



TRACK MINISTRY NEWS

Race Track Chaplaincy of America, Pennsylvania Division, Inc.

www.rtca-pa.org

Sharing God's Love at Philadelphia Park

SPRING 2011



These baskets were given out after Easter egg hunts, divided up by age, with over 40 dozen hard boiled eggs. The eggs were donated and boiled by many volunteers from First Baptist Church Levittown-Fairless Hills.

Special thanks to the many churches who donated the items that went into those Easter baskets. Ron Finley donated much of the food for the day. The Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association donated money to buy a cake, craft items, and

Celebrating Christ's Resurrection!

...Continues on page 3

It was a rainy and wet day, but that did not dampen the spirits of the children and adults that came out on the Saturday before Easter to celebrate the holiday without which we wouldn't have Christmas!

Over ninety Easter baskets were given out to children of all ages. The baskets

were age appropriate from toddlers up to 18 year olds. They had candy, toys, tracts, games, toiletries, books, and other things. Many people were heard saying that they were the best Easter baskets that they had ever seen. The older children were especially touched because they thought they were too old to be remembered in this special way.

IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ Christ's Resurrection
- ◆ David DeGois the Blessed Breadman
- ◆ Chaplain's message
- ◆ God's Work at the Track

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPLAIN

This may be my last Chaplain's Message. I've been driving by a billboard that has a countdown to May 21, 2011. Personally I am counting down to June 21st – the first day of summer.

The message about May 21, 2011 is being broadcasted on a lot more than just billboards and the message is that this day is going to be the Final Judgment Day. The day when God will begin the final destruction of this world and bring the saved to heaven is, according to some, going to be May 21, 2011. I guess there are a lot of such predictions going around because when this is mentioned I often hear talk about other dates from other people and calendars. In fact the same person who is publishing and declaring the May 21, 2011 prediction made the same claim back in 1994. I remember because at the time I was a parish pastor and it had a lot of people worked up.

I also know that this message is being widely broadcast because I am asked about it a lot. It has gotten me thinking. You know the Church has been looking forward to Jesus' coming back for a long time. An old and traditional greeting among early Christians was, "Maranatha." It is an Aramaic word that is an exclamation meaning, "Our Lord, come!"

But, will our Lord come on May 21, 2011 in judgment? When I am asked that part of me is saying, "I hope so." Part of me is saying, "The sooner the better." Part of me is saying, "I don't know and I don't think from how I understand Jesus' answer to the same question that anyone can know."

The other answer that I have given over and over again to similar questions is that no one knows even how today will end. The Bible book of James declares, "Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow.... you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that'" (James 4:14-15). For all I know today may be my judgment day, because any of a host of things could happen to cause my untimely demise. But, if I have put my faith in the work of the Lord on the Cross and believe He rose on Easter morning it won't

so much be a judgment day as it will be, by grace, a rewards day!

Now most people see me as a glass is half full kind of guy and I can't help but be hopeful that all this talk about judgment day could get me and you to, "Live Like You Were Dying", as Tim McGraw puts it in the song by that name. The song is about a guy who gets some bad medical test results and starts making the most of each opportunity of each day. One of my favorite lines is:

"I loved deeper and I spoke sweeter,
And I gave forgiveness I'd been denying.
An' he said: "Some day, I hope you get the chance,
"To live like you were dyin'."

Well there is a lot more that I have to say on this very subject. If this isn't my last Chaplain's Message I look forward to sharing more next time. Until next time, whenever, wherever, "whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

*"Death has been swallowed up in
victory...He gives us the victory through
our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear
brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move
you. Always give yourselves fully to the
work of the Lord, because you know that
your labor in the Lord is not in vain."*

1 Corinthians 15:54-58 (NIV)

Celebrating Christ's Resurrection! continued

prizes as well. Kelly and Kimberly Bunker had lots of games for the children to play, like fishing with magnets, bowling, and others. Deborah Bunker, Camryn Manero, and Jennifer Manero had several Christian craft items for the children to make and bring home to testify of our Risen Lord. Molly Shallcross and Pat Mutek handled registrations and door prizes. Jim Manero and Tom Brooks took care of serving the refreshments. Barbara Eldred continues to perfect her face painting talents. I know I am forgetting a few others, and special blessings for all those who stayed and helped clean up!

