

RMR Update

Newsletter for the Friends of
Raceway Ministry Resources

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Remarkable Turn of Events at Daytona

“Hello, this is Roger Marsh.” Another day of raceway ministry, another phone call. And, you never know what God is going to bring your way next. That’s one of the things I love about this work. Every phone call or email message leads to an interesting and exciting ministry opportunity.

“Hi, this is Renee with Godspeed ministries. How are you doing today?”

“I’m doing great, thank you.”

“Dr. Marsh, I have a situation with which you might be able to help.” Renee went on to describe that through the prison ministry aspect of their work at Godspeed, they had come across a prisoner who had trusted Christ as Savior, and who had a 13-year old son in Daytona Beach, Florida. And, not only was the boy’s father in prison, but his mother recently had died from cancer, and now he was living with his grandmother there in Daytona Beach. According to the dad in prison, his son was getting very depressed with the way things were going, and he wondered if there might be any way to get the boy into Daytona International Speedway for the July NASCAR night races, since the boy was a big NASCAR fan. Renee, with Godspeed Ministries, wanted to know if I might be able to help with my NFRM connections.

“I’ll see what we can do,” I told Renee. *“Thanks,”* she said.

I looked up the phone number of Kim Westerfield, minister to children at the White Chapel Church of God in Daytona Beach. Kim also helps lead Central Florida Raceway Ministries, providing ministry to fans in the infield at DIS. I explained the situation to Kim, and she said she would see if she could get the boy and his grandmother into the infield by putting them in the van with the ministry volunteers when they drove into the infield. *“Thanks, Kim; and please know that we’ll be praying for your ministry effort all weekend long there at Daytona!”* I then called the boy’s grandmother, got a message on an answering machine, and left a message saying that someone from the Daytona ministry group would be giving them a call. That was Wednesday of race week in July at Daytona.

A week after the July Pepsi 400 at Daytona, I received a most interesting email message from Kim Westerfield at White Chapel Church of God. Here is a summary of what she shared. Yes, she was able to get the boy and the grandmother into all the race events at Daytona that weekend. And, they were able to spend some quality time with the boy, ministering to him and his grandmother. In addition, the dad, from prison, had sent her an email to thank her for getting his son into the races. The shock for Kim came, however, when she read the name of the dad at the end of his message. She recognized his name and couldn’t believe her eyes.

Kim had been serving as a cheerleader sponsor in Daytona Beach for several years. And, for the past couple of years, she had created an award for the cheerleaders, in the form of a plaque, given in memory of a cheerleader who had been murdered three years ago. And, guess who the murderer was? Yep, the father whose son Kim had helped get into the races. Kim’s response was: *“You just never know how God is at work to bring things around full-circle in our efforts to share Jesus.”* The murderer of the

cheerleader had come to know Christ while in prison, and Kim had the joy of ministering to the man's son through Raceway Ministries.

Makes you wonder how many other "loose ends" are out there, waiting to be connected and completed as God does His work of grace and mercy through faith and trust in Jesus. Meanwhile, Raceway Ministry Resources will continue to be available to be used by the Lord to step in and share Christ in the midst of unique situations like this turn of events at Daytona in July of 2005.

As we move into the last half of 2005, we'll be traveling to several locations to share Christ, in addition to the ministry responsibilities we have here in North Texas. Thanks so much for being a partner with RMR as we share hope with people in and around auto racing, the fastest growing spectator sport in America!

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

Oct. 31 – Nov. 6: NASCAR Craftsman Truck, Busch & Nextel Cup Series

For more details, go to www.texasmotorspeedway.com

Family Matters

It's hard to believe; half of 2005 is history! And, it's been a busy year so far. Marsha and Roger had a busy winter and spring. School preoccupied Marsha at Pilot Point High School as the 2004-2005 academic year came to a close. Roger stayed busy substitute teaching and teaching Defensive Driving classes, in addition to the regular schedule of ministry at FBC, Tioga. Summer has been quiet, with very few out of town trips. Most of the out of town activity has been related to visits with family in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area, Corsicana and Waco. During August, however, Marsha will head back to the classroom for some in-service days, followed by the arrival of the students during the last half of the month. Oldest son Caleb continues to work as advisor and instructor for orientation of pre-med students at Baylor University, and younger son Travis and his wife Katie are busy with summer classes, anticipating graduation this month. They both have connected with teaching positions in the Waco and Central Texas area, and they recently purchased a house in the Waco area of Woodway.

