



**Breezewood Trucker/Traveler Ministry
Newsletter Spring 2026
Grace and Peace**

Annual Meeting

The Ministry Annual Meeting was held Tuesday, March 17 at the Everett Assembly of God Church with a good representation of community and Ministry personnel attending. Reports were given and election of returning Committee members was conducted. The Chaplain gave his yearly report of activities in the area.

After the meeting we gathered to enjoy a delicious meal of soup, salad and dessert. It was a good time of food and fellowship.



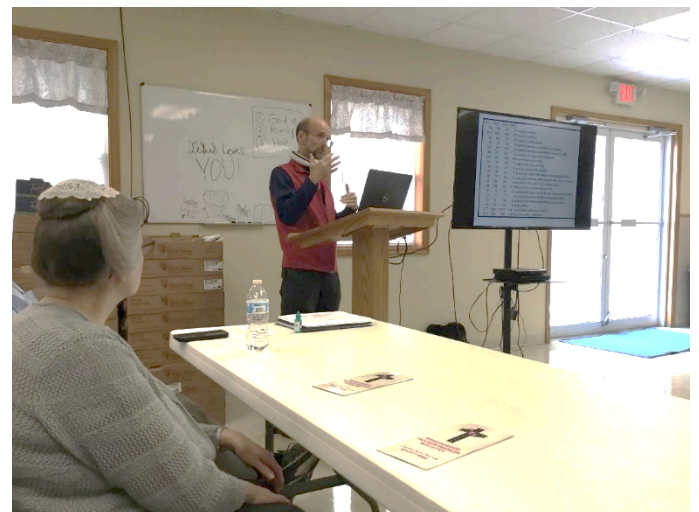
David Wright and Linda Snow prepare the meal



Tables decorated and prepared for dining



Chaplain Maxwell discusses Ministry with Ruby Kensinger.



Chaplain Maxwell shares ministry updates at the meeting

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to

angels without knowing it.

Hebrews 13:2



Attendees listen to reports of the Ministry



Election of management Committee members by Pastor Geyer

Sandwich & Pie Sale Fundraiser

The annual Pie and Sandwich Sale fundraiser was held on Wednesday, March 25 at the Everett Assembly of God Church. Committee members and volunteers gathered early in the morning to assemble sandwiches and sort pies according to orders. The group assembled over 850 sandwiches and nearly 400 pies.

We are very grateful to all the volunteers for their help making this fundraiser a success. We are also thankful for the Little Town Pantry for making the delicious pies.

The community, businesses and churches help make this Ministry visible in the transient highway corridors of Bedford Country. We endeavor to share Christ with those who may encounter Him for the first time, or among those who do know Him and need assistance while on the road.



Volunteers assembling sandwiches

Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord and not for people.

Colossians 3:23



Assembly line work makes the work go quickly and efficiently



A fundraiser is not complete without collection of money for the sales



Several stations of volunteers assembled the sandwiches in less than two hours.



Pies on racks waiting to be separated into groups for delivery/pickup



Volunteers hard at work assembling sandwiches



Assembled sandwiches ready for sorting into orders



Pies sorted and sandwiches assembled and separated, the workers enjoy fellowship and refreshment together

Hospitality Tables



New Enterprise Brethren and “Made for More” Ministry of Martinsburg

The New Enterprise Church of the Brethren enthusiastically hosted the Easter (Good Friday) Hospitality Table at the Gateway Travel Plaza! Pastor Paul & Janet Snyder and Renata Gordon organized a table filled with homemade treats, cookies, bottled water, Bibles, devotionals, candy, pretzels, fruit and most of all: smiling faces!

There were some representatives from “Made for More” ministry in Martinsburg, who did an excellent job extending themselves in ministry and service!



New Enterprise Brethren, “Made for More” volunteers, and visitor to the table tour ministry office

Numerous travelers (some remembering the table from previous years-intentionally stopped in Breezewood to find us!), truckers, and plaza staff received the free items and gifts of hospitality throughout the day. It continues to be a powerful expression of Christian love and outreach. The table touched a man named Russell Davis and his wife who were traveling from Pittsburgh; he introduced himself with humility as a retired professional football player, enjoying a super bowl year! He was a star football player at Michigan and later played with the Pittsburgh Steelers in the late 1970s and 80s. His commitment to Christ was evident. We give thanks to God for the free gift of grace through Christ that binds us to brothers & sisters off the highway!



Russell Davis(retired Steeler and Christian) visits table

Sharing Love at Valentine’s Table



Clover Creek Brethren hosts Valentine Outreach

Thank you Clover Creek Church and Harry Claycomb(organizer) for two decades of the ministry outreach in Breezewood!

