

RMR **Update**

Newsletter for the Friends of
Raceway Ministry Resources

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You Be the Judge

During 2002, Raceway Ministry Resources said “yes” to every opportunity that came along to organize, encourage and perform ministry at the nation’s speedways. It was time to “test the waters” and see if the potential for full engagement in this ministry would be needed. As a result, ministry took place locally at Texas Motor Speedway with Texas Alliance Raceway Ministries, as well as at dirt tracks in the north Texas area—Stephenville’s 281 Speedway; Kennedale Speedway Park; Boyd Raceway. In addition, several out-of-state trips were made to organize or assist National Fellowship of Raceway Ministries groups in Phoenix, Arizona; Daytona Beach and Homestead/Miami, Florida; Las Vegas, Nevada; Bristol, Tennessee; and others. Beyond that, in our role as president of the National Fellowship of Raceway Ministries, we began a web site for the organization, implemented several administrative and organizational changes, grew and developed to include new ministry groups from speedways all over the United States by way of email and telephone, and assisted in the development and publication of written materials for use in the ministry effort. The year 2002 was a tremendously busy year, and we discovered that, indeed, enough potential is there for this work to require full-time attention.

Also as a result of the ministry efforts in 2002, RMR spent around \$10,500 for all of the activity. And, as 2003 began, \$9,000 of that was placed in a non-interest credit card account to be taken care of with the year’s income. In addition, the new policy for the year would be that no trips should be taken and no expenses would be incurred that could not be handled on a “pay as you go” basis. Oh yes, trips were taken—Chicago, Illinois; Indianapolis, Indiana; Louisville, Kentucky; Las Vegas, Nevada; Watkins Glen, New York—and ministry continued here in Texas, as well. Web site maintenance, email communication, phone calls and all the rest went on like the year before, too. But, expenses for that activity were taken care of either by those in the locations where we traveled, or by generous supporters of Raceway Ministry Resources. In addition, as contributions continued to come in throughout the year, we were able to retire \$6,500 of the 2002 expenses, leaving a very small non-interest balance for us to retire as we enter 2004.

Poor business strategy? Lack of faith & trust in God to go in debt rather than believe God for the support and then do the ministry? Disobedience to God by not remaining debt free? Some would say “yes.” Our feeling was: we needed to seize the day and take full advantage of the doors of opportunity while they were open. But, you be the judge, based on the following results. At our 2003 NFRM Annual Meeting in Myrtle Beach last January, it was reported that 336 folks professed Christ at the speedway ministry activities. In addition, at that annual meeting, the attendance topped 200—the

largest representation of Raceway Ministries groups in the history of the NFRM. And, as a result of the work in 2002, we were able to finish 2003 knowing that Raceway Ministries groups had been established at every speedway where NASCAR Nextel Cup racing goes. And then, there was the exciting phone call that came to us a few weeks ago in November from Pedro Garcia, director of South Florida Raceway Ministries (a group that was organized in 2002—the year of saying “yes” to everything—as Marsha and I traveled to Florida to get something going for the Homestead/Miami Speedway). After the NASCAR finale weekend of racing at Homestead, Pedro called to let me know that they had experienced a wonderful weekend of ministry with about 30 volunteers. “And,” he said, “Guess what happened?” “Tell me, Pedro,” I replied.

“Well,” continued Pedro, “on Friday night we had a concert, and at the end the speaker offered an invitation for people to raise their hands if they wanted to pray the sinner’s prayer, and 20 people responded!”

“That’s great,” I responded to Pedro. “Guess what happened next,” Pedro said. “What, Pedro?” I inquired. “On Saturday we had some more ministry activity and 5 more people came to Christ!” he continued. “And, guess what happened next?” Pedro continued.

“What?” I said. “The next day was Sunday and we had a chapel service in the camp ground and I preached and at the end I asked again if anyone wanted to say the sinner’s prayer, and 5 more people prayed to accept Jesus!” Pedro said, almost out of breath.

Well, Pedro and I continued to share about the excitement of a successful weekend of ministry at Homestead/Miami Speedway, and after we concluded our phone conversation, I sat and thought about it for awhile. “Yes, the ministry activity in 2002 was costly, and we are still paying for some of it, although at a pretty rapid pace and without interest. Is it worth it? I have to admit, there have been times that I felt a bit uneasy, wondering how it all was going to work out. And, it does get tiring at times to do the Raceway Ministry, pastor a church and teach as a substitute teacher in local schools to bring in supplemental income while Marsha teaches full time. But, when I think about the results, I have to say, “Yes, it is worth it.”

What is in store for 2004? Nobody but the Lord knows, really. But I suspect that as we continue moving forward, trusting God to supply our needs and the needs of Raceway Ministry Resources, things will continue to develop. Who knows, as the remnants of what we owe are taken care of, and as God continues to prompt folks to support the work, the day could come for us to be fully involved in the Raceway Ministry work. For now, we’ll take it a day at a time and continue pursuing ministry opportunities at speedways and raceways all across America, and we’ll give thanks to God for all the results.

