



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

April 2019

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



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For newsletter questions or
ideas please contact:

Lee Alphen, Editor
leealphen@comcast.net
603-898-1927
603-401-7271 (cell)

Wanted
Praise Reports
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Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen
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Celebrate the
resurrection of
our Lord!
Happy
EASTER



Where Should We Race?

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Where do you race? Iowa, Ohio, Indiana, the Meadowlands or The Meadows? Are you racing for the big New York purses or fair purses in Maine or Florida? How about Canada? Are you rich or poor?

Jesus spent the night before He chose the twelve apostles on the mountainside praying (Luke 6:12-13). After He chose them, they all went down to the plain and were joined by a large crowd of disciples and a great number of people from around the coastal area (Luke 6:17).

“Looking at his disciples,” He said, “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied” (Luke 6:10-21). Are any of us poor? Jesus said the poor are blessed so should we give everything away? Would God be happier if we raced at the smaller tracks for lower purses? Would that make us poor?

I've been to the missions in Haiti several times. The people there are very rich. So are the people I visit in the mountains of Mexico. Sure, we help the people in both places with food and give scholarships to the kids in Mexico, hoping an education will give them a leg up on getting a job. They certainly lack money and material possessions.

In both Haiti and Mexico, the people's lives revolve around the church. Their faith is strong. They believe in God. They trust in God. God is important. The Beatitudes in Matthew say, “Blessed are the poor in

spirit” (Matthew 5:3). Jesus is saying those who realize they need God in their lives will be happy and blessed.

Sometimes we are too proud and think we can manage life on our own. We don't need to go to church. We don't need to read our bibles and meditate on God's Word. We don't even need to pray. No, sometimes we think we are too busy with things that are more important. Perhaps we think we have all of God that we need. Perhaps we think we are rich in the Spirit of God! When we humble ourselves before God, recognize our own sin and emptiness and ask for more and more of God's spirit, God answers our prayer and blesses us, and, eventually, the kingdom of God will be ours (Luke 6:20).

The hungry will be satisfied, not because they had steak, baked potato, salad and pie. Rather, those who hunger for God and the Word of God will be blessed and filled with the peace of God. Jesus says, “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find” (Matthew 7:7). God wants to bless us but God will not force himself on us. We must seek God out lifting our minds and hearts in prayer.

Do we weep for our secular society caught up in materialism and power? Jesus said, “Woe to you who are rich, you have already received your comfort. Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry” (Luke 6:24-25).

We have the story of the sheep and the goats. Those who feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick and imprisoned are the sheep who will be blessed and go to heaven (Matthew



Continued on Page 2

Scholarship Recipient Updates

Ronnie Huff

My first semester in college went very well for me. I learned a lot in Criminal Justice Management, and I'm looking forward to my future in this field.



My current GPA is 3.06. I'm starting my second semester and studying harder to accomplish my goals. With the Lord on my side I shouldn't have a problem.

Thank you for helping provide this opportunity for me and my future career.
God Bless you, Ronnie Huff



Amazon Smile is sending CHHA \$72.64 for October - December Amazon Smile purchases.

The Amazon Smile Foundation donates 0.5% of the purchase price of qualifying purchases to the customer's selected charitable organization when they shop at www.smile.amazon.com.

If you have not already selected CHHA as your charity, go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-1056232>.

Thanks for supporting CHHA while shopping at Amazon!



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

Memorial Contributions

- In memory of **Russ Baldwin** by: Paul Combs
- In memory of **Dean and Steve Beachy** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
- In memory of **Esther Mae Crownover** by: Joan Burns
- In memory of **Brad Farrington-91st Birthday** by: Jim and Judy Ferguson
- In memory of **Sherie Hankins** by: Kim Hankins
- In memory of **Brad Haynes** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
- In memory of **Tailia Kaponinsky** by: Paul Fontaine
- In memory of **Leslie Lederman** by: Larry Lederman
- In memory of **Frances Merchant** by: Tracee Hathaway
- In memory of **Speed Minister** by: Kim Rinker
- In memory of **Weldon Stockwell** by: Jack Levine
- In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables

Continued from page 1

25:34-36).

