

# TRACK MINISTRY NEWS

Race Track Chaplaincy of America, Pennsylvania Division, Inc.

*"Sharing God's Love at Philadelphia Park"*

*Rev. Dr. Jack Cordell, Chaplain*

*Molly Shallcross, Administrative Assistant*

3001 Street Rd., P.O. Box 1000, Bensalem, PA 19020-2096

Phone: 215-639-9000, Ext. 3513 or 3398

Website: [www.rtca-pa.org](http://www.rtca-pa.org)

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These guys displayed their hoola hoop skills!

## Independence Day Picnic 2008

Thursday, July 3 was a beautiful day on the backstretch, a time for great food and fun for everyone. The adults sat under the tent while the children played games and did their crafts at the Rec Hall. Making red, white and blue angels and Uncle Sam thermometers entertained the enthusiastic group. Games included sack races, relay races, carry the potato, water balloon toss, and a hoola hoop contest.

The adults again enjoyed Rocko's singing as well as maraca and bongo drums by Jose and Fortunado. Thanks to the hard work of Ron Finley and the staff of Ron's Backstretch Café, we all had an afternoon of great eatin'.



Molly (Note the "Mom" pose!) lines up the boys for the sack race.



Ethel Guy kept the Balloon Toss Game moving.



The women from First Baptist Church, Levittown, PA, pose with Northwest PA Area Minister, Rev. Don Girdwood, at the Annual Conference.

## Women Meet at Bucknell University

"Come to the Edge . . . Trust" was the theme of the 2008 Women's Conference held at Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA. About 300 American Baptist women from Pennsylvania and Delaware gathered for their annual time of spiritual growth and refreshment. The ladies strongly support the work of the racetrack ministry, and it's a delight to take the display and present the work. Without the generosity of the churches and women, our Christmas Party would indeed greatly lack in its ability to provide gifts for the children and the dorm residents at the track.

First Baptist Church, Levittown, PA had a group of nine women represented at the gathering. Those attending were Marie Guld, Michelle Lipton, Molly Shallcross, Janice Chuch, Pat Mutek, Pat Bozzo, Sharon Woodhouse, Ruth Hoffman and Debbie Rakco. In the above picture, the ladies are wearing their special tee shirt with a picture of FBC Levittown and the words, "Baptist Bad Girls," which is a title earned for their rowdiness in the dorm some years ago. Retired Chaplain, Dr. Nicholas Salios, coined the term.

This year, the horsemen's association (PTHA) and frontside management graciously gave caps, Smarty Jones commemorative books and key chains to give to those who visited our display table.



Outrider, Facundo, and his horse come to work early each morning.

## **Windsor Baptist Church Tours Track**



Visiting the Pony Barn is always a highlight of any church group touring the barns. The horses love it, too, because they get to eat lots of peppermint candy provided by the group. We had a wonderful day showing the work and explaining the ministry to a church that has been faithful in its commitment to this unique work. We are thankful for the interest and involvement of Windsor Baptist Church through the years.

## **Chapel 'n Chow Nights**

July 16 was a very special night for Chapel 'n Chow. The Puerta del Cielo Church of Philadelphia brought a worship band for the music. About 20 members of their congregation also joined us for the Chapel Hour. Following the service we had a great time of fun and fellowship around a meal served up by Jose Quiles, a man from Council member Rey Roque's church. The meal was made possible by a generous gift from a couple who love the track ministry.

On Wednesday, July 23, The Well, a new church in Feasterville, PA, (Pastor Gary Alloway) will provide sandwiches for us to enjoy following the Chapel Hour.



## **God Things at the Track**

++Recently, I was talking with a man who was facing some serious pressures. He told me that when things got very difficult for him a few days before our conversation that he took out his Bible and began reading the Psalms, and that God gave him great peace as he read. God's word works!

++"Bob" suffered a life-threatening stroke about a month ago. Since that time his recovery has been most encouraging, but he has a long way to go. Please pray for Bob as he faces various challenges in the coming months.

++"Al" relapsed on drugs and had been away from the track for two years. Since that time he has been through rehab and remains in a program. When I saw him for the first time in nearly two years, he was well groomed and excited about life because he is leading an addictions group in a church and being used by God. Pray that Al will stay clean one day at a time.



At the Independence Day Picnic, Jose and Rocko entertained everyone.



These boys thoroughly enjoyed themselves at the Independence Day celebration.

## **Board of Directors - RTCA, PA Division, Inc.**



Seated (L to R) Rey Roque, Secretary; Donald Hogeland, Treasurer; Chaplain Cordell; Rev. Tom Brooks, Vice-President; Rev. Linda Haughton, President.  
Standing (L to R): Rev. Christine Holcomb; Mrs. Hilda Garcia; Mr. Dan Sourwine, and Rev. Nelson Krute.  
(Note: New member not in picture – Bobbie Enke)

### **Board Members Emeritus**

Rev. Dr. Nicholas Salios, Chaplain Emeritus  
Mrs. Rose Salios, Chaplain's Assistant Emeritus



