



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

April 2020

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

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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

Christ
is
Risen!

Are We In a Crisis?

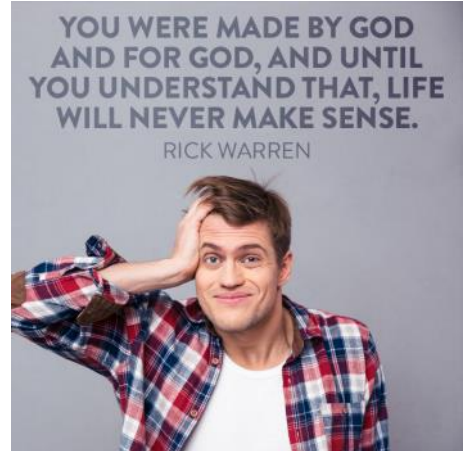
By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Is harness racing in crisis? According to USTA Marketing and Communication Director, Dan Leary, crisis communication is critical. In a February *Hoof Beats* article Dan tells how he turned the challenges of a major 2006 catastrophe at Arlington Park into much positive publicity as they addressed the issues. Attendance increased by 17% the following year. Dan and the USTA are working with a consulting group to create a strategy template that can be used by anyone in harness racing.

Is Christianity in crisis? The Lord commanded Moses to tell the people, "Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy" (Leviticus 19:1-2). With the Ten Commandments, God taught the people the law of love. Then Jesus came teaching the spirit of the law through relationships, parables and healing. People listened to Jesus and believed in Him and His words, making it possible to bless them with mighty miracles. Many who were blessed went off to evangelize their families and friends and even in the temple precincts.

What does it mean to be holy? The redeemed of the Lord will be called the Holy People (Isaiah 62:12). Jesus suffered, died on the cross and rose from the dead to pay the price for our sins. We have been redeemed! Our sins have been forgiven! We are the Holy People! As followers of Christ, let's live as He taught following His example of love recorded in the scriptures.

Marty Adler offers several suggestions for making our



sport more exciting in his February 23rd *Harness Racing Update* article on improving horse racing. Marty thinks our sport has an identity crisis and needs to reinvent itself. A few of his ideas are shortening up the race bike into a Ben Hur style chariot and combining races into 2 mile events with less predictable driving strategies to get the adrenaline flowing.

Christianity, following Christ, is exciting! God continues to work miracles. Let's get the adrenaline flowing and share the exciting things God is doing in our lives. Yes, I mean you! It is good to spend time reflecting on how God is working in our world. Then, sharing

Crisis Continued on page 2



Crisis continued from page 1

God's blessings helps others to grow in their faith and helps to keep our own faith alive. Actually, when we really stop to think about all God does for us, it really is exciting and worth sharing.

I'll be happy to publish your praise reports and short articles in our newsletter. Submissions can be a sentence or two, up to 300 words or so. I bet Dan Leary would agree that God is counting on us for some good, positive publicity to encourage others in their faith.

Jesus said to His disciples after His resurrection, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20).

We have a template, the Bible. We have a mentor, the Holy Spirit. We have a committee, CHHA and the body of Christ. Let's get to work doing our part for the Kingdom of God.

Seeds of Discouragement

By Chaplain Sam Spense

An old legend tells how a man once stumbled upon a great red barn after wandering for days in a dark, overgrown forest. Seeking refuge from the howling winds of a storm that seemed to rage perpetually in the forest, he let his eyes grow accustomed to the dark and then, to his astonishment, he discovered that this was the barn where Satan kept his storehouse of seeds to be sown into human hearts. More curious than fearful, he lit a match and began to explore the piles and bins of seeds around him. He couldn't help but notice that the containers labeled "seeds of discouragement" far outnumbered any other type of seed.

Just as the man had drawn this conclusion, one of Satan's foremost demons arrived to pick up a fresh supply of seed. The man asked him why the great abundance of discouragement seeds. The demon laughed, "Because they are so effective and they take root so quickly!" The man then asked, "Do they grow everywhere?" At this the demon became sullen. He glared at the man and admitted in disgust, "No. They never seem to thrive in the heart of a grateful person."

Be thankful for what you have, today. And trust the Lord to take care of what you *don't* have. It's good to remember the tea kettle, although up to its neck in hot water, it continues to sing.

Scripture: Rejoice evermore. In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. *1 Thessalonians 5:16, 18*



Blessings from God

From Lyndel Adamsky (Seen on Face Book)...

COFFEE- Christ Offers Forgiveness For Everyone Everywhere!! Blessings- Lyndel

From Chaplain Lee Alphen...

Thank you for your prayers for my rotator cuff surgery. I had a 4 cm full thickness tear repaired and lots of bursitis removed. Praise God! The best part is, soon my shoulder won't hurt anymore. Praise God! Thank you Jesus!

