

# **RMR**

## **Update**

Newsletter for the Friends of  
Raceway Ministry Resources

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### ***The Excitement of Seeing Others Excited***

*“Hey, Dr. Marsh! How ya doin’? This is Kenny.” It was Kenny Farmer, calling from Las Vegas, Nevada. And, you could tell from the sound of his voice that he was excited. “Hey, do you have time to talk; I have some pretty serious stuff I need to share with you.”*

*“Oh, yeah. No problem. Let’s hear it! What do you have?” I replied.*

*“Well, things are moving really fast here in Vegas. I mean, I can’t believe what God is doing. You know last year how we had 30 volunteers and kind of got started. Well, I don’t know if you’ve heard, but for the NASCAR weekend this year we had over 100 volunteers from the Las Vegas churches to help us with the ministry. And, we expanded from 1 location to 3. And, we had great attendance at the chapel services at all three locations. And, we had more opportunities to share the Lord than ever. And, we handed out tons of literature and Bibles. And, the speedway is giving us more and more opportunities to get involved. And, you’ll never guess what the speedway has asked me to do?”*

*“Wow, Kenny, that’s great. I had heard that you guys had an awesome ministry weekend out there, but I didn’t know the details! Now, what is it that the speedway has asked you about?”*

*“They’ve asked me to be the track chaplain!” said Kenny, with obvious excitement.*

*“They what?!” I said. “Tell me about it.”*

*Several speedways across the United States have chaplains. As such, these folks carry out a variety of tasks. Often they lead the invocations at the races; help coordinate activities for the chaplains who travel with the racing series that come to the speedway (NASCAR, Indy Racing League, etc.); provide lunch-time Bible studies for speedway staff once per week; provide spiritual counsel and guidance for staff as needed; respond to crisis situations during race events; and generally respond to anything that comes to the attention of the speedway that has to do with spiritual issues. For those chaplains who are bold in sharing Christ with others, the position provides some great evangelistic opportunities. However, many speedways across the country do not have chaplains. Either they never have considered the need for chaplains, or they intentionally resist recruiting chaplains because they do not want any “religious” or spiritual influence on their property.*

*“Well,” continued Kenny, “the doors have opened for Southern Nevada Raceway Ministries to get more and more involved out at the speedway, and somehow God has put me right in the middle of it and has helped me get really good relationships going with the staff. And, the other day after helping at one of the dirt track events they said they wanted me to come on board officially as chaplain. And, heck, I’m*

*excited, but what should I do? I really don't know what a chaplain's responsibilities are, and I really don't know whether or not I can do it? Do I have those kinds of skills? Give me some guidance here; I'm clueless! What should I tell them? And, when is that National Fellowship of Raceway Ministries (NFRM) chaplain training going to take place next? Man, I need it!"*

*I met Kenny in the Fall of 2002. I made 3 trips to Vegas that year to share a word about raceway ministry work with the Southern Nevada Baptist Association leaders, to share with the Las Vegas Motor Speedway general manager the benefits of having a ministry group at his speedway, and to recruit local church folks to serve as volunteers for the launching the ministry effort in 2003. Kenny was one of those recruits. An outgoing guy, Kenny—owner and director of a construction company in the area—is in his 40's and immediately stood out in my mind as a "leader" type. And, sure enough, when I went in February 2003 to help lead the group through its first ministry weekend with NASCAR in town, Kenny appeared to be a natural local leader for the group. Come to find out, Kenny had helped with youth ministry at his home church at one time, and he was looking for God's "place" for him in continued ministry work. As I listened to Kenny share his excitement, I sensed that the chaplain position very well could be where God wanted him.*

*"Wow, Kenny! That is, for sure, a great opportunity," I replied. "Let me share with you some of the things that you can expect to do as chaplain of a major speedway like Vegas." We went on to talk about the role a raceway ministry chaplain plays, and I did everything I could to encourage Kenny to consider that God might be opening the door "for such a time as this." And then I shared with Kenny that we might be offering the chaplain training in July in Chicago at the same time as our mid-year NFRM board of director's meeting. His reply was, "Hey, I'll be there; send me the details."*

*That phone conversation was back in March. This is August, and a few weeks ago we conducted the Board of Directors' meeting in Chicago, and along with it our mid-year NFRM Chaplain Training event. On the morning the training was to begin in a local motel conference room, I was sitting with Marsha in the area where they serve a continental breakfast, sipping on a cup of coffee. I looked up and in walked white-haired, white-goateed Kenny, proudly wearing his raceway ministry shirt, heading for the coffee pot. I walked up to him and he immediately gave me a hug, met Marsha, and began talking excitedly about all that God is doing in his life. And then, as the day-long chaplain training began, Kenny was fully engaged in it, telling one story after another and asking question after question. He was, indeed, excited about what God has going on.*

*It is exciting to see how God is moving in the world of motor sports. Nothing is more thrilling than to watch God open the doors at speedways all over America and to see the opportunities present themselves for sharing the Gospel in that secular setting. And, nothing is more exciting than to watch God bring excitement to folks like Kenny Farmer as they make themselves available to share Jesus with others in unique ways.*

*Over 1100 speedways exist in the United States, and we know of about 60 that have chaplains and/or local, church-based raceway ministry groups. As Executive Director of the National Fellowship of Raceway Ministries, I share a common goal with our Board of Directors and members: we are trusting God for available folks—like Kenny Farmer—who will help us establish a God-honoring, evangelistic presence at each of them. **And, thanks to people like you, we are able to make progress.** Please take a few moments to read through this brief newsletter and consider where we have been and where we are going as we continue to move forward with the work. Then consider whether or not God would have you connect with us to seize this unique opportunity that God has provided. **Thank you 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](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)



## ***Next TMS Race Dates***

***October 16-17, NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series & IRL Season Finale***

For more details, go to [www.texasmotorspeedway.com](http://www.texasmotorspeedway.com)



### ***RMR Helps Distribute “The Winning Dad” Book***

A few months ago we received a call from the Wesleyan Publishing House, indicating that they had published a Christian parenting book for men, entitled *The Winning Dad*. They sent a complimentary copy to us, asking that we examine it and determine whether or not it might be something we could help them promote. We read the book and replied to WPH, indicating that the book was terrific. It had good principles for parenting and contained quotes from and stories about some major NASCAR competitors who are Christians—Jeff Green, Dale Jarrett, former champion and driver Darrell Waltrip and others. We worked out some marketing details and RMR began helping them get the word out to our Raceway Ministries groups all across the nation. Then, the publishers came out with some great discounts for the books with price breaks at various quantities. We communicated these price breaks to the Raceway Ministries groups, and before long we had an order of 750 books together. The books went out to everyone who ordered them, and the response has been terrific!

These are the kinds of resources that RMR hopes to discover, promote and provide. If you know of other such opportunities, please let us know!!

### ***Speaking of Books . . . Great Fiction with Team Orly Mann***

Ken Stuckey is a pastor in California, who has become a great friend of Raceway Ministries, and who desires 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* and *Conflict at California*. And, a manuscript almost is ready for a book about Orly Mann and the team racing at Bristol Motor Speedway. 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 a copy of *Conflict in California*, 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 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. And meanwhile, pray for the effectiveness of the books as they get into the hands of young people all over the country.

To find out more about the books about "Orly Mann," go to [www.rmresources.org](http://www.rmresources.org) and go to the pages that describe children's ministry resources.



## Where We've Been . . .

### April

**April 14.** Roger met in Fort Worth with the TxARM leadership team to evaluate the ministry activity at Texas Motor Speedway during the NASCAR weekend.

**April 20.** Roger met with the TxARM Executive Council to evaluate the recent ministry weekend at Texas Motor Speedway and to continue plans for the June and October events at TMS.

**April 23-24.** Roger went to Kansas City, Kansas for two meetings. On April 23, he met with the Kansas City Alliance Raceway Ministries leadership team to begin plans for the 2005 annual meeting of the National Fellowship of Raceway Ministries, which will take place there in January. On April 24, Roger shared two sessions with volunteers of the KCARM group, as part of their Volunteer Orientation for 2004.

