



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

July 2024

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

Communicators

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Flying around barrel racing's cloverleaf courses at break-neck speeds requires a good relationship with your horse. The late Sam McKee's wife, Christine, and daughter Lyndsey spend a good amount of time bonding with their new horses. Lindsey's horse Sophie is a gem and Chris loves her black four-year-old quarter horse, Rango. Let's pray for safety and lots of ribbons for them both.

When we have a good relationship with our horses, their ears go up and twitch, listening when they hear us coming. They are happy to have us scratch their favorite spots, feed them carrots and apples and just spend quality time with them. Dogs' ears perk up too when they hear their people's voices.

We all have relationships with God who made us and sent us here to earth. Some have better relationships with Him than others. Unfortunately for many, communication only goes one way. God showers His love regardless of how we treat Him. Remember, "God is love" (1 John 4:8 NIV).

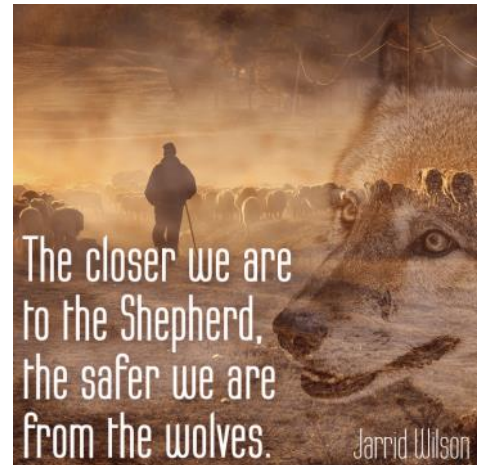
It appears Adam and Eve enjoyed God's visits to the Garden of Eden until they ate the forbidden fruit. The serpent tricked them into eating the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, saying it would make them smart like God. Of course, when they ate the fruit, it did exactly what God said it would. It awakened their consciences. From then on, they and all their offspring knew intuitively the difference between right and wrong.

Communication goes both ways between people who have good relationships. One way we talk to God is

by praying for ourselves and others. Do we also take the time to listen to God?

The Holy Spirit often speaks to us through our conscience. Sometimes we pay attention. However, the more we choose not to listen and go against what we know God wants, the easier it becomes to ignore what God has to say.

Those who are closest to God hear Him speak in a variety of ways. They listen to their conscience and also allow God's voice to speak through scripture, life events and people God puts in their lives.



We certainly don't want to listen to the other guy. We know from experience what that gets us. Let's learn from our own bad judgements as well as from Adam and Eve. Look what that snack cost the whole human race!

Many harness racing friends respond well to God's urgings. Roger Huston could be hundreds of miles away after calling the races on Saturday. Yet he often puts in a herculean effort to be in his seat at the Meadows Chapel for Pastor Joe's Sunday service. Roger sets a good example for folks in our sport with his love and concern for the people,

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Board of Directors

Chaplain Lee Alphen
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Amy Bondon, President

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Knight's Landing Stable

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

Lori Romanetti
Moshannon Stables

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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

**Hear God
and
Be blessed**

Luke 11:28

Communicators continued from page 1

great work ethic and, most importantly, by living a godly life.

Lori Romanetti always goes out of her way to help whomever around her is in need. Amy Bondon said, "Lori is the Jesus others might not see any other way as a breeder and a professional horsewoman, in her support for the Meadows Chaplaincy and Pastor Joe, in her role with the MSOA and with her family and others in racing."

The late Joe Adamsky was a true evangelist. He befriended everyone he met and was always willing to offer a prayer and share God's word. The late Harold Kelly was another shining light who lived his faith at the track and beyond.

Lyndel Adamsky said, "Charley Morgan is kind, humble, and always ready to help anyone without judging."

I ran into William Dubois in the Plainridge Park Paddock in April and was very pleased to see how he has grown into a fine Christian man. He and his family attended our Bible studies at Scarborough Downs when he was a youngster. It is obvious his parents, Donna and Todd Dubois, brought him up well. God and His word are very important to William.

