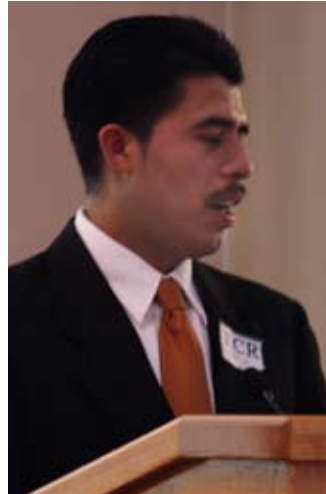


The Man Who Blesses Horses

By JULIE JUNE STEWART

An elegant luncheon was held at Churchill Downs this week by the Race Track Chaplaincy of America honoring the backstretch worker Daniel Orantes with the annual White Horse Award for his unselfish care of his cousin who had been injured in a riding accident. The luncheon is always inspirational. This year, RTCA also honored track philanthropists Dick Broadbent III and Bill Howard posthumously.



Daniel Orantes receives the 2010 White Horse Award.



Churchill Downs chaplain Ken Boehm

At this luncheon, I met the Churchill Downs chaplain Ken Boehm. It doesn't take you more than a minute to realize that this is the kind of man you would want by your side during your time of need. Boehm is what I would call a balanced man with a steady hand on the tiller. He greets you with caring eyes, an open smile and an enthusiasm for life on the backstretch.

Ordained as a Lutheran minister in 1986, Boehm was a pastor in Cleveland, Ohio, and Tampa Bay, Fla., before he heard about the Race Track Chaplaincy program and applied. He spent 13 years at Tampa Bay Downs and came to Churchill Downs eight years ago. His flock entails the backside, the frontside, funerals and weddings for patrons and workers, tending to four legged and two legged alike. When we met the next morning, his resonant voice was on the public address system with his "Minute with God." He talked about the weather; the stress of the Breeders' Cup, a prayer for safety and special thanks that jockey Garrett Gomez was not hurt in his accident the day before. Ken ended with Churchill's quote, "We were deep in the earth with our faces to the coal".

Boehm smiles as he says "no other racetrack has this many services for the backside." He says, "We are family, we are caring. Churchill Downs is more than about the horses. They are the leader in caring for its people, providing for the spiritual concerns of its people. They provide for spiritual and educational need. They even have a Recreational Director. The Chapel enjoys the support of the local church community. They have a Sunday morning Catholic Mass and a Monday evening Interdenominational Service. Local churches bring in meals; support a food pantry and a clothing closet. Churchill Downs is on the cutting edge of support of backstretch workers with a learning center where one can attend citizen classes, learn English, computer classes, life skill classes, the Groom Elite program, obtain a GED, or attend music and art classes.

I asked Boehm about Our Lady of Guadalupe. He said she was a gift from Tom Meeker who was the chief executive at Churchill Downs Inc. Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patron saint of the Americas. She is a treasure on the backstretch and "provides comfort for those who are far from home, missing their family members who are praying for comfort and strength."

There are hard times on the backstretch when there is a tragedy. Boehm's face softens when he talks about Eight Belles. She was the talented filly trained by Larry Jones who finished second to Big Brown in the 2008 Kentucky Derby. She suffered compound fractures after crossing the finish line and was euthanized immediately. When it happened, Boehm went to Eight Belles and prayed over her. Then he went to the barn to comfort her groom. Cindy Jones told Boehm that Larry was in her stall behind a closed door and that "he needs you." Boehm spent an hour with Larry during

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

The purpose of RTCA is to provide visible evidence of the presence of a loving, compassionate, caring God to those who make up the workforce of the racing industry.

The Race Track Chaplaincy of America makes a difference in people's lives.

Since 1971, RTCA has been equipping and deploying chaplains to provide spiritual leadership and counsel, as well as managing a comprehensive ministry to meet the physical, social, and educational needs of

God's children on the backside of the race track.

The Chaplaincy ministry of RTCA is not identified exclusively with any denomination or organization.

It exists to provide quality Chaplaincy ministry to people of all faiths, and no faith. The only two religious symbols approved to be visible in our Chaplaincy ministry are the Cross and the Bible.



**RACE TRACK
CHAPLAINCY OF
AMERICA INC.**

400 East College Street
Georgetown, KY 40324
P: 502-863-8792
F: 502-863-8792
E: info@rtcanational.org
W: rtcanational.org

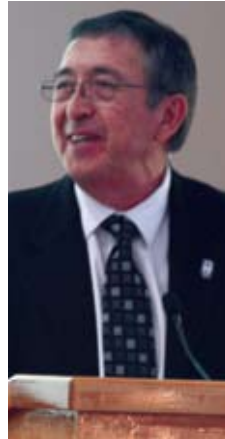
Photos from the 2010 White Horse Award Luncheon at Churchill Downs.



