenses associated with operating Nazareth Farm during the 1993-94 volunteer season. The information contained in the graphs are a living testimony to the value placed in living simply; doing more with less. As you can see, over 60% of the operating income for Nazareth Farm comes from you, the volunteers and supporters of the Farm. Thank you for your commitment to the mission of Nazareth Farm!

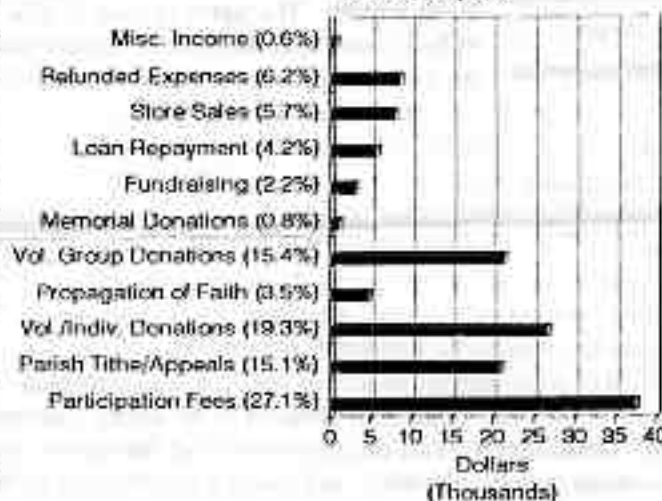
As we prepare to enter our sixteenth volunteer season as well as a new calendar year, I have many hopes. However, my greatest hope is for peace. With your continued support through prayer and donations, Nazareth Farm can be a source of peace for the more than 600 volunteers who will serve this year through our program and the families that will be touched.

Wishing You God's Blessings in the New Year!
Rodney Dick

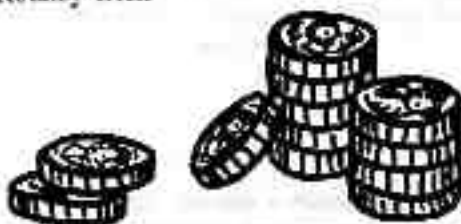
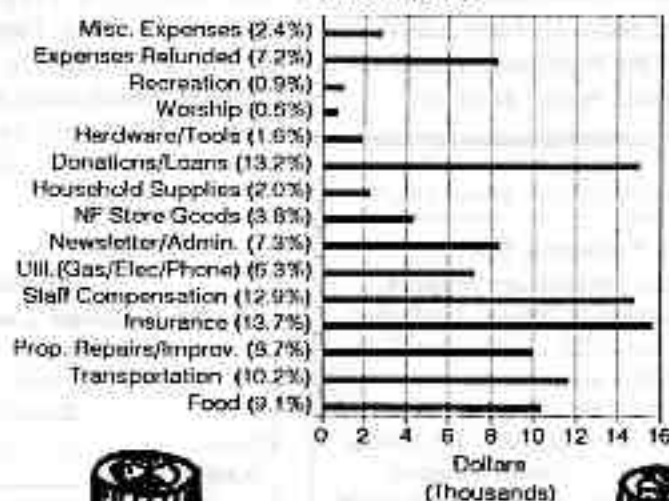
PENNIES FROM HEAVEN



Income 1993-94
Total: \$138,618



Expenses 1993-94
Total: \$114,296



ANNUAL APPEAL

The most important thing in the world is people and we forget that too much. This is what this place is all about: building people up, giving them respect, and making them feel loved.—Tom

The people you will meet are like no other people you will ever meet, and the friends you make are like no other friends.—Tricia

For years Nazareth Farm has touched the lives of many people in a special way. The relationships built at the Farm are like no others. They are grounded in hard work and hard play and they soar with the Spirit. Whether it be volunteers' friendships, relationships built up with the families with whom we work, or one's relationship with God, each of these is touched by the Nazareth Farm experience.

I have never been so tired for such a good reason.—JoAnna

I feel so peaceful.—Vivian

Nazareth Farm is blessed with over 600 volunteers a year who choose to share their talents and time unselfishly with the people of Doddridge County. However, much more is accomplished than replacing roofs, painting, insulating, and other

home repairs. The Spirit of God is also at work! The people we serve are made to feel loved, and the sincere respect with which they are treated builds them up. As a result, the volunteers leave Nazareth Farm having had an experience which far exceeds hammering nails for someone in need, but instead an experience of

peace...God at work in their lives! Nazareth Farm is a center of prayer and reflection which deepens one's faith in God, and helps us understand more fully what God asks of us as Christians.

It is a time of celebration for Nazareth Farm. Over the years more than 5500 volunteers have come to Doddridge County to serve those less fortunate, and countless families have been helped as a result. However, letters and phone calls are still received requesting assistance with home repairs every week. So, we begin another year proud of what wonderful service has been accomplished in the past, but very much aware that much still remains to be done! Nazareth Farm does so much with the limited financial resources we are blessed with. You can be assured that the money given to our cause is directly impacting the faith development of countless young volunteers, and making a difference in the lives of people in Doddridge County.

It is a good feeling to us that what little money we can give is doing so much.—John & Mary

My basic point is that Nazareth Farm has a piece of me built into the hopes and dreams of people that deserve much more.—Matthew

****clip out or copy and mail in with your donation today****

Thank You Nazareth Farm!

I wish to show my immediate support.

