



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

February 2023

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

YOU are the Light of the World

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

It sure gets dark at night when we lose the power. Since we prefer the light, we automatically hit the light switches when we enter a dark room. Then we sadly remember: there is no light. Simple things like topping off the water buckets and making sure the horses are okay are much more difficult in the dark.

Darkness is great for sleeping and watching movies. However, we prefer the light for pretty much everything else. Many people use night lights. The clock's soft glow and the time projected on the ceiling help me find my way when I have to get up at night.

Darkness is the absence of light. In the beginning God created the sky and the earth in the midst of the darkness. Then He created light, separating it from the darkness, and called the light day and the darkness night (Genesis 1:1-5).

Those who want to do evil generally prefer the darkness to cover their misdeeds. However, we are living in troubled times. Evildoers are becoming more brazen. They boast of their wrongdoings, calling them good while calling the good that others do evil. Jesus said to His disciples, "Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear?" (Mark 8:18 NIV).

God sent ten disasters to Egypt in an effort to get the Pharaoh to free the Israelites, whom the Egyptians were using as slaves to build their pyramids. They did not respond to the first eight. Then God sent darkness so dark the Egyptians could not even see each other. They stayed put for three days. Of course, God made sure there was plenty of light where the Israelites lived.

Finally, after the tenth plague, Pharaoh let God's people go.

Jesus carried the sins of all humanity to the cross with Him. While He hung on the cross on what we know as Good Friday, the sun stopped shining around noon. It was dark everywhere for about three hours (Luke 23:44-45).

As "the curtain of the temple was torn in two, Jesus called out with a loud voice, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.' When he had said this, he breathed his last" (Luke 23:45-46).

Jesus overcame the darkness. Remember, "God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all" (1 John 1:5 NIV). He says to us, "You are the light of the world. [...] Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:14, 16 NIV).

We have a choice. We can follow the light and bring the peace, love and joy of the Lord to ourselves and those around us, setting an example for others to follow. Or we can live on in the darkness, separating ourselves from God and all that is good. "If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin" (1 John 1:7 NIV).

We check on the horses even when it is dark and make sure they have water. Do we check for dark areas in our lives as we strive to enjoy the fullness of life? Darkness cannot overcome the light (John 1:5). With God's help we can put aside our deeds of darkness and be filled with God's peace and blessings.

Let's ask ourselves what we would like to be called. Do we want to be called Christian, a follower of Christ? Or "a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right" (Acts 13:10 NIV)?

Board of Directors

Chaplain Lee Alphen
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Amy Bondon, President

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Association and Little Brown Jug

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ideas please contact:*

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Wanted

Praise Reports and Articles

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen

leealphen@comcast.net

Or

157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

REMEMBER, A SMALL LIGHT
WILL DO A GREAT DEAL
WHEN IT IS IN A VERY DARK
PLACE.

D.L. MOODY



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

Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Doug Ackerman** by: Ada Jean Ackerman
 In memory of **Joe Adamsky** by: Lyndel Adamsky
 In memory of **Richard Awbrey** by: Jim Mayes
 In memory of **Bonnie Battis** by: Paul Battis
 In memory of **John and Gloria Cisna** by: Stephanie and Alan Pennington
 In memory of **Jack Baugh** by: Larry and Joan Martin
 In memory of **Carl Becker** by: Bonnie Becker
 In memory of **Gene Daisey** by: Larry and Joan Martin
 In memory of **Ron Dancer** by: Brenda Dancer, Election Fund of Ronald Dancer
 In memory of **Beckie Davis** by: Dean Davis
 In memory of **Bob and Vivian Farrington** by: Rhonda and Glen Wright
 In memory of **Brad, Bon and Dick Ferguson** by: Jim and Judy Ferguson
 In memory of **Mary Gulotta** by: Michael and Madeline Gulotta
 In memory of **Winnie Kamminga** by: Harriet and Bradley Ferris, Wilda McDanel
 In memory of **Charlie and Micky Kelly** by: Linda Hurley
 In memory of **Harold and Sue Kelly** by: Linda and Thomas Moyer, Gary and Corine McCandless
 In memory of **Terry Lee Kibler** by: Betsy A Brown
 In memory of **John and Janet Klark** by: Joanne Mann
 In memory of **Gloria Myers** by: Robert Myers
 In memory of **Jay O'Neill** by: Robyn and James Rembleski
 In memory of **John Otrembiak** by: Mary Beth Wing
 In memory of **Ellie Parkes** by: Earl Pakes
 In memory of **Bob and Polly Sidley** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
 In memory of **Barbara Lee Smith** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
 In memory of **Roger Smith** by: Mindy Smith
 In memory of **Frank Utter** by: Ann Utter
 In memory of **Walter and Pauline Warrington** by: Steven Warrington
 In memory of **Sam McKee** by: Moira and Tom Fanning
 In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables

Wanted

Praise Reports – Testimonies – Articles

They can be a few words or up to 350 words.

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen

leealphen@comcast.net

Or

157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

Blessings from God

From Bob Albright

Bob and his wife Judy are looking into starting a ministry with the harness racing horsemen and women at Hawthorne. Please keep them in your prayers.

1. From Pastor Joe DiDonatto...

Everything went well with Tim Twaddle's surgery. Praise God!

2. The auction at the Meadows to benefit Pastor Joe's ministry there was a huge success! Thank you for your prayers!

From Lucille Wick...

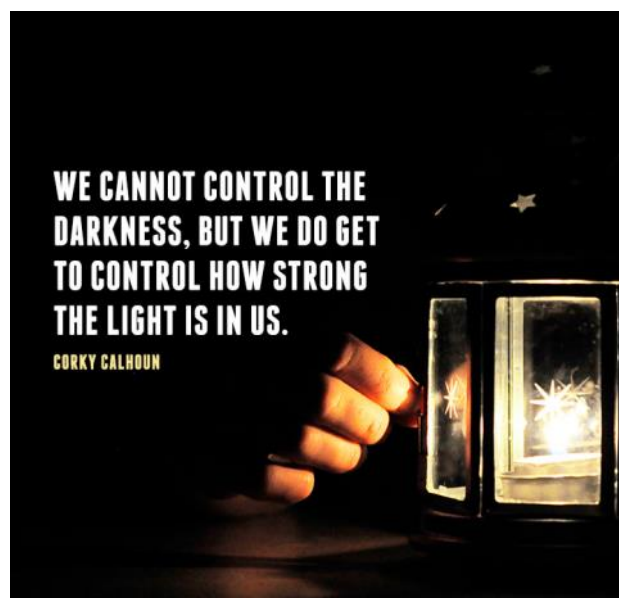
Her lung cancer is gone praise God!

From Bill and Maddy Wright...

We have a huge praise this year...our granddaughter who has been serving with Intervarsity link ministry on campus in Vienna, Austria just arrived home here in Morton Illinois for Christmas! She has been having visa problems and has been working remotely from Bucharest for about a month and will have to wait until her visa issues are solved or stay out of Vienna for 90 days before being back on campus...so we get to reap the benefits of having her here! In His love, Maddy and Bill Wright.

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Stallion Auction!!! By donating or bidding on a breeding you served God by helping us to **Keep Christ Alive in Harness Racing!** As a plus, your participation will, we pray, provide a good horse to help fill the races at our harness tracks.



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Please send my newsletter (circle below)
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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



Books

Daily Oats by Chaplain Sam Ed Spence

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

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

Jack Levine’s books are also available FREE as downloads at:
<https://www.jackalanlevine.com/ebooks>



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.



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Horseshoe Nail Item Order Form
 Orders can also be placed at
www.chha.net/products



Obituaries continued from page 5

Angus Arsenault, 70's, originally from PEI, died recently. When he was at Rockingham he came to the services in the Chapel. Nancy Lisi said, "Angus was a great musician who loved his music and his horses. There was not a song or a horse he didn't like."



