

# Mid-Summer Update

Only He Gets The Glory... 2014

## Missions Update

No matter how much preparation is made, it seems as if summer sneaks then moves quickly. We are very blessed to have laborers for the fields! Since the beginning of Crossroads Community, our faith family has prayed Matthew 9:35-38. He has been so faithful as we enter into our fourth year of summer missions. Many churches and volunteers have made their way to be used as laborers in the field. We are thankful and the harvesting continues.

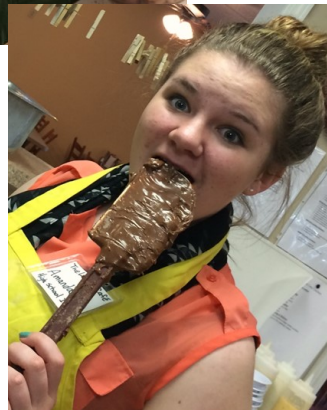
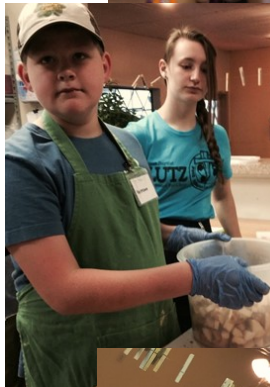
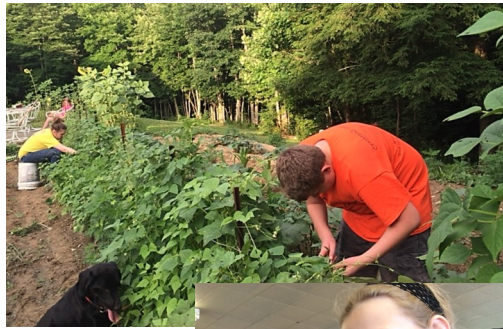
This summer has already been incredible as we near the half way point. From May 31 through August 9, over 18 churches will be represented in summer missions. God continues to provide the resources needed to accomplish His will and calling He has placed on Crossroads Community.

So far this summer, many seeds of the Gospel have been planted through many being the hands, feet, and voice of Christ. Many more will be coming in the coming weeks to continue to plant seeds and cultivate relationships here. It is an awesome privilege to lean forward in

## The Lord's Café

We are blessed beyond measure. Over the past year, God has blessed us with a partnership with Walmart. We receive almost out of date food items, produce, and meat. Since August, we have only purchased hamburger patties for one meal. The freezers at The Lord's Café remain full enough to continue to feed more days. In addition, New Haven Baptist from just south of us in Tennessee continues to bring their youth up to help whenever we are running short handed.

Another huge answer to prayer, we have finalized the purchase of The Lord's Café property! Thank you to all who helped to make this possible. Our monthly payment has also been reduced by \$250 per month. We are thankful!



## Family

The kids finished their school year two weeks before the first week of missions. We are excited to have accomplished another year of homeschool. We are making plans to enroll Amanda in the Liberty University homeschool program; she is entering the ninth grade. Harrison and Mia will continue using our current curriculum. Harrison is entering the seventh grade and Mia is entering sixth grade. This summer, Harrison had the opportunity to spend a week in South Carolina with my parents. Amanda will be heading to Texas in few days to spend time with Gina's mother. We are blessed.

Our days are long but rewarding. We have already met many wonderful people coming to Kentucky to shine His glory. Gina spends her time between The Lord's Café and the garden at the house. My days are spent with the logistical moving parts of the current week mission and final preparations for upcoming weeks. August 9<sup>th</sup>..... the countdown.

**And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Matthew 9:35-38 (ESV)**

## The Learning Center

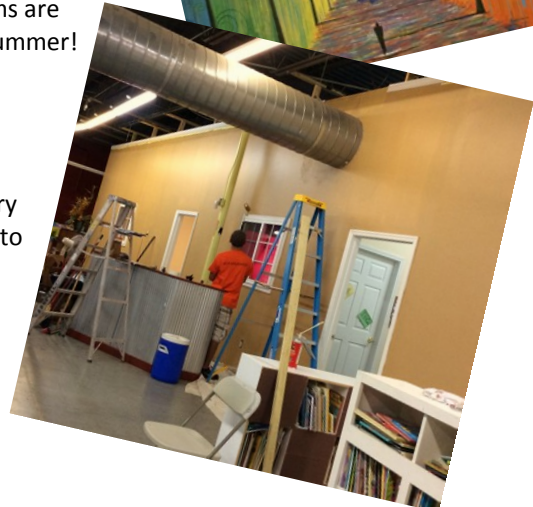
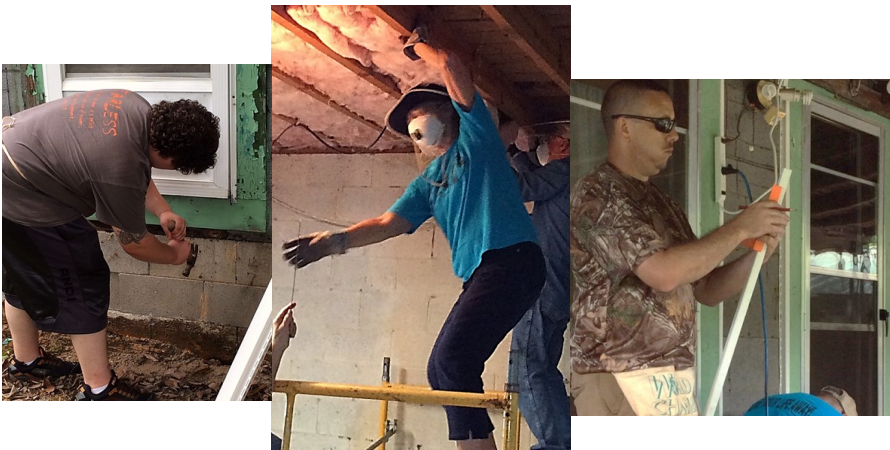
I love hearing the kids at Day Camp singing praises to God daily at The Learning Center! This year's Day Camp is going well. We have averaged around 25 kids a day. Some of the children are connected with Crossroads, but we are seeing new faces. By the end of summer, these kids will be taught 72 Bible lessons! This kids rock! The mission teams and staff enjoying demonstrating the love of God to these kids.