Those who are satisfied seeking after the riches of the world and have no need for God now will be sorry later, even in this life. The more things we accumulate, the more lavish our lifestyle, the more possessions we must have. If we are not also seeking God, there will come a time when all we have is our things and they will no longer satisfy us.

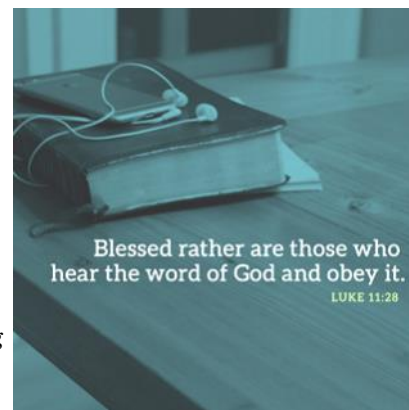
We are made in the image and likeness of God. Our true home is in heaven. Our real desire is for God and to live in God's kingdom. If our desire is for God, then our quest here on earth is to become more Christ-like. Jesus came to earth as one of us and showed us how to live and how to love. That's the bottom line—love. Jesus said that was what was most important. When we love people, we take care of them. We learn all we can about the God we love and do our best to understand what God wants in each situation in our lives. God is love (1 John 4:8 and 16). The more we have of God, the more we have love.

Jesus spent the night before choosing the twelve apostles in prayer. Talking with His Father and understanding the Father's will was of the utmost importance to Je-

sus. Jesus was always going off by himself to pray. If Jesus didn't want to make a decision without input from God, what makes us think we can make right decisions on our own apart from God?

God is more concerned about our relationship with God and one another than where we race our horses and how much money we have in the bank. When we seek God's will, God will lead us to the right track to race our horses. When we share what we have with those in need, we will be blessed (Matthew 25:34-36). When we study God's word and "delight [...] in the law of the Lord," "whatever we do will prosper" (Psalm 1:2 and 3).

Blessed are those who hunger for God and are poor in spirit enough to know they need a stronger relationship with God. They shall be satisfied and inherit the kingdom of God (Luke 6:20-21).



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CHHA Hat



Rambling Willie Remembers

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

Gifts for family and friends

10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (see picture)

CHHA Blue Hat

Horseshoe Nail Cross necklaces and key rings—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

Horseshoe Nail Cross Necklaces and Keyrings

Horseshoe Nail Product Descriptions

Key Ring: Horseshoe nails are bent into a cross and tied together with colored wire. Key ring is attached with rawhide.

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

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

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

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

Roger Huston · 225 Fieldbrook Dr · Cannonsburg, PA 15317

Necklace Qty: **Red** ____ **Blue** ____ **Turquoise** ____

Keyring Qty: **Red** ____ **Blue** ____ **Turquoise** ____ **Silver** ____

Other colors are available upon request.



Obituaries continued from page 5

Bradley J. Haynes, 48, of London, OH, died Jan 29 as a result of a helicopter accident. Bradley was a firefighter for Jefferson Township Fire Department and also worked for Hamilton Township and Survival Flight. He loved horse racing.

Dennis G. Henert, 73, of Streator, IL, died Feb 3. Dennis was a self employed farmer and Standardbred trainer. He loved attending auctions and going to the county fairs.

June Jeanette Hudson, 82, of Huntington Station, NY, died Jan 3. In the 1960s, along with her husband, William, who was a driver/trainer, she owned horses that raced at Roosevelt and Yonkers Raceways. She worked in the restaurant industry. While she was working at Mimmos, across the street from Roosevelt, a customer and friend of hers, New York Jets coach Walt Michaels, appointed her an honorary member of the New York Jets coaching staff.



George A. Knackmuhs, 76, of West Salem, IL, died Jan 11. George was an Army Veteran, serving during the Vietnam War. He was a farmer and a harness horse owner. He was very involved in racing. In fact, it was his life!



Howard McCullough, 85, died Dec 21, 2018. He was a very successful trainer/driver in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s, having driven Midnite Hardy to back-to-back Illinois Horse of the Year honors in the early 1960s. After his successful run as a driver and trainer, Howard became a well-respected racing official, presiding over several tracks in the various states including The Meadows.

