



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

March 2024

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



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ideas please contact:

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Wanted

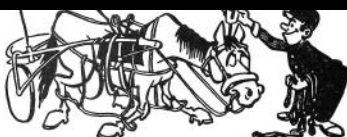
Praise Reports and Articles

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen
leealphen@comcast.net

Or

157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

Do you qualify for the Kingdom of God?



Heaven's Condition Sheet

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Horses generally are not eligible to compete in stakes races until their owners pay a nomination fee. However, nominating fees for all Ohio bred trotters and pacers are being paid by the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association.

Sin wasn't a thing until Adam and Eve disobeyed God, listened to the serpent and ate the apple off the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Then God had to put them out of that beautiful garden so they wouldn't eat a piece of fruit off the tree of life and live forever in this sin-filled world.

Once sin entered the world, no one was eligible to go to heaven. Finally, through God's mercy and love Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for everyone's sins Romans 5:8).

For the Ohio bred to actually race in the stake races, their owners have to keep up the stake payments. Then the horses must first qualify to race by going fast enough and staying on gait. For some of the stakes races they also have to prove they are good enough to race against the best in the group.

As for us and our sins, we can choose to either accept or reject the gift Jesus made available to us by His great sacrifice. We can choose not to believe He actually did this for us or be fooled into thinking we are worthy of heaven on our own merit. The only way this free gift of forgiveness and salvation becomes ours is by accepting Jesus Christ as our Savior.

Throughout the Old Testament people are called to repent, to turn from their sins, to stop doing evil and to do good. God sent the prophet Jonah to Nineveh to warn the people that the city would be destroyed in 40 days if they did

not turn from their evil ways. Jonah tried to run from God so he would not have to bring this message to the people.

When Jonah boarded a ship, God sent a terrible storm that churned up the seas and the boat took on water. The captain found out it was Jonah's fault and had him thrown overboard. A big fish found him and swallowed him up (Jonah 1).

While Jonah was in the belly of the fish, he repented, and promised God he would be faithful. The fish spit him out right back on the shores of Nineveh. Jonah then did as God asked. The people and the king of Nineveh repented and turned back to God. When God saw this, He decided not to destroy them. (Jonah 2-3).

"John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (Mark 1:4 NIV). "After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God [...]. He said, 'The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!'" (Mark 1:14 NIV).

To accept God's free gift of salvation, we must acknowledge that we are sinners (we all are), turn to God, ask forgiveness and strive to live as Jesus taught. We probably won't keep the commandments and love God and everyone perfectly. However, as long we are convinced in our hearts that Jesus is Lord, are truly sorry for the times we don't do as Jesus asks and accept His free gift of salvation, we can go to heaven when God calls us home.

Easter is coming and with it, the celebration of Jesus opening the gates of heaven to us; to all of us who choose to live with God forever. There is no other criteria or condition sheet, and there are

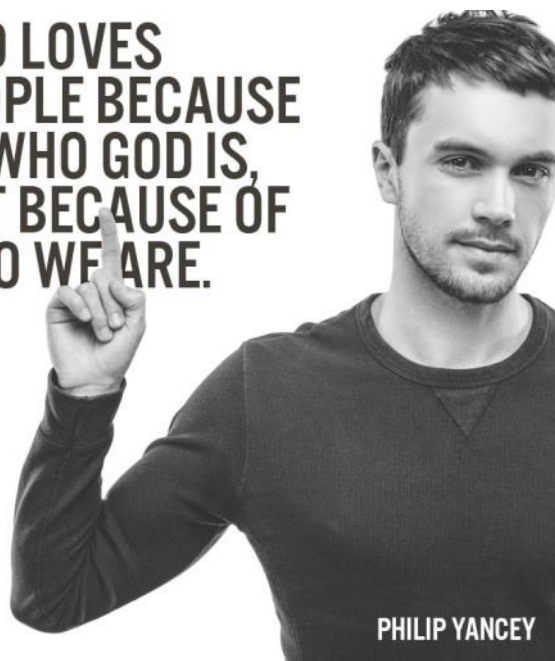
Heaven cont. top of page 2

Heaven cont. from page 1

no also eligibles—we all are eligible. Jesus paid all the fees.

