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Summer 2020

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Did you notice our new letterhead? That's right - this year Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry, Inc. is celebrating 35 years of sharing Christ with truckers and travelers! We praise God that He has sustained and provided for us over all these years. What a gracious God we serve! Our God is also a sovereign God. He was not surprised by the COVID-19 pandemic or the civil unrest that the world is now experiencing. It is all part of His plan, He is in control, and He will receive glory from it.

The recent events have changed the way the Ministry is 'doing business.' On March 17<sup>th</sup> we 'closed our doors' at the trailer and put our chaplains on 'on-call' status. We also suspended our Sunday worship services. The chaplains have received numerous calls and emails from truckers, travelers and truck stop employees for assistance including requests for food, fuel, prayer, counsel and lodging. In most cases, we were able to help 'remotely,' but in some situations, on a person to person basis using newly established protocols. On May 26<sup>th</sup>, we re-opened the offices and chapel and our chaplains are re-establishing a presence. The drivers really appreciate having the chaplains back and the facilities open. We even had a visitor at the chapel the first night it was opened!

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our spring fundraising dinner concert which significantly reduces our overall income for the year. Many of you have received a 'stimulus' check from the government. Would you prayerfully consider donating part of it to the Ministry to help make up the deficit. Or maybe you would like to donate the amount you would have given for the offering at the spring dinner concert. We continue to seek God's help to be good stewards of what He supplies. To quote Hudson Taylor (1832-1905), founder of the China Inland Mission, "Depend on it, God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supplies."

At this point, we still plan to have our fall fundraising dinner concert on October 3, 2020 at New Fairview Church of the Brethren in York. We trust that the Lord will allow this to go on as scheduled. We have a full evening planned including our silent auction, dinner, ministry updates and concert. Please see the enclosed flier for all the details. Remember - the deadline for ticket purchase is September 19<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to seeing you there!

We ask you to join us in prayer regarding all those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Pray for those who are physically suffering, families who have lost loved ones, those who have lost their jobs, those dealing with schooling children at home, those who are on the 'front line' and our chaplains as they deal with some extreme situations.

Pray for us as a Board as we trust in the Lord to make wise and prudent decisions. C.H. Spurgeon, in his devotional on Proverbs 16:20, ("He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he") writes, "The true way to handle a matter wisely is to trust the Lord." "He who trusts in the Lord...happy is he now, and happier shall he be above." Thanks for your prayers and continued financial support!

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