Richard "Boots" Lee Awbrey, 70, of Nevada, OH, died November 25. Richard, known as "Boots", was an avid Horseman, who loved his family, friends and horses. He also worked at National Lime and Stone for over 30 years. He was an active member of the Bucyrus Nazarene Church.



Alfredo "Freddy" Collazo, 57, of Newtonville, NJ, died Dec 15. Freddy was a Standardbred horse trainer since the 1980's. He loved to go fishing and spend time with family and friends.

Gloria Ann Cisna, of Springfield, IL, died Nov 11. Gloria was an elementary school teacher and then became a stay-at-home mom when she and John adopted their children. After raising her children, Gloria began working as Parent Coordinator for an Early Start program. She was a very active member of First United Methodist Church of Springfield. Her late husband, John was a member of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Trotting Association for 42 years and a longtime Illinois horseman. She and her daughter, Stephanie were CHHA members.



John C. Cisna, 73, of Springfield, IL, died Nov 10. John was a member of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Trotting Association for 42 years and longtime Illinois horseman. He co-founded the Illinois Standardbred Owners and Breeders Association and at various times served as the group's president, a director and for the last 10 years as its executive director. He was a long-time vice-president of the Grand Circuit and currently served as a Grand Circuit steward for the Illinois State Fair. He was also president and a director of the Review Association. "I knew John 60 years, since we were both 16," Phil Langley, president of the U.S. Trotting Association, said. "He did as much or more than anyone for Illinois harness racing. He was a great driver and trainer, and was always working to further the sport."

Gilbert Donald, 86, of Philadelphia, MS, died Nov 26. Gilbert worked for Weyerhaeuser for over 40 years and in retirement for B & G Wood. He proudly served on the Neshoba County Fair Board, including 11 years as president. He was president and chairman of the Harness Racing Committee and was a USTA licensed starter for harness racing. Gilbert was a member of First United Methodist Church.



Alfred Z. Kowalewski, 89, of Bloomfield Hills, MI, died Nov 16. Alfred was a longtime horse racing fixture along with his partner Tekla Young. He owned hundreds of horses over his 40-plus-year racing career. His legacy will go on as The Kales Company, which managed his sizable stable and will carry on under the direction of his beloved Tekla.

Gloria Myers, 77, of Greenwood, DE, died Dec 5. Gloria and her husband, Bobby, bought a beautiful farm where they raised their three children. They had a big, successful stable of Standardbred horses, racing up and down the Eastern Shore. She was the "fun" mom and the kind of person who would give you the shirt off her back. She enjoyed going to the races, playing the slots, and spending time with her family. Gloria was a CHHA member.



Paulann "Polly" Sidley, 86, of Painesville, OH, died Nov 24. Polly and her husband, Robert, raised horses. They owned and operated Northern Farms in Painesville for many years. They also had a racing stable and raced their horses in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and Indiana. She was a medical technologist (ASCP certified) at Allegheny General Hospital, in Pittsburgh and a member of Painesville United Methodist Church.



Robert Sidley, 87, of Painesville, OH, died Nov 24. Robert and his wife, Polly owned and bred hundreds of harness horses over more than a half-century at Northern Farms in Painesville. They enjoyed racing their prodigies at county fairs and racetracks in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and Indiana. During the years, Robert served as a USTA Representative and as a treasurer of the USTA. He was a past president of the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association, a past president of Harness Horsemen International and a speed superintendent of the Lake County Fair in Painesville. Robert was inducted into the Ohio Harness Racing Hall of Fame and many other Halls of Fame. He was a member of St. Mary Catholic Church.



Barbara Lee Smith, 85, of Washington CH, OH, died Nov 20. Barbara worked at Armco Steel for 45 years. She was a loving and devoted mother, grandmother, sister, and friend. She enjoyed going out to eat, shopping, Hallmark movies, and was an avid Ohio State fan. Barbara was Washington CH trainer/driver, Jeff Smith's, mother.



