

NAZARETH NEWS

ISSUE NO. 3

Fall 1996

CALLED TO SERVE

by Rodney Dick

"What do you want to be when you grow up?" This is a question that every child gets asked many times, and the answer is ever changing depending on what's going on in their lives at the time the question is asked. However, not only do small children dream about what they want to be and do, but we as young adults, and adults also constantly reflect upon that question. As Christian people, the question probably changes from "What do we want to be when we grow up?" to "What is God calling us to be?". Hopefully, as Christians the emphasis is on "being" and not "doing", because through "being" what God has created us to be, we are commissioned to "do" much in his world. One thing is for certain, we all have a vocation, a personal call from God which is unique for each of us.

The thing that has become obvious to me during the past few years is that our vocation changes with time. It seems to me that God gives us experiences in our lives in preparation for what is to come in our future. If one were have to have told me five years ago that I would be the Director at Nazareth Farm for two years, I would have told them that they were crazy! After all who would leave an engineering job to spend time at Nazareth Farm, certainly not I.

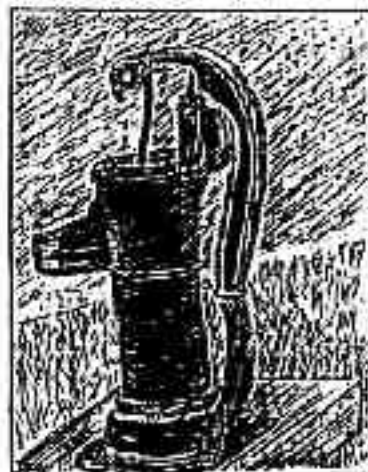
Well, God knew better! So, here I am, in my second year as the Director of Nazareth Farm, an organization which serves the needs of many elderly and young families in Doddridge County through our ministry of home rehabilitation. Also, the lives of several hundred youth and young adults are transformed every year at the Farm as they learn, in a spiritually-based environment, the importance of service in their everyday lives. Yes, the rewards of the position have been tremendous when I look at the lives which Nazareth Farm has touched deeply.

However, I also realize how transforming the experience has been for me, and how positively my life has been changed. I have lived in community with many wonderful individuals, been enriched by the people we have served in Doddridge County, and met hundreds of volunteers from across the United States.

Yes, it was frightening to leave the security that I had back in Indiana, but God provided. God blessed me with an experience of a life-time and memories that I will never forget. I also believe that during my time at Nazareth Farm, God has prepared me for what is to come next in my life.

As supporters and former volunteers of Nazareth Farm each of you can probably remember an instance in your life when God challenged you to move outside of your comfort zone and everyday routine. Maybe that challenge occurred while you were spending a week serving at Nazareth Farm! I believe that the Farm is a place where God softens our hearts, quiets our minds, and allows us to hear our call more clearly. That call for all of us, as Christians, is to serve all of God's people in some unique way for which God has specially prepared us whether in our families, work, church, local communities, or far from where we were raised.

I am especially aware of people being called by God to serve as our Board of Directors begins a search to fill my position as Director of Nazareth Farm which I will be vacating next Spring. When I look back on my time at Nazareth
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A.M.D.G.

10/96

PAINTING AT MARY SHAFFER'S

by Andy Whelpley

This July I led work crews at Mary Shaffer's in Salem. We scrapped, primed, and painted the exterior of her house in under three weeks.

On my first visit to her house, I knew that Mary and I would get along well. I noticed she had a Nintendo game system and asked if it belonged to one of her grandchildren. No, she told me, it was hers and she would play me at Dr. Mario sometime if I wanted. No problem, I said.

The volunteers who came were impressed with Mary's youthful vigor. She frequently painted right along side of us for most of the day. However, a couple of times I caught her trying to sneak people inside to play with her talking birds. She told me I was just a mean old slave driver.

I believe Mary's fountain of youth is her willingness to help others. Since she retired, she fills her calendar with volunteer obligations. Most often, she works for her church or helps people who need a nurse at home but can not afford one. When she talks about doing this service her face beams with joy.

