



Rambling Willie

## Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

February 2021

Remember,  
I pray for all  
our members  
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

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Happy Valentine's Day!

### Nickers and God's Voice By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Standing on the rail as the horses come down the stretch, you can hear drivers shouting and whistling to their horses. The horses listen and pick up the pace.

Jennifer Brown of the acclaimed Brian Brown Stables puts it this way, "Our horses nicker when they hear us, once they get to know our voices. They know who feeds and waters them and takes care of their boo-boos. They trust us."

I always look forward to visiting Jennifer and Brian and also Ron and Kila Steck at the Jug.

Kila says, "The horses get to know us. They recognize our voices when we talk to them in the barn or go to get them from the paddock. Marty Party Two is usually kind of a grouchy mare. However, she goes right to my partner, Amanda Allender, when she goes to visit her at Sugar Valley Farm. On the track, our horses know who makes them mind." Kila thinks they go a better training mile with Ron behind them than with someone else.

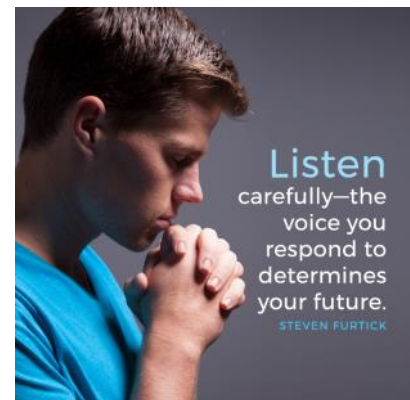
Jesus said, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27). Do we listen and hear God's voice? While God has never come personally to speak with me, I do hear God "talk" to me through the scripture, listening to preachers, reading books and articles and even watching a good movie. Sometimes God even speaks through family members and friends.

Often, I pray on my daily walk. Outside, alone, focused on God with the rhythm of my steps, God speaks to my heart. If I was still jogging horses, I think that would be a perfect time for me to pray and listen for God's voice

with the beat of hooves clanging on the stone dust track. It is easier to hear God when we listen.

"The Lord is good to those who wait for Him. He is good to those who look for Him. It is good to wait quietly, ... [to] sit alone and be quiet" (Lamentations 3:25-26, 28 ERV).

My guess is we are all good at talking to God. We tell God what we want but then often leave the conversation before we hear God's answer. It is important to include listening in our prayer time. Sitting in the presence of God is generally a peaceful experience. Sometimes it is easier to stay focused by repeating a word such as "Jesus" or a short phrase from a psalm or other scripture passage.



God knows our needs even better than we know the needs of our horses. God does not come down from heaven wrapping twitches around our ears or sticking worming tubes down our noses. Rather, God gently nudges us.

Elijah the prophet was afraid when Jezebel threatened to kill him. He fled to the desert and begged God to take him. The Lord provided food and water and encouraged him to climb Mount Horeb, the Lord's mountain, and wait in

## Nickers continued from page 1

a cave for God. God did not speak in the high winds, the earthquake or the fire but later in a tiny whisper (1 Kings 19).

It is up to us to listen for the still small voice of God. Then, when we hear it, we must test it to make sure it is the Lord. A good test is to ask, "Is this something Jesus would say?" We may also ask God for confirmation. When we know in our heart that, yes, this is God's voice, we proceed and trust God with the outcome.

Our horses nicker and deliver when they hear our voices. Can we improve the way we listen and respond to the voice of God?



*May the angels  
lead you into paradise*  
Memorials posted at [www.chha.net](http://www.chha.net)

