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*Sharing Christ with Truckers and Travelers Since 1985*

Spring 2022

Dear Ministry Family, Friends and Supporters:

When the Israelites were in the wilderness and became hungry, they longed to go back to Egypt "when we sat by the pots of meat, when we ate bread to the full;" (Exodus 16:3) In response, God provided manna and quail for them to eat. Psalm 105:40-43 tells us, "They asked, and He brought quail, and satisfied them with the bread of heaven. He opened the rock and water flowed out; It ran in the dry places like a river. For He remembered His holy word with Abraham His servant; and He brought forth His people with joy, His chosen ones with a joyful shout." He did this "So that they might keep His statutes and observe His laws, Praise the Lord!" (Psalm 105:45)

After over two years of living in the 'COVID wilderness', many of us wish we could just go back to the 'good old days.' Many of us have suffered physically and financially, as well as even losing family members and friends. During this time, the Board of the Ministry has also been concerned about being able to carry on the Ministry as we have for the last 35+ years. We thought that having to cancel our fundraising banquets would substantially decrease our donations and possibly result in a financial deficit. However, we have constantly asked the Lord to provide for us and He has graciously, and abundantly, provided for all of our needs, financial and otherwise. He has provided the 'bread', brought 'quail', and opened the 'rock.' Praise the Lord!

Some News from 2021 -

- New bold, bright signage has been installed on the trailer that is highly visible from Rt. 11.
- Our annual cookie collection and distribution in November and December was again very successful. We distributed approximately 11,250 bags of cookies to drivers, truck stop employees and trucking facilities. Many recipients asked about making donations and some of the facilities put out coffee cans for donations. Over \$1,200.00 was received!
- As part of WPMG-FM (Carlisle, PA) radio's Community Issues and Missions program, Chaplain Dave had the opportunity to do four interviews at the station studios. He was able to share his journey with Jesus and how he became a Chaplain for the Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry. We encourage you to listen to them on the WPMG website.
- Through a generous donation from a supporting church, we were able to purchase a new computer, peripherals and software. This makes it possible for the chaplains to keep records of daily events, write reports and letters and also maintain the Ministry's formal records such as legal documents, meeting minutes, correspondence, etc. With a change in our phone plan and the addition of a 'hot-spot', we now have an official email address:

[Ctsm851@gmail.com](mailto:Ctsm851@gmail.com). You can now contact us through this email address or through the "Contact Us" page on our website: [www.carlisletruckstopministry.org](http://www.carlisletruckstopministry.org).

- At the end of 2021, our Vice-chairman, John Kahley resigned from the Board after 12 years of service to the Ministry. We are grateful for his years of dedication and service, and are currently seeking a replacement Board member. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in joining the Board and would like further information, please let us know.

Our chaplains have had the opportunity to speak to several churches and groups, but since they have not had the opportunity to address you at any banquets in the last two years, we wanted to give them an opportunity to express some of their thoughts to you in writing:

Chaplain Dave writes:

### What is Childlike Faith?

Matthew 18:2-4 refers to a childlike faith. "And He called a little child to Him, and placed the child among them, and He said, 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.'" But our faith is not to remain 'childlike.'

Mature Thinking: 1 Corinthians 13:11 tells us, "When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me." And 1 Corinthians 14:20 instructs us, "Brothers and sisters, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults." Clearly, we are not supposed to be like children in our thinking. One-year-olds can't think; they can't reason out what is right or wrong and what they need to do. A mature believer shouldn't think like a one-year-old. "Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding." (2 Timothy 2:7) "Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead with right judgment." (John 7:24) In other words, as you grow older, you learn how to make right judgments. We don't use the same thought process at age 5 that we do at age 25. We are to have the capacity to make right judgments; "but test them all; hold on to what is good." (1 Thessalonians 5:21) Why? Matthew 22:37 says, "Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'" A quick summary of this would be, trust like a child, think like an adult.

Grow Up to Grow Down: If you're knowing doesn't produce loving, you don't know right yet. I would say the same thing about faith. Right-knowing or right-thinking - the use of the mature mind - grows out of a childlike faith. We should grow up in our thinking, so that we can grow down in our humility. Again, Matthew 18:4 states, "Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." The point here is humility.