Mega Truck Stop Back on Line



The Mega Truck Stop (former Flying J Plaza) in Breezewood, has secured state authorization to dispense diesel fuel again. The BP gas pumps have been open for a few weeks, as both auto and truck fueling are now available on site. The showers and food court are the next projects to complete, as the plaza seeks to continue decades of service to travelers and truckers in Breezewood.

NO WORDS TO DESCRIBE THE PAIN



A driver named Hussein of Houston, Texas had completed making deliveries for his company in the New York City area but could stand the pain in his midsection no longer. The pain had been building all day. He checked himself into a NYC Emergency Room; they did some tests, gave him some pain medication and released him back on the road. His company needed him to deliver the next load of freight heading west-bound on the PA turnpike. The excruciating pain had returned; he made it as far as Breezewood, parked at Gateway TA and called 911. The ambulance took him to Bedford Emergency Room and within 48 hours Dr. Yanoshak had removed a 7mm kidney stone and placed a stent for the remaining smaller stones. The large one causing the worst pain would not have passed on its own.

The hospital social workers called the Ministry for assistance; Hussein would need to be settled for a few days in a motel room until the stent could be removed. We were able to get him into a Breezewood area motel that extended him a reduced daily rate. After providing food, hygiene, and other supplies he was ready for rest and recovery in Breezewood. . . . until the stent itself seemed to become a source of pain prompting a call to Dr. Yanoshak who was able to remove it later the next day.

After receiving medical care in Bedford County and experiencing kindness in Breezewood, he was ready to return to Houston! Before he left, I enjoyed learning of his family (two daughters and a son in their 20s) and his sojourn to America as a Gulf War refugee (1991) from the Iraqi city of Nasiriyah of Dhi Qar Governorate which is 10 miles from ancient Ur of the Chaldeans (A UNESCO World Heritage Site), Abraham's birthplace. The stories of Abraham and Jesus and many other Biblical characters were a common history in our respective faith traditions, as he welcomed the moments of shared prayer at a time of intense pain in central PA. He flew home to Texas feeling and looking so much better! (Recent update: Hussein flew home to visit relatives in Iraq, and now the airports are closed due to the Middle East conflict.)

A SURVIVALIST, NOT A SURVIVOR



Late on a Sunday evening, the Ministry received a call from the PA State Police who were dispatched to assist a foot traveler named Greg at the Tuscarora tunnel of the PA Turnpike. We arranged for a night stay in Breezewood and he arrived compliments of the State Police. The next day, I knocked and he met me cordially at the motel door, invited me in, pulled up a chair opposite his and motioned for me to sit and talk. The conversation was

enlightening. He did not ascribe to a negative connotation of being a survivor of homelessness or anything else "traumatic," he was one with survivalist skills put to work wherever and whenever needed. To his thinking and grasp of reality, permanent housing did not appear to be a concern; he was a man living with fantastic perceptions inside his head with survivalist skills who could make a home wherever he laid his head at night, or if no place to lay his head he would keep walking. He once walked 50 miles in a single day, though the solitary miles can take their toll mentally.

After discerning that his purpose and destination was not a homeless shelter or social program, I drove him to the Bedford interchange on the next leg of his journey to Pittsburgh. The next day, instead of going to Pittsburgh, he walked all day back to Breezewood, found shelter in a dumpster (not a dumpster behind a food service location which would be filled with a sloppy mess). He awoke the following morning, and I soon received a call from Starbucks about a man who was foraging in their dumpster (not the dumpster he slept in). Greg was back in town; I tracked him down after speaking with the kind people at Starbucks who gave me a care package full of food and a drink for Greg. He returned to Breezewood to speak with me about becoming a chaplain- wanting to share the kindness that he had received from the Ministry. Pastoral care in the name of Christ can touch the heart; Greg's heart was touched. We spoke of steps that could be taken to equip him for ministry, and the conversation quickly circled back to priority needs of getting an ID in New Orleans, where he used to live, and finding daily shelter and food. . . . though no shelter

option or social program could supersede the daily anywhere walk of a survivalist. It didn't matter that he sometimes had to find unconventional places to sleep or find food, his desire was to help people and make the world a better place. He offered up his life to God for this very purpose- and it left an impression on me.



Greg offering his hands and life to serve others

As uncertain and fragile his journey seemed to me, he was geared for service and rooted in some powerful ways. "Give us this day our daily bread" as lived faith is a powerful reminder from the highways and byways for any of us who are blessed to find a place we call home each night, have relationships to keep us grounded, and daily opportunities to make the world a better place.

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