



Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry, Inc.

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Dear Ministry Supporter:

We trust that you had a blessed Christmas with family and friends, and pray that God will be gracious to you in this new year.

Our cookie collection this past holiday season was a great success thanks to all of you. We collected and distributed over 14,000 bags of cookies to truckers and travelers - a new record! We have received many phone calls, emails and notes from the recipients and their families telling us how much they appreciated being remembered with a 'taste of home' while on the road. With a tract, note or Scripture verse in each bag, 14,000 individuals have been presented the gospel message, some perhaps for the first time. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will use the Word to convict the hearts of many.

We continue to see the Lord working through the Ministry as we experience certain 'God Moments' turn into lasting relationships. Many times, the Chaplains receive phone calls or visits from drivers who say, "I just had to get in touch with you while I was in the area. Our time together in the past has really helped me." Little do we realize how much a word of encouragement or spiritual counsel can impact someone's life.

We are already looking forward to our Spring Fundraising Dinner Concert to be held at the Plainfield First Church of God in Plainfield, PA on Saturday, May 5th. Be sure to mark this date on your calendar! You can also mark your calendars for our Fall Fundraising Dinner Concert to be held at New Fairview Church of the Brethren in York, PA on Saturday, October 6th. These events are great opportunities for all of us to gather together as a 'ministry family' to enjoy good food and fellowship around the table. And it's always a blessing to hear from our Chaplains about what God is doing through the Ministry.

Now some words from our Chaplains:

Chaplain Dave writes:

On more than one occasion, the subject of 'wants' versus 'needs' has come up during the course of ministering to individuals. I've given this some thought and found a quote I would like to share - "We need to mature in our relationship with the Lord. We do this by wanting what we need; not needing what we want." Matthew 6:33 reads, "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Many individuals approach this ministry asking for help to meet what they perceive as needs. However, understanding the difference between a need and a want has a lot to do with our relationship with God, our mindset and even our expectations in life.

The disciple John wrote, "Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased." (John 6:2) Now did this great multitude seek out Jesus for their spiritual needs or their physical needs? They were seeking physical healing, not spiritual healing. Yes, Jesus did feed them from the five barley loaves and two small fishes that a young lad

had. He did multiply it. But if you read further in verse 26, after the great multitude found Him, Jesus actually rebuked them. He said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled." Jesus goes on to say in verse 27, "Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him." When Jesus rebuked them for seeking physical earthly needs, He also went on to explain and share that He was here for their eternal, spiritual needs. I am discovering that many seek out the truck stop ministry not for their spiritual needs but for their physical, earthly wants. My continued prayer before the Father is that He would grant Craig and me wisdom and discernment in our daily ministry and that Jesus would use us to give others direction and counsel for their spiritual needs and not just for their physical wants.

Chaplain Craig writes:

The Lord has been faithful in so much this year. God has faithfully answered prayer after prayer - prayers for comfort, prayers for deliverance, and even prayers for healing. One of the drivers that Chaplain Dave and I counseled was struggling with a number of very difficult issues. The most serious issue was that his doctors had recommended brain surgery for the removal of a tumor. The driver really didn't want to go through with the surgery, so in the ministry chapel we anointed the driver and prayed for healing, trusting God for a miracle. A few days went by and the driver finally agreed to the surgery and the tumor was removed. To the doctors' amazement, the tumor was much smaller than previously noted. The doctors said that they had never seen something like that before and that if the tumor had not been removed, it probably would have just 'dissolved' on its own. After hearing the response of the doctors, the driver called us and thanked us for praying. The driver said that if he had known that God was healing him, he would have postponed the surgery. He also said that this experience helped to increase his faith in God. When he first came to the ministry chapel, it was hard for him to believe that with God nothing is impossible. Now he knows that with God, **all** things are possible. The last we heard, this driver was back behind the wheel and rejoicing in the Lord.

As we previously wrote to you, we are trying to reduce our printing and mailing costs. We are now posting our newsletters on our website (www.carlisletruckstopministry.org) so if you want to access them that way, and no longer wish to be on our mailing list, please let us know. Or if you'd rather receive these newsletters by email, let us know that as well. Also, beginning this year we will not be sending out receipts for each donation received, but rather a single receipt in January 2019 that includes the total of all donations you make during 2018. The only exception to this will be if the total of your contributions for the year is less than \$250.00, in which case we will not be sending you a receipt unless you ask for one. If you are a business or organization whose fiscal year is different from the calendar year and you need a receipt at some other time, please let us know so that we can accommodate you. These changes are consistent with IRS regulations and will save the Ministry significant time and resources.

Thanks again for your continuing support in this new year. May God find us faithful in providing for the real needs of those we encounter - solid biblical counsel and the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ.



David D. Bell, Sec./Treas. - Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry, Inc.

Remember, what you do for the least of these...you do for Christ.