### Memorial Contributions

- In memory of **Mae Jean Allen** of by: Mike and Patti Allen  
 In memory of **Pleasant "Junior" Batson** by: Cory Wolfgram and John Burton, Becky and Scott Kinder  
 In memory of **Bonnie Battis** by: Craig Birchard  
 In memory of **Jack Cobb** by: Dena Cobb  
 In memory of **Beckie Jo Davis** by: Dean and Beckie Davis  
 In memory of **Bill Davis** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz  
 In memory of **Vivian Farrington** by: Connie Hemy and Mary Fox Ray  
 In memory of **Warren Harp** by: Joan, Jimmy and Sharon Harp, Susie Salles  
 In memory of **Scottie Heath** by: Max Heath  
 In memory of **Sr Mary Joseph, APB** by: Roger and Mindy Smith  
 In memory of **Harold Kelly** by: Linda and Thomas Moyer, Deb and Jeff Owens, Arnold Williams  
 In memory of **John and Janet Klark** by: Joanne Mann  
 In memory of **Lee Kibler** by: Betsy Brown  
 In memory of **Bob Kinsey, Sr** by: Rich and Sandy Thorstenson  
 In memory of **Robert Miller** by: Kathy Gerasimof  
 In memory of **Teri Miller** by: Jo-Dee Brown  
 In memory of **Ron Peacock** by: Jodi Peacock  
 In memory of **Arnold Shaw** by: Craig Birchard  
 In memory of **Pat Thomas** by: Richard and Regina Beinhauer  
 In memory of **Ted Vincent** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz  
 In memory of **Patricia Wardbak** by: Richard Kane  
 In memory of **Walter Warrington** by: Steven Warrington  
 In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables

## Blessings from God

*From Chris McKee...*

Meagan had her Spine Scan. No change. No growth, no spread. That's a good thing. Her brain scan is also clear!! Thank you for your prayers along with the prayer partners. Meagan is the beneficiary of all of your support. Thank you for your continued prayers and blessings. Love, Chris

*From Peggy Ropper...*

My discharge papers read "cancer removed ." Knowing you and your prayer committee were praying for my recovery gave me peace of mind and comfort at a very dark time in my life. My Face, Ear and Neck are healing without scabbing which is important and the yellow, purple and blue skin has just about disappeared. Ken and I are concerned with my immune system since this surgery is #4 in two years. 1st three do to my feet. We give thanks to you and the Folks who have prayed for my recovery. All my Christian Love, Peggy

*From Lori Romanetti...*

Lori's niece, Sage, was accepted as a direct admit to the Nursing Program at Northern Michigan. There were only 10 spots and she got one! We have been praying for Jana, Sage's mother, who has been battling breast cancer and now other cancers. Sage was planning a career in Forensics. This change in career path was a surprise to the family. It probably was because of her mother's health battles. This news sure perked Jana up!



Harold Kelly's last trip to the finish line at Freehold

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**Your Eternal Salvation**

*Kirk Cameron*

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 Horseshoe Nail Cross necklaces and key rings—see below  
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*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



Rambling Willie Remembers

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

**Foiled Again Posters Signed by Yannick Gingras**  
**Posters are 16 x 24 sticky vinyl.**



Suggested donation \$50 each Qty \_\_\_\_\_

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Necklace Qty: Red \_\_\_ Blue \_\_\_ Turquoise \_\_\_ Gold \_\_\_ Silver \_\_\_ Fuschia \_\_\_

Keyring Qty: Red \_\_\_ Blue \_\_\_ Turquoise \_\_\_ Silver \_\_\_

**Other colors are available upon request.**





## Obituaries continued from page 5

**William Elmer "Bill" Davis, III**, 66, of Washington Court House, OH, died Nov 29. Bill was a retired farmer and had been self-employed in several agriculture related businesses. He enjoyed raising cattle. Bill had served as an escort for numerous Honor Guard, Inc. flights that transport U.S. military veterans to Washington, D.C. to see the memorial of the respective war in which they fought.



**Joseph A. DeFrank Jr. (DeFrancesco)**, 87, of Lake Pleasant, NY, died Dec 12. In 1956 he began his career in racing as an assistant in the Hilliard Raceway race office. His career took him to the race offices at many other tracks in the United States and Canada. He was hired by the late Delvin Miller to help start The Meadows in 1963. Then, in 1976, he accepted a position as director of racing for the newly built Meadowlands. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1994.



**Frank A. Glasso**, 98, of Rome NY, died Nov 5. Frank was a member of the USHWA for 55 years and an USHWA Director for 16 years. He was a reporter and photographer at the Rome Daily Sentinel. Frank was cited by the Associated Press for his reporting on a major storm in the central New York area. He also wrote about the trotters and pacers at Vernon Downs and avidly followed harness racing.



