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*Sharing Christ with Truckers and Travelers Since 1985*

September 2025

Dear Ministry Friends and Supporters:

In our last newsletter of February, we announced that this is our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a ministry to truckers and travelers in the greater Carlisle area. God has been very gracious over all these years by providing faithful biblical chaplains, board members and 100's of supportive individuals, churches and organizations. He has also faithfully provided for all of our needs, financially and otherwise.

Being curious, I wondered if the number 40 had any particular biblical significance. After a little research, I found that it does and is actually used over 150 times in the Bible. Can you think of any examples? Some that I found were:

- It rained 40 days and 40 nights during Noah's flood. (Genesis 7:4)
- Moses spent 40 days and nights on Mt. Sinai, fasting and receiving the Ten Commandments. (Exodus 34:25)
- The Israelites wandered in the wilderness 40 years (one generation) before entering the promised land. (Numbers 14:33-34)
- The spies searched the land of Canaan for 40 days. (Numbers 13:25)
- Jonah preached to Nineveh for 40 days. (Jonah 3:4)
- Ezekiel laid on his right side for 40 days. (Ezekiel 4:6)
- The first three kings of Israel (Saul, David and Solomon) each reigned 40 years. (Acts 13:21, I Kings 2:11, I Kings 11:42)
- Jesus was in the desert 40 days fasting and being tempted by Satan. ((Matthew 4:2)
- Jesus appeared to His disciples and many others for 40 days after his resurrection. (Acts 1:3)

In general, the number 40 symbolizes a time of trial or testing, or a period of probation or preparation that results in self-examination and repentance, and significant spiritual growth and restoration. All of these events resulted in 'lessons learned' and in dramatic changes for the individuals involved as well as others. So, what should CTSM learn from the last 40 years? What changes should we be looking forward to?

First and foremost, the fact that God is sovereign and is in control of all things has constantly been reinforced. This is His ministry, not ours. We have experienced some difficult times and decisions over the years, but God has always been faithful to direct and sustain His ministry. He has been gracious to forgive any poor decisions we have made as we humbly repented. He has given us leaders who have sincerely sought His will and discernment. He has given us

'fruit' for our labors in His name. We have seen marriages healed, addictions broken, families restored and souls saved for eternity. What greater blessings could we have? We look forward to God's continued blessings as we serve Him in His strength. I have used this quote before from Hudson Taylor, but it is worth repeating: "Depend upon it, God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supplies."

As a result of our last newsletter, we received several monetary 'Birthday/Anniversary' gifts which included some cards and greetings. One church said, "Sending a basket of joyful prayers your way." One individual wrote, "Happy 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Thank you for your dedication to God and to those who need to see His love for them through our Lord's hands and feet here on earth." Won't you consider your own special 'Birthday/Anniversary' donation as we celebrate God's abundant blessings in the past and His faithful blessing on the Ministry in the future? Even if you can't send a financial donation, won't you pray with us, and for us, that we may be able to continue to be God's "hands and feet here on earth?" Pray that we will seek His will as we demonstrate God's love to 'even the least of these.'

On a somber note, it was with sadness and great emotion that after almost nine years as chaplain, "Chappy Dave" announced at our June Board meeting that he planned to resign as chaplain effective at the end of this year. Due to his wife's (Cheryl) medical condition, he wants to be able to spend more time with her, and caring for her. He set the end of the year date to give the Board time to find a replacement. After prayer and discussions, he now feels that he can stay on as an hourly (rather than salaried) employee if his work schedule and hours could be flexible. The Board has agreed to this and Chaplain Mike has volunteered to take on additional hours and responsibilities to fill in some gaps. Our prayer is for Chappy Dave and Cheryl's situation, that they would adapt to his new schedule and that all would benefit from this arrangement. Please join us in this prayer and that any disruptions would be minimal. And, if you know of someone who would be interested in working as a chaplain on a part time basis, please let us know.

On a lighter note, we will again be collecting cookies this year for distribution to the truck stops and terminals, as well as the hotels and motels along 'The Miracle Mile'. Having personally been involved in this ministry for many years, I look forward to the smiles and appreciation that a simple bag of cookies brings to someone who may be far from home and family during the holidays. Enclosed you will find a flier with all the details. Help us make this year the best year yet!



**It's almost cookie time!**

For the Board of Directors,

*David D. Bell*

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