



Rambling Willie

## Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

February 2024

Remember,  
I pray for all  
our members  
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

### God's Gentle Whisper

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

When we ship in to a new track and find our stalls nicely bedded, awaiting our horses, and a feed room full of hay and grain, we are blessed. We feel welcomed and at home.

What if, when we arrived at the track in the middle of the night, we decided we liked another barn better, or we preferred stalls near friends or the track or the track kitchen? Well, our horses would have to wait until morning while we arranged for our hay and grain and bedded down the stalls. It is also likely we would have settled in someone else's stalls and would be told to move.

During the 22 years Ahab reigned as king of Israel, he did more evil and angered the God of Israel more than all the other kings before him. After he married Jezebel, he joined her in worshipping and serving Baal (1 Kings 16:30-31, 33).

God sent Elijah the Tishbite to Ahab to tell him, "As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word." Then God told Elijah to go to a certain ravine by a brook where He directed the ravens to supply food for Elijah (1 Kings 17:1-4 NIV).

Elijah listened to God. After delivering the message to Ahab, he went where God told him to go, and the ravens fed him with bread and meat twice a day. He also enjoyed the water from the brook (1 Kings 17:5-6).

As you can imagine, Ahab was not happy when the drought Elijah told him was going to happen came along. He sent people everywhere to search for the prophet. However, Elijah was safe because he went where God sent him (1

Kings 18:10).

We are generally much better off shipping in to our assigned stalls or clearing a change with the person in charge rather than just thinking we can do whatever we want. If Elijah decided he preferred a different spot to the one God chose, his food would go to waste where God told the ravens to drop it while Elijah went hungry.

After a while, since there was no rain, the brook dried up. Then God said to Elijah, "Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food." [...] When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?" As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread" (1 Kings 17:7-11 NIV).

"As surely as the Lord your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die" (1 Kings 17:12 NIV).

Elijah assured the woman, "The Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord sends rain on the land'" (1 Kings 17:14 NIV). The woman was able to feed the three of them until the rains came.

While Elijah was there, the woman's son got sick and stopped breathing. Elijah took him and prayed hard, asking God to let the boy live. God answered his prayer and Elijah returned the boy to his mother (1 Kings 17:15-17, 19-23).

"Then the woman said to Elijah,

**Whisper cont. top of page 2**

#### Board of Directors

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#### 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

God uses  
ordinary people

To carry out  
His Extraordinary  
Plan

## Whisper cont. from page 1

'Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the Lord from your mouth is the truth'" (1 Kings 17:24 NIV).

What is God telling us to do? Where is God telling us to go? When we follow God's will, things go well for us. We may not think God's will sounds very exciting. However, when we listen and follow, God leads us through any trials and difficulties we encounter along the way and brings us peace, love, joy and happiness too.

The key is to trust God and to develop a good relationship with Him so we hear His "gentle whisper" (1 Kings 19:12 NIV) guiding us along the path of life.



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

### Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Joe Adamsky** by: Lyndel Adamsky  
 In memory of **Les Banks** by: Kim Rinker  
 In memory of **Kelly Blanton** by: Rolline Blanton  
 In memory of **Yves Breton** by: Lyse Breton  
 In memory of **Lois Combs** by: Loren and Paul Combs, Dean Davis, Joanne White  
 In memory of **Donnie Conrad** by: Roselea Conrad  
 In memory of **Beckie Davis** by: Dean Davis  
 In memory of **Bob and Viv Farrington** by: Joe and Karen Ewing, Debbie Farrington, Rhonda and Glen Wright  
 In memory of **Brad Farrington** by: Debbie Farrington  
 In memory of **Dick Farrington** by: Debbie Farrington  
 In memory of **Jean Emerson** by: Moira and Tom Fanning and Bruce and Mary Ranger  
 In memory of **Dr Howard Gill** by: Irene Gill  
 In memory of **Harold and Sue Kelly** by: Gary and Corine McCandless, Deb and Jeff Tillia  
 In memory of **Barbara and Robert Kinsey, Sr** by: Rich and Sandy Thorstenson  
 In memory of **John and Janet Klark** by: Joanne Mann  
 In memory of **Leslie Lederman** by: Larry Lederman  
 In memory of **Ron Malibashka** by: Gary and Corine McCandless  
 In memory of **Dan Murry** by: Connie Murry  
 In memory of **Carol Noble** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz  
 In memory of **Christine Bondon Olsen** by: Amy Bondon  
 In memory of **Vincenzo Villante** by: Lucille Wick  
 In memory of **Walter and Pauline Warrington** by: Steven Warrington  
 In memory of **Bill Wick and Family** by: Susan Throm-White  
 In memory of **Lynn Wilfong** by: Sam and Ellen Lilly  
 In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables  
 In memory of **All that we have fond memories** by: Rich and Sandy Thorstenson

## Blessings from God

### *From Elaine Beltrami...*

My son is cancer free and hopefully never to return! He was on tube feedings at this time last year. This year he prepared the turkey and enjoyed it with all of us. Praise God! Elaine

### *From Terry Harp...*

Praise be to God for his greatest gift to all the world. Praise be to God for seeing two people who I am very close to come through their cancer surgeries. Please pray with me for complete cancer free recoveries for them both. I'm so grateful God was there to guide the surgeons . I pray God will be with them each and every day of their recovery. Thank you for your prayers.

