



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

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In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

August 2019

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



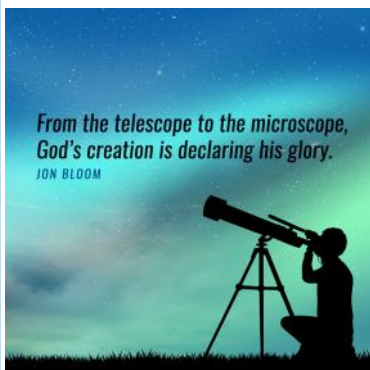
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Painting Elephants Praise God By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Loud honking in the woods behind my house woke me around 2 a.m. It was not a goose. Geese don't live in the woods. Besides, it was a different sound. It wasn't made by a bird. Googling "animal honking in the woods" returned a red fox video. That was him! He must have been praising the Lord! After all, Psalm 150:6 says, "Let everything that has breath praise the LORD."

Psalm 148 commands all creation to praise the Lord. The book of Revelation says the same thing, "Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" (Revelation 5:13).

In John's vision, around the throne of God in heaven were four living creatures. "The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle [...] Day and night they never stop saying: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,' who was, and is, and is to come" (Revelation 4:7-8). These beings that praise God in heaven with the angels and people (elders) are very intelligent animals. It seems God included some of the features of these animals when He made the animals on earth.

Job says, "But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath

of all humankind" (Job 12:7-10).

God gave Noah the specifications for an ark big enough to accommodate all the animals and commanded him to build it. When it was ready, Noah and his family boarded the ship. Then, "Pairs of clean and unclean animals, of birds and of all creatures that move along the ground, male and female, came to Noah and entered the ark as God had commanded" (Genesis 7:8-9). Noah did not have to go out looking for the animals. God sent them to the ark.

Did you know some elephants are talented artists? According to



elephantart.com, they are very creative and, with training, paint on easels with paintbrushes in their trunks. Others have different talents. Some are entertaining musicians. When elephants see other elephants and people they knew well decades earlier, they recognize them. They even recognize themselves in the mirror. Elephants mourn their dead, perform burial rituals and return to visit graves.

I've wondered over the years if my cats made conscious decisions to go take a nap, have something to eat or find a chipmunk to play with. Dogs seem to know when their family is due to arrive home and wait eagerly to greet them.

God gives some horses the talent to

Elephants continued on Page 2

Blessings from God

From Dora Lee...

Thank You for your prayers!! I want to give you a Praise report. Yesterday morning Clem was in an accident on the track at Delaware, Ohio. He was knocked out of the cart, went up in the air and landed on his back. He called me from the emergency room, and I prayed while we were on the phone. No Weapon formed against him will prosper. That he is covered by the Blood of Jesus, and that his body Must line up in the way God intended. He is sore and a little bruised, he may not be able to jog for a few days, but he went to work this morning. Praise God! By His Stripes he is Healed!! God is sooo Good!! So thank you again for all your prayers!

From Marsh Townley...

Praise the Lord! Marsh had disks four through seven replaced with bone grafts and a metal plate in May. He is wearing a cervical collar that prevents him from looking

Elephants continued from page 1

race. Others are good in the show arena, as buggy horses or on the hunt. In all these things, by being what God created them to be and using the gifts and talents God gave them, animals give glory to God. The same goes for us. When we use the gifts and talents God gives us, we glorify God.

Relationships are very important to God. Having good relationships with our animals and each other makes God happy. God wants us to live at peace with all of creation. God made men and women in the image and likeness of God specifically, "So that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals" (Genesis 1:26).

God placed Adam and Eve in the beautiful Garden of Eden and provided everything they needed and then some. Only one tree was off limits, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:17). We know "the rest of the story." They disobeyed God. Things changed. Expelled from the garden, Adam and Eve were required to work hard. Eventually, they would die and return to the dust of the earth.

Humans were in need of a savior. Since animals are not made in the image and likeness of God with the ability to reason and make moral decisions, they do not sin and are not in need of salvation. Jesus died to save humans "from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). We are saved through our faith in God. "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). We believe in Jesus and the plan for salvation designed for humans.