Daniel Orantes winner of the 2010 White Horse Award.



The Race Track Chaplaincy of America and the great cloud of witnesses



Dr. Enrique Torres

By DR. ENRIQUE TORRES, RTCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

One of the greatest experiences in my life occurred when I had the opportunity to visit Israel. Throughout my trip, I was able to visit several cities. Each place visited had a unique Biblical connotation. However, the city of Caesarea, located outside Caesarea Maritima, a port city between Tel Aviv and Haifa, left me in awe with its direct connotation to the horse racing industry.

Scholars describe Caesarea as a significant city during the time of the New Testament.

Caesarea became the chief port of Palestine and is mentioned many times in the book of Acts (9:30; 18:22; 21:8). Philip the evangelist ministered here and Peter preached to gentiles in the home of the Centurion, Cornelius. Because Caesarea was the residence of the procurator, it was also the place of Paul's trial

(Acts 23:23 ff). He was a prisoner here for two years (Acts 27:1). Recently, discoveries include: the city wall, hippodrome [racetrack], a paved square with huge statues, the remains of a synagogue and churches (www.bible-history.com).

During my visit to Caesarea, I had the opportunity to look from the inside out the window where Paul was imprisoned. From this viewpoint, the first physical structure seen is the Hippodrome, described as "a grand entertainment place . . . built by Herod near his palace . . . in the shape of a long "U" (50 X 250M), with 10,000 seats in 12 rows" (www.biblewalks.com/sites/Caesarea).

Consequently, horse racing was a main form of entertainment during the Roman world. Many scholars believe that the Biblical text in Hebrews was written by Paul while he was imprisoned for two years in Caesarea. His writings were inspired by the view of the Hippodrome he had from the window of his prison cell. Paul says, "Therefore since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us, and run with endurance the race that lies before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith" (Hebrews, 12-1-2a, HCSV).

From his prison cell, Paul was able to observe an estimated ten-thousand people participating in the chariot races. As a result, Paul calls our attention to the large cloud of witnesses that surround us each day. As Christians, we are called to bear witness of the Lord and live a life that is worthy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Likewise, the RTCA is called by the Lord to be a good testimony to all; especially to the "great cloud of witnesses" that observes our ministry within the horse racing industry. Paul called us individually, and as an organization to "endure the race" (Hebrews, 12:1-2a). Racing is not an easy task; however, we are called to endure until the end with Jesus Christ as the finish line.

The Bible also calls us to be transformed: "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2, NIV). The word of God is not calling us to conform to what we have spiritually achieved as individuals; nor is He calling us to conform as an organization. The Lord wants to move us individually, and together, as an organization to a higher level of holistic performance for the glory of God and for the "great cloud of witnesses" that observes us each day. Our performance encompasses all spheres of the chaplaincy ministry: spiritual, emotional, physical, and social/educational.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

great cloud of witnesses . . . CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

The RTCA has diligently run the race for almost 40 years, working toward a transformation by the power of the Holy Spirit. Our aim is to run with endurance, serving the Lord with excellence throughout the horse racing industry.

We congratulate you, as faithful supporters of the RTCA, as you run the race with prayer and financial donations to our organization. As we are continually being observed throughout the horse racing industry, and by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we invite you to continue to run with us, with endurance and excellence until the finish line.

The Man Who Blesses Horses . . . CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

which they sat, talked, cried, prayed and remembered the talented Eight Belles. In times of darkness, it is people like Ken Boehm who is willing to hurt with you and share your heartache.

Christ Chapel is a place of comfort amid a whirlwind of activity. It is evident that good leadership, strong support and the atmosphere of love and acceptance was created by Boehm because he loves what he is doing. I asked him how working at a racetrack differs from being a pastor at a church. He said that "at a Church, most people already have a support group who they know they can turn to. At Churchill Downs, where some people are far away from their loved ones and family there is much gratitude. They had no expectations so they are especially grateful when they realize we are there to feel with them, clothe them and feed them."

Boehm smiles as he talks about the groundbreaking day for the chapel. Originally they had been meeting in the recreational hall. Boehm offered everyone a chance to turn over a shovel of dirt that morning. Turns out that there was much enthusiasm and that everyone wanted to be part of the ground breaking. Ken almost ended up with a basement. The jockey Hall of Famer Pat Day was the leading fundraiser and Winstar's Elliott Walden, president of the Kentucky RTCA, was instrumental in the creation of the chapel.

