

CHAPLAIN FRED'S COLUMN

December 2006

Merry Christmas! Can you believe that we've now closed out another racing season and here we are now with the holidays upon us? I just want to take a moment and thank all of you who have offered your kind words of encouragement and support of my duties as your district chaplain.



Believe it or not, my heart races faster when I am offering the prayer before the start, than sitting on the line waiting to hear the gun blast. I have enjoyed dedicating your babies and performing your marriage ceremonies. Fortunately, those events seem to occur much more often than funerals. But even in times of grief, I thank you for the trust that you put in me. And finally, I thank those of you who have been at the Sunday morning chapel services. I hope that they have been an encouragement to you.

As you have heard me say many times, God is good. I am convinced of this after living 68 years here on earth. I've had some good times, and I've had some bad times and no, I don't always understand His ways and if you're like me, you still have more questions than answers, especially when you see pain and suffering around us. However, please be reminded during this Christmas season what God told us through the apostle John: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever should believe in Him, shall not perish but have everlasting life." Christmas is a time for giving and receiving; a time to express our gratitude to those around us who are important to us, usually by giving something to them. God himself set the example of how important we are to Him and how much He loves us. He sent His only Son from heaven to earth, in the form of a baby, to be Savior of the world. He waits for us to receive the gift that Jesus brought to us, the gift of everlasting (eternal) life. Yes, he is there holding out the gift, waiting for us to take it. If we believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that He came to earth to be our Savior by taking away all our sin, we can have the gift, the gift of eternal life. That's all there is to it. God loved, God gave, we believe, we receive.

I know that this may seem so much simpler than anything that you've heard before or it may even seem confusing. Either way, if you would like to talk more about eternal life, or tell of your any decision that you have made, please come and see me at the races or feel free to call me at home 530/367-2497. I welcome your phone call.

Again, Sue and I wish you a very Merry Christmas and know that we will be praying for you all.

Fred Sumrall