

# ***RMR Update***

Newsletter for the Friends of Raceway  
Ministry Resources

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## ***God at Work Behind the Scenes***

*I realize that it has been a year since Raceway Ministry Resources has communicated with everyone through a full newsletter, and we apologize for that. However, please know that God has continued to work in some very awesome and huge ways during 2006 and into 2007. We will do our best to improve communication as we move through this year, but meanwhile, we appreciate all those who have continued to support RMR.*

*Speaking of God continuing to work, we experienced a recent example of how God always at work behind the scenes. In February we represented the National Fellowship of Raceway Ministries at a conference for raceway owners, promoters and managers. It was the "Racing Promotion Monthly" Workshops, held in Orlando, Florida and attended by about 600 raceway promoters from all over the central and eastern United States. Ron Lasley, director of Weekly Racing Ministry, and I were there for 2 days and had a display table for the NFRM in the exhibition area of the conference, in the midst of other displays where organizations were selling bleachers, trophies, racing flags, racing tires, insurance, and all kinds of things related to motor sports. Over the 2 days we were there, several raceway owners and promoters came by to pick up brochures, find out what we had to offer and to talk about the possibilities of having a chaplain or a Raceway Ministries group at their speedways.*

*The first day we were there, NASCAR driver of the #20 Home Depot car, Tony Stewart, walked by the NFRM table. He is the owner of the El Dora Speedway in Ohio, and he was with his track manager, Larry Kemp. As they walked by, I stepped toward them and began a conversation. "Hey, Tony," I said, "We're sure hearing lots of good things about El Dora and all the great racing going on there." "Thanks," said Tony, "We believe it's going pretty well."*

*"Well, let me ask you a question, if you don't mind," I replied. "Do you guys have a chaplain there at El Dora?" "Let me stop and think about it for a minute," was Tony's answer. "Here's the deal," I continued, "we have Raceway Ministries groups at all the speedways where NASCAR's Cup Series competes, and we have chaplains at lots of weekly raceways, also. We also know that there are lot's of chaplains out there who may not know who we are, and we don't know about them. So, we simply are trying to get them all networking with each other so that we can encourage one another, swap ideas, and that kind of thing."*

*"Honestly," replied Tony, "I don't know if we have a chaplain or not. But, I'll tell you what—I'll find out and let you know." "That would be great," I said, "I will look forward to hearing back from you. Here's a couple of brochures about our organization you can take with you."*

*Well, Tony got busy with preparations for the Daytona 500, which would take place in a couple of days, and I never heard from him again. The RPM workshop ended, I came back home to Texas, NASCAR's season began with the Daytona 500, and life marched forward.*

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*However, a couple of weeks later, on a Friday night, my phone rang at 10:00 p.m. Getting a call that late at night, I wondered who it could be. I did not recognize the phone number as I glanced at my cell phone. I answered, "Hello, this is Roger Marsh."*

*"Hey, Dr. Marsh, you don't know me, but my name is Lynn Huffman. I am a Methodist minister in Ohio, and I'll be retiring in June, and I really am a racing fanatic. Here is why I am calling you; I am so excited. I have done a little racing ministry here and there over the years, saying the invocation for some dirt tracks and things like that once in a while. Well, today I drove by the El Dora speedway here in Ohio, and something told me to stop in there. I went in the offices and asked the lady at the desk if the speedway had a chaplain. All of a sudden this guy named Larry came running out of his office and gave me a couple of brochures and asked me to call you. He talked pretty favorably like we might be able to get something going. What do you think?"*

*Well, I talked to Bro. Huffman for a while, and I was as excited as he! Once again, God had proven Himself faithful and had been at work behind the scenes to arrange just the right circumstances for the continuation of His presence and work in the arena of motor sports. As the year progresses, we'll be in touch with Bro. Huffman and the El Dora speedway to make sure they have all they need to allow for sharing Christ with the fans and competitors that flock to that famous raceway.*

