

Chaplains Corner

Stop and Think!

How do you want to be remembered? Our very own and beloved East Bay preacher, now in his late sixties, gets reminded on occasion by some of the old timers around the racing circuit of his former notorious reputation as a hothead who settled disputes at the track with his fists! No, he's not proud of it. It's kind of embarrassing—even though others usually get quite a kick out of the changes they see in him. All glory to God (and thank goodness) he decided to kick the hothead habit.

Every once in a while someone gets the hothead right here at East Bay Raceway Park! We've had a skirmish or two among fans in the stands. And, there have been a few drivers who have jumped out of their cars after an incident on the track and taken out their frustrations on emergency personnel and track officials. No one can be proud of the ugly words and actions we let fly when we act before our brains are in gear.

But, last Saturday night, as Chaplain "Natz" led the drivers in prayer before racing began, East Bay owner and promoter, Al Varnadore came up with a plan to solve that problem. His idea is that a driver must quote a verse from the Bible before he or she can get out of their car. What a great and simple plan! It will give the driver something to think about before the hothead part of the brain takes over! It surely will calm them down and help them gain the right perspective on their sport and their own good sportsmanship. Best of all, racers will learn a little scripture! That can't hurt!

"Al, you are a genius!"

Our part is to choose a short memorable verse each week. We will print the verse on cards and give one to each infield worker—just to cover the unlikely possibility that they might not remember the exact wording during a crisis. The infield worker who encounters the racer in the heat of the moment will have the verse handy to refresh the racer also, if needed. We will post each week's verse at the pay window. We'll discuss and clarify its meaning at the driver's meeting and lead the racers in repeating it from memory a time or two. After that, it is up to each driver to remember the verse of the night.

Proverbs 15:18 seems an appropriate thought to test Al's new plan. Perhaps you would like to learn it along with our racers?

***A hothead starts fights;
A cool-tempered person tries to stop them.***

If I had had to stop and quote a scripture before getting out of my car during my racing career, I would not have made a fool out of myself near as many times. Those stupid things I said and did in the heat of the moment have stuck in my mind as regrets much more than the thrill of victory over the many-checkered flags I won.

—Chaplain "Natz"

Do you want to be remembered as a brawling loser or a peacemaker who is a winner no matter what the outcome of the race? The decision is yours!

God Bless You,

Chaplains "Natz" and Elana Peters