People often wonder if their animals go to heaven.

down—that means no emails or texting. He also has trouble with his esophagus from the inflammation and limited swallowing ability. However, he has not had any pain after the first four days. Praise God! His recovery from this surgery is 12 weeks total. Then he goes for his lower back surgery. He may have to put off the second surgery until after the Jug. Do you remember he was looking forward to seeing that no one got out of his hospital room without being asked if they know Jesus as their Lord and Savior? Well he got about a 90%. Turns out his Humana Rep's father is a minister. Praise God! He asked me to thank everyone for their prayers.

From Lorraine Truitt...

Ronnie Norman (my son): the plastic surgeon released him last week, and the hand looks so much better. There might be scar tissue, but he won't need surgery. It looked so bad at one point, we were both worried about amputation.



www.bibleinfo.com suggests, "God may allow our beloved pets to be with us in heaven. Or, He may choose to create new pets for us. We must be willing to allow God to order things as He sees best—and trust that we will be happy with the situation in heaven. God says, 'For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind' (Isaiah 65:17).

We don't know all the details of what God is preparing for us in heaven, but we do know that it will be far beyond anything we can imagine. Paul writes that God has revealed to us: "No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Corinthians 2:9).

Given all the scripture references mentioned above and elsewhere in the bible about animals praising God and animals in heaven, and the peaceable kingdom passage in Isaiah 11:1-9, my guess is, yes, there are animals in heaven. Remember, the bible says, Jesus will be coming for us on a white horse while the host of heaven watches, also mounted on white horses (Revelation 19:11, 14). Let's be ready by praising God in relationship with those around us and our animals and all of creation using the gifts and talents God gave us.



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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 \[www.chha.net/products\]\(http://www.chha.net/products\)](#)

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

Thurman Downing, 87, died May 19. Thurman was President and CEO of Downing Coal Company. He was actively involved in breeding and training Standardbreds. His father owned Bret Hanover, the 1965 Triple Crown winner and three-time Horse of the Year. He owned two breeding farms in Coshocton County and Downwyn Farms in Wellington, Ohio. He was the owner of Precision BMW in Mentor, Ohio.

Robert Stacey Gray, 89, of Lebanon, OH, died May 30. Robert was a retired bus driver and a horseman at the Lebanon Raceway. He served his country proudly in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

James MacFadyen, 83, of Farmersville, OH, died June 17. He was a Korean Army veteran. James, a school teacher most of his life, was passionate about horse racing, especially harness racing and was an avid golfer.

Helen C Mekara, 83, of Jamestown, OH, died June 17. Helen spent many years with her husband, Peter P Mekara Jr, racing horses. She also enjoyed being with her family and friends, going on cruises and spending time at her Florida and Ohio homes.



Tony L Raber, 89, of Strasburg, OH, died June 11. Tony was a retired Brick Mason. His greatest passion was his horses and for many years he bought, trained and drove his horses all over the state of Ohio. They were the children he never had. In his spare time, he also enjoyed hunting, fishing, water skiing and playing the slot machines. Tony proudly served his country with the United States Army during the Korean War.



William 'Callie' Rankin, 69, of Dundas, Ontario died June 24. Callie drove more than 3,700 winners over the course of his career earning over \$9 million in career purses. He also carved out a tremendous career on the training side of things.

John "Buzz" Rhoads, Jr, 89, of Circleville, OH, died June 10. He was an accomplished musician who played in the Army Dance Band in Berlin Germany in 1951. He also played in several big bands and orchestras across the United States. Buzz owned many horses and was co-owner of the 2013 Indiana Sires winner, Right Touch. He retired as plant manager at RANKO in Columbus, OH in 1976. He became co-owner of Riceland Golf Course with his parents, brother and brother-in-law.