Congratulations Alexis Schwartz

Congratulations to CHHA scholarship recipient Alexis Schwartz! She recently graduated from the University of Kentucky with a bachelor's degree in equine science and management and economics. According to Hoof Beats, Alexis began a new career with the USTA as a Member Services



Representative on January 6. Alexis was a CHHA scholarship recipient three of her four years in college. Alexis, We are proud of you!

Scholarships

The Christian Harness Horsemen's Association will be awarding two scholarships for the 2020/2021 school year. Available to graduating high school seniors and/or students enrolled in an educational institution of higher learning. Students who demonstrate a strong commitment to their Christian faith and are involved in harness racing are encouraged to apply. Students must be full-time and may be enrolled in degree or certificate programs. Graduate students are not eligible. **Applications available at www.chha.net are due July 15, 2020.**



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

Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Bob Farrington** by: Vivian Farrington and Joe and Karen Ewing

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

In memory of **John Pawlak** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz

In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables

Please verify or add address on back

Please activate my FREE membership. My address is on the back.

Email Address _____

Please pray for my intentions _____

Phone _____

Circle one:

Please send my newsletter (circle below)
electronically in the mail both

Please accept my donation of _____. Check Cash   

Please return to: lecalphen@comcast.net

Credit Card # _____ Exp Date ____/____

OR
CHHA
157 North Main St.
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

Pamela L Dutchick, 59, of Vernon, NY, died Feb 12. Pam's husband, John, trained horses at Vernon Downs. Pam worked with him until she was stricken with MS about 20 years ago. After earning her degree in criminal justice, she became a corrections officer with the Oneida Correctional Facility. She retired in 2001 due to her health problems. In her spare time, she enjoyed rooting for the NY Yankees, watching horse races at Vernon Downs, attending her son's sporting events and spending time with her family.



Amanda Lynn Harris, 34, died Feb 15. Amanda was the wife of driver/trainer Andrew Harris and the mother of two girls, Grace and Kinsley. Born in Bangor, ME, she was a Special Education teacher with the Somerville Board of Education in Maine. She has been a New Jersey resident for the past 10 years. Amanda was an all-around athlete who loved to read. Above all, Amanda adored her kids and loved spending time with family.



Calvin LaQuan Harris, 25, died Feb 2. Calvin learned the sport of harness racing from his uncle, Chad Parker. He started his career by grooming for various stables and then going on to earn his trainer/driver license. He raced in Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee and Mississippi. Recently Calvin had been working as a groom for Jamie Macomber at Hoosier Park in Anderson, Indiana.

Robert Gould Irving, 80, died Feb 2. He grew up on a farm in Aroostook County Maine where he raised potatoes for more than 50 years before retiring and turning the company over to his sons. Along with his father and sons, Mr. Irving was very active in the Standardbred industry as an owner, breeder, trainer, and driver. He was also a member of the Gray Memorial United Methodist Church.

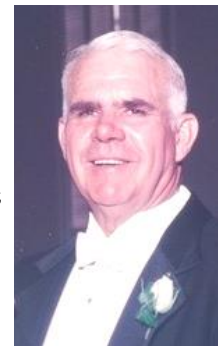


Bruce Lawrence Kearns, 81, of Wayne, PA, died Feb 2. Bruce was the founder of Forum Communications Group, Ltd. and the former publisher of The Physical Therapy Forum. Upon retirement from publishing in 1995, he founded The Short Stop in Malvern, PA. He also authored a novel, *The*



Resurrection of the King, a compelling 'Elvis is alive story.' Bruce owned and bred Standardbreds.

John Thomas Peters, DVM, 88, of Wilmington, DE, died Feb 11. He was a leading equine veterinarian and an Air Force veteran. His professional focus was on large animals beginning his long and distinguished career with race horses at Vernon Downs, Liberty Bell Park, Rosecroft, Garden State Park, Pinehurst in the winter and Brandywine in the summer. Thereafter, in addition to his private practice, Dr Peters served as a veterinarian for the State of Delaware, including at Dover Downs and at Delaware Park as Chief Veterinarian for the Thoroughbred Racing Commission of the State of Delaware. Many years ago, Dr Peters was one of the founders of a partnership that produced Albatross, by breeding Voodoo Hanover to Meadow Skipper in 1968.



Bob "Quigs" Quigley, 90, died Feb 17. Bob was a Harness Racing Hall of Fame member and a highly respected retired racing executive who led the team at the Meadowlands during its opening and early glory days. During his retirement years, he mostly followed Thoroughbred racing, but never forgot his harness racing days. One of the Thoroughbreds he raced was named Most Happy Fella, a nod to the great Standardbred.

Troy F Stidham, 80, of Circleville, OH, formerly of Ashland, KY, died Feb 14. He was a self-employed residential carpenter who owned and bred harness horses.