Humble Faith: What is humble faith? Well, imagine a little child in a stroller in line at a bank with his mom. All the people around him are fretting about their finances and he's asleep in this totally public, anxious, financially driven setting. Why sleeping? Because he knows mama is right there. He doesn't worry about his next meal, he doesn't worry about his finances, he doesn't worry about college - because his mama is right behind the stroller. That's what he knows and if he didn't believe that, he would panic. That is what faith is. Childlike faith is a humble faith that sits in a stroller, believes God is standing behind, and doesn't get anxious about all kinds of things. God

gave us brains - mature, adult, sophisticated, hard thinking, studying brains to understand the Bible and the work of God well enough to become that kind of child. Are you going through the world troubling over everything that is going on? Or are you resting in our Father in heaven. Are you demonstrating the childlike faith that Jesus talks about? Or are you relying on yourself to get through the struggles of today. If you are relying on yourself, that is a heavy load to carry and eventually it will break you down. But if you are relying on Jesus, remember these words in Mathew 11:30 "For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." We are to have a childlike faith that grows into a humble reliance on, and comfort in, the knowledge that our Savior loves us and will care for us.

Chaplain Mike writes:

I enjoy the agrarian parable scriptures in the Bible. My favorite is in John 15:1-5. This is where Jesus talks about Him being the vine, and his Father is the gardener, and how the gardener cares for the vine by pruning the branches. He keeps the branches that produce fruit and gets rid of the branches that do not produce fruit. I love the picture of this scripture - the Father caring for His Son the vine, and us the branches, through pruning. This is what a good father and son relationship looks like. One caring for the other so one can produce good fruit.

I was reading a daily devotional that was based on the scripture of Luke 8:15, "but the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop." The author talked about deer hunting and how he wanted to build a food plot so the deer would gather on his property and he might have a successful harvest of a deer. He picked out a spot that had deer trails leading to it, he cut down trees so that sunlight would hit the ground, and then he began to tend the soil. But, he found out that just a few inches under the surface of the soil was nothing but roots and rock. He had to get rid of all the bad things - the roots and the rocks - so that he could begin to till the soil so it would produce good fruit.

This reminds me of when I first planted a garden. I'm not the kind of guy to scratch around in the soil. That doesn't appeal to me. Weeding is not enjoyable to me. But I can do planting, watering, harvesting and certainly eating without any problem. After I had done the hard work on my garden, I found myself sitting out back looking at the garden and having feelings of joy over how the garden had grown through care and hard work. I couldn't help comparing the relationship of the gardener to the garden, to a father and his son. The sharing of love and compassion, caring, not only when the son is being good, but also when he needs discipline. That process of disciplining is like tending the soil of the heart. Removing the bad things, like rocks and roots through perseverance so the soil becomes good for planting and growing good fruit. This is the same as speaking the word of the Lord to a son and helping him to retain it within his heart. Then he will have a good and noble heart, and the strength to persevere in tougher times. Eventually, when he becomes a gardener, he will reap from the hard work of pruning the branches, and his tilling of the soil so that the harvest will be fruitful. Proverbs. 22:6 tells us to "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

If you would like to have one of our chaplains speak at your church or event, please let us know.

## This Day

One of our Sunday morning worship service volunteers, Everett "Chip" Purkins, has recently published a book of poems titled "Receiving God's Glorious Gift" (published by Covenant Books and available through Amazon) from which the following is extracted:

"Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away."

James 4:14

Today will have a life of its own  
At day's end, what have we sown?  
Do we plant the seeds of God's holy word?  
And pray the heeding of truth, has occurred?

Is our own growth all it should be?  
When God examines us, what does He see?  
Do we walk toward Him, or run away?  
When once bright skies, turn to gray.

Does His comforting voice clearly say?  
"Follow my road, straight is My way"  
When this life is over, where will we go?  
When we trust Him, we surely, will know.

We have a student from Messiah University doing a short internship with us. She writes: "My name is Cori Galbraith, and this semester I am serving at the Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry as part of a course at Messiah University. Recently, we have been working on organizing the books and reading materials in the trailer for the truck drivers. I have also met the chaplains and attended a Sunday morning service at the trailer. I am impressed by how many needs this ministry meets. Not only does it address spiritual needs, but also the felt needs of the truckers and others who visit. The chaplains' and volunteers' strong faith and passion for service make the ministry valuable and impactful."

Please continue to keep the Ministry in your prayers. Pray for our chaplains as they deal with the situations they face everyday. Pray for Chaplain Dave as he deals with his cancer. Pray for the Board as we seek a new Board member. Pray that the Lord would direct your giving to the Ministry. Above all, pray that the Lord would be praised and glorified in all that we do.



Paul E. Miller, Chairman

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**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE GIVING TO THIS MINISTRY, PLEASE USE THE  
ENCLOSED ENVELOPE FOR YOUR NEXT GIFT. THANK YOU!**