



The Chaplain's CHRONICLES

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO

To our Friends, Board, Supporters, and Fellow RV Chaplains,

Summer is already here, and I trust that many of you have been able to visit family and have some down time. But knowing our Chaplains, I am sure many are active in some form of ministry and are very busy. I trust that we all remain healthy and can be ready for another fruitful season in the ministry God has for us.

As a part of the CRM's leadership team, we would like to share some steps that we have been able to accomplish and steps that are still before us. One thing that has been a major concern is our lack of liability coverage as a ministry and for our Chaplains. To address this, we have taken a step of faith and obtained a package coverage that addresses both our Chaplains and our general ministry liability. The cost is high, and we will need to secure more funding to cover the additional expenses. We have also become a member of Alliance Defending Freedom, which is a membership to a non-profit legal group that will help as we address new issues in our changing society.

We have worked on ways to decrease the cost of the Fall Conference, especially considering all the higher prices for everything. This year's conference will be a four-day conference to allow more transition time to get set up in the parks.

CRM ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE 2023

October 23 - 26, 2023

Applying Your Call to Ministry in a Senior Resort Mission Field

Location: Rancho Village RV Park; 1900 S Bridge Avenue; Weslaco, TX

Cost For Conference only: \$150.00 per couple or \$80.00 individual.

Conference includes Presentations, snacks, lunches, & handouts.

RV Park Space: \$125.00 (Other accommodations - price will vary.)

Registration will be on the Website: crmintl.org.

I trust that everyone will be able to join us as we start the new season.

As we are preparing for the 2023-2024 season, I would like to reflect on our purpose statement as a Ministry.

"The Purpose of Christian Resort Ministries (CRM) is to bring Christ to those who know Him and don't know Him.

This will be accomplished by:

1. Placing qualified and trained Chaplains in RV Resorts across the U.S.A.
2. Working with owners, managers and leaders in the RV industry to present a quality program for resorts and campgrounds.
3. Sharing the CRM mission with churches, mission committees, and pastors.
4. Presenting the opportunity of CRM to industry leaders via seminars, convention attendance, personal calling, etc."

We have new parks expressing interest in having a Chaplain, so we will need more Chaplains for Texas and Arizona. I would solicit your prayers that God would bring us qualified couples with hearts committed to the Lord and a desire to spread the hope only found in Christ to our Senior communities. If you know someone that desires to serve, please encourage them to inquire through our web site crmintl.org.

Our desire to see growth in our ministry is not for number's sake but to better reach the need that is before us. The harvest field is great, and there are many more parks that we need to reach. With the economic and cultural mindset changes, we need to be able to adjust to new ways of getting into the parks and finding better support bases for our Chaplains.

I would like to encourage each of you that are reading this and agree with our ministry pursuit to become an active prayer partner, and if possible, consider serving on our Advisory or Operations Board. If you have a skill set in accounting, administration assistance, fundraising, legal, marketing, etc., we would love your assistance. For more information on how you could provide support of our ministry objectives, please contact me at:

Douglas Hollums
Christian Resort Ministries • crmdhollums@gmail.com • 210-549-9006 Ext 6
With great appreciation for your support of the ministry of CRM
Douglas Hollums



THROUGH IT ALL

In November 2022, my husband Bill and I began our ministry as Chaplain and wife at Mission Bell/Tradewinds RV Resort. We were eager to see how God was going to work in our lives during this time, but not really sure what to expect. It was a little daunting at first when we realized we were being asked to walk around the park and introduce ourselves to people we don't know and try to develop relationships with them. Bill and I both tend towards introversion, so knowing how to strike up conversations with strangers isn't always our best suit. However, we were determined to let the Lord lead and to trust in His guidance and strength, taking to heart the verse that says "God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work." (2 Cor. 9:8)

It wasn't too long before we realized that our fears of failure could be put to rest. The people here are wonderful, and it was easy to get to know many of them. Our ministry began with a challenge regarding possible fees for our church's meeting space that was resolved through discussion and much prayer, allowing us to begin Sunday services without hindrance. Attendance has been good and those who come appreciate Bill's preaching.

Through several changes including the board chair and his wife, the choir director/pianist, and the replacement choir director all having to go home due to family illness, the new pianist (myself) needing to leave town for a couple of weeks to help family members through a difficult time, and then Bill and I contracting COVID and

the church attendees being relegated to music CDs and taped sermons, the folks here have remained faithful and supportive. The outpouring of love and assistance while we have been down and out with sickness from so many here has touched us deeply.