**Betty Jean Goveia**, 82, died Nov 21. Betty owned trained and drove harness horses. She raced at Batavia Downs. She loved going to flea markets, craft shows, doing crafts herself and her dogs.



**Ronald Bennett McLenaghan**, 66, of Providence Forge, VA, died Dec 13. Ron's love for animals led him to Standardbred race horses including owning, breeding, training and driving many of his favorite horses to the winner's circle. He was a self-employed concrete worker by trade and owner-operator of Canuck Construction.

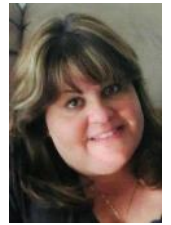


**Tresa "Teri" Lynn Miller**, 61, of Delaware, OH, died Dec 7. Teri had a zest for life that kept her working with people less fortunate than herself. Her current job at Delaware-Morrow COVA was a continuation of her passion for the mentally and physically challenged in the Delaware area. Teri's other passions in life were the Little Brown



Jug and The Ohio State Buckeyes.

**Rosanne Owens**, 60, of Greenville, OH, and formerly of Oakhurst, NJ, died Dec 7. Rosanne was employed as a professional assistant at the Adams Physical Therapy Services of Winchester, IN. Also with her husband, Mel, she was very active in Standardbred racing. She was an owner. Mel continues to own and train harness horses.



**Ronald E. Ralph**, 91, of Waldoboro, ME died Nov 24. Ron and his sister, Helen, owned Ralph Chevrolet for 40-plus years. As an avid harness racing fan and owner, Ron was president of Lewiston Raceway for over 20 years and a director of the New England division of the USTA for over 50 years. He was voted to the New England Horsemen Hall of Fame in 2011.

**Jerry Lynn Roberts**, 79, of South Vienna, OH, died Dec 18. Jerry was a United States Navy veteran who worked and retired from Navistar in Springfield. He was a Standardbred driver/trainer who loved his horses.

**William 'Bill' Robinson**, 74, of Caledonia, Ont, died Dec 11. Bill got involved with racing after going in on a \$1,500 claiming horse with a bunch of friends while working at a local Firestone factory. He eventually quit working at the factory to become a trainer and enjoyed tremendous success. Several horses he trained were inducted into the Hall of Fame and won many divisional honors in Canada like the O'Brien Award.



**Hilary Lynn Spears**, 37, died Nov 21. Hilary was the much beloved daughter of Drs. Laura and Paul "Pete" Spears. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts majoring in photography from the University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA. Hilary was a talented photographer with a keen eye for portraits which revealed a great deal about her subjects. She charted a fiercely independent path during her life, following it uncompromisingly despite obstacles and personal setbacks.

**Evelyn Mae Walters**, 93, of Delaware, OH, died Nov 24. Evelyn and her husband, Dr. Dale Walters operated his Veterinary business and established Sugar Valley farm. She especially enjoyed assisting in the foaling of their horses and watching their horses race. She was a staple at her Jug Week box at the Delaware County Fair for years. Her favorite past time of all was mowing her grass in which she did until she was 91. She was a member of the Old Stone Presbyterian Church.

**Michael Scott Weiner**, 55, of Monticello, NY, died Dec 26. Michael had a lifetime of success on the track as an owner, trainer and amateur driver. His final win as an owner came Dec 23, 2020, in the ninth race at Monticello with his own KJ Brent.



## Obituaries

**Dr. James D. Cannon**, 90, of Moline, IL, died Nov 26. Dr Jim earned a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and a Purple Heart during the Korean War. He practiced pediatric dentistry for 34 years. He was a devoted harness racing enthusiast who owned horses with trainer Leon DeJulius and later Doug Murray, racing at Quad City Downs and the Chicago tracks. He loved everything related to the racetrack and was an amateur driver before it was cool. He helped train on his day off and made many trips to the fairs and the Lexington sales. The preferred dentist of horsemen, many times accepting no payment, he set up a dental trailer on the grounds of Quad City Downs



for backstretch workers.