*As we continue to serve the Lord in the context of auto racing this year, we express our thanks to everyone who has supported and continues to support Raceway Ministry Resources.*

*In the Race by His Grace,*

**Thanks So Much For Your Support of RMR!!**

***Join Us for Ministry at Texas Motor Speedway  
April 7 - 15 as we distribute literature, host hospitality locations in the camping  
area, conduct children's activities, and more! For more information, visit  
[www.txarm.org](http://www.txarm.org) or call us at 940.367.4940***



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

***[www.rmresources.org](http://www.rmresources.org) (Raceway Ministry Resources)***

***[www.racewayministries.com](http://www.racewayministries.com) (National Fellowship of Raceway Ministries)***

***[www.txarm.org](http://www.txarm.org) (Texas Alliance Raceway Ministries)***

### ***Raceway Ministries to Canada in 2007***

*In August the NASCAR Busch Series will compete in Canada—Montreal—and RMR currently is corresponding with a Baptist pastor in that city, along with the chaplain to the Montreal NHL hockey team to establish a local-church based ministry group for that event as well as other race events at the road course in Montreal. Pray for us as we work with those churches to establish outreach to the racing crowds in that area. It will provide quite a foothold for developing Raceway Ministries work throughout Canada in the days ahead.*

## Great Fiction Books with Team Orly Mann

Ken Stuckey, former pastor and racer and great friend of Raceway Ministries, continues to use his gift of writing to provide exciting, adventure-filled books for youth. Combining his racing experience with a passion for ministry, Ken's fiction books provide stories about "Orly Mann," a NASCAR Cup driver who travels the NASCAR racing circuit, applying Christian principles and values as he and his team encounter the ups and downs, victories and defeats and unique challenges of auto racing at its highest level. Readers are entertained by the story lines that weave through the books—themes that develop as the race team moves from raceway to raceway and from event to event, as well as themes that unfold in the personal lives of the books' characters. Prayer, faith, missions, outreach, Bible promises, salvation and spiritual growth: all these themes are found in the midst of the excitement of NASCAR competition.

So far, Ken has published three books: *Doubt at Daytona*, *Slow Down at Sears Point (Infineon)*, *California*, and *Bristol*. Forthcoming books will include the "Speed King" team racing at Atlanta and Texas Motor Speedways. In all, Ken plans for the series of paperback books to include 10 volumes, each at around 150 pages. If you would like one of Ken's books, we will send a copy to everyone who provides a contribution to Raceway Ministry Resources, along with an order form to let you know how you can purchase more copies at a great price. These books will make great reading for your child, and they would be great for Boy Scouts, church youth, students at public or private/church schools or for home-schooled students.

If you would like to help Ken with the initial publishing costs of the books, he is preparing to finalize a publishing contract that will enable him to re-publish the three previously-mentioned books, along with the remaining books in the series. A sizeable up-front cost will be a challenge, and your donation to his cause would go a long way toward making it a reality. Contact RMR for more details. Meanwhile, pray for the effectiveness of the books as they get into the hands of young people all over the country. And, take some time to visit the "Orly Mann" web site at [www.orylmann.com](http://www.orylmann.com).



## Where We've Been . . .

### January

**Jan. 16 – 20.** Roger provided leadership for the 2007 Annual Meeting of the National Fellowship of Raceway Ministries. Chaplain Training and Board of Directors meetings were on Thursday of that week, with the Annual Meeting taking place Thursday – Saturday. This year's meeting was attended by 225 people from all over the United States.

**Jan. 25.** Roger attended an income tax seminar to remain up to date on new laws for churches and non-profit ministries for 2006 – 2007.

### February

**Feb. 2 – 3.** Roger traveled to Phoenix, Arizona for a prayer meeting and fellowship with leaders from other organizations that minister to the motor sports community.

**Feb. 11 – 14.** Roger represented the National Fellowship of Raceway Ministries in Orlando, Florida at the annual Speed Weeks Racing Promotion Monthly meeting. Around 600 raceway promoters and owners were present at the meeting, and Roger, along with NFRM Weekly Racing Ministry director Ron Lasley had an opportunity to visit with many of them at the NFRM display table.

