



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

April 2023

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

Tough Decisions

By Chaplain Lee Alphen & Roger Huston

You leave fast from the starting gate and land in the garden spot in a big stakes race. Getting the ideal trip as the race develops, you are content to sit in the two hole. Later in the race, as you are heading into the home stretch, the horse on top goes wide giving you room to move up on the rail.

With a 16th of a mile to go, you are gaining fast when the horse on top suddenly bears out. It is apparent that the horse has a broken bit as he bears out even further. What do you do? Without control of the horse, the driver is helpless.

Other horses are closing fast on the outside. You have a split second to decide. Should you grab the bridle and keep the runaway horse from drifting into the field and prevent a serious accident? The driver's shouted warnings can't be heard over the din of pounding hooves, the announcer's enthusiastic race calls and the excitement of fans shouting in the stands.

Of course, you are supposed to be driving your own horse, who went off even money, to the finish line. It looks like you have a good shot to win, especially with this horse out of the race. The purse is big and bettors and owners are counting on you to get your horse home.

Jesus and His disciples walked to Capernaum. "When He was in the house, He asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, 'Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all'" (Mark 9:33-35 NIV).

Now I'm sure Jesus doesn't want us to throw races trying to be last. Rather, what pleases Him is for us to always consider those around us. Doing our best to win a race in a fair contest is good and makes us happy and proud, as it should. However, winning a horse race does not make us better than anyone else and, of course, I am sure we all always want to be honest and fair.

Someone may be a better driver. Part of the credit for this goes to them for working hard, becoming physically fit and learning to understand horses and racing. However, let's not forget that driving horses is a talent, a gift from God. Remember too, the trainer, grooms and others helped get the horse conditioned properly. Then, as we realize we are good at what we do, let's also remember to appreciate and compliment others such as those who serve delicious meals to their family, bring in a great harvest from the fields and excel in school by studying hard. What they do is important too.

Jesus said, "Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends" (John 15:12-13 MSG).

Jesus was born fully human like us in every way except He never sinned. He was tempted mightily in the desert and continually through life by the devil. Even at the end, as He stood before Pilate, Jesus could have taken the easy way out to save His life. He didn't.

Jesus stayed in touch with the Father constantly, often going off by Himself to pray. I am sure this helped when He was in difficult situations. He knew the Father's plan and wanted to get it right.

Staying in touch with God will help us too. Remember, Jesus said, "I am

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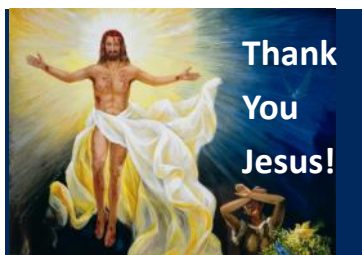
Praise Reports and Articles

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen

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Tough cont. top of page 2

Tough (cont. from page 1)

with you always" (Matthew 28:20 NIV). Actually, God has been with everyone since the beginning. In the Old Testament we read, "Be strong and courageous. [...] For it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you" (Deuteronomy 31:6).

Yes, it is true. God is with us no matter where we are: driving horses, working in the barn, shoveling snow, washing clothes, building houses, at the office, in school, watching TV and everywhere else.

When the time was drawing near for Jesus to be arrested, scourged and hung on the cross, He prayed for us, saying, "Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one" (John 17:11 NIV). As Jesus promised, God sent the Holy Spirit to be with us and help us (John 16:7).

The reason Jesus came, taught, suffered and died on the cross was to pay the price for all our sins and make it possible for us to join God in heaven. A good prayer life will make it easier for us to know the best plan of action as challenges and opportunities present themselves to us. By making a habit of asking God for guidance and paying attention to God's still small voice, we can trust God to help us make right—even tough—decisions.

On the first Easter Jesus entered the winner's circle when he beat death and evil by rising from the dead and opening the gates of heaven. This made it possible for us to live forever with God in that perfect place where there is no more pain, suffering or death.

As we prepare for Easter, which is Sunday, April 9th, let's work at conversing with God by both talking and listening. The more we do this, the better prepared we will be to make right decisions when it counts. Please join me in gratefully celebrating the resurrection of Jesus and his love for us. Remember God is with us—always.

If you have any thoughts on what the driver in our story should have done, I'd like to hear them.

Aware Cont. from page 6

There really wasn't time for him to quote the Word to me, and since I never carried a Bible with me in those days, I had to wait until I was in the hotel room that night to pull out the Apostle Paul's quote in the Gideon edition. It read: "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

For the life of me, I can't remember the man's name

Blessings from God

From Suzanne D'Ambrose...

Praise God! Suzanne is cancer free following her chemo and radiation treatments. She thanks you for your prayers.

From Melinda Bailey...

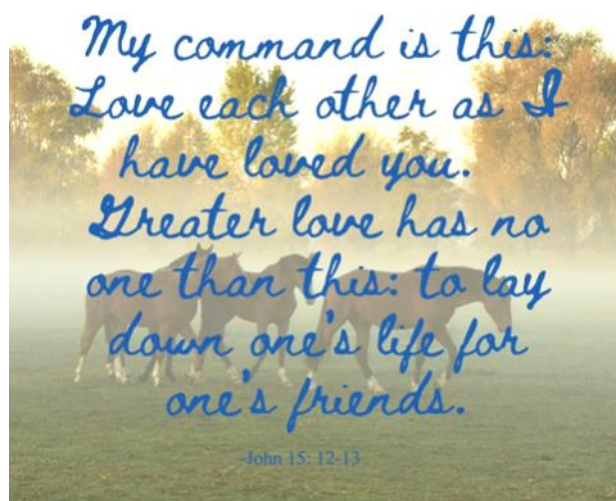
Thanks so much for your prayers. They are truly appreciated. Bill is recovering from his auto accident. We are so blessed the good Lord wasn't ready for him!

From Susan Gill...

I finally got my sling off last week and started physical therapy. I would complain about how hard PT is except that it is so exciting to even think about getting to use my right hand again.

From Denise Riley...

Thank you all for all your prayers. My cardio-catheterization came back no blockage or heart disease, which proves the nuclear stress test wrong. I give God ALL the glory for this healing, and He deserves All the praise. Thanks again.



nor what kind of work he did; it seemed like we simply talked about me. Reflecting back on it many times since, I've come to the conclusion that he was a *plant* – simply an angel that was sent to deliver a message that was very important to me and many, many other people in our individual lives.

How wonderful God is, even in the midst of all our busyness, our mistakes, and our blown turns...he loves each of us so very much.

Scripture: But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. *Romans 5:8*

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10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (see picture)

Horseshoe Nail Cross necklaces and key rings—see below

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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.

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Obituaries continued from page 5

Alfredo "Freddy" Collazo, 57, of Newtonville, NJ, died Dec 15. Freddy was an excellent Standardbred horse trainer. He loved to go fishing and spend time with family and friends.



Earl Clark Crosswell, 79, of Millsboro, DE, died Jan 18. Earl raced jeeps and owned a stock car in his younger years. He decided to slow down a little in his fifties and race horses. In one year, he was the winningest owner, trainer and driver. After serving in the USMC, he owned and operated several businesses such as a Chevrolet dealership. He also spent time with the Delaware State Police as a K9 officer and was a charter boat captain and a pilot.



Glenn Allen Deletetsky, 72, of Ogunquit, ME, died Dec 29. Glen owned, trained and drove harness horses for 20 years before embarking on a real estate career in the Ogunquit area. He served as President of the Maine Harness Association in 1985 and as Regional VP in 1986.

John Edmunds, 93, died Feb 1. John, a third-generation horseman, drove his first race at the Windsor, ME fair in 1945. Back in the racing business after serving as a paratrooper and jumpmaster in the Korean War, he opened his own public stable. He trained and wintered his horses in Pinehurst and spent the racing season at tracks in New York and New Jersey.



Diane S Frazier, 87, of Kennebunk, ME, died Feb 3. Diane and her husband, Bob, opened a T-shirt store in the base complex at Sugarloaf ski area. Thanks to her optimism, Mountain Tops eventually grew to a 12-store chain. Diane and her husband, Bob, raced harness horses in Maine and greatly enjoyed the camaraderie and the people in the sport.