We might miss some stakes payments or our horse might not be fast enough to qualify. However, we sure don't want to miss this opportunity to live forever in heaven with God and all our loved ones who have passed into the arms of Jesus. The choice is ours. Let's choose well.

**GOD LOVES
PEOPLE BECAUSE
OF WHO GOD IS,
NOT BECAUSE OF
WHO WE ARE.**



Heaven

Submitted by **Lyndel Adamsky**

During Winston Churchill's funeral in St Paul's Cathedral, after Benediction, a bugler appeared high in the dome and played Taps. As soon as he stopped another bugler appeared on the other side of the dome and played Reveille.

What a statement for a believer!!! Taps acknowledged the end of his earthly life while Reveille signaled the beginning of his new life in heaven.

In Honor of Lyndel Adamsky

Doc Wes Parry sent a donation in honor of our wonderfully inspired prayer partner, Lyndel Adamsky.

I am sure everyone who has received one of her beautiful, scripture-based, targeted prayers will agree she is a treasure.



Lyndel and Joe Adamsky

Blessings from God

From Mike Carter...

Last two Signatera cancer tests completed a few months apart and show the number of cancer molecules per ml of my blood. Test results 0.00 %. Holding my breath and quietly thanking all those who have supported me by prayers, notes, calls etc.

From Brenda Tippin...

I am doing well with the cancer treatments. Although my diagnosis is still, and will always be, considered incurable stage 4 metastatic breast cancer (they say only 22% survive 5 years after diagnosis), the Lord has truly been working these past 9 months. About 70% of the cancer has disappeared so far with larger tumors shrinking drastically and many smaller ones gone all together. This is certainly an answer to prayer! I still have not required any surgery, chemo, or radiation - just medications, including IV bone infusions (different from chemo) as the medications I have to take deplete my bones and knock down my immune system. Plus, a number of other challenges, but I'm managing to get along with them and have been able to continue working full time and do most everything I normally would.



*May the angels
lead you into paradise*

Memorials posted at www.chha.net

Memorial Contributions

- In memory of **Joe Adamsky** by: Lyndel Adamsky
- In memory of **Doug Ackerman** by: Ada Jean Ackerman
- In memory of **Lester Banks** by: Loren and Paul Combs
- In memory of **Alan Bowen** by: Sharon Teefey
- In memory of **Lois Combs** by: Loren and Paul Combs
- In memory of **Conrad Family** by: Roselea Conrad
- In memory of **James Greene** by: Jason Greene
- In memory of **Kermit, Janet and John Hinshaw** by: Korwin and Judi Hinshaw
- In memory of **Penny Howard** by: Terry Harp
- In memory of **John and Janet Klark** by: Craig Holtermann
- In memory of **Randy Manges** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
- In memory of **Sam, Meagan and Melissa McKee** by: Amy Bondon, Larry Lederman
- In memory of **Hubert McLaren** by: Joe and Jane Plante
- In memory of **Ron Peacock** by: Jodi Peacock
- In memory of **Jim Roberts** by: Loren and Paul Combs
- In memory of **Buddy Simpson** by: Sharon Teefey
- In memory of **Abe Stoltzfus** by: Paul Fontaine, Larry and Joan Martin
- In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables

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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.

Horseshoe Nail Cross Necklaces and Keyrings

Name: _____ Phone: _____

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Mail with \$20 each + \$4 shipping to:

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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

Obituaries continued from page 5

Dan Boddie, 70, died Jan 15. Dan and his wife, Jacalyn, enjoyed a quarter-century association as breeders and owners. Trainer Jim McDonald reflected on Mr. Boddie's passing saying, "Dan's priority was the care and well-being of his horses. Yes, he enjoyed being in the winner's circle, but he was unselfish when it came to their care."

Daniel K. Chamberlin of Sanford, ME, died Jan 2. Daniel had a business selling tack and horse supplies to harness horsemen and women at the Maine racetracks and fairs. He always had a passion for horses and belonged to many horse organizations. He was a steward and a judge at horse shows throughout New England.



