

# TRACK MINISTRY NEWS

Race Track Chaplaincy of America, Pennsylvania Division, Inc.

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

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**2007 Christmas Gift Form Enclosed**

### Independence Day Picnic 2007

Take patriotic crafts, prizes, games, and food and you have a great mix for a wonderful day for the children at the racetrack. Molly Shallcross again enjoyed the enthusiastic, effective help of Cadette Troop 996 from Philadelphia. The girls receive outstanding mentoring from Maria Rucci and the other adult leaders.

We gathered under the tent at the basketball court and enjoyed hot dogs, hamburgers and all the trimmings. Below, the children are busy trying to win the sack race.



### ABCOPAD Women Gather at Shippensburg University

The women of ABWMOPAD --- American Baptist Women's Ministries of PA and De --- had a fantastic Annual Conference at Shippensburg University, June 8-10. Chaplain Cordell attended, representing the racetrack ministry at Philadelphia Park. The women are a huge help to our efforts at the track. The theme was "At the edge . . . the voice of truth," based on Jesus' words in Matthew 14: 27, 29, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid . . . come."

I spoke with several women who visited the display table. This year we showed our new DVD of the Chaplain's work at the track as well as a PowerPoint presentation of the ministry.

We thank God for the devotion of the women to our work and to missions worldwide.



(L to R) Marie Guld, Ruth Hoffman, Janice Chuch, Pat Bozzo, Sharon Woodhouse and Debbie Rako stand in front of the Philadelphia Park display.

### LaSalle Students Present Health Fair

The Rec Hall on the backstretch of the track was abuzz with nurses and their patients on Tuesday, June 26. Five LaSalle University nursing students and their supervisor, Sharon Starr, presented a Health Fair for the stable employees. Each participant received a blood sugar screening, blood pressure check and literature and information from two other organizations that serve local communities -- VITA Education Services and Bucks County Health Improvement Partnership.

Besides the health and information services, the nurses supplied delicious sandwiches for everyone. The event was a rousing success.



Standing (L to R) Cheryl Sturgis, Shirley Puhiera, Rebecca Tanghe and Brittany Hanson  
Seated: Sean Hanna and Clinical Coordinator, Sharon Starr.

### Philadelphia Park Participates in RTCA Global Day of Prayer

Tuesday, May 8, was indeed a special day in the life of Race Track Chaplaincy of America. Racetrack Chaplains around the world prayed around the clock for the needs on the tracks. Executive Director, Dr. Enrique Torres, President Ed Smith and Chaplain Representative, Waverly Parsons made conference calls to Chaplains around the world and prayed with them.

At Philadelphia Park a group of us met for a prayer walk at the barns, a time of communion and prayer followed by a fellowship lunch. God blessed the day with the power of His presence and answers to prayer.

## ***With the Churches***

The American Baptist Women from several churches in Philadelphia invited Chaplain Cordell to speak at their annual dinner on Monday night, April 2. It gave him the opportunity to show a new DVD that presents the work at the track. The ladies appreciated the sights and sounds from the track. The women brought delicious food and we all had a special time of fellowship together.

On Sunday, April 29, the Chaplain spoke at First Baptist Church, Oxford, PA, filling in for Rev. Greg Bruce, the Pastor. The people of FBC, Oxford, have a long history of caring about the racetrack ministry.

For the weekend of May 6, I had a wonderful time of ministry and fellowship with churches in the Wayne-Susquehanna Association (Rev. Richard McIntyre, Area Minister). For the morning worship I spoke at the church of my very good friend, Rev. Gary Gilpin, Pastor of the Aldenville and Clinton Corners Baptist Churches. We thank God for the way he is using Pastor Gilpin in those congregations. In the afternoon I spoke at the gathering of the churches from the Association, followed by a fabulous meal and special fellowship with those who attended the meeting.



Okay, let's try to get the ball through the hoop!

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

Thanks to the generous devotion of individuals and churches, we continue to enjoy regular "Chapel 'n Chow" nights. Harriman United Methodist Church of Bristol, PA (Apr. 4), Bensalem Presbyterian Church of Bensalem, PA (Apr. 11), and First Baptist Church, Levittown, PA (Apr. 18) enabled the people to have great meals during April. Then, First Baptist of Levittown returned with a meal on May 23. Then, thanks to the kindness of individuals who love the people, we dined on hoagies on June 6 and pizza on June 27.

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

"Bill" walked into my office with a look of panic on his face. He had been living in an apartment with friends, and the arrangement did not work out. Bill had no place to live. Despite several obstacles, within about an hour he got housing on the track. He said to me, "I feel God doing this. The hair is standing up on the back of my neck!"

God's timing is in the "little things". "Tom" came to the office to ask if we had an air conditioner he could use for his very hot dorm room. We had nothing. Ten minutes later I was at the frontside of the track, and an employee there asked if someone needed an air conditioner. Our friend was getting his request even while he was asking me!

"Al" has been at the track for a few months, and he has needed some help. First, it was tension at the barn where he works. Then, he had some physical problems. He recently turned to me and said, "It's a great blessing to have a Chaplain here at the track." Those comments encourage us more than the people realize.



Marie Rucci looks as the children do their crafts at the Independence Day Party on the backstretch.

## ***COUNCIL MEMBERS***

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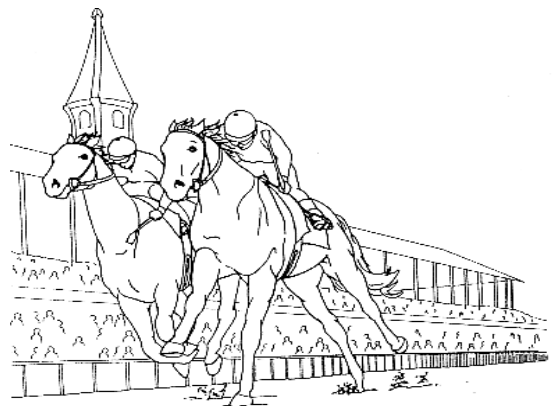
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Time for blood pressure check by LaSalle University student, Brittany Hanson.