**Feb. 17.** Roger provided leadership for the annual Texas Alliance Raceway Ministries Executive Council ½-Day Leadership Retreat.

**Feb. 19.** Roger attended the monthly meeting of the Grayson Baptist Association, sharing with them current developments in Raceway Ministries work and expressing appreciation for the monthly support provided by GBA.

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*Feb. 24.* Roger provided leadership for the 2007 Team TxARM Orientation. Around 80 volunteers attended the event, many of them new to Raceway Ministries work.

*Feb. 28.* Roger met with Dr. John Babler, instructor for NFRM Chaplain Training. The two discussed chaplain training for 2007 for NFRM members and others.

### *March*

*March 1 – 3.* Roger, along with others of Texas Alliance Raceway Ministries provided volunteer chaplains for ministry to competitors and fans at the Texas Motor Speedway Dirt Track World Championships. Over 275 cars competed in the event and there were many ministry opportunities.

*March 7.* Roger and Dr. John Babler met with staff members at Texas Motor Speedway to discuss plans for ministry at the speedway during the upcoming NASCAR event in April.

*March 15-17.* Roger went to New York to meet with leaders and volunteers who work with Watkins Glen Raceway Ministries. He will be assisting the group with recruiting and training volunteers.

## *Where We're Going . . .*

### *March*

*March 20.* Roger will attend the monthly meeting of the Grayson Baptist Association and will report to them the latest developments in ministry at speedways in Texas and across the United States.

*March 22.* Roger will spend part of the day at Dallas Theological Seminary, staffing a display table for Texas Alliance Raceway Ministries, hoping to recruit students to help with outreach at Texas Motor Speedway.

*March 26-30.* Roger will go to Dallas Theological Seminary one of the days of this week to provide a one-hour presentation of Raceway Ministries work to students, hoping to recruit some of them to work with TxARM.

*March 31.* Roger will speak at a men's breakfast at First Baptist Church of Keller, Texas, sharing about Raceway Ministries work.

### *April*

*April 1 – 3.* Roger goes to Montreal, Canada, to meet with staff at the speedway there and to meet with interested church leaders regarding the possibilities of providing ministry at the NASCAR Busch Series race that will take place there in August of this year.

*April 4.* Roger will represent TxARM at the pre-event staff meeting at Texas Motor Speedway, providing inspirational words and prayer for the group as they prepare for the upcoming NASCAR week.

*April 7 - 15.* Roger will provide leadership for Texas Alliance Raceway Ministries as the group provides ministry at Texas Motor Speedway during the spring NASCAR week.

*April 16.* Roger attends the monthly meeting of Grayson Baptist Association to express appreciation for the group's financial support of Raceway Ministries work.

*April 29.* Roger will staff a display table in the exhibition area of the Fannin Baptist Association Missions Fair in Bonham, Texas.

### *May - December*

*May.* Roger goes to Indianapolis to assist the Indianapolis Raceway Ministries group with ministry to fans during the Indianapolis 500.

*June.* Roger provides leadership for TxARM during the summer NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series and IRL races at Texas Motor Speedway.

*July.* Roger provides leadership for the mid-year NFRM Board of Directors meeting in Las Vegas, NV.

*August.* Roger travels to Montreal, Canada for the NASCAR Busch Series event, hopefully to assist the new Raceway Ministries group there.

**September.** Roger travels to Las Vegas, NV to assist Southern Nevada Raceway Ministries during a NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series weekend and to meet with Southern Nevada Baptist Association to begin planning the 2008 NFRM Annual Meeting, which will take place there.

**October/November.** Roger will provide leadership for TxARM as the group ministers to fans and others when NASCAR comes to Texas Motor Speedway for the fall race.