During lunch on our first day, Mary took us all to visit her neighbor, Catherine. Catherine has been in a wheel chair since she was eighteen, but her spirited welcome to our group betrayed no self-pity. I realized that with a great friend like Mary you can not be down for long.

Every day then after a peanut butter, jelly, mustard, and cheese sandwich we visited Catherine. Unfortunately, she and Mary thought it was funny to spend the visit teasing me for my instructive leadership style. It really hurt my feelings.

In addition to all the fun we had, our crews even squeezed in some important work. We scrapped old paint chips till our arms almost fell off. Then we painted till the house, as well as our clothes, shone a brilliant white.

Through these tedious parts of the job, Mary kept our spirits up. She showed us what it means to be a joyful servant of Christ. We learned that one of the best ways to stay young at heart is to open your heart to the needs of others.

I am thankful for finding in Mary a good friend, a role model, and a pretty mean Nintendo player.

FARM FEST '96 ROCKS IONA

Farm Fest '96, the first-ever benefit concert for Nazareth Farm, went off successfully July 27 at Iona College in New Rochelle, NY. Board members Liz Dowling and Carl Procario-Foley organized the event to raise money for the Farm and to also bring together a wide range of Nazareth Farmers. It was like a big family reunion with volunteers and staff both current and former enjoying picnic lunches, volleyball, and live entertainment.

For the featured event of Farm Fest our resident minstrel and her band, "Liz Dowling and Friends", gave a two-hour concert. They played cover tunes from the last twenty years and some originals.

Everyone had a good time while raising a nice donation for the Farm. Thanks to those who attended as well as to Liz and Carl for all their hard work.

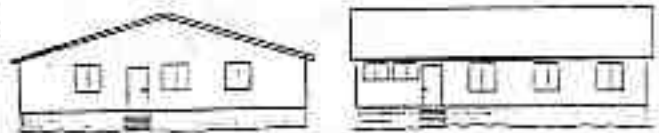
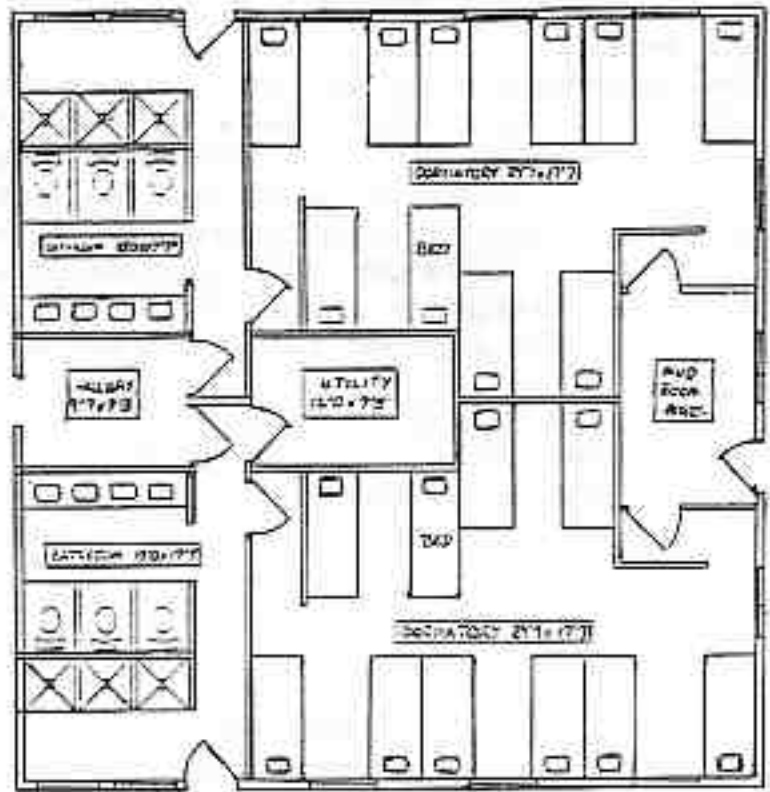
CONSTRUCTION OF NEW DORM IN PROGRESS

Construction on the new dorm facility is well underway. After the end of the summer volunteer season and a week vacation, the staff began serious demolition. In just six days, the old facility was torn down. Soon after, the footer and foundation were installed in preparation for the Blitz held October 10-14. A new well was drilled and, more importantly, the septic system is installed and awaiting its first flush!