I never met Iowa's Winnie Kamminga, but I have spoken and prayed with her on the phone. God blessed Winnie with 95 good years to share her love of the Lord. She always encouraged me to pray for our youth. Winnie certainly raised her daughter, CHHA member Wilda McDanel, to be a good Christian woman.

Many other Christian men and women who are part of the harness racing community impress me with their faith and walk with the Lord. Perhaps we can highlight others in future newsletters. Please send me your recommendations.

Some pay an equine communicator "big bucks" to communicate with their horses. I think you will agree that what God has to say is far more important. Besides, God speaks to us directly and without a fee.

Jesus said, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27 NIV). Notice Jesus said that His sheep, the people who follow Him, listen to His voice.

Many of us listen to the TV, radio, videos and podcasts on our phones. We are tuned in to them. Perhaps it is time to spend more quality time tuned in to the Lord. Let's fine tune our conscience and try harder to listen to "The still small voice" (1 Kings 19:12) of God. After all, we certainly want to be on good terms with the Almighty when the roll is called up yonder.

Blessings from God

From Phyllis Albert

Dennis is home and doing OK. Thank you so much for all your prayers. We're all praising God. Blessings, Jim and Phyllis

From Amy Bondon...

Prayers answered all around. Thank the Lord and bless the prayer partners Betsy's bloodwork showed no evidence of cancer return. *May The Lord's hand be firmly upon our prayerful interceding family at the CHHA and may their joy be full in this called and most important "job" they do faithfully perform. In Jesus's name, The One who hears and answers, Amen*

From Daryl Gager...

I am overwhelmed and thankful for the prayers from your prayer team. I am going to make sure Donna sees these prayers. I would personally thank these Saints, but maybe it's better if you thank them for me. Love, Daryl Gager

From Lori Romanetti...

Lori said Jana was able to attend both Sage's nurse pinning ceremony and her graduation. Praise God! Thank you for your prayers!

From Rich Wojcio...

Thank you and everyone for all that you do. My sister had her 6-month CT scan and was clean. Thank you always for your thoughts and beautiful prayers and love. Always in my thoughts and Prayers, Rich

When the Role is Called up Yonder

By James M. Black

When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound and time shall be no more,
And the morning breaks, eternal, bright and fair;
When the saved of earth shall gather over on the other shore,
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.

Refrain:

When the roll is called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.



On that bright and cloudless morning when the dead in Christ shall rise,
And the glory of his resurrection share;
When his chosen ones shall gather to their home beyond the skies,
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there. [Refrain]

Let us labor for the Master from the dawn till setting sun;
Let us talk of all his wondrous love and care.
Then when all of life is over and our work on earth is done,
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there. [Refrain]

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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

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Address: _____ Email: _____

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

Mark Anthony Bradley, 63, died May 20. Mark was a vet tech for Woodland Run Equine Veterinarian Facility for over 30 years. He loved horses, especially Standardbreds and Thoroughbreds. He also enjoyed traveling and loved his family.

Keith K. Chupp, 33, of rural Tuscola, IL, died March 19. Keith owned harness horses. He was a member of the Old Order Amish Church and a friend of CHHA members Sam and Ellen Lilly.

Mary Jane "MJ" Hordies, 63, of Washington, PA, died April 29. Mary Jane had been a caretaker of horses for various stables based at The Meadows, including those of Dane Snyder, where she cared for her favorite horse, Rowdy-Bush, and the last being with the Norm Parker Stable. "It was a privilege to have Mary Jane be a part of the Meadows horse family for many years," said Rich Gillock, a past president of the Meadows Standardbred Owners Association. "She was a great worker and an even better person."



Jerry R. Kipp, 84, died April 24. Jerry was certified in Practical Horseshoeing at Cornell University. He worked at and was a fixture at Vernon Downs, gradually "retiring" to Wildewood Farm. He and his wife, Nancy, built the 130-acre farm from the ground up. They bred, boarded, and raced Standardbreds. He was a member of St. Peter's Catholic Church in Rome, NY.

