



Rambling Willie

## Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

March 2022

Remember,  
I pray for all  
our members  
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

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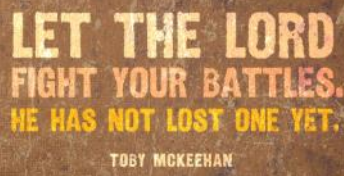
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### Wanted

#### Praise Reports and Articles

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen  
[leealphen@comcast.net](mailto:leealphen@comcast.net)  
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## God Uses Donkeys

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Loose horse, area one! Shut the gates! Rockingham Park security did their best. The big, bay gelding was just too fast for them. Already on busy Route 28, heading south, he made it through the traffic lights at several busy intersections before turning right at Home Depot, choosing to enter a mobile home park instead of the store.

When Kish, an important man in the community, learned his donkeys were missing, he sent his son Saul and a servant to find them. After travelling through several villages, covering a distance of about 50 miles, Saul was ready to give up. The servant suggested they see Samuel, the man of God, who was nearby (1 Samuel 9:1-6, 14).

Around the same time the Israelites were pestering Samuel to appoint a king to lead them. Samuel tried to get them to understand that a king would take their sons as servants to run ahead of his chariots, do battle, make weapons and plow his fields and their daughters to be his cooks and bakers and perfume makers. Then he would take the best of their servants, wine, crops and flocks (1 Samuel 8:10-17).

God told Samuel to do as they asked and acknowledged they were really rejecting God as their leader. They wanted to bring about change and establish a new government with new laws and values and do things their way. They wanted to continue in disobedience to God, forgetting all they had accomplished with God as their leader (1 Samuel 8:7, 21).

When Saul approached Samuel, God told Samuel he was the one God had chosen and to anoint Saul king. As he went through the process, the spirit

of God came to Saul powerfully. God gave him a heart for the people and he became a prophet. He proved to be a good leader though he was not without fault (1 Samuel 9:17-18 and 1 Samuel 10:9-11).

Saul may have been ready to give up on the donkeys but God was not. Samuel told him he would meet a couple of guys who would tell him "The donkeys you set out to look for have been found" (Samuel 2:10).



It is interesting how God used the runaway donkeys to bring Saul to Samuel so he could be anointed king. It is good to remember that God is always working in our lives for our good. When we stop to consider and ask God for direction, we do better.

Several horsemen and women chased down the highway after the horse. A couple of guys took a pickup truck and finally caught up to him and brought him back to the track. He was happy to be back in his stall with plenty to eat and drink.

Generally, horses don't make it out of the barn area after working their door latches loose. Those of us who show up in the morning and find a horse missing panic and set about asking others if they have seen our horse. Usually someone will have put it in an empty stall and notified security. When

**Donkeys continued on page 2**

**Donkeys continued from page 1**

rescued and returned to their own stall, our horses are usually happy to be home.

After Saul led the Israelites, winning the battle against the Ammonites, they confirmed him as king. Samuel reminded them of how God always had their back. He cautioned them, “Do not be afraid. You have done evil; yet do not turn away from the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart. [...] For the sake of His great name the Lord will not reject His people, because the Lord was pleased to make you is own” (1 Samuel 12:20, 22).

Like us and our horses, God never loses track of us and only wants what is best for us. God is like the Good Shepherd who left the 99 sheep gathered together to search for the one who was lost (Luke 15:4). We will always search for our lost horses and God will never give up on us.

As Saint Paul reminds us, “In all things God works for the good of those who love him” (Romans 8:28).

**You may not see it yet,  
But God has the right pieces  
To make the puzzle of  
your life fit together.**



Spiritual Inspiration

**Psalm 23**

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
He leads me beside quiet waters,  
He refreshes my soul.  
He guides me along the right paths  
for His name’s sake.

Even though I walk  
through the darkest valley,  
I will fear no evil,  
for You are with me;  
Your rod and Your staff,  
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Surely Your goodness and love will follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD  
forever.



**Blessings from God**

*From Clara Young-Gordon...*

We will start out the year anew. My birthday is Jan 4. I will be 91. I so appreciate your prayers I’m very blessed and very healthy. I live by myself and take care of my big house. GOD is Awesome!

