



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

May 2024

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

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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

**Resist the devil,
and he will flee
from you.**

James 4:7

The Worst Pest

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Jogging horses around the Scarborough Downs oval while fighting off gigantic mosquitos was a spring challenge back in the early 1970s. I was thinking, if they worked together, they could carry me away and have a feast. May here in New England also provides armies of May flies that are a real nuisance. They don't actually bite, but they swarm all around you in attack mode.

I read on www.science.org, "Body odors, carbon dioxide (via exhaled breath), and body heat all alert mosquitoes to a person's presence. The bugs pick up scents through olfactory neurons on their antennae—they can smell body odor up to 60 meters away—and use body heat to zero in on their target." Actually, it is the female mosquitoes that bite us. They need the protein from our blood to produce eggs.

Other pests bother us too. We have all faced a crisis in our lives. Sometimes many things come at us at once, and we blame God. Actually, these are tricks of the devil, the evil one, to lure us away from God and into the den of iniquity. When we fall for these pranks, Satan is happy and continues to pile it on in an effort to gain us as followers.

Thousands of years ago Lucifer, who was a beautiful and intelligent angel, became jealous of God and tried to usurp God's position. Lucifer was prideful because he was beautiful. He thought he was better than God and wanted to be the one worshipped instead of God. As we read in Ezekiel, he was very good and served God well until he got caught up in himself. Then, as he tried to encourage people to turn away from God, he became more and

more evil (Ezekiel 28:12-17).

At God's command Lucifer lost his place in heaven. "Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him" (Revelation 12:7-9 NIV).

According to Revelation 5, when Michael and the good angels hurled Satan and his followers out of heaven, there were over one hundred million angels. A third of them joined up with Satan as his army, helping him to "steal, kill, and destroy" (John 10:10).

Losing all those angels could be devastating for us without God's help. However, as the prophet Elisha said to his servant, "Don't be afraid. [...] Those who are with us are more than those who are with them" (2 Kings 6:16 NIV). We still have two-thirds of God's angels fighting against the evil one for us. Of course, our biggest help is Jesus Christ who conquered sin and the devil by dying on the cross.

Some people think God is testing them. He's not. "When tempted, no one should say, 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone" (James 1:13 NIV). It is Satan who stirs up all the evil in the world and works hard to get us to go along with it. The more we get sucked in, the easier it becomes for Satan to lead us down the treacherous path of destruction. On the other hand, the more we listen to God and do good, the more we want to do good.

The Book of Job in the Bible tells

Pest cont. top of page 2

Pest continued from page 1

the story of a man who stayed faithful to God despite the many attacks of the devil. It is very clear in the story that it is Satan acting against Job, not God. In the end Satan loses because Job's faith is very strong, and God blesses Job in every way with twice as much as he had before Satan's attacks.

"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7 NIV). This is good advice. Sure, the lying, scheming devil can be very convincing, filling us with faulty advice. Instead of doing Satan's bidding, call on the name of Jesus. Even back in the Old Testament times, God was there to deliver His people from the Evil one. "When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honor them" (Psalm 91:15 NRSVUE).

"I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV). God wants only the best for us. Jesus gave us the Lord's Prayer. When we pray "thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven," we are asking God to bring His peace, presence and blessings here to us on the earth where we are now. Since Jesus asked us to pray this prayer, it makes sense that He knows God will answer it.

To prepare for Satan's vicious attacks, put on the armor of God described in Ephesians 6:10-18, which is printed in the next column. "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil" (Isaiah 5:20 NIV).

If we have to choose between the devil or mosquitos and May flies as pests, let's pick the mosquitos and May flies. They serve an important role in the ecosystem as food for a variety of animals. The devil is not up to any good. You can always build a bat house. The bats will take care of your mosquitos for you. Bats live in the woods behind my house and make sure we never see any mosquitos.

God has our backs. Whatever comes our way, God will see us through it if we ask. We will come out fine if we trust in Him. In the end, as believers, we will go to heaven where the devil is no more and find only happiness, peace, love, joy and most especially God. This sounds great and certainly much better than where Satan wants to bring us.

Please join me in praying against the godlessness and lawlessness of the evil one. Satan is certainly the worst pest!

**The devil has no authority
over any Christian
Except the authority we grant him
by believing him.**

Jon Bloom

Blessings from God

From Amy Bondon...

