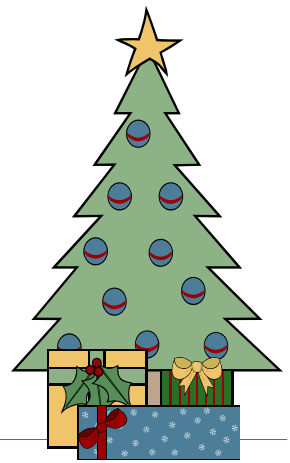


Operation Rebirth, Inc.

Insight



Christmas 2008

Volume 27, Issue 4



Special points of interest:

- ✓ Sharing Banquet is a great success!
- ✓ Students help with Marmon Valley Farm's "A Country Christmas."
- ✓ Students take time to think about the gifts they've received this year.
- ✓ If you had one wish this Christmas, what would it be?

*Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year*

From the Director's Desk: Jim Brian

We have had a great year at Operation Rebirth. We were involved in lots of activities; we had a number of groups come to do work projects; and we had a great Family Camp. We had a number of young men who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ and were saved. We had many who grew in their relationships with Christ. We received good reports from some of our alumni. It isn't always easy to trust God's plan for our lives when faced with problems. It takes commitment to God's Word as the final authority in a selfish, twisted society that rejects any final authority. We as a staff are tested, too, so please keep us in your prayers.

This year's Sharing Banquet was also a great success! We had 275 guests who were challenged and encouraged by Dr. Bill Brown, president of Cedarville

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University. Our good friend Dirk van Doesburg put together a wonderful DVD to give us an update on the ministry of OR. Board member Paul Sullenberger provided a wonderful slide show highlighting some of the activities the boys enjoyed this past year. We heard exciting testimonies from past and present students and parents. The response from our guests was very encouraging. The giving this year has been very generous for which we are very thankful. We operate on a tight budget in an effort to keep tuition costs within the reach of average families. According to our calculations based on what parents give, what we receive from our 20 supporting churches and 50

regular givers, and the one-time gifts we received at the Sharing Banquet, we still need \$45,000



Everyone enjoyed our day at Kings Island.

to meet our budget of \$215,000 for 2009. Please pray with us about this need in a time of economic crisis.

Operation Rebirth is a faith ministry and we know that God will continue to use you to make this ministry a reality as long as it is in His plan to do so. New governmental regulations have cost us several thousand dollars even though we do not receive any government money. If we did take government money we could not do many of the things we do to teach respect, responsibility and relationships from a biblical perspective. Faithful partners like many of you have made it possible for us to share the Truth with struggling young men and families for over 32 years. If you would like to make a donation or a monthly pledge here at the end of the year, we have enclosed a commitment card you can use for that purpose. Thank you.

From Our Teacher: Roger Phipps

Late in October the students kindled a fire behind the house, peeled apples, and shredded cabbage to make apple butter and sauerkraut. While stirring the kettle, they enjoyed a pan of parched corn. It was an interesting day.



Pastor Don shares some of the history of the Bible with our students.

Don Wells, the pastor of Piqua Baptist Church, hosted the guys one afternoon in November to view a historical Bible display. Don showed them the display, explaining what they were seeing, and gave them the history of the English Bible as we now have it.

Only a few days ago we returned from Marmon Valley Farms where we had helped to

prepare their facility for "A Country Christmas." The guys worked to bring in and stack wood, set up bleachers, and prepare a pony ride area. Our hosts provided us with wonderful room and board for the two days we were there. We also enjoyed a trail ride on the

farm's horses. The stu-

dents can know that they've had a part in presenting the gospel to 2,500 people at "A Country Christmas."

Last Monday the students began the process of butchering one of their steers. They get to be involved in the whole process of preparing meals from raising a small animal to

"The students can know that they've had a part in the gospel being presented to 2,500 people..."

the roast on their table.

We are thankful for the way God has blessed the ministry of Operation Rebirth. May you have a joyous Christmas.



Alex stands between the two sides of beef waiting to be butchered.

From Our House Parents: Sam and Teresa Ronicker

Are you anxious for Christmas? Our boys certainly are.

Like a child anticipating opening his presents on Christmas morning, we've been waiting patiently for several months for a glorious event: Our new chickens have begun to lay eggs — and we're getting nearly two dozen eggs each day!

Well, maybe that's not nearly as exciting as Jesus being born, but for the boys at Operation Re-birth it's still an event worth celebrating.

And it's a gift worth celebrating—both the chickens and the eggs we collect.

What seems like a simple gift of a few chickens is really an investment in our boys' lives.

They learn how to care for the chickens, collect the eggs, clean the eggs, and sell the extra eggs at church each week—a part of learning respect, responsibility and relationships here at O.R.

Isn't it amazing how God takes even the simple gifts—and uses them in our lives? I'm sure not too many folks in Bethlehem knew the gift born

to all of us on Christmas Day—the seemingly simple gift of a baby in a manger—was the gift



Erik cuts wood for our stove—



Ian stirs the apple butter we made in the fall—another of God's gifts.

that God would use as the only way of salvation!

We're taking the time this season to slow down and think about the gifts we've received this year. The simple things like chickens, the deeper things like salvation in Christ.

Thank you for your gifts of prayer and support and encouragement. We hope you have a Merry Christmas!

From Our Students

My name is Patrick and I am 13 years old. I have been at OR for almost 5 months. If I had one wish, it would be for me and my family to celebrate and enjoy the birth of Christ.

Hi, my name is Erik. I am 13 years old and have been here since April of this year. My wish is that I would learn to get along with my parents and the staff at

OR. I also need to take responsibility for my actions.

My name is Ian and I am 13 years old. I've been at OR for about 3 weeks. I wish that I would be a better person—more patient, more kind and slower to anger.



The boys enjoyed hiking in Conkel's Hollow in Hocking Hills.

Hi, my name is Steven and I am 14 years old. I have been at OR for 8 months. My wish is that I would be good to my parents.

My name is Jeremiah. I am almost 18 years old and I have been at OR for 4 years. My wish is that I would be a better leader and a positive influence on others. I would also like to have better control of my emotions.

Hi, my name is Ian. I am 15 and I have been at OR for 8 months. If I could have one wish, it would be that I would have a better relationship with my step-mother.

My name is Alex and I am 14. I have been at OR for 5 months. If I could have one wish, it would be that my family would get along better.



Erik, Steven, Sam and Roger ride the Viking Ship at Kings Island.



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Needs List:		
Lawn mowers	Extension cord	Extension ladder
Hay (large, round bales)	Cattle fence	Good used cars to sell
Bale spear (for a 3 pt. hitch)	Wheelbarrows	Corn to put on storage
Refrigerator (22 cu. ft., 30" wide)	Upright freezer	Work projects
Salt for water softener	Straw	Gas grill
Good wooden fence posts	Stock Trailer	



Students help get ready for a "A Country Christmas" at Marmon Valley Farm.

Operation Rebirth, Inc.

Staff:
 Director: Jim Brian
 Assistant Director: Roger Phipps
 Dorm Parents: Sam and Teresa Ronicker
 Secretary/Teacher: Susan Brian
 Bookkeeper: Pam Eddy

Board Members:
 Dave Amlin, Dave Brennan, Kent Eddy, Richard Fegley, Paul Sullenberger, Mike Williams,