



Rambling Willie

## Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

June 2021

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](mailto:leealphen@comcast.net)

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Satan fears our study of God's  
Word because ignorance of it  
is the most effective weapon he  
can use against us.



### It Gets Easier

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Have you ever said, "If only this colt realized things would be much better for him if he stopped fighting, calmed down and learned to pull the jog cart"? It's no fun being the villain, trying to make our young horses do what they do not want to do. We know they were born to race. Once they get the hang of it, it gets easier and they will love it.

I can remember my grandfather saying it hurt him more than us as he threatened us with his belt. (He never actually hit us with it.) My grandmother didn't like punishing us either or denying us a piece of her apple pie or her chocolate chip cookies. Thank God our parents and grandparents brought us up to respect others, work hard and, most especially, to love God.

Jesus said to Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, "My heart is so heavy with grief, I feel as if I am dying. Wait here and stay awake with me" (Matthew 26:38 ERV).

When he went back to his followers and found them sleeping, He said to Peter, "Could you men not stay awake with me for one hour? Stay awake and pray for strength against temptation. Your spirit wants to do what is right, but your body is weak" (Matthew 26:40-41 ERV).

Jesus knew His disciples would face temptations that night and that, if they gave in to sleep, they would be very sorry later. It was for their own good that He wanted them to stay awake and

pray for strength to do the right thing. For Jesus, it wasn't about Him, it was about what was best for His disciples.

Later someone recognized Peter as one of the disciples, and Peter denied knowing Jesus three times. When the cock crowed, "Peter remembered what Jesus had told him: 'Before the rooster crows, you will say three times that you don't know me.' Then Peter went outside and cried bitterly" (Matthew 26:75 ERV). Peter never forgot this betrayal.

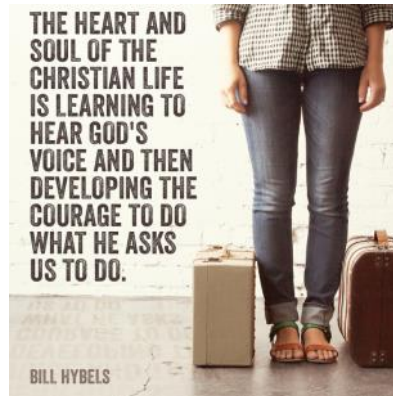
Before Jesus went back to heaven,

He asked Peter three times if he loved Him. Peter again felt bad about his betrayal and said, "Lord You know that I love You." Jesus then gave Peter a big job, showing how much He trusted him. He told Peter to take good care of His followers. And Jesus said, "Follow Me." (John 21:15-19).

Psalm 19 tells us: the instructions of the Lord are perfect and worth more than pure gold. They are sweeter than honey. Good things come to those who obey them. The Lord is our Rock, the One who rescues us. We want our words and thoughts to please God and for God to be happy with us. Psalm 19 is a good psalm to study. It is printed on page 2.

Our horses love racing. They love winning and going to the winner's circle. They love being part of a stable that loves them, pays attention to them and takes good care of them.

My parents and grandparents loved my brothers and me and raised us right. I am blessed to be part of my family. Perhaps you have family members or good friends who are a special blessing

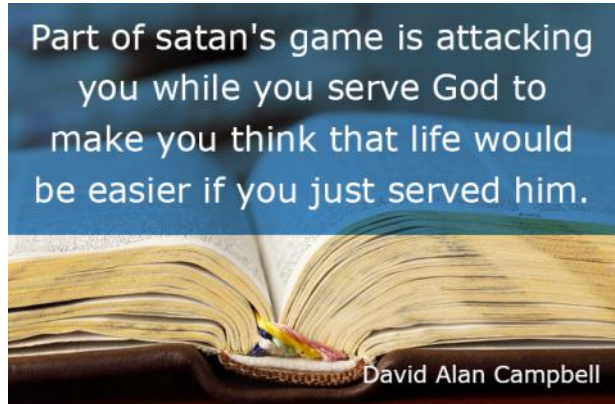


Easier cont. Pg. 2

*Easier (continued from page 1)*

in your life. We are all part of God's family. That is the biggest blessing of all.