**November.** Roger will assist TxARM with its end of the year appreciation banquet for the group.

## Family Matters

Marsha continues to teach at Pilot Point High School, and is looking forward to an upcoming Spring Break. A few health issues have slowed her down a little, but a couple of visits to the doctor's office and some medication have her moving right along through the spring term. Caleb has moved from work at Baylor University to the University of Texas in Austin, providing career guidance for pre-med students. Travis and wife Katie continue their teaching careers in central Texas with Travis teaching and coaching at Waco University High School and Katie teaching kindergarten in Valley Mills. Travis recently was able to become the head track coach at University High, in addition to his football coaching and teaching responsibilities.

## Church News

First Baptist Church, Tioga, continues to grow and keep Roger and Marsha busy. Attendance this past Sunday was around 35, with several visitors. Currently the church is studying 1 Peter during Sunday Morning Bible Study, and Roger is preaching through the Book of Acts during Sunday morning worship. Roger also plays guitar for Sunday morning music, and he and 3 others in the church have put together a worship band, God's Posse. They provide special music most Sundays and have provided music for a couple of other meetings, as well. 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. We are blessed to have a wonderful home church!

*RMR Working  
with the . . .*



The 2007 Annual Meeting of the NFRM was a great meeting. Over 225 Raceway Ministries people from all over the country attended the meeting in Charlotte, which took place at Hickory Grove Baptist Church. That church, along with Motor Racing Outreach did a tremendous job of providing local leadership for the meeting, and everyone seem to enjoy the gathering, which included worship, fellowship, breakout sessions and more. Several other ministry groups also were involved in the meeting, including Focus on the Family, Sports Spectrum and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Representatives from each of those groups either shared with the general sessions or provided training during breakout sessions. In addition, Motor Racing Outreach arranged for NASCAR driver Jeff Green to attend the meeting, and he spoke to the group on Friday evening.

*RMR Working  
with . . .*



TxARM work has begun as 2007 gains steam. The annual ½-day retreat was well attended by Executive Council members, and the group made good headway in planning for growth and development as well as routine  
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ministry during the current year. Volunteer Orientation was well-attended, too. Those present were enthusiastic about the upcoming ministry opportunities, and plans for ministry at Texas Motor Speedway in April began to unfold nicely. At the March Texas Motor Speedway Dirt Track World Championship event, Roger had opportunity to meet and fellowship with several of the 275 competitors. He provided prayer at one of the driver's meetings, had prayer with a couple of drivers before they went out to race, and ended up at the hospital one night for several hours while a team member from Indiana took stitches to his scalp for a nasty cut that was sustained as a tight cable on the hauler snapped and hit him in the forehead. He was OK, and Roger helped the family find a 24-hour pharmacy where he had some prescriptions filled. Currently, Roger is busy working on details for the work that TxARM will do in April at Texas Motor Speedway with NASCAR in town.

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

As RMR races into its seventh 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 Cell 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 in the past 12 months:**

- *\$125 per month toward travel expenses, from First Baptist Church, Tioga, Texas*
- *\$100 per month from Grayson Baptist Association; Sherman, Texas*
- *\$20 per month from Lighthouse Baptist Church; Stephenville, Texas*
- *Contributions toward travel expenses from the National Fellowship of Raceway Ministries*
- *Contribution toward cell phone expenses from Texas Alliance Raceway Ministries*
- *Contributions toward general expenses from Willene Crutsinger (Pilot Point, TX); Dr. Jeff Duncan (Bonham, TX); Ida Mae Dunnam (Tioga, TX); Bob & Doris Faulk (Carrollton, TX); Sandra Hollar (Pilot Point, TX); Mellie Howard (Corsicana, TX); Scott & Kim Jones (Sherman, TX); Perry & Jean Marsh (Hurst, TX); Joe & Rynell Novak (Denton, TX); Loretta Sherek (Pilot Point, TX); Terri & Cindy Slay (Pilot Point, TX); Mary Turner (Tioga, TX); Family of Ralph Hill (of Hurst, Texas); Orchard Drive Baptist Church (Martinsville, Virginia)*

*\*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.