As I looked around the chapel, I was wondering where the horses were tended to. I almost expected to see a place for horses to drop by and visit. I asked Ken if he ever blessed the animals like the St. Francis Blessing of the Animals. Ken smiled as he brought out a small gold container on his key ring of Frankincense and Myrrh from Jerusalem. He said that he is frequently asked by the owners to anoint their horses. He knew what I was going to ask. "We anoint and pray for the safety of the horse that they return safe and sound," he said. "It's not for winning."

He reached across his office and handed me a picture of the 2005 Derby winner Giacomo. It was early on Derby morning, and Ken had been asked to anoint Giacomo. Giacomo's groom was kneeling on one knee with a Spanish bible. Ken had his hand on Giacomo's head to anoint him. Giacomo was leaning against the webbing with his head bowed and his eyes closed.

Later that day, Giacomo went and won the 2005 Derby at odds of 50-1. They say that animals have a natural tendency to know who they can trust. I have a feeling that even the horses know what an amazing person Boehm is. At the closing of the RTCA White Horse Awards, Boehm said about the honorees, "Many lives have been touched, many memories have been made and many dreams have come true." Just think of how many people and horses Boehm affects daily with his ministry quietly in the backstretch.

Photos from the 2010 White Horse Award Luncheon at Churchill Downs.



Sandra White (center) and Pat Day (right) present the family of the late Dick Broadbent with a tribute award.



Chaplain Ken Boehm (left) and Dr. Bill Crouch (right) present the 2010 Community Service Award to the family of the late Bill Howard.



Volunteers from Churchill Downs' Christ Chapel were out in force.

Photos from the 2010 White Horse Award Luncheon at Churchill Downs.



ABOVE: Louisville's own gospel group, *Spiritual Wonders*, performed at the 2010 White Horse Award Luncheon.

LEFT: Motivational/Empowerment speaker "Coach D" Robinson energized the audience.



To learn more about the Endowment Program, contact Dr. Paul Ransdell at pransdell@rtcnational.org or call (502) 863-8482.

What will RTCA do with a million dollars?

By Dr. Paul Ransdell, Director of Development

At its fall executive meeting, RTCA National established an Endowment Program to prepare for its first \$1 million gift. No, there aren't any million-dollar pledges or rumors of pledges.

But we believe that if God chooses to bless RTCA with a million dollars, then we had better be prepared to receive His blessing.

Lack of preparedness can cause problems. Before now, if someone had given \$1 million, it would have totally transformed the organization, but not necessarily for the better. Because handling and managing a million dollars requires self-discipline, that's precisely what an Endowment Program imposes – self-discipline.

Financial partners Kevin Thompson of the **National Christian Foundation**, and Lenora Trachsel of **Edward Jones Investments**, have been selected to manage the Endowment.

The rules are simple. RTCA can only spend a portion of the annual earnings from the fund – the remaining annual earnings get rolled back into the principal. Over time, the fund grows as interest compounds, and as new gifts are added to the fund.

The ongoing effect is a large fund that secures the future of racetrack ministries in perpetuity.

Within the overall fund, donors may "name" their endowed funds and establish their purpose, for example the "**John and Jane Smith Endowment for bilingual Bibles at east coast racetracks.**" Funds are often named by the donors to establish their own legacy or to honor departed loved ones.

So what will \$1 million do for RTCA?

By the second year, \$1 million will generate *\$50,000 in expendable revenues* to provide such services as:

- One full-time Chaplain
- Health insurance for 20 Chaplains
- Evangelism Festivals at 50 racetracks
- English Language training for 1,000 backstretch workers
- Discipleship Series for 2,000 backstretch workers
- Spanish/English Bibles for 5,555 backstretch workers

Talk about changing lives! This level of support will make a tremendous difference, year after year, for an untold number of families, breaking generational cycles of hardship and despair.

But in addition to funding one of these worthwhile initiatives, it will also generate up to *\$50,000 for reinvestment into the fund's principal*. That way, it will always be there for as long as there are racetracks...and backstretch workers...and men and women called into chaplaincy.

We believe God is preparing men and women to make transformational gifts to RTCA. Whether \$100,000, \$500,000 or \$1 million, they will probably do so through Wills... through life insurance...or through cash.

But however He prepares them to do it, RTCA will be prepared to receive and properly secure the blessing.

To learn more about the Endowment Program, contact me at pransdell@rtcnational.org, or call me at (502) 863-8482.



RACE TRACK
CHAPLAINCY OF
AMERICA INC.

400 East College Street
Georgetown, KY 40324

P: 502-863-8792
F: 502-863-8792
E: info@rtcnational.org
W: rtcnational.org