



Rambling Willie

## Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

June 2024

Remember,  
I pray for all  
our members  
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

### The Bread of Life

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

I was recently reminiscing over lunch with Corey Wolfgram, a New England trainer, about fun times at Rockingham Park. Corey is friends with Diane Helen who used to let me jog a few horses. We talked about the two of them coming to our Sunday chapel service and then enjoying the luncheon that always followed.

Corey lent me Sara Miles' memoir, *Take This Bread*. Though her grandparents on both sides were missionaries, Sara was raised as an atheist. Her mother, Betty, rejected God in her pre-teen years as did her father after serving as a translator in occupied Japan.

At eighteen Sara headed to a radical Quaker college in Mexico on a pilgrimage of sorts. Later, as a journalist, she traveled to Central America to cover the war where she endured unimaginable hardships. Her incredible experiences opened her eyes to the plight of the poor and the ravages of war.

Without even really thinking about it, one Sunday morning, Sara walked into a church in San Francisco, California and was spellbound. Sharing Holy Communion with the very welcoming congregation, she felt fed like she had never been fed before. As she describes it, "something outrageous and terrifying happened. Jesus happened to me" (p. 58). Slowly Sara found Jesus in the breaking of the bread (Luke 24:35).

Sara convinced the church to let her start a food pantry, which served hundreds of hungry people, all of whom were treated like family. To address the long lines of patrons waiting for food, Sara went on to open many more food

pantries around the city.

Reading the book brought to mind all the people we served in a variety of ways at Rockingham Park. Of course, there were chapel services, revivals and Bible studies. Local churches took turns serving free suppers once or twice a week and we also had a luncheon on Sundays after the service. Everyone was welcome. Many of the people from the track and our volunteers found Christ in each other in "the breaking of the bread."

There was a food pantry and a clothing closet. Peter and Kitty Reynolds, our main volunteers, found beds, bicycles and other items to make life easier for our friends at the track. During the Thoroughbred meet riders exercised horses by riding them around the shed rows, making the stable area unsafe for little children. Parents were relieved when we opened a day care center. There were also GED and English classes for the large Hispanic population.

Pastor Joe DiDonato has a very robust ministry at the Meadows as do chaplains at many of the Thoroughbred tracks. Now fewer barn areas at our racetracks and shorter race meets make ministry at the tracks more difficult.

Chaplain Ken Carter makes his rounds ministering to the horsemen and women by traveling to the Ontario training centers. Chaplain Claudean Webb offers Bible studies and walks the shed rows at Hoosier Park. Pastor Bob Holet recently began a Bible study at Shenandoah Downs with some help from Nancy Lisi and Betsy Brown. Steve Byrd visits shed rows in the Delaware, Ohio area and offers to pray with people. God continues to provide ways for us to feed His people, opening the scriptures

**Bread cont. top of page 2**

#### Board of Directors

Chaplain Lee Alphen  
Racetrack Ministry

Amy Bondon, President

Greg Gehman, Vice President  
Knight's Landing Stable

Roger Huston  
Ohio Harness Horsemen's  
Association and Little Brown Jug

Lori Romanetti  
Moshannon Stables

For newsletter questions or  
ideas please contact:

Lee Alphen, Editor

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

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

**We are all  
God's  
people!**

Bread continued from page 1

to them and leading them toward Jesus, the Bread of Life (Luke 24:32, John 6:35, 48).

Two of Jesus' disciples were walking to Emmaus, a village about seven miles from Jerusalem, discussing all that had happened over the weekend. Jesus, acting like just another traveler, caught up to them and asked what they were talking about.

One of them, Cleopas, asked Him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth." Then Jesus went on to explain "the things about Himself in all the scriptures" (Luke 24:18-19, 27 NRSVUE).

The disciples insisted Jesus join them when they got to the village. "When He was at the table with them, He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him, and He vanished from their sight" (Luke 24:30-31 NRSVUE).

The two disciples immediately went back to Jerusalem and found the eleven and some others with them. "Then they told what had happened on the road and how He had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread" (Luke 24:35 NRSVUE).

Sara's grandparents on both sides were missionaries. I believe beyond a shadow of a doubt that they constantly prayed for her to find God. Their prayers were answered! Praise God!

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to Me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in Me will never be thirsty. [...] My Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day" (John 6:35, 40 NRSVUE).

We are all God's people. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. [...] they will all know me" (Jeremiah 31:33-34). God's love and God's law live in all our hearts. Sadly, not everyone acknowledges the great blessings the Author of life gave them to bring into the world. Now it is our job to help those God puts in our paths and pray that they will come to know God's love, revealed for us in the One whom we recognize as the Bread of Life. Please help us to **Keep Christ Alive in Harness Racing!**

Blessings from God

From Amy Bondon...

Great report! Marilyn's operation got all the bad stuff plus a safety margin. There will be five days of radiation to be sure nothing snuck by. Couldn't be better news. God bless all our faithful prayer warriors and thank you on behalf of me and my family. Mar loves the Lord and is giving Him all the glory!

From Jim and Phyllis Albert...

