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Sharing Christ with Truckers and Travelers Since 1985

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Dear Ministry Friends:

“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.” Isaiah 40:8

Can you remember any summers in the past that were as hot and dry as this past summer? Strings of 90 degree plus days seemed to last for weeks and 'feels like' days of over 100 degrees were not uncommon. Most areas didn't get much rain and the lawns turned brown and crispy, plants wilted and some of the crops were stunted from the lack of water.

Several verses became common thoughts to me as the heat persisted. Isaiah 49:10 says, “They will not hunger or thirst, nor will the scorching heat or sun strike them down; For He who has compassion on them will lead them and will guide them to springs of water.” Jeremiah 17:7-8 says, “Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord and whose trust is the Lord. For he 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.” And Psalm 1:1-3 says, Blessed is the man whose “delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers.”

All of these verses talk about springs or streams of water and being guided to them, and firmly planted beside them, by the Lord Himself. It is only when we trust Him, and in Him, and study, obey and delight in His word, that we are refreshed by His streams of living water.

We are so blessed to have Chaplains Dave and Mike who are so firmly planted in the Word. Most times when I surprise them with a visit at the trailer, I find them at the desk with their 'noses' in the Bible, often with several reference books open along side. It's obvious that they have a hunger for God's word and how studying it can direct their hearts and minds to those streams of living water. It reminds me of the song based on Psalm 42:1-2:

“As the deer pants for the water, So my soul longs after You
You alone are my heart's desire, And I long to worship You.”

Our prayer is that you too will constantly be hungry and thirsty for those streams of trust, obedience, righteousness and delight that can only be ours through longing for, and worshipping our Savior Jesus Christ.

After-note: Wouldn't you know it, just after writing this, tropical storm Debby came through and gave us 'showers of blessing.'

We have been doing a little 'spring cleaning' and sprucing up at the chapel trailer during the late spring and summer. We had a student from Messiah University do a short internship with us as part of a course required "Elder Service Partner Program". This program links students with individuals over 65 years old who are involved in volunteer work in their community and has the student join in the work as the 'elder' sees helpful. As such, our student helped in cleaning and straightening out our storeroom at the trailer. She literally got her hands dirty sorting through books we get from the Bosler Library Bookery for appropriateness for chapel visitors, sorting and inventorying the Bibles we get from the Gideon's, and refreshing the literature on the racks in the trailer. She was a great help. The chaplains and a volunteer took a day in July to shampoo the carpet in the office and chapel areas that had become quite dirty from the winter months and early spring rains. They also wiped down and sanitized the cabinets, display racks and bookshelves. What a difference a good cleaning makes!

Ever since the "COVID years", we have seen a shift in the numbers and types of visitors that stop in the chapel. It seems that the truckers have become more comfortable staying in their rigs at the truck stops as opposed to getting out and socializing. As a result, we tend to have fewer drivers stop in for assistance, whether it be physical, emotional or spiritual. However, attendance at our Sunday morning worship services has remained fairly consistent. What we have experienced is more homeless, out of work and needy folks who are looking for help, whether it be food, transportation, shelter or money. Without compromising our established mission "to provide assistance to individuals who work at or use the truck stops, terminals and distribution facilities in the greater Carlisle area", our chaplains seek to help where they can by providing some basic immediate needs along with referrals to local support agencies. This requires great discernment on their part to determine who is really in need, and in no instances do they give individuals cash that could be used for drugs, etc. Please pray for our chaplains as they encounter these situations.

In Matthew 18:12-14 and Luke 15:4-7, Jesus gives a parable about the one lost sheep and how the shepherd goes out to find it. Chappy Dave has often used this parable to emphasize that we are there for 'the one' who is lost and needs Jesus, the good Shepherd. Our prayer is that we will be able to rejoice over that 'one lost soul' that is found and carried on Jesus' shoulders to heaven. "It is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones perish." (Matthew 18:14) Please pray that the 'one' will find Christ through our ministry.

The Lord continues to be faithful in providing the financial resources we need to carry on the ministry. However, over the last year or so, we have seen a decrease in the amount of donations. We have not needed to dip into our 'rainy day' funds, but we do want to let you know that we are getting close. May we suggest a few ways you can continue to give on a regular basis?

- You can mail us a check at any time.
- You can donate online any time at: www.carlisletruckstopministry.org using a credit card or PayPal.
- At your request, we can send you several donation envelopes to use as reminders to give on a monthly, quarterly, etc. basis.
- Make a one-time, end of year donation.
- For those of you who have IRAs, please discuss with your tax consultant about giving directly to the Ministry through Qualified Charitable Donations (QCDs). This is a great way to make

contributions to non-profit organizations without having to pay any tax on the funds withdrawn from your IRA.

- Want to leave a legacy of sharing the gospel? Giving to Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry, Inc. through your will or trust is a God-honoring way to continue touching lives for Christ beyond your lifetime. Establishing a bequest offers a simple and flexible way to ensure your assets are distributed exactly as you wish. And if your estate is subject to taxes, a bequest counts as a charitable deduction that minimizes what is owed and maximizes what is passed to loved ones. If you are interested in how a bequest to Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry, Inc. can benefit you, your family and the Ministry, please consult with your attorney, tax consultant or financial adviser.

Each of our Chaplains wanted to share some thoughts with you:

Chaplain Mike - Jesus' Disciples (John 15)

On that memorable night before the Passover, Jesus turned His attention to His disciples. He tells them of things to come and imparts wisdom, understanding and truth to help them after His death.

Jesus is the true Vine and the disciples are the branches drawing their sustenance from the Vine to produce good fruit. From a natural vine we look for grapes, from a Christian vine, we look for the fruits of the Spirit - "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." (Galatians 5:22-23). A Christian life is more than just being good and obeying biblical commands. The disciples needed faith to trust and *abide* in Jesus so they wouldn't be tempted to return to the Mosaic law after Jesus's death, but rather to follow Jesus' new commandment to love one another.

Jesus was the glue that held the disciples together. Once He was gone, they might separate from one another. He told them about His love for the Father, the love the Father has for Him, and His love for them. He told them to obey His command: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. (John 15:13) Love one another and bear good fruit.

Jesus also wanted the disciples to be prepared for the world's hatred toward them. The world hated Jesus, even to the point of crucifying Him. God chose the nation of Israel for His own people and set them apart for Himself. For this, the world hates them. The disciples were chosen by Jesus and set apart for Himself to spread the good news. He told them, "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you." (John 15:18) The grace of these choices of God the Father and Jesus His Son, sets the world against them because they are not conformed to this world but rather, through faith in Jesus, are destined for another world.

When Christ ascended into heaven, He sent the Comforter for His disciples and for us. He testifies about Jesus and encourages, guides, and strengthens all of God's disciples (past, present and future) so we can witness the truth of Jesus Christ to a hostile world. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Chaplain Dave - May I introduce you to the Holy Spirit?

The Scriptures reveal three basic truths about the Holy Spirit:

1. *He is all-powerful.* (Genesis 1:2) We see the effect and the power of the Holy Spirit's presence at that mysterious, awesome moment of creation, when "the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." The original word translated hovering means 'brooded', which describes the actions of a mother bird sitting on her nest of eggs. Likewise, the Holy Spirit drew life out of the chaotic earth and produced light and order.

2. *He is all-wise.* (1 Corinthians 2:10-11) "These are the things God has revealed to us by His Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God."

The Holy Spirit possesses intellect. He knows the deep things of God, even all there is to know about God. It includes the divine truth that comes from God. The Holy Spirit opens our understanding to the meaning of the Scriptures and shows us how they apply to everyday living. The Holy Spirit is our live-in Teacher who is ready to help us understand and apply God's word every time we read it. The Holy Spirit is one with God, and loves every believer whom He indwells. He grieves when we fail to respond to His teaching and guidance.

3. *He is everywhere-present.* (Psalm 139:7-10) "Where can I go from Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence? If I go up to the heavens You are there; if I make my bed in the depths, You are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there Your hand will guide me, Your right hand will hold me fast."

The Holy Spirit is everywhere-present. If we try to run away from Him, He runs alongside us. If we attempt to hide from Him, He is waiting for us in our hiding place. God never stops pursuing His children, wherever their wayward running may take them. He is like the loving Shepherd walking through the lonely dangerous night in search of a lost sheep. When found, He puts the lost sheep on His shoulders and brings him home rejoicing.

Enclosed is a flier that provides the dates and details for our annual cookie collection and distribution event. This event is a great way to demonstrate God's love, and to let truckers know that they are not forgotten and how much we appreciate what they do. Last year we collected over 14,100 bags which were distributed directly to truckers and left at the trucking terminals, warehouses, and local hotels and motels.

We hope you will have a blessed Thanksgiving with friends and family. It just might be an ideal time to bake some cookies for our cookie distribution!

For the Board,



David D. Bell, Sec./Treas.

