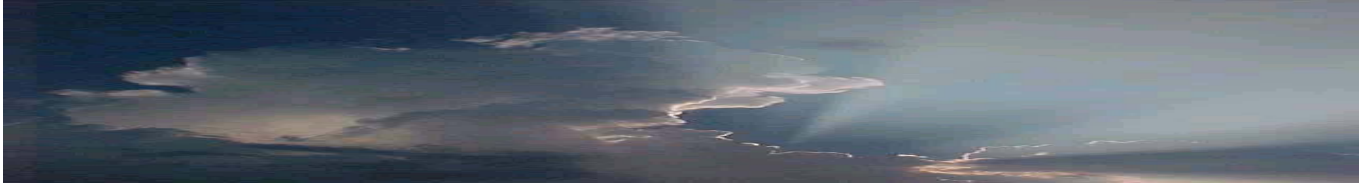


# RACE TRACK CHAPLAINCY OF AMERICA



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FEBRUARY/MARCH 2004

VOLUME 2 - ISSUE 2



## RTCA NETWORK NEWS

**February 2, 2004** – The Executive Director was invited to participate in the National HBPA convention held in the city of New Orleans. The Executive Director had an important part in the program during this convention. In addition, many excellent contacts were made on behalf of the RTCA's future ministry. For example, he met with the HBPA leaders from different provinces of Canada, and with leaders of the HBPA from Nebraska, Montaineer Park, Alabama, and with the management of "Caliente Racetrack" in Tijuana. Praise the Lord for opening the doors for us.

**February 4, 2004** – The Executive Director visited Chaplain Les Riggs in New Orleans and was the speaker during the midweek service. The worship service had an attendance of well over 150 people. An invitation was also extended to the people during this worship service to accept the Lord and more than twenty people came forward. Chaplain Les has an excellent ministry here. Among the many wonderful volunteers who help this ministry, we would like to call attention to Reverend Dick Fennel and his wife. He is a great Spanish translator and he and his wife provided excellent music for the worship service.

**February 5, 2004** – The Executive Director and Chaplain Les visited Chap-

lain Gerald Rodrigue. Chaplain Rodrigue has a great ministry at Delta Downs Racetrack. They also met with the council in order to discuss the needs here. Reverend Ed Donnally will be visiting this council soon in order to help them with new ideas on how to raise financial resources. Our prayer is with Chaplain Gerald Rodrigue, that the Lord helps him during this difficult time.

**February 6, 2004** – The Executive Director met with the Sunland Council in New Mexico. Mr. Herald Payne, who is the manager at this track, was also part of the meeting. The agenda was dedicated to helping the ministry at Sunland.

**February 7, 2004** – The Executive Director was part of a special fund raising event of the Sunland Council on behalf of the jockey that was hurt during the week. It was an excellent event.

**February 17, 2004** – The Executive Director and Reverend Ed Donnally participated in a strategic planning session for the Groom Elite Program. Dr. Torres is a board member of this valuable organization. The Groom Elite is concerned with giving training to people at the backside of the racetrack in order to increase their professional skills in the racing industry in America.

One of the pillars of our mission statement is to provide social and educational growth, so we are very pleased to have this relationship with the Groom Elite.

**February 17, 2004** – The Executive Director and the Director of Development traveled to Houston, Texas. They met with Chaplain John Shumaker and his family. In the evening, Dr. Torres brought the message at the worship service and Reverend Donnally met with the members of the local council. We would like to congratulate John and Amy Shumaker for their services to the Lord and to the RTCA at this track. In addition our congratulations go to the council of Houston racetrack for the excellent support that they provide to the Chaplain in order to help this important ministry grow.



*Arlington Park RTCA  
Council Members*

**February 18, 2004** – Dr. Torres and Ed Donnally met with our Chaplain Mike Bingaman at Retama Race Track. In the afternoon, Dr. Torres and Rev. Donnally met with the council of this ministry. One very important topic during this meeting was for the possibility of Chaplain Mike providing some time to serve the RTCA National in the area of counseling. His services will be available to both our Chaplains and our family members. The Retama council will evaluate this request and will inform the National office of their decision. In the evening, the Bingaman family, Dr. Torres, and the Director of Development enjoyed a special family dinner. It is a way to express our gratitude to our Chaplain for the good job that he is doing here. In addition, we were blessed when we visited the “Latino-American Bible Institute” of San Antonio. At this place we were able to meet many potential candidates for our ministry. Some of them are bilingual as well. This educational organization will be creating an internship program in conjunction with our Chaplain, Michael Bingaman, at Retama. The students and the faculty are very pleased with this possibility.

**February 19, 2004** – During the morning hours, Dr. Torres and Ed Donnally visited our lawyer, John Roark, in his office at Temple, Texas. This cordial visit was to create a stronger relationship with our lawyer, as well as, to advise us in the different projects that we currently have.

