



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

October 2018

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

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ideas please contact:*

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**Wanted
Praise Reports
Testimonies
Articles**

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen
leealphen@comcast.net
or
157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

**Chaplain Lee will
be at the Lexington
and Harrisburg
Sales. She would
love to see
you. Stop
by and say
“Hi.”**



Bonding

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

My, what a nice smile—except for the green and yellow hay-stained teeth. Whose scent is your horse picking up when he rolls his upper lip exposing his gums? Did you know that one ear back and the other forward might indicate your horse is eavesdropping into the stall behind?

We bond with our horses by walking them, playing with them, grooming them and just spending time with them. As we hang out together, we become more comfortable with each other. We also pay attention to what they are saying to us. They communicate with their ears, lips, tails and voice, with how they hold their heads and the how they stand.

People flocked to hear Jesus speak. He bonded with them by using metaphors and stories they understood. He talked about bread a lot. In fact, bread is mentioned 69 times in the gospels. We have the story of feeding the 5,000 with five loaves of bread and a few fish (Matthew 14:13-21) and the similar feeding of the 4,000 (Matthew 15:29-39). Jesus also refers to Himself many times as the “Bread of Life” (John 6:35).

My Irish grandmother made the most delicious Irish bread. I have her recipe. When I make it, my brothers and I polish it off quickly. When it comes out of the oven, the aroma fills the house. In Mexico, they grind corn every day and make tortillas. The tortillas we buy here at the grocery store can't compare to them. We all enjoy good fresh bread.

Jesus picked something we could all understand. Bread is good. It is our sustenance. God fed the Israelites

another bread-like substance, manna, in the desert (Exodus 16:11-31). We joke about living on bread and water. We read in stories about the Second World War, the Holocaust and the Armenian genocide that people sometimes only had a crust of bread to eat. When we talk about bread, we are talking about something that keeps us alive. Of course, we realize a loaf of bread won't last forever, It gets old and stale. Bread stays with us for a little while, but eventually, we get hungry again. The bread Jesus offers lasts forever (John 6:35).

Jesus came so that we could have life and have it abundantly (John 10: 10). Jesus is our bread, our food, our nourishment. Jesus is instructing us to rely on Him, the source of life, fully committed to Him. When we do, we will be satisfied. Jesus wants us to bond with Him by spending time listening to Him, talking with Him, reading about Him in our bibles and just hanging out with Him.

Paul asks, “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword” (Romans 8:35)? Nothing “will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:39). This is our faith. This is what we believe. When we trust in the Lord, God will take care of us. The more we understand Jesus and bond with Him, the happier we will be.



Blessings

From Chaplain Ken Carter...

Karen's blood count is up and her cancer number is down to 95 from over 200 last we spoke and she has more energy. The tumor is still about the same size though. Hopefully the tumor will have shrunk some by the time she goes for her next CT Scan.

From David Champ...

Thank you so much for thinking about me. With the help of my vocational counselor, I found me a position at an equine rescue in Citra, Florida,

From Joan Harp...

The Lord is hearing our prayers, Warren's prostate cancer is gone, the bladder cancer is staying contained and the tumor has even gotten smaller. His treatments surely seem to be working with the help of all the prayers. Thank you and everyone so much. Joan

From Roger Huston...

Melissa Diekle likely saved my life. Upon leaving the announcer's stand, my head came in contact with a steel beam over the walkway. There was a lot of blood. Melissa grabbed some kind of cloth and held it on my head applying pressure for about 15 minutes until the EMTs arrived. I stayed alert and able to walk to the car with assistance. I got a tetanus shot and three staples. It wasn't that deep but was lengthy. I then drove the 230 miles home for the big trip to Canada the next morning. Takes more than a steel beam to slow this guy down. Be There! NOTE: With Roger's extensive summer travels and announcing in many states and three different countries, there was no time to visit the doctor. Fortunately he was able to find a veterinarian to remove his staples.



From Jim Kolnick

I am now 63 and a one and a half year cancer survivor. The road has been long and hard with surgery, treatments and radiation. I've been out of harness racing since the early 90's having raced a small stable mainly in upstate NY as well as, New England and still follow the sport I love. Please add me to your prayer list and ask your partners in prayer. Every scan is a challenge in the hope of life through Christ our Lord.

