



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

April 2022

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

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Wanted

Praise Reports and Articles
Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen
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Or
157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

Happy Easter!



Hay and Seeds

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Don't you love the smell of fresh alfalfa! I sure do! The horses like it too. However, we know not to give them too much of this rich, green hay before they get used to it.

Good hay crops take planning and proper care to insure proper nutrition. According to the University of New Hampshire Extension, "Hay quality depends on how the hay was harvested, handled, and stored. [...] When purchasing hay, you can get a general sense of its quality with a visual evaluation. [...] While a visual appraisal will help you identify poor-quality hay, it won't help you assess its feed value. For an accurate measurement of nutrient content, you need a laboratory forage analysis." Weeds also can be a problem in hay. Some weeds are toxic.

"The Kingdom of God is like a farmer who scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, while he's asleep or awake, the seed sprouts and grows, but he does not understand how it happens" (Mark 4:26-27 NLT).

Here in New England, trees are dormant in the winter. Frozen ground and lack of water keep the roots from growing. Longer sunny days with higher temperatures spur new growth. Gradually we begin to see bits of color as new leaves start to pop out of the branches. Crocuses are the first flower to break open the ground and push up their pretty heads.

Farmers plant their crops and may check their growth. However, they don't actually see them grow. In the same way, we spread seeds of faith by the way we live our lives and share the gospel message. We share it here and

there with different people in different ways but don't really know if our seeds of faith have taken root.

We don't need to know. Just as we can't tell how nutritious hay is by looking at it, we are not able to see into the souls of others. It's not up to us to judge another person's faith. Like the trees and flowers that grow unobserved, so do the seeds of faith we sow. Like too much alfalfa, too much nagging is not good.



Our responsibility is to share the Gospel wherever, however and whenever God asks us to. Good seed is born from a life of faith and trust in God. Once our seeds are planted, God, the good farmer, gives the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6). As these seeds grow, they nourish the faith of others by sharing their own seeds.

A day will come when God will decide the crop on earth is ready for harvest (Revelation 14:15). Will we be ready? What will we have to show for our life in this world? Will our seeds turn to moldy, weed-filled brown grass or rich green alfalfa? My prayer is for us all to yield a harvest of Christians inspired by our faith to encourage others in their relationship with the Lord. As we celebrate Easter this month, let's remember that, with His resurrection, Jesus became the seed of eternal life. Happy Easter!

Paul Nissen's Grieving Song

Paul and Tripena Nissen's three month old daughter, Marvella Blessing, as grandmother Ann McNeill Nissen said, "was promoted to heaven" in February.

Paul appreciates all our prayers. He says, "+++ This is one of the only things that makes sense to me right now."

https://youtu.be/GlcW_MdDnhU Skillet Stars Lyrics

Stars by Skillet

Songwriters: Jason Ingram / John Cooper / Korey Cooper / Seth Mosley

You spoke a word and life began
Told oceans where to start and where to end
You set in motion time and space
But still You come and You call to me by name
But still You come and You call to me by name

Refrain

If You can hold the stars in place
You can hold my heart the same
Whenever I fall away
Whenever I start to break
So here I am, lifting up my heart
To the one who holds the stars

The deepest depths, the darkest nights
Can't separate, can't keep me from Your sight
I get so lost, forget my way
But still You love and You don't forget my name

If You can calm the raging sea
You can calm the storm in me
You're never too far away
You never show up too late
So here I am, lifting up my heart
To the one who holds the stars

Your love has called my name
What do I have to fear?
What do I have to fear?
Your love has called my name
What do I have to fear?
What do I have to fear?

If You can hold the stars in place
You can hold my heart the same
Whenever I fall away
Whenever I start to break
So here I am, lifting up my heart
(lifting up my heart)

Blessings from God

From Clara Young-Gordon...

from Lyse Breton...

We needed a miracle for our new grand baby, Leo, who was born premature at 2.11 pounds. He is strong and stable but his mother had covid and Leo tested positive. We got our miracle! He is getting stronger and turning his head! Please also pray for the parents. Always something to keep us on our knees. Thanks again for your ministry.