Want to join us? Thanks for all the support many of you have offered in the past. We look forward to your partnership in 2004.

In the Race by His Grace,

Don’t Forget to Visit our Web Site(s) Frequently

www.rmresources.org (Raceway Ministry Resources)

www.racewayministries.com (National Fellowship of Raceway Ministries)

www.txarm.org (Texas Alliance Raceway Ministries)

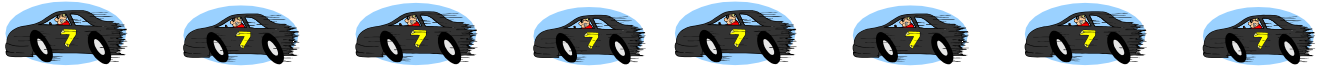
(At these web sites you’ll be able to keep up with all the activity that keeps Raceway Ministry Resources busy!)



2004 Upcoming Race Dates

April 3-4, NASCAR Nextel Cup & Busch Series
June 11-12, NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series & Indy Racing League
October 16-17, NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series & IRL Season Finale

For more details, go to www.texasmotorspeedway.com



Roger Finishes School--Again!!!!

As if other educational endeavors were not enough, during the Fall of 2003, Roger completed the final classes required for the 50-hour Non-Profit Management Certification Program from the Continuing Education department at Baylor University in Waco. As a result, he now has a certificate in Non-Profit Management, which will help greatly with leadership of RMR, TxARM and the NFRM, as well as with his efforts to assist other groups.

Where We're Going . . .

January

January 14-17. Roger will travel to Darlington, South Carolina for the annual gathering of the National Fellowship of Raceway Ministries. He will assist with Chaplain Training on Wednesday and Thursday, the 14th and 15th, and then preside over the proceedings of the 2004 Annual Meeting of the NFRM on Friday and Saturday.

February

February 7. Roger will provide leadership for a ½-day retreat for the Executive Council of Texas Alliance Raceway Ministries.

February 28. Roger will help lead the 2004 Volunteer Orientation for Texas Alliance Raceway Ministries.

March

March 27-31. Roger will assist in leading the ministry effort of Raceway Ministries at Texas Motor Speedway during the NASCAR Nextel Cup and Busch Series events at TMS.

April

April 1-4. Roger will assist in leading the ministry effort of Raceway Ministries at Texas Motor Speedway during the NASCAR Nextel Cup and Busch Series events at TMS.

June

June 8-12. Roger will assist in leading the ministry effort of Raceway Ministries at Texas Motor Speedway during the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series and Indy Racing League events.

Family Matters

The holiday season was a wonderful time of celebrating the special occasions of Thanksgiving and Jesus' birth, and we had a great time with family and friends. Eating, visiting, hunting, worshipping, working on cars, watching football games—it was all great. Once Marsha finished school for the fall term at Pilot Point High School, we were able to visit all of our family members in almost all the places where they live. And now, with the holiday season behind us, we look forward to moving into the new year.

Sons Caleb and Travis are moving along with their current stages of life. Caleb continues his duties as advisor and instructor for orientation of pre-med students at Baylor University, while Megan teaches 2nd grade in Marlin, Texas and makes progress in the "Strickland Scholars" program at Baylor, working toward her master's degree and teacher certification. Travis is halfway through his third year at Baylor, and has begun student teaching at Waco High School. In addition, Travis spent part of the Christmas holidays recovering from removal of all his wisdom teeth—ouch!! He is recovering, though, and will be ready to return to the class room in a few days.

Church News

Roger and Marsha continue to serve at First Baptist Church, Tioga, where Roger recently baptized two adults—a mom and her daughter—and where one other college student awaits baptism over the next few weeks. On Sunday mornings, Roger has been preaching a sermon series entitled "The ABC's of Christian Growth," and on Sunday nights he recently finished teaching through 1 Corinthians. For Christmas, 7 youth, along with Marsha, brought their trumpets, clarinets, flutes, and other instruments and learned Christmas hymns, and then provided music during a presentation of "The Christmas Story" which consisted of a combination of the hymns and a reading of the story of Christ's birth from Scripture. It was a great Christmas program for a church that averages 25 in weekly attendance! In addition, the church, as well as Grayson Baptist Association, consistently have supported Raceway Ministry Resources with monthly contributions throughout 2003, and we are very grateful for the support.

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***RMR Working
with the . . .***



The National Fellowship of Raceway Ministries continues to develop as Roger completes his third year as president of the organization. During 2003, ministries in Kentucky and Las Vegas, Nevada were supported with the presence and work of RMR, and we also traveled to Chicago, Illinois to help re-start the ministry group for the Chicagoland Speedway in Joliet. At mid-year, we traveled to Bristol, Tennessee for a Board of Directors meeting and to assist with Chaplain Training, which was attended by about 60 folks. During the last half of the year, we journeyed to Watkins Glen, New York and Indianapolis, Indiana to organize ministry groups for those speedways, and while in Indianapolis, Roger attended the ministry workshop that is presented by Motor Racing Outreach.