From Art Plant...

Thanks for your prayers! My cardiologist gave me a good report from my stress test. I'm still not 100% but am improving; for that I am thankful to our Savior and for your healing prayers. You likely have no idea of how many lives you touch with your ministry. Be Blessed & Thank you - Art

From Bill Wright

Maddy Wright has completed her year-long cancer treatment and is currently cancer free. PTL

A Listening Ear

By Chaplain Sam Ed Spence

If you are a believer, you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Creator and Savior, but there is one other position or title you may not have afforded Him...Best Friend, which He very much desires to be in your life. (If you are *not* a believer, you can pull aside, invite Jesus into your heart and be born again...and that does not have to be done in a church or some meeting; it can be done at your desk, or living room, or breakfast table.)



Most all "religion" is about keeping rules and regulations; but true Christianity is about relationship -- a one-on-one relationship between you and the Creator of the universe, and that's where the awesomeness of this Best Friend position comes into play. Think about a relationship or meeting you've had recently, maybe even today, with a good friend. You both talked and you both listened to what each other had to say. I'm convinced that Jesus wants to have that same type relationship with each of us -- there's talking (we call that *praying*), but there should also be *listening* on our part. Too often, I think, we voice our requests (prayers), ending with "in Jesus' name, amen." and we're out of the throne room without ever giving the Lord an opportunity to speak. He may have the answer to our prayer or some very relevant wisdom immediately available...if we'd only take the time to *listen*.

Developing a listening spiritual ear takes practice. Most of us have been caught up in a rapid-moving, often stress-filled world that does not lend itself to "quiet time with the Lord." We have to diligently set aside time to "learn to listen." Mine is the first thing in the morning...first thing after a little wake-up exercise and a cup of java. And I must tell you that it took many mornings before I began to hear that "still small voice."

A wonderful Bible teacher and personal friend of mine, Andrew Wommack, told me years ago, "God is always talking." We just need to develop an "always-listening" spiritual ear. That includes spending time in His word and quiet time with Him. A listening ear can change your life.

Scripture: And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire **a still small voice.** 1 Kings 19: 11, 12 (*emphasis mine*)

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Gifts

10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (see picture)

CHHA hat **Blue hat with CHHA Logo**

Horseshoe Nail Cross necklaces and key rings and heart bracelets—see below

Books

Daily Oats by Chaplain Sam Ed Spence

Downloading God by Jack Levine

Live A Life That Matters for God by Jack Levine

My Addict Your Addict by Jack Levine

Where the Rubber Meets the Road with God by Jack Levine

Don't Blow It With God by Jack Levine

Sound Mouth—Sound Horse, The Gager Method of Equine Dental Care
by ER Gager and Bob “Dusty Rhodes”

Still: A Story of the Black Doctor of the Jersey Pines by Edmund R Gager



Rambling Willie Remembers

These lovely 5 x 7 Rambling Willie cards are packaged in sets of 10 cards. They are blank inside.

Horseshoe Nail Heart Bracelets and Cross Necklaces and Keyrings

Horseshoe Nail Product Descriptions

Bracelet: Horseshoe nails are bent into a heart and tied together with coordinated wire and attached to a leather strap.

Key Ring: Horseshoe nails are bent in to a cross and tied together with color coordinated wire. Key ring is attached with rawhide.

Necklace: Key ring: Horseshoe nails are bent in to a cross and tied together with color coordinated wire.

Horseshoe Nail Item Order Form—Orders can also be placed at www.chha.net/products

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Mail with \$20 ea + \$4 shipping to:

Roger Huston · 225 Fieldbrook Dr · Cannonsburg, PA 15317



Bracelet Qty: Black / Silver ____ Rawhide /Gold ____ Rawhide / Turquoise ____

Necklace Qty: Red ____ Blue ____ Turquoise ____

Keyring Qty: Red ____ Blue ____ Turquoise ____ Silver ____



Obituaries continued from page 5

Leo Gorfido, 83, of Medina, OH, died Aug 2. Leo was a home builder by trade and after retirement his passion became his horses, raising, training and racing at Northfield Park and Pompano Park. He was a Medina, Ohio High School Quarterback and played on Erhart Baseball Team, which resulted in his being drafted by the St. Louis Browns, but instead he opted to start a family and his business. He began a lifelong friendship with Cy Young award winning pitcher Dean Chance.



