



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

June 2020

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



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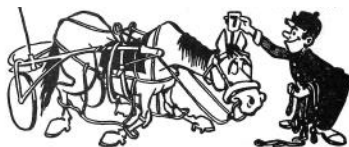
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**Wanted
Praise Reports
Testimonies
Articles**

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen
leealphen@comcast.net
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**Do you qualify for the
Kingdom of God?**



Broken Jog Carts and Covid-19 *By Chaplain Lee Alphen*

Horton, the second foal of my mare, Speedy Bonnie, broke my arm when I first started breaking him. Some energetic colts object to being tied into jog carts and wreck them trying to escape. God brings good from all things. I wonder if my broken arm was used for a higher purpose. Someone else trained Horton while I pursued a career in business, which gave me the time and resources for my ministry at Rockingham Park.

When we go against God, we bind ourselves in our sin. The more we sin, the tighter we pull the girth. Thrashing around attempting to free ourselves like a two-year-old colt trying to free himself from a jog cart might work for today, but tomorrow will find our master, the devil, tying us in again. The only way to escape is calling out to God who is extremely merciful and is not judging us—yet.

In John's gospel we read that the Jewish leaders brought a woman caught in adultery and made her stand before the group. They said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say? [...] Jesus said, 'Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.' [...] At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she said. 'Then neither do I condemn you,' Jesus declared. 'Go now and leave your life of sin'" (John 8:4-5, 7, 9-11).

Throughout the Bible, especially in the Old Testament, God uses disaster to get the attention of His people. There are countless examples of plagues, famines, war and, of course, the big flood. In our lifetime the world has not experienced anything like this Covid-19 pandemic.

We know that everywhere many have abandoned God, church attendance is down dramatically and we have gotten away from basic bible principles. Sexual sins are accepted as normal. Some states are trying to take abortion to new levels, making it legal to kill babies even after they are born. We worship many idols such as sports, busyness, power, fame and material things.

The Apostle Paul tells us, "Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. [...] The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:16, 19-21).

As the Letter of Jude recalls, "Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion" (Jude 1:7). Abraham pleaded with God who agreed to spare Sodom if He found 10 righteous people there (Genesis 18:32). The angels of God went to Sodom and encouraged Lot, Abraham's nephew, to persuade his family to leave the city before it was destroyed. His sons-in-law thought the angels were joking. When dawn came, the angels grabbed the hands of Lot and his wife and

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daughters and led them out of Sodom. The angels told them to flee and not look back. Lot's wife turned back and became a pillar of salt (Genesis 19:12-17, 26).

In the blink of an eye, our idols have been taken away and we have been forced to stay at home. In this time of pandemic, we no longer have the freedom to do what we want, including ignoring God through our busy behavior. We realize we are not in control and are helpless. There is no answer to how many will be impacted and at what cost when it is over.

Will we learn from this experience that God is the One in control? We need God's blessing for our pursuits to be successful. The only thing that really matters is our belief in and worship of God. The idols we construct can be taken away quickly and really don't matter in the end. Only God has the answers, and will reveal them in God's perfect time.

"Look, I am coming soon!" announces Jesus in the Book of Revelation. "My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. [...] Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood" (Revelation 22:12, 14-15).

God sent Jesus to earth to teach us how to live. He did not come to judge us, only to teach us and to show us His love and mercy. As we come to realize this and grow in relationship with Jesus, the bonds of sin fall away.

Our horses are born to race. However, if they don't adjust to the harness and jog cart, they will be turned away from the track and never make it to the races. When they settle down and begin to work with their trainer, they look forward to going to the track for a workout. Then the excitement of challenging other horses in the stretch during training miles leads to performances in front of the fans and trips to the winner's circle and, perhaps some carrots, apples or a bran mash as a reward for a job well done.

One day Christ will come in glory, as a judge, bringing His followers to live forever with Him and sending the rest to the eternal lake of fire (Matthew 25:31, 34, 41). Right now, it is not too late to turn to God and away from our sins and start walking with Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. We don't know how long we have before our time is up as we see all too clearly with this pandemic. When God calls us, we want to have won the race of life and the prize of heaven.

Blessings from God

From Jana...

Well, I just finished talking to my oncologist and he says I am cancer free! 🎉 He wants to keep a very close eye on me with scans every 3 months for the first 2 years. Since the surgeon did not have to remove the implant, he is recommending no further surgery at this time. My implants are the textured ones that are associated with an anaplastic lymphoma that is 1 in 40,000. My risk of complications due to all the radiation to that area are way higher. So he said just rest and heal and when my drain comes out, I will be given exercises. 😊 He also told me he doesn't want me going back to work anytime soon. He considers me high risk if I catch this OCovid-19).

From Pastor Joe DiDonatto...