Hallelujah! Bless the steadfast prayers of all you dear prayer partners, her Dr. just told Betsy there's NO evidence of disease! God is SO good. Thank you all. Betsy has been my best buddy since I was 5. I'm 66!

From Sharon Roberts...

Sharon just found out she is 2.5 years cancer free. Praise God!

From Lori Romanetti...

Sage (Lori's niece and CHHA Scholarship recipient) was offered a graduate nursing position at Ascension St John upon graduation! She will be working days in the Cardiac Care Unit. St John is the largest of the Detroit area Ascension hospitals. She will be given a \$7,500 sign on bonus!! We are so proud of her! She is my Little Rock Star!

From Deb Tillia...

Alan got to ring the bell to officially mark the end of his chemo treatments! It was a fantastic day full of happy tears. God is good!

The Armor of God

Ephesians 6:10-18 NIV

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.

Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but

against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

THE ARMOR OF GOD



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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



Books

- God Wants You Well* by Andrew Wommack **New**
- 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



Obituaries continued from page 5

Michael Wayne Arnold, 76, of Keosauqua, IA, died March 16. Michael was a well respected, second generation Iowa horseman, who later made his mark in Kentucky and then moved north to Chicago. He earned numerous driving and training titles during his career. He proudly served in the United States Army after high school.

Larry Wayne Columbia Jr, of KY, died March 17. Larry owned, trained and bred Standardbreds. He was also an entrepreneur and owned several pizzerias. He received many awards for his business ethics. He and his wife, Anita, fostered special needs adults.



Ronald Lee Conrad, 72, of Coydon, IN, died March 9. Ronnie was a lifelong harness horseman, beginning his racing career at 16 working with his grandfather, Elmer. He was an owner, trainer, and driver for 46 years. He was also an over the road truck driver.



Russell Leroy "Rip" Crotchett, 90, died March 2. Rip enjoyed a 29-year career as a Jerseyville police officer. He was also an accomplished horseman, training and driving harness horses. He also served many years as the track superintendent with the Jersey County Fair Board. He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Jerseyville serving as a Sunday School Teacher, as well as a member of the Board of Deacons.



Ted L. Hasis, 86, of St. Marys, OH, died March 9. Spending time on his grandparents' farms Ted developed a lifelong love for horses. He was a Standardbred trainer and driver for more than 60 years, racing at numerous fairs and racetracks. He was a high school business teacher. Then he taught and coached sixth, seventh and eighth grade.



John Michael "Mike" Hughes, 79, of Delaware, OH, died March 1. John grew up in Delaware raising dairy cattle and winning many FFA awards. In 1974 he quit with the dairy cows and began training Standardbreds. He was a skilled trainer and won many awards throughout his career.



Lawrence "Soupy" MacDonell, 75, of Bowie, MD, died March 3. After serving as second trainer for Norman Bradbury, Soupy began his own stable and raced at Rockingham Park and Foxboro. When those tracks closed, he relocated to



Rosecroft Raceway. He earned his starter's license before moving to Florida to become trackman at Winter Miles Training Center.

Francis Frederick "Rick" Morse, 76, of Schuylerville, NY, died January 4. Francis's true passion was raising, training and racing his many Standardbreds at Saratoga Racetrack. His work as an attorney included life annuity and health product regulations and litigation of unfair claim settlement practices among many other insurance aspects.



Forrest A. "Frosty" Pierson, 69, of Hawkinsville, GA, and Montpelier, IN, died Feb 17. Frosty worked as a Standardbred trainer and groom for several stables in New Jersey, Florida, Georgia, and Indiana. He lived in Anderson in the summer months and in Hawkinsville in the winter months.



Louis Rapone, 98, died March 10. Louis was one of the original members of harness racing's 1,000-win driving club and was known as one of the premier "gatemen" in harness racing. He bought and raced his first horse at Batavia after serving his time in the Navy and went on to be a very popular catch driver.

Leroy Slabaugh, 76, formerly of Ligonier, IN, died March 17. Leroy owned trained, drove and bred harness horses. He was a horse enthusiast and worked with horses his entire life. He attended Berea Christian Fellowship in Nappanee.

Mindy Fitzgerald Smith, 73, of Old Orchard Beach, ME, died March 8. Mindy was an incredibly gifted artist, single-engine airplane pilot, and horse racing official and operator. She was a true New Englander. Mindy was the wife of the late Roger Smith, Jr. Both she and Roger were valued CHHA members.

