

# TRACK MINISTRY NEWS

Race Track Chaplaincy of America, Pennsylvania Division, Inc.

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

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**RTCA 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year**

**Spring 2007 Edition**

## IN THIS ISSUE

***Easter Bunny Came Early for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt***

***Council Members Enjoyed RTCA 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference***

***Chapel 'n Chow Nights***

***God Things at the Track***

***With the Churches***



Pat (FBC Levittown, PA volunteer) and Samantha had to reach waaaay up to find that Easter egg!

## ***Easter Bunny Came Early for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt***

The children and parents arrived looking for the Easter Bunny on Saturday, March 24. Yes, it was quite early for the Bunny to appear, but he made it. Several of the children requested a picture with this fun character. But that was only part of their afternoon. Each child received a bilingual book entitled "One Surprising Morning" (¡Una mañana sorprendente!), which beautifully illustrated the miracle of the resurrection for the children and their parents.

We again appreciated the excellent volunteer help by Girl Scout Troop 996 from Philadelphia and several from First Baptist Church, Levittown-Fairless Hills, PA. Each volunteer received a tee shirt with the words, "Chaplain's Volunteer Staff" on the front. Delicious hot dogs and all the trimmings were provided, courtesy of Mr. Ron Finley's Backstretch Café. The Horsemen's Association provided the funds for the occasion. We thank God for his kindness to us through such kind people. Many of the parents took the time to stop by to thank Molly and Chaplain Cordell for the happy time they enjoyed at the party.

## ***Council Members Enjoyed***

## ***RTCA 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference***

"Rooted in Love" was the theme of the RTCA National Meetings held in Louisville, KY, March 14-19. We were happy to have several members of the RTCA of PA Council attending the gathering. Our President, Dr. J. Val Hastings, Sr, and his wife Audrey; our Treasurer, Don Hogeland and his wife, Nancy; member Rey Roque, and Chaplain Cordell heard outstanding presentations, enjoyed wonderful meals provided by various horse industry organizations, had great fellowship among themselves and with other Chaplains and their spouses, and visited Churchill Downs as well as the Kentucky Derby Museum at the famous track.

Besides the training sessions we visited the Louisville Slugger Factory/Museum, where we got an up close and personal look at a 90 mph baseball pitch! At the Mohammed Ali Museum we were fascinated by sights and sounds of the career of an American icon.



The Hastings, Hogelands and Rey Roque (L to R) pose alongside one of the many horse statues that decorate the sidewalks of downtown Louisville, KY.

Sunday morning was a highlight of the trip for all of us. We traveled to Churchill Downs to celebrate communion worship in the new Christ Chapel at the track. The facility bears witness to the work of God at Churchill Downs since Chaplain Ken Boehm arrived there four years ago.



Chaplain Cordell, Rey Roque and Dr. Val Hastings stand in front of the Chaplain School banner, proclaiming the conference theme, "Rooted in Love."

## ***Chapel 'n Chow Nights***

The ministry is blessed with many people and organizations who care deeply about the people at the racetrack. On Wednesday, January 24, the Board members of the Bensalem YWCA graciously brought a great meal. On Wednesday, February 28, a team of volunteers from General Electric Water Technologies division in Feasterville, PA, supplied us with a generous and delicious dinner. We thank you for your kind interest in those who work in the barns at the track.



Several volunteers from GE Water Technologies stand by Chaplain Cordell at the dinner they gave on February 28.

## ***God Things at the Track***

While we were attending the RTCA meetings in Louisville, KY, a man from the track learned that he could no longer live in the dorm. Thanks to Molly's hard work, the help of FBC of Levittown, PA, and individuals, we were able to pay his costs for staying in a motel for several days. We were especially concerned for the man because he is in his 80's and recently had triple by-pass heart surgery! Last week we found an agency that got him housing in record time. Wait – there's more. We then contacted a horse industry organization that is going to pay his rental costs. God works in wonderful ways. The Message version of Isaiah 30:19 says, "God takes the time to do everything right. . ." He does it all in his time!

Another case in recent weeks involves a man and his wife. The man was galloping a horse here at the track, and had a serious fall. His leg was severely broken. Two days later his wife had a serious car accident. The family was in dire circumstances. We contacted an organization that has approved generous immediate help for this struggling family. When told that help was on the way, the wife said, "That's a blessing." Indeed, it is. God is good.



"Mom, let's move some of these eggs over so we can run and find some more!"



At the closing Banquet at the RTCA National Meetings in Louisville, (L to R) Rey Roque, Dr. Val Hastings and Chaplain Fabian Crespo, a racetrack Chaplain from Argentina, enjoyed fellowship together.



## ***Council Members of RTCA, PA Division, Inc.***

(Seated L to R) Dr. J. Val Hastings, Sr., President; Rev. Linda Haughton, Vice-President; Donald Hogeland, Treasurer; Hilda Garcia, Secretary;  
(Standing L to R) Rev. Thomas Brooks; Rev. Nelson Krute; Chaplain Jack Cordell; Dan Sourwine; Rey Roque

## ***With the Churches***

**Upper Merion Baptist Church** in King of Prussia, PA, invited me to speak at their Missions weekend on Sunday, March 4. What a great morning! A tasty breakfast was ready when I arrived. There were missionary presentations during Sunday School. I spoke during morning worship and participated with Rev. Brian Henderson, Pastor, during the communion service, and topped off the day with a delicious luncheon with the congregation. This welcoming, vibrant, missions committed congregation was a special blessing.

On Monday, April 2, I had a wonderful experience speaking at the women's Gauger Thompson Missionary Society dinner at **First Baptist Church of Manayunk (Philadelphia)**. The food was fabulous, and President Mary Smith made us feel right at home! This lively group has been highly supportive of our ministry at the racetrack.



Molly Shallcross and the girls ham it up with the Bunny.



