



WINNER'S CIRCLE



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The Newsletter of the Race Track Chaplaincy of America

Fall 2004

Giving Thanks To Racing Industry

by Dr. Enrique Torres

The Word of God reminds us to be grateful all the time. The Bible, in Ephesians 1:16, says: "Do not cease giving thanks for you." As executive director of RTCA, I believe that we need to express our sincere gratitude to all our acquaintances within the horse race industry. I could list a thousand reasons for giving thanks; however, among them I will highlight two areas: acceptance and financial support.

Relative to acceptance of our organization, we have been wholeheartedly received within the horse racing industry. We feel welcomed at their meetings and conventions. They have given us the opportunity to have significant participation at their events; most notably, to bring the Word of God and blessings upon their meetings.

Likewise, we are grateful to the racetracks across our country and abroad. When I visited with racetrack executives, they welcomed our organization and listened carefully to our presentation. Each time, I expressed to them our gratitude for the support that they have given our ministry, especially our chaplains.

Relative to financial support, we are extremely grateful for everyone who contributes to our ministry. There is no amount of financial support that goes unappreciated. We are also extremely grateful for the generous financial contributions made by the following organizations: WinStar Farm, the HBPA National and Regional, ARCI, TOBA, NTRA, Oak Tree, Churchill Downs, Magna, AQHA, TVG, TCA, Boyd Gaming and Harrah's. We also are grateful to the many thousands of private owners, trainers, jockeys, and friends of RTCA.

As we do not cease in giving thanks for the acceptance we have received and for the financial support of the horse racing industry, our utmost gratitude goes to our Lord God for allowing the formation of RTCA 33 years ago, and to the past and present leaders of this organization. Today, RTCA is proud to "serve those who serve the horse industry" at the majority of the horse racetracks in the United States, beyond our borders and overseas.

"Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" Ephesians 5:20.



Pat Day greets fans at River Downs in his first Tour engagement

Photo Courtesy of John Engelhardt, River Downs

What A Difference A Day Makes: Pat Day Tours For Christ and Chaplaincy

Pat Day, a Hall of Fame jockey and the Race Track Chaplaincy of America's Industry Spokesperson, is conducting a special "What a Difference a Day Makes" tour of tracks this summer to take part in track promotional events, share his incredible testimony of faith and raise awareness and funds for local chaplains.

"The primary purpose of this tour is obedience to the Great Commission, to go into all the world and preach the Good News," said Day, quoting Mark 16:15. "We also want to meet and greet racing fans and encourage and uplift our chaplains. We also hope to prayerfully seek support, financial and otherwise, for the ministry of our Lord, Jesus Christ to the racing industry."

Day's 31-year riding career is a part of horse racing history. Since winning his first race at Prescott Downs in Arizona in 1973, Day has become the all-time leader in purses won (more than \$290 million) and is the leading active rider in victories, with more than 8,700. He ranks third in all-time victories to Laffit Pincay Jr. (9,530 wins), and the late Bill Shoemaker (8,833). Inducted into racing's Hall of Fame in 1991, Day has won four Eclipse Awards as the nation's outstanding jockey and nine national riding titles. He has also won nine Triple Crown races and is the only rider to ride in all 20 Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championships. He has won 12 Breeders' Cup races.

We at the Race Track Chaplaincy of America ask that you join us in prayer for this tour. Also check your local track and our website to learn if Pat will be riding and speaking at a track near you. In March, he spoke to more than 250 persons at a dinner to aid the Ocala Division of the RTCA. This year, Pat has spoken at events to aid chaplains at Ocala, Laurel-Pimlico and Prairie Meadows. He officially kicked off the tour on July 20 when he rode at River Downs and spoke at an event to aid Chaplain Forest Casey.

Booked dates include Emerald Downs on Aug. 29; Retama Park, Sept. 15; Caymanas Park in Kingston, Jamaica, on Sept. 25; and Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie, Texas, on Oct. 1; Turf Paradise in Phoenix on Oct. 3; and Thistledown near Cleveland on Oct. 7. He will appear at tracks as his riding schedule allows until Keeneland opens on October 8; in all, he is expected to visit at least 10 tracks.