The Learning Center has undergone a "facelift". Gone are the crazy color combinations of oops paint. Lights have been repaired, more have been added. The mission bathrooms are looking better, but still missing the pump station. Mission teams are able to use the showers this summer!

The majority of the mission teams are staying at The Learning Center. This is very important for Crossroads to use the mission housing. The money paid per person to stay in the mission housing goes towards the ministry and facilities.

## Construction

Through efforts of the mission teams and Crossroads, many homes are now safer and better insulated. So far this summer, plumbing has been repaired and insulated. A wheel chair ramp has been built. A house's footer has been replaced. A new family has a safer place to raise their baby. These are just a few of the projects accomplished this summer. More construction will be worked on in the coming weeks. Construction needs are a continual way to share the Gospel while assisting homeowners with repairs.



Share

We would love the opportunity to come share with your church or association. If you would like to have us come, let's set a date! We are also available to speak for missions and church planting emphasis. My contact information is below.

Colossians 1:9-10 (ESV)

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

## Connect

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## International Adoption

As many of you know, Gina and I traveled to India in the early spring. We are looking for individuals to go to India at the end of October. We will be involved in many areas of ministry in India. One of the primary goals is discipleship/ disciple-making training. The goal is to help with a house church movement. In addition, street outreach, prayer walking, and Gospel distribution will be done in areas of the city where there is little to no access to the Gospel. We will also be able to work with a nurse operating a small clinic. At this clinic, we will be able to pray with individuals coming to seek medical help. Another goal is to provide training classes for fetal development and breast cancer awareness for ladies.

Be involved! Pray! Pray for the people where we will be working. Pray for visions, dreams, and a harvest! Pray for the right people to answer the call to go. Pray for the resources to go. Send! We need financial support to go. You can support us as we plan on going to India through giving through Crossroads (memo line – Pastor India). Go! Never been international on mission? Why not? Thinking about going? Why not? Each team to India can be as small as two or as many as twelve. Do you have a passport? Lean forward in faith!

**“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8 (ESV)**

## Support and Partnership

Crossroads existence and our family financial support is dependent upon people and church like you. On September 5<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate our 4<sup>th</sup> year on this amazing journey of living 100% on faith. God has worked through many individuals and churches to bring us this far in the journey. I am confident the journey is not over yet. However, over the past couple months, some of our supporters have satisfied their commitments for support. We are beginning to have a short fall in our monthly income. In addition to our monthly income decreasing, our monthly expenses are increasing as well. One of our desires for the upcoming school year is to enroll Amanda in the Liberty University home school program. This will be an added monthly expenses for tuition. Would you prayerfully consider support our family in Kentucky? *Lean Forward In Faith.*



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*Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. Psalm 103:1-5 (ESV)*

## Ongoing Opportunities

### Church Planting Interns

We are seeking individuals looking to explore church planting. We believe Crossroads provides a great place to learn and grow to prepare for your calling to plant. If you are interested, we invite you to come for an extended stay to pray and see the vision of Crossroads.

### Evangelism Catalyst

Looking to fulfill a calling to serve? Why not consider Kentucky? We are seeking individuals wanting to come join the team here at Crossroads. We believe God has more on the horizon for ministry; however, we need help launching any new ministries.

Both positions are available through our partnership with the North American Mission Board (NAMB).

## Upcoming Outreach Events

### Winter Coat Give Away

Saturday, October 25, we will host our annual Coat Give -Away. Last year, over one thousand coats were given away. We are already collecting coats! Please remember, it gets cold here. We will need extra hands and feet the weeks around the give-away and the day of the event.

### Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Saturday, November 22, is the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner at The Lord's Café. Friday is prep day. The dinner is served on Saturday from 10AM until 8PM. Last year, 950 dinners were served. We will be receive donations to make this possible as well.

### Christmas Backpack & More

Sunday, December 7, we will host our largest Christmas outreach. We have been contacted by a couple of organizations, associations, and churches to make this possible. Our goal is to invite 1,000 children and their families. Logistics are being worked on now for this event. We will need helpers on Saturday and Sunday.



### Why Plant A Church?

From the church planting class of 2010 (the year Crossroads was started)

- Survival Rate—943 SBC churches planted—91% still in operation
- Membership—2010 church plants saw a membership gain of 20% in 2012 over 2011; overall membership in SBC churches declined .66%
- Attendance—At the same time, worship attendance grew 11% with church plants; average attendance of SBC churches fell 3%
- Baptisms—Planting churches reported 3,394 baptisms. Among all SBC churches there is a ratio of one baptism for every 50 members. For church plants, the ratio is one baptism for ever 12 members.
- Crossroads has baptized over 30 new believers over the past three and half years.
- The Lord's Café has fed over 29,000 lunches in three years.
- After School @ The Learning Center completed 5 semesters of tutoring. Many of the students have seen significant improvements in grade, and more importantly, knowledge and wisdom of God.

Our desire is to continue planting more churches for HIS glory!

\*Source of SBC stats *Tracking the Class of 2010* by Kevin Ezell President of NAMB

**Come Be His Hands, His Feet, And His Voice!**

