



# 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 2015**

## Celebrating the Birth of Our Great Savior!



In faith we kept signing up children for our Christmas party praying that there would be enough for everyone. We had another record number of children who signed up for the Christmas party and we had another record amount of support from the people of God – so that we had all of our needs met!

More and more we sadly hear of children and adults who do not hear and do not know the birth of our Great Savior is the fundamental reason for the “holiday celebrations”. There were more than one thousand people blessed

through the Racetrack Chaplaincy at Philadelphia Park who experienced the Christmas Story between December 20th and January 5th. Many of them were at all of the worship services, parties, and feasts hearing more and more of how God so loved the world that He sent His Son Jesus to save us from our sins. This wonderful time of the year was made even more glorious as we led several to a first time faith in Jesus!

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

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPLAIN

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. – Psalm 119:105 (NIV)*

Thinking of the year that is still mostly ahead of us I thought of this short verse that speaks of God's word being a light for the path that we are traveling. What sort of light would they have been speaking of? Certainly the lights of that day were not the beams that shine a thousand feet down the road. It would indeed have been a light that would only show where to place your foot one more time. This type of light would show us where to take our next step, but not the one after that, nor certainly the next 100 steps. And, yet how difficult it is sometimes, to even know where to take even the very next step. It is quite a promise to declare that what God's word can do for us is to let us know what to do next.

One step at a time, one day at a time, day after day, week after week, we will make it through this year and not be any the worse for wear, if each step of the way is directed by God's word. I pray that you might be filled with the knowledge of God's will for your life. It is a prayer that was prayed for us by the Apostle Paul. He wrote that he had, "not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding." Imagine being filled with the knowledge of God's will. It is a prayer that can be answered – not a pipe dream.

We realized many good things this past year and I thank you for your support. Together a lot was done and below are some of the things that we did as we followed God's will and showed forth God's love.

### PARTIAL LIST OF BENEVOLENCES IN 2014 COORDINATED WITH THE OFFICE OF THE CHAPLAIN AT PHILADELPHIA PARK:

- 31 full beds (mattress, frame, and box spring), 16 high quality air mattresses, and over 300 blankets, sheets and pillows
- 689 boxes of food, and 84 turkeys with all the 'fixins'
- 61 gift certificates for groceries at local markets for over \$3,700.00
- 233 good or new jackets (a large percentage of these were new winter coats for children), and countless other items of clothing
- 28 microwaves, 11 refrigerators, and a few other appliances (most were new)
- 48 bicycles (20 were new and all were in good condition)
- 217 book bags filled with school supplies
- 250 Easter Baskets with candy, toys, and gospel messages
- 89 Bibles
- Over 800 pairs of socks, countless hats, scarves, gloves, towels, wash cloths, toiletries, loaves of bread, and more
- There were 69 Chapel n' Chows in 2014 as well, and most of these provided many meals of leftovers
- In coordination with the PTHA and the Racing Office over 5,200 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
- Several holiday/seasonal parties throughout the year for children and families
- Transportation to doctor visits, pharmacies, and many other transportation needs
- \$7,000.00 Dollars in Scholarships for Colleges and Technical Schools AND MUCH MORE

I look forward to 2015 with optimism knowing that I am supported by such a good community of saints. It is a privilege to serve the Lord here. Together, with God, we will make 2015 even better than 2014! 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

## Bobbi Templeton Retiring

September 2011, it seems like it was yesterday, Bobbi first learned of the Racetrack Chaplaincy ministry when she started working as the Office Secretary. She is thankful for “the opportunity to serve both the Lord and the backstretch” as she recently wrote in her official resignation letter to the Chaplain. She went on to say that, “It is with a heavy heart that I leave where I have made many lifelong friends.” Bobbi and her husband Don (our number 1 volunteer) report that they will be ‘hitting the road’ for “as long as the good Lord allows.”

Bobbi has worked 15-20 hours a week and will be working until May 8th. Who or whom will replace her!!! Continue to pray for the Chaplaincy – specifically for Don, Bobbi and their replacement(s). Is it you or someone you know??

### *Racetrack Chaplaincy 2014 Christmas Party*



### Upcoming Special Events:

- ◆ 3/29 - Palm Sunday
- ◆ 4/2 - Maundy Thursday
- ◆ 4/3 - Good Friday
- ◆ 4/4 - Easter Party 1-3 PM
- ◆ 4/5 - Easter / Resurrection Celebrations



## CONTACT US

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Special Needs:

VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH  
REPAIRING OUR STORAGE  
TRAILER!!!

WE NEED HELP WITH OUR  
WEBSITE!!!

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**  
WIND/WATER PROOF  
JACKETS, SWEATSHIRTS, SMALL  
REFRIGERATORS, WORK  
BOOTS/SHOES (of all sizes),  
BELTS, WORK PANTS, T-SHIRTS,  
SPAM, BAKED BEANS, CANNED  
SOUPS, STEWS/CHILIS and  
CANNED FRUIT.





## Evidence of God's Work at the Track

The other day I was in the kitchen, actually outside and behind the kitchen, and met someone who looked like a stray cat looking for a meal. I greeted him and started talking with him. He got the meal that he needed that day and we talked about getting together the next day. The next day there was to be a feast and I told him that he would be able to get lots more food at the feast scheduled.

Later that evening would be the next time I was to see him. After chapel we talked, prayed, made a phone call, and to make a short story shorter – I found myself taking him to see his mother before I finished 'chaplaining' for the day.

As I drove him to his mother's, he said that he hadn't been 'home' for a couple of years and we drove around a bit

because he had forgotten just how to get there. We finally found his mother's home. We stopped out front, sat in silence for a moment, and I asked him if he wanted me to go in with him. He said, "I wouldn't be able to have even made the phone call if I didn't know God loves me. You have done enough for me thank you. I can go in without you because I know Jesus is going with me."

As of today he is still at 'home' with his mother. He smells a lot better than when I first met him. God has changed him on the inside and on the outside!

Thank the Lord for the privilege of being partners in this great work and may He bless this ministry to reach many more...

## Racetrack Chaplaincy Joyful Thanksgivings:

The American Baptist Women of Pennsylvania and Delaware have pledged their support for the building of a computer lab in the Recreation Hall on the Backstretch. There is not room for anything other than sleeping in the dormitory rooms so the Recreation Hall provides a myriad of blessings – one is getting on a computer and keeping in touch with family around the world. The computers also are an integral part of the education program.

Well our computers were old hand-me-downs that no one else wanted and were breaking down all the time. But that is becoming a thing of the past thanks to this generous gift!!! We hope to share pictures in our next issue.

Also very special thanks to Geoffrey Moulton who has donated countless hours working on our computers!!!