Local chaplaincies will provide free tickets to backstretch workers who cannot afford to purchase them, and Day will return riding fees to the mount's scheduled rider.

Dr. Enrique Torres, RTCA executive director, said he thanked God for Day's decision to tour. "Pat has been appointed by the Lord to be His ambassador, representing Christ and RTCA at racetracks around the world," he said. "We thank Pat and we congratulate him for accepting this call from God."

White Horse Nominees Stand Up for Jockey

On April 12, 2003, three horses fell in the first turn of a Keeneland Race Course race. Mike Lockridge and Mike Stout were called onto the track. As the riderless horses continued to race around the track, Lockridge, who works on the track's ambulance, lifted jockey Patricia Cooksey onto a stretcher.

Stout, who drives the horse ambulance, tried to position it to keep the horses away from the injured riders. However, one riderless horse with blinkers on continued to race toward the fallen Cooksey. They stood in the horse's path and frantically waved their arms in an effort to divert its course. At the last second, they dove to safety.

For their courage in a life-threatening incident, Lockridge and Stout are among the nominees for the second annual White Horse Award. The award winner will be announced at Lone Star Park on October 28, two days before the Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championships. The winner will be elected by members of the White Horse Fellowship.

Tickets for the luncheon can be ordered at the RTCA website at www.racetrackchaplaincy.org, or by calling (310) 419-1640.

White Horse Fellowship Members

Kenny and Lisa Troutt
(Founders)

American Quarter
Horse Association

Ed Allred

Bob and Annette Bacola

Bayer Animal Health

Gary and Betty Biszantz

The Blood-Horse

Breeders' Cup Ltd.

Danny and Cynthia Burns

Bill and Susan Casner

Daily Racing Form

Pat and Sheila Day

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Reed Farley

Dan and Cynthia Fick

Gracefield

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Brereton and Libby Jones

National Thoroughbred

Racing Association

Oak Tree Racing

George Strawbridge, Jr.

Thoroughbred Charities
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William Lockridge, left, and Mike Stout protect fallen Patti Cooksey from loose horse at Keeneland Race Course.

Photo by Frank Anderson / Courtesy of THOROUGHBRED TIMES

RTCA, Winners Federation Begin Working Relationship

The Race Track Chaplaincy of America and the Winners Federation jointly announced on April 1 that they have entered into a working relationship to coordinate their efforts in several areas to improve the lives of backstretch workers across North America.

The working relationship's initial period extends to the end of 2004 and can be renewed. The organizations will maintain their own structures and officers, and they will undertake joint projects and initiatives

to better coordinate services to the backstretch community on a continent-wide level.

The working-relationship document was signed in New Orleans on April 1 by Race Track Chaplaincy of America President Don Dean; the Rev. Dr. Enrique Torres, RTCA's executive director; Winners Federation President William Jackson; and Don Clippinger, executive director of the Winners Federation. The agreement was signed at the joint conference of the Association of Racing Commissioners International and the North American Pari-Mutuel Regulators Association.

"We are very pleased to enter into this working relationship with the Winners Federation," Dr. Torres said. "The Race Track Chaplaincy is a holistic Christian ministry whose calling is to minister to the spiritual, emotional, physical and social needs of the backstretch worker. We have found that, in the backstretch environment, the RTCA and Winners Federation often work together to address the emotional issues of our workers, especially in the area of addictions. We look forward to working with our colleagues in the Winners Federation to build a better life for the race-track worker."

Clippinger said he believed the new initiative would enhance the effectiveness of both organizations and would benefit chaplains and Winners Federation counselors. Among the proposed initiatives are joint conferences and educational conferences where chaplains and Winners Federation-affiliated counselors can share their knowledge and experiences. The joint meetings most likely will begin with the Race Track Chaplaincy's annual conference next January in California.

Dr. Torres and Clippinger complimented the work of Dan Fick, executive vice president and executive director of The Jockey Club, in forging the working relationship. Fick is a former president of the Race Track Chaplaincy of America and a board member of the Winners Federation.