Without you this party would not have happened and many of these children would not know what the true celebrations of Easter are all about. The Christian oriented crafts that the children made will be taken home and be a reminder of the Gospel over and over again. Those items that one's children make are cherished and exhibited often because of the child who made them, but our Risen Lord Jesus is thereby being declared in that home as a result. Each child also received a Bible story book as well that let us prayer will be used throughout the year and years to come.



Sharing God's Love at Philadelphia Park



David DeGois the Blessed Breadman

Bethlehem means house of bread, and of course Bethlehem is known as the city of David. Well on the Philadelphia Park backstretch we have a David who brings us bread and other bakery items on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

David has been doing this out of the kindness of his heart for 8 years. He is retired and on disability, but that doesn't stop him from doing all that he can to help others. He goes to an area supermarket and picks up the bakery items that are still in very good shape but are going to be thrown away because of being a few hours out of date and brings them to the recreation hall where people are waiting to bring them to their rooms. For many here this is the bread that they will have for the week ahead. There are often bagels, pies, cookies, and cakes as well.

David said it all started when he saw these items being thrown away. He wanted to help people and he thought that getting this food to hungry people would be a good way to do it, so he approached the supermarket management and they agreed to allow him to do this. By his channeling this blessing through the Chaplain's Office it helps attract people to the ministry here. Thanks David for using bread to help us evangelize people to the Lord Jesus Christ.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special Needs:

We have an immediate need for a roto-tiller.

We always need microwaves, twin beds, work boots, belts, 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:

- ◆ Memorial Day Field Day and Barbecue 5/26/11
- ◆ Independence Day Fun Day 6/30/11

"A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed." (Prov. 11:25 NIV)



Evidence of God's Work at the Track

I have recently had two people share the same dream with me. I asked both of them for permission to share this with you and they agreed. The dream was of driving a car, and it was nighttime, but they did not have the lights on. They could not see where they were going but they kept driving. They were filled with fear but they kept on driving and they did not wake up.

We have been praying fervently for both of these people, and they have recently begun to recover from drug and alcohol addictions. They were both so scared from these dreams that they came to the Chaplain to talk and they were actually starting to drink a lot less. I am happy to report that now they are not drinking at all, and they have interpreted the dream for themselves.

They say that their addictions were as dangerous as driving in the dark without headlights.

God answers prayers in very effective ways! Keep praying for the work of this great mission at Philadelphia Park that is delivering people from the power of darkness by the greatest power – the Name of Jesus!

Helping the Race Track Ministry

In our last newsletter we reported that Molly Shallcross was retiring and I have to report to you that her last regular day was April 1, 2011. She did help us at the Easter Party and we look forward to working with her on special occasions in the future but we are in need of help in the office. God has graciously led some people to offer as much assistance as they can give. We have Doris Sourwine, Noemi Ayuso, and Kimberly Bunker helping the Chaplain with clerical and administrative duties.

We have not 'replaced' Molly, but we are looking for a replacement or replacements. We are open to receiving the talented people that the Lord should lead to the ministry and allowing God to direct how those talents and persons will be employed in the furtherance of His work here at Philadelphia Park.

There is much to be done and we want to grow in the effectiveness and reach of the ministry here to the families and workers at Philadelphia Park. Please join us in a season of prayer to that end. The Lord has raised up a great ministry in His name here and I invite you to be a part of it in a bigger way than ever before. Please feel free to call, or write to share your thoughts and interests, I thank you, and look forward to praying and working with you.