Dennis saw the doctor/surgeon in Nashville and everything went well, according to Dennis' texts. It was confirmed to his satisfaction that Dennis needs serious bypass surgery, and the date was set for Tuesday, April 30. Dennis spent the afternoon undergoing pre-testing. So it appears the Lord led Dennis to the right place and the right person, who explained things in the right way. Thanks be to God! And thanks for your and your partners' prayers. Blessings, Jim and Phyllis Albert

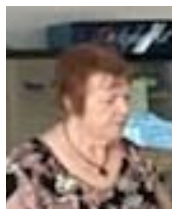
From Robbie Heffington...

Robbie and Chaplain Rich are very grateful for all the prayers. Rich continues to improve each day. At the time of printing, he was in rehab drinking Ensure. All his tubes had been removed.

From Deb Tilia...

I wanted to share with you some truly amazing news. Alan had his post chemo PET scan. NO CANCER DETECTED!! His doctor said scan was excellent. He has to go back periodically for blood work and doctor follow-ups every 3 months for a while, but we can handle that with no problem! I am a true believer in the power of prayer, and know that all the prayer warriors out there had a hand in his recovery. God is good!! Thank you for everything you do and continue to do for every one of us.

Shenandoah Downs Bible Study



These folks made history by attending our first Shenandoah Downs Bible Study in April. Praise God! Betsy Brown's picture is missing because she took the pictures.

Please verify or add address on back

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

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one:

Please send my newsletter (circle below)  
electronically in the mail both

Please accept my donation of \_\_\_\_\_. Check Cash   

Please return to: lecalphen@comcast.net

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

OR

CHHA  
157 North Main St.  
Salem, NH 03079

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

**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



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

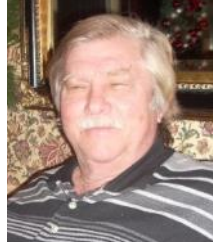


## Obituaries continued from page 5

**Thomas Cooke**, 74, of Rockville, MD, died April 8. Thomas was the owner of TBC Stables. He raced and bred Standardbreds in the mid-Atlantic states. He was a member of the Georgetown faculty since 1976 who earned three Georgetown Law Degrees. Thomas was a CHHA member.



**Stefan "The Doz" Dorosz**, 78, of Perkasio, PA, died April 5. Doz and his wife, Maria, bought a farm and raced horses, chickens, and other various animals. He worked as a machinist at Schutte & Koerting where he was President of local 929 for 35 years. His passion, however, was owning and training harness horses. If you needed help, Doz would drop whatever he was doing and be there as soon as he could.



**Allen Paul "Butch" Douglas**, 73, of Mineral Point, WI, died April 4. Allen was a longtime owner, trainer, driver and breeder of harness horses across Wisconsin and Illinois. He also was licensed as a starter for the fairs.



**William M. "Mark" Gilmour**, 63, of Orchard Park, NY, died April 19. William was a lifelong member of the harness racing community, having been born into it as the son of Hall of Fame driver and trainer Buddy Gilmour, grandson of Hall of Fame driver and trainer Levi Harner and nephew of five Gilmour uncles who also trained and drove. He earned his drivers license at 18 and drove for the next 30 years.



**Gerald "Jerry" Lafferty**, 79, of Huntingtown, MD, died March 17. Jerry enjoyed a long career training, driving and owning Standardbreds. He also bred a few. He grew up helping with the farm work. He enlisted in the US Navy at 18 to help support his widowed mother. Then he took a job as an electrician to continue to support her. Jerry and his wife, Tammy, loved dogs, horses, harness racing, and of course, their son, Chris.

**Robert E. Lussier**, 94, of Benson, VT, died March 19. Robert owned and bred many Standardbreds over the years some of which he trained. For many years, he drove the starting gate at New York county



fairs, continuing until he was 90 years old. He worked as a laborer and farmer and in his later years was a rural mail carrier for the U.S. Postal Service.

**Angus L "Soupy" MacDonald**, 77, of Vernon, NY, died April 16. Angus was an award-winning trainer and driver of Standardbreds, racing successfully at tracks across North America. He was an inveterate fixer of anything with moving parts and a man who thoroughly enjoyed people. He was a trusted and loyal friend to many, always looking for the best in people. A true Cape Bretoner, he had a way with words, a good story, or a timely joke.



**Benjamin D. McCheyne**, 72, of Canandaigua, NY, died March 23. After graduating from Midwest Farrier School in Zenia, Ohio, he began his business as a horse shoer. Other passions included driving and racing harness horses. Benny shod horses up to 5 weeks before his cancer diagnosis in early January.



**Betty Lou O'Donnell**, 94, of Stuart, FL, died March 30. Betty Lou and her husband, Bob, established Hobby Horse Farm in Grafton, Ohio where they operated a Standardbred racing and breeding stable. She was a fixture on the Grand Circuit scene, racing horses under the Liberated Stable name with Marguerite Forrest. The O'Donnells retired to Florida in their late 50s.



**Danelda Sue Roberts**, 87 of Waoakoneta, OH, died March 8. Danelda and her husband, Jim, who trained harness horses, had 17 children. Once her kids were grown, she worked at Roselawn Manor in Spencerville for over 15 years.



