



Rambling Willie

## Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

March 2023

Remember,  
I pray for all  
our members  
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

### Important Relationships

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

When they are hungry, fillies and colts frolicking together in the pasture easily find their mothers among all the others in the field. They know where they came from and recognize their mares.

When they cash a big ticket, bettors sometimes become enamored with certain drivers and their race colors even though some would never recognize the driver without their colors. They can replay the race from memory for years to come. Actually, many in our sport are good at remembering just how certain races went, including the fractions. People have heroes in other professional sports too and are able to continue reciting statistics and game strategies until their dying days.

The apostle Paul, then called Saul, was headed to Damascus, armed with letters to help him arrest followers of Jesus. "As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?'"

'Who are you, Lord?' Saul asked. 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' he replied. 'Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do'" (Acts 9:3-6 NIV).

Paul never saw Jesus. Yet this experience on the road was so life changing that all he could do the rest of his life was tell everyone about Jesus. Everywhere he went, in all the people he met and in everything did and saw, he found Jesus.

Have you ever wondered why the apostles just simply left their nets and went with Jesus when the Lord said,

"Follow Me"? No miracles had been performed yet. Jesus was just starting His earthly mission and no one had any idea who He was. However, those Jesus invited followed Him without question.

We may sing the song "Jesus Loves Me This I Know" with gusto. Do we really believe what we sing? How much do we really know about Jesus and His love for us? Surely, we have experienced it for ourselves.

"I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV).

Even as the Israelites were carried into exile, the prophet Jeremiah wrote to their elders with a message of encouragement from God. He told them to build houses, settle down, marry and have kids, plant gardens and eat the produce. He also told them to seek the peace and prosperity of the city where they were living (Jeremiah 29:5-7). God is saying that those who listen to Him even in the midst of struggles will be blessed.

The author of the letter to the Hebrews tells us to persevere in running the race of life by fixing our eyes on Jesus as the prize. We are encouraged to live in peace, accepting God's help as we struggle together to overcome the sin in our own lives.

"So don't sit around on your hands! No more dragging your feet! Clear the path for long-distance runners so no one will trip and fall, so no one will step in a hole and sprain an ankle. Help each other out. And run for it!" (Hebrews 12:12 MSG).

Yes, it is true. Jesus loves you and me. He knows us. In fact, He knows all about us since He has been with us ever

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### Board of Directors

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### Wanted

#### Praise Reports and Articles

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Or

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**Important (continued from page 1)**

since God made us. The question remains, do we know Jesus?

Do we know the Lord personally like foals know their mares? Or are we like those who claim a driver or a football player as a hero based only on their performance in their chosen sport? Do we take the time to learn about Jesus and his teachings in the Bible with at least as much enthusiasm as we learn sports and racing strategies, statistics and performance?

Jesus is inviting us to follow Him. Let's listen to the prophet Jeremiah and seek God out by praying, reading our Bibles and listening to the Lord. This will help us to recognize the God who gave us life and grow closer to Jesus, building a strong relationship with Him. According to Jeremiah, God will then have a bigger chance to bless us. Besides, I believe, those who follow Jesus have the most fulfilling lives.



**Let's Prepare for Easter**

Easter is Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. This is a good time to seriously work at building our relationships with the Lord. There are many ways prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate the day Christ rose from the dead after paying the price for our sins.

As we think about Christ's sacrifice for our sin, let's identify the sin our own lives and ask God for forgiveness. Then we can turn back to God by reading our Bibles and thinking about how we can be more compassionate and loving towards those around us. And, of course, let's give thanks to God for all he has given us and has done for us and for loving us just as we are.

**Blessings from God**

*From Lynn Smith...*

Thank you for all the effort and prayers!! I'm back home and grateful for every one!! You are so special and I'm glad to know you!! ♡

*From Suzanne D'Ambrose...*

She finished her radiation for breast cancer. Please pray for the proper ongoing treatment, for the side affects to be minimal, without anxiety and for peace.



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

**Memorial Contributions**

- In memory of by:
- In memory of **Joe Adamsky** by: Lyndel Adamsky
- In memory of **Jack Balahtsis** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
- In memory of **Jeanne Duso Boudot** by: Ralph and Marjorie Deshetsky
- In memory of **Yves Breton** by: Lyse Breton
- In memory of **Dr John Findley** by: Rev Mark McLennan
- In memory of **Joan Harp** by: Jimmy and Sharon Harp, Susie Salles, Jake and Rosie Huff, Terry Harp
- In memory of **John and Janet Klark** by: Craig Holtermann
- In memory of **Monte Lake** by: Terry Harp
- In memory of **Larery Mood, III** by: Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association
- In memory of **Ron Peacock** by: Jodi Peacock
- In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables
- In memory of **Dennis Youshock** by: Pastor Joe DiDonatto, CHHA the Meadows

**Hot Box Continued from page 6**

these weights of doubt and unbelief that keep us from running the race of life the way He intended. We do that by immersing ourselves in His Word...*faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17)*

Through the person of the Holy Spirit, God will bring the Bible alive to you, making the Word a part of your very being. As that happens, pounds of doubt and unbelief will begin rolling off. Instead of sapping you of your strength, Jesus' hot box builds you up, refreshes your soul, and empowers you to *go the distance*. Making weight with Jesus is a blast!

