



PRAYER REQUEST

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Charles Patane

James Wilbur

Peter Crisswell

Tommy Baltram

Annual Meeting

Executive Committee

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A Quest for Excellence

Early in the morning, our Lord was hungry so quite naturally, he went to the fig tree to get a piece of fruit. The story in the gospel of Matthew 21 continues to say that, "He went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves." The Lord then said, "You will never bear fruit again!" Immediately the tree withered.

Matthew 21 is a simple story to keep in mind as we work towards our goals for our Lord Jesus Christ through RTCA. It is definitely a great privilege to serve the Lord as part of the family of the Race Track Chaplaincy of America. Likewise, I believe that every person involved in any kind of ministry or organization related to RTCA is very important to us, and in the eyes of God. With a humble heart, we continue to celebrate the accomplishments of our organization for the past 31 years of life. We are grateful to God for all the faithful leaders before us. During these 31 years, the greatest accomplishments have been the many thousands of lives changed and saved by the power of God.

In these past two years, we have been instruments of the Lord to move our organization one step ahead, and we have been blessed to find grace in the sight of many leaders of the Race industry. We continue to maintain excellent working relations with most of the major organizations of Racing across the country. As a result, we, the RTCA leadership, have come to the conclusion that in everything we have done, the hand of the Lord has been involved. Our sincere response to these new blessings is to praise God, and to recognize that everything that has been accomplished has been for the GLORY OF GOD.

The story of the fig tree is a quest for Excellence to RTCA. It is a call to RTCA to do even better than we are doing today. Jabez's prayer says, "Oh, that you would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory." (I Chronicles 4:10, NKJV) Our territory has been expanded and it is time that the Lord may find

an outpouring of fruit in abundance within our ministry. Our earnest prayer is that the Lord will find in our ministries what He is expecting us to have; the fruit of love, mercy, faith and service.

It is great to be under the accountability of Christian leaders, to be able to do our ministry under wise servants of God. Our leaders cannot possibly monitor everything we do, but there is One that always sees us. Therefore, the major accountability for us, in order to do our ministry with excellence, is a celestial one. The Lord sees us and he is pleased with our accomplishments, but He is also concerned when we do not do the best for Him.

The Lord is calling us to excellence in everything we do. This includes everybody serving in this valuable ministry. The Bible says that the Lord is expecting fruit upon and through us. In addition, the Word of God indicates that to those who are given much, much is required. An expanded territory means more responsibility. RTCA, as a good tree, is firmly planted by "streams of water, which yields fruit in its season, its leaves will not wither; and whatever we do will prosper". (Psalm 1:3)

How is our council's fig tree? Our chaplain's fig tree? Our leaders' fig tree? My prayer, and the prayers of many, is that we will be found faithful and bearing much fruit. The territory has been given to us. It is big and plentiful. Jabez continues his prayer, "that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I might not cause pain".

Praise be to God for such a great honor to be part of this ministry and for the privileges and responsibilities involved and the assurances that we are blessed for the Glory of God!

President's Praise Report

Greetings! The first four months of our RTCA year have been an exciting and blessed time. You elected a committed, active Executive Committee. Dr. Torres' leadership is bringing a depth of ministry and cooperative atmosphere that serves the Chaplaincy well. Elsewhere in this monthly report is a list of the 2002 Committee Chairmen and the members who have agreed to serve.

I want to review some of the activities and accomplishments of these past few months. Hopefully you have been able to sense the level of activity. There is much to do.

- Dr. Torres has developed a travel plan to visit every chaplain and council this year.
- The RTCA web site is being reconstructed and kept up to date. A chaplain's bulletin board will follow. See what you think:
- Our development strategy took a big step forward with the addition of Ed Donnally as Development Director. He has agreed to a 2002 contract, working part of the week.
- Major "New Day" financial gifts continue to bless us. We have \$200,000 approximately in the bank and our first \$100,000 gift from Lisa and Kenny Troutt has encouraged us towards our million-dollar mark. PTL!
- The Chaplain's "Tip Sheet" or manual is ready to print. A self-evaluation approach will be helpful to councils and chaplains to evaluate and enhance their programs.
- The spring "Winners Circle" is published with a moving story on Pat Day written by Betsy Parker of the Thoroughbred Times. Two other Christian professional racing writers have committed to contribute, as well as marriage counselors, Dee Dee and Hal Denny.
- The first draft of a five-year prioritized financial plan is in the mill.
- The first two missionary grants are approved: Bethlehem Farm and Peter and Debi Drypolcher, African youth ministry. 2002 money remains, recommendations are solicited.
- Initial proposals for a Chaplain's formal continuing education plan have been solicited.
- Plans for the 2003 Chaplain's School in New Orleans next January are well underway.
- The Executive Committee has met six times, four in monthly telephone conference calls to conduct RTCA business.
- The Executive Committee met at Lone Star Park to set priorities and plan the year. Priorities set were: stable funding

base, chaplain's support programs, and new chaplain recruiting.

