



# TRACK MINISTRY NEWS

Race Track Chaplaincy of America, Pennsylvania Division, Inc.

[www.rtca-pa.org](http://www.rtca-pa.org)

Sharing God's Love at Philadelphia Park

WINTER 2011



generosity to share with those who you do not even know, but many whom you will meet in heaven one day because of the programs here at the Race Track.

Without you and this party many of these children would not receive any Christmas presents, but even more importantly these children would not know what the true celebrations of Christmas are all about. No one left that day without knowing that these gifts were given because of the first

## CHRISTmas Celebration Programs Meet Many Needs and All Ages

More than 350 children and nearly 300 adults celebrated the true meaning of Christmas, and received gifts in Jesus Name back in December.

There was a line going out the door and around the building during the Annual Chaplain's Christmas Party.

Many asked where does all this come from and why are you doing this. I am always happy to answer these questions because this gives me another wonderful opportunity to talk of Christ's lifesaving love. I am able to brag about Jesus and you, His disciples who are filled with joyful Christlike

*...Continues on page 2*

### IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ CHRISTmas Celebration
- ◆ Molly Shallcross retiring
- ◆ New LaSalle Student Nurses Toured by Chaplain
- ◆ God's Work at the Track

**Race Track Chaplaincy of America, Pennsylvania Division, Inc.**

3001 Street Rd ♦ PO Box 1000 ♦ Bensalem, PA 19020-2096

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPLAIN

We are quickly coming to the start of Lent and I find myself thinking like many think at New Years. I find myself thinking about making progress and following the Lord into the new day and days ahead. The most important thing is to be waiting on the Lord. We cannot make effective progress and correctly follow the Lord if we have not been waiting on God.

God's Word tells us repeatedly to "wait for the LORD," and further teaches us that we will be greatly blessed when we do. This kind of waiting is not a passive activity. I know that the best waiters in restaurants are very attentive – always looking around, listening, asking. But, what are you looking at? What are you listening too? Who are you asking?

As we enter the season of Lent and focus more intentionally on the foundation of our faith let us renew our commitment to focus on God. We must read the Bible, pray, and be open to new work and even giving up other activities. Giving up things is necessary to make room for the new and better plans God has for today and tomorrow.

*Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.*

*– Isaiah 64:4 NIV*



### Christmas Celebration continued

and greatest Christmas Gift ever given – Jesus, and that the gift of Him is our only way to eternal joy, peace, and life.

There were Christian oriented crafts that the children made. They will take them home and be reminded 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 the Child of Bethlehem 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.

There were many door prizes, food, and games as well. There was a picture taken of each child as well and given to his/her parent(s). This was a great gift for the family.

It was an afternoon of great fellowship, and for those cleaning up afterwards it continued well into the evening. Thank you to all who volunteered their time that day. I

know that all who gave to 'make this happen' have and will experience the truth that Jesus shared – "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

*9 "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.*

*- John 10 (NASB)*



## New LaSalle Student Nurses Toured by Chaplain

Dr. Brian Rizen donates his time in the Chaplain's Office on Tuesday mornings, and we are also blessed to have nurses from LaSalle University in the Chaplain's Office twice a week. There are both experienced nurse instructors and the nursing students who are here on Tuesdays and Saturdays. They provide greatly needed quality basic healthcare.

This is a great blessing and there has been a focus on wellness lately. Learning about nutrition for instance is a current emphasis. Most of the workers on the backstretch do not know how important it is to eat healthy, or even what eating healthy entails. On March 12th there will be a special presentation with food samples by Susan Snyder. She is one of our nurses who are working on her Masters Degree.

Each semester there are new student nurses assigned and in order to help them understand their patients the Chaplain tours the new nurses. This also gives me time to get to know them and talk with them about Jesus as I talk about the ministry of the Chaplain.

The picture below is the newest group that was toured just a couple weeks ago.



Sharing God's Love at Philadelphia Park



## Molly Shallcross Retiring

As best as Molly can remember she began working with the Race Track Chaplaincy at a Christmas party in the 1990's. Rose Salios recruited her to help at the event. The rest will soon be, as they say, "History," because she will soon be retiring.

Molly has faithfully remained on this past year since Chaplain Jack Cordell's retirement to lend continuity to our mission, but has reduced her hours by half the past few months and soon will not be coming in regularly at all. We thank Molly for her many years of faithful and fun-filled service to the ministry here. She has been a friend to many of the workers here. They always knew that they could come and talk with Molly. She helped many with negotiating the complexities of our current bureaucracy, and spent time after the workday was over with many of them as well. She will be missed greatly by very many people here. It will be hard to find a replacement for her, but that is what we are tasked with presently. We ask that you pray all about this. The Lord knows who will take up the work that continues, but we do not. Pray for the Chaplain, too, as he is working harder than ever. Who will carry on where Molly has left off – maybe, wholly or in part, you?

## CONTACT US

**Rev. Rick Bunker**  
Chaplain

**Mrs. Molly Shallcross**  
Administrative Assistant

3001 Street Rd  
PO Box 1000  
Bensalem, PA 19020-2096

(215) 639-9000 Ext. 3513 or 3398

rbunker@rtca-pa.org  
[www. rtca-pa.org](http://www.rtca-pa.org)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Current Special Needs:

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:

#### EASTER PARTY

April 23, 2011 from 1-3 pm

*"He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay."*

*- Matthew 28:6 (NIV)*



## Evidence of God's Work at the Track

An African proverb says that, "An empty belly has no ears." There have been some empty bellies around the track the past several weeks.

The severe winter weather this year has caused many race days to be cancelled and sometimes the track to even be closed for exercising. This means that many workers have either no work or reduced work and not enough money to buy food. So far the new Chaplain's Pantry that was

started last summer has been able to meet the needs for food here.

We have almost run out a few times this winter and then just enough will be dropped off to get us through for another day. "If the Holy Spirit is prompting you to do something," an anonymous donor recently said, "You better do it right away or someone else will be led to do it and you would miss out on being part of the blessing."

The Chaplain's Office is the nexus for many Kingdom services and I think our food ministry has become one of the most effective. People are able to feel the love of Christ so viscerally when after meeting their powerful physical need for food you tell them that you want to give them something that is even sweeter.

Four souls received Jesus into their hearts this winter, in part, as a result of their bellies being filled.

## Sharing the Race Track Ministry

Chaplain Rick Bunker is looking forward to coming and visiting you at your church or ministry site. He will be available to lead worship as a supply Pastor when you or your Pastor is away. He also would be glad to be a special speaker or any part of a Mission Conference or Mission Day that you will be having, or any other occasion. He is looking forward to visiting Ministerium meetings, Association meetings, Regional meetings, and any other time that you would like to have him talk about the Christian ministry of Race Track Chaplaincy of America. He is looking forward to ministering in partnership with you to advance the Kingdom. Just call or email and he will schedule to be there.

Speaking of email – please send us yours and we will be able to communicate with you more frequently and with less expense. If you would like to receive the newsletter as an email, tell us in your message and we will begin to do this. We are always seeking to do the most that we can with the support that we receive.