John the Baptist came to prepare the way for Jesus by encouraging people to turn away from their sins and back to God. Now is the time to ask God's forgiveness and help to follow the Lord more closely in the future. It gets easier once we get the hang of it. This is the only way to find the real peace and happiness God wants for us. Let's take our places in the best family of all, the family of God.



## Blessings from God

*From Linda Moyer...*

Finally got through all of my tests. Yesterday I found out that I don't need chemo and radiation before the surgery. That is a blessing. A very slight possibility I might after the surgery. Tentatively, I will be having surgery on May 28. It is a major surgery and I will have a long journey back to good health but I know with God walking beside me and sometimes carrying me, I will get through this. Thank you for all of the prayers. He is the great physician for sure.

*From Chris McKee...*

We met with Dr Pentsova from Sloan Kettering. She and Dr Monte said the tumor shrank 34% this month!! They want Meg to go out to CA for the 3rd infusion. Working on coordinating now. ...stay tuned. Thank you prayer partners!! What would I do without your uplifting prayer and support?

### Psalm 19

The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.  
<sup>2</sup> Day after day they pour forth speech;  
night after night they reveal knowledge.  
<sup>3</sup> They have no speech, they use no words;  
no sound is heard from them.  
<sup>4</sup> Yet their voice<sup>♫</sup> goes out into all the earth,  
their words to the ends of the world.  
In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.  
<sup>5</sup> It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,  
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.  
<sup>6</sup> It rises at one end of the heavens  
and makes its circuit to the other;  
nothing is deprived of its warmth.  
The law of the LORD is perfect,  
refreshing the soul.  
The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,  
making wise the simple.  
<sup>8</sup> The precepts of the LORD are right,  
giving joy to the heart.  
The commands of the LORD are radiant,  
giving light to the eyes.  
<sup>9</sup> The fear of the LORD is pure,  
enduring forever.  
The decrees of the LORD are firm,  
and all of them are righteous.  
They are more precious than gold,  
than much pure gold;

they are sweeter than honey,  
than honey from the honeycomb.  
<sup>11</sup> By them your servant is warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.  
<sup>12</sup> But who can discern their own errors?  
Forgive my hidden faults.  
<sup>13</sup> Keep your servant also from willful sins;  
may they not rule over me.  
Then I will be blameless,  
innocent of great transgression.

May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart  
be pleasing in your sight,  
LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

*The law of the Lord refreshes the soul.  
It is perfect!*



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Gifts for Family and Friends

- 10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (see picture)
- Horseshoe Nail Cross necklaces and key rings—see below
- CHHA Hat
- Foiled Again Poster signed by Yannick Gingras



Books

- Power in Praise by Merlin Carothers  **New**
- 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



Rambling Willie Remembers

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

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Other colors are available upon request.

Horseshoe Nail Item Order Form  
Orders can also be placed at  
[www.chha.net/products](http://www.chha.net/products)



## Obituaries continued from page 5

**Dr Albert Gabel**, 91, died April 12, 2021. Dr Al served on the faculty at Ohio State's College of Veterinary Medicine for 33 years. He served as head of the Clinical Equine Section from 1971 until he retired in 1989. He trained and drove Standardbreds for 11 years and was named the United States Amateur Driver of the Year in 1995. He was elected president of the Ohio Standardbred Owners and Breeders Association in 1992 and was instrumental in initiating its merger with the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association.



**Martha Jean Gale**, 80, of North Hanover, NJ, died May 5. She earned her business and equitation degree from Southern Seminary in Virginia. Martha and her husband, Earle, moved to North Hanover, NJ and purchased Gales Way Farm which they operated together for 53 years. She was dedicated to her Quarter Horses and Standardbred racehorses and spent her time horse training, giving lessons and running the farm.



**Calvin Douglas "Doug" Lasher**, 74, of Hanover, MD, died April 5. His hard work ethic, drive, and proud patriotism led him to enlist in the Air Force and serve his country in the Vietnam War. As a Field Engineer he was part of Apollo 11 with NASA and later worked for Raytheon as a Government Contractor. Doug was a businessman at heart and had a business racing, breeding and raising trotters. He was an elder at the Living Water Community Church.

