



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

March 2020

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



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Wanted
Praise Reports
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Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen
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Be kind and
compassionate to one
another, forgiving each
other, just as in Christ
God forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32

A Troubled Past

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Privileged mares raise their foals in plush pasture and enjoy buckets of grain. Privileged racehorses live in nice barns where they are loved and receive excellent care. They may even be turned out sometimes to run and kick up their heels. Other horses are abused and beaten. Often they don't get enough to eat. Beatings take their toll, causing bad behavior in the barn and on the track.

Unfortunately, too many kids grow up unloved and abused. Often, they are left to fend for themselves, have low self-esteem and follow the bad example of their parents. Granted, there are some kids raised by loving parents who spiral down because they make bad choices. It is always sad when kids continue into adulthood with lots of baggage from their troubled youth.

A Christian may look at someone who is troubled, thinking they are "bad" and don't know God. However, it is often difficult for those who are down and out to believe there is a God who cares about them.

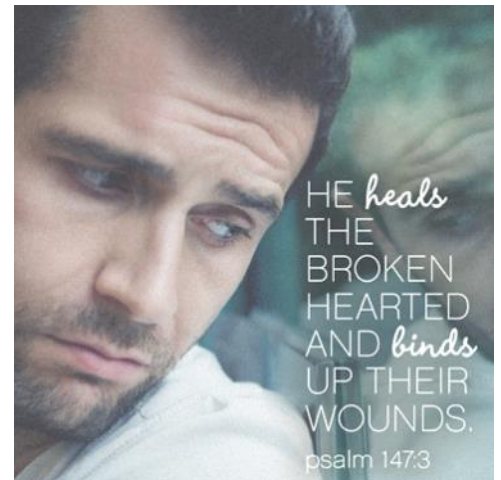
Renowned theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, said, "We must learn to regard people less in the light of what they do or omit to do, and more in the light of what they suffer."

We work hard to understand an abused horse that moves into our barn. Then, gradually we gain their trust. It is our hope that one day they can put their past behind them and start to enjoy life, taking pleasure in the sport that's in their breeding.

When we encounter people who have issues, we may wonder what made them the way they are. Sometimes a

teacher will understand the struggles of a student and encourage them, letting them know they are loved and important and have talent and opportunities. Counselling may be necessary to help kids and adults gain understandings that move them towards becoming all God made them to be.

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32).



According to www.compassion.com, "Compassion means someone else's heartbreak becomes your heartbreak. Another's suffering becomes your suffering. True compassion changes the way we live."

"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). God loves us all and knows we may fall into temptation. That's why Jesus came and died to open for us the gates of heaven. He said to the thief on the cross, "Today you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43).

Troubled Continued on page 2

Blessings from God

From Jana Brocco.

Praise God!!!! Thank you prayer warriors. Just got off the phone with my oncologist. He had his radiologist look at my PET & the CT I had today. There is increased uptake in the collar bone, sternum & 1st 2 ribs, but he doesn't feel it's cancer. He thinks it's inflammation.

Although I haven't had any injuries, it may be from the chemo treatment & the right side isn't showing it because it was previously radiated. The bottom line is that the cancer has responded well to the chemo & with all the evidence, it is highly unlikely to be cancer in the bones. If the CT showed anything suspicious, he would biopsy it. So Thank God (me who has little faith). We are moving into phase 2. He wants to repeat scans in 3 mo.

NOTE: When Jana finishes her radiation, she expects to have surgery to remove the remains of the tumor.



Faith continued from page 6

will be thirsting to satisfy your soul rather than your flesh (Matthew 6:19-20).

We began saying, faith is things hoped for but not yet seen. When we except Christ as our personal savior, he will show up and reveal things that will floor you. Our God proves himself to us. What kind of a relationship would it be if we read God's Word, got down on our knees and prayed for others, and ourselves blessed others financially or with our time and then received nothing? I mean, we received not a word or evidence that God is working in us or answering our prayer—nothing.