### *From Frank Keis...*

God has blessed me. He really revived me 90 percent. At 81 that's a blessing.

### *From Deb Tillia...*

I am very happy and relieved to report that Alan's PET scan results were good. His doctor was extremely pleased. He showed us side by side 1st and 2nd scans. Every affected lymph node showed improvement with some appearing gone. There are no new spots. Because of the chemo drugs, he can't tell for certain the amount of progress with bone marrow, but feels good that it is also better. About 8 weeks after Alan finishes up treatment, they will repeat the scan. The drugs should all be out of his system, and they will be able to tell definitively if the bone marrow is cancer free or not. I can't even to begin to express the relief we all feel. This was the best ever Christmas gift. God is indeed great! Please continue to keep Alan in your prayers, even though everything is looking up. He has had ups and downs with side effects from chemo, but after today, knows it is worth it all.

### *From Rich Wojcio...*

My sister Denise is continuing to heal and do well. She is having less bad days now and more better days. Please continue all of your prayers for her and us all. Thank you to everyone.

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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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.

#### 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 \_\_\_ Fuchsia \_\_\_ Green \_\_\_

Keyring Qty: Red \_\_\_ Blue \_\_\_ Other cross color \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Sharron Burgdorf**, 70, of Columbia, IL, died Aug 27. Sharon's husband, Ken, owns Standardbreds and is a Clerk of Course at the fairs. Sharon was active in two UCC churches. She sang in their choirs, served on committees and taught Sunday School. She enjoyed traveling and her pets. Ken is a CHHA member.



**Darrell W. Dashiell Sr**, 79, of Eden, MD, died Oct 29. Darrell thoroughly enjoyed the Standardbreds he owned. He owned several service stations in the area and Shore Fuel Oil Company and worked with his son, Darrell Jr, at his business, Mid-Eastern Oil Co, Inc. and then later retired. Darrell, Jr was an owner trainer and driver.

**William D Ellis**, 66, of Dedham, MA, died Dec 9. He was the longtime President of the New England Chapter of the U. S. Harness Writers Association (USHWA) and well-known throughout the northeast, mainly for his announcing talents. He announced at tracks in Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont and loved every call he made.



**James A. Harvey**, 93, of Duxbury, VT, died Dec 5. In 2015, Jim was elected to the Vermont Agricultural Hall of Fame for his contributions to Standardbred Harness Racing in Vermont. He began raising and developing harness horses in 1968. Jim has trained many horses with winning records in a variety of venues. He began working with horses as a young boy with his father's draft horses. Later he took over operation of the Harvey Farm. Jim was a lifetime member of St. Andrew Parish.

**Billy D. Hollar**, 91, formerly of Bluffton, died Dec 7. Billy enjoyed horse racing. He worked as a salesman for several car dealerships in the Toledo area.

**Penny Howard**, 77, of Flint, MI, died Dec 4. Penny and her husband, Charles, raced Standardbreds. They were racing in Kentucky when he was killed. Then she relocated to Michigan and continued racing horses all over the Midwest.

**Randy Delbert Manges**, 72, died Dec 19. Randy began his harness racing career as a groom in his father's stable. After college he worked in the program department. Later he held positions with various horse sales companies. He spent 30 years as manager for the Kentucky Standardbred Horse Sales Company and later the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale.

**Mary Jameson Maser**, 92 of Batavia, NY, died Dec 13. Mary's late husband, Hubert, owned, trained and drove Standardbreds. She worked for many years as a Certified Nurses Assistant in Batavia.



**Danny Murry**, 85, of Lyons, OH, died Nov 22. Danny was a CHHA member who attended our Jug Week prayer breakfasts. He faithfully wore his CHHA hat as a witness doing his part to **Keep Christ Alive in Harness Racing!** He even gave one to his minister. He loved the horses and racing and the friendships he made along the way.

**Carol Jean Noble**, 89, of Cedarville, OH, died Dec 10. Carol's son, Chip, was a leading driver and trainer in Ohio. He also had some prominence on the world stage. Chip's wife, Debbie, is still involved in harness racing.



**Joseph Rizzo**, 92, of Howell, NJ, died Dec 4. Joe raced horses over 35 years at racetracks across the country. Amongst the racing community, Joe was commonly called *Cyclone Joe*, and as he got older, *the Elder Statesman*. But as everyone knows, "Nobody beats the Riz". Following a stint in the military, Joe played minor league baseball and later worked for Volkswagen.

**Dawn Elizabeth Rouse**, 57, of Ontario, Canada, died Nov 21. Growing up she helped her dad, Norm Clements, at National Sports eventually becoming VP of Purchasing. For the past 15 years she has been with Camco Sports. Dawn's brother, Dan Clements, and father, Norm Clements, are both involved in harness racing and are CHHA members.