Timothy F Ungashick, 79, of Delaware, OH, died Feb 13. Timothy operated the Ungashick Horse Farm in Beach City, Ohio, while training at Stark County Fairgrounds before moving to Delaware in 1986 to be near the center of the harness racing circuit. He was an owner, trainer, and driver from 1978 until his retirement in 1991.



Kenneth Sommer, 97, Sheffield Village, OH, died Jan 31. Kenneth owned and raced Standardbreds for 30 years with trainers including Virgil Morgan Jr and Gregg McNair. He owned and operated numerous businesses in Elyria, OH. He attended the US Military Academy at Kings Point, NY and later served in the Merchant Marines during World War II.

Gail R Wahl, 84, of Wilmington, DE, died Feb 1. Gail and her husband, Milton, raised owned many Standardbred racehorses and loved spending time at Brandywine Raceway. Racing was a family activity, which included frequent travel to tracks from Washington, DC to New York.

Obituaries

Ettore "Eddie" Annunziata, 85 of Mahopac, NY since 1970, died Feb 11. Eddie was born in Sarno, Italy. He raced heavily on the East Coast as an owner and trainer and even bred a few horses. He was a horse trainer at Circle A Farm in Mahopac. His son, Michael, still races in NY.



Frak J. Baldassare, 77, of Highland Beach, FL, died Feb 19. Frank was a lifelong resident of northern New Jersey before moving to Florida. Frank was the VP Controller at USA Networks. He was a member of the Board for the Goshen Historic Track and active in the Knights of Columbus. As a lifelong horseman, one of his highlights was being part owner of the Hambletonian winning horse Deweycheatumnhowe. He liked the quote "Happy trails to you until we meet again" and "God Bless and goodbye."

Helene Chodash, 81, died Feb 22. She was the mother of onGait.com co-founder Maurice Chodash. Maurice runs our

annual stallion auction at www.ongait.com. "I was too young to drive a car when my mother offered to take me for the first time to The Meadowlands in 1977. Needless to say, I had an amazing time, seeing horses I only read about in *Harness Horse Magazine*, which she subscribed for me," said Maurice Chodash. "She would always encourage my love of the sport and I'm grateful she did."



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, Tommy Long, 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, Betty Ann Thomas, 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, Greggiewelch, 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 Petrullo, Sgt David Thomas, and Elizabeth Welch.

Special Intentions for this month:

Chaplain Lee Alphen had rotator cuff surgery.

Harry's lung cancer has metastasized.

Tommy Long had surgery for his esophageal cancer.

Ronnie Norman has health issues.

Steve Wiseman has cancer.



157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Your horse can too

Information at www.chha.net

Please indicate
Address corrections

Update Scholarship Applications due July 15
See page 2 for more information

Mountain Top Experience

By CHHA President Amy Bondon



This past week I was blessed with a mountain top experience, thanks to the generosity of my family at the Race Track Chaplaincy of America.

We gathered in Ridgecrest, NC, February 17-20. What a coming together it was!

On our first evening of praise and worship, our Chaplain Lee was lifted up by her comrades in service to the racing industry, for healing from her recent shoulder surgery. Chaplain Lee ranks with the elite very few, as one of the longest serving in horseracing, and has the love, respect, and admiration of her peers that was so much in evidence. As their ambassador, I bear the greetings and well wishes of that body of called men and women to Lee.

About 10 years after the new position of being the representative to women in ministry, of which our Lee was the very first to serve as, we had an outstanding turnout for the Women's Ministry portion of the conference.

We prayed over and lovingly discussed our beloved Karen Carter as we seek the Lord's Hand upon her as she endures her current chemotherapy treatment. The Carters, like Chaplain Lee, are much loved and highly revered and it is our prayer that next year they and Chaplain Lee might all join this joyful and uplifting event. Our selfless chaplains that serve exhaustively dearly need the respite, fellowship and encouragement this coming together of their peers brings.

I know the most, remarkable, gifted current Women's Ministry Representative, Marie Friesema would bless Lee's heart. Oh my goodness what a fulfillment of the dream we had for the kind of Godly woman that would occupy this position, she is. She's the embodiment of love and joyful compelled, zealous service to the Lord and I count myself so very blessed to have had the time in her presence as she was the speaker and ran the women's segment.

These men and women prayed for me and were such a source of encouragement when I was critically ill last year, as you all did my beloved family of the CHHA. My heart is so full after being in their presence and may I take this opportunity to thank all of you, whom I have not been with, to thank you for that blessed intercession.

God richly blessed our gathering in NC and I thank Executive Director Dan Waits and Chaplain Bob and Dee Miller for making it possible for me to be there.

What a mountaintop experience the Lord provided!

**“The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,
And give you peace.”
Numbers 6; 24-26**