



# 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 2012



## Santa tells children that Jesus was the first and best Christmas gift.

'St. Nicholas' came to our Christmas party and he got the children's attention better than anyone thought possible. The message that was shared was the Good News that Jesus came as the Babe in the Manger in order to one day die on the Cross for our sins as a perfect

sacrifice because he had faced all the temptations that we face yet without ever sinning. Jesus rose on Easter morning to prove that He had not died in vain, but indeed had conquered death, and had made a way for us to have eternal life and go to heaven.

Without this we would not celebrate Christmas (Christ's coming) and give gifts. Jesus 'started' Christmas and was the first Christmas gift and, indeed, the best Christmas gift ever. The Wise Men brought gifts to Jesus, and many say that is why we give gifts at Christmas, and that is a pretty good answer; but, the best Christmas gift came even earlier and that was the 'delivery' of Jesus to us in Bethlehem, and even earlier, in Nazareth when He was conceived of the Holy Spirit.

That was the message and meaning of the 2011 Chaplain's Christmas Party where over 200 children received

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

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

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPLAIN

### ***Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. - Psalm 119:105***

Thank God for getting us through 2011! Go ahead; say it, “Thank you, God, for getting me through 2011.”

So often we can forget, with all the resources that we have, who is the source of all those resources. It is a very dangerous thing to forget such a thing as this. God warned the Israelites before they entered the Promised Land over, and over, and over again to not forget. He says that they will forget unless they are careful, very careful; and that if they do forget how they got the blessings, eventually, not overnight (although it might seem like that, when it finally happens), but eventually the blessings will be lost. The resources will be exhausted, because the connection between the source and the resources will have become disconnected in their hearts, minds, and souls.

God sent prophets again and again to call the Israelites to remember this even after they had entered the land of promise. Sometimes they listened and sometimes they did not – to their regret. As much as God had warned them ahead of time, it was also necessary for Him to also warn them continually as time went on as well. God is love, the Scriptures tell us, and thus always wants the best for us, and tries to help us get the best; but He, out of love, does not force us to do anything that we do not want to do.

I pray that you will seek the best in 2012, that you will do whatever is necessary to receive the fullness of God’s plan for your life in 2012. It probably won’t be the easiest, in the short-run at least, but in the long-run it will be the best.

How does one keep from forgetting, floundering, and falling away from the source of all good blessings? How does one willingly welcome the wisdom of God’s ways, and thereby realize the best for you and yours?

It begins by looking back. The mythological god called Janus, for whom January is named, has two faces, one looking back and the other looking forward. The wisdom that can be gleaned from this is that it is important to remember the past. It can help us to know how to deal with the present and the future.

As we look back we need to pray for wise perspective and gratitude. Pray that God would have us remember what we should remember; learn what we should learn from the past; and to be grateful for His past provision. This will prepare us for today and tomorrow.

Prayerfully looking back will connect and reconnect us with God, the source of our blessing, direction, and wisdom. We will become grateful and grow in our faith about the future no matter how difficult, in all reality, it may be. We will be reminded of how good God is, how He got us through the difficulties of last year and He can surely be trusted to guide us through whatever awaits us in the year ahead.

So this prayerfulness continues, in the present and on to the future with new found hope, lifting us above the hysteria of the moments and times. Sometimes it will seem more expedient to do something wrong – God help us to resist the temptation of doing something wrong, and resist the temptation of not doing something right in the New Year. Lift us above momentary conventional wisdom and help us to grow in the way of true wisdom that leads to abundant life.

Help us to trust you and your way more and more and any other ways less and less. As the famous proverb says....

***Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
And lean not on your own understanding;  
In all your ways acknowledge Him, And  
He shall direct your paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6)***



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gifts and over 400 people ate, made Christian crafts, sang, and celebrated our Lord. Speaking of Christian crafts, the Christmas tree in the recreation hall had only different types of Nativity ornaments on it this year. I wish I had a picture of it to include in this newsletter. I will work on that for next year, or should I say this year.

I look forward to all the upcoming events of 2012, and thank you so very much for your support throughout 2011. Together we were able to do so much – together; and, again – THANK YOU!



## **Chapel n' Chow Sponsors**

We feed a lot of people around here. We have a pantry with non-perishable food that we give out. Two days a week there is bread, pies, and things that we give out as well.

Hot meals are available once a week (and on other special occasions) after Chapel. We call this Chapel n' Chow. Sometimes the food is not hot, sometimes it is sandwiches and hoagies, but it is always fresh, nourishing and good. Leftovers are great to take back to one's room and have for the next day as well!

Several churches and organizations bring these meals in on Wednesdays. Sometimes someone will sponsor a dinner with a donation and we might buy pizzas, or make stuff ourselves. There were several thousand meals provided in 2011 through this program.

There are many openings in 2012. Please consider sponsoring a Chapel n' Chow in 2012.

## **CONTACT US**

**Rev. Rick Bunker**  
Chaplain

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**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Special Needs:**

We are in need of a roto-tiller to start our gardens this spring, and other gardening tools would be welcome as well.

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.