During our time here so far, we have been able to pray with and for many folks dealing with illness, bereavement and a number of other issues. We have been blessed to visit people in their homes and in the hospital and have made several wonderful friends. Bill and I have discovered the RGV to be a place of warm and caring people such as we have not always known. People here have shared that we have touched their lives in positive ways, but I'm not sure we have blessed them as much as they have blessed us!

Through it all, we pray that God will continue to work in us and through us to show the love of Christ to those we meet and to bring others to Him. We never want to lose sight of the mission to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." Mark 16:15 We know from our own life experiences that there is no greater joy and peace to be found in this world than that found in service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the lover of our souls!

Bill and Dena Wade
Mission, TX



TOUCHING FIRST BASE

I coached girls' softball for many years when my daughters were young. One thing I emphasized with the first baseman was to watch a runner to make sure they touched first base as they scurried to pursue a double or triple or homerun. Why? Because if the runner missed first base, nothing they did afterwards mattered. The runner could be proudly standing on third base after an apparent triple, but if they neglected to touch first base, and the first baseman and umpire noticed, their glory would be soon over. The first baseman would call for the ball, tag the base with it in their glove, and the runner would be called out. Nothing else she did mattered if she missed the thing of first importance.

I think of this often in relation to the Christian faith. Look at what the Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 "For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born." Many people, religions, and even churches teach about how to live a successful life and how to get "home" to heaven at the end of life, **WITHOUT FIRST TOUCHING FIRST BASE!**

If you are passing through life and think God will weigh the good you've done against the bad and welcome you home; you need to return to first base. You cannot go further without acknowledging Christ's death for your sin, His resurrection victory over death, and His appearances to prove it.

Please, if you've missed first base, turn around and touch it now. Then you can continue on and successfully reach home!

Ron Ebb
Apache Junction, AZ



GIVE THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

While only being in the RGV for a short time and Pastoring at 2 parks, we were presented with the opportunity to continue God's work through an established ministry that serves basic needs to those in Mexico - SONshine Ministries. The basic needs are food, clothing, houses, medical expenses, school tuition and uniforms, washing machines and any other need that may arise. We humbly accepted the opportunity. By taking on this mission, we not only made a way for us to serve but also for those in our congregations and our communities.

We have been amazed at how much our neighbors have wanted to get involved and be a part. It's as though they were just waiting for someone to show them a way to serve. Most of our communities here in the RGV are filled with retired, loving, kind and generous elderly folks who feel as though they

don't have a purpose anymore since they are finished with their career and raising their children, BUT God wants to show them otherwise. Whether that is helping with our pb&j sandwich assembly line for our lunches we hand out once we cross the border, or baking cookies for the children's feeding program, or folding and sorting donated clothes, bagging 100's of pounds of rice and beans to go into the food bags, or giving financially to help someone get a medical procedure done, or for praying for the families that live in extreme poverty - there is something for everyone. It is beautiful when the whole body moves as one.

Acts 20:35 tells us how we should support the weak and that it is more blessed to give than to receive. This world teaches us to focus on your feelings and desires, to have more stuff, to be the highest in your position, and to be

better than everyone and anyone else. But God teaches us to look unto others even our enemies and help those in need. There is a joy that you get when being the Lord's hands and feet, and we have witnessed that in the faces of those that have stepped up and helped.

So ministering in the park isn't just about being there when someone is sick or when someone passes, but it is also about giving them a purpose.

If you are interested in helping with SONshine Ministry and would like to know how to get your park involved, then give us a call.

Branden 573-300-0305
or Sheila 618-751-3165

Branden & Sheila Freeland
Harlingen, TX

ANSWERED PRAYER

The summer of 2021, our pianist on the worship team suffered a stroke at her home in Nebraska. This left her with limited motor skills, and as much as her heart was in playing the piano as perfect as she did in the past, she just couldn't do it. Nancy, my wife, had been praying all last year for a replacement, and prayer was answered just as we expected. We contacted a friend of ours, the director at Rio Grande Bible College here in Edinburg, asking if he knew of a person that would be able to fill this position. He said he thought he could come up with someone to take over that need. He called us and said his receptionist was not only a great worshipper and pianist but was a teacher as well. Why wouldn't God send us the best person to join us? Kay came in, and we listened to her beautiful playing, and her voice was a perfect match along with Nancy's. She acknowledged that she would be honored to join our team. Welcome Kay, and thank You Jesus for another prayer answered! God is good!