**Eileen Mae Stuart, RN**, 98, died Nov 30. Eileen and her husband, Bill, began racing Standardbred horses in the early 1960s and started a small breeding operation after their move to the Poplar Hill farm. She was also a registered nurse.



**Donald Earl Wolfe**, 88, of Washington CH, OH, died Nov 23. Donald was a retired farmer. He was also an avid horseman and loved breaking horses and calf roping. He was an expert woodworker and specialized in making fine furniture. Donald's daughter, Kristi, is an Ohio racing official.



## Obituaries

**Les E. Banks**, 84, of Belvidere, IL, died Nov 28. Les owned, trained and drove harness horses and also had a horse dentistry business. He was a former president of Illinois Auctioneers Association. He owned Illini Ambulance & Oxygen Company for numerous years and established a highly successful business called "Illini Cash Advance."



**Annette Brown**, 86, of Harpster, OH, died Dec 15. Annette worked alongside her husband for 35 years training horses. She also had worked as a courier for 1st Citizens National Bank, and in the deli at A&A Grocery. She enjoyed watching her sons, CHHA member, Brian, and John Brown race their horses.



### Sources for Obituary information include:

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

Obituaries continued on page 4

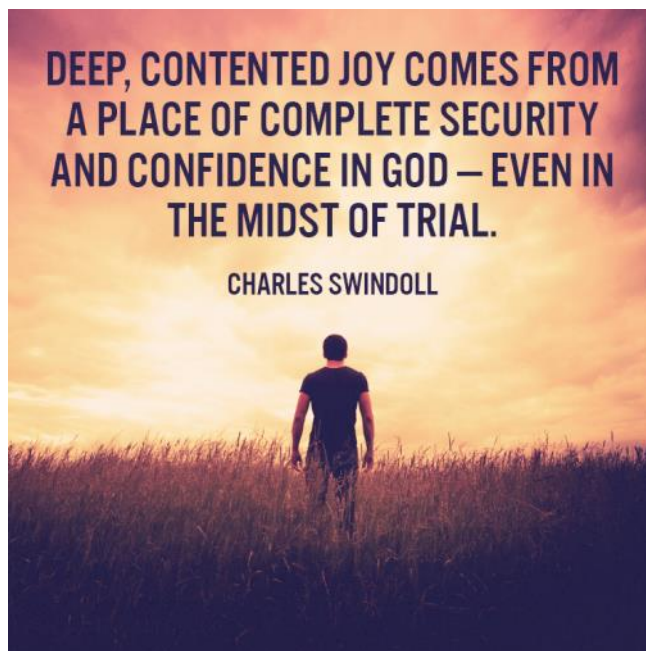
## Prayer Corner

**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, Teresa Hubbard Givens, Holly Graffam, Pastor Bill Grant, Cody Greeno, Margaret Groce, 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, Betsy Krantz, Larry Lederman, Rox Liles, Anabelle Lisi, Tommy Long, Kevin Mack, Ricky Macomber, Nelson Malin, Kim Maples, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Nelson Miller, Frank Mirahmadi, Paul Molnar, Bob Montane, Lalya Mosley, Linda Moyer, Corey Murphy, Howard Niels, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Carol Parker, Margie Polhamus, Valerie Prescott, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Emily Roper, Daren Richner, Julie Schwartz, Del Smart, Larry Smith, Cheri Stambaugh, 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 Wobckenberg, Alan Wroblewski, 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, Lillie Brown, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Bob Cain, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Robin Cino, Melisa



Cino, Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta, Chet Crane, Karen Crothers, Richard Dunmire, Anna Farley, Scott Freck, Sylvain Gagnon, Greg Gehman, Richie Gillock, Bob Goth, Barbara and Brent Graham, Debbie Gray, Bob Jones, 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, 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, Loyd 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, Vincenzo Villante, 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:**

Larry Lederman has pain and balance issues from chemo. Dick Terien has a mass on his kidney and heart issues. Nancy Shomo is in hospice with colon, liver and lung cancer.

Please pray for all our family members and friends to grow in relationship with God.

157 North Main St  
Salem, NH 03079  
USA



Please indicate  
Address corrections



**Janet Campbell**

Janet does a great job heading up the Charity Auction every year. She and her many excellent volunteers make a lot happen very quickly.



**Kim Hankins, MSOA Executive Director**

The MSOA provides the meal every year for about 400 attendees of this gala event. Kim and his staff help with the auction preparations too.



**Marcy and Pastor Joe DiDonato**

Marcy helps before, during and after the auction. Pastor Joe and Roger Huston call the winners.



**Linda and Rich Gillock** have been racing since 1975. Rich will soon hang up his colors. I don't think he is going far though since he still has 52 horses.

**Meadows Standardbred Owners Association**  
**Annual Banquet and Charity Auction**

CHHA scholarship recipient, **Lexi Twaddle**, and her family are a big help to Pastor Joe. It was good to see her.

