



WINNER'S CIRCLE



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Attributes of Leadership

by Dr. Enrique Torres

The Bible is filled with great leaders who were called by God for a specific mission. Let me cite two leaders in the Old Testament and one in the New Testament.

The Patriarch Abraham: He was characterized by extraordinary faith in God that was accompanied by obedience. The Lord called him to leave his comfortable life and go to an unknown land to establish God's nation.

Moses the Liberator: He was called from the tranquility of the pasture in Midian and sent to speak to the most powerful political leader of that time. The great difference in his life came about when he met God. Moses became an obedient servant for the living God and brought freedom from bondage to Israel.

Jesus of Nazareth: The highest marks of leadership reside in Jesus. He came as the servant to Israel; he was faithful to fulfill His Father's plan and obedient even to death, a death on a cross.

The major characteristics of these leaders were similar: They were appointed by God and they experienced God in their life; they became servants and were obedient in fulfilling God's plan.

RTCA is a growing organization, with committed chaplains who have been called by God to fulfill His mission at the race tracks of America and around the world. They recognize their role of servanthood and in obedience they work to fulfill God's plan for the race tracks.

RTCA emphasizes education as a tool for better leadership. Education is a gift provided by God and a wonderfully useful tool for attaining God's mission. During our recent Chaplains' School at Anaheim, California, we emphasized growth in our relationship with God and growth in our personal level of education.

RTCA expends considerable financial resources on the education of our chaplains, with the goal of providing the best qualified leaders to the horse industry. We are grateful for the industry's constant financial support to RTCA. These resources allow us to fulfill our dream of being God's faithful servants and having professional RTCA Chaplains who are well trained.



Now Serving Canada and Mountaineer

As the year 2004 came to a close, the Race Track Chaplaincy of America thankfully celebrated the creation of two new ministries, in Ontario, Canada, and at Mountaineer Race Track and Resort in West Virginia. The Ontario ministry, the RTCA's first outside the continental United States, serves two race tracks, Woodbine and Fort Erie.

"By the grace of God, the Race Track Chaplaincy of America has been blessed with these new ministries to race track workers, said Dr. Enrique Torres, the RTCA's executive director. "We pray that these ministries will grow and prosper in the coming years." The RTCA now has 55 chaplains serving 87 race tracks, training centers

and farms from coast to coast.

Opening the new ministries kept Chaplain Les Riggs, the longtime chaplain in Louisiana, on the road in a motor home for fully one-half of the year. His work of launching the ministries, including the establishment of Chaplaincy Councils, filled six months.

For Chaplain Riggs, it was a hectic but joyful venture. "I'm a racetracker engaged in a ministry I love," he said. "To establish new race-track ministries has been my heart vision."

He and Dr. Torres noted that many track executives and horsemen's organizations have ex-

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Chaplaincy Presents White Horse Award at Lone Star Park

John Woodley put his life on the line to save a child from a raging trailer-home fire, and for his heroism he was honored with the Race Track Chaplaincy of America's White Horse Award on October 28. The announcement of Woodley's honor highlighted a Lone Star Park luncheon that hailed the bravery of the White Horse nominees.

A jockey and exercise rider at Fairmount Park in southern Illinois, Woodley heard an explosion at a nearby mobile home and rushed to find a neighbor screaming that her two children were inside. Woodley dived into the burning trailer, where he found one child and dragged him to safety. Woodley helped to rescue another boy

from the inferno, but unfortunately that child died.

For his heroism, Woodley was presented the White Horse Award by White Horse Fellowship founders Kenny and Lisa Troutt. Also taking part in the presentation, pictured above, were RTCA President Don Dean, left, and Dr. Enrique Torres, executive director, at far right. In addition to the award, Woodley received a \$5,000 check.

The White Horse Award, created in 2003, honors the race track workers who courageously put their lives at risk to protect individuals and horses in peril of death or serious injury. The 2005 White Horse Award is scheduled for October 27 at Belmont Park.

Photo by Z

Edward Smith Elected RTCA President

Edward Smith was elected as the Race Track Chaplaincy of America's new president on January 10 at the organization's five-day Annual Convention and Chaplains' School, in Anaheim, Calif.

Smith is a Dallas-based travel executive who grew up in Hawaii and has business interests across the globe. He has been a lay missionary for several international ministries, served as an RTCA regional director and sits on the Chaplaincy Council at Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie.