Violet Helen Graham, 98, of Hastings, Ontario, died Aug 21. Violet went to live with her daughter, CHHA member, Cindy Graham, several years ago on her farm. She enjoyed Cindy's horses. Eventually, Cindy built a new house in Hastings for her and her mother. Cindy says, "Violet loved the Lord Jesus Christ with all her heart. Let's celebrate knowing she is finally with Him."



Paul Howard Jenkins, 84, of PEI died Jul 11 one day short of his 85th birthday. His wife of 62 years, Barbara, died June 5. Paul is CHHA member and photographer, Ann MacNeill's, father.



Clyde B. "Barry" McNabb, 82, of Germantown, OH, died Aug 23. Clyde was a retired employee of Delco Products with more than 25 years of service, and he was the owner of numerous Standardbreds as well as an avid fan of horse racing.



Ed Mullinax, 85, of Amherst, OH, died on Aug 4. Ed owned and operated a number of successful automobile dealerships which allowed him to participate heavily in the sport. In fact, he was the sponsor of the 2016 Hambletonian. Although Mullinax owned at least 457 horses in conjunction with others and through his own Up Front Racing, the horse he will forever be most associated with was the late Dragon Again. He brought his beloved stallion to his home state so he could be close to him in his final years. Mullinax also coveted his 2005 Little Brown Jug triumph with P-Forty-Seven.



Jane Baldt Ramsey, 81, of Wilmington, DE, died Jul 19. Though Jane was diagnosed many years ago with diabetes and heart disease, she never gave up. She never complained, maintaining a brave and cheerful outlook of an optimistic future -- even through countless hospitalizations and painful procedures. She would often say that getting old was not for sissies. Her passions were her animals and farming. She was an early champion of rescuing abandoned dogs, cats and horses. For 20 years she was involved with harness racing as an owner and trainer. She raced her horses in the tri-state area during the 1970s and 1980s. When her horses were retired, she spent a few years in the licensing office working for the Delaware Harness Racing Commission at Brandywine Race Track. She was a big supporter of the Ramsey's Farm Pumpkin Patch and often could be found teaching the children about farm

animals and giving hayrides to the farm visitors.

Martha Lee Riegle, 89, of Greenville, OH, died Aug 3. Martha was a member of EUM Church. She loved being a wife, mother, and grandmother, spending time with her family and having wonderful family gatherings. She was an owner and avid Standardbred fan. She loved flowers and had the amazing gift of music, being able to play the organ and piano by ear. She was the first woman to win the prestigious Lady Pace trophy in Delaware, Ohio.



Robert 'Jim' James Riesberry, 82, died Jul 30. Jim was a dedicated teacher and hockey coach for many wonderful years. In his time off he pursued his passion of both owning and training Standardbred racehorses or hanging out with his many great friends. He will always be remembered, by those who knew him, for his profound love of family,



Eleanor Risser, 79, of Pandora, died Aug 1. She was a retired nurse. Eleanor also was a Putnam County Fair Board Member for 36 years and past Matron of the Grove Chapter

Wayne W. Smith, 63, of Belleview, FL, formerly from Lewiston, Maine, died Jul 24. Wayne was a loving man with a big heart. He loved family and friends. He, along with his father, Byron, and sister, Barb, raced and trained Standardbreds.

Frankie White died Aug 3. Frankie was well known throughout harness racing for her work at the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale office and before that, for many years at the Tattersalls office in Lexington. She was also the wife of 60 years of Tom White, a member of the Communicator's Hall of Fame for his work as publicist for The Red Mile, Scioto Downs and the Little Brown Jug. She was quick with both a smile and an opinion. She was a frequent entertainer and fierce bridge player; a champion against injustice; and a tone-deaf music lover, especially Broadway tunes and old hymns. She was a faithful and active member of Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church.