### May

**May 7-8.** Roger traveled to Richmond, Virginia. On Saturday morning, Roger served as the keynote speaker for a Raceway Ministries breakfast at the Mechanicsville Baptist Church. The breakfast was to increase awareness of Raceway Ministries work at the Richmond International Raceway, and to encourage prayer support, involvement and giving to the ministry effort there.

### June

**June 9-12.** Roger assisted in leading the ministry effort of Raceway Ministries at Texas Motor Speedway during the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series and Indy Racing League events at TMS.

**June 24-27.** Roger traveled to Sonoma, California to assist and evaluate the Raceway Ministries effort at Infineon Speedway. Special thanks to Ken & Ginger Stuckey and Bob & Nancy Eberlin for providing accommodations and transportation for the weekend.

### July

**July 12-14.** Roger met with the Board of Directors of the National Fellowship of Raceway Ministries for the group's mid-year Board meeting, and helped conduct NFRM Chaplain Training. Special thanks to Jim & Sandi Evans for providing accommodations and a meeting place for the Board of Directors.

**July 19.** Roger met with the Executive Board of the Grayson Baptist Association and provided a report regarding recent travels and projects. Special thanks to this group for their ongoing support of RMR!

## August

**August 3-5.** Roger traveled to Owensboro, Kentucky where he shared about Raceway Ministries on a radio sports talk show, hosted by the Motor Racing Network. In addition, he represented the National Fellowship of Raceway Ministries at a NASCAR Charity Golf Tournament, where he conversed with many folks (did not play golf!!). On Wednesday evening, he spoke at the First Baptist Church of Owensboro, and afterwards joined several of the church members at Kentucky Motor Speedway, where he and Raceway Ministries director Michael Morris shared about the ministry that takes place at this raceway.

**August 7.** Roger assisted TxARM Chaplain Don Dixon at Kennedale Motor Speedway in Kennedale, Texas with "TxARM Night" at this weekly dirt track.

## Where We're Going . . .

### August

**August 26-28.** Roger will go to Bristol Motor Speedway for three days of racing and to represent the National Fellowship of Raceway Ministries. While there he will assist the Bristol Raceway Ministries group throughout the weekend, and will help with the production of a television documentary that will cover motor sports ministry.

### September

**September 19.** Roger will provide the sermon for the ordination service of Jared Maier at Eastern Hills Baptist Church in Garland, Texas.

**September 23-26.** Roger goes to Dover, Delaware to assist Delaware Baptist Raceway Ministries during their Fall NASCAR Nextel Cup/Busch Series race week.

### October

**October 13-17.** Roger helps provide leadership as TxARM's "Raceway Ministries at Texas Motor Speedway" works to serve the fans and staff at TMS for the Fall NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series race and Indy Racing League season finale race.

## Family Matters

Summer is just about over, but Marsha has enjoyed her time away from school for a few weeks before heading back to Pilot Point High School for the Fall. She traveled to Chicago with Roger recently, and provided some great assistance and support during the NFRM Chaplain Training and Board of Directors' meetings. In addition, Marsha has been heading up some great ministry activities at the church in Tioga, providing leadership for Vacation Bible School and for some summer youth activities. Caleb has continued his duties as advisor and instructor for orientation of pre-med students at Baylor University, and the summer has been busy with orientation for fall students. Travis has been taking summer classes and also has been working part time on the Baylor campus. He will continue classes at Baylor and student teaching at Waco High School this fall as he begins his final year, and he will be starting a part-time coaching job at a charter school in Waco.

## Church News

First Baptist Church, Tioga, continues to grow and keep Roger and Marsha busy. Attendance has increased during the summer months! From an attendance of around 12 in January of 2002, a typical Sunday now includes a crowd of anywhere from 30 to 40. And, new families have been joining over the past few weeks. Currently, the church is enjoying a study of the Doctrine of the Church on Sunday evenings, and Roger has been preaching from 1 Peter on Sunday mornings, with some variety during the summer months with messages from other Bible passages.

