

-NAZARETH NEWS-

ISSUE NO. 1

WINTER 1998

Stars of Wonder

by Jennifer Jackman

Stars...they are with us all the time, yet how often do we really notice them?? I know that I have been much more aware of their presence since moving here as they shine much more brightly away from city lights. They twinkle and dance in the dark sky above Little Battle Run and, occasionally, I catch a glimpse of a shooting star. They're magical and even practical! Sailors, travelers and astronomers can find their way by looking at the stars and then know what direction and what course to follow.

The Wise Men found their way to Jesus via the brightness of that special star. This makes me wonder what stars have been given to us to follow so that we too might find Jesus. Perhaps the stars we need to follow are not in the sky but in people or experiences of our daily lives. Perhaps stars shine in the eyes of little children or in a conversation with a friend.

(continued on page 3.)

TOY STORY

Santa made a guest appearance at the Doddridge County Park on Sunday, December 14 for the annual Nazareth Farm county Christmas party. The lights and sirens of Santa's sleigh were overshadowed by the sounds of one hundred and seventy-five children singing "Here comes Santa Claus," while they were awaiting his arrival.



Once Santa appeared, the children scurried into line to be the first to sit on Santa's lap to receive a toy and have their picture taken with the man in the big red suit. Santa's arrival tapped off a day filled with the kids cutting and painting ornaments to hang on the Christmas tree at the arts and crafts table, carolling the Christmas classics, and lots of sticky fingers from all the juice and cookies. The children left with smiles on their faces and a new toy in hand.

A special thanks goes out to all who were apart of this year's fun. Many community members helped out in the planning of the Christmas party, the decorating of the park, and the baking of the countless numbers of Christmas cookies that were needed for this year's record turnout. Another huge thank you is extended to Parkersburg Catholic High School for providing all the little elves to take care of Santa's dirty work. Thank you also to all those that made donations to the party, especially the Wearguard Corporation; St. Paul's in Marietta, OH; Blessed Sacrament in Johnson City, NY; and Polaroid Inc. for the film.



Bridget and Mike

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Nazareth Farm, Inc.
Route 2, Box 194-3
Salem, WV 26426-9802
(304)-782-2742

FAX (304)-782-4358

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ADULT WEEK '97

The following reflections were inspired by our first ever adults only week.

The most impressive feature of the weekend was the harmony that quickly developed between thirteen total strangers, having such varied ages, backgrounds and geographical locations. It was truly amazing how the whole weekend just fell into place.

I was truly impressed by the dedication of the staff to the local community, their tasks at the Farm, and their ability to establish harmony in the group. They also were able to switch gears from the day's busy activities to direct very meaningful prayer sessions. All of this from persons younger than my own children.

The Doddridge County community was very impressive as well. It was just great to see the smiles from the people for doing such simple deeds as delivering firewood, raking leaves, clearing out gutters, putting up plywood ceiling sections with newly supported rafters, playing games and talking to them at community night, joining them in their Sunday services, etc. In turn, they contributed to my education on the area by recounting family stories of multiple generations and the different farms and towns they grew up in.

The above summary cannot do justice to all the events experienced by the thirteen "charter" adults and the staff. However, I can only say it was one of the truly memorable weekends of my sixty-one years. One in which I could relate to the basic facets of the Farm - Community, Simplicity, Prayer and Service. My parting recommendation: If the opportunity arises for Adult Week #2, GO FOR IT!

John F. Healy Walpole, Massachusetts



I left my daily mom existence and drove twelve hours to the hills of West Virginia - to a place I'd visited seventeen years ago. Physically, it has changed - spiritually, it is still a place where strangers do become friends. We were bonded through prayer, work, meals, and for this group tons of laughter!

I left the Farm anxious to return home, yet feeling some sadness at the parting of an amazing group, who willingly shared a wondrous array of talents. And yet, full of heart, we drove away knowing this group of new friends had been graced by God's power and presence, and had given me yet another collection of fond memories from Nazareth Farm.

Susan MacDonald Albany, New York

Nazareth Farm now has a
Phone line for our FAX machine.

You can FAX us anytime at:

304 782 4358



Letters are accepted and encouraged!

"And suddenly the star they had seen rising went forward and halted over the place where the child was.

The sight of the star filled them with delight."

Matthew 2:9-10

(Stars...continued from cover)

Perhaps stars shine for us in music or in laughter or in a letter from an old friend.

I think we all have stars shining around us - we just need to pay close attention. Think about the people that make you smile, things that give you life and make you feel loved. Think about the things that challenge you, things that make you a bit uncomfortable and experiences that make you think twice about your actions. Perhaps these are stars calling you to a new journey.

Christmas has come and gone again, it seems to go by more quickly each year. New Year's has also gone and I'm sure some of us have made resolutions to better ourselves as we begin another year. But,

even though the celebrations have ended, their meaning in our lives is still with us. There are still stars to follow and choices to make. There is a poem I like which I think speaks well of where our stars may be leading us. What work are your stars calling you to do during this new year?

The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angel is stilled,

When the star in the sky is gone,

When the kings and princes are home,

When the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins;

To find the lost,

To heal the broken,

To feed the hungry,

To release the prisoner,

To bring peace among people,

To make music in the heart.

- Howard Thurman

WISH LIST

- * commercial vacuum
- * portable CD/cassette boombox for wakeups
- * staple guns
- * tupperware containers with lids

EMPTY NEST



STAFF UPDATE:

With the departures of Anne and Scott over Christmas break, the Farm has but three, (Jen, Bridget, and Mike) living on the property that volunteers have labeled "Almost Heaven." The bible tells us of the wonders of heaven and the narrow gate through which to pass in order to enter, but never does he describe how much work it is to maintain the place with such few hands.

Anne went back home to attempt to recover her Wisconsin accent while taking some science classes at the University in Madison.

Scott also went home to Connecticut, but he is much more interested in catching up on the latest cartoons than studying the bond structure of amino acids. After being away from the television for a year and a half, it only seems fitting for a guy to take some well deserved personal time. Yabba dabba doo!

Jen is cookin' in the kitchen as acting house manager, and Bridget is busy trying to teach proper etiquette to the Dahlheimer.