



TRACK MINISTRY NEWS

Race Track Chaplaincy of America, Pennsylvania Division, Inc.

www.rtca-pa.org

Sharing God's Love at Philadelphia Park

FALL 2012



given out to children. Some of our youth are in high school, we see them regularly, and are able to give them this kind of personal attention. They are cognizant of how valuable such a 'gift' is and are very grateful.

Some of these older children / young adults are now starting to give back. They speak of coming to these outreach events when they were 'kids', and are asking to be allowed to help at them. This is a special blessing for them and for the ministry to see them grow and mature to the point where they can now disciple others.

Christmas In September!!!

The book bag and school supplies giveaway at our Annual Labor Day Pig Roast is getting bigger and bigger. This year we had more than 100 requests for book bags! This event is our second biggest annual benevolent outreach to children – second only to

the Christmas gifts that are given out to the children.

The book bags were filled with grade/age appropriate items and in some cases filled specifically with a list of items that the child's teacher had

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Do you know when Bible Sunday is? Do you celebrate it? In the United Kingdom it is celebrated on the last Sunday of October, but the American Bible Society began celebrating it in 1915 on the third Sunday of November. National Bible Week is the rest of the week after that third Sunday of November. It is recognized by the United Bible Societies. You can do a web search on this and find lots of great free materials that will help you recognize it at home, Sunday school, church and everywhere.

It is such a privilege that we have such access to God's Word. It is awe inspiring to think of all the saints who gave their lives so that we can have our own copies of the Bible. The Bible is such a blessing of wisdom and guidance. Theodore Roosevelt used to say that he would rather hire someone who knew the Bible and did not have a college education than someone who had a college education but did not know the Bible.

Don't ever stop reading and rereading the Bible. You will continue to be blessed in the reading of God's Word. Your understanding will increase and the applications will remain fresh. I was recently leading a series of daily devotions with the jockeys on the book of Joshua and referred to the story of the Fiery Furnace from the book of Daniel. There were immediately looks and comments of awe. I asked if anyone had ever heard of that Bible story and all said, "No."

Well a few days later we began, and are continuing now, to have our daily devotions from the book of Daniel. We recently finished chapter 4. While I was studying chapter 4 again for this study I was struck by something I had not thought about when reading this chapter at other times. Chapter 3, of course, is the story of the Fiery Furnace. Nebuchadnezzar is quite naturally moved by this powerfully miraculous event and at the very beginning of chapter 4 acknowledges God in an inspiring proclamation that is to be sent out to all peoples and nations. One is impressed by this gentile king's understanding and apparent appreciation of who God is.

Immediately after the recording of the proclamation, Nebuchadnezzar has the dream that is interpreted by

Daniel to mean that if Nebuchadnezzar does not humble himself before God he will have seven years of insanity spent outside dwelling with wild animals. I cannot go into all the details here, but how could someone who just made this proclamation that apparently glorified God not be right with God in his heart? Then God gives Nebuchadnezzar 12 months to repent, but 'suddenly' he descends into the prophesied insanity, because of his unrepentant heart. The story ends with telling us that when Nebuchadnezzar was restored to his throne he "became even greater than before"!

This struck me, for the first time, as another example of how unbridgeable the gap between our heart and head can be without prayer and meditation on God's Word. Even rereading the most familiar stories will yield new and fresh guidance and God will help us to become "even greater than before". A little bit each day is infinitely better than none. Start getting ready to celebrate Bible Sunday – today, by reading your Bible!

*As the rain and the snow come down
from heaven, and do not return to it
without watering the earth and
making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and
bread for the eater,
so is my word that goes out
from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire and
achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*

– Isaiah 55:10-11 (NIV)

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There is plenty of work to go around preparing for and holding the many special outreach events that are part of the ministry. Special thanks to Aurora Jones, Vicky Forker, Bobbi Templeton, and Barbara Eldred for packing and organizing the book bags.

We give honorable mention to Aldenville Baptist Church, Ulysses Baptist Church, Frankford Memorial Baptist Church, Ray Murray, Kelly Bunker, and Bill & Cathy Pankraz for large contributions of school supplies. May God bless all of you who gave small and large contributions, far greater will be your reward in heaven, for our Father in heaven sees all and never fails to give back a hundredfold and more.



Christmas Is Coming...

It may seem like a long way off. There are several special events between now and then, but we are already praying, planning and preparing for Christmas because there is so much that has to be done to be ready for all that will be 'done' in just the matter of about 10 days in December.

There are more than 600 people who will receive several thousand gifts. The Chaplain's Office is a special conduit of blessings throughout all the year and in December the channel of blessing is flowing mightily.

You have been a most precious resource for these blessings in past years – Thank YOU!!!

Please join with me in praying that this will be the best Christmas ever and once again the Office of the Chaplain here at Philadelphia Park will be a place where the super abundance of God's blessings will be manifested.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special Needs:

We have many basic needs for household items, clothing, and food. Donations can be accepted seven days a week from 8 am – 9 pm. For special arrangements do not hesitate to call the office. Please do call ahead and/or leave your name and organization's name so we can send a thank you.

If you are not sure whether we can use what you have to donate feel free to call, but most likely we can use it or have a friend who needs it.

We now especially need:
work boots (of all sizes), belts,
work pants, cereal, tuna fish,
canned stews/chilis, canned
spaghetti & meatballs, and
toiletries.

Upcoming Special Events:

- ◆ 10/27 **Harvest**
(Halloween) Party
1-3
- ◆ 11/22 **Thanksgiving Feast**
11-3
- ◆ 12/15 **Children's**
Christmas Party
1-3:30



Evidence of God's Work at the Track

Raul has recently arrived from Venezuela and speaks very little English. He speaks so little English that it has been hard for him to find work and keep work. When announcements are made for a worker needed at a barn he cannot understand. Well the Chaplain's Office has English classes for people like Raul. He has been so grateful for this – and you know how beneficial gratitude is in allowing one to have a good attitude. He is thanking God. He is interested in learning more about these people who are offering him 'free' classes, and why they do this. Of course it is because of the love of Jesus that is in our hearts. Raul is so very close to accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior. Pray that he will very soon.

Paul was blinded on the road to Damascus and through that blindness came to see that Jesus is Lord and received

Him as Lord. Another like the Paul of the New Testament in his anger and hate was recently injured. I came to visit him in the hospital. I did not recognize him when I saw him. I had to double check and make sure I was in the right room. I wasn't even sure he knew that I had been there the first couple of visits.

One day I came and his eyes were open and he smiled at me. I had never seen him smile before. He thanked me for visiting him. I told him I had been to see him a few times already. He said, "I know." I was surprised. He went on to tell me that he remembers me praying for him and reading Scripture. He asked if I would read some more of the Bible to him. A couple of days later he prayed with me and called on Jesus to forgive him and be his Lord and Savior!

Racetrack Chaplaincy Joyful Thanksgivings:

On September 26th Barbara "Bobbi" Templeton will have been the "Secretary to Chaplain Bunker", as she signs her correspondence, for one year! She says that she loves her job. There are many here who love her and are grateful for her Christlike commitment to this special ministry. The Chaplain is very grateful for her ability to multi-task. There is a steady stream of people with various requests and Bobbi handles them all with blessed aplomb. Thanks Bobbi for the past year – may you and we be blessed with many more!