



Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry, Inc.

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Sharing Christ with Truckers and Travelers Since 1985

July 2019

Dear Ministry Friends and Supporters:

For many of us, mid-summer is a time for harvesting some of the crops we planted in our gardens in the spring. For many farmers, the harvest is still a few months away. In either case, these words of Scripture came to my mind: "And He was saying, 'The kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the soil; and he goes to bed at night and gets up by day, and the seed sprouts and grows - how, he himself does not know. The soil produces crops by itself; first the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head.'" (Mark 4:26-28) Yes, we may plant the seeds, but it is God who gives the growth and harvest. And, we are instructed by Jesus, "Behold I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together." (John 4:35b-36) This is our sincere prayer - that with your help, the Ministry is sowing the seeds of the gospel, that God will give the growth and that we will reap the harvest and rejoice together.

And now some words from our Chaplains:

Chaplain Dave writes:

"Most of the drivers that come in and talk to me at the chapel are men. I have heard many heart-rending stories of how these drivers get a phone call that informs them that someone near and dear to them (many of them men) have taken their life. The main question that seems to be on their mind and their heart is why? I try to share words of comfort, words of encouragement and words of understanding. By the grace of Jesus, and with the influence of the Holy Spirit, many of these individuals leave the chapel in a better frame of mind than when they arrived. I recently came across the following and I want to share it with you.

Men have a lot on their shoulders - kids rely on men and women rely on men. Who do men have to rely on but themselves. This is why men need friends. Being an isolated pillar of strength can wear on the best of men. And this is why so many men take their own lives. The suicide rate for men is over three and a half times that for women. Look out for your brothers and ask yourself these questions:

Do we as men trust God? "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding." Proverbs 3:5-6

Do we really know and understand the price that Jesus paid? "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Corinthians 6:20

Whose side are we on? "The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" Psalm 118:6

Are we standing strong? "Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong." 1 Corinthians 16:13

While the outward body experiences a decline in vitality, it is not so with the inward man - at least that's God's design. We should renew our inward (spiritual) man each day by spending time in the Word, time in prayer and in fellowship with other men. God's Spirit strengthens us and encourages us with each passing day. Encourage one another and pray for each other."

Chaplain Craig writes:

"During the last couple of months, we were able to take a number of individuals to the Harrisburg bus station and provide the funds needed to purchase tickets to get them home. One gentleman worked at the truck stop as a food prep. employee. His mom was in the hospital and he needed to get to Tennessee to be with his family. Another situation was a driver that was stranded at the truck stop by his co-driver and needed transportation. In both cases, we were able to share the love and concern of Christ. When we arrived at the bus station, both individuals gave me a big hug with tears in their eyes. I was then able to share my testimony of how God had helped me. They were very grateful for our assistance and I reminded them that if it wasn't for God, we would not have been able to assist them. They acknowledged this and recognized it wasn't just the Ministry that was assisting them, but it was in fact God and His people. Thanks again for all your support. Our prayer is that God Himself will continue to make an eternal impact on the lives of those who work at, use, and pass through the Carlisle truck stops."

Note: One very gracious donor, who understands the importance of home, has set up a "Get Them Home Fund" through the Ministry that provides the funds needed to get drivers home in cases of emergency.

Our spring banquet on May 4th, attended by about 130, was a great success with net proceeds of \$6,350.00. We now look forward to our fall fund raising banquet and have enclosed a flier that gives you all the information you need. We always have a great time together at these banquets as we come together as a ministry family. Tickets are \$15.00 and the deadline for purchase is September 21, 2019. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

We continue to marvel at how the Lord provides for His ministry. When we developed our budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, we projected a deficit of \$9,500.00. However, with faithful stewardship and His provision through your gracious support, we ended the year with our expenses under budget and our receipts over what we had anticipated resulting in a net surplus. We thank the Lord that He always blesses exceedingly!

Prayer Requests: Be in prayer for Chaplain Dave and his wife Cheryl. Cheryl is recovering from double pneumonia and Dave from prostate surgery. Although Dave's surgery was successful, he has had a difficult recovery and now faces radiation treatments. Also pray for strength and peace for Chaplain Craig as he works extra hours in Chaplain Dave's absence.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the fall banquet!

For the Board of Directors,



David D. Bell, Sec./Treas.