Larry Nau
Edinburg, Texas

A LETTER TO THE PASTOR

I am a CRM Chaplain at Las Quintas RV in Yuma, AZ, and was there November - April. I sent a "Thank You" note to a couple from Rapid City, SD, because their giving was by check, and I had their address. Just a few days ago I received a letter from them. It was a tremendous blessing to receive. I want to share a portion of that letter.

"We must commend and thank you for your fine pastoring to such a diverse congregation of every different denomination and some with little or no knowledge of His Word. Several of us recognize this was not an easy task for you, but also knew you did a good job for the Lord in presenting his Biblical truth (without apology) that needs to be preached; especially in these last days or years before His Coming.

We will be praying for you, your family and your leading and directing of many souls to be reached for his Kingdom. God's Blessings,"

That letter was a pretty concise summary of last winter's ministry at Las Quintas, and a blessing to hear from one of our members.

Tim Glasser
Yuma AZ



WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS!



It is never too late, and you are never too Old to get saved!!!

In November of 2018, we started serving as Chaplains at River Ranch Resort, Rio Hondo, TX. After getting set up and getting acclimated, we went out to survey the park, and in doing so, the first person we talked to introduced himself and his wife as “Bear” and Linda. We immediately realized why he was nicknamed “Bear”; (you knew right away his name fits).

I introduced myself as the Chaplain & Shairon my wife, and explained that we were serving the Park this season and invited him to church. He right away started telling us his story about his son’s death and how he blamed God for it. He said he and his son were in business together and were best friends. At this point he told us his son committed suicide 15 years ago. At the end of our visit, I asked him if we could pray for him. With tears in his eyes and leaning against our golf cart he said yes. We prayed for understanding and peace in their grief.

As time went on and as the season passed, I made an effort to build a relationship with “Bear” and his wife Linda. He began to call me “PREACHER” and sought me out to talk too. Most of our conversations were day to day stuff, but occasionally he would pray with me. Every season for the next 5 years we looked forward to seeing each other and catching up.

In January 2023, “Bear” had a small stroke and had gone to the hospital. I went to visit him, and on one occasion when I walked into his dark room, he yelled, “PREACHER, you’re just the man I want to see!” Then he started telling me what happened to him. He said, “Preacher, I CRIED OUT TO JESUS, JESUS, JESUS! I NEED YOU JESUS!” I asked him if he had invited Jesus into his heart, and he said, “I SURE DID PREACHER!” He said, “I have never felt like I do now.” He told me, “Preacher, I’ve got to testify!” He said this a couple of times. I told him we could sure make that happen. In two weeks, we were going to have a Celebration of Life Church service for all who had gone on before. I was so excited to have “Bear” testify at our CFL service.

However, while “Bear” was home, he fell and broke his leg and ended up back in the hospital. Unfortunately, he didn’t get to testify at our CFL service. After he returned home, six days later “Bear” died of a heart attack.

A couple of weeks or so later, his wife Linda came by our RV and hugged me “tightly.” Then she stepped back and told me she had lived with “Bear” for 50 years, and she had never seen such a change in a person as “Bear” since his encounter with “JESUS”. I explained to her that ALL the praise, honor, and glory goes to Jesus our Lord.

I know you think this is the end of this story, but it isn’t quite over. In April 2023 as normal, we came home from our serving in the valley to our home in Oklahoma. In doing so, we always go back to our church home which is in Collinsville, OK. The first Sunday in our SS Class, I was telling our class about the miracle of “Bear’s” salvation and how he wanted to testify but didn’t get to. One of the men in our class said, “OH YES HE DID! HE JUST DID!” At that moment, the Holy Spirit spoke to me and said, “Yes he really did get to testify,” to the honor and glory of Jesus our Lord!

