



TRACK MINISTRY NEWS

Race Track Chaplaincy of America, Pennsylvania Division, Inc.

www.rtca-pa.org

Sharing God's Love at Philadelphia Park

SUMMER 2013



otherwise. Pray that though they may come for the earthly food they leave with the Bread of Life – our Savior, Jesus Christ! And that they come back again and again to be discipled and bring a friend.

Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.” John 6:27 (NIV)

This is the day that the LORD has made!

Everyday is some holiday and can be celebrated for one reason or another. These pictures were taken on National Mustard Day. Now that we have our barbecue grill we are always looking for a ‘reason’ to light up the grill and feed some hungry people around here. With the grill we can find a ‘reason’ at the ‘drop of a hat’. Bobbi found this jumbo grill on

Craig’s List and she and her husband Don went and picked it up with his pickup truck. We thank those who support the ministry here at Philadelphia Park allowing us to have made the purchase of the grill and supply the food that is cooked on the grill. Fellowship is enhanced with food. The food is also an attraction that brings people who would not come

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPLAIN

I cannot remember the last morning that a horse hasn't gotten loose for at least a few seconds. There are plenty of two year olds at the track right now. I am sure they represent more than their share of the loose horses. My emotions never fail to be inflicted with a fearful rush of a host of thoughts and feelings when I see a horse running with a saddle and no rider.

In an idyllic pastoral setting, when a horse is unsaddled, to see a horse running swiftly and freely is a thing of inspiring beauty. Anywhere else, certainly where there is pavement, buildings, people, cars and the rail we shudder to think what the next moment holds. Even when a horse is not running way too fast, when all it is doing is slowly trotting and trying to find its way back to its barn, this can be dangerous for all and impossible for the horse to do without help. Who knows what the next moment holds? Will the horse suddenly charge or suddenly panic?

There are certainly plenty around who want to help these horses. Anyone around here would love to be the hero or heroine for a moment and return the horse and the bystanders to our previous positions of relative safety. It isn't easy, or safe, as we all know, to get the horse to see things that way. My admiration is full for the outriders and other 'cowboys' who help recover these horses day after day.

Sometimes I see a person and think that they are in as great of danger as one of our loose horses and putting others in danger as well. There are many around who want to help and are willing to help, it is not easy to get the loose person to receive the help. Sometimes animals exhibit better sense than humans. Jesus one day rode a colt that had never been ridden into a crowd that was celebrating loudly without the colt ever rearing up or reacting. Balaam's donkey saw danger on the road ahead and refused to proceed though Balaam was nothing but infuriated with the donkey.

Late one night Jesus and His disciples were landing on the shore of the Sea of Galilee and one whom we know as the Gerasene Demoniac came running and screaming at them. To say this was a most frightening scene is to make a

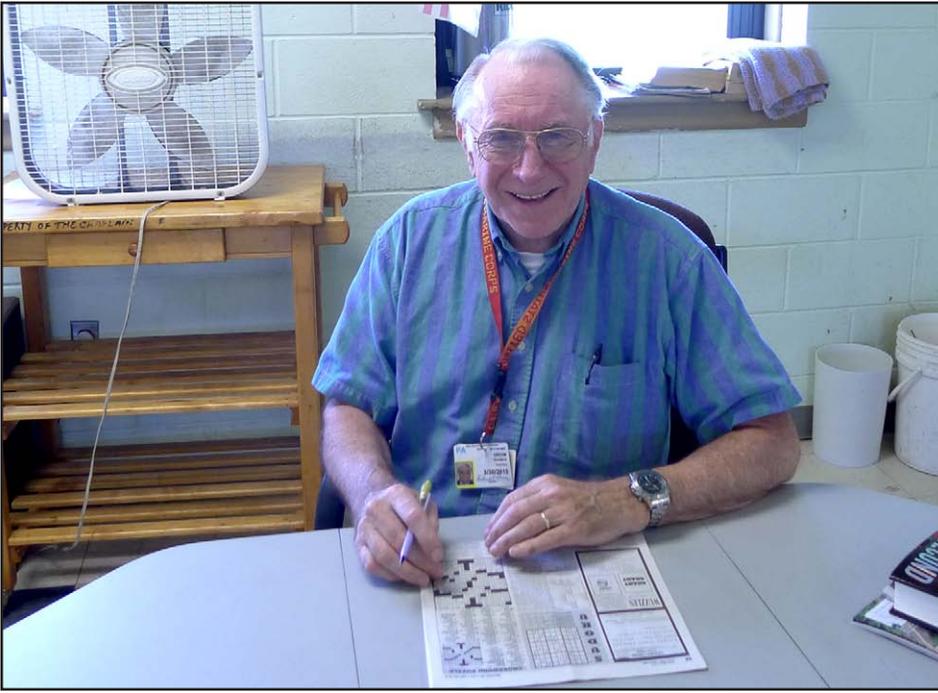


profound understatement. I will not describe the feats of strength and madness that this man was known for. The disciples were gladly relieved to have Jesus lead the way onto the shore. Jesus spoke to the man and healed him. People who saw the man speaking with Jesus shortly afterward could hardly believe that it was the same person. I say, could hardly believe, but they did recognize that he was the same man!

