## Celebrating Our





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## September 2020

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

Did you notice our new letterhead? 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! Please take some time to read through "Our History" to see how the Lord has continued to bless this Ministry. Our God is also a sovereign God. He was not surprised by the COVID-19 pandemic or the social and 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 still 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!

We had to cancel our spring fundraising dinner concert and now we are writing to tell you that, unfortunately, WE ARE CANCELLING OUR FALL FUNDRAISING BANQUET. We are saddened that we won't get to fellowship with you and give you a formal Ministry update as we usually do at these banquets. However, we have asked our Chaplains to give you a short update on how these uncertain times have impacted the Ministry and the lives of those we have been able to help. (See next page.) If you would like an expanded update, or more information about the Ministry, please let us know. Our Chaplains would love to speak at your church or organization and share more with you about how the Lord is blessing the Ministry and those it serves.

The cancellation of these banquets significantly reduces our overall income for the year since approximately one-third of our yearly income comes from these events. 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, would you consider donating the amount you would have paid for your banquet tickets and given for the offering at the banquets? As a way of saying "Thanks" we would like to send you a specially designed, 15 ounce, 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary mug for your donation of \$200.00 or more.





As a reminder, one way to help us cut costs is to receive these newsletters and other Ministry correspondence via email instead of 'snail mail.' If you would like to help in this way, please print your email address clearly on the enclosed envelope and check the last box on the inside of the envelope. Please also let us know if you no longer wish to receive correspondence from the Ministry.

We ask you to join us in prayer regarding all those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Pray for those who are suffering physically, 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.

We continually 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." 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, 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."

## Chaplain Dave writes -

"There is a cross mounted on the outside of the Chapel - a chrome metal cross with yellow parking lights on it. It has stood for many years and it has remained faithfully lighted as a message to drivers that come into the truck stop. Over the course of time, the chrome has tarnished and some of the lights have failed. The beacon of light is still there, just not quite as bright as it used to be. We recently took the cross down, polished up the chrome, replaced the failed lights and remounted it to the trailer. The message for the drivers has remained the same - "As long as I (Jesus) am in the world, I am the light of the world." (John 9:5) In ancient Hebrew philosophy, 'light' was the ultimate ideal, representing both knowledge and morality. In John 8:12, Jesus says, "I am the Light of the world; he that follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the Light of Life". Unlike the Chapel cross, the light of Jesus never fades. Stay focused on the light of Jesus during these trying times. He never fails and He never has to be taken down and refurbished and put back up on the cross. The salvation and grace and mercy of Jesus are eternal and everlasting."

Please keep Chaplain Dave in your prayers as he begins radiation therapy this month.

## Chaplain Craig writes -

"The last couple of months with the Ministry have been quite different and challenging. We are so grateful for the support from numerous churches, organizations, and individuals. We had the opportunity to provide masks for drivers and employees during the start of the pandemic. This opened the door to share the Bible and Christ to many during this time of uncertainty. We also received over 10 cases of water that has been helpful in hydrating drivers and spreading the gospel to those that are thirsty during the hot summer months. There were numerous occasions where individuals and church groups brought care packages for the drivers. This presented more opportunities to talk and pray with drivers. One driver I met was really struggling during the pandemic. He was trying to get a load and was concerned about his next pay check. I asked him if he had ever seen God work in his life. His eyes lit up and he said, "Yeah, I was working on my kitchen sink and didn't know how I was going to put it back together with just the parts I had. So I prayed!" He said that night he had a dream and, in the dream, he was shown how to put the sink back together with the few parts he had. I said "Was that God!?" He said "It had to be God!!". I was able to talk to him about looking to Jesus. After we prayed, I could see that he was encouraged and grateful for the spiritual touch and care package we gave him. There was another occasion of a homeless lady that we were able to help. When I first met her in her car, she was hesitant to talk, but after some conversation, I was able to pray for her. God gave me the words to pray and when I spoke about her family in the prayer, her heart broke and she started to cry. It was a precious moment and I encouraged her to just let the Holy Spirit touch and heal her. After this spiritual encounter, she later came over to the chapel and we were able to get her linked in with different types of government assistance programs. Months later, out of the blue, she texted me and said "My food stamps came through and my health insurance. Thank you for the applications. You have truly brought hope and sunshine into my life." When she sent this text message, it really touched my heart. As far as I know she is now working for the postal service in Harrisburg and doing well. Thanks again for your support and empowering us to make an impact at the Carlisle area truck stops. We couldn't do it without you."

Again, thank you for your prayers and continued financial support. We love, appreciate and miss you all. May our great God protect and bless you!

With much praise to God for His gracious care and provision,

Paul Mille Chairman

for the Board of Directors - Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry, Inc.

P.S. Enclosed are sponsor ads that would have been included in the banquet program. These establishments have graciously made donations to the Ministry. Please support them with your business if you are able.