

# Insight

Volume 1, Issue 1

Operation Rebirth Inc.

March 2011

## Hocking Hills

*Naturalist speaks to students*

From the Assistant Director/teacher  
Roger Phipps



Students hiking at Hocking Hills with naturalist Pat Quackenbush..

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## From the Founder's Desk

Jim Brian

As Founder and Director Emeritus of Operation Rebirth, I often think back to the hundreds of parents who came to us with frustrated sons-precious gifts from God who were struggling with confusion, anger, and destructive tendencies. I want to tell you faithful partners that God is still doing miracles at Operation Rebirth-restoring families and young men. I have had opportunities to share with people, what God is doing at Operation Rebirth as Susan and I traveled from Tennessee, where we buried her mother, to Atlanta, Georgia and throughout Florida. Some say they will pray: others say they will send a donation. Some have even shared their own heartache over a wayward son or grandson. Please pray that the seeds we have planted and watered will bring forth much fruit to the glory of God.

A number of those who prayed for us and gave in the past have gone to be with the Lord. God has provided some to take their places. Please continue to pray for the ministry of Operation Rebirth. Ask God what you might do financially to make sure that we can continue to strengthen families and struggling young men. Perhaps you haven't been able to give in the past: perhaps you can increase your present level of giving. Your investment in this ministry is an investment in eternity where moth and rust cannot destroy nor thieves break in and steal. Operation Rebirth will continue to share Christ's love with hurting young men and desperate families.

## From the Director's Desk

Sam Ronicker

Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth *that is* in you, just as you walk in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. 3 John 2-4

### **You made a difference**

Over the past year Operation Rebirth had five students finish the course here and return home permanently. Those are five young men and their families that you made a difference in their lives, now and for eternity.

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## Hocking Article

From Roger Phipps

In late January we spent three days in the Hocking Hills for several hours of hiking, bird and tree observation, and a Bible study. There was enough snow to make it easy to trace the animals' tracks, and the ice formations were beautiful. Dave and Michelle Barry were our hosts at their Barringer Ridge Cottages. Thank you, Dave and Michelle, for providing for this ministry to our students.

By the end of February it was time to go to the Youth For Christ Wilderness Cabin in Paulding County for another three-day retreat. There were fun, spiritually challenging engagements with Jack Fetter, the director of the Wilderness Ministry, and Kent Eddy and Richard Fegley, two members of our board of directors. Generously giving his time, Trent Stoller gave us a fascinating tour of the Van Erk Dairy in Paulding County. Thank you, Trent and Jaap, for allowing us this privilege. Thank you, Jack, for your work with us, and the provision of the cabin for this retreat. And thanks to Kent and Richard for your ministries on the board and for your ministries to the students on this retreat.

## Operation Rebirth Establishes Charitable Fund

With Operation Rebirth's long-term future in mind, the board of directors recently established a charitable fund for the organization's benefit. The Operation Rebirth Fund, administered by the Community Foundation of Shelby County, may receive gifts from individuals, other organizations or estates.

"We receive gifts from many generous supporters that help with the daily expenses to educate and house boys who come to us," said Sam Ronicker, Executive Director. We also have to think ahead to ensure the longevity of Operation Rebirth.

Gifts to the fund at the Community Foundation of Shelby County, a 501©3 charity, are tax deductible. The Community Fund is responsible to administer the fund. ❖

### *Now more than ever:*

If you have ever thought about giving to Operation Rebirth, now is the time that we need you more than ever. At our current financial levels, the Board of Directors expects to have an \$11,000.00 shortfall in our budget this fiscal year.

Has God put families and their sons on your heart? Please partner with Operation Rebirth today as a monthly giver.

Call 937-663-5765 or see our web page at [operationrebirth.org](http://operationrebirth.org)

## A Different way of Helping Operation Rebirth...

As a member of the Operation Rebirth Board of Directors, the current and future funding of this vital ministry is always a concern. As an enthusiastic (some would say obsessive) bicyclist, I've often thought of how I could make my passion for riding count for something more than just my personal benefit and enjoyment. Here's something that I hope will cover both of these thoughts.

This year I've registered to ride in "Calvin's Challenge," a 12-hour bicycle race held on Saturday, April 30. It's pretty simple; the race starts at 7:30 AM, and ends at 7:30 PM, and in between, you ride a 50 mile and/or 7 mile loop, and at the end, how far did you ride? Their 2 biggest rules: "Always perfect weather", and "No whining allowed." I did this in 2007, and completed three full 51.4 mile loops for a total of 154.2 miles. The weather was perfect, as long as you consider rain, a 20 degree drop in temperature, and 25mph headwinds on 3 of the 4 legs of the third loop "perfect..." My goal this year is to complete 3 full laps plus at least one short 7 mile lap, which will put me at 160+ miles.