I'm here to share the Good News with you. It is far from nothing! It is everything! I've been in relationship with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit since March of 1994. Wow! Wow! Wow! And Holy Cow! I have testimony after testimony on the evidence of God's unconditional love and miraculous signs and wonders. God's Word comes alive in your life. This world has become a tough place spiritually. There is a ton of evidence to prove it. Do you want to experience love, peace, joy, blessings, patience, miracles and a sound mind? I dare you to ask Jesus Christ into your life and put Him first. I challenge you to test God in these areas (Malaki 3:10). If your heart is right and thirsting for a sound mind and love like you've never experienced, it's a 1-5 shot that your heavenly Father will show up in a big way. ➡

Troubled continued from page 1

Those struggling with temptation need our prayers and example of showing God's love. Jesus died for everyone in the world who believes in Him. That is, all people everywhere who accept Jesus, putting their faith and trust in Him as their savior. As we see with the thief on the cross, a person who accepts Jesus even minutes before they die is welcome in heaven.

God smiles when His people reach out to sisters and brothers who are broken, hurting and struggling. A kind word, a helping hand just may resonate with someone even when we think we are not making a difference.

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which He looks,
Compassion on this world.
Yours are the feet with which
He walks to do good.
Yours are the hands with which
He blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are His body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, not feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes with which He looks,
Compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.
St Teresa of Avila

When I tell nonbelievers about my experience with God, they normally say, "Hey if that works for you, great." They make it sound like I'm in a program or taking a prescribed pill to get through life (I'm not saying these things are not in God's plan). My answer to them is, "It's not designed for some and not for others. God loves the heck out of you! It's for you (Romans 1:16)!"

When we risk \$1,000 or \$1,000,000 on a yearling, we are filled with hope, faith and dreams – and fears too. We're in a risky business and most don't make it to the winner's circle.

However, God says it takes faith the size of a mustard seed to move mountains (Matthew 17:20). So, being in business with God is a guaranteed win. As I said before, it's a 1-5 shot. Our goal is to finish the race of life (2 Timothy 4:7). The prize is eternal life. When we do it God's way, it's a two horse field. He's got the 1 hole and we got the 2 hole. We just set behind him as he sets the fractions knowing what we can handle. Oh, and let's put God down to drive our horse as well every time.

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Please pray for my intentions _____

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Salem, NH 03079

Name on Card _____ Security Code _____

[To Donate Now—Click here](#)

Choose a Free Gift with your \$20 donation

Gifts for Family and Friends

- CHHA hat (pictured to the right)
- 10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (see picture)
- 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



CHHA Hat



Rambling Willie Remembers

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

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 · 2249 Grey Oaks · Grove City, OH 43123

Necklace Qty: Red ____ Blue ____ Turquoise ____

Keyring Qty: Red ____ Blue ____ Turquoise ____ Silver ____

Other colors are available upon request.



Obituaries continued from page 5

Neil Draper of Salisbury, MD, died Dec 22. Neil was a lifetime member and treasurer of Horse Lovers United, a nonprofit group that helps Standardbred race horses find good and loving homes to ride out their retirement years! One of his passions was horses and the harness racing industry. There were many nights he spent with family and friends down at the "track" at Harrington and Ocean Downs. It didn't matter if the weather was mild, cold or down right sloppy! Just the atmosphere and the thrill of the race were enough for Neil.



Melissa "Missy" Lynn Dunkleman Hill, 53, of Salisbury, MD, died Dec 31. Missy started riding horses when she was 10. She competed in cross country and on the hunter circuit. She and her husband, David Hill, trained and raced Standardbreds. Missy received great satisfaction seeing a horse improve and do well.



Lloyd Fortune, died Jan 24. He did military service in Guam then worked for City of Costa Mesa Street & Highway Department. When he was in his 40s, Lloyd attended Life Bible College in LA at night and became a Pentecostal pastor for 25+ years. God came first, then his family. Lloyd was CHHA member, Annie Bordenkircher's, brother.



Harvey E. "Gene" Griffin, 75, of East Pembroke, NY, died Jan 24. Gene raced mainly at Batavia Downs and Buffalo Raceway during his career. As a versatile and talented horseman in the sport, his first driving win came in 1979.



David Hazelwood, 71, of Franklin, OH, died Jan 9. David was an auto worker who retired from General Motors. He was a fixture at Lebanon Raceway then Miami Valley for over 50 years. He loved harness horses and traveled to the Red Mile and various tracks in Ohio and Indiana. David was Brenda Jo Dennon's brother-in-law.



Fred Hughes, 102, of PEI, died Jan 16. Fred was a respected farmer and life long horseman who used to race horses on the ice. Until his health failed a few years ago, he seldom missed a race card at Charlottetown Driving Park.

