



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

Sharing Christ with Truckers and Travelers Since 1985

June 2026

Dear Ministry Friends and Supporters:

My, how time flies! Can you believe our last newsletter was sent to you in September of 2025? We apologize for not keeping you more up-to-date with what's going on in the ministry.

We thought it might be good to give you a reminder of what "A Day in the Life of a Chaplain" is like:

The centerpiece of Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry is our chaplains. Our chaplains, David "Chappy Dave" Braithwaite (now with 10 years of service) and Mike Kelso (with 6 years of service), are at the forefront of the ministry. Their primary ministry is to truckers and travelers. More and more, however, they interact with homeless people on a regular basis. More on that later.

The chaplains make themselves available to truckers at the chapel trailer and by walking through the restaurants at the local truck stops, as well as hanging out at the fuel pumps. They wear hats and/or shirts that identify them as the truck stop chaplains. When a trucker invites them to eat with them, sometimes it's a signal that they want to talk. This may include conversations about general job concerns, family, and so on. The chaplains have developed the skill of asking questions to determine what is going on in their lives. Sometimes there is a deeper problem and a deeper need. The chaplains provide pastoral counsel and pray over them. They have developed relationships with some truckers who call them to eat a meal together on a regular basis.

In a recent conversation with Chaplain Mike, I mentioned that I admire the boldness of the chaplains in sharing the gospel. Chaplain Mike said he doesn't see it as boldness. He said that it is love coupled with directness. For example, instead of trying to discern a person's spiritual state, the chaplains will ask directly, "Do you have a relationship with Jesus Christ?"

A typical day involves checking the video captured on the cameras in the chapel to see who visited the chapel while they were gone. This might include truckers or homeless people. The chapel is open 24 hours a day. There also may be a need to clean the floor, put books away, or straighten the furniture. Most important, though, is preparing for the day with Bible reading

and prayer. They also check the literature rack in the chapel to make sure it is fully stocked. They also make a point of talking to the porters who maintain the parking lots and truck stop facilities to find out if they have seen anything out of the ordinary. They might also encounter truckers in the lot.

The second large group that the chaplains encounter are the homeless. While the chaplains emphasize to the homeless that our ministry is to truckers, they will attempt to connect the homeless to partner organizations such as Project Share, or refer them to other organizations such as Community Cares. For the homeless, the chaplains occasionally provide food and drink, provide rides, talk to them about the Lord, ask where they are from, and what their future plans are.

UPMC Carlisle Hospital is another partner. They will call on the chaplains when a trucker needs transportation to or from the hospital. Other partner organizations include The Bookery, the Gideons and Our Daily Bread for books, Bibles and literature.

The chaplains also do a variety of other things in support of the Ministry. They often speak at supporting churches, they attend Sunday services in the truck stop chapel, and they participate in the Ministry board meetings sharing reports and plans.

Whether they are listening to the people they encounter, sharing their own story, or pointing to a Savior who ever intercedes for us, the chaplains are having an impact on the many truckers, travelers, and homeless people that pass through the Carlisle area.

In other news: During our 2025 Christmas holiday cookie collection and distribution event, we set a new record of distributing over 15,300 bags of cookies to individual truckers and travelers, truck stop employees, trucking terminals and warehouses. We also had a church bring us an additional 300+ bags around Easter time. Their thought was that if we're demonstrating God's love of giving His Son at Christmas, why shouldn't we do the same to remind folks of Christ's resurrection at Easter? That's a total of over 85,000 cookies! Thanks to all of you who contributed your time, and baking and bagging talents to make this annual event such a blessing to so many people!

As we prepared the budget for our next fiscal year (July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027) we gave thanks to God for His gracious provision of financial resources for the Ministry. However, we also noticed that donations have dropped off some in recent months. Would you prayerfully consider an 'extra' gift at this time so that we do not have to start taking from our reserve funds? We thank you ahead of time and pray that the Lord will bless you for blessing His ministry.

We pray that the Lord will give you an enjoyable and safe summer.

The Board of Directors
Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry, Inc.