**Connel A. Willis**, 89, of Steger, IL, died March 24. Connel was a vital part of the Illinois harness racing scene for more than six decades and was inducted into the Illinois Harness Racing Hall of Fame in December 1987. He loved to serve the Lord, and was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Crete.



### Sources for Obituary information include:

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

## Obituaries

**Thomas Andretta Jr**, 66, died April 10. Thomas worked many years for trainer Mike Posner in New Jersey at his farm, The Posnerosa. He also owned Standardbreds but mostly worked as Posner's top groom. Those who knew him will remember a person who would do anything for a friend. He will be sorely missed.

**Robert L. "Bob" Briley**, 78, of Xenia, OH, died March 17. Bob was associated with 19 Standardbreds as either an owner or breeder, most notably Dancin Yankee whom he partially owned from 2010 to 2014.



Obituaries continued on page 4

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

Kirk Cameron

## 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, Bob Briley, Georgianna Brocco, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Lore Burke, Rick Carson, Barbara Carter, Mike Carter, Sam Castimore, Candice Coleman, Joe Crothers, Danny Daniel, Thomas Daniel, Mike Deeters, Ashley Dennon-Coen, Declan Donaway, 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, 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 Arcena, 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



*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 **Louis "Booty" Beltrami** by: Elaine Beltrami  
 In memory of **Daryl Bier** by: Elaine Beltrami  
 In memory of **Owen Julius** by: Emily Emonin  
 In memory of **Larry Lederman** by: Jim and Phyllis Albert, Moira and Tom Fanning, Don Niccum, Margaret Romano  
 In memory of **Larry "Soupy" Mac Donell** by: Corey Wolfgram and John Burton  
 In memory of **Sam, Meagan and Melissa McKee** by: Amy Bondon  
 In memory of **John Reese** by: Emily Emonin  
 In memory of **Danelda Roberts** by: Loren and Paul Combs  
 In memory of **Weldon Stockwell** by: Jack Levine  
 In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables

Brent Graham, Debbie Gray, Bob Jones, Kim Hankins, Jimmy Hart, Joyce Hart, Rich Heffington, 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, Greggje 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:*

Declan Donaway is having chemo.

Mrs Irene Gill has health issues.

Donna L had her leg amputated.

Greg Wasiluk is caring for his wife and daughter and needs prayers.

Dannis Wood is recovering from heart surgery.

Let's pray for those affected by recent fires, floods and earthquakes.

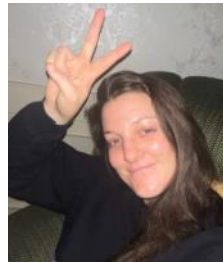
157 North Main St  
Salem, NH 03079  
USA



Please indicate  
Address corrections

**Faith in Action**  
**Sarah Gehman's Story**

Sarah Gehman was diagnosed with a very rare liver cancer earlier this year. Her faith never wavered as she negotiated her options and medical opinions. We received this encouraging email from her in late February.



**Backstory #1** - Dr. Hanna is my number one preferred doctor as he is the top in the world in Adenoid cystic carcinoma (ACC) studies and he is actively running clinical trials. He is truly the best of the best. He's at Dana Farber in Boston, MA. Again - he is my TOP CHOICE of all of the conventional doctors that I've found that specialize in this rare cancer.

**Backstory #2** - My very first thought when I woke up today was, "Find Dr. Hanna's personal email" which I thought was impossible. How will I personally get ahold of the TOP RESEARCHER of this disease? But, I found his direct email. Now for the good part...

I emailed him my story, briefly covering my medical history with this disease.

**Y'all in THREE MINUTES**, yes, one hundred and eighty seconds, he responded to me and sent me to onboarding to get me set up for a second opinion appointment.

In another minute or so, his main office called me and immediately began the process of onboarding me and I now have an appointment in Boston with him on MARCH 6TH!!!!

**Woooohooooo!!!!!!**

The best of the best eyes are on my case now. So crazy, too, because I was told two times that my doctor who was my second opinion from U PENN in 2021 was "no longer in network." The other day I randomly got a call from her office to schedule an appointment in Philly on MARCH 5TH at 5:00 p.m.

Y'all I'm just following the bread crumbs here. So I'll go to Philly and then drive right on to Boston! How

crazy?!?!?!?

The surgeon in Boston concurred with the one in Philadelphia so she went there for her surgery. Here is her email the day after.

**The docs just came in for their rounds** and it turns out that they needed to take 50% of my liver and that there were actually multiple tumors surrounding the large one. So, they made the call to take additional liver as well as the gallbladder. Sounds like I'll be staying a little longer than expected to have additional healing time!  
**Thanks everyone for praying!** I'm not really sleeping much because I have to keep getting meds and vitals and blood thinner shots.

The doctor said that because of her age and good health, she should recover fine. Praise God! Her dad says she is in a great deal of pain but has begun an exercise regimen. Please continue to pray for her speedy and complete cancer free recovery.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

-PROVERBS 3:5-6