Please accept my donation of: (please check one)

- : \$25.00 - might cover 250 sq ft of a roof
 : \$50.00 - can paint a living room
 : \$100.00 - could pay for a window
 : \$200.00 - can feed 20 volunteers for 1 week
 : \$_____ (other) will make a miracle!

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: NAZARETH FARM
 ROUTE 2 BOX 194-J SALEM, WEST VIRGINIA 26426

At this moment you may be hundreds of miles away from the Farm; however, it is important to remember that you are a part the mission of Nazareth Farm which is built on love...the love that you so generously share as volunteers and supporters. Please give prayerful consideration to the financial support you can extend to Nazareth Farm over the next year to help make the hopes and dreams of people that deserve much more come true. In Peace,

Rodney Dick

Thank You Nazareth Farm!

I wish to become a monthly donor to support Nazareth Farm!

Please now accept my first monthly donation of: (please check one)

- : \$20.00 : \$30.00
 : \$50.00 : \$_____ (other)

Name: _____

Address: _____

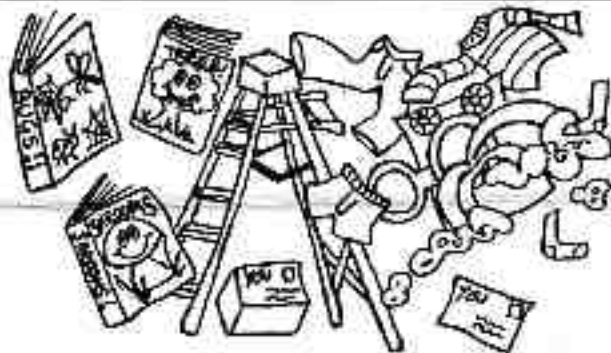
: Check if you are already a monthly donor.

****Nazareth Farm will supply return envelopes to mail in monthly donations****

STAFF RETREAT

The Naz Farm staff was given the gift of a retreat by Janet Roth and Dede Stonioff this past October. About a week before the retreat, we received an "official invitation" from no one else other than God! God said there was a wonderful relaxing place waiting for us in Brown County, IN, where two of God's servants would be there to minister to (cook for, plan prayer for, give guidance to,) the ministers (the Farm staff). God was right! Janet and Dede were wonderful and the experience was one of enlightenment and growth. Thanks to Janet and Dede and to God for the great time.

We hope to have a second retreat some time in the Spring before the volunteer season really gets going and days of reflection every so often. That way we can strengthen our focus and serve you better. Pray for us!



WINTER WISH / NEED LIST

So many of you have shown your support to the Farm through your prayers and generosity. Please, continue to show your support, we need it. Send in a donation for our annual appeal or buy and ship an item on our wish/need list. If you wish to make a larger donation of materials and would like some ideas of our needs, call us. We rely so much on donations to make the Farm work. Think of the Farm too, this season. Thank you.

Things we still request / need

- large serving bowls
- two four slice toasters
- books & music for Prayer Resource Library (call Sarah Jacobson or send donations)
- house manager

New things we wish / need

- letters, letters, and more letters
- identification books on types of trees, insects, plants, and mushrooms.
- new or used clothes washing machine... (a very important item!!)
- 6 or 8 ft. fiberglass step ladders

AND THEN THERE WERE...

We're into the Winter season here at the Farm, and the new staff is getting along pretty well, no cabin fever yet. Chris is shedding a little light on the darkening days with her flaming red hair and kindness, Sarah has the summer schedule in stone, Dave has completed his excellent three month house manager position, and Eric is set to follow in January. Alicia had a birthday Nov. 8th (only about 9 more months til her next one) and she and Eric did a great job with the Naz Farm Christmas Party. Butch has been spending a lot of time here at the Farm and has us all really pumped for the up coming season, and Rodney survived another board meeting but he's not sure he's going to survive the winter. Tim,... well,... Tim is still Tim. And I'm putting this newsletter together.

Dan Gallagher left the Farm at our Christmas break. He served at the Farm for nearly a year and in that time, he lent his expertise on and oversaw many difficult projects. Dan also initiated the work on our garage vehicle maintenance bay, funded by money from St. Joe's in Mendham, NJ. Dan, we thank you and offer our blessings and prayers as you leave.

So there are nine of us going into the Winter volunteer season, and we will be joined by John Doughty in January. John is from New York. He was a Naz Farm board member and has been a long time supporter of the Farm. He is also "Hanz" of "Hanz & Franz" with Tim. They do a pumped-up morning wake-up show on WNAZ. So welcome John!

We also welcome Joe Hofmann to our Board of Directors. Joe is from Lancaster, PA in the Harrisburg Diocese. He and Anne Barnes, his wife, and their children Amy, Cari, and Ben are all Family Week Veterans and have been for a number of years. Welcome Joe!

Please continue to pray for a person open to our house manager position and please pray for all of us here now. Thank you and God bless.

WHY DID TIM TAKE
AN OIL CAN OUT
TO THE BRIDGE??

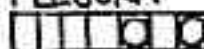


HE HEARD THERE
WAS A _____
UNDER IT!

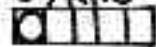
ODENYR



PLESCKA



CYRNO



NEXT ISSUE...

- Reflections from the Farm
- New Season Up-dates
- Many Thank You's
- Staff and Work Up-dates
- Message From the Board
- Your News! and more...