**William Howard Current**, 91, died, Dec 9. Bill was around horses all his life beginning on his parents' farm as a boy. When he was 10, he got a job as a groom at Wilmington Fairgrounds. After serving in the Korean War, he began a career as a harness horse trainer. He was inducted into the Saratoga Harness Hall of Fame in 1997.



**Obituaries continued on page 4**

**Sources for Obituary information include:**

[www.harnessracing.com](http://www.harnessracing.com), [www.ustrotting.com](http://www.ustrotting.com)  
[www.standardbredcanada.ca](http://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, Thomas Daniel, 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, 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, Meagan McKee, Mrs Miller, Frank Mirahmadi, Lalya Mosley, Corey Murphy, Howard Nields, Pierre Noel, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Carol Parker, 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, Carrie Thompson, Gary Tyron, Fred Ward, Sr, Roland Wardel, Kate Williams, John Wing, 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, Rick Beinhauer, 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, Vivian Farrington, 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, Winnie Kaminga, Kenny Kane, Dave Kelly, Barbara Kinsey, Michael Klark, Victor Kiss, Larry Lawter, Ray Levay, Sam Lilli, Art Lisi, Jr, 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, Frank Profaci, Joanne Ranger, Donnie Richards, Ray Romanetti, Tori Scott, Jody Sexton, Delma Smart, Madisyn Smith, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Carol Tebo, Marsh Townley, Lorraine Truitt, Phillip 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 Petrullo, Sgt David Thomas, and Elizabeth Welch.

**Special Intentions for this month:**

Danielle and her husband would like prayers for their relationship.

Jessica Gehman broke her leg.

Dorothy Greer's mother, 94, fell.

Billy Greer falls often because he has trouble regulating insulin.

Paul Hanson had prostate surgery.

Faith Hawes is caring for her mom who is not well.

John Kay, 39, has been having strokes due to a hole in his heart.

Meagan McKee is scheduled to begin experimental treatment.

Jayne Stephens was hospitalized with COVID.

Vinnie Villante has health issues.

Lucille Wick has a wound on her leg.

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Salem, NH 03079  
USA



Please indicate  
Address corrections

## A Farmer's Prayer

*Author unknown*

A pastor attended a men's breakfast in the middle of a rural farming area of the country. The group had asked an older farmer, decked out in bib overalls, to say grace for morning breakfast:

"Lord, I hate buttermilk," the farmer began. The visiting pastor opened one eye to glance at the farmer and wonder where this was going.

The farmer loudly proclaimed, "Lord, I hate lard." Now the pastor was growing concerned.

Without missing a beat, the farmer continued, "And Lord, you know I don't much care for raw white flour."

The pastor once again opened an eye to glance around the room and saw that he wasn't the only one to feel uncomfortable.

Then the farmer added, "But Lord, when you mix them all together and bake them, I do love warm fresh biscuits."

So Lord, when things come up that we don't like, when life gets hard, when we don't understand what you're saying to us, help us to just relax and wait until you are done mixing. It will probably be even better than biscuits. Amen."

Within that prayer, there is great wisdom for all when it comes to complicated situations like we are experiencing in the world today.

Stay strong my friends, because our life is being mixed with lots of things that we don't care for... relax and wait until the mixing is done.



**Thank You**  
everyone who  
donated breedings  
and participated in  
our Stallion  
Auction! You are  
helping us to

**Keep Christ Alive in Harness Racing!**

## Reflections

*From Billy Houghton, Jr...*

Faith isn't the ability to believe Long and Far into the misty Future...It's simply taking God at His word and taking the next step.



*From Danny Daniel...*

As great as the mountains are, they cannot think; the oceans cannot love; the billions of stars cannot choose their way. God granted us all of these gifts because He made us in His image. When we feel so very small compared to all of creation, we must remember we are very big and the most important of all to our God.

Never feel like you are but a dot on the landscape when you view a mountain or the stars. God views us and our souls very differently. We are much greater than all of his marvelous creations in the universe. We are created in His image and can do all of the things that His other creations cannot. We can choose our way, we can think, we can reason and we can change, and we can love. That is how special He created us, more-so than any of His other works.