Alphonsus 'Al' Rideout, 76, died June 10. He was a longtime Standardbred racehorse owner and harness racing fan. Al worked for A&P his whole life. He owned many horses over the years. He spent many nights and weekends watching and wagering at Orangeville Raceway, where his wife, Mary, ran the backstretch kitchen. He was

also a fixture at other Ontario tracks. If he wasn't at the track, he was on the couch watching HPI tv. Al's sons, Darrell and Doug, have trained horses for years (Doug also drives). Also, both trainer/driver Bill Cass and former ORC judge Paul Cass are his brothers-in-law.



Sally Kate (Perrine) Rullman, 86, of Lawrenceburg, IN, died June 13. Sally worked in real estate for 20 years retiring in 2002. Time with her family was her greatest joy, and she will be greatly missed. Sally attended the First Baptist Church of Greendale, IN. Sally's daughter, Cindy Rullman, is a friend of Racetrack Chaplaincy of America.



Gustav "Gus" Schickedanz, 90, died June 17. Gus was a member of the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame for his powerful Thoroughbred racing legacy. He arrived in Canada in 1950 at age 21 with only \$3 in his pocket and no command of the English language. He and his family had escaped from their 500-acre farm near the Baltic Sea of northern Germany, surviving shelling by the advancing Russians in 1944. Gus and his brothers built a successful construction and development company. Horses have always been a part of Gustav's life. He was a long time member of the Eglinton Hunt. His racing stable won 2 Queen's Plates and the Canadian Triple Crown. He also raced the good trotting mare, Peach Pit.

Roger Stein, 65, died May 31. Roger was a Standardbred and Thoroughbred trainer who became a Southern California institution through his radio show. He quit training 10 years ago because of medical issues but continued to do his radio show, which lasted 29-1/2 years. His final show was June 25 of last year.



Carl E. Thompson, 89, died June 19. Carl lived his whole life on the farm where he was born and raised. His two passions were his family and his horses. His livelihood was racing horses, and until he could no longer physically participate, you could find him at the barn working. He owned, trained and drove horses from the early 1950s until his death. He also continued to shoe his own racehorses well into his 70s. He loved harness racing and was considered a "trotting man" at the track. Carl also co-owned and worked at T & T Small Engines with his son, Bill, served in the National Guard, was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church and a past director of the USTA.



Obituaries

James "Jim" Beanblossom, 86, of Louisville, KY, died June 12. Jim retired from Motor Convoy in 1991. He was a truck driver. He was also a farmer, fertilizer dealer and proudly served his community by driving a dump truck. He trained and drove harness horses for over 40 years. He retired from driving in 2013 at the age of 80. His best horse, Hoosier Favorite, set four track records during his racing career. Jim was an avid golfer and enjoyed golfing with his sons. He also loved attending Smith Campground United Methodist Church with his wife.



Mary K. Coven, 73, died May 26. Mary was the mother of trainer Sam Coven and ex-wife of the late notable Ohio driver-trainer Herb Coven Jr. Mary and Herb ran a powerful stable at the Warren County Fairgrounds in Lebanon, Ohio. While Herb drove and trained the large majority of the horses, hard-working Mary also possessed licenses as both a driver and trainer. She drove 45 winners. Mary was also well known for mixing a special leg paint tightener. She was pleased to share the tightener, though not the recipe.

Prayer Corner

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

Lynn Antonelli, Lew Arsenault, Dan Ater, Emily Bier, Debbie Boardman, Amy Bondon, Jeanne Duso Boudot, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, 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 Mclvor, Mrs Miller, Frank Mirahmadi, Lalya Mosley, Corey Murphy, Howard Nields, Pierre Noel, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Dee Parsons, Margie Polhamus, Valerie Prescott, 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, 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,

Timothy W. Curtin, 61, formerly of Ottawa, IL, died June 11. Timothy was a Standardbred driver and trainer for more than 40 years throughout the United States. He was currently tied for second in the driver standings at Hawthorne Race Course. His son, Pat, also drives and trains. Hawthorne Race Course honored Timothy with a memorial race and his ashes were scattered on the racetrack.

Francis J. "Frank" Dettore Jr., 83, of North Ridgeville, OH, died June 15. He was a member of St. Peter Church. Frank, through his land development company, built thousands of homes in North Ridgeville. Although he made his living in construction, his real passion was for Harness Racing. When one of Frank's earliest horses, Real Hilarious, became a world record holder, he was hooked for life. He bred horses whose names all began with "Eagle." He loved the Harrisburg sale and would spend all day, every day, scouting the horses and watching them go through the ring.