"I want to be hands-on in my approach and continue to help the RTCA form strategic partnerships," he said. "I think it's important to walk hand-in-hand with racing industry leaders and continue RTCA's momentum."

Smith said he believes his background as a business owner in the high-tech travel industry will help RTCA's efforts to open outreach ministries to track workers everywhere. He described the racing industry as "a global backstretch village."

Smith succeeds Don K. Dean, a Maryland-based owner-breeder who served as the RTCA's chief executive for three years. Re-elected vice president was W. Elliott Walden, private trainer for WinStar Farm. Sam Ed Spence, chaplain at Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, was re-elected as secretary. Margaret E. Landreth, a racehorse owner and president of the Chaplaincy Council at Sam Houston Race Park in Texas, was elected treasurer, succeeding Phyllis Bunch.

Both Dean and Bunch will continue to serve on the RTCA's Board of Directors. Dean will serve as the representative of the Chaplaincy Council presidents, and Bunch, a horse owner from Guthrie, Okla., will represent the Regional Directors.

Dan Fick, executive vice president and executive director of The Jockey Club, was elected director-emeritus and will serve on the Board of Directors. Fick was instrumental in the revitalization of the RTCA over the past several years.

Smith, president of Caribbean travel specialist col.com, comes into the RTCA presidency

RTCA, Winners Hail Relationship

Presentations by Winners Federation members at the January 2005 Chaplains' School mark one of the first highly visible aspects of the working relationship between the Race Track Chaplaincy of America and the Winners Federation, the umbrella organization of addictions counselors based across North America and those individuals and organizations that support their work.

Behind the scenes before the Chaplains' School, a rich and rewarding spirit of cooperation and sharing has developed following the signing of the working relationship document on April 1, 2004, in New Orleans.

"I am very gratified by how well the working relationship has been put in place," said Don Clippinger, executive director of the Winners Federation. "I give all the credit to RTCA President Don Dean and the RTCA's wonderful staff, led by Dr. Enrique Torres.



Outgoing President Don K. Dean, right, passes the gavel to Edward Smith

with little horse experience but extensive experience in missionary work. The son of a minister, he was involved in missionary work as a youth while growing up in Hawaii and has continued his missionary work in central Mexico. He said it is not unusual for him to be sleeping on a dirt floor while doing missionary work on one weekend and residing in a luxury suite at a Caribbean hotel the next. He also writes a monthly column on Caribbean travel that is available on the company's website.

Smith was drawn into the work of the Race Track Chaplaincy of America by Corey Johnsen, the Magna Entertainment Corp. Group Vice President, who previously was general manager at Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie. After Smith's wife, Adella, went to work at Lone Star, the new RTCA president became heavily involved in the local Chaplaincy Council.

The 2005 Chaplains' School featured training on crisis intervention. Teachers included Dr. Barbara Ann Wilmes, executive director of the Back-

stretch Employee Assistance Team (BEAT) and director of EAP services for the New York Racing Association, Peggy Goetsch, executive director of the Racing Industry Charitable Foundation in Illinois, and Dr. Eva Tricules Klostreich, who has a Ph.D. in clinical psychotherapy and is the daughter of retired RTCA Chaplain Homer Tricules.

Among the featured speakers was the Rev. John Boyers, executive director of SCORE (Serving Sports through Chaplaincy). The Manchester, England based non-profit places chaplains with the nation's sports teams and assists England's lone horse racing chaplain.

Upcoming Events in Racing Industry

- March 8-12** Joint meeting of the Thoroughbred Racing Associations and Harness Tracks of America, Indian Wells, CA
- March 11-15** American Quarter Horse Association Convention in St. Louis, MO
- April 18-20** American Horse Council annual convention in Washington, DC
- April 19-22** Annual meeting of the Association of Racing Commissioners International in Lexington, KY
- April 21-23** Business meeting of the National Association of Pari-Mutuel Regulators Association in Perdido Beach, AL
- May 7** Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs in Louisville, KY
- May 21** Preakness Stakes at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore, MD

A Chaplaincy Conducted From the Back of a Horse

Shawn Kennedy knows the horse from the top to the bottom. He trained Thoroughbred racehorses from 1976 through 1989, mostly in his native Manitoba, so he has spent plenty of time under a horse. He's also been a competitive amateur jockey and still gallops horses at Woodbine in Ontario, so he is well acquainted with the view from the saddle.