Appreciate all of your prayers for my eye! Doctor's appointment went well. My bleed is pretty much healed up so the dried blood that was blocking my view has cleared. Still some floaters around ... but not as noticeable. He said when there is a bleed there is usually a detachment, around 70% of the time. I may be fortunate and fall in that 30% category. He will check it one more time in six weeks.

"When I [...] send a plague among my people, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:13-14)

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worked and worked, and the mother stressed and stressed.

The picture that emerged was a husband hooked on prescription pain meds from too much work and a mother with emotions so brittle the tiniest things set her off, and a little girl carrying the weight of her whole family on her shoulders. A little girl that took every slap and screaming session that was meted out to her. A little girl that lived every day fearing for her brother and dreading her mother and missing the happy guy her father used to be.

So perhaps when you think staying home is SO EASY everyone should have no problem doing it- remember there are people out there that are under unimaginable strain and they take it out on another human being through physical and emotional abuse- it isn't easy simply staying home for these families.

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

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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

Paul Anthony Ciambro, 58 of Moraine, OH, died March 24. After serving his country in the United States Army, Paul dedicated the majority of his life to harness racing. He became very skilled in his trade and was privileged to do something he loved. His Father, Paul, Sr, also owns, trains and drives Standardbreds.



Paul Gately, 76, of Manasquam, NJ, died April 19. Paul was known throughout the state of New Jersey as an accomplished runner, setting records in cross country and mile events and was awarded an athletic scholarship from The University of Notre Dame for track. Paul was able to segue his own love for running to training racehorses as a successful trainer and owner of Standardbred Race Horses, racing at tracks up and down the east coast, as well as close to home in the Meadowlands and Freehold Raceway.



Edna Mae Green, 73, of Westover, MD, died April 22. Edna and her husband Clayton raised chickens. She was a retired harness horse owner, and later, an assistant manager at Goose Creek in Westover, MD. Edna was a member of First Baptist Church in Princess Anne, MD.

Billy Johnston, 84, died March 26. According to ustrotting.com, Bill will be remembered as the most important and influential individual in the history of pari-mutuel harness racing in Illinois and a pillar of the sport in North America for a half century. He served as a USTA director for 47 years. From the mid-1960s through 1997 Johnston headed the Chicago Downs Associations and Fox Valley Trotting Club meetings at Sportsman's Park, firmly establishing it as one of the premier harness tracks in North America.



Marie Jones, 96, of Montgomery, NY, died April 18. Marie and her late husband, Hal, managed Pickwick Farms in Bucyrus, Ohio, for USTA President Walter Michael. Marie was the farm secretary, while also raising their two boys, Mike and Steve. Hal built Blue Chip Farms for the Kimelman family, then managed Hanover Shoe Farms and Lana Lobell of New Jersey before they bought and developed their own farm, Cameo Hills Farm in Montgomery, NY, in 1982. Hal's horsemanship was important, but Marie's management of the finances gave them the ability to own and build their dream. Her son, Steve, and his wife, Kathy, continue the family legacy.



Phil Langley, 83, died April 11. Phil was elected as a USTA director in 1983 and became president in 2003 serving for 12 years through 2016. His leadership at the USTA was characterized by great advances in technology, such as online entry for races at all levels and a social media presence that made it possible for people across the globe to follow racing's people and horses at any time, on any electronic device. His career as a race secretary and executive centered on the Chicago tracks. He held management positions at Sportsman's Park and was director of racing at Balmoral and Maywood Park. He was part of the ownership group of both those tracks.



Elizabeth "Betty" McGovern, of Freehold, NJ, died April 20. Betty and her husband, former driver/trainer, Jim McGovern, spent the majority of their lives traveling from racetrack to racetrack. The two actually petitioned to have The Meadowlands built in the early 1970s. She was a former member of the group known as the Speedy Fillies back in the day. This group consisted of the wives of the sport's most prominent drivers and trainers. Many of her family members worked at Freehold.

Richard "Oliver" Peterson, 80 of Astor, FL, died February 11. He worked as a groom for a few prominent stables. Eventually he started working as a leather/harness repairman and he and his wife, Cheryl, started their own business, Peterson's Harness Shop, at Vernon Downs. Oliver loved spending time with his harness racing family, his dirt racing family and his golf course family. Chaplain John Prescott said, "Oliver was a true gentleman who always went out of his way to help everyone."

Warren Louis Schnittker, 91, of North Tonawanda, NY, died April 8. Warren was a talented and respected trainer and owner for many years, predominantly throughout the East Coast. He was the father of US Trotting Association director and successful horseman, Ray.

Darwin "Bub" E. Steinke, 81, of Pioneer, OH, died March 31. Bub raised, trained and raced Standardbreds from 1965-2015. He owned and operated Bub's Barbershop for 57 years and would also do some barber work in Florida to pass the time while at Spring Garden Ranch. He attended Salem Mennonite Church in Waldron, Michigan.