Obituaries continued on page 4

Sources for Obituary information include:

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

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, 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, Kaye McDonnell, Dean Miller, Raymond Miller, Nancy Miner, Mike Murphy, Doug Nash, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Waverly Parsons, Susan Parks, Doc Parry, Louise Pelletier, Rita Polese, Noreen Paulen, Art Plant, Joanne Ranger, Donnie Richards, Ray Romanetti, Tori Scott, Delma Smart, Madisyn Smith, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Monica Thors, Marsh Townley, 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 Lamiqu, Chris Petruzzo, Sgt David Thomas, and Elizabeth Welch.

Special Intentions for this month:

Annie Bordenkircher sprained her knee.

Amy Bondon is undergoing radiation.

Nancy Clark has liver cancer.

Neil Draper has a punctured lung.

Lloyd Fortune continues to have health issues.

Donna Ingram had surgery to remove a growth on her lung.

Jeff Lilley asked for prayers to quit smoking.

Greg Trotto's mother is in hospice.



157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Information at www.chha.net

Please indicate
Address corrections

Congratulations CHHA Scholars Parker Steck and Casey Hite

We had many great applicants for our two available scholarships this year. After carefully reviewing all the applications, **Parker Steck and Casey Hite** stood out. Along with all our other scoring criteria, both girls had great faith statements and show a passion for and commitment to harness racing.

We awarded the John and Janet Klark Memorial Scholarship, to Parker Steck to help fund her second year in nursing studies at Ashland University. Our CHHA Scholarship committee chairperson, Lisa Schwartz, reminded us how John Klark, past director of CHHA, walked the same path Parker walked when he lost his wife as a result of an automobile accident. Parker and her family lost her 18-year-old brother, Ryder "Storm Boy" Steck, in a car accident five years ago this month.

Parker's parents bought her a pacing filly, Riding Out a Storm, for her 18th birthday. She thought she hit the lottery and spent weekends and vacations at the barn doing everything she could to make Stormy great. Stormy paid her way picking up checks all summer but was not able to contribute to Parker's college tuition.

While away at school, Parker missed her family. When they left her at school last fall, it was the first time she had been away from her mom and dad and family. She said, "I was scared to death. I prayed and asked God to keep me calm, to bring me peace, and at first didn't know if He was listening. As the days went on and my classes started, I slowly found my way. I would say my prayers at night and keep asking God to get me through one day at a time and that's what He did. I have come to an understanding with Him that His plan will always be the right one for me, but I need to understand that it is on HIS time as well.

"I have worked very hard on my grades. I am super proud that I got 100% on a chemistry exam and my professor said, 'I haven't seen anyone get 100%. Be proud of that.' I know that my prayers were heard and I know that God gave me the time and space I need to start figuring out who I am as my own person. I know my work

ethic that stems from barn days is what allows me to prioritize my studies and keeps me focused on the end result. I have become more confident as a student and I am

hoping this transfers to becoming a confident nurse.

"I know that God's plan for me is bigger and better than anything I could dream for myself. So, I pray every night and I will rely on Him to show me my way just like He has done up to this point."

Casey Hite will be highlighted next month.



Parker Steck and McWiz



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

Memorial Contributions

- In memory of **Dean and Steve Beachy** by: Fair Meadow Farm
- In memory of **Chaplain Kelly Blanton** by: Amy Bondon, Bruce Ranger and Arnold Williams
- In memory of **Brian Cotton** by: Fair Meadow Farm
- In memory of **Mark Fransen** by: Georgia Logan
- In memory of **Sherie Hankins** by: Kim Hankins
- In memory of **Jerry Knappenberger** by: Amy Bondon, Sal DiMario, New Meadowlands Racetrack and Winners Bayonne, Northfield Park Associates and Rich and Sandy Thorstenson
- In memory of **Sally Rullman** by: Amy Bondon
- In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables