



Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry, Inc.

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Summer 2017

For most of us, summertime means a break from routine. We plan for time with family and friends, a day trip, a weekend getaway or even a week's vacation at the beach, mountains or other favorite place. It's a time for a change of scenery and a time to relax a bit. We're even willing to 'fight the traffic' to get to where we are going.

But, there is no break for our chaplains. In addition to ministering to the normal trucker traffic, with more people traveling, there is an additional need for assistance to those who may get lost, those whose cars breakdown and unfortunately, for those involved in accidents.

In a recent monthly report to the Board, Chaplain Dave wrote:

The events of the last couple of weeks have brought home to me how short and fragile and precious life is. Chaplain Craig and I attended the funeral services of Marie, a 30 year old woman that worked at a local hotel as a check-in clerk. Her life was short yet it impacted so many individuals as we heard from those that spoke at the service. Or the 22 year old man who was returning home from work on Rt. 944 when a tree limb fell through his windshield striking him in the chest killing him. Each of us has but a short time on this earth. I am reminded of James 4:14, "Whereas ye know not what (shall be) on the morrow. For what (is) your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." And as we walk by God's grace, I think of Psalm 90:12, "So teach (us) to number our days, that we may apply (our) hearts unto wisdom." But, even though our days, yes even our minutes are numbered on this earth, we have the promise as stated in John 10:28, "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any (man) pluck them out of my hand."

If nothing else, this brings to the forefront the need for each of us to share the Word of God with those that we come in contact with; to at least give them an opportunity to hear of God's grace and mercy through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Life on this earth is short - In the words of Charles Thomas Studd:

"Two little lines I heard one day, Traveling along life's busy way;
Bringing conviction to my heart, And from my mind would not depart;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.

Give me Father, a purpose deep, In joy or sorrow Thy word to keep;
Faithful and true what e'er the strife, Pleasing Thee in my daily life;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last."

Our prayer is that we as individuals, and as a ministry, put our efforts and resources into what 'will last.'

Perhaps it is because life is so short that we plan out our days, weeks and months. But we are told in Proverbs 16:9 that, "The mind of man plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps." (NASB) This is what Chaplain Craig speaks about in one of his reports:

Matthew 6:3: "Take therefore no thought for the morrow; for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself."

The Scriptures remind me that we never know what tomorrow may hold. Every day we seem to encounter different obstacles and challenges here at the Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry. While the interns (students from Wesley Seminary) were with us, I think they saw all the different areas of ministry that we may run into in a week's time. There have been days where I felt like I had the day planned out when all of a sudden, a phone call would change everything. This reminds me that God knows just what we need and just when we need it. He is always there for us and brings good out of every situation.

The Lord continues to bless us through our chaplains and through you who prayerfully and financially support this Ministry. We finished our fiscal year at the end of June with our expenses being about \$5,000.00 over our income, but as Chaplain Craig said, the Lord always knows just what we need, when we need it, and is He is faithful to provide it. We continually praise Him for supplying all of our needs.

On August 5th, we plan to have a Driver Appreciation Day. With use of the pavilion at Petro and donations from several local businesses, we will be providing hamburgers, hotdogs, sodas and all the fixin's free of charge to anyone who stops by. It's just another way to show our appreciation for the drivers and to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way.

Enclosed is a flier for our fall fundraising dinner concert at Fairview Church of the Brethren in York. We will have our usual (but exciting) silent auction, a wonderful 'home-cooked' meal and a concert featuring the southern gospel group "Harmony." Why not join us and invite some friends to come along? We always have great food, fun and fellowship. Just call any of the individuals listed on the flier for tickets.

As always, we continue to ask for your prayers and financial support. Our chaplains are an extension of a much larger body of believers (you!) who love the Lord and want to see others come to know Him as their Savior. Please pray for them. Also, would you pray for our Board of Directors as we seek God's wisdom and discernment in using His resources for His ministry and His glory?

We pray that you will have a safe, fun-filled summer as you gather with friends and family and hopefully have some time to just relax a bit!

Serving with you for Christ's glory,



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