

RMR ***Update***

Newsletter for the Friends of
Raceway Ministry Resources

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God at Work Behind the Scenes

“Hi, can someone help us get in touch with the ticket office?” It was September of last year, and I was in Dover, Delaware, assisting the Delaware Baptist Raceway Ministries group at the Dover International Speedway during the Fall NASCAR weekend. Jim McBride invited me to come to the race weekend to preach at the Sunday morning chapel service and to participate in all the other ministry activities, as well—music concerts, children’s activities, handing out cookies and coffee, and sharing Christ one-on-one with fans. On Saturday, while helping staff the information table at the ministry site, just outside the speedway on the edge of the camping area, two men approached Jim asking the question about help with getting in touch with the ticket office. The two men were, as it turned out, a father and son from Canada. They explained that they were with a tour group that had stayed in a motel about 35 miles away the night before, and that the group had arrived at the speedway just moments ago on a tour bus. The father and son had discovered, however, that they had left their tickets for that day’s NASCAR Busch Series race back at the motel room.

Jim and I conversed with the dad and son and encouraged them that we believed God to be a God of answers and that we would trust Him to provide assistance. “If you can show us where the ticket office is,” said the dad, Michael, “we will see if we can get them to look up our ticket number in their computer and verify that we are the ticket holders and maybe they will let us in. I hope it works out, because this is our first NASCAR race and my wife gave me the ticket and tour package for a present. We are soooo excited.”

I looked at my watch and noticed that start time for the Busch Series race was about two hours away. So, I said to Michael, “Let me make a suggestion. I don’t know if the ticket office will do what you have suggested, and I know that things are always crazy around these offices on race day, so here is an alternative idea. How about if you guys hop in the car with me and I’ll take you back to the motel to get your tickets. We can be back with time to spare before the green flag!”

“What???? You mean you would do that?” replied Michael.

“Sure. That’s why we are here—to serve folks like you in Jesus’ name,” I said.

We rode a Raceway Ministries shuttle to where my rental car was parked, and then took off through country roads and freeways to the motel, which was about 35 miles north. They went in the motel room, found the tickets and then hopped back in the car, and we headed out on the return trip to Dover. While in the car, I had a great chance to talk with Mike and Stephen, who were from Kingston, Ontario,

Canada. As it turns out they are Christians and attend a church in Kingston on a regular basis. And, they are race fans and have attended races at weekly raceways in Ontario. And, they were so excited to learn about Raceway Ministries and the work that we do all across the country. "Wow," said Mike, "I wish you folks could do something like this up in Ontario!"

Certainly, this was no coincidence; it was evidence that God is at work behind the scenes. You see, just a few days before, I had read an article about the expansion of NASCAR, possibly into Canada, to connect with the stock car racing series that exists there, called CASCAR. And, I had consulted the National Speedway Directory, discovering that around 125 speedways exist in Canada. And, I had wondered what the possibilities might be for making contact with someone in Canada who might be able to help get something going amongst our "neighbors to the north." Within a few days, while in Dover, Delaware, God engineered the interaction with Mike and Stephen, who returned to the speedway in plenty of time to enjoy the racing.

As we move into 2005, I am convinced that God will continue to provide encounters with others that will result in great opportunities to share Christ on the most unique mission field in the land—the nation's—and other nations'—raceways! Thanks for being a partner with RMR!

In the Race by His Grace,

Keep Up with the Latest Raceway Ministry Activity by Visiting. . .

www.rmresources.org (Raceway Ministry Resources)

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

www.txarm.org (Texas Alliance Raceway Ministries)



Next TMS Race Dates

April 9-17, NASCAR Busch & Nextel Cup Series & IROC Races

For more details, go to www.texasmotorspeedway.com

Family Matters

Well, here we go into 2005! Marsha and Roger are staying plenty busy with all that goes on with church, school and other activities and we look forward to the new year. Marsha is back in the classroom following the Christmas break, and continues to enjoy teaching and relating to the high school students here in Pilot Point. And, she does a great job of holding things together while Roger goes on trips out of town. In addition, Marsha continues to build great relationships with the youth at the church, providing activities such as the recent New Year's Eve Lock-in. Oldest son Caleb continues his duties as advisor and instructor for orientation of pre-med students at Baylor University, and following the Christmas break, he is busy again with the spring semester. Travis continues to move along in his final year at Baylor, student teaching and trying to schedule all the necessary classes in preparation for

graduation at the end of this coming summer. The biggest news for Travis, however, was December wedding bells! He and fiancée Katie Williams married, after dating for a couple of years. Katie is from Missouri, and is working on a master's degree at Baylor, while teaching kindergarten at the charter school where Travis serves as part-time coach. They were married in Las Vegas, Nevada, in a destination wedding that was attended by 25 or so family members and friends who traveled there for the ceremony, officiated by Roger. What a trip! We are delighted, though, to have Katie in the family.

