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Sharing Christ with Truckers and Travelers Since 1985

Summer 2021

Dear Ministry Family, Friends and Supporters:

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV)

This last year and a half has certainly been a challenging and trying time for all of us. None of us expected a pandemic, let alone one with such severe impacts on health, families, employment, finances, government and personal relationships. It truly touched every aspect of our lives. In our human understanding, we cannot comprehend why the Lord would have brought all this about, but we continue to trust and acknowledge Him and that He will make our paths straight for the future. Rather than leaning on our own understanding, we can joyously sing:

What a fellowship, what a joy divine
Leaning on the everlasting arms
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine
Leaning on the everlasting arms

What have I to dread, what have I to fear
Leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near
Leaning on the everlasting arms

Leaning, leaning
Safe and secure from all alarms
Leaning, leaning
Leaning on the everlasting arms

by Anthony J. Showalter and Elisha Hoffman

There have been many changes at the Truck Stop Ministry since we last wrote to you in January. We have resumed our Sunday worship services with the assistance of 5 volunteers, one of whom has started a Wednesday evening prayer service. We hired Mike Kelso as co-chaplain May 1st (see included write-up), and he and Chaplain Dave are now sharing 42 hours per week coverage at the trailer. Chaplain Dave continues therapy for his cancer so Mike's hiring has taken some of the load off of him. We praise God for both of them and for their willingness to serve the Lord during these trying times.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our spring and fall fundraising banquets in 2020 and our spring banquet in 2021. Now, after much consideration and prayer, we have decided as a Board that in order to maintain a cautious position, we are also canceling our fall 2021 banquet. We have approached those businesses that normally purchase sponsor ads for our banquet programs and they have again graciously purchased ads that are included with this newsletter. Please take some time to read through them and support these businesses as you are able. Despite the decrease in income generated by the banquets, the Lord has been abundantly gracious in providing the funds we need to continue His work. Thanks to all of you for your continued, and increased support.

A special part of our banquet programs is to have our chaplains give you an 'in person' update on the Ministry. Since that is not possible, we have asked each of them to share with you some of their thoughts in writing.

Chaplain Dave writes:

Many times, we see the upheaval that occurs in our society. Sometimes it's violence, protests, corrupt government, and even turning away from God in every aspect of our country. We Christians struggle, many times, to see the good that comes out of these battles with the enemy.

The Civil War that occurred in the United States not only led to abolishing slavery, but believe it or not, a lot more was achieved to bring honor and glory to God. A chaplain in the Confederate Army, William W. Bennett published a first hand account of the spiritual renewal that swept through every corps, division, brigade and regiment, as well as the generals in Robert E. Lee's army of Northern Virginia. In January 1865, it was estimated that nearly 150,000 soldiers had been converted during the progress of the war, and it was believed that fully one third of all the soldiers in the field were praying men and members of some branch of the Christian church. Just as this amazing good came out of the tragedy of the Civil War, we need to see in the events of today, the wondrous glory that can be done by the hand of God to bring honor and glory to Himself.

Carry this one step further and put it on a personal level. Each of us is challenged daily with events that occur in our own personal lives. It could be an illness that is affecting us or one of our family members, it could be financial issues and most of all it could be a spiritual challenge that we have to face. Many times we sit down and look at these while they are occurring, and what we can only perceive is pain, heartache and stress. Jesus never promised perfection in this world when we come to Him. John 16:33 says "These things I have spoken on you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." Notice, how He ends the statement - "in the world ye shall have tribulation:" with a colon (:). This is a mark of expectation in the next statement, "but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." Each of us should carry this verse with us in our heart, when we face the challenges of this world.

Romans 8:28 is one of the best-known verses in Romans, and probably one of the best-known verses in the whole Bible. "For God works all things together for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose." It is important to remember this verse doesn't say all good things, it says all things, the good and the bad. So, I would like to encourage everyone, no matter what you're going through - remember - it can, and will be used to bring honor and glory to our Lord and Savior.

Chaplain Mike writes:

At a Sunday morning service, a driver came in and asked if he could give his testimony. While part of his testimony dealt with healing from demonic oppression, he said something that caught my attention. He told us, "God came to me in a dream" and told him "there is a part of your heart that is good and hasn't been corrupted. To bring you back to Me, I gave up two provinces and two cities for you." I remember thinking 'How wonderful our Father is. He just told him how much worth he is to Him.' Do you think about what your worth is to the Father? God's word says that we are made in His image. He gave us rule over all the birds of the air, fish of the sea and the livestock on land. He blessed us with seed bearing plants, trees with fruit so we would have food to sustain us (Genesis 1:26-30).

Our heavenly Father shows His love for us when He pours out His grace on us. Up to that point, what have we done? Nothing, other than be created by God, and we had nothing to do with that (Genesis 1:27). That's how God's grace works. We can't earn it, we can only receive it as God gives it freely to us because of His love for His children. Ponder this - God took all of man's sin in the world and credited it to His son Jesus Christ. Jesus had never sinned, but yet He receives our sin with obedience for the Father and love for us, and then we are empty of our sin (God's grace). God then takes Jesus' righteousness and credits it to us, even though we did nothing to earn it, so that we might be reconciled to God (more grace). This righteousness is not a self righteousness, but God's very own righteousness for us, so that we may do good works to equip the saints for the work of ministry to build up the church (Ephesians 4:12). We should recognize that our acts of

righteousness are the result of having God in us. Without God, our righteousness would soon turn to self righteousness. We need God's love and grace, we need His spirit in us so we can have faith in Jesus Christ by His blood and His finished works on the cross. Our salvation has been secured and we will spend all eternity with God so we can hear just how much we are worth to Him.

Introducing Our New Chaplain

The Board of Directors of Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry, Inc. is excited to announce the hiring of Michael K. Kelso as Assistant Chaplain effective May 1, 2021. Mike is no stranger to the Ministry having served as a Sunday morning worship service volunteer since 2016.

God found Mike at his first meeting of a twelve step program in March of 1996. "It was the example the people in recovery showed me how to put away my selfishness and give away what I was given so freely. They showed me my purpose in life - to serve God and those around me! My focus is to help the hurt and broken-hearted that Jesus puts near me." Mike's passion is to share the gospel with those that do not know Jesus, to be a spiritual father to men and intercessory prayer for others.

Mike worked for over 20 years with several trucking and transportation companies as a driver manager and operations manager supervising fleets of up to 40 vehicles. This experience gives him a real working knowledge of the problems and stresses that drivers face every day.

Mike has been married to Sharon since 2002. In addition to their blended family, they have brought other children into their home and parented them until their parents got 'back on their feet'.

Despite a stroke in January of 2018 and a heart attack in January of 2021, Mike has been given full medical clearance from his physician for normal activities. While considering Mike for the position, he voluntarily spent time with Chaplain Dave and 'shadowed' him through all the activities assigned to the chaplain.

Chaplains Mike and Dave each work 21 hours each week, allowing Chaplain Dave to have more time off while he is undergoing treatments for prostate cancer. Please keep both of them in your prayers. Pray for healing for Chaplain Dave and for wisdom, strength and encouragement for Mike as he embarks on this new ministry.

We pray that you will continue to trust and acknowledge the Lord and that He will make your paths straight.

For the Board of Directors,



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

P.S. We still have some Truck Stop mugs available and would be pleased to mail you one for a for a one-time donation of \$100.00 or more (while supplies last!).

Would you also let us know if you would like to receive our newsletters by email rather than 'snail mail' or if you would like to be removed from our mailing list? That will save us some printing and mailing costs!



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