Frank J. Galante, 90, of Smithtown, NY, died Jan 6. Frank was a mainstay at Yonkers and the old Roosevelt Raceway. According to USTA records, he won 191 races as a driver and 127 as a trainer between 1977 and his retirement in December 2012.



Pamela Gauthier, 72, of Springvale, ME, died Jan 20. Pamela enjoyed harness racing and owning horses with her daughter. You would find her either along the fence with her camera or up on the roof of Scarborough Downs as a photo finish operator for years. Her favorite "brown horse" was Lucky Mac which her license plate made clear. She worked for the Department of Justice for 26 years.

Corwyn M. Greene, 77, of Houston, PA, died Dec 28. Corwyn's entire career was spent in the harness racing industry and from 1980 until his retirement in 2010, he was Track Superintendent at The Meadows Racetrack in Washington, PA. In addition to harness racing and golf, Corwyn loved the outdoors, specifically the many years enjoyed at the family camp in Tidioute, PA.

Robert P. Ketner, 90, of Bowling Green, OH, died Dec 31. Robert and his dad purchased their first harness horse in the late 1950's. He continued to train and drive horses as a hobby that he loved and as a second income to support his wife and five children. He drove his last race in 1983. He was inducted into the OHHA Hall of Fame. Frank also spent 30 years as an Ohio state driver's license examiner.



Robert Edward Leslie, 67, of Saratoga Springs, NY, died Jan 18. Robert was a Standardbred owner, trainer, and driver, operating the Robert Leslie Racing Stables in Saratoga Springs. He had a zest for life. He found joy in motorcycle racing, deer hunting with his lucky gun, and the freedom of riding his Harley.



Donnie MacKinnon, of Sydney, NS, died Dec 30. Donnie had a lifetime love of animals, most especially his passion for Standardbred horses. Horses, and 'the races', along with the many horsemen he befriended over the years were the things he spoke ever so fondly of.



David W Morris, 88, of Saratoga Springs, NY, died Jan 13. David was a practicing attorney for more than 60 years. In 1973, he became Executive Vice-President and Director of Saratoga Harness Track. In 1974, he became the Saratoga Harness Track president, a position he held until 1987 when the track was sold. In 2021, he was inducted into the Saratoga Harness Hall of Fame.



Scott Glenn Nichol, 73 of Camden, DE, died Jan 11. Scott grew up on the family dairy farm. After high school he began his career in harness racing. In 1970 he and his wife, Dr. Janice Sosnowski-Nichol, started Maple Run Farm where they raised Standardbred and Thoroughbred yearlings and his wife began her veterinary clinic.

Robert George White, 91, of Ionia, MI, died Dec 10. Robert got his passion for harness racing from his father, Robert W White. He raced on the Michigan Fair circuits and loved to watch harness racing. He held a variety of construction type jobs and retired from the Michigan Reformatory. He started Bible Believers Grace Church in his home in 1993 and was faithful in supporting the work for the rest of his life.



Sources for Obituary information include:

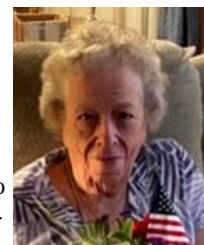
www.ustrotting.com, www.harnesslink.com and www.Standardbredcanada.ca

Obituaries

Philip "Phil" R. Cunningham, 70, of Marysville, OH, died Jan 11. Phil was a third-generation horseman. He took a 20-year break from the business to work as a postman then went to work for the Brian Brown Stable. Eventually he trained and drove his own stable. He was grateful that Roger Huston, "the Voice," called several of his milestone wins, especially his win in Delaware, OH last year. He had a great knack for developing horses, and he loved to work with the 2-year-olds. Phil and his wife, Melody, have supported the work of CHHA for many years.



Nancy L. Shomo Levay, 93, of Derry, PA, died Jan 14. She was an active member of the Derry First United Methodist Church all her life. She served on several boards and committees. She was the first woman to serve on Derry Boro Council from 1972-1983 and received many accommodations from the Westmoreland County Commissioners, the PA Senate and House of Representatives. She also volunteered for the Westmoreland County Food Bank. Nancy was CHHA member, Janet Campbell's, mother and best friend.



Obituaries continued on page 4

Scholarships

CHHA will be awarding two scholarships for the 2024/2025 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 are due May 31.