William Jackson, left, and Don Clippinger of the Winners Federation look on as Dr. Enrique Torres and Don Dean sign working relationship

Oklahoma Jockey Says: "It's a Wonderful Life"

by Chaplain Sam Ed Spence

For the last 20 years, one jockey has dominated Quarter Horse racing in his home state of Oklahoma. For the past two years he was the leading Thoroughbred rider at Fair Meadows at Tulsa, and last year he added the title of leading Paint Horse rider at Remington Park, which hosted six Quarter Horse stakes races on the last day of the 2003 meet. He won all six.

The jockey is 46-year-old Larry Payne, and he gives all the glory to the Lord. "If it got any better, there would have to be 12 of me," Larry laughed in a recent telephone interview from Ruidoso Downs in New Mexico, where he spent most of the summer. "When it seems like there's no way for me to win, that's when I do," he said. "God just keeps pouring on the blessings!"

But it wasn't always that way for the 5'6" rider from Oklahoma, who started "getting on the back of Dad's Quarter babies when I was eight years old." Back in the 1980s, Larry once won 13 of the 16 summer stakes races at Ruidoso, and "I'd do anything and step on anybody to win those titles," he admitted. But no more. "I still ride to win," said Larry, whose trademark is a sandy beard and mustache. "But I do it God's way now, and it's a whole lot sweeter and more peaceful."

The big turnaround for Larry came sometime in 1997. "I was raised in church (Pentecostal Holiness), and I always knew right from wrong. I just couldn't seem to walk that straight and narrow line. I recall God dealing with me at Trinity Meadows (Texas) back in the mid-'90s when I'd be loping horses or out fishing on the lake. 'Yes, Lord,' I'd say, 'I'll do that!' I'd make a commitment to Him, then find myself high on something in a honky-tonk again on Saturday night. I was like a ping pong ball."

For four consecutive years, Larry was leading rider at Trinity Meadows. "I made a lot of money, but had absolutely nothing to show for it. Then one day I made a commitment and really gave the



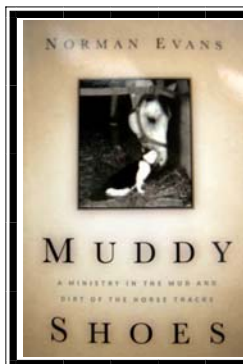
Photo Courtesy of Jeff Coady, Jr./Coady Photography

"God just keeps pouring on the blessings," says leading jockey Larry Payne.

reins to Him, and I haven't desired that old life since--something I absolutely could not do in my own strength."

"I had always known about tithing," Larry said, "and had given to the Lord's work 'on and off.' But one day I was reading the Bible, and the words 'God loves a cheerful giver' seemed to

jump out of that page in bold print! My wife, Marilyn, who is also my agent, is a great book-keeper, and we get plumb happy about giving now. One thing I know, you cannot out-give God. We give it out, and He shovels it back in. This is a wonderful life."



Muddy Shoes, "A ministry in the mud and dirt of horse tracks," is a touching and humorous portrayal of the life and ministry of retired RTCA Chaplain Norm Evans. Tears and smiles are guaranteed. Chaplain Norm has graciously made copies of his book available for a \$25 or more donation to the RTCA Home Office.



RTCA Receives William H. May Award

The Association of Racing Commissioners International has honored the Race Track Chaplaincy of America with its prestigious William H. May Award for outstanding achievement and meritorious service to the horse racing industry. The award was accepted by the Rev. Dr. Enrique

Dr. Enrique Torres accepts William H. May Award from Lonny Powell, president of the Association of Racing Commissioners International at the RCI's Conference in New Orleans in April.

Torres, RTCA's executive director, at the joint conference of the Racing Commissioners International and the North American Pari-Mutuel Regulators Association in New Orleans on April 2.

"Based on the RTCA's long history, ministry, and dedication to the people in horse racing, I can think of no more deserving organization to win this award," said Lonny Powell, RCI's executive director. "With all they've done to help the workers at so many race tracks and now the horse farms as well, it's easy to see that they have consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty in the best interests of the racing industry."

