



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

July 2023

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



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God Lives in You and Me

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

My \$500 bid at the 1972 Rockingham Park auction won me Speedy Bonnie, a beautiful bay mare with big ears. My parents called them mule ears. Bonnie helped me earn my driver's license. Bonnie and Nevele Diamond's first filly, Peppermint Snip, set a track record at Rockingham Park that will never be broken because the land has been sold and developed.

In 1978 Bill Donovan and I traveled to Buttonwood Tree Farm to meet Speedy Bonnie's Square Deal colt, two-day old Buster Claypool. It was a special trip since he was the only one of Bonnie's foals that I met when he was first born. Watching her offspring grow into racehorses was a great experience. They were all part of our family. Unfortunately for us, all her foals ended up overseas.

We all come from God who made us in His "image and likeness." When the breath of God was breathed into him, Adam became a living person. Before that, the body of Adam was a lifeless piece of clay like something a potter might try molding. It is God living inside of us that makes us who we are. Without God's breath our bodies are empty, lifeless shells.

Sires and dams pass on their DNA to their offspring. This is what gives them their abilities to trot and pace and to be good racehorses. We have God's DNA. We are part of God's family and have the abilities God passed on to us. Most importantly, we have God's spirit.

Dot and Charley Morgan's New Vocations and organizations like the Standardbred Retirement Foundation and Horse Lovers United really care about horses and work hard to help

them end up in good forever homes when their racing careers end. Of course, it is really special when horse owners, who don't want to part with their horses, retire them on their farms to live out their lives with the people they know and love.

Realizing this, the USTA developed the Full Circle program, welcoming anyone interested in helping a particular horse find a good home when their current owner no longer wants them to register their contact information. If the USTA had their Full Circle program in the 80s, I may have registered to buy Speedy Bonnie back when her then owner wanted to sell her. Strong families stay together and help each other.

Jesus wants us back with Him when we are done here on earth. In fact, He went to prepare a place for each of us. John records a long discourse in which Jesus says, "If you love me, keep my commands" (John 14:15 NIV). Then Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to always be with us to support and encourage us and help us to make right choices. He realized it would be hard for us to keep the commandments. This Holy Spirit who lives in us makes us think of things, prompts us to do good deeds and reveals the truth to us. Jesus also promised not to leave us. Rather, He promised that He will live in us and we will be in Him.

All creation comes from God; in all of God's creation we can see God. Just as the vine sprouts out branches, Jesus is the vine and we are the branches (John 15:5).

As Jesus was preparing for His Crucifixion, He prayed earnestly to the Father, "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will

For newsletter questions or 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

Pray, seek God's face and turn from evil, then God will hear from heaven, and heal our land.

2 Chronicles 7:14

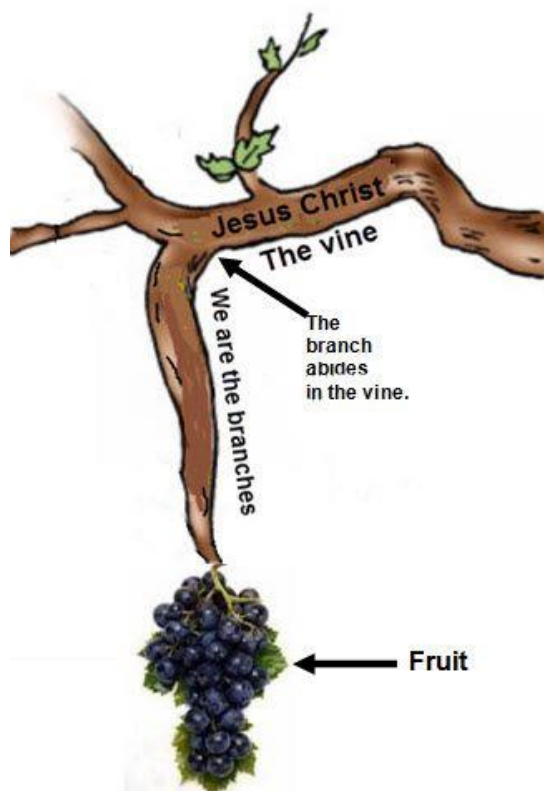
God Lives cont. top of page 2

God Lives cont. from page 1

believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us. [...] Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am" (John 17:20-21, 24 NIV).

We like some of our horses better than others and decide which ones we will keep and which we will sell or give away. It is different with God. God loves us all and is sad when someone ignores Him and doesn't want Him to be part of their lives. Each of us is a very important member of God's family. God loves you and knows that you are special.

Yes, God lives in us. Expect miracles.



