



# 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 2014**



Some of you may already know that we also gave many new bicycles to our children this past year because of the generous gifts from several individuals and churches specifically for bicycles. The 21st of December 2013 it was about 60 degrees and it was a perfect day for the children to try out their new bikes. With the cold weather that we have been having this winter it is hard to remember and believe that it was so blessedly warm that day.

*...Continues on page 3*

## Best Christmas Party Ever!!!

Have I said that before? Well it was true then and it is true now. One way in which it was the best ever is that we met some new and different needs of our community. Some of the gifts that we were able to give were bigger and better than ever. We realized that some of our children were given assignments that required them to have internet access. We do have a

few computers in our recreation hall and they do have internet access but not enough. Well we got to work back in the fall and were able to get several Kindle Fire HD Tablets and these were given to some of our teens. I hope to share some of the stories of how they have helped our teen students improve their performances in school in postings in the future.

### IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ Best Christmas Party Ever!
- ◆ Chaplain's message
- ◆ Meet Anibel "Andy" Rivera
- ◆ God's Work at the Track

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

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

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPLAIN

*He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us.*  
-2 Corinthians 1:10 (NIV)

I thought of this Scripture passage as I looked back on 2013 and ahead to 2014. We certainly had more than our share of challenges in 2013. There certainly are some ahead of us in the year to come. God will continue to help us make ways through and build bridges over whatever challenges we shall confront.

There was a bit of an object lesson illustrating this in the candy aisle - the Christmas candy (marked down) and the Valentine candy right next to each other. What were these doing right across from each other? It seemed to be saying to me that the love of God continues on, reaching throughout all the year, bridging and buttressing us throughout all of our experiences (good and bad). From Christmas, to Valentine's Day, to Easter, to Pentecost, to Summer times of family gatherings, to Labor Day, to Thanksgiving and back again to Christmas.

We were able to do a lot of good and helpful things for one another in 2013. Let me share some of them with you. May it encourage us to know that all these kindnesses were shared and warm our hearts with hope as this winter cold drags on!

### **Partial List of Benevolences in 2013 Coordinated with the Office of the Chaplain:**

- 29 full beds (mattress, frame, and box spring), 16 high quality air mattresses, and over 300 blankets, sheets and pillows
- 349 boxes of food, and 84 turkeys with all the 'fixins'
- 55 gift certificates for groceries at local markets for over \$1,500.00
- 246 good or new jackets (a large percentage of these were new winter coats for children), and countless other items of clothing
- 23 microwaves, 11 refrigerators, and a few other appliances (most were new)
- 51 bicycles (20 were new and all were in good condition)
- 187 book bags filled with school supplies
- 79 Bibles
- Over 700 pairs of socks, countless hats, scarves, gloves, towels, wash cloths, toiletries, loaves of bread, and more.
- There were 43 Chapel n' Chows in 2013 as well, and most of these provided many meals of leftovers
- In coordination with the PTHA and the Racing Office over 3,000 meals were provided through the meal ticket and meal card program at the Race Track Café.
- Over 1,000 gifts were collected throughout the year for Christmas (and birthdays) for over 300 children related to workers of the Racetrack Community
- Several holiday/seasonal parties throughout the year for children and families
- Transportation to doctor visits, pharmacies, and many other transportation needs
- \$9,000.00 Dollars in Scholarships for Colleges and Technical Schools through the Granny Youmans Scholarship Fund
- AND MUCH MORE

I look forward to 2014 with optimism knowing that we are supported by your prayers and support. It is a privilege to be in partnership with you in this ministry. If you need anything, please let me know and together, with God, we will make 2014 even better than 2013! In the spirit of St. Valentine's Day I share with you and close with this Scripture passage:

*"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.... because God is love."*

- 1 John 4:7-8

*Continued from page 1*

There were certainly many blessed memories made during the Christmas season of 2013. We did our best to trumpet the truth that these gifts were given out of the love and joy that comes from receiving the most blessed gift that of Jesus Christ. Continue to pray with us that the gift of conversions would abound in this New Year!

