



Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry, Inc.

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Dear Ministry Supporters:

We trust that you all had a blessed Christmas celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and that you are enjoying a healthy and happy new year!

With the homegoing of Chaplain Dan in May of 2016, and the hiring of our new Co-Chaplains in September, this past year was a year of transition and adjustment for the Ministry. We praise God that, even as Chaplain Dan often said, this is God's ministry - not ours. God is in control and He has faithfully sustained us through this time of change.

Chaplains Dave Braithwaite and Craig Shambaugh have made our transition smooth and seamless. Both were mentored under Chaplain Dan and were able to 'hit the ground running.' They have been welcomed by all and have been able to establish solid relationships with the employees at the truck stops, truckers and travelers, and our supporting churches. They have been able to provide not only material resources, but have had many instances where they have been able to demonstrate God's love through their actions.

Chaplain Dave writes:

Each day as I sit in the chapel and watch the trucks and the cars passing by, I wonder about the individuals in each of those vehicles. Each person, isolated from the world and the people in the world. Incased in their man-made steel cages called trucks and automobiles, they speed along trying to get to their destination via the fastest route, all the while missing the opportunities that God sets before them. Opportunities to minister to hurting people or to be ministered to for their own hurts, pains and tribulations. Each driver speeding down the road solely focused on reaching their desired destination or a truck driver speeding down the road to make their delivery. Their sole link to the outside world and those in it are their cell phone, CB radio or satellite television. Each person rushing headlong in their steel chariots with their routes laid out on their maps or their GPS devices. I wonder how many ever contemplate Proverbs 16:9, "The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps." Or James 4:13-15, "Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit' yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.'" Won't you pray with us for those who have planned their 'days,' but are not prepared for eternity? I cherish the moments when drivers and travelers take the time to fellowship and share about Jesus.

Chaplain Craig writes:

It has been a pleasure serving the trucking community at Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry. There have been many opportunities to provide counsel, meet personal needs and most importantly to lead individuals to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

One hot summer day, I was sitting in the office when the phone rang. It was a trucker that was very depressed and worried about how he was going to make it through the week. He talked about giving up and killing himself. I asked him where he was and he said in his truck. I invited him to come over to the chapel trailer. He said he would be ok, but continued to tell me his story of how he's been working extra hours but the company has been taking a good percentage of his pay for the training he went through months ago. He was short on funds to get food and other things that he needed. I said we might be able to help but he said, "It's ok, I'll survive and I got to go, someone's trying to call me on the other line." I repeated that if he needed some assistance to let me know and I would see how the Ministry might be able to help.

About an hour went by and as I was walking through the lot at Petro, I saw a guy with his head on the steering wheel and I felt the Lord telling me that it was the trucker who I had just talked to on the phone. I walked up to the truck and said, "Hey, are you ____*?" He said yes and I told him who I was. We began to talk and he showed me some of his last pay checks and how much the company was taking out. I said, "Let me get you something to eat; you like Wendys?" He said, "You don't have to do that." I told him I would be right back, and went to Wendys to get him a meal. When I returned, he was all excited and said, "Come in and eat with me." So we sat and talked in his truck for about an hour. I prayed for him and gave him one of our cards. I left and went back to the trailer and an hour later ____* walked into the chapel trailer with a GPS unit. He said, "Thanks for the Wendys. I want to give you guys my GPS. It's all I have that's worth anything." I told him, "You don't have to give us anything, but it would be nice if you could give God something." I gave him a Daily Bread devotional and told him to read it for that day and give God some time. He replied, "I can do that, thank you." What a great opportunity to brighten ____*'s day by demonstrating God's love by providing a meal and some literature that God can use to comfort him in the days ahead. Please keep us in prayer as we minister to those that are downcast, hurting and in need of the Great Comforter.

Recently, Chaplain Dave received this email:

My apologies for not sending this earlier but after everyone got home safe and sound we had so many things to take care of and almost forgot to send you a THANK YOU note for being there for ____* and I in so many ways.

____* was involved in the accident on the PA Turnpike after a rear tire blew out while pulling her horse trailer back on October 12. The truck was totaled and the horse trailer has some damage which is in the process of being fixed.

So many angels were sent our way that week and you were one of them, having prayer in the parking lot, talking to us and taking the time out of your schedule to drive me to your house to get much needed tools.

Another set of angels were our son-in-law, ____* and his friend, ____* who brought that BIG yellow Peterbilt truck to pull our trailer back home and refused to take anything for doing that act of kindness. ____* and I would like to donate those monies to be used to grow your ministry as you see fit.

May God richly bless you, your family which I met briefly, and the truckers that you minister to.

It is 'divine appointments' like these that make this Ministry so important to so many.

We had a very successful cookie collection this past year. Over 13,500 bags were collected and distributed. Thanks to all who made this a great success!

Over the last six months we have had some additional expenses for new stationary, brochures, office equipment, etc. We are also now paying two chaplains to provide 7day/week, 8 hour/day coverage. If you can help to offset these costs, we would really appreciate it. You can donate securely online through our website (www.carlisletruckstopministry.org) or by using the enclosed envelope. Thanks so much!

May our good God richly bless you in this new year!



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

*Names omitted to respect the individual's privacy

Mark your calendars now for our May 6, 2017 Spring Fundraising Dinner Concert at the Plainfield First Church of God, Plainfield, PA.