

From Behind the Barn Doors



December 2008

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

These times in our world are difficult, but please continue to pray with us:

"Trust in the Lord with all our hearts and lean not on our own understanding. In all our ways help us to look to you and know that you will make our path straight. Help us not to be wise in our own eyes but rather run to you, Lord, and shun evil. Help us remember that this is what is best for us. Help us, Lord, to honor you with our wealth and time and then we can know that your "barns" will be filled to overflowing.

- Proverbs 3:5 - 10

Announcements

The 2nd Annual Christmas Buffet – Friday, 19 December. There will be plenty of food, great live music. This is open for all High School students and recent graduates. Please contact Karen Boone at 875.1169 if you are interested in making food.

New Website Under Construction – www.thebarnyouthcenter.com Check it out!

Needs – If you have any of the following items available to donate, please contact Larry at 473.3579.

Sturdy Picnic Tables
Skate Park Equipment
Sound Equipment

T-shirts for Sale – One of our High School students designed a logo for new Barn shirts. They are available for sale in the Barn Café.



Reflections from the Loft

As I sit in The Barn office to write yet another Christmas newsletter, I pray that God will show me what to write. I look around the office. I see a picture on the wall of my family when we first moved here. Julie was 8, Holly 7 and Jason was 1. Bonnie was well, younger. (-: I look on another wall and see the kids graduation pictures and now I see a wedding picture, then pictures of my grandkids. Over there is a picture of Sweetie and Becca, our Barn dogs that lived here in The Barn for over 10 years. They're gone now. Next to my desk is a picture of my Dad a couple weeks before he died. Time sure slips away.

As I look more at these walls I see pictures of many friends. Pictures of many relationships built! I see a picture of kids

"Walking the Cross" (making decisions to follow Jesus.) There beside it is a picture of kids being baptized. Memories everywhere. Most happy, some sad. Some memories bring shivers as my mind scans some of those frightening times when "Satan was roaming around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." - 1 Peter 5:8 God handled it!

Above my desk hangs a poster of the parable of "The Sower" found in Mark 4.15 – 20. This parable talks about how the Word of God is like a seed, scattered from the hand of the sower. Over the years this is what I feel God has wanted me to do, simply sow His seeds and show the love of Jesus. In the early years, many times I felt so alone as my wife Bonnie

and only a few others seemed to really catch the vision of what God was doing here. But as time has passed God has expanded the vision of The Barn to many others who now help in the "sowing of seed process."

I am so thankful for all of you that have helped bring this ministry to where we are now. I believe this has been the most fruitful year we have ever had because of those that God has sent to help expand and carry the load. We have an awesome team of servants that give their time and finances to keep us moving forward. We have an even more awesome God that continues to hold us up and guide us.

Continually being humbled –
Larry Powell,
The Barn Director

Cedarville University Students Travel to the Country to Bless & be Blessed

"I'm at the point that I'm starting to realize how lost and hopeless I would be without the Lord. I don't want these kids to be that way. I want them to know my God who is always there and loves me so much. I want to tell them what He has done for me so they may know Him too." - **Pamela Proctor, Ohio**

"The kids here are all really interesting people and I want to see them see what is truly important in life...a relationship with God." - **Aaron Greenwood, Kansas**

"I come to The Barn because it is a way to get out of the Christian 'bubble' and witness to others." – **Chris Spurlock, Wisconsin**

"The Barn has a great ministry serving teens." – **Jordan Nikerle, Pennsylvania**

"The Barn is such a blessing. It is a place where you can go to have fun, yet it is also a safe haven." – **Stephen McIver, Nevada**

"I love how the Barn is all about building relationships and that we can show Christ to the students.

Maybe it isn't structured or anything like AWANA, but we are loving on students that sometimes other people forget. We have the chance to be someone consistent in their lives when otherwise that might not be possible. – **Amber Prince, North Carolina, Cedarville Team Leader**

"Thank you to each of you for your prayers and financial assistance. Your support enables teens to come to a place where they know they are loved and where they can learn that the name of this One who loves is Jesus." – **Tiffany Cary, Michigan**

Stable Talk

What is your favorite thing about The Barn?

"Getting away from everything else." – Eston Stewart, Senior, Newton

"I love to stuff my face and watch Jeremy stuff his...it's the awesome Café junk food." – Taylor Steck, Freshman, Newton

"Skating. It's fun, close to home and I can hang out with my friends." – Talon Roth, Freshman, West Milton

"There's lots of activity. Everyone is nice and outgoing here." – Amanda Richardson, Piqua

"Duh. The indoor and outdoor skating." – Kane Hawthorne,

Sophomore, Home school

What makes The Barn a cool Place?

