



The Gospel To The World Of Trucking

Steering Wheel Ministries
PO Box 135, Chemult, OR 97731 * (541) 643-1989
www.steeringwheel.org swim@steeringwheel.org

Teaching and Equipping Truckers To Be Fishers Of Men According To Matthew 4:19

Newsletter for July 2011

Dear Friends:

All is off and running at our new Steering Wheel Ministries church, Chemult Bible Fellowship. I have a page on our web site for the church.



First Sunday service for Chemult Bible Fellowship. Our front row became our youth row by their choice. As you can see two of them don't like their picture being taken. Anyway, I am excited that they want to sit up front!



Right now we are using our 18-wheel Mobile Chapel as the church building. We are praying and working towards a permanent building by September. The 10'x20' canopy is for potlucks and children's church.



We are directly across from the Pilot truck stop and the famous and former Wagon Wheel Restaurant, now KJ's Restaurant. In Chemult, where ever you are you are either across from or next to or nearly next to Pilot because the town is so small.

According to the vision God gave me years ago for the Trucker's Center the church is for the community because the Center was to be in a nearly un-churched community. That is Chemult. Things happened with the former church here in Chemult before we came that really hurt the people so they are having to decide if they can trust us. Please pray that they will see that they can trust God as He will never let them down and because of Jesus working in and through us they can trust us and come to church. As of July 3 we are studying through 1 John, then we are going to 2 John, 3 John, then to Genesis. We just finished Ephesians.

I feel awkward about presenting the church because over the years whenever I have told about leading someone to the Lord or ministering to someone who is not a truck driver I have been criticized because some say Steering Wheel Ministries is for truckers only. God has never called someone to one people group only. We are doing what God has called us to do and that is to reach everyone for Jesus Christ and that includes the Chemult, Oregon area and the trucking industry equally. Our first service on June 12 brought in a husband/wife trucking team.

Our base CB got in storage by accident, like other things we found we got in storage by mistake. SO, on July 12 we had to go dig it out so we can call the truckers in on Sunday and other days during the week. This radio gets out

nearly 15 miles so we are reaching a lot of drivers.

When we get into a building no matter where it is here in Chemult we will be next to or across from the Pilot truck stop and being in a building will greatly increase our outreach to the truckers and locals alike. Please pray this happens very quickly.

Thursday, July 7, I spent three hours counseling a man who came into the chapel/church seeking guidance. It was NOT an issue that could have been talked over in an hour like many pastors like to do and say, "Come back next week and we will talk some more." Much of that time I was listening to his story and getting the background. It looks like I may end up doing more regular

"counseling" with him. He is one who thinks he knows the Lord but in talking to him I have to question if he really does so please pray for him - I am purposely withholding his name for confidentiality reasons.

About ten minutes after he left my phone rang and it was a man who just got out of jail that morning and I am still working with him also. In fact I just got off the phone from talking to him again at 10:30 at night.



Saturday, July 16 was our Trucker's Afternoon Of Jubilee at Pilot here in Chemult. We had a great time of ministry. We served 38 people and ministered one-on-one with a good number and as far as I know we all were able to pray with each one we spent time with. It was a rewarding day. We are all looking forward to September 10.

I just added a third Driver Chaplain to our team. Dan Hoffman is a man who is on fire for the Lord with a serious burden for those who are lost. I have not kept track but I think Dan must lead at least two people to the Lord each week. Driver Chaplains, Terry Kandoll and Jack Erb are men of like mind in leading people to the Lord. That is what Steering Wheel Ministries is all about. We do not keep count as to the number who get saved through Steering Wheel Ministries because that is God's job, not ours.

It is so great to see how God is doing so much with so little here at Steering Wheel Ministries. We are operating chapel services in the TV Rooms at two truck stops. We hold one five day outreach, Trucker's Days Of Jubilee each May and we have two to three Trucker's Afternoons of Ju-

bilee each summer, and we have started a church out of which we are starting our Trucker's Center. (We have to have a church to have the Trucker's Center out of.) Plus pay Debbie and me. All this is being done on the wage of someone who gets \$12 an hour. Only God can do that!

The summer slump in giving has already started as people seem to take the money they have been giving to the Lord and use it for other things. This makes it so ministries, including Steering Wheel Ministries, have a hard time meeting their monthly expenses. So during your summer fun please do not forget that God has bills here at Steering Wheel Ministries that need to be paid. He has no bank account but yours to draw on so that is why He promises to bless you for your giving back to Him.

Beginning in January we have been down more than \$2000 each month. Some of you have asked how much each person on our mailing list would need to give each month to meet our expenses. If everyone who receives this letter would give as little as \$20 to \$25 a month Steering Wheel Ministries we would be able to meet our monthly expenses.

Thank you for faithfully standing with us in reaching truckers and the people of Chemult, OR for Jesus Christ. Here in Chemult we are reaching an entire group of truckers who were being missed before we came here. Jesus, you and Steering Wheel Ministries area a great team.

Yours in Christ's Service,

Merwin Rhoades ~ President/Founder/Chaplain



For accountability purposes, Steering Wheel Ministries is honored to be an Affiliate Member of *United Evangelical Churches*. You can visit their web site at www.uecol.org

I am investing in the Lord's work so more truckers will come to and grow in Jesus.

Here is my part: \$ _____

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