There is nothing more important than
Your Eternal Salvation

Kirk Cameron

Obituaries

Norman "Peter" Reynolds, 94, of Londonderry, NH, died Dec 10. Peter began working at Rockingham Park when he was 9 and worked his way up to track superintendent, a position he held until a 1980 fire temporarily closed the track. At the same time, he served as a Salem, NH police officer for 17 years. After retiring from Borden Chemical, he began working at Goundrey Funeral home until he was 90. Peter's Catholic faith was a very important part of his life. He was proud of his work with Cardinal Cushing. Along with Lou and Lutza Smith, Peter helped with the establishment of Kennedy Memorial Hospital for children. He would bring a pony named "Proud Boy" in his car to visit with the children. He was also involved with the Rockingham Park Racetrack Ministry devoting many hours of his time to this cause and was a CHHA member.



Joan Barbara Harp, 80, died Nov 26. Joan rode horses with her mother, an avid horsewoman, as a child. Growing up she spent many summers at the Hinsdale, NH racetrack helping her parents with their horses. While there, Joan met her husband of 50 plus years, Warren. In 1980 Joan and Warren left New England and relocated to Gilchrist Farms in Bell, Florida where they continued their successful stable of Standardbred horses. Her love for her family was known by all who knew her. She will be truly missed. Joan was a dedicated CHHA member.



Sources for Obituary information include:

www.ustrotting.com, www.harnesslink.com and www.Standardbredcanada.ca **Obituaries cont 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, 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, Scott Dube, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Francine Federici, Tiffany Fisher, Katie Folkins, Rodney Grady, Holly Graffam, Pastor Bill Grant, Cody Greeno, Margaret Groce, Joan Harp, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Glenda Holloway, Audrey Henry, Layla Hundertpfund, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, Bob Jones, Jennifer Jugg, AJ Keaton, Julie Kerr, Donnie Knight, David Kovach, Larry Lederman, Rox Liles, Anabelle Lisi, Tommy Long, Kevin Mack, Ricky Macomber, Nelson Malin, Kim Maples, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Meagan McKee, Nelson Miller, Frank Mirahmadi, Lalya Mosley, Linda Moyer, Corey Murphy, Howard Nields, Pierre Noel, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Carol Parker, Margie Polhamus, Valerie Prescott, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Peter Reynolds, Emily Roper, Daren Richner, Julie Schwartz, Del Smart, Larry Smith, Doug Stringer, Jimmy Takter, Bobbi Tanner, Jack Taylor, Gary Tyron, Brittanty Vondenhuevel, Roland Wardel, Lucille Wick, Kate Williams, Steve Wiseman, Marty Woebkenberg, Allan Wright, Joyce Zeasapolowski.

These friends are also in need of our ongoing prayers:

Jason Apperti, Jordan Aracena, Ken Bartels, Ellen Beinhauer, Gary Bennett, John Berry, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Stephanie Bouchard, Danny Breton, Betsy Brown, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Bob Cain, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta, Chet Crane, Karen Crothers, Anna Farley, Scott Freck, Sylvain Gagnon, Greg Gehman, Richie Gillock, Bob Goth, Barbara and Brent Graham, Debbie Gray, Kim Hankins,

Jimmy Hart, Joyce Hart, Bob Hilliard, Vickie Howard, 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, Tommy Luchento, Faye Mackey, Terry Mahar, Joanne Maiorca, Pedro Martinez, Jr, Cheryl Mauran, Melissa McKee, Dean Miller, Peg Miller, Raymond Miller, Nancy Miner, John Morris, Mike Murphy, Doug Nash, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Waverly Parsons, Susan Parks, Doc Parry, Donna Phillips, Rita Polese, Noreen Paulen, Frank Profaci, Joanne Ranger, Del Richards, Donnie Richards, Denis Rogers, Ray Romanetti, Tori Scott, Jody Sexton, Delma Smart, Madisyn Smith, Ryan Stahl, Caryn Stellino, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Carol Tebo, Myra and Al Terwilliger, Marsh Townley, Lorraine Truitt, Charlotte Truitt, Phillip Truitt, Mel Turcott, Justin Vance, Barry Vicroy, Steve Warner, Gregg Welch, Jr, Charles Weiss, 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, Chris Petruzzo, Sgt David Thomas, Elizabeth Welch and Nigel Willabus.