**Scripture:** ...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin that so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. *Hebrews 12:1*

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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.



**Horseshoe Nail Cross Necklaces and Keyrings**

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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

**Gary Buxton**, 79, of Redondo Beach, CA, died over the Christmas weekend. Gary was a long-time racing secretary. He turned his lifelong knowledge and background in harness racing into a tremendous career as a race secretary, judge and racing official.

**Thomas A. "Tad" Davis**, 84, of Alexandria, VA, died Dec 28. Tad well known by horse owners and breeders. He often prepared syndicate agreements for prominent stallions and racing and breeding partnerships. He had a great knowledge of how the federal tax laws applied to the horse industry and successfully represented many prominent horsemen in IRS audits. He helped in the passage of several laws benefitting the horse racing industry. His longtime colleague and friend, Jay Hickey, said, "He loved the horse industry and the people in it. Beyond all his legislative achievements, he was widely admired for his honesty, integrity and loyalty to his friends and his fun-loving spirit."



**Arthur (Arty) Lee Foster**, 93, of Cordova, MD, died Dec 31. Arty trained many dogs for hunting and racing during his early years. In the 1970's he began racing harness horses in MD, DE, NJ, PA, and NY. He was also a truck driver for Elliott Wilson Trucking. He loved farming. Arty and his late wife, Ann, worked together milking cows, raising livestock, and growing grain crops for many years. Together, they raised a family that was taught the love of the land and the value of hard work.



**William "Bill" Stickle Height Sr**, 88, of Howell, NJ, died Dec 30. Bill spent his life at Freehold Raceway for the last 50 years as a driver, trainer and owner. He was still training up until his death.



**Monte George Lake**, 93, died Dec 10. Monte was a lifelong Michigan horseman. He raced for 50 years from Michigan to California to Florida. He was also a proud veteran of the United States Army. His brother, Rick, also trains and drives harness horses.



**Jeffrey Mallet**, 72, died Nov 5. According to the USTA, Jeffrey created one of harness racing's most electrifying races in history. In October 1984, Jeffrey trained and drove Dragon's Lair to an upset of the undefeated world champion Nihilator at his home track of The Meadows in the inaugural Breeders Crown 2-year-old Colt Pace. Although his career was defined by Dragon's Lair, his horsemanship was evident with other horses he trained.



**Bobby Miller**, 82, of Lexington, KY, died Dec 29. Bobby was the former vice chairman at Millennium Farms in Lexington. He was a third-generation horseman following

his father and grandfather, who both worked with saddlebreds. He spent 12 years working for the Standardbred operation Avondale Farm before venturing into the Thoroughbred industry to manage the Walmac Farm. Despite leaving the Standardbred world, Bobby often visited the Red Mile to catch the fall Grand Circuit races.



**Lamar Jarail "Moose" Moody III**, 63, of Xenia, OH, died Dec 2. Lamar's grandfather and uncles used to take him to the horse races and he grew to love the sport. He successfully trained racehorses throughout Ohio and surrounding states. He loved music and became one of the hottest DJs in the Dayton area. Lamar was always known for having a big heart and enjoyed making people laugh.



**John Rooney**, 83, died Dec 26. John and his twin brother, Pat, managed Liberty Bell and Green Mountain racetracks when both were owned by their family. John Rooney was the son of Pittsburgh Steelers founder Arthur J. Rooney, Sr. He was a member of the USTA Board of Directors, elected in 1975, serving three years.



**Ron Ruggles**, 82, of Pompano Beach, FL, a NJ native, died Jan 4. Ron was one of harness racing's most dedicated and loyal owners. He was a die-hard racing fan who regularly visited the Meadowlands, as well as Roosevelt and Yonkers Raceways. He was involved in the business for over 60 years, competing under the nom de course M T Pocket Stables. A memorial race at the Red Mile during the Grand Circuit meet is being planned in his honor.



**Dennis S. Youshock**, 72, of Slippery Rock, PA, died Jan 10. Dennis owned and raced Standardbreds since 1983 primarily at the Meadows and on the Pennsylvania fair circuit. He was also a trainer. He was employed by Peoples Natural Gas for 34-1/2 years, retiring as a supervisor in January 2006. Dennis was a member of North Liberty Presbyterian Church. He and his wife, Joyce were also CHHA members.



**Carl Stephen "Steve" Wagoner**, 67, of Arcola, IL, died Dec 23. Carl worked as a truck driver for many years. He also maintained a small stable from the late 1980's through 2013. He enjoyed telling stories, fishing, and spending time with family and friends.