Graphic by: stevensawyer.wordpress.com

Glorify God by Bearing Much Fruit

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples" (John 15:5-8).

Blessings from God

From Lyndel Adamsky...

I have a miracle report for you. Melinda Bailey called, Bill had jogged 15 horses that morning. He had been back working for 4-6 weeks. I guess no one is worried about Bill any longer: just kept him on the race track all morning!!

From Bob and Lori Jones...

Dr. appointment found Bob still cancer free so please thank all of your prayer warriors.

From Ann McNeill...

Praising God, Brett (my son) has a new job, as Office administrator in his brothers Propane Service business.

From Lori Romanetti...

We received a call at 3 pm one day in early May letting us know a donor had been identified for Ray. We needed to be in Cleveland by midnight. Long story and long night but the lungs were determined to not be useable. At least we know Ray is on the radar.

Note: It happens a lot that they bring the patient in and then find the lungs are not good enough. The good news is, like Lori said, they are on the radar. Praise God!

From Lucille Wick...

Ten months after radiation the cancer is gone! The three doctors will check a scan in another 4 months. Want to thank everyone for your prayers and thoughts.

God Bless America
By Irving Berlin



God bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with the light from above

From the mountains to the prairies
To the oceans white with foam
God bless America, my home sweet home

God bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with the light from above

From the mountains to the prairies
To the oceans white with foam
God bless America, my home sweet home

From the mountains to the prairies
To the oceans white with foam
God bless America, my home sweet home
God bless America, my home sweet home

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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 _____

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Please send my newsletter (circle below)
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Please accept my donation of _____. Check Cash   

Please return to: lecalphen@comcast.net

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CHHA
157 North Main St.
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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.



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

Horseshoe Nail Cross Necklaces and Keyrings

Name: _____ Phone: _____
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Orders can also be placed at www.chha.net/products

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.



Obituaries continued from page 5

Bernece E. Burris, 87, of Bowling Green, OH, died April 26. Bernece and her husband, Gerald, raised, trained and raced Standardbreds for over 50 years. Her greatest joy came from spending time with her grandchildren and in the kitchen baking.



Randy James Edmonds, 67, of Howell, MI died April 27. Randy followed in his father's footsteps, training and driving Standardbreds, throughout the United States and Canada. When the harness racing industry took a downturn within the United States, he fell back to his roots in the manufacturing industry.



Richard D. (Rick) Finn, 64, of Crete IL, died May 6. Rick began training harness horses in the 1970s. He bought his first Standardbred in 1983 and has owned and/or bred 74 horses throughout his career.

Rodney Grady (Zeke), 82, of Chelsea, ME, died May 9.

Rodney became a top trainer, or near the top, at every Standardbred racetrack he went to, in and out of New England. He was very well known for taking young drivers and grooms under his wing and making them much sought after trainers and very successful catch-drivers. His love and knowledge of the horses has been passed on to his nephew, Hunter, of whom he was very proud.



Charlotte Hamilton, 82, of Letts, IA, died April 26.

Charlotte trained and raced harness horses with her dad, Royce, and later her husband, Jerry. She enjoyed many seasons of traveling to Quad City Downs to work with her daughter, Kim, and her stable. She was deservingly presented the Red Smith Award, Outstanding Caretaker of the Year, by Harness Tracks of America and Hanover Shoe Farms in 2000.



Wayne Willis Johnson, 66, from Paducah, KY, died May 7. Wayne was introduced to harness racing by his parents, Edsel and Juliet Johnson. He raced all over Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Kentucky, Mississippi, Virginia, New Jersey, and Maryland. He spent over 50 years doing what he loved to do. It was his passion in life.



Andrew M. Lyon Jr, 82, of Cumberland, RI, died April 7. Andrew trained and owned harness horses for nearly two decades. Andrew was a high school math teacher for 30 years. After playing baseball in high school and at Providence College he was drafted by the Giants. He also coached high school basketball and taught Sunday school at St. Paul's Church in Pawtucket, RI. Andrew



loved watching his grandchildren play sports and spending time with the family dog.

Douglas Duane Lyons, 66, of Anderson, IN, died May 4. Douglas worked with horses at Hoosier Park Casino and Racetrack. They were his passion. He worked for United Airlines at O'Hare International Airport on ramps and baggage claim.

Paul Anthony McKinnon, 93, of Charlottetown and formerly of Clyde River, PEI, died May 25. Paul proudly served in the Canadian Armed Forces in Canada and Germany. Later he became the Charlottetown Airport Fire Chief and purchased Skyeglen Farm in Clyde River. At the farm, his love of horses and the harness racing industry flourished. He became a director of the USTA and remained a Director Emeritus until his passing. Paul was a member of St. Francis of Assisi parish.