John "Jack" Winner, 84, of Urbana, OH, died Jul 25. Jack worked for over thirty-five years and retired from Grimes/Honeywell. His passions were harness racing, his small farm, going to the county fairs and hanging out with his special friend Wendy, whom he loved very much. He owned, trained and drove many horses over the sixty years he was involved with horses and harness racing. It was not a sport for just winning money for him; he loved the horses and the excitement, he bet very rarely. John retired from training horses just last year. His favorite day was the third Thursday of September each year when The Little Brown Jug grand circuit horse races were at the Delaware County Fair.



Edward L. Young, 88, of Berlin, MD, died Aug 14. Edward was born in Hinsdale, New Hampshire. He served as 35 years as the general manager of Ocean Downs.



Obituaries

Andy Deleersnyder (aka 'Tiger,' aka 'The Fonz'), 76, died Jul 27. Andy was a proud harness horseman for over 50 years. A good friend said, "He could clean more stalls, jog more miles, drink more beer and win more arguments than any horsemen alive. He had a rough edge, but a kind heart."



Kevin Efimetz, 52, originally from Michigan, died suddenly Aug 15. In his over 30 years in the horse business, Kevin, affectionately known as "Big Bird," crossed North America, racing at many tracks from Ontario to California. Kevin relocated to New York in 2011, racing mainly at Yonkers and Monticello. He made new friends easily wherever he went and willingly lent a helping hand to anyone in need. Everyone that knew him had something nice to say about him. His quick wit brightened many a day.

William Henry "Bill" Faucher, 80, of Hinsdale, NH, died Aug 6. Bill spent his career as an owner, trainer, driver at tracks on the East coast, mostly in New England. He was a hardworking and skilled entrepreneur who built and maintained his own starting gates, which he used in his position as starter at many tracks in his later years. Bill also



owned and operated several successful businesses that included Hinsdale Harness (OTB), Faucher Paper Co., Faucher Trucking, and Route 63 Country Store all in the greater Hinsdale area. Active civically he served two terms as a New Hampshire State Representative, was a steadfast promoter of harness racing, and served as a USTA director. He was an accomplished licensed private pilot and owned his own plane for several years. He was a communicant of Saint Michael Roman Catholic Church in Brattleboro.

David Saville Fick died Aug 11. He was a kind and generous man. During a trip to Eastern Africa, David and his wife, Debbie, saw an opportunity for improvement in the entrepreneurial environment. This became his passion. David was CHHA member, Dan Fick's brother.



Obituaries continued on pg 4

Sources for Obituary information include:

www.harnessracing.com, www.ustrotting.com and www.standardbredcanada.ca

Prayer Corner

Please pray for all the people on our Prayer List who are battling cancer, especially:

Lynn Antonelli, Lew Arsenault, Dan Ater, Debbie Boardman, Jeanne Duso Boudot, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Chaplain Bo Bullock, Rick Carson, Karen Carter, Sam Castimore, Candice Coleman, Sharon Cromer, Joe Crothers, John Cross, Mike Deeters, Barbara Dinning, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Francine Federici, Tiffany Fisher, Lloyd Fortune, Paul Fontaine, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, Warren Harp, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Glenda Holloway, Jeff Hurst, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, AJ Keaton, Harold Kelly, Bob Kinsey, Donnie Knight, David Kovach, Larry Lederman, Rox Liles, Ricky Macomber, Nelson Malin, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Donna Mclvor, Mrs. Miller, Frank Mirahmadi, Lalya Mosley, Corey Murphy, Howard Niels, Pierre Noel, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Dee Parsons, Margie Polhamus, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Emily Roper, Daren Richner, Taila Kapo Rinski, Del Smart, Elaina Storlazi, Doug Stringer, Jack Taylor, Carrie Thompson, Gary Tyron, Fred Ward Sr., Roland Wardel, Marty Woebkenberg, Maddy Wright, Joyce Zeasapolowski.

