



TRACK MINISTRY NEWS

Race Track Chaplaincy of America, Pennsylvania Division, Inc.

www.rtca-pa.org

Sharing God's Love at Philadelphia Park

SUMMER 2015

Chaplain Rick looks back on almost 6 years



It was a great blessing to actually come on board a few weeks before Jack Cordell retired at the end of 2009. For instance, I was able to see how Christmas was celebrated and be a little ready for those programs the next year. My church was gracious to allow me to spend a couple of days a week at the track as I transitioned from being their pastor and becoming the chaplain here completely in March of 2010.

It has been a pleasure to work with the many cultures and many generations here at the track. It is definitely the largest 'congregation' that I have ever served. There is work with individuals and families. Working with individuals will often, naturally lead to working with their families to better and more holistically minister to the presenting needs.

Some of the most encouraging and enjoyable experiences is to see those who were children when I came here and are now young adults become ministry partners. If they are not invited to help and lead they would probably not be involved, thinking of themselves as too old or too young to attend most of

the programs. I have made a point of keeping in touch with them through email, text, and phone. Inviting them to attend and specifically asking them for their help. The young guys in these pictures are now some of the great group of volunteers that make the ministry here grow and reach so many, but only a few years ago were 'just kids'.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPLAIN



But the righteous will live by his faith.

– Habakkuk 2:4 (NASB)

This verse above is a great promise from the Bible. Many translations have some mark next to faith and somewhere else on the page note that faith is more precisely faithfulness. Whose faithfulness? God’s faithfulness – the “his faith” is God’s faith, or God’s faithfulness to the righteous. Now Scripture tells us in other places that no one is righteous but God, but those who in faith and humility pursue the righteousness and ways of God will live by the loving faithfulness of God.

This promise was made in the midst of great danger, distress, and dilemma for the writer in his time. We live in very similar times. Thankfully God does not change and is still faithfully loving and kind to those who also faithfully seek to follow after the righteousness of God.

I think it has been rightly said that everyone has faith in something. One would not lie down and go to sleep if they didn’t have faith that the bed would hold them. Some have trouble getting out of bed because they don’t have the faith that anywhere else is safe enough for them.

Jesus said more than once that if one had faith as a mustard seed they could move mountains. People have moved mountains. Jesus may have said this some of the times that he said it in view of two mountains; one was flat at the top and much shorter than the other because the

shorter one had been moved and carried away and put on top of the other to make it higher and to have a palace built on it. You can still see them today in Israel.

What is faith as a mustard seed like? Well seeds don’t look too impressive to most people. Seeds sort of look all dried up and dead. But take that seed and put it somewhere and watch it grow!

Put it where? In the dark, dirty ground, maybe mixed with a lot of manure, maybe upside down; and it knows which way is up, it finds its way to the light, and grows! Grows, bears fruit a hundredfold, and fills the purpose and plan for which it was created.

You ever feel like you are in the dark? You ever feel like you are surrounded by a bunch of... manure? You ever feel like the life in you is all dried up?

That was how Habakkuk felt. Then a word came to him that he and many of his people would live. They would not only live but thrive because of the loving faithfulness of God.

God is the same today and always will be. As we are all wondering how the great changes that beset us will work out it is good to remember that as we humbly seek the ways of God we will live. Not just survive but live in the biblical sense of the word – thrive and be blessed with the fullness of God’s goodness. David tells us that God prepares a banquet for us in the very presence of our enemies. With God we are safe in the very presence of our enemies, and thanks be to God, God wants to be with us!

God help us to seek you and receive the blessing that you have prepared for us. Help us to operate within your faithful ways and be blessed and be a blessing – Amen!

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

– James 4:8 (NKJV)

Our New Secretary - Sophia Lewis



God has mightily and providentially called Sophia Lewis to 'replace' Bobbi Templeton as the new administrative assistant. It has been a rough couple of months in between, but Bobbi decided to not just take the summer off this year but to retire completely. Sophia has just started and we already are enjoying her quiet, calming presence, and competent abilities to help those who come into

the office with need of help. Her email is secretary@rtca-pa.org and her phone number is **267-223-3513**, and her office hours are Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays from 10-3.

Racetrack Chaplaincy 2015 Easter Party



Upcoming Special Events:

- ◆ 9/19 – Pennsylvania Derby
- ◆ 10/31 – Harvest Celebration
- ◆ 12/19 – Children's Christmas Party



CONTACT US

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special Needs:

VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH REPAIRING OUR STORAGE TRAILER!!!

HELP WITH PURCHASING AND PREPARING CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

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 REFRIGERATORS, WORK BOOTS/SHOES (of all sizes), BELTS, SPAM, BAKED BEANS, RED BEANS, CANNED SOUPS, STEWS/CHILIS, CANNED FRUIT, AND TOILETRIES.

Evidence of God's Work at the Track

God loves the family. The family is a vestige of Eden and it is the foundation of civilization. Many reports and individuals state that family is the most important help in the lives of individuals.

One of the challenges that many in the population here at the track face is separation from their families. There are a host of reasons for these separations – broken marriages, abandonments (for various reasons), the distance from home that working here required are but a few. For some it was self-imposed for others it was forced. For all it is debilitating whether realized consciously or not.

It is very therapeutic if we can facilitate restoration of these broken relationships. This is a way of the heart becoming open again to the Lord as well. Most of these reunions have been accompanied by crises, but if not for the intervention of our ministry with God's Spirit's help, not even those crises would have probably brought about the reunions that we have seen.

Now the meetings and reconnections are not without ongoing bumps, but it has been so encouraging and affirming to be an instrument in the orchestration of these blessed events. Pray that these restorations between siblings, parents and children, and spouses be maintained and multiplied in the days and months ahead. Nothing, short of salvation, makes for greater celebrations in heaven. I thank the Lord for these, for being little more than a witness to them, and for your support in allowing this ministry to continue in this work.



Racetrack Chaplaincy Joyful Thanksgivings:

Valerie Brooks once again this summer worked in our office. She was a great blessing in seeing that the ministry continued on powerfully as we searched for a permanent replacement for Bobbi Templeton. She is back at Rutgers in New Brunswick, NJ for her third year working towards a degree in Accounting. She continues to share her talents in this area as she learns the job of treasurer for the Race Track Chaplaincy.

Don Hogeland our longtime treasurer has shown good stewardship in sharing the information about this part of the ministry with Valerie preparing her to take over for him. Don will celebrate his 88th birthday in November and has been a faithful partner of the Chaplaincy for over 25 years.

Over 200 book bags filled with school supplies were given out to our school children in the last days of August and first days of September. Special thanks to **Aldenville Baptist Church**, and **Bensalem United Methodist Church**. Those two churches gave nearly half of all the book bags and school supplies collected!