**Joseph J. Latella**, 87, of Utica, NY, died April 12. Joe's life revolved around four things, family first (especially Rosemary), his work, boxing and horseracing. Joe and his brother, Phil, started Utica Excavating Co as a family business. Joe was trained as a boxer and was a Golden Gloves lightweight champion. Joe owned and trained horses racing at Vernon Downs.



**Ronald Leslie MacArthur** of Summerside, Prince Edward Island, died April 25.

**Cynthia Milano**, 62, of Saratoga, NY, died April 10. She was the wife of Barry Segel, and the team made an impact at Saratoga Raceway. She will be remembered as one of the foundation trainers at Saratoga. In 2014 she was named Horsewoman of the Year at Saratoga.

**Richard P. Paltani**, 83, of Sagamore Hills, OH, died Dec 5. Richard owned and bred harness horses since 2002. In total he owned 90 Standardbreds having bred about 20 of them. He still owned 20 horses at the time of his passing.



**Wayne Dean Plowman**, 83, of Keosauqua, IA, died April 14. After serving in the US Army, Wayne farmed for a few years and then embarked on a 40 year career training and driving harness horses. He was inducted into the Iowa Harness Horsemen's Hall of Fame. Upon his retirement, he proudly turned his stables over to his son, Eric. He enjoyed horses, fishing, camping and spending time with family, especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Betty Jo Sherman**, 85, formerly of Elmore, OH, died May 3. Betty Jo and her husband, Daryl, are long-time Standardbred owners, and Daryl is a past president of the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association. Betty Jo worked in the office for Daryl for many years and was a homemaker. She was a member of Grace Lutheran Church, Fremont. She also played the organ for many years at Grace Lutheran Church in Elmore. She was member of the Republican State Central Committee and was also a past member of the Woodville Board of Education.

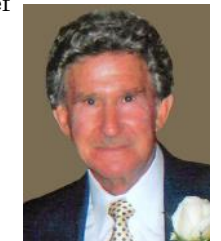
**Dr Paul B Smith**, 85, of Plainfield, IL, died April 19. Dr Smith served as the veterinarian for harness Racing for the Illinois Horse Racing Board for 27 years and was inducted into the Illinois Harness Horsemen's Hall of Fame, which was the group that he regulated. Dr Smith was also appointed by both Gov Edgar and Gov Thompson as Commissioner on the Illinois Racing Board.



**Keith Waples**, 97, of Ontario, died May 7. Keith drove and won his first Standardbred race at the age of 12 in 1935 at Sundridge, ON. His yellow and blue silks last appeared in a race when he was 81 in 2005, but he continued to train a few horses until just a few years ago. He and James Keeling pioneered Orangeville Raceway, Cloverdale Raceway (now Fraser Downs) and Sandown Raceway in BC. He was an inductee in the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame, the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame and the Harness Horse Hall of Fame in Goshen, NY.



**Lewis W. Whitaker Jr**, 90, of Schnecksville, PA, died April 14. Lewis was the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Whitaker Roofing & Siding Inc. until 1996. He was a member of Union Evangelical Lutheran Church, Schnecksville. He was a harness racing fan for many years and claimed his first horse 11 years ago. Then he purchased Scirocco Farm and raced several top horses with the farm surname.



There is nothing more important than  
**Your Eternal Salvation**

Kirk Cameron

## Obituaries

**James Robert Allen Jr.**, 54, died April 8. He loved horses and was a cowboy through and through. James spent many days racing horses at the Saratoga Harness Track or traveling across the states with his horses. He suffered a car accident and for the past 20 years he had been living as a quadriplegic. His quality of life surely diminished, but he didn't let his ailments hinder his abilities.



**Thomas W Burke**, of Ringtown, PA, died April 9. Tom was also a US Navy pilot and served at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola Florida. He was a tool and die maker\machinist by trade. Tom was a member of St Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Ringtown. He was CHHA member Tara Burke's dad.



**Vincent (Vinnie) J Boido Jr.**, 63, of Zephyrills, FL, died April 18. When Vinnie was 22, he earned his presiding judge's license from the USTA and became the youngest judge in the state of Michigan at the age of 22. Vince loved to judge at the county fairs. He also owned several harness horses over the years. He owned his own car parts company in New Hudson, Michigan, RBI Industries.