The differences, before and after, in this man were more stark than the differences in a horse with a master rider and the same horse in a frightful setting without a rider. The personality of the horse is the same, but there is a predication of quality that is evident to the most casual of observers. This is also the case when we let God take the reins of our life and guide us through dangers, disappointments, depressions and even derelictions.

8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.

9 Do not be like the horse or like the mule, Which have no understanding, Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will not come near you. - Psalm 32:8-9 (NKJV)



The Lord Giveth More Grace as Our Burdens Grow Greater

Last November we were blessed with Richard “Dick” Groom coming and working as one of our Recreation Hall Supervisors. Dick is a former Marine and comes to us out of retirement as most all of our Rec Hall workers have through the years. He started working one shift a week and has been willing to fill in whenever someone else was sick or on vacation. He has been a Godsend. For the past few months he also has volunteered to pick up donated bakery items each week that come from a nearby Giant Supermarket. These items are truly an essential part of many of our backstretch residents’ diets. Dick gladly and eagerly volunteered to step up and perform this task when our last ‘bread man’ of about 10 years, David DeGois became ill. You may remember that there was an article on David in our newsletter a few issues ago.

We thank God for Dick and hope that he will be working in the Rec Hall for many years. Perhaps you would be interested in helping out at the track – give us a call or shoot us an email. We would love to show you around.

Upcoming Special Events:

- ◆ 8/30 - Pig Roast Family Picnic and Fun Day
- ◆ 8/30 – Back to School distribution of Book Bags & School Supplies
- ◆ 10/26 – Harvest Costume Party
- ◆ 12/21 – Children’s Christmas Party

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special Needs:

SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND
BOOK BAGS ARE OUR
GREATEST 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

MICROWAVES, WORK BOOTS/
SHOES (of all sizes),
BELTS, WORK PANTS,
T-SHIRTS, SMALL JARS OF
MAYONNAISE, SPAM,
CANNED STEWS/CHILIS,
CANNED FRUIT and
SCHOOL SUPPLIES



Evidence of God's Work at the Track

Jeannette has been coming to chapel every week and has been in our offices every day for the past several months. She often came to chapel before. Why, you ask are we seeing her every day?

The Chaplain's office had coordinated with St. Mary's (an area hospital) to provide services for the ladies on the backstretch to receive mammograms. Jeannette signed up and had a mammogram and as a result was diagnosed with breast cancer.

This was just the beginning of a larger ministry for the Chaplaincy to provide for Jeannette. It would include transportation to doctor visits, radiation, chemotherapy and more.

Jeannette would need to stop working for a couple months. This would mean that she would need us to provide her with food and incidental expenses during that time. Thanks to you we have been able to help Jeannette meet all her needs – physical and spiritual.

To hear Jeannette speak you would think that this has been the best year of her life. She is more optimistic than I ever heard her before. She is walking closer with the Lord than ever. She

feels the Lord's love and presence more than ever. She has started working again, although only part time and she has a ways to go before she can go back to full time and become independent again. Pray for her – and thank you for letting us help her physically and spiritually!

Do you know that the chaplaincy gives scholarships? Well we do, as best we can, help our young people with their college and trade school expenses. In fact this summer we have given four young people \$1,000.00 each to help them follow the plan that God has for them. One is going to a trade school, another is going to a Christian College, and two are going to the local Community College.

We do all that we do in the Name of Jesus and we let these young people know it. We want them to know that just because they are 'adults' now we still love them – just like Jesus still loves them and always will. Young people with this knowledge are the kind of change agents that are needed to continue building God's Kingdom and preparing for Jesus' triumphal return! Again, thank you for your support – without you these blessings would not be flowing!

Racetrack Chaplaincy Joyful Thanksgivings:

God's blessings are new every morning and God is so good that there are many persons and things which if only listed in the most abbreviated manner could fill this newsletter each and every issue.

Ivan and Mary Gard, J.D and Leanna Graham, Don Martens, Juan and Steven Polanco, Mike Ballezzi, Don Hogeland, Geoff Moulton, Ron, Debbie, Jason, and Shannon Finley, Barbara Eldred, Lawrence Welch, Bob Bliss, Gerry Beaty, Dan Sourwine, Fernando Hernandez, Roberto Nunez, Gaudencio Patino, Fabrizio Jimenez, Dr. Brian Rizen, Robert Valentine and many others who have been helping to see that the ministry does not miss a beat but continues to serve in the Name of Jesus throughout the heat of this summer.