

NAZARETH FARM  
The Association of Volunteers for Christian Service  
Little Battle Run  
Center Point W.V. 26339  
(304) 782-2742

February 1991

Greetings and Peace to all of you from Nazareth Farm!

Its time again to let you know what we have been up to lately here at the farm. We have had a productive winter both here at the farm and out in the community. We have continued to do some home improvements by putting up a ceiling in the dining room and mud room. We also fixed the second toilet in the girls dorm and put a new floor in the lower dining room by the bell door. We are in the process of getting organized and ready for our spring volunteers. We are guesstimating that about 170 volunteers will come through our doors before the first of June.

We have continued to be out and about in the community and we have a lot of work lined up for our spring and summer program. The work at Reynoldsville is continuing and we hope to have that project done by the end of the summer depending on funds available. There will be a lot of roofing and digging and hammering and nailing done in the next few months so if you are planning a visit...don't forget your work gloves! This is going to be a great spring!

One of the projects that I have been heavily involved with is working on the details involved in completing land contracts for the folks out at Hope Land. Please pray for the Hope Land Board as we work on some very tedious but important issues. We hope to complete our task by the beginning of the summer.

One of the great privileges that I have this year is to take time to plan our Lenten season and Holy Week activities. As a community, we will be participating in a day of reflection each week where we will do no work but we will come together for a short time to discuss some readings and then reflect on the readings and share with each other. We are also doing away with deserts, and of course, Fridays will be a fast day. I tell you this so if there are any folks out there who would like to join us in our observance of lent you at least know what we are doing. Saturday will be our reflection day as we will be having volunteers here on all the other days. Holy Week will be different to say the least. We did not receive any inquiries from any vets for Holy Week so we decided to open the week up for anyone who wants to join us. We are currently booked solid for the week. I had a sister come down from the Wheeling chancery to help me plan for the week and we have come up with a beautiful schedule that I think will be very special and meaningful. We have work planned, visitations, a seder supper, an 8 mile walk of the cross, a quiet vigil, and a sunrise service. The week will be a result of community collaboration and creative planning. At this time of the year I always find myself coming back to a place in the scriptures called Gethsemane. It was a favored place that our Lord would go to pray and think and get some time for Himself. It is ironic

that the place that had been a source of comfort and solitude for Jesus, in the end, was a place of agony for Him. It is here that He is overcome by His humanity. He gave the greatest compliment to His friends when He invited them to come to His "secret place" to be with Him as He prayed. Sadly, He was disappointed when He discovered that they had fallen asleep. His words: "Can you not pray with me?" are, to me, the lonliest words in the scriptures. His pain only grows deeper as He fully understands what is to become of Him and he cries tears of blood. Still, His friends sleep. How often have we felt so alone and so disappointed or disillusioned that we have given up on people or causes. Thank God that He did not give up. In spite of being let down, in spite of the fact that He was frightened and knew that He would have to face His fate alone, He did not give up. He went to the cross, bore our sins, died alone. During this lenten season, let us take the opportunity to journey with Him. On Fridays, join us as we reflect on the stations of the cross. Our 6 weeks of prayer and meditation should draw us closer to Him as our brother who felt all the things that we feel and who was willing to give His life as a ransom for ours. Pray that we as christians, will not "fall asleep" and be unaware of the pain that surrounds us. Then, as we have allowed ourselves to be open to His call to serve, we will celebrate the risen Lord who overcame death in order to empower us and place His spirit in us to carry on the work and spread the good news. Soon we will rise with Him! Renewed, and refreshed, and ready to accept the challenges that come our way.

Just a reminder...If there are those who are interested in staffing for the summer please drop me a line and I will get back to you in March to try to make arrangements. We are looking for a few good folks to help us out. Pray about it.

May you all have a blessed Easter and celebrate the risen Christ who gives us the strength to do all things!

Peace to you from John and Joan and John and Karen and Kay!

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