Our goal is to have the facility under roof and enclosed by the end of October. In addition, we hope to have the project completed by the end of the year.

To date, we have raised approximately \$34,000 for the building. This money has allowed us to begin construction. We expect completion to cost \$5,000-6,000 more. We are extremely grateful to all who have given of their time and money to raise funds for this facility. If you would like to make a donation to help complete this project, please send checks to Nazareth Farm and note that you wish your donation to help fund the dorm project.

Again, we thank all of you for your prayers, time, and money. We ask for your continued support.



(CALLED TO SERVE...continued from page 1)
Farm, and look forward to the next few months here. I am thankful that I was led to the Farm. My time here has been wonderful, and a true blessing in my life.

I have faith that God is calling someone else to follow their heart, and one day that person will show up on our doorstep and help to lead the Farm for the next couple of years. Past experience has showed that the next Director of Nazareth Farm will most likely be a former volunteer!

So, I ask each of you to be attentive to God's call in your life! Maybe, the Farm is in your future as a place to serve. Maybe it is not, and God is calling you to be somewhere else. However, if being the next Director of Nazareth Farm sounds like a possibility for you, or if being on the staff of the Farm is of interest please let

me know. I would love to talk with you about the possibility. The Board of Directors will be collecting resumes for the Director's position through early November. In addition, we are always looking for good staff members to help the dream of Nazareth Farm continue for years to come!

Nazareth Farm is a miracle in action every day! I believe with all of my heart that God has a plan for this place, and it is now time to find a Director to lead Nazareth Farm for the next couple of years. You may be the next piece of the puzzle that God has in store for Nazareth Farm along with the many volunteer staff members who will come and go during the next few years.

May God bless you as you discern your vocation and may you find peace in whatever way you decide to "be" and serve.

Christmas Party Appeal 1996

Dear Friends,

We hope that you all had wonderful summers and are enjoying the colors of the fall. As we begin to witness the changing seasons here at the Farm, we know that Christmas is just around the corner.

With the true meaning of this season in mind, we are beginning to plan our annual Nazareth Farm Christmas Party. Once again, we will need your help to make our celebration a success. We will sponsor a community wide party for the children of Doddridge County where gifts will be distributed. In addition, we will deliver gifts to all the families we have worked with this year.

Your donations of gifts or money to buy gifts will enable us to make this a special Christmas for our friends. If you have a specific family or child you would like to sponsor, please indicate that on the form below.

The Christmas Party will be held at the Doddridge County Park on Sunday, December 15. We would appreciate your response to our appeal no later than Wednesday November 20. Thank you for your continued support. May you and your families have a blessed Christmas season.



Peace and Blessings,

Megan & Andy

Nazareth Farm / Doddridge County Christmas Party 1996

I want to help Nazareth Farm and Doddridge County celebrate Christmas this year by sending gifts or by making a monetary donation or both!

- I (We) would like to sponsor a family or part of a family
- I (We) would like to sponsor children at the Farm's Christmas Party

Amount offered \$15 \$25 \$50 \$100

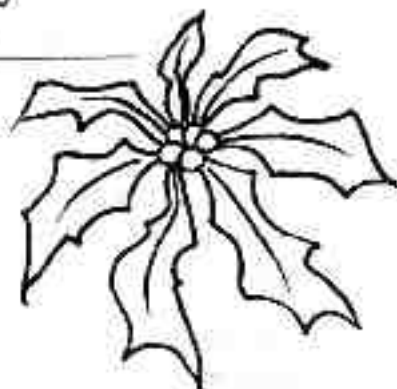
I would like to offer the following amount \$ _____

Parish/Group: _____

Your Name: _____
(or contact person)

Address: _____

Phone Daytime: (____) _____ - _____



✂ clip out or copy and mail to Nazareth Farm - Attention: Andy

WHO'S ON FIRST?