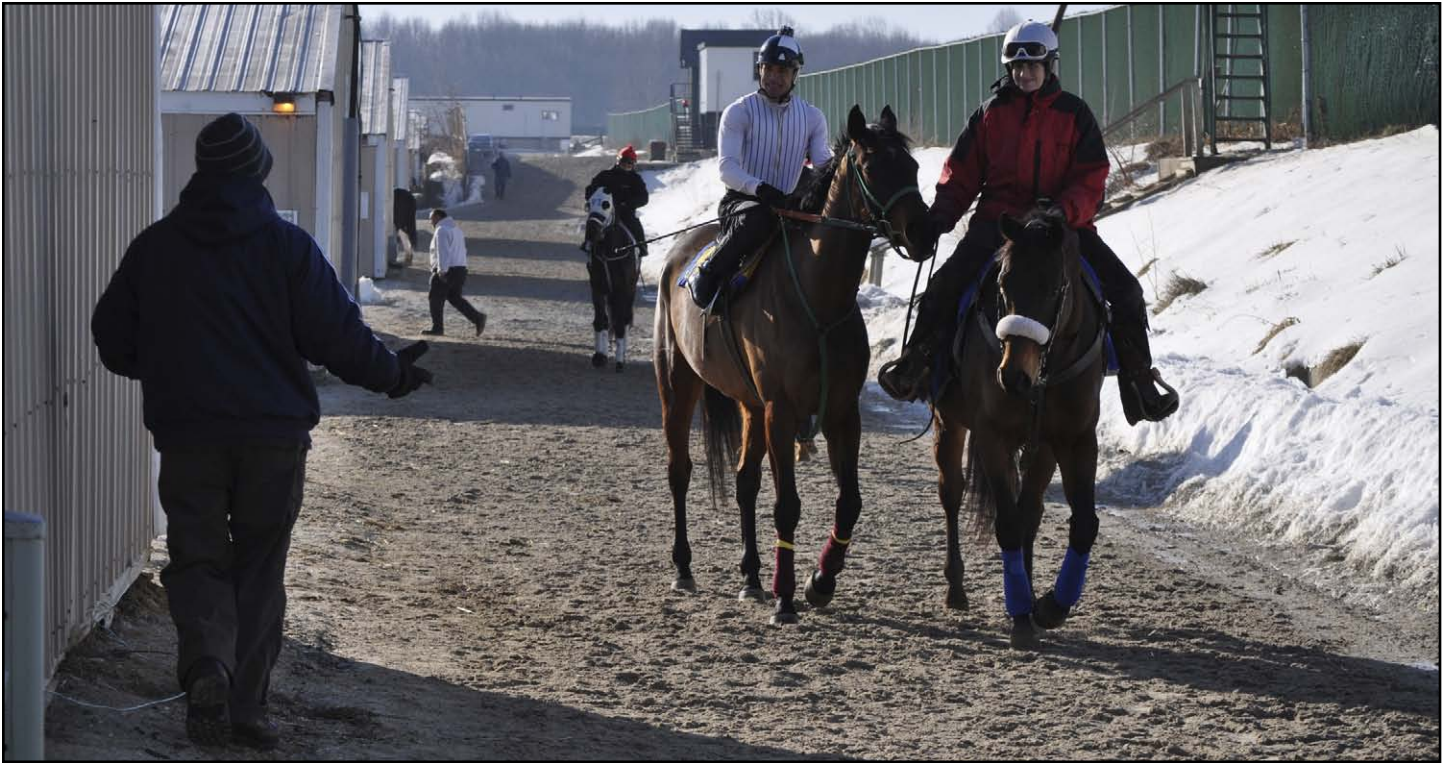
We are continuing to collect waterproof/windproof jackets for an outer layer to provide quality protection against the elements.

### **Upcoming Special Events:**

- ◆ 4/7 Easter Party for Children and Families 1:00-3:30 PM
- ◆ 4/8 Easter Services and Dinner for Everyone 1:00-3:30 PM

*For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

*2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)*



## Evidence of God's Work at the Track

Jose has been coming to the 12 Step meetings for over a year. He had been in and out of the program several times over many, many years; never quite getting better, but just limping along. When I met with him a few weeks ago he reported some very compelling information. He is now training and managing horses. He had some pink slips with him (that means something different around the track) that he was going to be taking to the racing office to get stalls for horses that are coming in. I asked Jose to tell me about that. He explained that it is so apparent that he is doing better, is reliable, and positively motivated that he had been approached about being promoted and taking on many more responsibilities in his barn. He has been going to church for several months now as well and has come to a faith in Jesus! His extended family has many problems that weigh on him, and though he is doing better and better, pray for him as he witnesses to his family that many members of his family become members of the Lord's family.

Rafael got injured riding and was out of work. This is something that riders go through, usually several times during their career. It is a time of great challenge that can lead to divorce, homelessness, and addictions. We were able to be a big help to him during this time. Our office got him a bed, bedding, microwave, clothing, lots of food every week, Christmas presents for his family, and more. He is coming to chapel now, stops by the office a few times a week and often helps with some things that need to be done at that moment. He has become a very positive force on the backstretch. I was worried about him, especially when he got hurt, because some of the people who were gathering around him to 'help' him are not good people. Well, now some of them are coming to chapel as well. Pray that they will turn their lives around as well and come to Jesus.

These are just a few of the many that are growing and being helped in and through our ministry!

## Racetrack Chaplaincy Joyful Thanksgivings:

Special thanks to the following churches, organizations, and individuals who sponsored and/or prepared the Chapel n' Chows in 2011: Bensalem Presbyterian Church, Dr. Ashok Shetty, First Baptist Levittown, Fountain of Life – Church of God (Bristol, PA), Frankford Memorial United Methodist Church, Harriman United Methodist Church, House of God (Bristol, PA), Iglesia Shalom (Bensalem, PA), Mission Possible, Ray Murray.