David M. VanPutten, 76, of Elkhart IN, died April 10. David retired from his position as Marketing Manager for Dowagiac Commercial Press in 2015. He owned, trained and drove harness horses. He had a passion for the arts, working with horses, and spending time with his many friends and family. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Elkhart.



Obituaries

Beverly "Bev" Breniser, 72, of Lititz, PA., and Avalon, NJ, died April 19. Bev was the cherished wife of Darryl Breniser who serves on the PHHA board of directors and sits on the Pennsylvania Horse Racing Commission. They both have been involved in Standardbred racing for 25 years. They especially enjoyed traveling to the Pennsylvania tracks and fairs where their horses were racing. She began her career as a sixth-grade teacher. Then served as a program supervisor for the gifted and talented students before returning as a middle school principal.



John A. "Brownie" Brown, 76, of Clay, NY, died. Brownie was an all around athlete. After his service in the National Guard, he became a basketball referee and baseball coach. Brownie worked for Vernon Downs for 50 years where he was the Assistant Race Secretary. He was loved and admired by all that met him. Brownie worked hard his entire life to take care of his family that he cherished. He enjoyed life to the fullest.



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, Dorothy Geer, Rodney Grady, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, 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 Niels, Pierre Noel, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Dee Parsons, Margie Polhamus, Valerie Prescott, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Emily Roper, Daren Richner, Julie Schwartz, 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, Steve Wiseman, 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, 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:

Please pray for an end to Covid-19 and for all affected.

Alina DeVos has Covid-19. She also has asthma which complicates the situation.

Harry continues with many medical issues.

Linda, a liver transplant recipient needs prayers for protection from the virus.

Tim Finley has pneumonia and heart problems.

Scott Freck is behind on his infusions because of Covid-19.

Sarah Harper had triple by-pass surgery.

Kevin, 50s, has a mass on his liver or kidney.

Jacob Morales was in a serious car accident.

John Morris has health issues.

Art Plant is really struggling with pulmonary issues.

Frank Profaci's mother, 75, and quadriplegic brother, 53, have Covid-19.



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Information at www.chha.net

Please indicate
Address corrections

Scholarship Applications due July 15

Doing Your Part Is Not Always Easy *By Rebecca Titus*



Stay home; do your part; no non-essential travel. For some folks it is easy to do these things. For others it is not. Perhaps a story will change some judgmental thoughts and give people a little more compassion for the hidden facts.

A little girl growing up during the seventies lived through the oil embargo when fuel prices went sky high. She lived through the energy crunch when electricity prices doubled over night and she lived through other things most people could only imagine. She grew up with a younger brother that was born with congenital heart defects, which included his heart itself being funky and not fully capable of its job. In addition, both of his lungs were incorrectly connected to his heart. This little fella spent a lot of time in the hospital for surgeries, and for other sicknesses that don't affect normal kids.

Every winter brought with it the near lockdown living we are currently experiencing thanks to Covid-19. Every virus that little guy caught turned to bronchitis, and one out of every few times the bronchitis turned to pneumonia. The little girl that grew up living as this little boys older sister lived every day of her young life hearing how "Tim could die anytime from this or that." She lived under the same cloud of uncertainty that so many are living under now- except she always had to fear she would bring home the "one" that killed him.

Now imagine being the mother to these children. Imagine the strain on her emotions every time her children coughed or sneezed. She learned to observe every sniffle or clearing of the throat that occurred and she developed routines to help offset the onslaught of winter bugs that circulate. A good mother can only protect her children so much and sometimes things could get bad very quickly.

Next, imagine being the father. Since money is always in short supply, working is the only acceptable answer. So, work he did, double shifts in an automotive factory. He

Not Easy continued on Page 2

Lyndsay Hagemeyer Earns White Coat

Lyndsay Hagemeyer was supposed to celebrate her "White Coat Ceremony" at OSU College of Veterinary Medicine in April. This recognizes the official start to her final year and Clinical rotations. That Ceremony was cancelled due to COVID-19. CHHA is very proud of Lindsay. She is a past CHHA scholarship recipient and has attended many recent CHHA breakfasts during Jug week. Her continued passion is focused on Equine breeding and neonatal care.



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

Memorial Contributions

- In memory of **Frank Bellino** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
- In memory of **Louis Beltrami** by: Elaine Beltrami
- In memory of **Bob Farrington** by: Rich Thorstenson
- In memory of **Carmine and Vincent Fusco** by: Elaine Beltrami, Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
- In memory of **Sherie Hankins** by: Kim Hankins
- In memory of **Warren Harp** by: Amy Bondon, Dale, Bobby and Val, Jackie Harp, Jimmy and Sharon Harp, Monticello Harness Horsemen's Association, Terry Harp, Susie Salles
- In memory of **Joanne Plant** by: Art Plant
- In memory of **Nancy and Weldon Stockwell** by: Paul Russell
- In memory of **William and Dennis Wick** by: their family
- In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables