

NAZARETH NEWS

ISSUE NO. 2

May, June, July 1996

The mountains shall yield peace for the people, and the hills justice.

Psalm 72:3

by Rodney Dick

It has been more than twenty years since the bishops' pastoral letter on Appalachia "This Land is Home to Me" was completed. In the pastoral letter, we as Church are challenged to be faithful to the Gospel and stand with the poor in their search for justice.

In June, Nazareth Farm celebrated eighteen years of service in Doddridge County. Every day since its beginning on June 24,

1979, Nazareth Farm has strived to work for peace and justice in the area. Who would have dreamed at the inception of Nazareth Farm that its ministry would continue for eighteen years!

As we move into the future, we are aware that much work still remains to be done in the county. We are also becoming aware that poverty takes on many different forms. Although, our primary ministry is that of home rehabilitation to relieve the stresses of physical poverty, I believe the Farm's greatest gift to the people of the area is ministering to relieve spiritual and emotional poverty. This great and important ministry is only possible due to the selfless giving of the hundreds of volunteers who come from all over the country to serve each year.

As funding for government programs is cut, and the cost of medical care continues to escalate the importance of the presence of Nazareth Farm in the Doddridge County community is becoming more and more crucial. Today, we are finding that the Farm's primary ministry is to the elderly of the area who can no longer do work for themselves for health reasons,

and are unable to hire the work done because they live on fixed incomes. We are also finding that through working on their homes a relationship is being built which lasts far longer than the week or two we spend working on their homes - we are finding that our ministry is that of companionship and relief of loneliness and isolation due to the death of loved ones, and the fact that their children may live out of state.

As the region in which we serve changes, the ministry of Nazareth Farm is being challenged to change as well. As the Farm leaves adolescence, and enters adulthood our greatest challenge is to determine what God is calling Nazareth Farm to do. Yes, there will always be a roof to repair, a house to paint, and a porch to build; however, the Farm's greatest gift and ministry is allowing all of the young people who serve through Nazareth Farm to share their gifts and talents with the people of the area. The people we serve most remember the youth who helped them, not the physical work that was completed. Likewise, the youth most remember the people they served because of their openness and sharing, and not because of the nails they hammered.

The Farm's ministry is relational, and our greatest challenge is how to maintain those relationships. I have to believe that with age comes wisdom, and as Nazareth Farm's ministry grows older with the passing years its ministry to the people of the area will only get better and better. I also have faith that God will continue to lead Nazareth Farm and its ministry for the next eighteen years!

(continued page 3)

IN THIS ISSUE...

- Farm Reflections
- Work site reflection
- Thank you's
- Wish List
- Staff Up-dates
- Your News...and more!

NAZARETH NEWS

ISSUE NO. 2 May/June/July 96
is a publication of

NAZARETH FARM, INC.

Route 2 Box 194-3
Salem, WV 26426-8802
304-782-2742

Board of Directors

Patty Bubar, Chair
Janice Dugan, Treasurer
Joe Hofmann, Secretary
Sr. Mary Clark
Fr. John Donovan
Liz Dowling
Larry Lenne
William Long
Tim Mitchell
Carl Procaro-Foley
Harold Schramm
Mary Ann (Dede) Stomoff
Martha White
Tom Wirts

Farm Staff

Rodney Dick, Director
Thomas Cash
James Chouinard
Matthew Emmick
John Hall
Vera Hall
Jessica Hanson
Butch Sandora
Moria Smoski
Andy Whelpley

7/96

THE BROWN'S

by James Chouinard

Recently, myself and five different work crews completed a project at the Brown's. What we did was make their home wheel chair accessible. By doing so we had built a 25' x 8' deck, added a sliding glass door, and a 16' ramp.

We needed to do this job because Mr. Brown had fallen ill and had been in the hospital and was planning to come home. When he came home, he was overwhelmed. He let the Farm know how thankful he and his family were. He also thanks all the volunteers who helped.

Unfortunately, his stay at home was only a few days and he had to go back in the hospital. He is still recovering. Mr. Brown as well as his family needs our prayers, please pray for them in these trying times.

While working on this project, the volunteers and I got to know Mrs. Brown well. She was and is an inspiration to all of us. Her spirit and her trust in God is truly awesome.

We also got to work with and meet her grandson, Shane. Shane is in the 2nd grade, but seems to be on a high school level. He was a great helper as well as an excellent story teller. He took us on many "adventures," consisting of hiking through the woods. While Shane was the master of these hikes we saw many deer along the way. When we got on top of the hill behind the house we would sit and ponder at the seemingly endless sky.

It has been a true blessing to know and work for the Browns. Please keep the Brown family in your prayers.

Love & Peace, James

THANK YOU'S

Our Summer is going along tremendously! Thank to you all!