Church News

First Baptist Church, Tioga, moves into 2005 with continued growth and ministry activity to this small community of 754 people. Attendance continues to hover around 30-40, and we were blessed in 2004 to have a dozen or so new members, 5 of them being folks who trusted Christ and joined by baptism. Roger continues to preach on 1 Peter on Sunday mornings, and is teaching from the Book of Amos on Sunday nights. Recently, the church went through "Share Jesus Without Fear" on Sunday evenings, which was a great time of training for outreach and evangelism. The church continues to be very supportive of the work of RMR, always interested in the progress of Raceway Ministries work as we travel around the country and offer leadership and support. What a blessing to be part of such a wonderful home church!

RMR Working
with the . . .



2004 Season of Ministry a Great One—900 New Believers!

We just returned from Kansas City, Kansas, where we provided leadership for the 2005 Annual Meeting of the National Fellowship of Raceway Ministries, of which Roger is Executive Director. It was an exciting gathering of 130 people from all over the United States, folks who either lead or volunteer with a Raceway Ministries group, working out of a local church or association that ministers to racers, fans, fire and rescue crews or speedway managers/promoters in the auto racing community. From California to Delaware, and from Minnesota down to Texas, these folks worshipped and fellowshiped, shared their testimonies and stories, participated in chaplain training and ministry breakout sessions, celebrated the victories of 2004 and approved strategies for ministry in 2005.

Some outstanding results of Raceway Ministries labor were reported to the group this year, too. Consider, for example, these statistics, keeping in mind that they reflect only 25 reports, out of about 60 Raceway Ministries groups that are functioning across the United States. Fans attending camp ground chapel services at the speedways in 2005: 4,255. Fans attending music concerts with Christian artists and testimonies, in the camp grounds: 7,600. Number of New Testaments and gospel tracts distributed: 238,795. Number of volunteers out of local churches: 1,539 out of 298 congregations. Fans and others recommitting their lives to Christ: 36. Number of fans and others accepting God's call to ministry: 7. AND, number of fans/others accepting Christ as Savior: 915! Praise the Lord for His work through faithful servants who extend the ministries of their local churches to this unique mission field!

In addition, some pretty exciting statistics reflect the work of the NFRM from 1994 – 2004. During the first decade of NFRM work, 28,410 fans have attended chapel services in the camp grounds; concert attendance has been 56,181; 2,122,310 New Testaments and gospel tracts have been distributed; 11,807 volunteers from local churches have been involved with Raceway Ministries; 165 decisions for rededication or call to ministry have been made; and 2,533 people have trusted Christ as Savior.

What a joy it has been to provide leadership for this group of folks who have a passion for reaching people in the context of the fastest growing spectator sport in America! We praise the Lord for the open door, and we give thanks to all who pray for and support the endeavor!

A New Vision for Reaching the American Motor Sports Community

As 2005 begins to unfold, we will be on the cutting edge with a new, aggressive plan for evangelizing people in the motor sports subculture here in the United States. During the 2005 NFRM Annual Meeting, we challenged the NFRM Board of Directors to consider a strategy for placement of chaplains and local, church-based Raceway Ministries groups at every raceway in America (there are about 1200 of them!). The Board of Directors strongly agreed to support the strategy, and it was presented to those gathered at the annual meeting in Kansas City, and received with enthusiasm at that level, as well. First, a “starter packet” will be assembled—something that can be placed in the hands of those who are willing to say “Here Am I, Send Me.” Guidelines, suggestions, startup materials and other items will be included to instruct Raceway Ministries leaders and volunteers regarding how to build relationships with speedways and racers, involve local churches, and carry out an effective outreach ministry to a speedway and the people who patronize it. Second, letters will be sent to every denominational entity (association, state convention, etc.) that is near the speedways listed in the National Speedway Directory. Third, letters will be sent to each speedway, asking if they currently have a chaplain or ministry group, and indicating that if they are interested, we would love to come and talk with them and set up a ministry or help them train a chaplain.

In the process we certainly will discover ministry groups that currently exist and are doing effective work, but we also hope to begin moving aggressively from some 60 or so known Raceway Ministries groups to several hundred within the next couple of years or so. Pray for RMR as we provide leadership for the NFRM to accomplish this vision!