**Roger Huston** enjoyed being back in his home state of Ohio while serving as Brand Ambassador for the Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association (OHHA). However, he really missed his family. So, last fall he moved back to Pennsylvania to spend more time with them.



Of course, he is not abandoning the OHHA or his friends in Ohio. Rather he is reducing his role to part time. Of course, Roger never hesitates to hop in the car and drive hundreds of miles for a harness racing event or to see his harness racing friends and will certainly still spend plenty of time in Ohio. He will certainly “Be there!” Roger has promoted harness racing his whole life. The Brand Ambassador position is perfect for him. God must have inspired OHHA Executive Director, Renee Mancino, with the idea.

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**Choose a Free Gift with your \$20 donation**

**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



**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
- Still: A Story of the Black Doctor of the Jersey Pines* by Edmund R Gager
- Sound Mouth—Sound Horse, The Gager Method of Equine Dental Care* by ER Gager and Bob “Dusty Rhodes”



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**



**Horseshoe Nail Cross Necklaces and Keyrings**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail with \$20 each + \$4 shipping to:

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

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

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

**William 'Bud' Fritz**, 86, of Walkerton, Ontario, died Jan 18. According to *Trot Insider*, there was a time in the 1980s and early 1990s that the name of Bud Fritz was synonymous with harness racing in Ontario. Bud was inducted into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame.



**Frederick Steven Goldstein**, 79, died Jan 8. Frederick was born into a three-generation household of racing fans. Eventually his family invested in a few claimers and began to enjoy racing at another level. He attempted to jog a horse at Roosevelt and ended up in the manure pile. He and his first wife formed the successful Rainbow Stake Service in Westbury, N.Y. Later he ventured into the breeding business with a \$1,000 mare and inserted "Keep On..." into the names of his foals.

**Beverly Jean Holden**, 79, of Richmond, OH, died Dec 24. Bev owned many Standardbreds. She enjoyed a 25-plus year career at USPS retiring as postmaster after 18 years. Bev was a deacon, elder, and Sunday School teacher at the Pierpont Presbyterian Church.



**Kaye Kessler**, 97, 66 years, died Dec 9. Kaye was a reporter for the Columbus *Citizen* (later *Citizen-Journal*), who had the longest membership in the United States Harness Writers Association in Littleton, Colorado.

**Nancy Kowalski-Zalewski**, 87, of Whitehall, PA, died Dec 1. Some of Nancy's passions included homemade Polish cooking, Catholic Mass, spending time with her children and grandchildren and dining out. She was also an avid dog lover (Terrier breed). Nancy was a cookware demonstrator, babysitter, and homemaker. Although very outspoken, Nancy was kind, loving, generous, compassionate and giving. Nancy was CHHA member Larry Zalewski's mother.



**Mary Rose Landess**, 89, of Portland, IN, died Dec 22. Mary was a homemaker and helped her husband in the harness racing business. She was an avid reader and animal lover. She loved her family and going to her great granddaughter, Justice's, softball games.



**Conrad Leber**, 96, of Montreal, Quebec, died Jan 1. In the 1970s, Conrad got involved in Standardbred horse racing and never looked back from owning horses right until his last breath. His excitement in the winner's circle could not be contained whether it was a maiden race or a Grand Circuit race. He simply loved the horses and the sport. His creation and success of the Beer Garden in Expo 67 changed his life forever.



**Patrick Jay McLead**, 74, of Delaware, OH, died Jan 9. Patrick was an air traffic controller in the US Navy. He later worked at Burrell Insurance in Delaware, OH. He was a coach for his boys in various youth sports such as baseball and soccer, never missing any of their sports or activities. His son, Joe McLead also of Delaware, owns, trains and drives harness horses.

**Kenneth L Middleton**, 77 of Mount Morris, NY, died Jan 12. Ken bred, owned and trained harness horses at his Mount Morris farm. He also owned and operated his own restaurant for many years. He loved spending time with his family and attended St. Patrick's Church.



**Charles M. Moses Sr**, 80, of Butler, PA, died Dec 30. He was an avid sportsman and was inducted into the Butler Sports Hall of Fame in 2008. He also owned and trained Standardbreds. Charles was the proud owner of Tremor Hanover, 2011 Pacer of the Year at the Meadows Racetrack.