Frances Marian "Fran" Merchant, 86, of Union City, MI, died Sep 19. Fran was employed by Starr Commonwealth, Star Mobile Homes, Vincent's Painting, which was a family business where she managed the office, and the family's harness horse business, too. Fran loved dancing, the outdoors, nature and fishing. She was a member of Union City's Green Thumb Garden Club and enjoyed doing artistic painting. She was a member of the First Congregational UCC in Union City, where she helped put on meals. Fran's daughter, Tracee Hathaway, is a CHHA member.



Anthony Joseph Minore Sr, 27, of Delray Beach, FL, formerly of Yaardville, NJ, died Feb 7. He enjoyed football, martial arts, skateboarding, and trekking in the woods. Anthony's parents, Paul and Sharon Minore, race harness horses.



Gene Montgomery, 84, of Charleston, IL, died Feb 9. Gene was a trainer and driver, racing in California, New York, Florida and Maine, just to name a few. Later he became one of the sport's premier starters and race officials for over 40 years. He started races in Chicago, along with numerous state and county fairs and The Hambletonian. He was inducted into the Illinois Harness Horsemen's Association Hall of Fame in 2013.



Edward "Fuzzy" Morgan, 74, died Jan 13. Ed proudly served his country during the VietNam conflict in the U.S. Army and was self-employed as a contractor. He raced standardbreds at Vernon Downs for many years.



Lester Tourville, 87, of Hamburg, NY, died Jan 12. He was a driver and trainer at Buffalo Raceway and Batavia Downs until he retired in 2004. In the early 1980s, Mr. Tourville worked for the Mar Con Farms.

Maureen D. Ryan, 75, of Monmouth Beach, NJ, died Feb 6. She was the wife of Yonkers Raceway's long-time track superintendent, Ed Ryan. Maureen was known for her gracious spirit and beautiful heart. She had an unforgettable smile and an enthusiasm for life that touched everyone in her presence. A devoted wife, mother and grandmother, nothing was more important in her life than her family.



Tom White, 84, of Lexington, KY, died Feb 4. Tom was a Hall of Fame Communicator who kept harness racing in the headlines as publicist at The Red Mile, Scioto Downs and the Little Brown Jug. One of his responsibilities as a sports writer for the *Lexington Leader* was to cover harness racing. He fell in love with the sport and became a writer and reporter for *The Horseman and Fair World* and *Hoof Beats* magazines. In 1974, he took a job as director of publicity and public relations at The Red Mile and Tattersalls horse sales. He was a regular fixture on local TV and radio, wrote regular features in the *Lexington Herald-Leader* and two books on harness racing. Tom was also an active member of Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church, where he served as an elder.



Obituaries

William J. Berube, 73, recently of Greenville, NH, died Jan 28. Billy worked as a Standardbred trainer in Pepperell and at Rockingham, and Foxborough for many years. He worked for the last 25 years with Joel Wheeler. He raced horses over the years at many of the region's tracks.



Ed "Eddie" Dunnigan, 80, died Feb 11. Eddie was the son of a respected racetrack owner/operator and grandson of the New York State Senator who legalized pari-mutuel wagering in New York. Racing and gaming were in Eddie's DNA. As a high school sophomore he ran away from boarding school to chase his dreams of the Grand Circuit living in stalls and tack rooms. He studied under, competed against and befriended many of the early masters of the sport training and driving at tracks from coast to coast and throughout Europe and Scandinavia and New Zealand. Though he won thousands of races and millions of dollars, his success



was measured in laughs, lies and legend. One of his many goofy, yet endearing, sayings was, "If I don't see you in the future I'll see you in the pasture."

Gregory V. Harmon, 47, of Camden Wyoming, DE, died Jan 11 in New Port Richey, FL.

Gregory was an accomplished driver, trainer, owner and passionate fan of harness racing and a third-generation horseman.

His other passion was in the automotive industry. He started his automotive career working for the late Jeff Polichena and later worked for Fred Hertrich's family of automobile dealerships. His infectious smile, generosity, and fun-loving personality will be forever missed.