**RMR Working
with . . .**



TxARM work was completed at the end of 2004 as the 2004 TxARM Volunteer Appreciation Banquet took place in November. Around 100 people attended and celebrated the year of ministry at Texas Motor Speedway and other raceways located in the state. Since that time, plans have been underway to share Christ at the speedways in Texas during 2005, including two NASCAR Busch Series/Nextel Cup Series weekends this year. Everyone is very excited about these opportunities, and work will be underway soon to get things started. In February a TxARM Executive Council Retreat will take place, and TxARM Volunteer Orientation for 2005 will occur on the final weekend of the same month. Racing events will begin soon afterwards at the weekly speedways in Texas, and then April, June and November will bring major race events to Texas Motor Speedway. Already, several scheduled dates for special events at churches are beginning to land on the calendar, and more will find their way there in the coming days.



Where We've Been . . .

November

November 13; Texas Motor Speedway, Ft. Worth, TX. Roger provided leadership for the 2004 TxARM Volunteer Appreciation Banquet.

November 15; Texas Motor Speedway, Ft. Worth, TX. Roger provided leadership for TxARM as the group participated in a disaster/mass casualty training event at the speedway.

December

December 14; Dallas, TX. Roger visited with attorneys in Dallas to finalize application to the U. S. Government for registration of the National Fellowship of Raceway Ministries logo.

December 29; Las Vegas, NV. While in Las Vegas for the wedding of Travis and Katie, Roger visited Las Vegas Motor Speedway, meeting with Chaplain Kenny Farmer and other members of the staff at the speedway.

January

January 12-15; Kansas City, Kansas. Roger provided leadership for the 2005 Annual Meeting of the National Fellowship of Raceway Ministries; led the NFRM Board of Directors Meeting; and assisted Dr. John Babler with NFRM Chaplain Introductory Training.

January 17; Sherman, Texas. Roger attended the Executive Board meeting of the Grayson Baptist Association and provided a report of recent activity.

January 17; Radio Programs. Roger participated in a program on Sports Spectrum Radio, the sports program of Radio Bible Class out of Grand Rapids, Michigan. On the same day, Roger was featured in an interview on KBJR Radio in Jacksonville, Texas.

Where We're Going . . .

February

February 12; Ft. Worth, Texas. Texas Alliance Raceway Ministries Leadership Retreat. Roger will lead this group in preparation for ministry during 2005 at Texas Motor Speedway.

February 25-26; Texas Motor Speedway. NFRM Chaplain Training; TxARM Volunteer Orientation. Roger provides leadership as the NFRM trains chaplains for work at the nation's raceways, and as TxARM prepares potential volunteers for ministry at Texas Motor Speedway and other raceways in the state during 2005.

March

March 13; Kennedale, Texas; First Baptist Church. Roger speaks at First Baptist Church, Kennedale, Texas at an event called, "Speed Sunday," as part of that church's effort to enlist and recruit volunteers for outreach at Kennedale Motor Speedway and other raceways in Texas.

March 31 – April 2; Waco, Texas; Campers on Mission Rally. Roger speaks at the Texas Campers on Mission rally, seeking volunteers for ministry at Texas Motor Speedway.

April

April 1-5; Martinsville, Virginia. Roger possibly will travel to Martinsville, Virginia to assist the Henry County Baptist Association with ministry activity while NASCAR is in town for racing at the Martinsville Speedway.

April 6 – 10; Texas Motor Speedway. Roger provides leadership for the ministry effort at TMS while NASCAR is in town for racing.

June

June 1-3; Waco, Texas; National Campers on Mission Rally. Roger will provide training for COM-ers who are interested in helping share Christ at speedways all across the nation.

June 6-11; Ft. Worth; Texas Motor Speedway. Roger assists TxARM in ministry to fans during this NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series/IRL race weekend.

How You Can Help and Support **RACEWAY MINISTRY RESOURCES**

As RMR races into its fourth 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 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" to the following who have provided donations and contributions since our last newsletter:

- \$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 the National Fellowship of Raceway Ministries
- Contributions toward general expenses from Dr. Jeff Duncan (Bonham, TX); Ralph Hill (Hurst, TX); Mellie Howard (Corsicana, TX); Perry & Jean Marsh; Joe & Rynell Novak (Denton, TX); Ron & Jackie Pegram (Concord, NC); Eloise Riley (Pilot Point, TX); Ben & Betty Smith (Jacksonville, TX); Ken & Ginger Stuckey (Paradise, CA);

**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.*

Want to donate garage sale items? Give us a call as we collect items for a Spring Garage Sale!

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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