



P.O. Box 851
Carlisle PA 17013-0851
717-385-7932
www.carlisetruckstopministry.org
email: ctsm851@gmail.com

Sharing Christ with Truckers and Travelers Since 1985

Summer 2023

Dear Friends and Ministry Supporters:

We may not have had an official drought this spring and summer so far, but I know that my yard looks more like a hayfield than a lush green lawn with colorful flower beds. However, the trees still look vibrant and healthy. Scripture reminds us that the man who trusts the Lord "...will be like a tree planted by the water, that extends its roots by a stream and will not fear when the heat comes; But its leaves will be green, and it will not be anxious in a year of drought nor cease to yield fruit." (Jeremiah 17:8) Isaiah 40:8 also reminds us that "The grass withers, and the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever." What a comfort to know that we can trust our God in times of 'drought' as well as during 'showers of blessing.'

After a more than two year hiatus from having fundraising banquets, the Lord showered His blessings upon us at our Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 banquets. Not only did we have a great time reuniting with our Ministry family, but you, our supporters, provided nearly \$19,000.00 for the Ministry! The Lord continues to bless! As I write this newsletter, we are already in the midst of planning for our Fall 2023 Banquet. Please see the enclosed flier and make plans to attend.

We know you love to hear 'what's going on' with our chaplains, so we've asked each to give you their own personal messages:

Chaplain Dave writes:

"After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of Him to every town and place where He was about to go. He told them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.'" (Luke 10:1-3)

These instructions have not changed since they were first issued 2,000 years ago. We minister to drivers, travelers and others through divine appointments - when God provides a situation where we can have a spiritual impact on someone.

Just this month, I received a phone call from a Middlesex Township Police Officer informing me that a driver needed to get home and asked if we would be able to help. I said, "of course" and drove to the trucking firm where I met the driver and the officer. On the surface, the driver seemed fine; He just wanted to get home and needed a ride to the Harrisburg bus station. We loaded the driver and his personal stuff into my truck and we headed to the bus terminal. On the way, we talked about our personal relationships with Jesus, some of the struggles we have in life, many of the temptations we experience and many of the blessings we receive. It was at this point that I noticed the driver beginning to tear up and, all of a

sudden, he cried out “they shot my grandson and killed him last night and I wasn’t there to protect him.” Traveling down I-81, all I could do was put my hand on his shoulder while he cried. In times of agony and pain we need somebody to simply put their hand on our shoulder to let us know we're not alone. We talked some more, and when we reached the bus station we prayed and hugged each other. My prayer is that the Lord will be this driver's Comforter as he deals with this situation of great loss and guilt.

This is but one of hundreds of divine encounters through which the Lord has enabled us to show others His love, compassion, understanding and plan of salvation. Please keep Steve and us in your prayers for biblical wisdom and discernment.

Chaplain Mike writes:

As an adolescent I can remember hearing the words 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth' or 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' (Matt. 5:38, 43) I remember these sayings still today, but I have a hard time remembering the verse that comes next in scripture, “love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” (Matt. 5:44). Why doesn't that verse come to me as easily as the first two?

Is it because my 'forgetter' works perfectly? Is it because my 'rememberer' is broken and I can't get spare parts to fix it? That is part of it, but I think, left to my sinful human nature, revenge and what I consider fair, come easier than loving my enemy. I need less of me and more of Jesus in my heart to help me love my enemy. I am grateful that God makes the decision to have the sun rise on the evil and the good, that He sends the rain to fall on the righteous and unrighteous.

The Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry chaplains are here to listen, comfort, give spiritual guidance and be a reminder of God's saving love to all who walk through our door - regardless if they look differently, speak differently, smell differently, believe differently or dress differently. My God reminds me that He allows His sun to rise, and rain to fall, on the just and the unjust.

I'm grateful that through my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, my first thought is, “but if my enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head. Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.” (Rom 12:20-21). I hope that all who we minister to, see the light and love of Jesus in our words, thoughts, and actions.

Thanks again for your continued financial and prayer support. Please be in prayer for the Board and chaplains as we are still looking for someone to fill a vacant position on the Board of Directors as well as volunteers to give messages at our Sunday worship services. Getting involved in one of these ways not only blesses others, but you receive a great blessing as well.

On Behalf of the Board,



David D. Bell, Sec./Treas.