But galloping horses is now just a sideline, something he does to keep himself engaged in the day-to-day rhythms of the race-track backstretch. Once the tack is put away, he is Chaplain Shawn Kennedy, and his ministry encompasses the two major racetracks in Canada's Ontario province, Woodbine and Fort Erie.

This summer, he worked as a volunteer with Chaplain Les Riggs to establish the Race Track Chaplaincy of America ministry at the Ontario tracks, and he subsequently was called to be the RTCA's first chaplain outside the continental United States.

Horses always have been a part of Shawn Kennedy's life, and they led him to his calling to be a race track chaplain. Although he mostly was based at Assiniboia Downs in Winnipeg, he ventured to Gulfstream Park in the winter of 1979 and came under the influence of the late Chaplain Kelly Blandon Jr.

"I really felt the calling in my life to be a race track chaplain," he said. Eventually, he quit training to attend Bible college in Winnipeg and be-

came involved with a local church there as a youth pastor. "I found that was an important part of my life at that time," he said. He served as the full-time youth pastor from 1990 to 1999.

The race track continued to be a part of his life, though. He remained a volunteer chaplain for the unaffiliated race-track ministry that he had helped to establish at Assiniboia.

In 1999, he accepted the call of a church in Kansas. After four years, he felt he needed a break and took a six-month sabbatical to help establish the Race Track Chaplaincy of America's farm ministry in Ocala, Fla.

In November 2003, he and trainer Danny Vella, a longtime friend, talked in Ocala about how they wanted to see a chaplaincy at the Ontario tracks. When they contacted the Ontario HBPA office about

establishing a ministry, they found that the HBPA had invited the Race Track Chaplaincy of America to establish a ministry there. "God was going to get it done," Chaplain Kennedy said.

He said the race track ministry has been very well received. "Woodbine is a huge track, and there is a very diverse population on the backstretch. It has been a very busy ministry, and that bodes well for the future."

Chaplain Kennedy and his wife, JoAnn, live in King City, Ont., with their daughter Rebecca, 15. Their daughter Meaghan, 19, attends college in Winnipeg.



Chaplain Shawn Kennedy



Chaplain Humberto Chavez

Power of Prophecy in New York

Chaplain Humberto Chavez, who became the chaplain at the New York Racing Association tracks in September, knows the power of prophecy. "In November of 2003, prophecy came into my life," he said.

A fellow pastor in New Jersey told him that he would be called to a huge challenge. Chaplain Chavez and his wife, Karen, at the time had no idea what that calling would be. Both are pastors, and they were serving a fledgling Spanish-language church in Elmont, N.Y., just outside the gates of Belmont Park. Their work at Roca Eterna indeed was a challenge, but—with approximately 80 members—it was by no means huge.

But the power of prophecy was at work. "From then on, God opened the doors, and we went through them," Chaplain Chavez said. A huge challenge lay just ahead of him.

When Chaplain Jim Watson was absent from the New York tracks, Chaplain Chavez would minister to the needs of the racetrack workers at Belmont, Aqueduct, and Saratoga Race Course. When Chaplain Watson resigned unexpectedly to answer the call of a church in Arkansas, he was named as acting chaplain in mid-May.

"I knew this was the calling of the Lord," Chaplain Chavez said. "I told my wife, if this is not for us, God will call us elsewhere. Until then, we're going to give it 150%."

He said that both the challenges and the rewards are huge. "It's very rewarding when someone comes up and says, 'Thank you for the word that you gave. I took it to heart, and I'm going to try to cut back on my drinking.'"

Chaplain Chavez, 27, was born in Mexico, and his family settled in New York in the mid-1980s. He accepted Christ after his mother was diagnosed with thyroid cancer and recovered. "I saw the miracle of her recovery," he said, and began studying for the ministry. He and his wife have two sons, David, 3, and Jonathan, 1.

RTCA Begins Ministries in Ontario and at Mountaineer Race Track

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pressed a sincere interest in establishing ministries at their race tracks. For some, changing economics, principally the arrival of new gaming products such as slot machines, have allowed the tracks and horsemen to invite the RTCA to their tracks.

The Ontario Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association issued an invitation to establish a ministry there early in the year, and Chaplain Riggs traveled northward to Canada in May.