This season brings many changes, especially for the Nazareth Farm staff. Sr. Paula went straight from whipping up miracles in our kitchen back to Pottsville, PA to enlighten her students in the Chemistry lab. Moria headed off in August to Vanderbilt to begin research for her PhD. in Psychology. Her project is titled "My life among the criminally insane". She swears it has nothing to do with us. Jess also went home to Stevens Point, WI where she is working and going to school. We miss her lively spirit as well as the way she pushed us to get in the habit of hiking.

After building bird houses with the kids during Family Week, Rodney turned his attention to construction of the new dormitory. According to him, the dorm will be larger and cost more than the bird house. Rumor has it that Matt is getting pretty good at the fiddle, but he only plays in public for morning wake-up calls.

With the start of school, Butch returned to driving the school bus. He and James recently fixed up an old Ford truck like it was their new toy. James plans to drive the truck home to Massachusetts when he leaves at the end of October. John and Vera, our class sweethearts, spent their 29th anniversary working on a roof together. They said that they would rather shingle than go out to a nice dinner. Finally, after only three months, Andy has learned to drive stick without stalling. Miracles do happen.

In defiance of the whole falling part of Fall, we recently sprouted a few new green leaves. Megan Kennedy, a long-time volunteer from St. Mary's in Downers Grove, IL joins us as our volunteer coordinator. She just graduated from Augustana College with a degree in social work. Gina Fosco, a grad of Creighton U from Naperville, IL, has come on as our house manager. She adds dedication and an Italian flavor to most everything in the kitchen. After several trips to the Farm with Boston College, Scott Michalman has left home in Newington, CT to join staff. Anne Niebler, a graduate of Notre Dame, comes to us from Menomonee Falls, WI. Scott and Anne have decided to look past the football rivalry between their schools and get along just fine.

Thanks for your continuing support. Please keep us in your prayers. Also, have a great Fall and a Happy Halloween. Remember to not eat all of your candy in one night.

WISH LIST

Thanks to those who responded to our last issue. The hammocks we received were an instant hit with staff and volunteers. Thanks also for the tape measurers, paint brushes, drill sets, and other assorted tools. In addition to the ever present need for materials, this issue we also ask for your help in funding two large projects: the new dormitory and the Christmas Party. Whatever you can do to help will be much appreciated.

Things we wish for...

- ◆ funding for new dorm (*see p.3*)
- ◆ funding for Christmas Party (*see p.4*)
- ◆ 3 power circular saws
- ◆ 4 chalk lines and chalk
- ◆ 3 power drills

😊😊😊 MUCHAS GRACIAS 😊😊😊

Tons of thanks to all of you who continually help Nazareth Farm in its work. Support for our ministry rests greatly on your prayers and contributions.

Since our last issue, several groups in particular have raised generous donations for the Farm. Thanks go out to St. Matthew's and St. Monica's in Indianapolis, as well as Our Lady of Presentation, Leo's Summit, MO; Fordham Prep, Bronx, NY; St. Paul's Lifeteen, Hingham, MA; St. Joseph's, Oneida, NY; Our Lady of Great Council, Verona, NJ; and St. Patrick's, Binghamton, NY.

Two volunteers also deserve a special thanks for their recent efforts. Beth Gastineau from Jeffersonville, IN ran a letter writing campaign which brought the Farm donations of money and miscellaneous tools. Alex Nudd from Villa Park, IL completed his Eagle Scout project by coordinating an extensive tool drive for the Farm. Thanks to both these individuals for taking service beyond their group week and into their daily lives.