



TRACK MINISTRY NEWS

Race Track Chaplaincy of America, Pennsylvania Division, Inc.

www.rtca-pa.org

Sharing God's Love at Philadelphia Park

FALL 2011



Light The Night With Jesus

In John 8:12 Jesus says of Himself, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." How wonderful it was to be able to share that message with the families of the Backstretch on October 29th. We know that many were celebrating the dark things of this world. Some were

living in fear of the dark things of this world. We, at Philadelphia Park, were celebrating He who has overcome darkness and who cast out fear by the power of His perfect love.

Halloween is a day that I would prefer to just get rid of, but, instead we transformed the day for so many

with the renewing of their minds with the message and person of Jesus Christ. The Church has been turning the world upside down since the beginning, and our Lord who is the same yesterday, today, and forever can still do this.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Christmas is on my mind. Thanksgiving is closer, but I have been thinking about Christmas everyday, since long before Halloween. The events surrounding the Christmas season are the biggest programs, in many ways, that the Racetrack Chaplaincy puts on all year. That is probably the case in each one of our homes as well.

Unless we had a wedding, graduation, or retirement party this year, nothing else will come close to the time that we spend preparing for Christmas. Giving thoughtful Christmas gifts to family and friends is part of how we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. They remind us of the priceless gift of eternal life that God offered to the world through His Son:

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16, KJV).

My new secretary Bobbi, who is highlighted in this issue, recently shared with me a fairly new Christmas tradition that she has been practicing. Ever since her mother passed away, she takes the money that she used to spend on buying her mother gifts and buys gifts for a child that might not otherwise get Christmas presents. I thought that was a great idea! This year she is going to do this here at the track.

The Chaplain's Office gives Christmas gifts to well over 500 people. I have been praying a bit more than usual as I think about all that has to be done, in order for this to be accomplished, again this year. One thing that I would recommend is that you consider copying this practice of Bobbi's and give something extra in memory of a loved one in the next few weeks.

I have been planning, praying, and preparing for this great season just on the eastern horizon, with some concern, but I am mostly excited about seeing, again, the Lord and His people bless so many people here at the track. I thank you for your past support, and for the support you are also preparing for this year. I know we are all going to be mightily blessed to see the joy on the people who receive these gift, and to feel the joy from having that blessing flow through us.



“I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all”

Philippians 1:3-4, NASB

Light The Nigh With Jesus

Continued

Someone has said that they fear that the Church is being turned upside down by the world today. This may be happening in some places, but I am reporting to you that here at Philadelphia Park we are courageously turning lives around to the glory of Jesus Christ!

I give thanks to God and to so many others who make this possible each day. At this event there was our faithful Ron Finley who once again donated lots of food. Thanks to Mike Ballezzi, Executive Director of The Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association for underwriting the cost of crafts, candy, and other prizes. Individuals who gave of their time and talents that day were, Barbara Templeton, Cathy and Bill Pankraz, Marilee Morris, Linda Repasy, Kelly Bunker, Deborah Bunker, Barbara Eldred, and Bobbie Enke.

1 Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

2 Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

3 Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

5 For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Psalm 100:1-5 (NIV)



New Secretary For The Chaplain

It has been too long to mention since we started praying for a new secretary in the Chaplain's Office, but God knows what He is doing! In His perfect timing He brought Barbara 'Bobbi' Templeton to us.

She started on September 26th and has been learning things quickly and making things better along the way. The welcome changes she has brought are easily noticeable to visitors and residents alike. She has a passion and initiative for the Lord that will yield good and great fruit in the months and I hope many years ahead.

She is a member of Frankford Memorial United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, and learned of the Racetrack Ministry through attending this year's Easter Party and sponsoring a Chapel and Chow. At a Chapel and Chow that she came to in order to see how things worked she heard of the need that the Chaplain had for an assistant and graciously offered her help.

A special Thanksgiving prayer is offered for the Lord's leading Bobbi to His ministry, here at Philadelphia Park!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special Needs:

We have an immediate need for toys, games, books for children. We also need gloves, and warm coats for all ages.

We always need microwaves, small refrigerators, sweatshirts, jeans, work boots, belts, twin beds, and non-perishable food items. If you live close by fresh food is a great blessing as well.

We are continuing to collect waterproof/windproof jackets for an outer layer to provide quality protection against the elements.

Do you have some musical instruments? We have musicians here who want to help lead worship, but they do not have instruments.

Upcoming Special Events:

- ◆ 11/24 Thanksgiving Dinner and Worship
11:00 AM
- ◆ 12/17 Christmas Party
1:00-3:30



Evidence of God's Work at the Track

Doctor Rizen, who is the physician at the clinic in the Office of the Chaplain, called me one day and said I need to call you in on a case, again. I have a woman here who needs more than I can physically do for her. He went on to tell me what barn she works in and to ask me to pray for her, visit her, and see what, "you and the Lord can do."

It is so good to be in a place where the local medical doctor can 'refer' to the local pastor/chaplain. This is by no means the first time that this collaboration has occurred; and, please pray, that together, Dr. Rizen and your Chaplain here at Philadelphia Park can help many to live lives that glorify God.

Speaking of the Chaplain getting called in to help, a trainer and owner of horses was very concerned about one of his employees. I knew them both, but had never gotten

a phone call from this man, so I wondered if something might be wrong that day I got the call. The trainer was very concerned about the employee because it seemed clear that he was abusing alcohol, the employee had been accused of harassment by another worker, and his work was endangering himself and others to the point that, regrettably he might have to be dismissed.

I was able to get the employee to agree to immediately begin to meet with me several times a week. We talk, pray, and look into the Scriptures. He has stopped drinking, has declared his faith in Jesus Christ, and so many people have expressed amazement with the transformation that has occurred in this man! They ask me, "What did you do Chaplain?" This gives me another chance to tell what God can do! So much wonderful evidence of our powerful God transforming lives from darkness to light!

Racetrack Chaplaincy Joyful Thanksgivings:

Back in early September, over the Labor Day weekend, we had a Pig Roast, with lots of good food, Christian crafts, games, and music. The Office of the Chaplain also gave out over 70 book bags filled with school supplies! This was such a blessing to the school children and their families who received them! Special thanks to so many individuals who gave anonymously.

The Ladies Group from Aldenville Baptist Church gave over 20 book bags and enough supplies to fill even more – Thank you!

Oxford Circle Baptist Church may be small but they are big and generous givers. Throughout the year they give to many of the activities that go on. Special thanks for their recent gifts of some musical instruments that will give opportunities for more people to directly share their talents in leading worship to our Lord.