A special thanks goes out as well, to several groups who have done a little fund raising to bring down donations for the Farm. Thanks to St. Ben's St. Ann's, and Sacred Heart in Terre Haute, Loyola Univ. of Chicago, Boston College High School, Marmion Academy in IL, St. Mary's Church and their St. Vincent DePaul Society in IL, St. Joseph's in IL, Canisius College in NY, The Orders of Friars Minor in Cincinnati, St. Malachy's in IN, St. Joseph's Church in NJ, and any others not mentioned here.

Thank you to Bill and Maggie Eaheart of Chicago who came to visit and while here, took James out tool shopping - on them!

A special thanks as well to Nancy Singleton from St. Monica's and Bernie Stroup from St. Pius in IN who made and donated Nazareth Farm post cards and bumper stickers to offer to volunteers at the Farm!

Thanks too, to St. Louis de Montfort and Our Lady of the Presentation Parishes who continue to tithe regularly to Nazareth Farm.

We could not do it without you!

"EXPECT A MIRACLE" WINNERS!!

The "Expect a Miracle" raffle headed by Rodney Dick and the youth group of St. Ben's/St. Ann's/Sacred Heart in Terre Haute, IN was a success! 1219 tickets were sold - a little shy of the needed amount to offer the full awards, but many donations were also sent in through the campaign. John and Barbara Healy of MA sent in a \$5,000 donation and the Daughters of Charity (Sr. Paula's order) awarded the Farm a grant for \$7,000. The group raised a lot of money and the winners of the raffle were drawn on community night, June 12. Thank you for your encouragement and support.

"Nothing in progression can rest on it's original plan."

- Gandhi

AND THEN THERE WERE...

Summer time - summer time - sum-sum- summer time... Yes its here. Summer time is back and so are hoards of volunteers to do God's work. Not only are new volunteers pouring in, we've also welcomed several new staff people. John and Vera Hall are a married couple from St. Charles, MO who have joined our staff. They owned a flower shop in St. Charles and now John is a work site leader and Vera the new Administrative Assistant. Andy Whelpley, a long time volunteer, joins us from Mendham, NJ. A graduate of Univ. of Scranton, Andy has been coming to the Farm for about the past four or five years. Rodney Dick returned to serve as the director again. He said that since he and the group raised all that money for the new dorm, he wanted to come back and spend it. And Sr. Paula Gallant is back too! God bless that woman! What a gift to us all!

Not all recent transitions have been joyfully welcoming new staff. After almost two years here, Alicia rented her U-Haul truck and made her way back to Montgomery, IL. God bless you Alicia, don't be a stranger. And Thomas left too, at the end of July. After three years of stirring up trouble around here, he'll be missed, but there'll finally be peace.

Butch is done with school bus driving for the summer. Do you think the man would take a break? No! That just means he has more time to do other work! Moria's been working at sites, in the office, doing announcements, and preparing for school at Vanderbilt this Fall. She ought to take up juggling. Speaking of taking things up, Matt has taken up fiddle lessons. He's been known to practice in some pretty peculiar places too like the Garage Bay?? James and Jess are heading up Farm crew and tending the gardens this year. They also volunteered at JAM Camp which had a 'Bible Safari' Theme this year. Their jungle obstacle course was a hit!

We have many new board members to welcome as well. Returning member Tim Mitchell from Chicago, and new members Carl Procaro-Foley from New York, Dede Stomoff from Indianapolis, Martha White from New Jersey, and Tom Wirts from Columbus, OH. Welcome all! And may you actively support and represent the Farm in your new capacities.

Dave Brummel and Betty Krupp both ended their terms on the board recently and we all said thank you to two good board members. Dave who served as board chair, and Betty who has faithfully written every "Thank You" for every donation made to the Farm (and has offered to continue to do so). Thank you for all you've done.

WISH LIST

If you're coming out this Summer, please consider bringing with you some of the items on this wish list. Thanks to those who responded last issue. We received the fax machine, a clothes dryer, some dressers, and some tools - not to mention a director. Thank you!

Things we wish for...

- 2 strong, two-person hammocks
- 25' tape measurers
- 1", 2", & 3" paint brushes
- 5 - drill sets with various size bits
- 3 power circular saws
- 3 power drills

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Are you or your group interested in fund raising for the Farm *from where you're at*? Give us a call and we'll put you in contact with one of our board members in your area who can *help you or use your help* to develop fun and simple fund raisers that make a difference!

Call 304-782-2742 for information & ideas

(The mountains...continued from page 1)

In "At Home in the Web of Life" a twentieth anniversary pastoral message celebrating the original bishops' pastoral "This Land is Home to Me"; it is stated that the greatest task which lies before us is to create and define sustainable communities. Nazareth Farm is blessed to be serving the people of Doddridge County, and is blessed to be a stabilizing presence in the community. Nazareth Farm has been creating and stabilizing a sustainable community in Doddridge County for eighteen years! May God continue to bless the Farm's ministry for many more years to come.

NEXT ISSUE...

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