- The Executive Committee met with racing industry executives in Lexington to thank the industry leadership for their enthusiastic support and to thank the significant contributors who gave to the Capital Campaign. The Lord is blessing our ministry and our relationship with the industry, which is growing and making the ministry more visible, more credible and more leveraged. Serving the Lord in racing has vast ministry potential.
- Your President attended the American Horse Council National Meeting in Washington D.C. to represent RTCA councils and chaplains as players in the support structure of racing and to communicate its value.
- Our Industry Representative, Pat Day, is doing a blessed job of representing the RTCA to the public. I hope you saw his ESPN interview Preakness Day.
- An updated communications plan is in place as a framework for communicating with the many parts of the horse industry.

You can see this has been a busy beginning. RTCA 2002 leadership is truly a team effort. Dr. Torres is leading the charge with his enthusiasm and God-blessed outreach activities. We are blessed and encouraged!

DON DEAN, RTCA President

P.S. I have had several requests to introduce myself to those of you I have not met. I am a Maryland, born again, thoroughbred racing breeder and owner.

The rest of the details are better left to others to describe. The attached February Thoroughbred Times story is enclosed to help with the history.

I would enjoy hearing from any of you about any matter at (301) 639-9285 or at my new email address: donkdean@aol.com. God bless you!



A Reminder:
**Please mark your agenda for
January 22-27 for Chaplain School
and the Annual Meeting. These
events will be in New Orleans, LA.
We would like to invite all our
chaplains, board members, and
friends to attend this important
event of our RTCA Family.**

New Chaplaincy President Dean Drawn to Racing after Tragedy

By Betsy Parker

God works in mysterious ways.

When his wife and one of his six children were killed in an automobile accident in 1982, Don Dean asked himself the most difficult, yet obvious, question: What now?

Dean, who was elected President of the Race Track Chaplaincy of America program on January 21, 2002 looked within to find an answer. "Until we're shaken to the roots, we don't look for the fundamental truths in the world," Dean said. "People can get too self-absorbed to remember that God created us to love. I had to look deep inside myself and to Him for the answers."

Dean, a dedicated Christian who was a full-time executive for IBM, found himself no longer mobile after the tragic accident. "Suddenly, my main job was to raise a family," he noted. He had four children in their teens at the time, and his youngest was just seven. "It was a tough time," Dean admitted.

His friend Jim Stewart, a veterinarian at Laurel Park and Pimlico Race Course, saw that Dean needed a diversion—another focus in his life that would involve the whole family and lessen the pain—and suggested a racehorse. "He wanted something to keep us occupied," Dean said.

Before Stewart intervened, Dean had never owned Thoroughbreds, but he was brought up in Texas, went to school at Oklahoma State University ("real cowboy country," he said), and loved horse racing. He entered a Thirty Eight Paces filly named Mt. Airy Momma. "She never beat a horse, I think," said Dean, chuckling, but the new sport provided a tonic to the family. "My kids fell in love with her. She helped us heal."

Mt. Airy Momma also introduced Dean to a place where he could funnel his strong Christian beliefs. "The first time I met (trainer) Steve Brown, I saw there was a Bible on the seat of his truck," Dean recalled. It was his first introduction to the idea of racetrack ministry.

“Mt. Airy Momma’s first groom was this beautiful girl, but she’d gotten mixed up in drugs and booze, and she questioned how any god could love someone so pathetic,” Dean recalled. “It was great to be able to talk to her, to share with her His teachings, how He loved her. He was just waiting for her to return it.”

Dean soon became involved with the Charles Town Races Chaplaincy Chapter and was elected its president in 1998. The Race Track Chaplaincy of America program was founded at Gulf Stream Park in 1971. About 35 current track chaplains serve 60 tracks around the United States, and Dean wants the program to grow even more. “There are more than 300 tracks in America,” he said. “There’s lots more to do.”

