

RMR Update

Newsletter for the Friends of Raceway
Ministry Resources

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Ministry at the Brickyard—Indianapolis Motor Speedway

It was a project that has been in the making for many years. The National Fellowship of Raceway Ministries has been praying for the past 7 years for an open door of opportunity to provide Christian ministry to the fans at IMS, and for the past 3 years, letters have been written, presentations have been made to the staff, and churches in the Indianapolis area have been contacted, with the hopes that ministry there could begin soon. Hesitation on the part of the speedway was understandable—they have a rich history and a strong legacy to uphold, and they do not want anything to threaten the positive public perception that Indianapolis Motor Speedway is the world capital of racing.

In 2005, the staff at IMS, with some reserve, said “yes” to having a local-church-based ministry effort in the camp ground. However, space would be limited, activities would be limited, and the group would need to reflect all of the professionalism that typically exudes from IMS when it hosts events that are attended by as many as 400,000+ people. And, as a precaution, staff members from IMS went to a couple of different race events in early 2006 to watch and observe and ask about Raceway Ministries groups and evaluate their effectiveness.

Finally, in July, a month before NASCAR’s August 2006 race event there, the IMS staff primary contact person met with the leadership of what would become “Indianapolis Raceway Ministries,” and the results of the meeting were surprising. Ron, the staff contact person, began the meeting with an apology to the ministry leaders. “Gentlemen,” he began, “having visited a couple of other ministry groups, I want to apologize that we have under-estimated the potential that you guys have for doing good. We should have had you guys here several years ago, and we should not have placed so many limitations on you. In fact, we’re going to move you to a more prominent location and we will look forward to evaluating things after the August race event with a view toward planning for 2007.”

As the first weekend of August arrived, fans already were gathering by the thousands in the camping areas, and Indianapolis Raceway Ministries was there. Situated on Georgetown Road, a main thoroughfare right next to the front stretch of the famous Indianapolis Motor Speedway, a 40’ by 60’ tent, manned by 60 or so volunteers from a dozen churches in the Indy area, provided some great ministry. By appearance and through behavior, the volunteers provided the “professional” representation that IMS expected, and at the same time distributed thousands of gospel tracts, hundreds of New Testaments, along with thousands of home-made cookies and bottles of water. Pinewood Derby racing for the kids, horse shoes, a dynamic Sunday morning chapel service, and lots of conversations and one-on-one witnessing under the tent made for a great inaugural weekend of ministry.

What resulted from the weekend? First, lost people came to know Christ. One gentleman dropped by the tent on Saturday night of the race weekend. A huge street party was taking place up and down Georgetown Road, and he came to the ministry tent location looking for action, which he had found at that location the year before. He came into the tent and ended up talking with ministry volunteers for over an hour, and before he exited the ministry site he had prayed and trusted Jesus as Savior. He came

(over)

back the next day and expressed his appreciation to the folks with Indianapolis Raceway Ministries: “Last year,” he described, “I came to this location and attended a pretty wild party—drinking, girls pole-dancing and lots of other stuff. I came back this year looking for the same thing, but instead I discovered there now was a ‘church’ there. And, I’ve got to tell you, I am so thankful you guys were here because now I’ve found what I was really looking for!”

Second, lost people came to talk about Jesus and about their own lives. A young man named Kevin comes to mind. Kevin came by the ministry tent 3 times during race weekend. He could have been out partying or watching racing activity, but instead, he had some questions about God, about church and about himself, and he was looking for answers. And, when Kevin came by to talk, it was not just for 5 or 10 minutes. He spent hours at a time discussing his needs and asking his questions as Indianapolis Raceway Ministries director David Martin patiently listened and offered Biblical advice. Kevin never prayed to trust Christ as Savior, but God spoke to his heart and he went away with lots to think about, all because IRM was there.

Third, Christians from local churches in Indianapolis found a niche for ministry. With excitement and enthusiasm they engaged in ministry on the front lines—sharing Christ through literature and through conversation in the midst of the fastest-growing, secular, business-entertainment spectator sport in America, auto racing. Long hours, August heat, and endless sharing with others—these volunteers proved to be excellent servants of the Lord as they discovered a new way to share their faith in Christ.

Fourth, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway agreed to add Raceway Ministries to its ongoing list of offerings to the fans. A month after the NASCAR race week was over, IMS staff contact person Ron met with IRM director David Martin to evaluate the ministry work. Ron indicated that he had heard of no problems and had received numerous positive comments regarding the presence of the ministry. Therefore, he extended the invitation for Indianapolis Raceway Ministries to come back next year—not only for the NASCAR weekend, but also for the Indianapolis 500 race in May, and he indicated that he had an additional location so that the group could expand its presence to two sites.

What a project! What an opportunity! And, what a privilege to be able to share Christ with people in this unique missions setting. Raceway Ministry Resources says “thank you” to everyone who has prayed and contributed toward the effort. You made it possible for RMR to go to Indianapolis to represent our Lord and the National Fellowship of Raceway Ministries in preparatory meetings and for the ministry weekend itself, and the results have been phenomenal. Keep praying and giving, and we’ll look forward to more great things that God wants to accomplish in reaching people with the Good News.

In the Race by His Grace,

Join Us for Ministry at Texas Motor Speedway
Wednesday – Sunday, November 1 - 5 as we distribute literature, host hospitality
locations in the camping area, conduct children’s activities, and more! For more
information, visit www.txarm.org or call us at 940.367.4940



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)



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 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!

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.

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 Dr. Jeff Duncan (Bonham, TX); Mellie Howard (Corsicana, TX); Perry & Jean Marsh; Joe & Rynell Novak (Denton, TX)*

*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