Gerald R. "Pappy" Walker, 93, of Mount Gilead, OH, died January 29. Gerald and his wife, Betty, and their sons were dairy farmers. He also raised Duroc pigs and exhibited them at the fairs. Gerald was the brother of the late CHHA members, Lois Combs and Joanne White.



Dennis J. Watson Sr, 74, of Lakewood, NJ, died March 4. Dennis got his start in harness racing working for Stanley Dancer at Freehold when he was 15. He became the top trainer at Liberty Bell. Later he became the 2nd leading trainer at Freehold where he raced his own stable. Dennis purchased rescue horses and got them back to racing. In 1995, he accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior under the late Bishop Archie Craddox whom he served as an Armor Bearer.

Sources for obituary information include:

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

Obituaries

Larry Lederman, 67, of East Windsor, NJ, died March 5. Larry was known for his playfulness and wit during a decades-long career as a racetrack announcer.



Larry began his announcing career in the mid-1980s. In 2011 an inoperable brain tumor forced him to curtail his workload. However, he still made occasional guest race-calling appearances at numerous tracks and remained a popular presence in the sport. He received the U.S. Harness Writers Association Good Guy Award. Here are some of Larry's quotes. "You've got to fight the fight; you don't give up," he said in a 2018 video interview with the U.S. Trotting Association." And, "I never felt sorry for myself, ever. You could say this is no way to live, but you accept it and say let me look at what I do have instead of what I don't have. It can really beat you down and get very depressing, but you can't let it happen." Larry was a faithful member of CHHA who often called and prayed with Chaplain Lee.

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, Sarah Gehman, 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, Brittanty 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

Dolores Arnold, 94, of Fort Myers, FL, formerly of Buckfield, ME, died Jan 8. In her earlier years, Dolores was a pony girl at New England tracks and later owned and raced Standardbreds in Foxboro and at Rockingham Park. Dolores loved and cared for all God's creation, and her simple way of living reflected her trust in God. She was a member of St Catherine Sienna Parish, Norway Maine. Dolores was a CHHA member.



Obituaries continued on page 4

There is nothing more important than
Your Eternal Salvation

Kirk Cameron

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, Greggie Welch, Jr, Charles Weiss, Alice Williams, Pat Wilson, 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:

Marilyn Bondon has breast cancer.

Bob Briley has cancer that has infiltrated his spine.

Danny Daniel has stomach cancer.

Thomas Daniel has cancer.

Declan Donaway is battling an aggressive cancer.

Sarah Gehman is battling kidney cancer.

Georganna keeps collapsing from weakness.

Chaplain Rich Heffington had a ruptured aneurysm.

Jana's cancer causes excruciating pain.

Ann MacNeil has health issues.

Jim Urtel, Jr is in need of a new kidney,

157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Please indicate
Address corrections



Smile Time

Chaplain Sam Spence



At a church dinner, there was a pile of apples on one end of the table with a sign that read:

TAKE ONLY ONE APPLE,
PLEASE. GOD IS WATCHING.

On the other end of the table was a pile of cookies where a youngster had placed a sign saying: "Take all the cookies you want. God is watching the apples."



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

Memorial Contributions

- In memory of **Doug Ackerman** by: Arnold Williams
- In memory of **Joe Adamsky** by: Lyndel Adamsky
- In memory of **Dolores Arnold** by: Mary Beth Wing
- In memory of **Chris Olsen Bondon** 2nd anniv. by: Amy Bondon
- In memory of **Yves Breton** by: Lyse Breton
- In memory of **Lois Combs** by: Loren and Paul Combs
- In memory of **Phil Cunningham** by: Anonymous, Melody Cunningham, Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association
- In memory of **Harold Kelly** 89th BD 5/3 by: Deb and Jeff Tillia
- In memory of **Harold and Sue Kelly** by: Linda and Thomas Moyer
- In memory of **Larry Lederman** by: CHHA-The Meadows, Bill Finley, Lori and Ray Romanetti, Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey
- In memory of **Kin and Friends** by: Loren and Paul Combs
- In memory of **Larry “Soupy” Mac Donell** by: Peter Blood
- In memory of **Richard Neff** by: Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association
- In memory of **Gerald Walker** by: Loren and Paul Combs
- In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables

Scholarships

CHHA will be awarding at least 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 are available at www.chha.net and are due May 31.