*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)*



## Meet Anibel “Andy” Rivera:

Andy is our newest Recreation Hall Supervisor. He started working in September of 2013 so he has been here for a few months now. He has been very helpful and flexible, filling in when others are sick or going away for vacation. We needed him and he wanted to work because he couldn't quite handle full-time retirement.

In fact, he can't wait for spring so he can practice his favorite hobby of gardening. We hope to let him 'cultivate' this interest by helping us with the gardens that we have been having here on the backstretch the past few years!

Andy also likes to watch baseball. He said he likes to play baseball, but is getting too old to get many offers to play anymore.

His favorite Bible passage is Psalm 91 and his home church is Templo Internacional de Restauración. He speaks Spanish fluently and this is another reason that he is a great blessing to the mission.

We thank God for Andy 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, or know someone who would – give us a call or shoot us an email. We would love to show you around.



## CONTACT US

### Rev. Rick Bunker

Chaplain  
(267) 223-3398  
rbunker@rtca-pa.org  
[www. rtca-pa.org](http://www.rtca-pa.org)

### Bobbi Templeton

Secretary  
(267) 223-3513 (M,W,F)  
3001 Street Rd  
P.O. Box 1000  
Bensalem, PA 19020-2096

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Special Needs:

Volunteers to help with repairing our storage trailer.

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** small refrigerators, rugged warm jackets, work boots/shoes (of all sizes), warm work gloves, belts, work pants, t-shirts, small jars of mayonnaise, spam, canned stews/ chilis and canned fruit.

### Upcoming Special Events:

4/13 Palm Sunday Fiesta

4/17 Maundy Thursday

4/18 Good Friday

4/19 Children's and Family  
Easter Egg Hunts and Party

4/20 Easter (Special Services & Feast)

5/11 Mother's Day



## Evidence of God's Work at the Track

I was looking at the Fall Newsletter and was reminded that I had written about "John" who had the promise of a good new job. We had hoped that he would not be back to our mission except, at the most, to visit. Well, he lost his job because of cutbacks and he was the last hired so also the first to go. He is back with us although struggling to find even day work here. I am happy to be able to report that I did receive a letter from his employer that told me he performed well and was let go only for economic reasons and nothing else. He also is 'keeping the faith'.

I ask that you keep praying for him. It is not easy for him coming back here, but he has no where else to go. There are many, as you might have guessed, who are gossiping that he was fired due to some misconduct on his part. Pray hard that he not get discouraged, that the gossip stop and that he finds the work that he needs. Pray also that this mission continue to be here for those like "John" who are going through the toughest of times.

"Carol" has been blessed by you. She recently moved into an apartment and had nothing, but we were able to give her dishes, bed, microwave, bureau and table. She was so happy that she made a big batch of chili and brought it to the recreation hall for anyone to eat. I had some and it was good!

She has been coming regularly to some of our meetings and has been 'clean and sober' for several months. She has not made a confession of faith in the Lord Jesus, so be



praying for her conversion. She is definitely hungry for the Truth and is still struggling with the load of guilt from her past. I feel that she is so close to laying that burden down at the Cross. You know what a battle that is within and without so pray hard for the salvation of her soul. I hope to report to you soon that she has given her life to Jesus.

Pray for these and the many others who are being reached and need to be reached!

### **Racetrack Chaplaincy Joyful Thanksgivings:**

Home Baked Cookies received from Oxford Circle Baptist Church, First Baptist Church of Lewistown, Mission Possible, and Bensalem Presbyterian Church. We did not receive as many home baked cookies as we have in the past but they were a special blessing.

All of the individuals and churches who sent gifts for the children, money, or gift cards so that once again we had more than enough. We never turned anyone away and no one has ever had to leave without having their needs met.

JD Graham for all the hours he has donated driving people to doctor and therapy visits using his own vehicle.

For all who share their almost new household and clothing items, and for our food pantry never having run out!