**February 19, 2004** – A meeting was held with the Lone Star Texas Council to talk about the necessary issues of the White Horse Award celebration during the Breeders Cup on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October. We are very grateful for all the members of this council and for their desire to be available to help the RTCA in this special celebration. In addition, we are also very grateful to Lone Star Park for providing excellent facilities for the White Horse Award Ceremony. Our gratitude goes to our brother John Records for being our host at Lone Star

Park and for giving us a tour of the facilities where this event will be held for the glory of God.

**February 24, 2004** – The Executive Committee held a telephone conference to deal with important issues. A copy of this meeting’s minutes has already been sent to all of our RTCA board members.

**March 2, 2004** – Dr. Torres maintained contact with Mr. Fred Noe who is the Executive Vice President of the United States Trotting Association. Our Executive Director has been invited to make a presentation at their convention about the ministry of the RTCA. We are very thankful for this invitation and for the new relationship with this important organization.

**March 5-7, 2004** – The American Quarter Horse Association held their annual meeting in Reno, Nevada. Dr. Torres and Reverend Donnally represented the RTCA during this significant event. The RTCA had an important participation during the whole convention and the AQHA was very grateful for our participation. In addition, AQHA is one of the many faithful organizations that provide excellent financial support to us every year. On Sunday, a worship service was held with a significant attendance. We praise God for the support that the AQHA and their Executive Director, Mr. Gary Carpenter, has for our ministry.

**March 14, 2004** – Ed Donnally, our Director of Development participated, with Pat Day in a fund raising event in Ocala. This event was well attended and the response from the attendees was very considerable. We would like to congratulate the Ocala Farm Council for their efforts to support their ministry and especially to Dr. James Ferguson who is the president of this council. Our special congratulations also go to our Chaplain Bob Miller for his effective ministry at Ocala Farms.

**March 15, 2004** – The Executive Director and Ed Donnally traveled to Toronto, Canada to meet with potential council members for the formation of a new ministry at Woodbine Racetrack. They met with excellent Christian leaders and they are willing to be part of this new ministry. May the Lord guide us in this new endeavor!



*Potential Council Members for Canada/Woodbine Racetrack*

**March 16, 2004** – This day the Executive Director and the Director of Development met with different leaders of Woodbine at front office and backstretch, including the Senior Vice President of Racing, Hugh Mitchell. Mr. Mitchell showed great interest in helping the RTCA in establishing a ministry at Woodbine.

**March 17, 2004** – Dr. Torres and Rev. Donnally met with Ontario HBPA leaders. A presentation was given to the whole board about RTCA and its mission. For the glory of God, the HBPA Ontario officially invited the RTCA to establish a ministry at Woodbine. The HBPA, with their Executive Director, Nick Coukos, committed themselves with substantial financial resources in order to provide for the establishment of our ministry in Canada.

*(Please see the attached Press Release)*

**March 22, 2004** – President Don Dean, Chaplain Luis Peralta, assistant Chaplain Louis Nelson, and the Executive Director met with Mr. Thomas Carey III, owner of Hawthorne Race Track in Chicago, Illinois. This was a very cordial and productive meeting. It is our

hope to continue with the ministry here and in addition, that the ministry be held inside the gates. Our Chaplain Vincent Rodriguez has been faithfully serving the Lord to the people of Hawthorne Race Track from outside the gates.

**March 30 to April 4, 2004** – Dr. Torres participated in the joint convention of the RCI and NAPRA in New Orleans. Parallel to this event, on April 1<sup>st</sup>, a historical “Working Relationship Agreement” was initiated between the RTCA and the Winners Federation where our President, Don Dean was present in signing the agreement together with Dr. Torres. This new commitment with Winners Federation is for one year and renewable there after. This working relationship will open many doors for the RTCA, with many important benefits, as well as, to the racing industry where we serve.

*(Please see the attached Press Release)*



*Signing the working-relationship document between the RTCA and the Winners Federation are, from left, William E. Jackson, President of the Winners Federation; the Rev. Dr. Enrique Torres, Executive Director of the RTCA; Donald Dean, RTCA President; and Don Clippinger, Winners Federation Executive Director*

**April 2, 2004** – The RTCA was honored with the Williams H. May Award during the RCI and NAPRA joint convention. This award was presented during the major banquet of RCI.

*(Please see the attached Press Release)*

**March 30, 2004** – Chaplain Jim Watson presented his resignation to the New York council. He has been called

by the Lord to serve in a church in Arkansas, which is the same church where his father was a Minister for many years. Our prayers are with our dear Chaplain Watson. We are very grateful to God and to Chaplain Watson for the many years that he served at Lowman Park in New York.