From Michael De Vita...

Just a quick update... Baby Justin and mom, Arianne, are both home and doing well. Big sister, now 4-year-old Emily, is loving having a little brother. The closing for the house was in February. Thank you for the prayers. While we are blessed that the Lord's Plan for them has been mighty, I continue to pray they grow closer in their personal relationship with Jesus.

From Trudy Hite...

My lupus is in complete remission, and I'm not on any medications for it. Thank you God.

From Jake Huff...

Thank you to all the CHHA prayer Partners and members for praying for Mindy. She was gravely ill with COVID in January and it did not look good. She was on a ventilator for three weeks and did not move out of ICU until the first week of February. Then she began making miraculous progress on her recovery. Praise God!

From Chris McKee...

Update on Meagan's brain scan is good news. Nothing seen in the brain. We will rejoice and be glad today.

From Frank Profaci...

Kim Profaci's surgery went well. During the surgery they biopsied the lymph nodes and it came back negative. So, in JESUS Name, we stand Firm that She's Cancer Free.

From Mindy Smith...

Thank you and all members for your prayers as it is most comforting. 🙏Mindy

Note: see Roger Smith's obituary on page 4.

Vision continued from page 6

Him that they are important to me. He looked at me and asked a question that pierced me to the core.

"Then why are you trying to treat them as if they were worthless? My son, any time you question your own usefulness, you are questioning My choice in using you. When I forgave your sin debt, I didn't add on any conditions. I simply forgave you. When you are quick to repent of any sin I bring to your attention, then I am even quicker to pick you up and clean you up and use you for my service. If you doubt the one sent, then you are doubting the One who sent them. Don't ever doubt my words or My love for you."

Facebook and Instagram

CHHA is improving its social media presence. Please visit us, like and share. **We have giveaways!**



**Good Friday is the Proof
Let's really celebrate Easter!**

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

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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: leecalphen@comcast.net

Credit Card # _____ Exp Date ____/____

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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

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
Posters are 16 x 24 sticky vinyl.



+100 Wins and + \$ 7,500,000 Lifetime

Horseshoe Nail Cross Necklaces and Keyrings

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

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

Roger Huston · 154 Vista Drive · Cannonsburg, PA 15317

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



Obituaries continued from page 5

Deborah Ann Bisonic, 68, of Cream Ridge, NJ, died Feb 12. Deborah was a Standardbred horse trainer, a former luncheonette owner and veterinary assistant.

Alfred Joseph De Simone, 93, of Monticello, NY, died Jan 30. Alfred first came to Monticello while driving for the Intercity Bus Line with his brothers and his father. Later he established De Simone Bros. Horse Transportation with his brother Joe. He was a racehorse owner and served as president of the Monticello Harness Horsemen's Association for many years. In his later years, De Simone Bros.



Horse Transportation focused on shipping hay.

Dr. Isabel H. "Tibby" Hunt DVM, 71, of South Wales, NY, died Feb 11. Tibby was a lifelong horsewoman. She began fox hunting as a child then moved to show jumping and became a Grand Prix rider. Later she became a veterinarian at the University of Prince Edward Island. She was especially skilled in the areas of homeopathy, acupuncture and chiropractic. Eventually, she met and married Dr. Robert Hallick with whom she shared a happy and busy life at their farm in South Wales, NY.

Patrick Joseph Michael McGorisk, 86, died Feb 19. Joe started his harness racing career at the Michigan tracks. He was a marketing genius, operational director, admissions director and ended his career as senior vice-president at Windsor Raceway. Many looked to him as a mentor as his guidance was a springboard to their successful career paths. He had a very strong faith, and the deepest love for his wife, Susie, and all of his family.



Marvella Blessing Nissen, 3 months, died Feb. 2.

Though she spent her life at the Moncton Hospital in New Brunswick and the last week or so of her life at IWK Health Centre in Halifax, Nova Scotia, her dad, Paul Nissen is reaching out to the Lord who holds the stars in place as he holds on to the song, Stars by Skillet. (See page 2.) Marvella Blessing was CHHA member, Ann Nissen McNeil's granddaughter.



