



TRACK MINISTRY NEWS

Race Track Chaplaincy of America, Pennsylvania Division, Inc.

www.rtca-pa.org

Sharing God's Love at Philadelphia Park

FALL 2018



devotions, and personal prayers we practice counting our blessings. It helps us move forward into the huge Christmas programs with faith that God will provide once again as God always has.

It never ceases to amaze me how those with so little seem to have the greatest spirits of thankfulness. Is it because they have lived so close to the 'edge' for so long they are able to see the miraculous ways of God almost on a daily basis?

God's Goodness, Love and Provision for Us

Sometimes we need help being ready for Thanksgiving. Our Harvest/Halloween Party is a time to think and celebrate all the things for which we have to be thankful. We have crafts with Scripture and thankful messages that everyone can take back to their rooms. These serve as helpful reminders of God's love and promise to provide.

The entire fall season we focus on God's goodness, love and provision for us. At our chapel services, community meals, daily

IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ God's Goodness, Love and Provision for Us
- ◆ Chaplain's Message
- ◆ A New Team Member in Our Ministry
- ◆ God's Work at the Track
- ◆ Joyful Thanksgiving

Race Track Chaplaincy of America, Pennsylvania Division, Inc.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPLAIN

A party of pioneers on the Oregon Trail suffered for weeks from a scarcity of water and grass for their animals. Most of the wagons had broken down, causing endless delays in the stifling heat. A feeling of fretfulness and futility prevailed. Optimism and cheer were gone. Courage was in limited supply.

One night the leaders called a meeting to air complaints. When they gathered around the campfire, one man stood up and said, "Before we commence our grief session, don't you think we should at least first thank God that he has brought us this far with no loss of life, with no serious trouble from the Indians, and that we have enough strength left to finish our journey?"

The other settlers agreed. After the brief prayer, all that could be heard were the cries of a distant pack of wolves. There was otherwise stone silence around the campfire, because no one had any grievances they felt were important enough to voice.

They suddenly realized if they couldn't be satisfied with what they'd received, they could at least be thankful for what they'd escaped. Thankfulness enabled them to see the mercies of God they had been overlooking.

Many of us have certainly had a difficult year – a year that we do not want to repeat – a year we would not wish on our worst enemy. And, yet, the Thanksgiving holiday is fast upon us. Charles Dickens said that we are somewhat mixed up here in America. He told an audience that instead of having one Thanksgiving Day each year we should have 364. "Use that one day just for complaining and griping," he said. "Use the other 364 days to thank God each day for the many blessings He has showered upon you."

Such calls to thankfulness, one might rightly say, are easy for a chaplain as greatly blessed as myself. Knowing this I am still compelled to call on you to exercise, to practice giving thanks, because the Bible directs us to do it, because so many studies show us of its benefits, and it is a necessary prerequisite to being happy.

I can't help but think of the many people who will

celebrate the first Thanksgiving since the death of a spouse, child, parent, or dear friend. It is so easy for me to simply write that one should give thanks for the time that they did have with the person(s) that have died.

What a raw Thanksgiving it will be for the parents who lost four daughters and four sons-in-law in that terrible limousine accident in upstate New York this fall. The Biblical patriarch Job lost all his children in one day - seven sons and three daughters. He lost all of his wealth as well.

The book of Job ends with his wealth restored and doubled what it had been. He once again has seven sons and three daughters. Why not twice as many children? I think this bespeaks of the truth that the children that Job 'lost' are 'lost' from his sight and touch for a time, but because they are humans their priceless souls live on forever, and the 'circle will not be broken'. They will be reunited in Heaven. God's provision for us never ends. God is good, worthy of thanks, because God is faithful, and God's lovingkindness endures forever. Thanks be to God – Amen!



A New Team Member in Our Ministry



I thank God for the growing number of team members in our ministry. **Jafet Herrera** is sharing his many talents with the Chaplaincy. He loves that he is able to exercise his talents and so actively serve the Lord simultaneously.

Jafet is a part-time student at Bucks County Community College and he is at the track helping us about 20 hours a week. He speaks excellent Spanish and is already loved by everyone here at the track because of his servant's heart.

Photos from the Racetrack Chaplaincy 2018 Harvest Party



Upcoming Special Events:

- ◆ **11/22** Thanksgiving Service and Feast
 - ◆ **12/16** Children's Christmas Party
 - ◆ **12/25** Christmas Service, Gift Giving, and Feast for residents and anyone who would like to come
 - ◆ **12/15** The Track Christmas Party in the Grand Room, on the first floor of the Grandstand, 1-3:30 PM
- Donations of Toys or Contributions to purchase items are most welcome!**

CONTACT US

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

Carmen Harris,
Tricia Morrissey,
Fran Siegel
Secretaries
267-223-3513 (M, Tu, F, Sa)
secretary@rtca-pa.org

3001 Street Rd
P.O. Box 1000
Bensalem, PA 19020-2096

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special Needs:

Thanksgiving Turkeys, Hams, and other traditional food items.

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 email so we can send a thank you, and leave time for us to get back to you so you know that security has been notified that you are coming.

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, MICROWAVES, 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



Already this year we have given more than \$10,000.00 in direct benevolence to help individuals and families who were sick, out of work, or faced with unexpected expenses. We helped a family get an apartment by helping with their security deposit. Several times we have paid for car repairs. Many times we have paid for medicine without being asked, and the prescription would have gone unfilled without our help.

Several times this year we have paid for people who were homeless to stay in a hotel until we could find more permanent housing. These were times when both individuals and families would have otherwise been sleeping in a car or worse. Times when I was in a parking lot making phone calls on their behalf and concluding that they should let the chaplain pay for a hotel for them at least for tonight. It is such a joy to show them to the

clean room where they can shower and have a nice big breakfast in the morning. The children can show up to school rested and clean the next morning.

It is such a joy to pray with people while sharing these benevolences. To talk about the love of Jesus with authority because they have so clearly witnessed the reality of this love in our sharing these helps with them and so often their families.

There is so much need. These things may seem like little in comparison. To the people that we are helping it is everything. It is not a little thing to them. It means so much to them. It is my pleasure to see this again and again. I know it is your pleasure to hear of this. May God continue to bless our chaplaincy that we can continue to minister in word and deed the Love of God.

Racetrack Chaplaincy Joyful Thanksgivings:

We have many people who give days of their time driving people to appointments. Our newest volunteer who helps us in this way is **Rick Geiger**. He joins **Bob Valentine, JD Graham, and Carol Blomer!**

If you would like to volunteer even on a one-time basis give us a call. There is lots of work to do getting ready for Christmas!