Al Dickey



TENT REVIVAL

My wife Shelley and I started here at Paradise Park RV Resort in Harlingen, Texas, December of 2021. In early June of 2022, we started praying to hold a tent revival here in the park. In mid June of 2022, we asked management, and they were very supportive of the idea. We posted on Paradise Park’s Facebook page that we were going to have a cookout to raise the funds to have a tent revival. We supplied the meat, condiments, and drinks. The residents brought covered dishes to share without us asking. What a surprise! We had wonderful fellowship, and with all the generous donations, we were able to cover the costs for the three RV sites that were needed for the evangelists. August 21-25th 2022, we had the tent revival, and after the tent revival, the Church asked us if we could have another in January 2023. We planned for the tent revival for January 15th – 18th. With lots of prayer and generosity from the residents, all was paid for and a good offering was given to the evangelists. We averaged about 30 a night, and the best part was, we had one salvation and we baptized her in the park pool. Since then, we have had 4 more salvations and baptized them in the pool. Wow, God is so good! Now we are planning our 3rd tent revival this January 14th – 17th. The park management is supporting us, the residents are excited, and both are praying for a successful revival. We have just had our 4th of July cookout with generous donations, and to our surprise, we served 80 lunches. This is the majority of the residents here this time of year. We are so blessed to serve a park we can call our family. Together we cannot wait to see what God will do this season.

In Christ,
Pastor Dean and Shelley

GOD IS GREAT

The devil did not want us in the Rio Grande Valley. Our first time in the Valley was the 20-21 season. We had been approved by CRM to serve as chaplains and were excited for the opportunity and eager to see what God would do at Park Place RV Resort as we served Him there. But I began to get sick only a few weeks into our time there. So sick that we returned to Michigan because I was unlikely to survive the illness, and my wife Mary needed to be near friends and family if I died. But people everywhere were praying for me, including my CRM family, and God is Great. He intervened and saw us through the valley of death.

The nature of the illness was such that we could not see the possibility of RVing in the future, and we sold our 5th wheel and truck. We would not be able to manage RVing in the future. But God is Great, and even before getting out of the hospital, I began to dream of RVing again. Before long, we were the owners of an older model motor home and were planning to return to full-time RV life.

Lee Tracy had kept in contact with us and began inquiring about the possibility of returning to the Valley. We began asking God what we should do. Except for getting sick, we loved our time at Park Place and our CRM family. So,

when we felt like I might be physically able, we agreed to return if a park could use us. Soon with Lee's help, the folks at Sunshine RV Resort invited us to come, and we agreed to come.

But the devil did not want us in the valley. While touring the northeast U.S. last September, driving through the White Mountains in New Hampshire, the engine in our RV blew. It was going to cost more to repair than we could invest in a 1999 motor home, and we just had to walk away. We were devastated. We had lost our home and thought we had lost our dream.

Two hours after learning about the engine, we got a call from Lee. He was just checking in. I told him what had happened and that we would not be able to come to the Valley after all. We had so many questions. What were we to do? Where would we go? Where would we live? How would we manage? But God is Great. Lee told me his travel trailer was available, and we could live in it if we returned to the valley.

After praying for a few days, we told Lee we would come. After all, we did not have anywhere else to go. We would come to the valley for the season. That would give us time to figure out what we were going to do. We would spend one

season in the Valley and then have a more permanent plan by the spring and move on.

But God is Great. Only a few weeks into our stay at Sunshine, we both knew that we belonged there. We could not just serve a season and move on. With God's help, we were able to buy and move into another motor home in January. God did amazing things in our park last season. We saw several people come to Christ. The first time ever we had baptisms in the park. Relationships were established. We were sad to leave when the season was over and can't wait to return because God is Great!

Larry Allen
Harlingen, TX



TO GOD BE ALL THE GLORY

My wife Maria and I have been at Lost Dutchman RV Park in Apache Junction, AZ, for 4 winters. But last winter was my first time as Chaplain there. Both my wife Maria and I are from Marion, IA.

I have been in ministry since 1978 and have served as Pastor in several churches over the years in Iowa. I also served as Executive Director of South Central Iowa Youth for Christ for 17 years.

We heard about CRM when I was board Chairman for the Lost Dutchman Chapel the year before I became Chaplain. I felt led of the Lord to join CRM as Chaplain at our park when the position came open.

This past winter season at Lost Dutchman, we saw God do marvelous things in our park. Attendance more than doubled with an average of 154 attendees for the 4 months of the season. We organized a prayer team and a construction team for those who had needs. We supported 5 mission organizations, had a choir concert, and had Christian Country singer Greg Hager. We also had a weekly Bible Study and a 6 week course on Grief. Many individuals expressed either new faith or a deeper walk with Jesus.

To God be all the glory!

Daryl Martin
Apache Junction, AZ



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