



TRACK MINISTRY NEWS

Race Track Chaplaincy of America, Pennsylvania Division, Inc.

www.rtca-pa.org

Sharing God's Love at Philadelphia Park

WINTER 2013



Praise the LORD with the harp; make music to Him!

We mainly have been using CDs to provide the instrumental music for our worship services and we sing along with the CD. We have been, but not any longer will CD's be the mainstay of our music program.

It has been a few years now that we have been working on making live music a regular part of the worship services on the backstretch. There are many who come here who

have musical talent and expertise but who had to leave their instruments behind.

Well I am happy to report to you that we recently inaugurated live music into our regular services. We prayed for the Lord to bless the instruments and players and use them to His honor and glory. I was not sure how it would go the first time. Well it went blessedly. Our services have been

drawing more people into the chapel and drawing more people into using their talents to bless the LORD and one another.

Many of our residents are depressed and the access to instruments for them to play has been very therapeutic. They are not only being played during services. Not an afternoon has gone by since we bought the new instruments that they have not been played!

Dan Sourwine commented after the first chapel how he saw a side of some of the performers that he never

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPLAIN

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels... If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains... If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

– *1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (NIV)*

I have a message for you – Thank YOU! It is a message from hundreds of people who, together, we have helped in 2012. I have heard thank you many times throughout the past year on your behalf and am happy to now pass it along to all of you without whom I would not be able to help so many. When benevolences are provided throughout the year I always remind the people receiving the gifts that there are many loving and caring people around the track, in the community, and in churches who support the Chaplaincy so that these kindnesses can be done. It surely is an encouragement to know that one is surrounded by such goodwill, especially, when times are dark and difficult.

A wonderful song written by Ray Boltz, titled “Thank You for Giving to the Lord”, tells of a person who has just arrived in heaven and is met by people who were blessed by the generosity of this person during the person’s life. One verse has these lines, “One by one they came, far as your eyes could see. Each life somehow touched by your generosity. Little things that you had done, sacrifices made, unnoticed on the earth - In Heaven now proclaimed. And I know up in Heaven you’re not supposed to cry but I am almost sure there were tears in your eyes - As Jesus took your hand and you stood before the Lord - He said “My child look around you - great is your reward.”

This is a great song that has several YouTube videos to the words and music. You will be blessed to listen to one or more of them. Let me share with you the chorus of this song – “Thank you for giving to the Lord, I am a life that was changed. Thank you for giving to the Lord, I am so glad you gave.”

I know that we are not saved by works. It is only by grace, through faith in the gift of God’s Son - Jesus, by which we are saved and can enter into heaven; but I am heartened that there is much good and vital faith around here – knowing that the Scriptures also teach us that faith without works is dead.

One of my favorite proverbs from the Bible book of Proverbs can be translated, “The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself (11:25).” Sometimes waters/watered is translated refreshes/refreshed. I thought this proverb to be propitious as I thank all of you who have so generously given. As a river cannot flow through a valley without that valley being blessed as well as the land to which the river continues on to, know that you who allow yourselves to be channels of God’s blessings will not fail to be mightily blessed in this life and the next.

So called “little things that you had done, sacrifices made, unnoticed on the earth, in Heaven now”, already, are being proclaimed and great is your reward. Thank YOU! Thank you for making 2012 such a great year!

And now these three remain:

Faith, Hope and Love.

But the greatest of these is Love.

– *1 Corinthians 13:13 (NIV)*



ESL and Spanish Classes

We have offered English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for a few years through the Chaplain's Office to people who speak Spanish as their primary language. Sturgis Poorman is the main instructor for these classes. He is very dedicated to these classes and sees it as a ministry for the Lord. This is part of teaching the people, to whom we minister, how to 'fish'.

Some will come to the Lord as we minister to them, in Jesus' Name, through these classes. Like that line from *Thank You for Giving to the Lord* "You used to teach my Sunday School, when I was only eight. And every week you would say a prayer before the class would start. And one day when you said that prayer, I asked Jesus in my heart."

Now we also have classes to learn Spanish! The classes have been going on for about a month and are well attended. Thanks Sturgis!

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD

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saw or imagined before when he saw these same people who were in need of basic support playing expertly and leading others in praise of God. Others commented on how they felt the Spirit was moving more mightily than in any other chapel they had ever been at.

I must admit that my flesh was discouraging me from taking the money and time to buy these instruments, but when at the very first service people came forward and performed for the Lord I was rewarded for the step on faith. Every day people have asked to use the instruments in the recreation hall to practice and play. Pray for this new 'program' – that it be an ongoing and growing blessing in a myriad of blessed ways. In fact some are asking if they can come to you and play for you. What do you think about that?

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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, Small Jars of Mayonnaise, Peanut Butter, Canned Stews/Chilis, Canned Fruit and Toiletries

Upcoming Special Events:

- ♦ 2/13 Ash Wednesday
- ♦ 3/29 Good Friday Services
- ♦ 3/30 Children's Easter Party
1-3:30 PM
- ♦ 3/31 Easter Celebration
and Feast
11-3 PM



Group from Hatboro Baptist Church that had a tour in February

Evidence of God's Work at the Track

John is new to Philadelphia Park. He has been around racetracks and training centers for about 25 years and has even had some 'seed' from other saints and churches spread on his 'soil'. I thank the other saints who have seeded and watered him through the years. His growth is slight and weak but he has been to the last two chapels and has come to see me in my office a couple of times as well. He may even bring his wife to chapel. Pray that the work that began with other saints continue and be more deeply rooted and more richly flourishing for however long he is here at Philadelphia Park and for eternity. Pray that his wife come to chapel with him. She is not very healthy, so pray for her physical health as well as her spiritual health.

Jane is probably going to be moving about 15 hundred miles away soon to the Midwest to live and work with a niece. This will be a huge change for her for where she is going is not a racetrack or near a racetrack. She has lived on backstretches of racetracks for many years and has been a special part of the community here at Philly Park for a few

years as well. Her time here has allowed her to reconnect with her family and a lot of that has been good. She had a lot of regrets about things she did before she was saved and wishes she had done differently. I ask that you pray that the next month or two she be given the extra patience and wisdom that she needs to attain some closure with her family (adult children and grandchildren) and any residual and new hard feelings would get resolved before she leaves. Also that if, perhaps, making this move is not the right thing that the Lord would make it clear that she should not go. The biggest blessing would be for her unsaved family members to come to know Jesus as Lord and that they would have an authentic love for their mother and truly want her to stay and make her know this as well. Either way she is grateful for the blessing that the chaplaincy has been to her and whether she stays or leaves she is grateful that she has come to know the Lord here through our ministry.

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

Racetrack Chaplaincy Joyful Thanksgivings:

PARTIAL LIST OF BENEVOLENCES IN 2012 FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CHAPLAIN:

In 2012, the Philadelphia Park Racetrack Chaplaincy gave out 27 beds and 18 high quality air mattresses, 329 boxes of food, 89 turkeys with all the 'fixins', 49 coupons for a free turkey or ham, 236 blankets, 68 good or new jackets, 18 microwaves, 9 refrigerators, 31 bicycles, 87 book bags filled with school supplies, 49 Bibles, over 650 socks, countless hats, scarves, gloves, towels, wash cloths, sheets, pillows, toiletries, loaves of bread, and more. There were 37 Chapel n' Chows in 2012 as well, and most of these provided many meals of leftovers. We in coordination with the PTHA and the Racing Office provided over 5,000 meals through the meal ticket and meal card program at the Race Track Café. We gave out nearly 1,000 gifts at Christmas to over 300 children of employees of the Racetrack.