These friends are also in need of our ongoing prayers:

Jason Apperti, Jordan Aracena, Chaplain Kelly Blanton, Ken Bartels, Pleasant Batson, Gary Bennett, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Stephanie Bouchard, Danny Breton, Betsy Brown, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Mary Clements, Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta, Bev Crane, Chet Crane, Karen Crothers, Dale, Jim Ferguson, Melanie Fisk, Sylvain Gagnon, Greg Gehman, Dr. Howard Gill, Bob Goth, Barbara and Brent Graham, Debbie Gray, Bob Hilliard, Vickie Howard, Bob Jones,

Ruby Hensley, Miguel Hernandez, Paul and Mrs. Hershey, Carol Heusinkveld, Jerry Hissam, John Hostler, Jason Hughes, Jesse Hughes, Donna Ingram, Don James, Barb Jenkins, Kenny Kane, Dave Kelly, Barbara Kinsey, Thelma Klark, Michael Klark, Victor Kiss, Art LaPlante, Larry Lawter, Ray Levay, Sam Lilli, Katherine Lonager, Sharon Lowell, Faye Mackey, Joanne Maiorca, Pedro Martinez, Jr., Melissa MacNeill, Kaye McDonnell, Dean Miller, Raymond Miller, Nancy Miner, Gordon Murphy, Mike Murphy, Doug Nash, Bill Parker, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Waverly Parsons, Susan Parks, Rita Polese, Noreen Paulen, Art Plant, Joanne Ranger, Donnie Richards, Lori Romanetti, Tori Scott, Madisyn Smith, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Monica Thors, Lorraine Truitt, Mel Turcott, Justin Vance, Max Walton, Steve Warner, Gregg Welch, Jr.

Please try to keep me updated about the people on our prayer list.

Please pray for those serving in the military, especially: John Beauregard, Joshua Hankins, Yann Lamiqu, Chris Petrullo, Sgt. David Thomas, and Elizabeth Welch.

Special Intentions for this month:

Billy Bailey needs prayers for his health.
John Beauregard is in Japan with the Navy.
Bobbi Boyken had surgery for a mass found on her lung.
Mike Cable was badly burned.
Scott Freck has progressive MS.
Jim Kolnick is battling cancer.
Anabelle Lisi had surgery for a large mass on her ovary.
Fran Merchant is nearing the end with Alzheimer's.
Skye, 12, had surgery on her skull and developed Bacterial Meningitis.
Jack Taylor was hospitalized for some internal bleeding.
Barry Vicroy is suffering with Bell's Palsy and other health issues.
Archie Wyatt had surgery for a pancreas disorder.



157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Information at www.chha.net

Please indicate
Address corrections

Chaplain Lee will be at the Lexington and Harrisburg sales. She would love to see you.

CHHA at the Hambletonian



Alice and Arnold Williams with Amy Bondon



Danielle and Greg Gehman



Belinda & Mike Eaton with
Michelle and Jessica Hallett



*May the angels
lead you into paradise*
Memorials posted at www.chha.net

Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Dr James Bennett** by: Albert and Mark Adams

In memory of **Andy Deieersnyder** by: Jo-Dee Brown

In memory of **Grover Freck** by: Anna Freck

In memory of **Sherie Hankins** by: Kim Hankins

In memory of **Ed Mullinax** by: Albert Adams and Mike & Patti Allen

In memory of **Jim Riesberry** by: Jo-Dee Brown

In memory of **Bryce Truitt** by: Anna Freck

Arnold Williams shared a great testimony with Amy. He worked for many years with Dr Nolan and retired when Dr Nolan retired. Then he moved in with his mom in Florida and is taking care of her. He even brought her to the Hambo and may bring her to the Jug.

Danielle Gehman came with her father, Greg, and was a great addition to our booth. She is a wonderful young woman and added a new dimension to our ministry.

Jessica Hallett was there with her mom, Michelle. Jessica was working for the Standardbred Retirement Foundation. This very ambitious young lady is beginning her second year of college and is interested in both medicine and law. Currently she wants to become a trauma surgeon.

You may have seen Jessica's article about the Marjory Stoneman Douglas school shooting where horsemen Jeff and Marie Schaefer's daughter, Kayla, was trapped in one of the classrooms. Several of the harness racing websites carried it. Jessica is a regular contributor to Harnesslink.com. Perhaps one day we will see her in the Communicators Hall of Fame.