Special Intentions for this month:

Brett is recovering from a broken shoulder blade.

David Clark, 2, needs heart surgery.

Larry Farrington has health issues.

Janet Irvine has some health issues.

Joyce Hollingsworth is struggling with Parkinsons.

John wants to be back with his wife and nine children.

Melvin Miller in FL is not doing well.

Pastor Sue Petritis has some troublesome medical issues.

Ray Romanetti needs lung transplants.

Carol Tebo continues to struggle with breathing and intestinal issues.

Lorraine Truitt is struggling with some big challenges.

Lucille Wick is struggling with eye problems.

Please pray for those struggling with addictions.

157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Please indicate
Address corrections

God's Joy

From Chaplain Sam Spence

Today I want to share an experience from a couple of summers ago. One August day, having finished mowing my yard on my little John Deere tractor-mower (one of my favorite activities...I can make a "big showing" using very little energy), I proceeded to the trimming. This requires a lot more energy, and our yard comprised at least a half-acre.

Finishing up hot and sweaty, I proceeded to the easy chair in my bedroom, which sets in front of a nice fan. As I plopped down in the chair, a familiar scripture popped into my mind..."the joy of the Lord is your strength." (*Nehemiah 8:10b*) And it wouldn't leave!

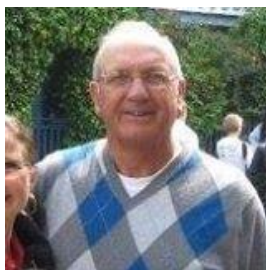
Wondering why this particular scripture was on me so strong, I suddenly heard that Still Small Voice in my spirit: "Sam, do you know what My joy is...what gives Me true joy?"

A couple of ideas came to mind, but I soon answered, "No, Lord, I reckon I really don't know what gives you joy."

Immediately He replied, "My joy comes when you, or any one of my children, pull aside to spend time with Me. And that, in turn, is where you get your strength."

I was somewhat taken aback by His answer. *Being obedient or performing some great work for Him* was the answer I was expecting, but as I mediated on His words, I began to better understand that "God is love," and that man was created to be a recipient of His love. In a sense, man was created for God's *enjoyment!* When Jesus came to earth, took on (actually *became*) our sin, and paid the price for that sin by going to the cross, He paved the way for our total access to Father God...to spend time with Him...for both *His* and *our* enjoyment!

Scripture: And Nehemiah continued, "Go and celebrate with a feast of rich foods and sweet drinks, and share gifts of food with people who have nothing prepared. This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don't be dejected and sad, for the joy of the LORD is your strength!" *Nehemiah 8:10 NLT*



FREE Books

Amateur Driver, Jack Levine, is an accomplished businessman, author, speaker, pastor and TV producer who claims his most important rolls are husband and father. He left his highly successful Madison Ave advertising and marketing career to move to Florida and serve God.



Jack has a burning desire to help people build stronger relationships with the Lord. He also has a special interest in helping people overcome addictions.

Jack is a good friend and a real blessing to CHHA. Learn more about him and his accomplishments on his website at: JackAlanLevine.com.

God has put it on Jack's heart to make available free e-book copies of all his books. He hopes they will be a blessing to those searching for a closer walk with God as well as those struggling with addiction. He has some God books and some addiction books.

Jack Levine's ebooks are available as FREE downloads at:

www.jackalanlevine.com/ebooks