



# RTCA NEWS & UPDATES

## NEW RETAMA PARK CHAPEL OFFICIALLY OPEN!

### CHAPLAIN MICHAEL BINGAMAN CONTINUES TO GROW RACE TRACK MINISTRY IN SOUTH TEXAS

Years of patience, prayers, and hard work have been poured into the ministry at Retama Park Race Track. In July, the Chaplaincy held a ceremony to celebrate a blessing many years in the making— a chapel.

The Chapel at Retama Park racetrack in Selma, Texas, is a meaningful addition to that racing community. It will serve as a spiritual refuge for those working there. Spearheaded by RTCA Chaplain Michael Bingaman, the chapel was built to provide a dedicated space for worship, study, educational classes and fellowship right on the grounds of the racetrack.

The chapel's location is central to a lot of activity and it's impact will be far reaching. It now hosts regular services, Bible studies, and one-on-one support for jockeys, trainers, grooms, and other racetrack staff. Chaplain Bingaman's ministry has been praised for its compassion and accessibility, especially for those facing unique challenges at the track.

WHITE HORSE AWARD  
NOMINATIONS DEADLINE  
AUGUST 25, 2025!

[CLICK HERE](#)



The chapel's dedication ceremony was a heartfelt event, attended by members of the racing community, RTCA representatives, and local supporters. It marked a new chapter in Retama Park's commitment to holistic care—spiritual as well as physical—for its workers.







## ◀◀ DAILY OATS AND DIVINE IMPACT: CHAPLAIN SAM ED SPENCE

This summer marks the retirement of Chaplain Sam Ed Spence after a long and impactful career in race track ministry. Since the opening of Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie, Texas in 1997, Chaplain Sam Ed has faithfully served the horse racing community with unwavering dedication.

Over more than two decades, Sam worked alongside key organizations including the American Quarter Horse Association, the American Paint Horse Association, and the Quarter Horse Racing Owners of America—building connections that reflected both his passion for ministry and love for the industry.

His leadership journey began in 1981 when he became the first full-time Executive Director of Race Track Chaplaincy of America (RTCA), following his service as an interim pastor. Though he stepped away from RTCA in 1986 to return to full-time pastoring, he was called back to the racetrack ministry in 1995, serving at Trinity Meadows Raceway in Willow Park, and eventually returning to Lone Star Park.

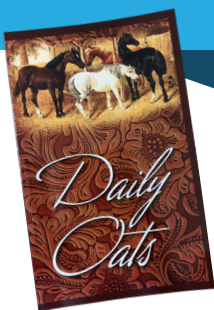
In 2006, Chaplain Sam Ed penned *Daily Oats*, a devotional created to nourish the souls of those working in the horse racing world. More than just a book, it became a lifeline of encouragement and Scripture in a high-paced, high-pressure industry. Through its pages, readers found daily reminders of God's presence in their work, their struggles, and their victories. The Race Track Chaplaincy of America has shared *Daily Oats* with hundreds upon hundreds of individuals—each copy a seed of hope, each word a gentle nudge toward grace. Chaplain Sam Ed's calling wasn't just to preach—it was to walk alongside others, guiding them toward the heart of Christ through both word and witness.

Chaplain Sam Ed's life is a shining example of how one person, led by faith and fueled by love for others, can touch countless lives. His work continues to ripple outward, inspiring new generations in the race track community and beyond.

“

*God has blessed me with the opportunity to share His love and His Word in the world I love- the horses and horse people ....it just doesn't get much better than that.”*  
-Chaplain Sam Ed Spence

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## ⬆️ SPORTS CHAPLAIN CONNECT PODCAST FEATURES CHAPLAIN TOM DAY



PODCAST



Are you a podcast listener? Check out the June 30<sup>th</sup> episode of Sports Chaplain Connect titled, *The Chaplain in the Fox Hole*. RTCA Chaplain Tom Day shares with listeners an inside look at ministry in the horse racing industry and the challenges Chaplains endure. Listen on [Spotify](#), [Amazon](#), & [iHeart Radio](#).