He said that Ontario HBPA Executive Director Nick Coukos took the lead in supporting the new ministry. "The race tracks made some donations, but the HBPA did most of it," he said. Chaplain Riggs helped to establish a chapel service at Woodbine and worked with the new chaplain, Shawn Kennedy, to launch the new ministry. (For more on Chaplain Kennedy, see story on this page.)

Chaplain Riggs said he hoped that the Ontario ministry will grow in the new year, with the possible addition of another person to assist Chaplain Kennedy and an expansion to the province's harness tracks.

With his work completed in Ontario, Chaplain Riggs headed for the West Virginia Panhandle, where the local HBPA chapter and Mountaineer's management invited the RTCA to establish a ministry. "The HBPA with track management decided it was time to bring the ministry there," he said.

He spent two months there beginning in September, helping Chaplain James Smith to launch the ministry.

"It's been an exciting year," Chaplain Riggs said. "I met some wonderful people. They received me and the Race Track Chaplaincy of America very well."

A Glorious Tour Filled With Memorable Days

by Pat Day

First, let me credit the Rev. Ed Donnally, the Race Track Chaplaincy of America's director of development, for naming the What a Difference a Day Makes Tour.

And I would be remiss if I did not mention Nick Martinez, a former jockey whose painting "What a Difference a Day Makes" portrayed my 7,000th career victory in 1997.

The Tour was not about Pat Day, though. It was all about that day in 1984 when I committed myself to Christ. The Tour provided me with a blessed opportunity to share my witness and to tell what He has done in my life.

The Tour's first formal stop was River Downs in July, but the idea for the Tour grew out of a visit to Prairie Meadows Race Track earlier in the summer. The Iowa track planned special events around my appearance there and offered to make a donation to the charity of my choice.

Naturally, I chose to benefit the chaplain there, and the track kindly scheduled a prayer breakfast at the last minute. It was a blessed time.

That got me thinking. I have always been vocal about my trust in the Lord, and the idea of making myself available at other tracks really enthused me. Ed Donnally was enthused, too, and scheduled everything. I applaud everyone—the track public relations departments, the chaplains, the chaplains' councils, and the horsemen—who made the Tour a success on such short notice.

The whole idea of the Tour was to tell the love of God through Jesus Christ. I love the Lord with all my heart, and I wanted to share that love. We wanted the tracks' public relations departments to use me as a drawing card for an event at the track. Another goal was to gain prayerful and financial support for the chaplains and the chaplains' councils. Prints of Nick Martinez's painting were the cornerstone of auctions held at Tour dinners and raised money for the chaplains.

From my vantage point, they were all blessed times. I really enjoyed the opportunity to meet and greet people and to share my witness. Every stop on the Tour has to be deemed a success.



Photo by Jack Coody, Jr.

Pat Day spends time with a young hospital patient as part of his visit to Prairie Meadows

Certain parts of the Tour were a whirlwind: Friday, Sept. 10, at Sam Houston Race Park, then riding at Belmont Park on Saturday, Sunday at Finger Lakes Race Track, and flying on Monday to Remington Park.

Isaiah 40:31 teaches us: "Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary." Believe me, I tested that Scripture pretty good. The Lord upheld us in the midst of that schedule, and it was a glorious time.

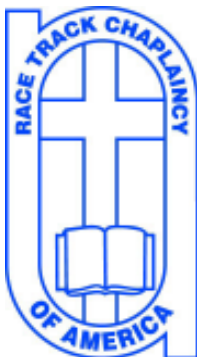
Each location had numerous memorable moments. I enjoyed riding at Turf Paradise in Arizona, not far from where I won my first race at Prescott Downs in 1973. At Sam Houston, I won my first-ever Quarter Horse race. Till then, I was zero-for-13 in Quarter Horse races. It took me 31 years to break my maiden.

At Retama Park, I was moved by a man who came up to me after I had given my witness. He said he had been touched, and he was going to go home and try to reconcile with his wife. Many, many people came to me and shared how much the visit meant to them.

I received blessings that far exceeded the benefits of the Tour. The amount of money that was raised will pale compared to the good will and solidified relationships among the chaplains, horsemen, and racetracks. And, I pray that we furthered the cause of Christ at each Tour location.

Would I consider doing another Tour? Absolutely. God has blessed me in my career, and I welcome the opportunity to share my love of God. I hope and pray the Tour will have positive ripple effects within the racing industry.

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