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, 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 Nields, 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, Brittany Vondenhuevel, Roland Wardel, Lucille Wick, Teresa Willabus, Kate Williams, Steve Wiseman, Marty Woebkenberg, 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, Sarah 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, 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, Dick Terien, 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 Petrullo, Sgt David Thomas, Elizabeth Welch and Nigel Willabus.

Special Intentions for this month:

A 12-year-old girl has a serious eating disorder. Ella has MS.

Sarah Gehman has large masses on her liver.

Larry Lederman is on Hospice.

Tom Long's brain tumor is growing.

Brett McNeill suffers with depression.

Gregory Peck is suffering with severe depression.

Brenda Tippin has ulcerative colitis.

Pat Wilson has been falling a lot.

157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Please indicate
Address corrections

Jeshua in Ben Hur

By Rev Bob Holet

Think back and, try to remember your first exposure to harness racing?

If you're like me, there are many early memories that impressed my mind, when the power, speed and grandeur of horses racing thrilled my youthful spirit.

One of the most powerful for me were the chariot racing scenes in the movie *Ben Hur*. With actor Charlton Heston at the reigns in vigorous, even vicious racing scenes, the horses pulled with incredible energy with their drivers thrusting and thrashing to steer and inspire them. In cinematic terms—brilliant—for a young boy—captivating!

The movie tells a moving story, drawing on Jewish tradition. Ben Hur was from an aristocratic Jewish family, but they are betrayed and thrown unjustly into prison and slavery by Judah's friend, Marsala. Condemned to a slave ship, Judah is found to be a man of great dignity and moral strength. When the ship is wrecked, he saves the life of the ship owner and is freed in Rome, where he develops extraordinary horsemanship and driving skills.

Returning to Judea, Judah remained keenly aware of his spiritual heritage yet he remained a slave inwardly, to the bitter anger and vengeance against his betrayer Marsala. Judah would gain his vengeance when he confronts Marsala in the chariot racing arena, where he is victorious, and rival Marsala is dragged to death by his team.

But there is more.

Woven through the narrative is the person named 'Jeshua'—Jesus, whose path crosses Judah's several times. In Nazareth, the mysterious Jeshua gives Judah a life-saving drink of water as he lay dying as a slave.

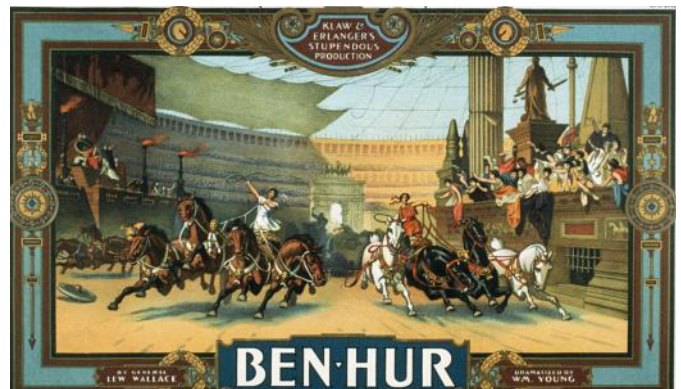


Judah would again encounter Jesus, by chance hearing His sermon on the Mount, and later as He carried his cross to Calvary. A violent storm would stream the blood of the dying Christ to a nearby leper colony, touching Judah's mother and sister and healing them of their deadly leprosy. And healing Judah's heart.

How many of us are inspired by the energy and vibrance of the racing? Yet few of us reach the pinnacles of stardom in the great arena of life, whether it be the racetrack, business or the political worlds. Instead, like Judah, most of us fall far short—even broken by the contest of life. Yet even the victorious like Judah can bear heavily burdened souls.

Like Judah, we can be healed—by Jesus. He will work in the arena in which we find ourselves, and we encounter Him in similarly mysterious but powerful ways, as He offers healing and deliverance from sins like anger and vengeance, offering a new form of *victory*, a spiritual one.

So go ahead and watch that old 1959 classic—*Ben Hur*. Let the racing scenes thrill you. And when the moments revealing the touching love of Jesus appear, it's Ok to shed a tear.



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