The Chaplaincy program offers counseling, mentoring, and guidance for those with personal drug or alcohol problems, and it provides ministry to those seeking spiritual growth in all religions. In addition to his new duties with the Chaplaincy program, Dean works as a lobbyist and consultant in Washington, D.C., and he still runs a small racing and breeding business. From his foundation mare, Mt. Airy Momma, he has bred five winners from five foals to race and he has three runners in training with Brown.

Not immune from the sometimes dark side of the Thoroughbred business, Dean lost two foals to early term abortion last spring in Kentucky, and another was a red-bag birth and died. “The horse business is tough,” he said. “But so is life. That’s why it is so important to have the spiritual side to see you through the hard times.”

Dean’s master plan for Race Track Chaplaincy of America includes an ambitious million dollar fund-raising campaign and expansion of the ministry to include more tracks. “God created us to love, and the program helps us provide the Word of God to the wonderful men and women in the racing industry,” he said. “The horse business really is a people business. I would have liked to avoid the experience, but the tragedy of 20 years ago is what led me both to the racetrack and the racetrack chaplaincy

program.”

Capital Campaign Report:

By Dan Fick

We are very pleased to inform our RTCA family, that during the Kentucky Derby, the Troutt family extended a check for one hundred thousand dollars, to our Executive Director and president, for our ministry as part of the Capital Campaign.

This has been a major contribution to the Capital Campaign. We are deeply grateful to Kenny and Lisa Troutt for their contribution. This is a clear response to our prayers. We would like to express as well, our gratitude to Elliott Walden, Pat Day, Don Dean and Dr. Enrique Torres for presenting the importance of our ministry to the dear Troutt family. Praise the Lord for this victory!

During our regular Executive Committee meeting in Lexington, KY, May 5-7, we held a special dinner on Monday, May 6, for friends of RTCA’s ministry. We were able to express gratitude to a large number of race industry representatives.

We are very pleased to welcome Rev. Ed Donnally as the new RTCA Director of Development, and together with our Capital Campaign Committee, we will continue giving leadership in order to attain our goals of one million dollars.

Contributions for the Capital Campaign are coming in and we are grateful for all contributions. Please continue praying and promoting this RTCA family effort. Your personal contribution does make a difference.

RTCA Secretary:

We are pleased to introduce Ms. Shari Mehr, our new secretary at the National office. She brings her skills, experience and commitment to serve the Lord and the RTCA family. She is available from 8:00 am. to 4:30 pm. (PT). Her e-mail is: rtcaadmin@racetrackchaplaincy.org

Shari feels quite at home with RTCA. She grew up in the suburbs near horses in La Crescenta and Tujunga, CA. While she feels God prepared her for RTCA working for other pastors; for three years, she was the main appellant, helping to prevent a historical landmark, non-denominational radio church, formerly known as the Little Country Church of Hollywood, from becoming a liquor venue.

Welcome to our RTCA ministry!

Director of Development Corner

Ed Donnally:

Stephen and Phillip, along with five others, are the Church’s first elders and also, in a sense, its first development directors. Acts 6 records that following a dispute concerning the distribution of food among the Greek and Hebrew widows, the Apostolic church leaders appointed persons to oversee those duties, saying “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the Word of God in order to wait on tables.”

That is my task. To wait on the RTCA’s table. With the help of the Lord, my job is to work under the spiritual leaders to make sure our table is materially sustained and there is enough for everyone. For me, like Phillip and Stephen, it is not a job, but a call to ministry.

Most persons equate development with raising funds. It is that, but it is also more. Without stewardship, accountability, honesty and what secular fundraisers call reciprocity, the Lord will not honor the endeavor. I not only have a great affinity for our donors, but also feel a huge responsibility. Development, in the Christian sense, involves making the church an indispensable element in the community in which it serves. In addition, our Lord tells us in Matthew 5:16 to “Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

Thus, our prayer for the future is that we can play a management role in raising the remainder of the one million dollars in our “New Day for RTCA” Capital Campaign by October 2003. Also, we seek to establish within the same time frame a donor base of at least 3,000 potential donors who in 2004 will contribute \$500,000. We will strive to establish a major-gifts program that by 2004 will bring in an addition of \$250,000. We believe that in 2005, we can be blessed with one million dollars in annual revenues.

And lastly, I have served on at least seven separate Chaplain’s Councils and know firsthand their development challenges. It is my ultimate goal to not only assure that there is food on RTCA’s table, but to teach, train, and by the grace of God, equip every council to successfully fund their programs. I also hope to help define and, with local consent and approval, assist in implementing nationally funded programs that will allow every council and chaplain to be better and more prosperous servants.