**Jack Edward Perry**, 96, died Dec 22. Jack began participating in harness racing as a way to relieve stress (it's ok to laugh). He designed and built a training facility that had a half-mile track matching Saratoga Harness. Racing under Perry Racing, LLC, a majority of his campaigning was done at Saratoga, but Jack also enjoyed a trip to The Meadowlands for the Hambletonian Oaks eliminations. He taught his farm manager, trainer, long time driver, and son-in-law, Kevin Gould. Jack was president of C.D. Perry & Sons, Inc. of Troy, NY, a company founded in 1936 by his late father, Cutler D. Perry.

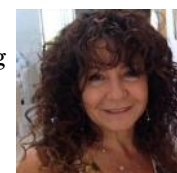


**Joseph M Russo**, 90, of Pickerington, OH died Jan 12.

Joe was a trainer, driver, owner and breeder of Standardbreds. He and his late wife, Wanda, built a farm in Pickerington, OH which included a half mile track where they trained their horses. At one point the whole family was involved in the daily training. Joe was also a Home Builder. Later he owned and rented Warehouse's. Joe has three daughters. Karen Russo Fread and her husband, Jan, are both career Standardbred Trainers in PA. Kelly and Nina Russo both still own Standardbreds. Joe was a Catholic and went to church every Sunday that he was able. He also enjoyed going to the chapel at the Meadows when visiting his daughter Karen. Pastor Joe always brought a smile to Joe's face.



**Marlene Bell Taylor**, 63, of Philadelphia, PA, died Jan 5. Marlene was the proud owner of several very good horses including the 2021 2-year-olds Market Based and Goo Goo Won. Her favorite, however, was always Fred And Ginger.



## Obituaries

**Randy John Cassavaugh**, 65, of Nova, OH, died Dec 28. Randy was a Standardbred driver and trainer. He raced under the stable name "Footprints in the Sand." He was a man of faith known for his close relationship with the Lord.



**Leroy B. Copeland**, 81, of Felton, DE, died Dec 25. Leroy was a well-respected driver, trainer and owner of Standardbreds. Since 1958, he raced at various tracks throughout the United States, Canada and New Zealand. He also worked as a starter at Foxboro and in Maine. Leroy loved horses and the business and even at 81 made it by his son's Vincent's barn for a visit and to see the horses on most days. He enjoyed attending the United Church of Dover, and when he could not attend, he made sure to watch services online.



**Amos Finch**, 85, of Walton NY, died Jan 11. Amos was a founding member of the Monticello-Goshen Chapter of USHWA and served as a national director of the association. He worked at a radio station and later bought it with a partner. They operated it and two sister stations until his retirement in 2000. He frequented Monticello Raceway and also announced the harness races at the nearby Afton County Fair.



**Karl-Erik Bender**, 87, of Sweden and Vero Beach, FL, died Jan 9. Karl-Erik won the 1992 Hambletonian with Alf Palema and also built the Palema Training Center in Vero Beach, FL. He launched a construction business with a roof tile machine in 1960. His son, Ove, worked with him in the family business and also shared his interest in horse racing.

**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, Emily Bier, Debbie Boardman, Amy Bondon, Jeanne Duso Boudot, Georgianna Brocco, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Lore Burke, Rick Carson, Barbara Carter, Sam Castimore, Candice Coleman, Barbara Connors, Joe Crothers, Thomas Daniel, Mike Deeters, Ashley Dennon-Coen, Barbara Dinning, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Francine Federici, Tiffany Fisher, Katie Folkins, Sarah Gehman, Rodney Grady, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Glenda Holloway, Layla Hundertpfund, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, Jennifer Jugg, AJ Keaton, Julie Kerr, 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, Linda Moyer, 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, Roger 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, Joyce Zeasapolowski.