Charles "Terry" Provost, died Feb 6. Terry served as the Racing Secretary for several Canadian Standardbred tracks. He was quoted as saying that there was never a day that he did not want to go to work! From horse owner and the "worst groom ever (his words)," he became Racing Secretary and later an Ontario Racing Commission Judge at a number of Canadian tracks.

Dennis Allen Reed, 81, of South Solon, OH, and formerly of Washington Court House, Ohio, died Feb 5. He proudly served his country in the United States Army. Reed worked as a horse trainer for most of his life and retired from Midland Acres. He enjoyed



being with his family and had a passion for training.

Larry L. Smith, 72, died Feb 4. Larry was a trusted blacksmith working all over the state of Michigan. He raced ponies before graduating to Standardbred racing. He had many memorable horses and drives over the years. He set, and still holds, multiple track records around the state. He was part of a rare triple dead heat with Skyway Jaylo in 2018.



Roger D. Smith Jr, 83, of Old Orchard Beach, ME, died Feb 10. After graduation, he joined the U.S.

Air Force serving as air traffic controller. Roger had a lifelong dedication to both Standardbred and Thoroughbred horse racing, serving in many capacities as an official and in management for over 50 years. Roger was a CHHA member and kept Chaplain Lee updated on the people in Maine.

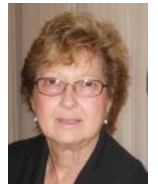


Marion C. Sumpf, 67, of Millsboro, DE, formally of Millstone, NJ, died Feb 12. Marion, began her life with the horses as a teenager working with Thoroughbreds at Delaware Park before eventually owning and training a stable of Standardbreds. She also worked as a vet assistant with Dr. Churchill of Chesapeake City, Maryland and Dr. Charles Moore. Marion was a huge advocate of rescuing animals. She spent many years fostering feral cats and dogs and finding them the perfect forever homes.

John F. Swart Jr, 96, died Jan 28. John was a heavily decorated World War II veteran and a successful Virginia CPA and business man. He was a Standardbred owner and breeder for over 50 years and campaigned many Stakes winning trotters.

Helen Ann Tuccillo, 77, of Prospect, CT, died Jan 19.

Helen worked tirelessly alongside her husband as they started and ran their successful businesses. First came General Borings of Waterbury, which was a construction company that grew to serve industrial, commercial and residential needs. Then in 1976, the pair entered into harness racing and that turned into their lifelong passion.



Amelia Williams, 62, of DeLeon Springs, formerly of Bell, FL, died February 5. Amelia was the main stay in the stable for about 30 years. She and her husband, Bob, stabled at Bell in the winter then raced at many tracks around the country but mostly in Florida, Michigan and Illinois. Over the years, they've bred over 50 horses and owned about 100. They named a couple of the babies after Amelia.

Harley J Yoder, 88, of Goshen, IN, died February 5. Harley was a Hall of Fame owner, trainer and driver in the Harness Racing industry. He was also a breeder. He was a past President of the Elkhart County Trotting and Pacing Horse Association.

Sources for obituary information include:
www.ustrotting.com and www.Standardbredcanada.ca

Obituaries

Dr. Howard Gill, 95, of Pensacola, FL, died Feb 7. He was a long time lover of horses from an early age dating back to his upbringing in Kansas. Vocationally he worked on staff in veterinary medicine at Kansas State and Michigan State and afterwards in his equine practice in Pine Bush, New York. Through the years he enjoyed breaking, training and racing many Standardbred horses. In his 70's, he especially enjoyed Miss Gibbons, a New York Sires Stake horse of the year. Years ago, Dad and I were looking through his scrap book where he had many write-ups from his days of college football at Independence Jr. College and Kansas State where he played half back and safety. Dad even held a punt return record for almost 50 years at Kansas State. After we had enjoyed looking at some of the write-ups, dad put it all in perspective and told me it would all be forgotten--then he shared a quote with me: "Only one life twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last." May we be thankful for the goodness of



saving faith in Jesus!