*In addition, Roger completed the restoration of part of the floor in the fellowship hall, which had collapsed due to rotted boards, and now he is preparing to do some interior painting. Also, 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!*

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## RMR Working with the . . .



*During July, Roger and Marsha journeyed to Chicago, Illinois, where Roger provided leadership for the mid-year meeting of the Board of Directors of the NFRM. Much was accomplished at the meeting, which included almost an entire new slate of directors. After some orientation and introductions, the group approved several amendments to the bylaws, outlined some goals for the coming year, discussed publicity and promotion, and assigned some duties to those who volunteered to provide membership management and to lead an effort in the area of Financial Development. Plans also were made for the 2005 Annual Meeting, which will take place in Kansas City.*

*Most recently, Roger represented the NFRM at two significant events in Owensboro, Kentucky. At a NASCAR Charity Golf Tournament, conducted by NASCAR drivers and brothers Jeff, David and Mark Green (who are from Owensboro), Roger was able to mix and mingle with folks from all over the country, sharing with some of them the work of the NFRM. In addition, he was interviewed on a weekly racing radio program that is broadcast from Owensboro each Tuesday evening. With this opportunity, he was able to share with people all over Kentucky about the work of the NFRM. As always, almost every day is filled with responses to phone calls and email communication with NFRM folks from all over the country.*

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## RMR Working with . . .



*TxARM work has continued through the summer, keeping Roger busy with meetings with TxARM leadership and with TxARM events. In May, Roger represented TxARM at Heart of Texas Speedway in Waco, where the IMCA Nationals were taking place. Assisted by TxARM Executive Council member Cameron Moore, Roger shared Christ with competitors in the pit areas and provided the invocation for the event on Saturday evening. In addition, he accompanied a family to a local hospital when their daughter was injured in and recovered from a racing accident while she raced in the "Junior" division. In June, TxARM provided ministry activity for fans and the staff at Texas Motor Speedway during the summer NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series and Indy Racing League races. At that event, Roger performed a wedding ceremony, provided the invocation for the IRL race, and helped coordinate volunteers for the Information Booths and for handicapped transportation.*

*Just a few days ago, Roger helped with "TxARM Night" at Kennedale Motor Speedway, assisting KMS chaplain Don Dixon. And, as the summer comes to an end, meetings with TxARM leadership and Texas Motor Speedway staff will complete preparations for the upcoming TMS race events in October.*

## 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 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 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 the National Fellowship of Raceway Ministries
- Contribution toward cell phone expenses from Texas Alliance Raceway Ministries
- Contributions toward general expenses from Lyndel and Jo Ashley (San Antonio, TX); James & Janet Doud (Gainesville, FL); Dr. Jeff Duncan (Bonham, TX); Gerald Grimes (Duncanville, TX); Ralph Hill (Hurst, TX); Mellie Howard (Corsicana, TX); Perry & Jean Marsh; Joe & Rynell Novak (Denton, TX); Bill & Barbara Sanderson (in memory of Barb's mom, Margaret Williams; Bonham, TX); Ken & Ginger Stuckey (Paradise, CA); Cecil & Jean Threadgill (Pilot Point, TX)
- Contributions toward garage sales from Leighton & Dorothy Foster; Mellie Howard; Leroy & Charlotte Koerner; Perry & Jean Marsh; Sherry Phillips; Don & Janyne Richmond
- Business cards by Ginger Stuckey (for NFRM)

*\*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.



Raceway Ministry Resources  
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## ***GOOD WORDS FROM SOME GREAT RACERS***

*“God can take your need and bless you, as well as others around you, if you put Him first” – Darrell Waltrip, Three-Time NASCAR Winston Cup Champion*

*“I didn’t seem to have the time to go to church when I was younger because I was so involved in racing. But, now I can’t do without the Lord. . . . My desire is to give back to the Lord what He has done for me” – Jeff Green, 2000 NASCAR Busch Series Champion, NASCAR Nextel Cup Driver*

*“With all the traveling and all the different paths in life that you can take, I needed something to hold onto, something that didn’t change. And, I knew that God was the one thing in life that was stable. He never changes” – Jason Keller, NASCAR Nextel Cup Driver*