**These friends are also in need of our ongoing prayers:**

Jason Apperti, Jordan Aracena, Ken Bartels, Gary Bennett, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Stephanie Bouchard, Danny Breton, Betsy Brown, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Bob Cain, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Mary Clements, Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta, Chet Crane, Karen Crothers, Anna Farley, 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, Don James, 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, Dean Miller, Peg 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, Del Richards, Donnie Richards, Ray Romanetti, Tori Scott, Jody Sexton, Delma Smart, Madisyn Smith, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Carol Tebo, Marsh Townley, Lorraine Truitt, Charlotte Truitt, Phillip Truitt, Mel Turcott, Justin Vance, Barry Vicroy, Steve Warner, Greggie Welch, Jr, Charles Weiss, Lucille Wick, 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:**

Anna Farley is very sick with bleeding ulcers.

Vicki Highers had her foot amputated.

Nelson Miller has stage four prostate cancer.

Marvella Blessing Nissen, 4 months, is dealing with heart issues requiring surgery.

Misti Parsons is recovering from cancer surgery.

Diann Perkins is recovering from by-pass surgery.

Darren Richner's brain surgery appears to have side effects.

Ryan Stahl was severely injured during a racing accident.

Amelia Williams had a cancerous tumor removed from her spine.

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Please indicate  
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## Horses and Chariots

By Chaplain Sam Spence

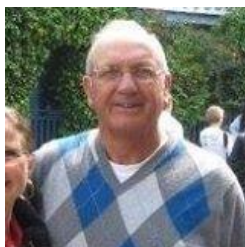
The eighteenth chapter of Luke records the incident of a very wealthy young man questioning Jesus about how to receive eternal life. A slight bit cocky, the fellow told Jesus that he had kept all the commandments since he was a small boy.

Jesus, however, took the wind out of his sails when He told him, *"There is still one thing you lack. Sell all that you have and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come follow me."* The Bible says this young man's countenance went straight south, because he had great riches.

As the dejected young fellow walked away, Jesus said something that also astounded his disciples: *"How hard it is for rich people to get into the kingdom of God!"*

*"Then who in the world can be saved?"* asked Peter, who himself had been made independently wealthy by that boat-sinking load of fish he caught after loaning his vessel to Jesus for a preaching platform. Jesus went on to explain that no man can save himself, but with God, any man can be saved, even the very rich . . . provided they place their trust in God rather than in their great wealth.

Just like the rich young man, many people of great means put their trust in the riches, rather than in their Creator. Few realize that it is God who gives them the grace and ability to get wealth in the first place. Had this young man truly had a knowledge of God's Word, he would have known that Jesus was not placing a "call to poverty" on him. Quite the contrary, Proverbs 19:17 NLT says that *"If you help the poor, you are lending to the Lord -- and he will repay you!"* And the Lord is no slacker; He repays thirty, sixty and a hundredfold. That young fellow turned down the opportunity to become rich beyond his fondest dreams, besides refusing an offer to be one of Jesus' right hand men.



*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 **Carl Becker** by: Ervin Miller
- In memory of **Leroy Copeland** by: Joe and Jane Plante
- In memory of **Winnie Kamminga** by: Harriet and Braadley Ferris, Wilda McDanel
- In memory of **John Klark** by: Joanne Mann
- In memory of **Winston Lineweaver** by: John and Judith McMullen
- In memory of **Ron Peacock** by: Jodi Peacock
- In memory of **Tom Shaw** by: John and Judith McMullin
- In memory of **Josephine F Spears** by: Douglas Hutchins, DVM, Paul F Spears
- In memory of **Leona Steven** by: Al and Kendra Casselman, Ervin Miller
- In memory of **Bill Wick**—100th birthday , 3/20/22 by: Lucille Wick
- In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables
- In memory of **Carol Yohn** by: John Yohn

Many of us grew up in an environment that taught us to place our trust in material things -- money, our own abilities, our jobs, influence with people, etc. We had little idea that God had a wonderful plan for our lives that entailed total faith and trust in Him. He certainly expects us to be good stewards of all we have, but the life of trust in God brings riches of joy, peace and fulfillment that material wealth can never touch. God wants you to have good horses and fine vehicles; just don't put your trust in them . . . place your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. *From Daily Oats, Day 15*

**Scripture:** Some trust in and boast of chariots and some of horses, but we will trust in and boast of the name of the Lord our God. *Psalms 20:7 Amplified Bible*