**WELCOME  
TO THE TEAM****MEET RTCA'S  
NEWEST  
CHAPLAIN!****CHAPLAIN  
A.J. TORRES**  
LONE STAR PARK



# MORE CHAPLAINCY HIGHLIGHTS

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*Sharing God's love at the Track*



MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS & SUMMER ENRICHMENT CLASSES FOR TEENS AND YOUTH  
RACE TRACK CHAPLAINCY OF NEW YORK



CHAPLAIN MIGUEL ROMERO WALKING THE BARNs AT ELLIS PARK-  
AND USING A GOLF CART GIVEN BY A FAITHFUL DONOR!



KENTUCKY RACE TRACK CHAPLAINCY

*RTCA Chaplains walk the barns every day, visiting and building connections with backstretch workers. This creates opportunities to show compassion, pray for others, and extend love. It not only builds trust, but it's the essence of what we call a "Ministry of Presence"!*

FS1 BROADCAST FEATURES  
WORK OF NY CHAPLAINCY



WOW



*Praise  
THE Lord*



BAPTISM  
BLESSINGS!

WILL ROGERS  
DOWNS  
CHAPLAINCY



CHAPLAIN JAY HURLEY PARTNERED WITH  
LOCAL CHURCH WITH HYGIENE GIVEAWAY  
BAGS TO BACKSTRETCH WORKERS

COLONIAL DOWNS

*Blessing others is what we do!*







## RTCA LAUNCHES REFRESHED WEBSITE!

This summer, the RTCA National Office unveiled a newly redesigned website that beautifully reflects the heart of our mission and ministry.

We're especially excited to introduce the enhanced Chaplain Directory and Location Directory, designed to help visitors more easily find and connect with local chaplains and chaplaincy services across the country. More features and updates will be available over the next few months!

*A daily dose of inspiration as we gear up for Prayer Walk!*



## RTCA CHAPLAINCIES UNITE ON SOCIAL MEDIA WITH DAILY DEVOTIONALS

Is there a more urgent time to share God's light, love, and hope with the world? Starting September 1<sup>st</sup>, as we look ahead to RTCA's annual Prayer Walk on September 20th, the National Office will be featuring some short devotional videos from the RTCA Family. This impactful project is designed to share God's Word and to be of encouragement to all leading into the Prayer Walk.



[RTCANATIONAL](#)

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From racetracks to farms, RTCA Chaplains, Council Members, National Board Members, and Ambassadors from across the country will be offering 3-minute video devotionals, each featuring a meaningful Scripture of the Day. These bite-sized reflections aim to uplift, encourage, and remind every viewer of the boundless love of God and the enduring hope we each have through Jesus Christ.



## RTCA NATIONAL PARTICIPATES IN 2025 AMERICA QUARTER HORSE CONVENTION

In March 2025, RTCA Executive Director Dan Waits was honored to attend the AQHA Convention and deliver a heartfelt, spirit-filled message during the worship service.

This meaningful moment was made possible by AQHA's remarkable commitment to have an annual church service at their convention. Their continued partnership with RTCA reflects a shared dedication to touching lives in profound ways. When organizations like AQHA open space for faith and fellowship, they help extend our mission to reach hearts where it matters most.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

[www.rtcanational.org/events](http://www.rtcanational.org/events)

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## 2025 PRAYER WALK SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH



RTCA tracks and training centers across the country will unite in prayer for the entire horse racing industry!

The annual **RTCA Prayer Walk** is held on the third Saturday of September each year, to honor the birthday of RTCA's founder, the late Salty Roberts. Bringing prayer and the love of Jesus to the race track was his mission, and we lovingly join to pray on this day to continue Salty's dream of bringing Grace to the race.

Reach out to your local Chaplain for Prayer Walk times, locations, and details.