***NOW, here's where you come in:*** This year I've decided that besides riding for the challenge, I want it to count for something more, and want to use this as an opportunity to raise funds for the Operation Rebirth Endowment Fund. I'm asking you, if you're reading this, to help me help them by pledging some amount for each mile I ride, or making a flat donation to the Operation Rebirth Endowment Fund. To make a gift to the fund, checks may be made payable to: Community Foundation of Shelby County, 100 S. Main Ave, Ste 202, Sidney, OH 45365. Add to the check's memo line: Operation Rebirth. You can also donate online, using this link: <http://www.commfoun.com/qivingexistingfunds.htm> with your credit or debit card, and direct the gift to Operation Rebirth. All contributions are tax-deductible.

I haven't set a goal for donations, so any and all amounts are appreciated. If you make a pledge of 10 cents/mile, it would cost you \$16. 15 cents/mile is \$24; 25 cents/mile is \$40, and so on. Even though you are probably already familiar with Operation Rebirth, I encourage you to visit our web page: <http://operationrebirth.org/AboutUs.asp> to see how we minister to our students and their families.

You can also look at [www.calvinschallenge.com](http://www.calvinschallenge.com) for more information about the race, and probably, by noon on May 1, they'll have the results posted. (I'll be in the men's 56-60 age classification). There, you can check my results if you've decided to make a pledge based on my mileage.

What's in it for me? Simply the challenge of completing 12 hours of competitive riding, and being motivated to go farther to help Operation Rebirth go further in its ministry.

Paul Sullenberger  
OR Board of Directors

## NEEDS LIST

Paper Products: paper towels, tissues, napkins, toilet tissue

Plastic bags: trash bags, quart and gallon zip lock bags

Cleaning Supplies: dishwasher detergent, dishwashing soap, bathroom cleaner, laundry detergent (HE)

Baking supplies: brownie mix, muffin mix, cookie mix, chocolate chips, marshmallows, etc.

Snack foods: popcorn, chips, etc.

Commercial dishwasher

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SMOKY MOUNTAIN TRIP

PLACE : NORTH CAROLINA

DATES: APRIL 1- APRIL 8

School in the mountains.

EASTER BREAK

DATES: APRIL 22- MAY 1

Celebrate Christ's Gift

PARENT RETREAT

PLACE: HIGHER GROUND CAMP GROUND

DATES: MAY 6- MAY 8

Family training and fellowship.

FATHER'S RETREAT

PLACE: CHURCH OF GOD CAMP GROUND

DATES: JUNE 3- JUNE 5

Men Building relationships.

## VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

### WE NEED YOU!!!

FIX AND PAINT BARN SOFFITS

BUILD A GATE BETWEEN THE BARN AND THE PIG PEN THAT OPENS INTO THE 10 ACRE FIELD

REPLACE VANITY IN DORM APARTMENT BATHROOM

FIX SIDING AND CEILING ON THE BACK PORCH

REPLACE WHOLE HOUSE FAN

REPAIR AND REPLACE SCREENS AND SCREEN DOORS

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

NEW FLOORING IN DORM AND SCHOOL

HEATER IN BARN STORAGE ROOM

TWO NEW WOOD STOVES AND NEW CHIMNEY

13 NEW COMPUTERS BY 2012

Your prayers, your support of the ministry and your encouragement changed these lives now and forever.

There is no greater joy than when we tell a young man that he is headed home to stay. There is joy, there is fear, and there is faith. Joy that the young man has finished the course of respect, responsibility and relationship building; fear that he will continue to live as a godly man no matter what happens in life, and faith that God will equip his family to continue to grow.

Thank you for the difference that you made in the lives of these young men and their families. Great is our reward in this life and in eternity.

## WINTER WEATHER HITS O.R.

The weather hit hard in western Ohio with a storm of snow and ice that locked the campus in for days. All of the students and staff assisted in digging out of the 4 inches of ice and 6 inches of snow. The garage doors froze shut and the snow blew under and drifted into the garage coating everything with a layer of ice.

It was a challenge to keep the animal's water from freezing over. The students cleared the OR paths and then went into town to assist local businesses as well.

It hasn't been all work though. The boys have been sledding in the Urbana Park and tried dog sledding with Logan, a black lab, pulling the sled.

Then for a winter adventure they went looking for skunk cabbage at Kiser Lake. They were happy to report there were three skunk cabbage, blooming.

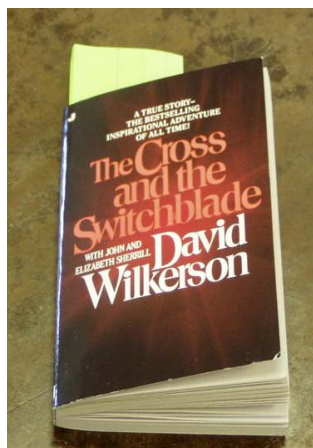
We are all ready for spring!

*Steven exploring nature at Hocking*



## New Music and New Music and Reading

Camille Green has joined Operation Rebirth to help increase reading levels. Camille's teaching brings a book alive, so we don't just read the words, we can understand the whole story. The first book we are reading is *The Cross and the Switchblade*.



### New Music Teacher

Makayla Bodey has also joined operation Rebirth as our new Music Teacher. She goes to The St. Paris United Methodist Church. After the need for a music teacher was announced at her church, Maykala felt God's prompting to call and volunteer. She is doing a great job and is excited to see the fruits of her labor.

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