Charles Francis "Cotton" Nash, 80, of Lexington, KY, died May 23. Cotton was one of the Kentucky Wildcats men's basketball's all-time greats. Once his days as a competitive athlete ended, he kept his hand in sports through breeding and racing Standardbreds. Rock N Roll Heaven, bred by Cotton, and a mare he owned, Artistic Vision, were both inducted into the Harness Racing Hall of Fame.

Jack Lee Schliesser, 84, of Edgerton, OH, died April 30. Jack was employed by the Defiance County Highway Department, retiring with 20 years of service. He also raced and trained Standardbreds for over 40 years.



William Robert "Billy Bob" Taylor, 82, of Shelbyville, KY, died May 9. Billy Bob trained Standardbreds and was also involved with Thoroughbreds at the Taylor Made Farm in Kentucky. He worked at the Graterford Prison in Pennsylvania, where he developed their Mounted Patrol program. For the last four years, he served as Director of Education for the non-profit program 'Horsesensing' whose mission is teaching humans how to interact with horses and better care for themselves and those around them.



Sources for Obituary information include:

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



Obituaries

Larry Acker, 83, of Wooster, OH, died March 13. Larry dedicated his life to education, first as a teacher, then a principal before spending 28 years as a school superintendent. He had a high regard for academics. His district was at the top of the county and the state on school report card ratings. He was also heavily involved in athletics. Larry and his parents were heavily involved in raising and racing Standardbred horses.



Mary Ann Antonacci, 91, of Somers, CT, died April 27. Mary and her husband, Sonny, were founding partners of Somers Sanitation (USA Hauling & Recycling) and Lindy Farms of Connecticut. She was instrumental in all the day-to-day operations, working as secretary, accountant, and dispatcher, among many other titles. She loved the farm and her horses, and was consistently a passionate fan and a keen critic of racing performances. She would never miss a race. She was a devout Catholic and an active member of All Saints Church.



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, Dianne Boyken, Georgianna Brocco, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Lore Burke, Rick Carson, Barbara Carter, Mike 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, Brenda Tippin, Gary Tyron, Brittanty Vondenhuevel, Roland Wardel, Lucille Wick, Teresa Willabus, 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



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

Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Larry Acker** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
 In memory of **Doug Ackerman** by: Ada Jean Ackerman
 In memory of **Joe Adamsky** by: Lyndel Adamsky
 In memory of **Jack Baggitt** by: Bob and Christine Baggitt
 In memory of **Bob Farrington** by: Jim and Judy Ferguson
 In memory of **Dick Farrington** by: Jim and Judy Ferguson
 In memory of **Sue and Harold Kelly** by: Deb and Jeff Tillia
 In memory of **Jerry Knappenberger** by: Bob and Nancy Richardson
 In memory of **Colleen McDonald** by: Ken Fierle
 In memory of **Melissa McKee** by: Amy Bondon
 In memory of **Bob Kinsey, Jr** by: Rich and Sandy Thorstenson
 In memory of **Pacey Mindlin** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
 In memory of **Chad Moore** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
 In memory of **John Otrembiak** by: Mary Beth Wing
 In memory of **Dick Richardson, Jr** by: Pat Huber
 In memory of **Bill Wick** by: Lucille Wick (met 7/4/73)
 In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables

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, Lowell Lockhart, Katherine Lonager, Ernie Lowell, 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, Rev Edward Smith, 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:

Meagan McKee continues to struggle as they try to manage her pain.

Jay Pocza, 62, suffered many strokes.

Carol Tebo has SIBO symptoms again.

Brenda Tippin continues to battle cancer.

157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Please indicate
Address corrections



Praise God for
the hammer, the
file and the
furnace. The
hammer molds
us. The file
sharpens us.
The fire
tempers us.

By Samuel Rutherford

Ernie Lowell: Blacksmith for the Lord

Blacksmith Ernie Lowell of Saco, ME, uses his fire, hammer and file to shape steel into useful horseshoes and beautiful pieces of art.

People mocked the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah the prophet choosing instead to listen to those who rejected God. God was not happy. "Is not my word like fire," declares the Lord, "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces" (Jeremiah 23:29)?

Ernie is a CHHA member who shares his faith and the Word of God in the Maine harness racing community. He also coordinates an annual country hymn sing at a converted barn in Scarborough Maine.

God uses Ernie to help shape the faith of others. He encourages Maine horsemen to make beautiful their relationships with the Lord using horseshoes as talking points.

Thanks Chaplain Ken Carter for Rutherford's quote.

