

## CHAPLAINS' CORNER

### ***FIRST THINGS FIRST--FAITH, FAMILY, and FAST CARS***

*By Chaplains "NATZ" and Elana Peters of East Bay Raceway Park in Tampa, Florida*

Jim Haslett, the coach of the New Orleans Saints, teaches players and staff to put God first then make sure family is well cared for with one simple slogan: FAITH, FAMILY, FOOTBALL. Football is fun--and third--when priorities are in proper order. Here at East Bay Raceway Park, we want to adapt Jim Haslett's life priorities to fit our racing life styles. So, keep the three F's--FAITH, FAMILY, and FAST CARS—in that order and uppermost in your minds.

God's first commandment for a blessed life is: "Do not worship any other god beside me." [Exodus 20: 3] To put that in plain English: **PUT GOD FIRST**. The Bible explains that godlessness passes from parent to child. Children learn dysfunctional priorities from their parents and pass them on to future generations. The Bible also reveals God lavishes love on those that love Him and obey His commands for a thousand generations! Putting God first reaps a legacy of love, blessing and health.

Gentlemen, next time you may be tempted to take the little woman for granted, be warned, God adores your wife! Its true! And He wants you to cherish her also. "You husbands must love your wives with the same love Christ showed for the church. He gave up His life for her---For a man is actually loving himself when he loves his wife." [Ephesians 5:25] Wow, girls, how good is that?

Love for a mate is demonstrated in the way we look after them and care for them. Are we putting them first or asking them to join us in putting our passion for speed in the #1 position? You may have heard the adage, "When Mama ain't happy, ain't nobody happy." In general, a loved wife is a happy woman.

There's more to caring for children than putting a roof over their heads and food in their mouths. Children measure their worth in terms of quality time spent with their significant adults. Children are imitators. The influence of parents' actual behavior is undeniable. When you demonstrate how you have made God first in your life your kids will do the same.

Do the math: WINNING RACES + LOST INTEGRITY = A LOSER

Natz won a lot of races in his thirty year racing career. He says, "I am very proud of most of my victories because we were well prepared, ran the race well and survived till the end. There are a few, however, that I am not very proud of because we stretched the rules to the very breaking point. In other words, we cheated. Those victories are kind of empty and meaningless. There's more to winning than getting the checkered flag first."

Jesus asks, "What will it *profit* a man if he *gains* the whole world and *loses his own soul*?" [Mark 8:36] Can you hold your head high after a win knowing that you practiced good sportsmanship? Winning with integrity allows victories to remain sweet memories with no remorse.

God wants a personal and intimate relationship with you. He wants to be part of your life day in and day out, on the track as well as off the track. He is not a hard taskmaster. Being a part of God's family is not as demanding as you may think. In fact, it is the essential ingredient of a truly successful life. Just give Him a chance.

God Bless You,  
Chaplains "Natz" and Elana Peters