

TRACK MINISTRY NEWS

Race Track Chaplaincy of America, Pennsylvania Division, Inc.

"Sharing God's Love at Philadelphia Park"

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2006 Christmas Gift Form Enclosed



These three friends just had to inspect the pumpkin at the Costume Party. The bumblebee is especially interested.

Annual Pig Roast Benefit

The Pig Roast always receives high praise for the fun and food as well as the benefit gained to help the backstretch workers. Friday, September 1, was the big event this year. Thanks to Cunard Baptist Church of Fayetteville, WV, we gave out eight backpacks filled with school supplies for some very fortunate children. Cunard sent the supplies and FBC of Burnsville, WV helped with purchase of the backpacks.

We also received funds to help with the Chaplain's Emergency Fund for doing such things as paying for transportation costs for medical/dental appointments, etc. Rocko again sang and was joined by several others from the crowd. Despite the threat of rain all of us had a great time.

Annual Costume Party

Saturday, October 28, was another great time for the children. Molly Shallcross gathered up her volunteers, including Cadette Troop 996, and went to work for the kids. They entertained about 60 kids, plus their parents. Everyone loved the bobbing for apples, crafts, games and the contests for the Funniest, Scariest and Most Creative costumes in each age group.

Thanks to State Representative, Gene DiGirolamo and State Senator Tommy Tomlinson, we had bags to hold the candy and goodies that 60 children received.

A BACKSTRETCH JOURNEY Signing

Following two years of picture taking and a year of preparation, Harris Sklar saw the birth of his pictorial book, *A BACKSTRETCH JOURNEY: The Behind Scenes Life of a Racetrack*. The book focuses on those working at the Philadelphia Park backstretch.

The pictures include the work of the Chaplain at the track as well as a section devoted to the now famous Smarty Jones. A portion of each book sold will go to help the stable employees at Philadelphia Park.

On Saturday, October 28, Harris came to the backstretch kitchen and signed many books for those who eagerly purchased a copy of his book. If you would wish to buy a copy, the cost is \$48.50 per book. You will be amazed at the beauty of the pictures and the story of the backstretch.

Sharing the Work at Churches

It's always a great delight to visit with the churches and to see those who care about this work and support it in prayer and with their finances. On Sunday, August 20, we had a wonderful time of ministry at FBC Levittown-Fairless Hills, PA. Rev. Christine Holcomb was quite excited to see our new PowerPoint presentation and to meet Rey Roque and Bob Valentine, both who give of themselves to help the ministry at the track. God has graciously given us these men who have served so faithfully over the years.

On Sunday, August 27, Bob Valentine and I went to FBC of Matawan, NJ. The pastor (Dr. Kisenweather) was gracious to invite me to speak when he was away. The lively, enthusiastic congregation welcomed us with open arms. We showed the PowerPoint of the work, and their response was most uplifting.

Then, we had a wonderful time with Wyoming Baptist Church on Sunday, October 15. Rev. Lou Centena was a gracious host. We spoke at Sunday School and briefly during the morning worship time. After a delicious lunch in the fellowship hall, we were delighted to receive blankets for the children. During their VBS in July the children hand-tied 45 blankets, which will keep lots of children warm this winter. We thank VBS Director, Debbie Crockett, and the children for their wonderful kindness.



Members of FBC Ulysses, PA, traveled a long way to meet the horse, "Tostado" and Trainer Eddie Pabon (Right).



Several members of Oxford Circle Baptist Church had an enjoyable day at the track on Saturday, October 14. Here they met the horse, Frank Sinatra, making his rounds.

Churches Tour the Track

During the past three months we have enjoyed giving tours of the track for Grace Baptist Church (Formerly Baptist Temple) of Blue Bell, PA; Nurses from the LaSalle University program, FBC of Ulysses, PA; and Oxford Circle Baptist Church of Philadelphia.

The groups always appreciate seeing the ministry at ground level. They go back to their churches and share what God is doing here. We were especially happy that those who came from FBC Ulysses, PA, traveled down, stayed overnight, and then came to the track for a tour on Tuesday, September 12. They also brought some delicious cookies and many toiletries for the backstretch folks.

Chapel 'n Chow Nights

Several times since July, we have enjoyed Chapel 'n Chow nights provided by individual donors as well as churches. We are especially thankful for the kindness of Harriman United Methodist Church, the Building a Better Bensalem Committee, St. Bede Church Youth, FBC Levittown, PA, and individual donors including Wayne and Phyllis Sheeley, Linda Olsen and Mr. and Mrs. Harris Sklar. We usually try to have a special meal at least once a month. As you can see by the above list, we had meals at least twice each month in this past quarter.

One who prepares meals for Chapel 'n Chow nights is Al Williams. The people have dubbed him "Chicken Man," because he has become famous for his fabulous chicken. The truth is that whatever Al cooks is always delicious. God is gracious to supply talented cooks for our effort.



Jockey Frankie Pennington takes a horse to the track for its morning workout.

God Things at the Track

On Thursday morning, August 3, stable employee, Reymundo Ayala, went to work for Trainer, Eddie Pabon, in Barn 15. Little did Reymundo realize that August 3 was to be his final morning on this earth. Our good friend died of a heart attack in the shedrow. Reymundo faithfully attended our Chapel worship times on Wednesday evenings. Since he usually handled the overheads for the songs, we called him our "Music Director." Each Wednesday we could count on Reymundo to ask for prayer for various members of his family.

One of Reymundo's sons was able to travel from California for the Memorial Service at the track. When he arrived we learned that he had purchased only a **one-way** ticket. So, we helped. We collected enough to pay for the airfare return ticket home, plus a little extra. God indeed supplies all of our needs as we trust Him.

We miss Reymundo's smiling face and jovial personality. He is now with the Lord whom he loved.



The St. Bede's Catholic Church Youth Group of Holland, PA, brought a fabulous meal for Chapel 'n Chow on Wednesday, October 18. We awarded each one a Smarty Jones tee shirt for being so kind.



Wes Hall and his daughter, Becca, graciously volunteer their time and energy to help at our special events. Here they are working at the Pig Roast. The tee shirts are provided for Chaplain's volunteers.

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