## NIGHT OF FAITH, HOPE, & LOVE TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28TH

Race Track Chaplaincy of America Presents

# NIGHT OF FAITH, HOPE & LOVE

at Breeders' Cup World Championships  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28TH



### DEL MAR THOROUGHBRED CLUB - TRACKSIDE CHALET DOORS OPEN 5:30 PM 6:00 PM DINNER & PROGRAM

Join us for an unforgettable evening of inspiration, celebration, and community as the Race Track Chaplaincy of America (RTCA) hosts its annual Night of Faith, Hope, and Love during **Breeders' Cup World Championship Week**. Expect a room filled with love, a wonderful dinner, and a big dose of encouragement from guest speaker Bob Goff!

This cherished event brings together members of the horse racing industry, media, and community leaders through powerful stories of faith and service. RTCA is excited to share how God's love continues to bring Grace to the Race through the work of servant leaders, Chaplains, and volunteers across the country.

**ADVANCED  
TICKET  
PURCHASE  
REQUIRED**

*Tickets cover admission, dinner, and evening program. All proceeds support Race Track Chaplaincy of America.*

**Bob Goff** is the author of the New York Times bestselling books *Love Does*, *Everybody Always*, *Dream Big*, and *Undistracted*. He is the Honorary Consul to the Republic of Uganda, an attorney, and the founder of Love Does—a nonprofit human rights organization operating in 14 countries. He's a lover of balloons, cake pops, and helping people pursue their big dreams.



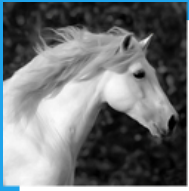
**BOB GOFF,  
GUEST SPEAKER**

*New York Times bestselling author of  
Love Does, Everybody Always, Dream  
Big, and Undistracted*



# RTCA ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## RTCA WHITE HORSE AWARD NOMINATIONS DEADLINE AUGUST 25TH

Race Track Chaplaincy of America (RTCA) is now accepting nominations for the 23rd Annual White Horse Award (WHA), which honors exceptional heroism demonstrated within the horse racing industry.

**The nomination deadline is Monday, August 25, 2025.**

Winners will be announced at the Night of Faith, Hope, and Love on October 28<sup>th</sup>. Visit [www.rtcanational.org](http://www.rtcanational.org).



Nominate

Mark your calendars!

SEPT  
20

2025 ANNUAL  
PRAYER WALK

OCT  
28

NIGHT OF FAITH,  
HOPE, & LOVE

DEC  
10

ARIZONA GLOBAL RACING  
SYMPOSIUM RTCA  
PRAYER BREAKFAST

## RTCA STAFF MEMBER SANDY MARTIN NAMED FINALIST FOR THE 2025 THOROUGHBRED INDUSTRY EMPLOYEE AWARD

The finalists and runners-up for the 2025 Thoroughbred Industry Employee Awards have been chosen, as the program celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The 2025 ceremony will be held on Tuesday, Oct 21st, in Lexington, Ky.

RTCA is thrilled to share that our own Sandy Martin has been nominated for this year's Katherine McKee Administration Award. Sandy faithfully serves as Administrative Assistant in the RTCA National Office and her love for God and compassion for others is as BIG as her smile! Congratulations, Sandy!



## RTCA SELECTED FOR BREEDERS' CUP CHARITIES PROGRAM

RTCA is honored to be among the organizations supported by [Breeder's Cup Charities](#). Through merchandise sales and new giving opportunities, the expanded Breeders' Cup Charities Program is dedicated to supporting the horse racing industry and community. Race Track Chaplaincy of America is one of the four charity organizations selected for the 2025 program. We continually praise God for always providing the means and resources needed for RTCA Chaplains, staff, and volunteers to continue this ministry!

“We are deeply grateful to Breeders' Cup and Breeders' Cup Charities for their support of the work of the Race Track Chaplaincy of America (RTCA), and our ongoing mission to meet the spiritual, emotional, physical, social and educational needs of those in the horse racing industry. We also appreciate Mr. Freirich's generous matching pledge and his commitment to Thoroughbred racing and its community. This campaign and it's Annual Day of Giving highlight their belief in the work of these incredible organizations, and it is so encouraging to see them give back to the sport we all love.

— Dan Waits, Executive Director, RTCA



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