Church News

We continue to have a great time providing pastoral leadership for First Baptist Church, Tioga. Attendance at the church continues to be in the 30-40 range, on the average, although on Mother's Day this year we had 55 people present for worship, the highest attendance we have had during the 3-1/2 years we have been there. Summer has been quite busy, too, with several special events, in addition to the regular schedule, that have been well attended—Vacation Bible School, Youth Evangelism Conference, picnics, a float in the Tioga July 4th parade, etc. In addition, the church now has a web

site—www.fbctioga.com—which has resulted in some visitors to the church who live in the area and found us on the internet. In August, Roger attended the Willow Creek Leadership Summit, which was an awesome inspirational and instructional event, hopefully resulting in some great ministry advances at FBC, Tioga. We continue to be very thankful for our church family, and for the support that the church extends for the work of Raceway Ministry Resources.

RMR Working with the . . .



2005 Busy, and About to Get Busier!

Following the 2005 NFRM Annual Meeting in Kansas City, the first six months of this racing season have been plenty busy, although very little travel has been part of this year's agenda, thus far. Post-annual meeting tasks such as processing returning and new members was part of the meeting follow-up, as we sent out membership packets for 2005 to all those folks. Beyond that, the daily routine of answering and sending out email messages, maintaining the web site, negotiating group deals on books, brochures, banners, etc. and staying touch with ministry groups by way of telephone has occupied most of our time. One trip was made, however, during the January-to-June segment of the year, that being to Infineon Raceway in Sonoma, California, to assist during the NASCAR event at that speedway. It was exciting to see that the work of Raceway Ministries, California and raceway chaplain Tina Kollman continues to grow and develop. I am very grateful to Ken Stuckey for accompanying me on that trip, and to Bob and Nancy Eberlin in Napa, California for allowing us to stay in their home while we were there.

During the month of July the NFRM Board of Directors gathered for the mid-year Board meeting. The group continued working on some projects that we began back in January—primarily the expansion of our work into the weekly racing venues all across the United States. In addition, the group worked on plans for the 2006 NFRM Annual Meeting, which will take place in Martinsville, Virginia, and the group has asked that we stay on board as Executive Director for 2006.

The last half of 2005 looks like it is going to be the busy half of the year with regard to travel. As you will see below ("Where We're Going"), several out of town trips are coming up during the late summer and early fall months of 2005.



RMR Working with . . .



TxARM work began for 2005 with a leadership retreat involving the TxARM Executive Council. RMR provided guidance for the retreat, preparing for the year of ministry at Texas Motor Speedway and other raceways across Texas. In February, RMR led the 2005 TxARM Volunteer Orientation, hosting about 100 people for the time of training and preparation for the new race season. During March, RMR represented TxARM at a couple of events, sharing about the work and recruiting volunteers. Before long, April rolled around, during which month the first NASCAR Busch/Nextel Cup Series event of the year at Texas Motor Speedway turned out to be a tremendous weekend of ministry to the fans.

During June, RMR attended the national gathering of the Campers on Mission organization, and conducted a breakout session for TxARM, introducing this group of camping volunteers to the possibilities of doing ministry at Texas Motor Speedway and at other raceways all across the United States. During the middle of June, TxARM ministered to the fans at TMS during the NASCAR Craftsman Truck/Indy Racing League event, with RMR providing the leadership. During July, RMR spent a week at a boy's camp at Camp Copass, near Denton, serving as the "camp missionary" for the week. About 100 boys attended the camp, and listened daily as RMR shared stories and information about Raceway Ministries work along with building pinewood derby race cars, which they raced after the evening worship service on Thursday of camp week. Over 20 boys accepted Christ at the camp, and three committed their lives to vocational ministry.

In between all the ministry activity to the fans at TMS, RMR has had several opportunities to minister to some of the employees at the speedway, providing counseling, prayer, and even preparation for a couple of weddings that will take place later in the year!



Where We've Been . . .

February

February 12; Ft. Worth, Texas. Texas Alliance Raceway Ministries Leadership Retreat. Roger led the TxARM Executive Council in a time of preparation for ministry during 2005 at Texas Motor Speedway.
February 25-26; Texas Motor Speedway. NFRM Chaplain Training; TxARM Volunteer Orientation. Roger provided leadership as the NFRM trained chaplains for work at the nation's raceways, and as TxARM prepared potential volunteers for ministry at Texas Motor Speedway and other raceways in the state during 2005.

March

March 5; Texas Motor Speedway Dirt Track; Texas World Dirt Track Championship. Roger attended this race event, on stand-by as a chaplain and providing ministry to the competitors in the event pit area.
March 12; Azle, Texas. Roger assisted TxARM in a work day for the purpose of doing inventory of TxARM equipment and supplies.
March 13; Kennedale, Texas; First Baptist Church. Roger spoke 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 spoke at the Texas Campers on Mission rally, seeking volunteers for ministry at Texas Motor Speedway.