"Devotions because they talk about God and there's people who don't know about God." – Jen Richardson, Piqua, Senior

"You can be yourself and not be judged here." – Natasha Hardwick, Piqua, Senior

How would you describe The Barn in one word?

"Amazing!" – Don Fisher, Covington, Sophomore

"Fantabulous!" – Tiffany York, Freshman, Covington

"Barn-tastic!" – Jeremy Safranic,

Miami East

"Spectacular!" – Ethan McGuire, Freshman, Newton

Why do you come to the Barn?

"To keep out of trouble and hang out with my friends." – Justin Bantz, Miami East

"To ride my bike and all my friends are here." – Jeremy Blair, Freshman, Newton

"It's free. And it's a good environment." – Danielle Ingram, Freshman, Newton

"It gets me out of the house and it's better than sitting at home watching TV." – Whitney Henson, Junior, Covington

This is God at work. This is The Barn at its very best. This is what I love.

Do scenes like this happen every night we are open? Of course not. But when they do – it makes every minute of our time spent, every sacrifice made, every conversation, every prayer absolutely worth it. – **Karen Boone**

The ways of humanity are far from timeless. The times come and the times go. Men, legacies and nations all come, and then they go. But there is One who has been all through time and beyond. Jesus! He is the one thing we can focus on that binds people together. He brings unity, forgiveness, compassion, mercy and love. He is the One that will endure the ages and, by identifying with Him, we also can endure. It is for freedom that Christ has set us free – freedom to forgive, show compassion, mercy and love. Freedom to love all people no matter who they are, where they are from, or their circumstances in life. We are free to love them because Jesus first loved us and gave Himself for us! May God bless you this year as you celebrate the birth of a timeless Savior. Col. 1:15-23 – **Eric Boothe**

The Best of 2008

Positive Impact – Over 70 5th & 6th graders took part in our spring "Positive Impact" program. We discussed topics such as gossip, how you treat others, authority, caution in what you feed your mind and above all how we are all special in God's eyes and He loves us unconditionally.

Alive – 26 of us attended the Alive Christian Music Festival at Canal Fulton, OH. 4 days of camping, speakers and awesome music encouraged us all. 7 teens turned their lives over to Jesus on this trip so not even the storm on the last night could dampen our special time there.

Junior High Nights – The 1st and 3rd Saturday nights are still thriving with Jr. High students. We praise God for the foundations being built in relationships that will continue to grow as the kids get to High School.

Discipleship – Our ultimate goal here at The Barn is to help teens grow in their relationships with Jesus. Because of all the awesome servants we have helping here at The Barn, we feel as if this has been one of the most fruitful years in the history of The Barn as dozens of relationships were built. We thank God for that and give Him all praise!

The Barn is set up as a non-profit organization. Contributions are tax exempt.

We need your help to keep this mission moving forward.

Contributions can be made out to The Barn and sent to:

The Barn
PO Box 503
Pleasant Hill, OH
45359

Why We Enter These Doors

Sometimes it's tempting to think 'Why bother?' Sometimes I think 'What is the use?' People will even ask 'so you're there every weekend?' But when I stop to think about the past year, relationship that have been built with the kids in our community and hear first hand of the needs, fears and hurt that is all around us – there is nowhere else I want to be. Where else could I sit under the stars and discuss the wonder of the universe God has made? Or sit in a corner and hear about the pains of life and that, if there was a God, why would life be like this? And what will happen when I die? Or just laugh when a new trick is attempted on the skate park and fails miserably?

I think The Barn has changed me more than I will ever change The Barn, and that is the power of reaching out to others. You hope to help them, but what happens is you help each other. Sometimes change is slow, but in these increasingly dark times, the body of Christ needs to be reaching out wherever God has placed them. Heb. 12:1-2 says 'we run with patience, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.' – **Neil Schaurer**

Earlier this summer, I was having a conversation with a couple of teens - talking about our beliefs. When I shared with them the Gospel of Jesus and how much God loves them, they were silent. They couldn't argue with the Truth – it didn't fit into anything they 'believed' to be true. The whole time I was talking with them, the Spirit gave me peace and the words to speak.

Jesus says in John 14:27, "I am leaving you with peace of mind and heart. This peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So do not be troubled or afraid." Peace only comes through Jesus! It is only because of Him that I can be at The Barn week after week. My heart desires to share this peace with the kids that come to The Barn. – **Shelly Schaurer**

The setting was less than holy. It was nothing like church. In fact, it was far from both. Cushions were being thrown along with a few choice words. But for about 15 minutes – several kids were reading verses from God's Word and talking about what they mean. I doubt many of them read the Bible on a regular basis. Quite possibly – they have never read it.