In John 11:25 Jesus proclaimed: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies..." Thankful for my Dad. His son, Stan **Larry E. Banks**, 78, of Cicero, IL, died Jan 7. Larry was a high school teacher and a business license inspector for the Town of Cicero. He was especially dedicated to serving the disabled residents in the town and had a passion for improving the lives of the special needs residents. His true passion in life after his faith and family, was his horses. Larry worked with horses his entire life, training, driving, breeding and owning racehorses.



Elizabeth (Liz) Buxton, 81, died Jan 20. Born and raised in Ontario she came to the United States after marrying Gary Buxton. They constantly traveled with their children as Gary worked racing meets all over the United States. Liz sometimes worked the mutuels. When they moved to Los Angeles in 1975, Liz returned to bookkeeping and eventually opened her own business.

Obituaries continued on page 4

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, Dianne Boyken, 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, Nelson Miller, Frank Mirahmadi, Lalya Mosley, Linda Moyer, Corey Murphy, Howard Nields, Pierre Noel, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Carol Parker, Dee Parsons, Misti 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 Wuebkenberg, 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, Ryan Stahl, 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:

Dianne Boyken has cancer.

Gordon Corey has some health issues.

Cody Greeno, 30, has brain cancer

Meagan McKee's cancer spread up her spine to T5.

Bob Miller, Jr is recovering from back surgery.

Misti Parsons is recovering from cancer surgery.

Jake Z is struggling with depression and anxiety.

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Salem, NH 03079
USA



Please indicate
Address corrections

Vision on Forgiveness

By John at LORCI August 2021

I cried out to God one day and asked how He could use me for anything. I felt that I had messed up so many times, that surely I was not good for anything. God sat me down and told me that He wanted to show me something.

He picked up a canvas that was eight feet high and twenty feet long. God started to paint scenes from my life. Each scene was a low point in my life. God explained, as He painted, that He had to pull these scenes from my memory, because He had no record of them. Each scene flowed into the next, and when God put down His paint brush, the entire canvas was covered.

God looked it over, and then looked at me. I will never forget the love and compassion that covered His face. He said, "My child, do you remember when you knelt and confessed your sinful life for the first time?" I told Him that I remembered the day very well.

God then took white paint and started to cover some of the scenes. As God worked, it looked as if those areas never had been touched. God continued to remind me of the times I repented of my sins. When He finished, it looked like it did before He started. Then God looked at me and said, "This is how my records of your past look."

Then God set the canvas aside and pulled out another one. This new canvas was huge! It looked to be larger than a skyscraper! God began to paint again. Now He was painting scenes from my life from where I had been obedient to His leadings. In a very short time, God had covered the entire canvas.

This time when He laid down His brush, He asked me if these memories meant anything to me. I assured



Vision continued on page 2

Scholarships

CHHA will be awarding two scholarships for the 2022/2033 school year. These are 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 May 31.**



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

Memorial Contributions

- In memory of **Joe Adamsky** by: Lyndel Adamsky
- In memory of **David "Curly" Beals** by: Jake and Rosie Huff
- In memory of **Carl Becker** by: Amy Bondon and William Hogue, Jr
- In memory of **Leroy Copeland** by: Chris and Tom Coyle
- In memory of **Norm Dessereault** by: Jake and Rosie Huff
- In memory of **Robert Dutilly** by: Jake and Rosie Huff
- In memory of **George Harp** Anniversary 3/4/20 by: Joan Harp
- In memory of **Warren Harp** Anniversary 3/28/20 by: Amy Bondon, Joan Harp
- In memory of **Patty McIntosh** by: Jo-Dee Brown
- In memory of **Steve Toth** by: Jake and Rosie Huff
- In memory of **Mario Villante** by: Jake and Rosie Huff
- In memory of **Ronald Young** by: Jake and Rosie Huff
- In memory of **Dr Brian Lauzon** by: Jo-Dee Brown
- In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables