



Rambling Willie

## Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

May 2023

Remember,  
I pray for all  
our members  
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

### Yes or No

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Yes! Your horse won the elimination and drew the rail in the Hambletonian. Will you drive my horse in the Little Brown Jug? Yes! Your parents are struggling and can't afford basic necessities. Do you want to help them? Yes, of course. Your groom needs a day off for an important medical appointment. Yes, by all means, go.

God sent an angel to Mary to tell her God wanted her to become the mother of His son, Jesus. Mary said Yes as soon as she realized it was God's will.

Joseph was troubled. He loved Mary and surely trusted her. However, the law required since Mary was a pregnant, unmarried woman, that he should divorce her and that she be stoned to death.

Some theologians say that, because Joseph was a humble man, he did not feel adequate to raise the Son of God. Whatever the case, when the angel came to him in a dream, telling him not to be afraid to marry Mary, he said, yes because he finally realized it was God's will.

Do you want to clean the stalls in the ship-in barn? No! They are usually gross! The guy on the backside of your shed row is offering you some drugs that he says will make you feel great. No! The vet says he has a good concoction for your horse that won't be detected in the spit box. No! As you walk through the grocery store, you realize you can easily pocket a bag of peanuts. No!

While Moses was up the mountain getting the Ten Commandments from God, his brother Aaron and the Israelites became corrupt, made a golden calf and started worshipping it as their god. The true God was irate and

told Moses He was going to destroy them.

Moses told God no and said, "Why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that He brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people" (Exodus 32:11-12 NIV).

Thank God Moses intervened and convinced God to relent on punishing the Israelites! Yes, God does listen to our prayer requests too.

It is good we have Jesus as our advocate. Jesus goes before the Father on behalf of all believers, telling God, "Yes! I redeemed this person when I died on the cross."

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego said No to King Nebuchadnezzar's command to worship the king's gods. The king ordered them to be securely bound and thrown into a fiery hot furnace. Still they refused to worship any other god but the God of Israel. So, at the king's command, the soldiers threw them in the furnace. The fire was so hot it killed the soldiers as they were throwing him in. (Daniel 3:8-23).

"Then Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, 'Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?' They replied, 'Certainly, Your Majesty.' He said, 'Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.'

"Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, 'Shadrach, Meshach and

Yes cont. top of page 2

### Board of Directors

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ideas please contact:

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603-898-1927

603-401-7271 (cell)

### Wanted

#### Praise Reports and Articles

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen

[leealphen@comcast.net](mailto:leealphen@comcast.net)

Or

157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

### Important Dates

**Pentecost—Feast of the  
Holy Spirit is May 28th.**

**Memorial Day—Honor  
our veterans May 29th.**

**Yes (cont. from page 1)**

Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here! So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

"Then Nebuchadnezzar said, 'Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God'" (Daniel 3:24-28 NIV).

The king then made a ruling against anyone who said anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (Daniel 3:29 NIV). With this Nebuchadnezzar agreed with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and said yes to our God as the only true God.

The devil tempted Jesus three times in the desert. Each time Jesus said no. Finally the devil left him alone.

After Jesus was arrested, Peter was asked three different times if he knew Jesus. All three times Peter said no. This makes us sad. We wish he had been strong enough to say yes and stand up for Jesus. Later Peter was sorry he said no.

When Jesus told the apostles to wait for the Holy Spirit, they said yes and waited in the Upper Room. When the Holy Spirit came to them, they gratefully accepted this help from God and said yes to all God asked of them.

Sometimes the answer is "Yes" and other times "No." The best answer is the one God gives us. The Holy Spirit, the Advocate Jesus promised, now lives in us and understands us and helps us to understand God.

We develop an understanding of our horses by spending time with them. As we study their behavior, we learn why they do the things they do and can adjust our training methods and the way we treat them for the best possible outcomes. They learn to trust us when we treat them well on and off the track. The better we communicate and understand each other, the better chance we have of developing a horse to its full potential.

The more we spend time speaking with God and listening for God's answers deep in our hearts, studying the scriptures, and growing in relationship with God, the better we will understand God's will for us. Then we will better know when the correct answer is "Yes" and when it is "No" so that we too can reach our full potential and become everything God made us to be.

**Blessings from God****From Susan Gill...**

The doctor looked at the x-ray and pronounced my bones healed. What great news!! My muscles and movement have a ways to go, but I'm super happy about the bones melding back together.

**From Jake Huff...**

Nora and Evelyn, the 3-month-old twins we've been praying, for have been released from the hospital. Evelyn only has one kidney. Please continue to pray for her.

**From Larry Leaderman...**

His recent blood work came back great. Praise God! He thanks everyone for their prayers.

**From Amy Bondon...**

CHHA President Amy Bondon, was part of the Moffitt Cancer Center delegation that met in Tallahassee with the Florida State Legislature on Moffitt Day, March 22<sup>nd</sup> to secure funding in support of their research and development efforts. H. Lee Moffitt was Florida's Speaker of the House when he founded the Moffitt Cancer Center which is Florida's only designated comprehensive cancer center.



*May the angels  
lead you into paradise*  
Memorials posted at [www.chha.net](http://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 **Elpidio Bernardi** by: Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association  
 In memory of **Lois Combs** by: Joanne White  
 In memory of **Bob, Dick and Viv Farrington** by: Debbie Farrington  
 In memory of **Harold Kelly 88th birthday 5/3** by: Linda and Tom Moyer, Deb and Jeff Tilla  
 In memory of **Melissa McKee** by: Amy Bondon  
 In memory of **Earl Parkes** by: Jennifer Parkes  
 In memory of **Chris Patterson** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz  
 In memory of **Weldon Stockwell** by: Jack Levine  
 In memory of **Ed Telle** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz  
 In memory of **Pauline and Walter Warrington** by: Steven Warrington

**Pentecost**

Sunday May, 28th, we celebrate Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit. Let's gratefully accept this help from God like the apostles did. It will make us winners.



Please verify or add address on back

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

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Please pray for my intentions \_\_\_\_\_

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**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
- 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**

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](http://www.chha.net/products)





## Obituaries continued from page 5

**Timothy Earl Dunlap**, 65, formerly of Batavia, NY, died Feb 20. Timothy was a longtime Standardbred horseman. "My father's specialty was breaking yearlings; he had a great knack for it; he had the patience for it," said his son, Cody. "I remember as a young child traveling around New York state to all the fairs with him and watching him race. He was an amazing teacher as well. He had his own stable in Alden (NY); at any given time, he always had 15 horses racing at Batavia, Buffalo, Vernon, Monticello, and Yonkers. And he went up to Canada quite a few times as well."

**Fred A. Huff**, 94, of Du Quoin, IL, died March 18. Fred was publicity director of the Du Quoin State Fair and later assumed overall management of Hayes Fair Acres and the Fair's annual exposition and celebrity showcase. He was a writer, historian and promoter of Southern Illinois athletics and entertainment. For over 35 years, he distinguished Southern Illinois University and its Salukis as one of the nation's most recognized athletic programs. Fred is the author of "The Hambletonian – 1926-1975" and "The History of the Du Quoin State Fair (1923-2002)".



**Pacey "The Wizard" Mindlin**, 81, of Franklin, Ohio, died March 7. Pacey was introduced nightly by sidekick Barry Vicroy at Miami Valley Raceway as "the world's greatest handicapper." Pacey offered listeners insight, humor and selections in his own inimitable style. "He was the face of racing at Miami Valley," said Director of Racing Ken Rambo. "He had a legion of fans throughout the harness racing world and even those that thought his antics were a bit too unconventional tuned in to watch him. He will be missed." He has been around the track all his life and owned and bred horses, many good horses.

**Alvin Earl Parkes**, 75, of Draper, VA, formerly of Lewisburg, WV, died Dec 10. Throughout his life, Earl took great joy in breeding, raising and racing harness horses. After serving in the US Air Force, he touched many lives throughout his career as a Nurse Anesthetist. He enjoyed farming, spending time with family, and a good hymn-sing. Earl was a CHHA member.



**Chris Patterson**, 70, of Cambridge, OH, died Nov 15. Chris was an announcer in Ohio since the early 1970's. He called races at Scioto Downs for a while and at many of the county fairs in Ohio. In the summer preceding his death, he called races at 13 county fairs even though his health was declining. His energetic style will be remembered throughout the Buckeye State and especially his spots between races promoting the breeding farms and other companies within the industry. Chris died with no family and is buried in an unmarked grave. Lisa Schwartz is organizing a fundraiser for a cemetery marker.

**Salvatore Reale**, 80, of Pittsburgh, PA, died March 7. Salvatore took pride in racing and breeding Standardbreds. When he first came to America, he was a tailor and later became a successful business owner of the Villa Reale Pizzeria.



**James Ross Roach**, 61, of Lewisburg, OH, died Feb 12. James trained and occasionally drove horses for 44 years, mainly in Ohio and Indiana. He passed on his love of the horses to his daughter, April. The family spent many days and nights together at the barn and races. In his early years, Mr. Roach also worked at a fertilizer plant.



**John Jay Rogers**, 74, died Nov 27. John was awarded a Purple Heart and two Bronze Stars during his service in Vietnam. John loved training and racing horses, blues music, cheesecake, screwdrivers, attending music festivals, and current events.



**Sara Frances Short**, 88, died Feb 20. Sara worked for the USTA for 50 years. She loved working in her father's stable, The Forrest Short racing stable. Sara helped at Scioto Downs as part of a group of ladies called Sulky Sweeties and also helped with the horse races at the Pickaway County Fair. She also volunteered at Riverside Methodist Hospital and was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church and an usher.



**Salvatore Sparacino**, 87, of Westbury, NY, died March 7. Salvatore was a veteran of Roosevelt Raceway. He was a trainer, driver and breeder.



**Sharon K. Sylvester**, 79, of De Leon Springs, FL, died Mar 20. Sharon worked with her husband, Hall of Fame trainer, Charles, at the barn traveling with their family to tracks from Michigan to Florida. She was an integral part of his success with the Sylvester Stable Racing Team

**Timothy Tassoni**, 71, of Toms River, NJ, died recently. Tim was a horse trainer for over 30 years before retiring 5 years ago. He loved music (He was at Woodstock) and was an avid birdwatcher.

**Edward Eugene Telle**, 76, of Orlando, FL, died March 17. Ed loved and was passionate about horse racing. He was an owner and trainer of Standardbreds and in the past owned Thoroughbreds.



There is nothing more important than  
**Your Eternal Salvation**

Kirk Cameron

## Obituaries

**Elpidio Bernardi Jr.**, 81, of Carleton, MI, died Feb 10. Elpidio had a lifelong passion for horses that began when he first learned to ride as a young boy in Puerto Rico. With the assistance of his trainers, he became a successful harness trainer, earning him a place in the Michigan Harness Horseman's Hall of Fame. Elpidio was also a trained blacksmith. He and his wife owned and operated a training facility, "El Comandante", in Carleton, Michigan.

**Joyce A. Boring**, 81, of Adrian, MI, died March 18. Joyce and her husband, Chris, owned, bred and raced harness horses. She enjoyed canning for her family and dancing whenever the music called to her. She loved to be outdoors and found great satisfaction in mowing the lawn. Joyce and Chris were members of St. Stephen Lutheran Church.



### Sources for Obituary information include:

www.ustrotting.com, www.harnesslink.com and 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, 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, Bob Montane, 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 Beinbauer, 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,

**Lois Ann Combs**, 86, of Celina, OH, died Mar 18. Lois, her husband, Loren, and son, Paul, bred and raced harness horses. She enjoyed harness racing and horse pulling. Lois attended the Montezuma United Methodist Church. Lois was a loyal fan of The Ohio State University men's basketball team. Lois, Loren and Paul are CHHA members.



Obituaries continued on page 4

## Questions

What do you throw out when you need it and take in when you don't need it? *An anchor*

God is our anchor and our help.



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, Lynn Silver, 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, Reggie 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:**

Annie Bordenkircher has severe shoulder pain.

Terry Harp's nephew is struggling with mental illness.

Ernie Lowell is recovering from open heart surgery.

Lowell Lockhart has back and knee problems.

Paul has mental health problems.

Ray Romanetti is still waiting for lungs.

Brenda Tippin may have breast cancer.

Teresa Willabus has stage 3 esophagus cancer.

Please pray for those struggling in relationships.

157 North Main St  
Salem, NH 03079  
USA



Please indicate  
Address corrections

### First CHHA Foal of 2023

Bob and Lorrie Jones’ mare, Perfect Lorri, delivered a beautiful Time to Roll filly at Mighty Oak Farms on March 3rd. This is the first foal from the breedings sold at our 2022 Stallion Auction. They hope to name her Rollntime. Bob and Lorrie’s horses are part of our **Racing for Christ** Program.



***Congratulations  
Bob and Lorrie!***

### Scholarships

CHHA will be awarding two scholarships for the 2023/2024 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](http://www.chha.net) are due May 31.**



### Happy Memorial Day



**Thank you veterans!**

**“Greater love has not one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.**

**John 15:13 NIV**