**Robert Ernest Cork**, 78, of East Windsor, CT, died April 23. Robert loved to write and tell stories. He published a book about a harness-racing family, "A Chance to Win," in serial form in *Hoof Beats* magazine. He loved music and played the trombone in a church orchestra.

**Obituaries continued on page 4**  
Sources for obituary information include:  
[www.ustrotting.com](http://www.ustrotting.com) and [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, Joe Crothers, Thomas Daniel, Mike Deeters, Ashley Dennon-Cohen, Barbara Dinning, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Francine Federici, Tiffany Fisher, 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, 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 Niels, 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, Brittanty Vondenhuevel, 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, 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, Gregg 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:**

Liam Burke continues to have stomach issues.  
Karen Carter is having heart and kidney issues.  
Greg Coon is recovering from a knee replacement.  
Danny Daniel has some medical issues.  
Ashley Dennon-Coen is cancer free but still has health issues.  
Paul Hanson is struggling with stomach issues.  
Jana had a questionable MRI.  
Kay is recovering from an aneurism on her aorta.  
Nathan Lasher is settling his father's estate.  
Larry Lederman would like prayers for a good MRI in June.  
Linda Moyer is recovering from surgery.  
Sandy's son is struggling following a January bi-polar episode.  
Del Richards had a stroke and cannot move.  
Roger Smith is still dealing with an aggressive brain tumor.  
Carol Tebo is still struggling with the breathing issue.  
A member's family is really struggling with their relationships with each other and with God.

157 North Main St  
Salem, NH 03079  
USA



Please indicate  
Address corrections

## Straight From the Horse's Mouth

By Ed Gager

Today's politicians want listeners to think that what they say is "straight from the horse's mouth." The only thing I count on is God's Word. The gift of faith led me to become a Christian in 1973. Genesis 1:27 told me that I was made in God's image, and John 3:16 said that God loved me so much that He sent His Son to die for my sins. I try to follow the Lord's lead every day.



Ed and Daryl Gager

At present, I own a Blue Seal Feed dealership, but before that, I was an equine dentist for 34 years. I had the privilege of doing the teeth of many outstanding Standardbred and Thoroughbred champions. Notably, to name a few are Albatross, Forest Skipper, Mac Lobell, Lindy's Pride, Spectacular Bid, Spend A Buck, and Carry Back. My son, grandson, and nephew have followed in my footsteps.

In 1983 I met Weldon Stockwell when I was doing teeth for Stanley Dancer, and I became a member of CHHA. At that time, the Sire Stakes Program was held there. Lee has been a well-respected chaplain of this association, and under her leadership the membership has grown.

My wife and I are coming into the home stretch and 58 years ago, we were married in 1963 by Bernard Spinney on Main Street in Salem, NH. At the time I was doing teeth at Rockingham Park. What a coincidence!

CHHA can count on our prayers and support, and we appreciate the monthly newsletter and Lee's prayers.

## Encouragement and Love

by Danny Daniel

I put my trust in God and in His infinite and unimaginable grace and mercy. The fact that I have a family like CHHA to keep me encouraged and help me along is invaluable. I pray for all of our brothers and sisters struggling in a world that does not know HIM. So, it does not know us either. If it was good enough for Jesus to be rejected, then it is good enough for me also to face rejection and/or any ailments that I have.



I don't know if we can truly comprehend the pain our Lord went through. I was whisking some pudding a while back. The box said to do it for three minutes. After two minutes, I could feel my hand and forearm starting to tighten up and the last minute really seemed to be taking a long, long time! Then I thought about three hours of total agony on the cross that Jesus went through. Every inch of His body in unimaginable pain. I stopped and wondered about how He could endure such pain. It was for love of us and His Father in Heaven for whom His heart burns.



*May the angels  
lead you into paradise*

Memorials posted at [www.chha.net](http://www.chha.net)

### Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Joe Adamsky** by: Lyndel Adamsky  
In memory of **Wilma Chambers** by: Thomas Cooke  
In memory of **Dottie Brinkerhoff** by: Florence and Brad Wallace  
In memory of **Dr Albert Gager** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz  
In memory of **Dr R.E. Mairs** by: Florence and Brad Wallace  
In memory of **Richard Paltani** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz  
In memory of **Teagan Tetrick** by: Jim and Judy Ferguson  
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