Obituaries continued on page 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 Arsenaull, Dan Ater, Emily Bier, Rev Kelly Blanton, Debbie Boardman, Jeanne Duso Boudot, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Chaplain Bo Bullock, Rick Carson, Karen Carter, Sam Castimore, Candice Coleman, Barbara Connors, Sharon Cromer, Joe Crothers, John Cross, Rolly Day, Mike Deeters, Barbara Dinning, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Francine Federici, Tiffany Fisher, Lloyd Fortune, Rodney Grady, 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, Jim Kolnick, Donnie Knight, David Kovach, Larry Lederman, Rox Liles, Anabelle Lisi, Kevin Mack, Ricky Macomber, Nelson Malin, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Donna McIvor, Mrs Miller, Frank Mirahmadi, Lalya Mosley, Corey Murphy, Howard Nields, Pierre Noel, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Dee Parsons, Margie Polhamus, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Emily Roper, Daren Richner, Taila Kaponinskyi, 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, Charlie Brigham, Betsy Brown, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Bob Cain, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Mary Clements, Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta, Bev

Crane, Chet Crane, Karen Crothers, Dale, Jim Ferguson, Melanie Fisk, Scott Freck, 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, Trudy Hite, 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, Terry Mahar, Joanne Maiorca, Pedro Martinez, Jr, Melissa MacNeill, Kaye McDonnell, Dean Miller, Raymond Miller, Nancy Miner, Mike Murphy, Doug Nash, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Waverly Parsons, Susan Parks, Louise Pelletier, Rita Polese, Noreen Paulen, Art Plant, Joanne Ranger, Donnie Richards, Lori Romanetti, Tori Scott, Delma Smart, Madisyn Smith, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Monica Thors, Lorraine Truitt, Mel Turcott, Justin Vance, Barry Vicroy, Max Walton, Steve Warner, Greggie Welch, Jr, Alice Williams, Anne Winters.

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 Lamiq, Chris Petruzzo, Sgt David Thomas, and Elizabeth Welch.

Special Intentions for this month:

Charlie Day has brain cancer.

Vivian Farrington broke her hip.

Valerie Prescott's uterine cancer has returned.

John Otrembiak has prostate cancer.

J. R. Selby has an inoperable brain tumor.



157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Information at www.chha.net

Please indicate
Address corrections

Scholarship Application see www.chha.net

Gaitway Farm Event Tuesday, June 11th

Join us at Gaitway Farm in Englishtown, NJ, Tuesday, June 11th, for lunch and a message from NY Chaplains Humberto and Karen Chavez. Music will be provided by Marybeth DiAngelo and her friends. The event is co-sponsored by the Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey and the Christian Harness Horsemen's Association.



Ken Wood and Lifetime Wells International



These women were blind and can now see.



Andy Wood Memorial

Andy Wood, died in July of 2015 of pancreatic cancer. Andy was a pump installer for his father, Ken Wood's, company, Lifetime Wells in Denton, MD.



Ken Wood, the owner of JL Cruze, drove 425 winners earning over \$1,000,000. However, Ken did not grow rich racing horses. No, Ken became a rich man by drilling about 2,000 wells for the poor people in Africa much of which he personally funded with some help from his horses. In 2017, Ken told Marv Bachrad for a www.harnesslink.com article, "While my bank account may no longer reflect it, I am a rich man for doing this rewarding work."

"Ken is a farm boy from Maryland who, starting in 1969, built a successful well drilling business. In 2006, a coincidence changed his life. He was looking to sell a used drilling rig. A church group bought the drilling rig. Wood agreed to fly to Ghana, once, to train a crew to run that rig. While there, Wood saw the dire situation many Ghana residents face" (www.lifetimewellsinternational.org).

"When I consider that I can bring clean water to someone for the first time, at a cost of about \$5 per person, it's a no-brainer as to how I should spend my life. God sent us to these countries" Ken said (www.harnesslink.com).

Ken's organization, Lifetime Wells International helps the less-privileged in deprived rural communities. Ken **volunteers** his expert services, and with help from donations, provides the infrastructure needed. In addition, cataract operations have given the gift of sight to 147 individuals, many of whom were completely blind.

Ken and his partners in the Longshot Stables regularly support CHHA in memory of Andy.

Thank you Ken and the Longshot Stables !