Benoit Frenette, 60, of Laval, Quebec, died Jan 6. Benoit became involved in racing 1977. He eventually became race secretary at Blue Bonnets and later moved to Aylmer and then Rideau Carleton. Later he stayed involved in the industry as a judge in Quebec and Ontario.

Robert Joseph "Bob" Groter, 75, of Wyoming, IL, died Feb 2. Bob was the starter for harness races for more than 50 years in several states. He also worked for Ezra Rumbold and Sons and was co-owner of Wyoming Monument Company, with his wife, Bebe Jo, and son, Robert. He was a member of St. Dominic Catholic Church.

Joseph Hardy III, 100, died Jan 7. Joseph was a former operator of the Meadows. He also founded the 84 Lumber chain of building materials stores and developed the Nemacolin resort.



Russell Wayne Herr, 66, of Groveport, Ohio, died Jan 18. Russ founded Winchester Landscape Gardens. He trained and drove harness horses. He was a dedicated member of Madison Christian Church where he

served as a Trustee, Youth Group Teacher, Men's Ministry Leader, Missionary, and Door Greeter to many.

Janet Karlet, 101, of Washington CH, OH, died Jan 17.

The family business of harness horse racing took Janet on many travels to the East and West coasts. She attended the Little Brown Jug with her father, McKinley Kirkpatrick, who was a founding director. She was a member of the Grace United Methodist Church.



Denise Rose Mondt, 75, died Jan 11. Denise spent time working as a receptionist at Mohawk Airlines, was a secretary for Agway Co., as well as an executive secretary at General Electric in Syracuse. Because her husband, Tony's profession was harness racing, she took an interest in horseback riding. Denise was a faith-filled communicant of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church.

Ted Rau, 79, died Jan 13. Ted owned, trained and drove harness horses. According to his son, during the last weeks of his life he talked a lot of the past. He wanted to make sure to thank all the friends he made and Scioto Downs for all the great years. He was grateful for being a part of the business where people helped people and watched out for each other. He said, "There are many people he wanted to thank, and all you friends of his know who you are. From our family — thank you."

John Salvi, 94, of Canonsburg, PA, died Feb 3.

He was a Standardbred trainer for many years at The Meadows and Pompano Park. Horses in the John Salvi barn were cared for and cared about. Their welfare was always paramount. As a founding member of the Meadows Standardbred Owners Association, he represented Meadows horsemen through the 70's and 80's.



John C. Smith, 84, died Dec 26. An avid horseman, he enjoyed raising and training Standardbreds and racing them around the country. He was instrumental in promoting harness racing at the Logan County Fair. After his father-in-law, Walter Lantz's passing, John owned and operated Super Value with his two brothers-in-law.

Diane M. Stevenson, 80, of Hartly, DE, died Jan 22.

Diane charted her first harness race in Saint John at age 16 and worked as a program director for harness racing from Prince Edward Island to Pompano and all up and down the East Coast. She spent 18 years at The Meadowlands and retired after 62 years of charting at age 78 from Rosecroft Raceway in 2018. Diane was a CHHA member.



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.

Sources for Obituary information include:

www.ustrotting.com, www.harnesslink.com and www.Standardbredcanada.ca

Obituaries

Melissa Lynn McKee, 31, of Blairstown, NJ, died Feb 4. Melissa was the daughter of the esteemed Sam and Chris McKee. She graduated from the University of South Carolina in 2013. After suffering a stroke, she went on to pursue a career as a Registered Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist (RCIS), graduating from The School of Cardiovascular Tech at Morristown Medical Center in March 2018. Her mother, Chris, is a CHHA member



Charles C. Bennett, 97, of Hesperia, MI, died Jan 21.

Charles broke young horses by riding them to his one-room schoolhouse. He raced Standardbreds at Michigan fairs and in Florida. He managed a successful farming operation using new technologies and innovative ideas. He was a member of the Fremont United Methodist Church. His great granddaughter, Jessica, is a CHHA member.