These are goals only the Lord can achieve. To accomplish them, we must be in prayer and also in line with His will. This means being effective stewards, working together to make the RTCA as indispensable to the horse racing community as the Apostolic church was to its widows. And finally, we must fulfill our call to let our light shine brightly among men so that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in Heaven.



RTCA News

Mike Powers:

Recuperating from eye surgery: Our prayers continue for Chaplain Powers. He went through an eye surgery and experienced complications. Chaplain Powers serves the Lord at Keeneland, KY.

Charles Patane:

The new chaplain at Penn National Race Course went through major surgery and is recuperating satisfactorily.

Jim Wilbur:

He will finish the meet at Pocono Downs this Fall and will not be returning as a chaplain since he will be taking a church full-time. This will leave a vacancy to be filled at the track. Our prayers are with Jim, and with the council in the search for a new chaplain.

Tommy Baltram:

Our new chaplain in Canterbury Park started his ministry a few weeks ago and the report that we have received is that he has an excellent ministry.

Remington Park:

With great nostalgia, the council and the Cowboy Church have seen their chaplain go to a new ministry at Albuquerque. Chaplain Pete Criswell left behind a well-established ministry with a congregation formed inside the racetrack and hundreds of new believers changed by the power of the Lord. The council continues receiving names of candidates for this ministry.

Yavapai Downs: On July 28 the ministry here, under the leadership of Ken and Sharon Swenson, will be dedicating a brand new chaplain to the Lord. We congratulate the Swensons for their faithful ministry.

Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting Committee continues to work out the details for our next Annual Meeting, which will be in New Orleans from January 22 to 27. Our gratitude and prayers are with this committee, as well as with this very important event. It is our hope that the Lord will bless us with an inspired and wisdom-enriched event.

Missionaries Peter and Debi Drypolcher will be supported by RTCA:

Peter, a former Racetrack Executive, who received from the Lord a call to be a missionary in Africa, is our first “beyond-the-sea” missionary that will be supported financially by RTCA. This important enterprise of faith responds to the last Annual Board of Directors’ meeting, where we agreed to start tithing to a Christian ministry from the contributions that we receive. Missionary Peter and Debi are serving in Harare, Zimbabwe.

*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...
Matthew 28:19*

Chaplain School: Under the leadership of Jack Cordell, the Chaplain’s School committee is pursuing the preparation for this learning experience. It is our hope to present the best subjects possible and the most qualified trainers. Members of this committee are: Peter Guilfoyle, Darrell Winter, and Katherine Dillman.

Kentucky Update: While in Kentucky during the Kentucky Derby week, we visited the offices of several racing industry leaders. Among them were HBPA Executive Director Remi Bellocq, who shared his vision for training persons to be grooms, exercise riders and assistant trainers; David Foley, the Executive Director for the Association of Equine Practitioners which includes over 600 track veterinarians; Carl Hamilton, the Executive Director of the Jockey Club Information Systems, which is now handling our web site free of charge; Mark Simon, the Senior Editor of Thoroughbred Times Magazine and Dan Metzger, the Executive Director of the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association. The TOBA Board of Trustees members are a virtual Who’s Who in American horse racing. Everyone we visited greeted us warmly with offers to help.

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We also visited with Peggy Hendershot and James McCormick. Hendershot, the Senior Director of Industry Communications for the NTRA, told us she had arranged for a 30-second Public Service Announcement on the RTCA to be aired repeatedly on ESPN and TVG. We are working with the TVG offices here in Los Angeles to produce the spot that will air before a potential 60 million viewers free of charge. McCormick, the Jockey Club Information Systems Vice President of Consulting, is working with Dan Reed, the Council President’s Representative to the Executive Committee, to produce a web site Bulletin Board. Chaplains will be able to type in and read messages from the home office and other chaplains on everything from praise reports to prayer requests. They can even send out a message asking other chaplains for advice in handling critical situations and receive answers from chaplains throughout the nation. Incidentally, take a look at our newly revised racetrackchaplaincy.org site.

NEW TEST BULLETIN BOARD IS AVAILABLE
by Dan Reed via Mark Reed:

Go to Web site address:
<http://racetrackchaplaincy.org/test/index.htm>
The “new” home page opens up. CLICK on “bulletin board”. Then CLICK on message which reads: “CONTINUE TO BULLETIN BOARD” CLICK on “Post New Message” button. A screen will appear for you to type your Name, Email address, Subject, and blank place for your message titled: “Message Body”. After typing your info as explained above, then CLICK on either the “Post Message” button or “Reset Form” button located at bottom of “Message Body”.

Please Pray For RTCA