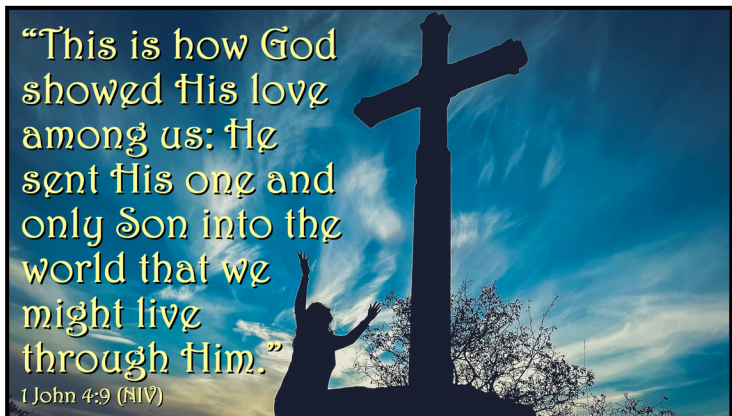




Dear Friends:

This Easter we are celebrating the resurrection of Christ with stories of new life in Jesus.

Most of my work with Open Road Chapels thus far has been in my office, making phone calls to chaplains across the country, who do the work of the Lord by ministering to truck drivers and other people who need someone to give a listening ear in a time of need. These people also want to discuss faith and spiritual matters, or simply need a helping hand. As I am finding out, the ministry is reaching more people than just truck drivers. There are staff at the truck stops who will sometimes reach out to our chaplains on their coffee breaks, or who the chaplains get to develop friendships with as they do their work at the truck stops. I have even heard testimonies from people in hard situations, some homeless, that our chaplains have been able to reach out to. Many of these people are still searching for meaning in life or have been facing hard times. Chaplains have been able to encourage and help these people by offering the hope of Jesus Christ, and their work has led to testimonies of people hearing and accepting the Gospel of Christ and making decisions to begin a new journey of faith with the Lord.



This February, I had the opportunity to travel to our London, Ontario, chapel to meet some of the chaplains in-person and experience what it is like to work as a chaplain. My initial visit was for three days, where I was able to get to know them first-hand, meet the truck stop staff and management, and interact with truck drivers that were passing through and needed to talk. I came away with a few highlights of the week; while most of my time was comprised of orientation as a chaplain, I was eager to sit in the chapel every chance I got. I had a few very memorable visits from drivers who wanted to come into the chapel and talk.



On my final visit, there was a driver that wanted to come in to ask how he could begin a relationship with Jesus Christ. I had the privilege of helping him with his questions and praying with him. When he came into the chapel, I asked him how much time he had, and he said about a half hour for his stop. We proceeded to talk about his spiritual journey, and it became evident that he had never made a decision to accept Jesus as his Saviour. When we talked about this more deeply, he expressed that this was something that he wanted but he just didn't know how. I had the privilege of explaining to him the Gospel message and he prayed to accept Jesus into his life. We discussed different issues he wanted help with, and I was able to steer him in a good direction. I gave him a new Bible and some devotional material, for which he was really grateful to receive free-of-charge. He had questions about baptism and expressed that he wanted to go home and get baptized at the local church that he had just begun attending with his family. He left feeling a lot lighter, and we were both encouraged. His half-hour stop turned out to be more of a 45-minute stop, but he said that his dispatch wouldn't mind.



I left London feeling encouraged and knowing that for at least one soul we had helped make a difference for eternity. It is testimonies like these why we ask you to consider supporting the ministry of Open Road Chapels, whether it be through your prayers, letters of encouragement, or financially. Many of the people that our chaplains interact with in this ministry could be people like your neighbour who is working long hours on the road to support their family. Open Road Chapels exists to be able to be there to minister to the drivers and win, teach, and equip our world to passionately follow Jesus Christ.



May you and your family have a blessed Easter!
Ryan Carney
Chaplain Communication Coordinator

