

TRACK MINISTRY NEWS

Race Track Chaplaincy of America, Pennsylvania Division, Inc.

"Sharing God's Love at Philadelphia Park"

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On Wednesday night, April 2, photographer Harris Sklar came to the track and took many pictures. Above are several of those who attended the service and the "Chapel 'n Chow" meal.

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It's About More than Bunny and Eggs

As they say, the 2003 Easter Egg Hunt is history. But it left some wonderful memories for everyone involved. For example, two boys met for the first time, and before the end of the morning they were making plans to see each other again. The beaming face of a boy who just received his Easter basket is a priceless picture. Children who otherwise have little were thrilled to receive the goodies sent by caring churches, individuals and businesses. (Cunard Baptist of Fayetteville, WV provided goody bags, Springfield Baptist of Springfield, PA sent paper baskets filled with goodies. The "Small Mall" gave beanie babies for each child. The kitchen on the backstretch provided the hot dogs. Whatever we had left over went to other needy children. Nothing goes to waste.)

Easter Bunny returned with the kind help of Wes Hall (FBC, Levittown-Fairless Hills). Molly Shallcross did her usual fabulous job of finding bargains for

the event. In fact, she went to get the 30 dozen eggs, and the local store gave them to her. That's why Molly is our **Special** Director of Special Events!

But the event is more than eggs, crafts, food and fun. That's why each child's bag of good things included items that presented the good news of what Christ did for us at Easter and why we celebrate the event.

Thanks to all of you who prayed for God to bless the event, who contributed items, and volunteered your time. Your faithful support means far more than you can imagine.



The Bunny was a hit with Christopher!



"Looky, Mom! I got an Easter basket!!"

God Things at the Track

While making my rounds to the barns, recently, "Tom" approached me. He said, "Chaplain, I think about you a lot. Thanks for helping me." "Tom" is a recovering alcoholic who went through a very difficult time about a year ago. Your prayers touch the Toms at the track!

"Mary" came to the office asking us to help her get an appointment for a problem with her swollen hand. It turned out that it was a very serious infection. The Doctor told her that in one more day it could have been fatal! She is still recovering.

"Jim" is a recovering alcoholic. About two weeks after he began his recovery work, he was considering attending an outside AA meeting. When he went to wash his clothes at a laundromat, he overheard some men talking about going to an AA meeting. "Jim" told me that he literally looked up toward God, knowing this was more than just a "chance" meeting. He went with them.

Several weeks ago I met Harris Sklar, a retired lawyer who now has a photo studio. With the encouragement and guidance of Dr. Rizen, a medical doctor who volunteers his time to treat horsemen, Harris is working on a possible photo book of work on the backside of the track. As a result Harris has come to the track many times recently, giving of his time to photograph the chapel ministry!



"Hey! Who are you?"



Wayne and Phyllis Sheely delivered numerous items from Springfield Baptist Church.

Chapel 'n Chow

This part of our ministry remains a great success. Take a look at what has happened lately!

January 8: Hoagies were provided by a couple from the track.

January 29: We had a turkey dinner brought by FBC of Levittown-Fairless Hills, PA.

February 12: Bensalem Presbyterian Church brought a sumptuous home cooked meal.

February 26: We enjoyed a wonderful meal because of a generous individual who sent the funds to make it possible.

March 12: Everyone loved the hoagies provided by a horse owner at the track.

March 26: Enjoyed a great meal of ham and all the trimmings prepared by FBC of Levittown-Fairless Hills, PA.

April 2: Pizza was made possible by someone at the track.

On Wednesday, April 23, we will have a full meal donated by Cunard Baptist of Fayetteville, WV.

Thanks to all of you for your kind and generous help!

With the Churches

January 11: I spoke at the Central Union Association Annual Meeting of the ABWM with about 75 attending. Molly Shallcross and Sue Hall also attended, and we returned with my

car trunk loaded with toiletries collected by the women for the track workers!

January 19: Chaplain Cordell spoke at the Sunday worship at FBC of Oxford, PA (Rev. Gregory Bruce, Pastor). This church faithfully supports our work, and was enthusiastic in its response to our ministry that day.

March 30: We had a very special time at FBC of Wildwood, NJ, (Rev. Joe Mathis, Pastor). The Chaplain spoke at the morning worship, and enjoyed a delicious luncheon afterwards.

April 17: Chaplain Cordell led the Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Communion Service at FBC Levittown-Fairless Hills, PA. Also, since the church is currently without a Pastor, the Chaplain will be leading their Communion Sunday worship for the coming months.

An Important Notice about Christmas Items

Since many groups are making plans for our Christmas needs, remember that we will NOT need laundry bags this year. Instead, we ask that you make DITTY BAGS (12" wide by 15" high, with drawstring) for holding their toiletries to carry to the shower.

We desperately need the following: towels, washcloths, deodorant, razors, shave cream, and winter work gloves.



"I know those eggs are around here somewhere."

Looking Ahead . . .

In the coming weeks and months, the Chaplain and his office will be involved in various ways.

On Saturday, April 26, the Chaplain will host a tour of the track for FBC of Wildwood, NJ. Then, on Saturday, May 3, we will give a track tour for a group from Parkesburg Baptist Church of Parkesburg, PA.

On Sunday, April 27, Jack will be speaking at the morning worship at the Church of God New Beginning of Bristol, PA.



On February 12, the women from Bensalem Presbyterian Church showed us that they really know how to cook! Rev. Osy Nuesch is their Pastor.

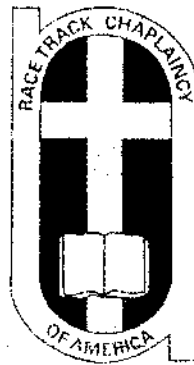
Updating Mailing List

Currently, we mail over 400 newsletters to churches, organizations and individuals. In order to be good stewards, we want to be sending the publication to those who should receive it. If you are getting a copy through your church office and do not need to receive it at your home, let us know. If someone else in your church should get the newsletter, just notify us. We want to reduce

duplication. Or, if your church wishes more than one copy, we can include more than one in the envelope. Perhaps you no longer wish to receive the newsletter. Just let us know by phone, letter, or email.



Beth, our talented face painter, stayed very busy at the Easter Party. Here she's placing a snowman on a very cute face!



Chaplain Attends Annual RTCA Meetings

This year the Racetrack Chaplaincy of America held its Annual Conference in New Orleans, LA, January 22-28. We had an inspiring time of spiritual growth and enrichment. The speakers included Rev. Rick Smith and his wife, Vicki, of the American Missionary Fellowship. The Smiths instructed the Chaplains and their spouses in how to grow

their marriage. Linda Graves of the Delaware Council on Problem Gambling taught a seminar on how to deal with problem gamblers. Cindy Rullman presented an outstanding study on how to minister more effectively to women on the track. Dr. Jeffrey Johnson, Director of Evangelism with the American Baptist Churches in the USA, challenged all of us with his instruction about how to evangelize those to whom we minister. He also inspired us with his message at the Sunday morning worship service held at the Fairgrounds Racetrack.

Chaplain Cordell was Program Committee Chairman for the Chaplain School.

Also, RTCA of PA Council Members, Rev. Nick Salios and his wife, Rose, attended. Nick, now retired, was Chaplain at Philadelphia Park for many years.

The Executive Director of RTCA is Dr. Enrique Torres, former pastor, formerly with the National Ministries office of the ABC/USA, and seminary professor in missiology, is the Executive Director of RTCA.

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