

Chaplains' Corner
By Chaplains Ron "Natz" and Elana Peters of
East Bay Raceway Park in Tampa Florida

"Thanks for Praying"

If you ever thought that your prayers just stopped at the ceiling, here is a good report that might change your mind for good!

A long time racer here at East Bay Raceway Park recently took Natz aside. He'd had a conversation with another racing old-timer and East Bay promoter who had undergone open-heart surgery. While he was under the surgeon's knife, he suffered a stroke. It seemed like he would soon get that ultimate checkered flag. But, he was happy to report that he was just fine! His doctors and even the man himself were all surprised and delighted that he had recovered so rapidly.

"Maybe the doctors don't know what happened but I think I do," our long time racer reported in a confidential tone. "Natz, I told him I was there at the driver's meeting when you asked all of us to join in prayer for him. I remember how we all bowed our heads for a moment praying that he would soon recover."

"I didn't know anyone was praying for me," the racer grinned back. "But that must have been it. Everything came out so much better than anyone expected. It had to be God. You tell everyone at East Bay thanks for praying for me."

It's only human to be surprised when prayer works. But, we needn't be. Jesus said, "**...I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in My name, I am there in the midst of them,**" [Matthew 18:10 & 20]. We were dozens gathered in His name that night united in prayer for our brother. So, if we believe the Bible, we can rest in the assurance that great things will come of our prayers. After all, when Jesus shows up, nothing is impossible!

We don't ask you to pray for someone just to hear ourselves talk or put on a religious show. We think prayer is the most important thing we can do for someone who is sick. Agreeing in prayer releases the spirit of God to work. Prayer for the sick directs the compassion of Jesus to their plight. Prayer in the name of Jesus gives honor to God's son. Answered prayer reveals the tenderness of God. Prayer causes people to give glory, honor and praise to God.

We say thank you for heartily joining in when we offer up prayers. We thank God for those at East Bay who know how to pray. Thank you, God, for hearing and answering us when we call. We give you all the praise.

God bless you,

Chaplains Natz and Elana Peters