**Gregrey Alan Wyatt** of Riverton Illinois died Jan 16. Gregrey was a Harness horse trainer most of his life. In later years he worked in sales at Griffiths Construction Company Springfield, IL.

## Obituaries

**Michael Davis Andrew**, 84, of Gorham, ME, died Dec 20. Michael bred and raised Standardbreds. He served as a commissioner for the Maine State Harness Racing Commission, vice president and president of the Maine Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association. Michael was named a Distinguished Professor at the University of New Hampshire. He was an avid outdoorsman, polo player, skilled blacksmith, author, ironwork forger and a breeder of Hampshire sheep.



**Zaharias (Jack) Stergios Balahtsis**, 85, of Upper Arlington, OH, died Dec 15. Jack was a worldwide wholesale manufacturer/distributor of equine supplies. He was a member of St. George Greek Church in New Port

Richey, FL, and the founder of Jacks, Inc. According to Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz, "He was a tremendously hard worker and a great friend."

**Jeanne Duso Boudot**, 61, of Freeland, MI, died Aug 29. Jeanne was an avid harness racing enthusiast and breeder with a special love for the industry and all those involved. She loved Bulldogs and thus her farm name "Bulldog Acres" where she raised a wide assortment of animals.

**Albert D. "Al" Buongiorno**, 94, died Dec 29. After his teaching career, he embarked on a 31-year career in the licensing department of the United States Trotting Association. His career took him to harness racing tracks throughout the nation.

### 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 Niels, 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, Joyce Hollingsworth, 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, Greggie 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:

Jana Brocco's cancer spread.  
Andrew Gager is going through a rough patch.  
Guy lost his eyesight.  
Larah has kidney disease.  
Susan Gill broke her humorous bone.  
Pastor Paul Hansen had a stroke and tore a carotid artery.  
Bill Irvine is recovering from a very bad accident.  
Marie-Claude has a mass in her throat.  
Meagan McKee is in a new cancer trial.  
Mary Beth Ranger is recovering from back surgery.  
Ray Romanetti is on the list for double lung transplant and double bypass surgery.  
Dick Terrien has a new pacemaker but is short of breath.  
Lynn Smith is recovering from surgery.  
Sam Trombley has a colon problem.  
Melvin and Barbara Turcotte have health issues.  
Allen Wright has cancer.  
Please pray for a girl with anorexia.  
Please pray for those struggling with addictions.

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Salem, NH 03079  
USA



Please indicate  
Address corrections

## Prayer

Author Unknown

Submitted by Chris McKee

You See, I can't quite make it  
Through a day just on my own  
I need your love to guide me,  
So I'll never feel alone.

I want to ask you to please keep  
My family safe and sound.  
Come and fill their lives with confidence  
For whatever fate they're bound.

Give me faith, dear God, to face  
Each hour throughout the day.  
And not to worry over things  
I can't change in any way.

I thank you God for being home  
And listening to my call,  
For giving me such good advice  
When I stumble and fall.

Your number, God, is the only one  
That answers every time.  
I never get a busy signal,  
Never had to pay a dime.

So thank you God, for listening  
To my Troubles and my sorrow.  
Good night God, I love you too,  
And I'll call again tomorrow.

*Note: As this issue goes to press, I just learned  
Chris and Sam McKee's daughter, Melissa,  
passed away February 4, 2023. Please keep the  
family in your prayers.*



## In the Hot Box with Jesus

By Chaplain Sam Ed Spence

One would almost think that the Holy Spirit had jockeys in mind when He dictated this scripture to the writer of Hebrews. Those few extra pounds, that unwanted weight which so easily attaches itself to the body is something that a majority of race riders must deal with. And most of them, at one time or another, go to the hot box or whirlpool to sweat off the excess pounds in an effort to "make weight."

Of course, the weight the Bible refers to is anything in our life that would hinder the plans and destiny that God has for us... not *just* the plan for us eventually making it into heaven, but realizing and experiencing the victories and fulfillment in the midst of the race. In other words, God intends us to enjoy the journey (race). Jesus said, "I've come that they (every believer, His sheep) *might have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*" (John 10:10)

Yes, He did say there would be persecutions for the Word's sake and that we would have some tribulations in the world (obstacles on life's track), "*but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*" (John 16:33) Jesus lived a sinless life, then went to that cross to not only become our sin and pay the price for it, but to make provision for every need we would ever have. That's the *abundance* He was talking about. He has already totally provided for our every need in this life!

Some Bible scholars feel that the "*sin that so easily ensnares us*" in our topic scripture below is simply **doubt and unbelief**. The Apostle Paul tells us in Romans that *whatever is not from faith is sin.* (Romans 14:23) And since doubt and unbelief are the opposite of faith, it's obvious that this is the sin that so easily keeps us from receiving the promises of God and the many tremendous benefits that were provided for us via the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We all need to jump in the "hot box" with Jesus and shuck off



**Hot Box cont. on page 2**