James E. Krieter, 87, died Jan 6. Jim and his father-in-law owned Port City Florist Supply. Jim and his wife of 59 years, JoAnn, owned Wind Shadow Farms where they bred and raced Standardbred horses. Their

pride and joy was "Red Rhone" who represented the US in the European Grand Prix in Sweden.

Clyde Mattison, 85, of Hinsdale, NH, died. Clyde raced in New England. He came from a family of horsemen, including sons, brothers and many nephews involved in racing.

"Bullet" Bob Meyer, 80, died Jan 9. Bob served as the principal race caller at Yonkers through the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. He concluded his career with a six-year stint at Saratoga before retiring in 2005. He called his final race on Dec 2, 2018.

Jay Sears, 78, of Olsten, FL, died Jan 12. Jay was the father of Brian Sears. When he was 22, Jay became the youngest ever to drive a two-minute mile. His career then flourished, racing at Vernon Downs in the summer and Pompano Park in the winter. Later, he and his 2nd wife, Kim, focused on Florida bred and the "Sunshine" stakes. Jay was inducted into the Florida Harness Racing Hall of Fame in 1992. He served as president of the Florida Standardbred Owners and Breeders Association. Jay also served on the USTA board for 25 years.



Anthony J. "Tony" Stellone Jr, 73, of Clifton Park, NY, died Jan 18. Tony retired after more than 30 years as a racing official in Saratoga Springs. He had also been involved in the operation of his family business, Stellone Electric in Watervliet. He loved horse racing and participated as both an owner and spectator. Tony was a communicant at St. Edward the Confessor Church in Clifton Park.

Ralph M Torcello, 89, of Batavia, NY, died Jan 8.

He grew up on the family farm on Creek Road in Batavia and lived there until his death. After graduating from Buffalo State College, Ralph served in the US Army and then taught Industrial Arts in the Letchworth Central School District until his retirement. His passion was harness racing. During college, he worked part-time as a security guard at Batavia Downs. He was an owner, trainer and driver and raced almost entirely in Western New York. He was a member of Ascension Catholic Church in Batavia.



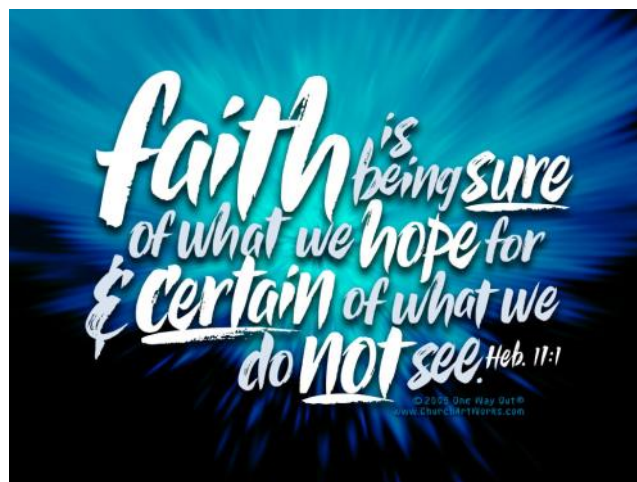
Bird of Paradise
Courtesy of
Annie Bordenkircher

Obituaries

Jack Burke, 82, died Jan 13. Jack retired from Dravo as head of engineering. He had a very accomplished career building steel mills around the world. His wife, Lore, of 54 years and kids traveled with him. He was born club footed and after surgery was able to play sports through high school. Jack was Mickey Burke's brother.

John Czwak, 72, of Phoenix, AZ, died October 30. He formerly lived in Sacramento, CA. John was a faithful CHHA member and owned a few horses over the years. If you knew John, please let me know. They were not able to locate any family members. The county buried him. However, it still would be nice to know someone cares – besides me.

Gerald "Jerry" H. Decker, 74, of Monticello, died Jan 24. Jerry was a fixture at Monticello Raceway for 30 plus years as a horseman. He was a proud member of the Monticello Harness Horsemen Association and the United States Trotting Association.