*RTCA Executive Director, Dr. Enrique Torres on left received the William H. May Award from Association of Racing Commissioners Executive, Lonny Powell on right.*

**March 31, 2004** - The Executive Committee met through a telephone conference. Among the many subjects discussed, one of the most important was the decision to select a place for the next annual meeting. We are very pleased to announce that Los Alamitos Race Track in California will be the location of our upcoming Annual Meeting. The dates will be **January 12-17, 2005**. During the same meeting, the Executive Committee approved to increase the number of hours for our Director of Development to forty hours per week. In addition, Chaplain Les Riggs was appointed as a Chaplaincy planter for the RTCA. For this purpose, the Executive Committee approved the establishment of a council at large or regional council for Chaplaincy planting. Our first project will be for Chaplain Les who will be establishing a new ministry in Toronto, Canada. We praise God for the way that He is moving in our ministry.

**Jamaica & Puerto Rico** – The Executive Director has been invited to help establish a ministry in Jamaica. He will visit the location on May 14<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup>. In addition, the Executive Director has been invited to visit the new Chaplaincy ministry in Puerto Rico. He will be there in the month of June. It is a big door that the Lord is opening up for us. Also, word has come to us about a Ministry that is establishing in Assiniboia, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Praise the Lord for victory of the extension of the Kingdom of God!!!

*\*\*\* (Speak with Dr. Torres about this for more information) \*\*\**

**Lonny Powell** - Our condolences go to Lonny Powell for the passing of his father, Taylor Powell, on April 10, 2004. Lonny has been a long time leader of the RTCA and has been a major supporter of our Ministry. Our prayers are with him and his family. As Christians, we believe that those who believe in the Lord will have their name written in forever lasting life. It is our hope that we will see him again.

*(Please see attached Press Release)*

**Michael Bingaman** – New RTCA Field Director: After meeting with the Retama Council, and with Mr. Tommy Azopardi who is the Executive Director of the Texas Horsemen’s Partnership, we invited Chaplain Michael Bingaman to be our Field Director with the approval of the RTCA Executive Committee. Chaplain Bingaman will have the following responsibilities: A.) Provide Pastoral Care for all of our Chaplains and family members, B.) Provide professional resources in the area of counseling to our Chaplains. The Retama Council will provide the services of Chaplain Michael Bingaman without any professional honoraria expenses for the three first months of ministry to the RTCA. The RTCA will be responsible for all other expenses related to his ministry for our RTCA family. We welcome you Chaplain Michael Bingaman to our RTCA National Ministry.



**“Ask and it shall be given unto you.”**

*By: Rev. Ed Donnally*

It was a cool Tuesday afternoon when I drove onto the backstretch of Penn National Race-track near Harrisburg, PA and saw Chaplain Charles Patane and his wife, Salome, carrying huge platters of food into the track kitchen recreation area. It seems the track kitchen is closed on racing dark days. Workers living on the backstretch cannot cook in their rooms and no restaurant is in within walking distance. So the two of them pick up hot food cooked by local churches and during dark days serve it to those who would otherwise have hot meals otherwise.

While in the entire scheme of ways in which track Chaplains aid track workers, this one may seem relatively insignificant-unless you are one of those workers who would have to make do with a cold sandwich. However, it points out two important things. (1) Track Chaplains are consistently willing to walk the extra mile in behalf of others, and (2) track Chaplaincies are and will always be needs based ministries.

In explaining our ministry to persons in and outside the racing industry, this is one point I always stress. That while Chaplains' demonstrate Christ's love

in action through spreading the Gospel and operating some common programs as ESL, AA and family counseling, each ministry has individual facets based purely on the needs at that particular place.

I believe that is the way it should be because that is the way God intended it. Jesus met whatever needs He found and with few exceptions, dealt with it then and there. When He heard blind Bartimaeus crying out on the side of the road He healed him there, when He saw the hungry crowd He immediately fed them and when He encountered the savage man possessed by a legion of demons, He cast them out on the very spot. As a social scientist, I need to remember that Jesus didn't operate programs.

During the first 3-½ months of 2004, I visited with and saw the needs filled by nine Chaplains and their Council Members. In the week before Easter, I visited four in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana. We helped formulate and implement administrative, communications and direct fund raising methodologies. We began planning five fund-raising events in which your home office will provide direct assistance. In February and early March, we worked with the Ocala Council to organize a March 14, fund raising event at which Pat Day preached the

love of Christ to over 250 persons and raised over \$30,000 in the process.

I say this only to let you know that our Father owns the cattle on a thousand hills and the Lord intends His ministries to have provision. I am available. You and your Council need only ask. It is my mission to provide provision to your vision and fill Chaplaincy needs so that Chaplains can fill the needs of others, when and where they find them.

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**RACE TRACK  
CHAPLAINCY OF  
AMERICA**

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