Dan Fick Serves Racing and the Chaplaincy

by Amy Owens

Before he became executive director and executive vice president of The Jockey Club in March 2003, Dan Fick made his final appearance as executive director of racing for the American Quarter Horse Association, at the AQHA Convention in California. There, he was recognized for his many contributions to the organization and the industry it represents.

During his 21 years at AQHA, including the last 18 as executive director of racing, Dan was well known for his tireless work to market and promote Quarter Horse racing to racetrack officials, legislators, members of the Thoroughbred industry, and anyone else who would listen. He discussed the sport at such venues as the University of Arizona's Symposium on Racing and The Jockey Club Round Table. He represented AQHA on industry-wide committees, including the American Horse Council's Racing Advisory Committee, the National Thoroughbred Racing Association Thoroughbred Industry Council, and the Racing Medication and Drug Testing Consortium.

During that time, Dan also served as president of the Race Track Chaplaincy of America and used



his talents to solidify the organization and to hire an executive director, the Rev. Dr. Enrique Torres, and a development director, the Rev. Ed Donnally. At the 2003 AQHA Convention, the AQHA Racing Committee presented Dan with a \$16,000 check made out to the RTCA. That contribution is one reason he is so excited about the RTCA's fu-

ture.

"The Chaplaincy has exploded," he said. "The main reason is that God wants it to happen, but Enrique has given it credibility and charisma, and Eddie has been a great asset."

Dan, who grew up in Tucson and graduated from the University of Arizona Race Track Industry Program, has the knowledge and broad-based racing industry experience that helped both Quarter Horse racing and the RTCA to grow. Those skills also were exactly what The Jockey Club was seeking in someone to become its executive vice president and executive director in Lexington, Kentucky.

"We're very excited to add someone with Dan's background and experience to our team," The Jockey Club president, Alan Marzelli, said when he announced Dan's hiring. "He knows how this industry works, he knows many of the people in it, and we're confident that his appointment will complement the talents and abilities of our existing management and staff."

At The Jockey Club, the breed registry for Thoroughbreds, Dan oversees all matters concerning the *American Stud Book* and represents the organization both nationally and internationally. For the RTCA, he serves on the Capital Campaign board and serves on the Council that is governing the Bluegrass Farm Chaplaincy, which was established to assist workers on Lexington-area Thoroughbred farms.

"Everybody jumped on the bandwagon; we've got the leaders in the [Central Kentucky Thoroughbred] industry wanting to help," Dan said. "It'll really take off with all the people behind it."

Dan and his wife, Cynthia, have two children, son Colton, 15, and daughter Danica, 13. "They're excited about new challenges, making new friends, and they're excited for me, too," Dan said. "They knew it's what I wanted to do."

Amy Owens, assistant managing editor of THOROUGHBRED TIMES in Lexington, Kentucky, worked with Dan Fick for ten years at the American Quarter Horse Association in Amarillo, Texas.

RTCA Upcoming Events

- September 10** TOBA National Awards Dinner, Lexington, KY
- September 13** Pat Day appears at Remington Park near Oklahoma City, OK.
- September 15** Pat Day's tour continues at Retama Park near San Antonio, TX.
- September 20-21** Race Track Chaplaincy of America Executive Committee meets in Louisville, KY.
- October 1** Pat Day appears at Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie, TX.
- October 2-4** Semi-annual conference of the North American Pari-Mutuel Regulators Association in Jackson Hole, WY.
- October 6** Pat Day appears at Delta Downs in Vinton, LA.
- October 28** Second annual White Horse Award Luncheon at Lone Star Park.
- October 30** Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championships at Lone Star Park.
- November 1** American Quarter Horse Association Convention Prayer Breakfast.
- December 8** Prayer Breakfast at the University of Arizona Symposium on Racing at Tucson.
- January 5-8** Chaplain School at Los Alamitos Race Course in Los Alamitos, CA.
- January 9-10** Race Track Chaplaincy of America Annual Meeting at Los Alamitos Race Course.
- January 14-20** Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association convention in San Antonio.
- January 24** Eclipse Awards presentations at Regent Beverly Wilshire in Beverly Hills, CA.

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Save the Date!

October 28, 2004

At Lone Star Park

**For the RTCA's Second Annual
White Horse Award Luncheon**