January will be busy with NFRM activities as Chaplain Training and the 2004 NFRM Annual Meeting take place in Darlington, South Carolina on the 14th – 17th. Roger will be there to offer support and leadership, and to see what his role with NFRM will be in the future. As the NFRM looks to 2004, its vision is to begin more raceway ministry groups at speedways where some of the smaller racing series compete; identify more local, weekly dirt tracks where ministry groups from local churches can be organized; and to look into beginning ministry among road racing series, motocross and super-cross dirt bike racing series, and with the various series that race go-karts.

RMR Working with . . .



Work with TxARM for during 2003 was exciting, as always. Roger provided leadership for Raceway Ministries at Texas Motor Speedway during all three major events—NASCAR Winston Cup & Busch Series racing in April, NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series and Indy Racing League racing in June, and NCTS and IRL racing in October. In addition, visits to Boyd Raceway, 281 Speedway, and Kennedale Speedway Park provided opportunity to encourage and assist the ministry groups that work at those raceways. A few visits to Grayson County Speedway in Sherman, Texas allowed for some great ministry opportunity with the racers, but so far we have been unable to get a group organized for ministry on a regular basis at that speedway. Grayson County Speedway, Thunder Hill (in Kyle), as well as two raceways in Waco—Bellmead and Heart of Texas—will become projects for 2004.

The end-of-the-year Volunteer Appreciation Banquet for TxARM took place in November, and around 90 people were in attendance. We helped TxARM say “thank you” to all the 2003 volunteers who assisted us at TMS and at the other speedways, and everyone had a great time. Texas Motor Speedway graciously provided the location and the meal for the event. We continue to be very grateful for their support and provision. The 2004 season at Texas Motor Speedway begins in just a few months, and when Roger sits down with the TxARM Executive Council in February, detailed plans will be made for the first race week at TMS in April. From that point forward, we’ll be off and running with TxARM for another year.

A FEW QUOTES FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

“Live each day so that you will neither be afraid of tomorrow, nor ashamed of yesterday”

“Too many people are like straight pins: they point one way but head the other”

“Obstacles are what one sees when he takes his eyes off the goal; and mistakes are only evidence that someone is trying to do something”

“Isn’t it funny how everyone wants to enjoy the harvest, but few want to take hold of the plow?”

“God loves us the way we are; but, He loves us too much to leave us that way!”



How You Can Help and Support

RACEWAY MINISTRY RESOURCES

As RMR races into its third year of faith and work, you can help, as God lays upon your heart a burden and desire to do so. RMR is a 501.c.3 organization, so any gifts you might provide during are tax deductible. General donations will be applied to various areas of need, as they arise. Or, you may designate your gift to be applied to certain areas of the work, such as:

- **Literature for Raceway Ministry Groups (New Testaments/Tracts)**
- **Postage (for Newsletters/Shipping Materials for Ministry)**
- **Start-up Money for New Ministry Groups**
- **Travel Expense (Plane Tickets/Motels/Rental Cars)**
- **Utilities (Monthly Mobile Phone bill/Internet & Email Fees)**

If you choose to donate financially, please do so by way of a check, made out to "Raceway Ministry Resources," along with a note indicating whether you want your donation to be applied generally or designated to one of the categories above.

RMR would like to say "Thank You" for the following who recently have provided donations and contributions:

- *\$100 per month toward travel expenses, from First Baptist Church, Tioga, Texas*
- *\$100 per month from Grayson Baptist Association; Sherman, Texas*
- *Contributions toward travel expenses, from Brenda Barrett; Mellie Howard; Perry & Jean Marsh; NASCAR Vendor Ministry; National Fellowship of Raceway Ministries*
- *Contribution toward general expenses from Gladys Davis; Kenneth & Janette Doss; Sam & Karen Montgomery; Joe & Rynell Novak; Sherry Phillips; Don & Jamye Richmond; Eloise Riley; Ray and Jean Skoglund; Ken & Ginger Stuckey*
- *Contributions toward garage sales from Mellie Howard; Perry & Jean Marsh; Travis Marsh; Sherry Phillips; Don & Jamye Richmond; Don & Elaine Schenck*
- *Business card provided by Amanda King (for TxARM); Ginger Stuckey (for NFRM)*
- *American Airlines Advantage Miles Certificates from Cereal Boxes by Travis Marsh*

**Any of our contributors who have not received an acknowledgement letter, please contact us by way of email or phone and we will make sure we provide that as quickly as possible.*

Thank you for any assistance that you can provide. And, beyond individual gifts, if you know of any businesses or churches that might provide one-time grants or funding on a regular basis, please let us know. The work is plentiful and if we would move forward, financial support will be crucial. We trust, though, that as burdened and interested folks extend support, God will bless and provide.



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