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 Arsenault, Dan Ater, Emily Bier, Debbie Boardman, Amy Bondon, Jeanne Duso Boudot, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Lore Burke, Rick Carson, Barbara Carter, Karen Carter, Sam Castimore, Candice Coleman, Barbara Connors, Sharon Cromer, Joe Crothers, Mike Deeters, Ashley Dennon-Cohen, Barbara Dinning, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Francine Federici, Tiffany Fisher, Lloyd Fortune, Dorothy Geer, Rodney Grady, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, Warren Harp, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Glenda Holloway, Layla Hundertpfund, Jeff Hurst, Donna Ingram, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, Jennifer Jugg, 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, 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, Del Smart, Larry Smith, Doug Stringer, Jimmy Takter, Bobbi Tanner, Jack Taylor, Carrie Thompson, Gary Tyron, Fred Ward, Sr, Roland Wardel, Kate Williams, Marty Woebkenberg, Allan Wright, 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, Jim Ferguson, Scott Freck, Sylvain Gagnon, Greg Gehman, Dr Howard Gill, Bob Goth, Barbara and Brent Graham, Debbie Gray, Jimmy Hart, Joyce Hart, 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, Michael Klark, Victor Kiss, Larry Lawter, Ray Levay, Sam Lilli, Katherine Lonager, Sharon Lowell, Faye Mackey, Terry Mahar, Joanne Maiorca, Pedro Martinez, Jr, Cheryl Mauran, Kaye McDonnell, Dean Miller, Raymond Miller, Nancy Miner, Mike Murphy, Doug Nash, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Waverly Parsons, Susan Parks, Doc Parry, Louise Pelletier, Donna Phillips, Rita Polese, Noreen Paulen, Art Plant, Joanne Ranger, Donnie Richards, Ray Romanetti, Tori Scott, Jody Sexton, Delma Smart, Madisyn Smith, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Marsh Townley, Lorraine Truitt, Mel Turcott, Justin Vance, Barry Vicroy, Max Walton, Steve Warner, Reggie 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:

Amy Bondon's surgery site herniated.

Denise is battling stage IV lung cancer.

Diane has health issues.

Tammara Carlstrom DiStefano has nodules on her lungs.

Tommy Long had surgery for esophageal cancer.

Nolen Reasoner went into cardiac arrest from A&B flu.

Joe Snow has hardening of the arteries in his brain.

Betty Ann Thomas is receiving chemotherapy for leukemia.



157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Please indicate
Address corrections

Information at www.chha.net

Faith

By Frank Profaci

“Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see” (Hebrews 11:1). It’s March, time to shell out for stakes payments. Owners put their confidence in the trainer’s ability to know if a horse has enough potential before they invest lots of money. I call that, “things hoped for but not yet seen.” When our horses win, our relationship with the trainer grows encouraging us to put more faith and money into the trainer. Others put horses in this trainer’s barn too. Eventually the trainer has a barn full of expensive horses. First we are driven by faith and buy a yearling. Then we stake it, coddle, nurture and invest in it. Then it races and wins. The faith and hope that’s been fueling us turns to evidence. In harness racing, the journey of buying a yearling, watching it grow into a successful, healthy and prosperous animal is one of the most fulfilling experiences in this business. Amen” Amen!!!

Faith in God is little different but the results are almost the same. We are not going to open our eyes one morning and see God standing there in a tangible way. When we invite God to come into our life, we begin investing in Him and He in us. That’s the beginning of a relationship (Matthew 7:7-8). Relationship is based on results that create trust. Normally, a healthy relationship takes time. However, with God it could happen instantly when we sincerely want it (Matthew 4:18-22). God miraculously puts brand new ideas into our hearts when we ask Him into our lives and mean it. This is called the Born Again experience. This simply means we died to our old nature by giving our complete trust in all aspects of this sinful world to Jesus Christ our Lord (John 3:3). Remember, it is done miraculously. Many of us might ask how just sincerely asking Christ into my life will make my nature change. You might wonder, “If I ask Christ into my life and mean it, all of a sudden I’m going to have a relationship with Jesus like I do with my mother, father, husband or wife?” YES! You will desire more Godly things than earthly things. You

Faith continued on page 2



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

Memorial Contributions

- In memory of **Sherie Hankins** by: Kim Hankins
- In memory of **David Hazelwood** by: Brenda Jo Dennon
- In memory of **Tommy Lail** by: Larry and Joan Martin
- In memory of **Tina Quinn** by: Jim and Judy Ferguson
- In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables



Winner's Circle Tribute

A donation was made In honor of :

Bill and Lucille Wick's 45th wedding anniversary by Susan Throm-White.