



Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry, Inc.

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Sharing Christ with Truckers and Travelers Since 1985

January 2020

Dear Ministry Supporters:

Wow! It's hard to believe it's 2020! Over 20 years ago we were wondering what would happen to life as we knew it when we turned the calendar over to the year 2000. The 'Y2Kers' were predicting imminent gloom and doom! But, we as Christians, were assured in knowing that God is in control and He is the same yesterday, today and forever. What a blessed assurance! We trust you had a wonderful Christmas with family and friends and are looking forward to a new year of rejoicing in the Lord.

We wanted to let you know some of the ways the Lord has blessed the Ministry in 2019:

- The fall banquet was a tremendous success and provided net proceeds in excess of \$25,000.00! Many thanks to Barb Lehigh for coordinating the banquet and silent auction.
- We collected and distributed a total of 14,435 bags of cookies in December. Thanks to all that baked, packaged and delivered cookies making this a great success. We are continually amazed at how the Lord uses this event each year to open doors for testifying to His great love and gift of salvation.
- As part of their Grant Program, CommunityAid awarded us a grant to fund an "Emergency Lodging Program." These funds will allow the Ministry to provide a motel room for truckers and travelers who are stranded due to an accident, medical issue or vehicle breakdown, etc. and have a genuine need for housing for a night or two until they can make contact with a friend or relative to help them. We thank CommunityAid for their support of this program.
- The Lord greatly blessed the Ministry financially in 2019. Through your gracious giving, fundraising banquets and investments, we exceeded \$100,000.00 in total gross income! That, however, brings mixed blessings in that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania requires a special "compiled financial report" prepared by a CPA to be submitted. This was an unanticipated expense for us. But don't let that stop you from continuing to support the Ministry!
- The Ministry website (carlisletruckstopministry.org) has been expanded to include a "Blog" page where you can get all the latest Ministry news and watch videos from our chaplains and eventually others. A "Reviews" page has also been added where you can make comments and rate the Ministry. We would appreciate your feedback. Check it out!

In Other News:

Chaplain Dave took some medical leave this summer after surgery for prostate cancer. The doctors believe the surgery was successful, but further tests are needed to determine if radiation therapy is warranted. And while he was going through treatments and recovery, his wife Cheryl was hospitalized for severe pneumonia. Please keep our chaplains and their families in your prayers for good health and spiritual blessings. They continue to keep extremely busy dealing with the many individuals that come to the trailer and the situations that they present. That can be very stressful and tiring.

Our volunteers have been faithfully proclaiming the gospel at our Sunday worship services at the trailer. One volunteer, Mike Sites, relates an experience he had recently :

About an hour before a Sunday evening service, a Spanish speaking gentleman came to the chapel and asked in broken English what time the service was. Being able to speak a little Spanish, I replied "una hora." My understanding of Spanish is limited so I got my phone and brought up the English to Spanish translator. I was able to find out his name was Antonio (Tony) from Ponce, Puerto Rico. I offered him a bag of cookies and he replied "Feliz Navidad." I replied with out thinking "Prosperano y Felicidad" and we started singing the song Feliz Navidad. As it got closer to service time, I realized that Tony was going to be the only one attending. I remembered that we had Spanish New Testaments at the chapel so I got one and had a message on prayer using the Spanish translator on my phone. I knew Tony was a believer by his demeanor and his conversation. What is usually a 20-minute message, turned out to be almost an hour. During our time together, we talked about "The Lord's Prayer" and then said it together in Spanish. Tony thanked me and we prayed for each other. I gave him some of the canned goods and water that we have at the trailer. He asked about more cookies for his family and I told him to help himself. He took three more bags and thanked me. I took him back to the local motel where he and his family were staying and we parted. I thank God that He helped me through ministering to Tony.

What a blessing it is to minister to those the Lord leads to us!

We want to welcome a new worship service volunteer, Craig Lampe. Craig has a humble, servant's heart and a genuine passion for the Ministry and those without Christ. We look forward to him ministering with us. Would you prayerfully consider volunteering? We'd be happy to hear from you.

Receipts for your donations to the Ministry during 2019 will be sent out before the end of January. As allowed by IRS regulations, we will not be receipting donations of under \$200.00 for the year. However, if you need one for tax purposes, please let us know as soon as possible.

We continue to 'whittle down' the list of individuals who receive paper copies of our newsletters and other information in order to save on printing and mailing costs. If you no longer wish to be on our mailing list, or are able to receive information by email, would you let us know?

We pray that the Lord will bless you in this new year knowing that our "...God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19)

For the Board of Directors,



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

P.S. Mark your calendars now for our Spring Dinner Concert on May 2, 2020. Why not start collecting your good used clothing and bring it to the Dinner Concert for our CommunityAid bin?