William "Bill" Blake Jr, 83, of Saratoga Springs, died Jan 21. After serving his country in the Army, Bill and his

brother, trainer-driver Wendell Blake, traveled around the Grand Circuit. Later Bill settled in Saratoga where he and his late wife, Barbara, worked together racing horses. Glaucoma forced Bill to retire in 2016. He was inducted into the Saratoga Hall of Fame in 2006.



Morley Bradshaw, 93, of Ontario, died Jan 27. His family celebrates that he is now with his beloved Savior, Jesus Christ, in Heaven. His greatest loves were his family, his farm, his horses, and his faith. Morley was the founder of Bradshaw Fuels, Waterford, Ontario. He owned, trained and drove harness horses. Morley was a CHHA member.

Chester "Chet" Crane, 68, of Salisbury, MD, died Feb 8. Chet was a harness race driver and a Blacksmith. He served as a Police Officer in Virginia. He was also a crabber and worked as a machinist for K&L Microwave. Chet was CHHA member, Dennis Crane's brother.



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, 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, Greggiewe 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 Petrullo, Sgt David Thomas, Elizabeth Welch and Nigel Willabus.

Special Intentions for this month:

Lowell Adamsky has debilitating knee pain and is looking for a less invasive solution.

Alessandra, 4, has a debilitating disease.

Lowell Lockhart has debilitating knee and back pain.

Peggy Lockhart has health issues.

Ernie Lowell is recovering from heart surgery.

Meagan McKee is home on Hospice.

Wendy Miner is recovering from a brain bleed, partial loss of eyesight and other issues following a hit and run accident.

Bob Montane is being treated for cancer.

Lynn Silver has a torn artery where her heart stint is.

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

Memorial Contributions

- In memory of **Doug Ackerman 9th anniversary 5/23** by: Ada Jean Ackerman
- In memory of **Joe Adamsky** by: Lyndel Adamsky
- In memory of **Yves Breton** by: Lyse Breton
- In memory of **Dr John Findley** by: Rev Mark McLennan
- In memory of **Joan Harp** by: Miller and Hannah Cook
- In memory of **Harold Kelly 88th birthday 5/3** by: Deb and Jeff Tilla
- In memory of **Melissa** by: Pastor Joe and friends from Meadows Track Chapel
- In memory of **Ted Rau** by: Jim and Judy Ferguson
- In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables

Dear Lord,
Thank You for all the pain and suffering You endured on our behalf. Thank You for paying the price for all of our sins and for wanting to welcome us into Your heavenly kingdom. Please Lord, help us to recognize and accept this great gift, our salvation. We look forward to seeing You in heaven. Thanks God! Amen!



Are you Aware?

By Chaplain Sam Ed Spence

It was May, 1977, and the flight was almost full as I eased into my short-row aisle seat on a trip out of DFW to Louisville, Kentucky. Seated next to me, by the window, was a middle-aged gentleman in a white knit shirt and blue sport coat. Shortly after we were airborne, he struck up a conversation, asking me where I was headed and what type of work I did.



I responded by telling him I worked for a Quarter Horse racing organization and was headed for a horse sale in Kentucky. Somehow, our lengthy conversation got around to church and religion, and that's when he popped the big question to me:

"Are you aware of how much God really loves you?" His piercing blue eyes left little doubt of the sincerity of his statement, which caused me to pause and

ponder. My first thoughts were to share my experience of being saved as a teenager, leaving Jesus in east Texas when I went off to college and then coming back to Him as a 34-year-old backslider, along with some deep theology I had accumulated over the past couple of years. Somehow, none of that really fit. Finally, I responded, "Probably not."

His smile seemed to say, "I appreciate your honesty," then he added, "I'm not going to preach to you, but I do want to share a passage of scripture for you to think about." At that moment, I realized we had not only landed, but were at the gate; most everyone on board was jumping to their feet to grab their overhead baggage and get off the plane.

"It's in the eighth chapter of Romans, verses 38 and 39," said my new friend in a loud whisper just above the noise and commotion around us. He stayed seated while I hurried down the aisle and off the plane to meet someone waiting to whisk me off to a close appointment.