April

April 6; Texas Motor Speedway. Roger represented TxARM at the TMS pre-event staff meeting, leading the group in prayer, reporting on planned TxARM activities, and providing a word of inspiration/encouragement to the staff.
April 10-17; Texas Motor Speedway. Roger provided leadership for the ministry effort at TMS while NASCAR was in town for racing.
April 19; Lewisville, Texas. Roger met with Jim Cote, director of the Master's Men ministry, to discuss future possibilities of working together to provide outreach to race fans at Texas Motor Speedway and other raceways.
April 22; Boyd Raceway; Boyd, Texas. Roger spent the evening at Boyd Raceway, assisting in the ministry effort at this dirt track where racing takes place each Friday night, with ministry provided by TxARM chaplain Tony Edwards.

May

May 7; L'il Texas Motor Speedway; Texas Motor Speedway. Roger substituted for Legends Racing chaplain Bret Shisler, who was out of town for the day.

May 16; Pottsboro, Texas; Executive Board Meeting of Grayson Baptist Association. Roger attended this meeting, providing a report regarding the work of RMR, and providing the sermon for the meeting.

June

June 1; Texas Motor Speedway. Roger represented TxARM at the pre-event staff meeting at TMS, outlining what TxARM would be doing during the upcoming NASCAR Craftsman Truck/IRL event, and providing inspirational words and prayer.

June 2-3; Waco, Texas; National Campers on Mission Rally. Roger provided 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 assisted TxARM in ministry to fans during this NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series/IRL race weekend.

June 24-27; Sonoma, California. Roger attended the NASCAR race event at Infineon Raceway in California, assisting with the ministry effort there.

July

July 18-19; Haslet, Texas. Mid-year Board of Directors meeting, National Fellowship of Raceway Ministries. Roger provided leadership for this meeting as Board members from all over the United States gathered to conduct business for the NFRM.

July 25-29; Camp Copass, Denton, Texas. North Texas Boy's Camp. Roger served as camp missionary for this week of Boy's Camp, which hosted around 100 boys.

August

August 2-3; Phoenix, Arizona. Roger met with representatives of Arizona Raceway Ministries and the Phoenix International Raceway staff to discuss plans for ministry at upcoming race events in 2005 & 2006.

August 5-8; Indianapolis, Indiana; Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Roger traveled to this famous raceway for the purpose of observing and surveying the fans during the NASCAR Nextel Cup race weekend. Following the days spent there observing, Roger will put together and present a proposal for the presence and work of a local-church based ministry group for outreach to the fans during events at IMS.

August 15; Gunter, Texas. Roger shared a report of RMR activity in an Executive Board meeting of the Grayson Baptist Association.

Where We're Going . . .

August 24-27. Bristol Motor Speedway; Bristol, TN. Roger will travel to this speedway to assist Bristol Raceway Ministries in the outreach effort to fans while NASCAR is in town.

September

September 8 – 10. Richmond International Raceway; Richmond, Virginia. Roger will travel to this event to assist the Central Virginia Raceway Ministries group as they serve and share Christ with the fans during a NASCAR race event.

September 17. Denton, Texas. Roger will officiate a wedding ceremony for a couple, the groom of which is a former employee at Texas Motor Speedway.

October

October 8; Texas Motor Speedway; Ft. Worth, Texas. Roger will provide leadership during the second TxARM Volunteer Orientation event of 2005.

October 21-23; Martinsville Speedway; Martinsville, Virginia. Roger travels to this speedway to assist in the ministry effort to fans during a NASCAR event, and to work on details in preparation for the 2006 NFRM Annual Meeting, which will take place in Martinsville.

November

October 31 – November 6; Texas Motor Speedway; Ft. Worth, Texas. Roger provides leadership for TxARM's week of ministry to fans at Texas Motor Speedway during the second NASCAR event of the 2005 season.

December

December 7; Reidsville, North Carolina. Roger will attend an appreciation event for all those who have assisted with chapel services for the Vendor Ministry group at NASCAR events during 2005.

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 Gladys Davis (Pilot Point, TX); Jeff Duncan (Bonham, TX); Bob & Nancy Eberlin (Napa, CA); Bobby & Edwina Huddleston (Palestine, TX); Thomas & Randi Kozloski (Lago Vista, TX); Lighthouse Baptist Church (Stephenville, TX); Perry & Jean Marsh (Hurst, TX); Steve Pate (Flower Mound, TX); Ron & Jackie Pegram (Concord, NC); John Roberts (Warsaw, KY); Ray & Jean Skoglund (Krum, TX); Ben & Betty Smith (Jacksonville, TX); Ken & Ginger Stuckey (Molalla, OR).**

**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.*



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