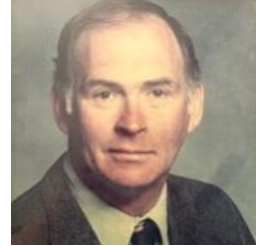


Alan J. Leavitt, 88, of Lexington, KY, died May 6. Alan established Lana Lobel Farms in Hanover, PA and bred Standardbreds until 1989. Lana Lobel Farms later expanded to include locations in New Jersey and New York. In the early 1990s, Alan and his new wife, Margaret, established Walnut Hall Farm in Lexington, KY. Alan was inducted into the Harness Racing Hall of Fame and received numerous other awards.



Richard Munk, 72, of Middletown, NY, died April 24. Richard and his wife, Karen, managed Funky Munky Stable, a popular fractional share ownership group based in New York that campaigned both Standardbred and Thoroughbred horses.

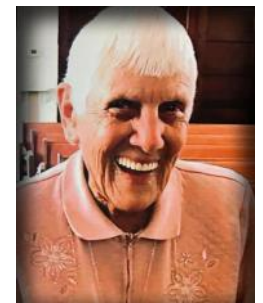
Alexander Donath Savran, 86, died May 11. Dr Savran and his wife, Sharon, purchased a Standardbred Training and Racing Facility. Alex enjoyed sitting behind his own horses as an amateur driver. He had the claimer of the year in 1990. Dr. Savran was president of the Massachusetts Society of Dental Anesthesiology in 1974 and was proud to be a Big Brother.



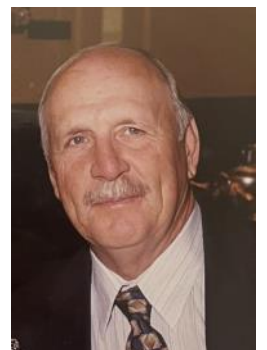
Brock Christopher Schmaltz, 46, of Sunbury, OH, died April 19. Brock was a former USTA employee who served as the advertising director for *Hoof Beats* magazine. He was the son of longtime *Columbus Dispatch* turf writer and John Hervey award winner Brad Schmaltz. Of his many vested interests, one took precedence: Delaware County's own Little Brown Jug, the annual horse race that he never missed after his dad took him out of school to attend when he was a freshman in high school.



Iva Walker Sheets, 89, of Delaware, OH, died April 7. Iva was part of a harness racing family and at one time owned a Standardbred. She enjoyed the sport. Whether vegetables or flowers, she loved tilling the soil to make her world a colorful place. Iva's sister, Joanne White, and brother-in-law, Loren Combs, are faithful CHHA members as was Loren's late wife, Lois. Lois was also Iva's sister.



Arthur Clarence Stafford, 79, died May 18. Arthur and his wife, Karen, raised their family in New Jersey racing horses. He was an owner trainer and driver. Later they followed their sons to Delaware where they eventually slowed down and watched as their sons took over the racing.



Sources for Obituary information include:

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

Obituaries

Michael "Mickey" Burke Sr., 87, of Fredericktown, PA, died May 6. Mickie, the patriarch of the Burke Racing Stable, was the 2006 Trainer of the Year and first trainer in history to surpass \$10 million in purses in a single season. He owned, trained and, in his earlier years, drove harness horses. In fact, his entire family is involved in the sport. He spent recent winters breaking babies at Spring Garden Ranch. He and his wife, Sylvia, were named to the Little Brown Jug Wall of Fame. Mickie also received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Monticello-Goshen chapter of the U.S. Harness Writers Association. Mickey and Sylvia are faithful CHHA members.



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, 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 Zeasapowski.

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, Melissa 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, 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, Gregg 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:

Dennis Albert has AFIB.

Diane Long has stroke related vision problems.

Tommy Long still battles an inoperable brain tumor.

Carol Marentette is recovering from surgery.

Ellen Taylor is battling uterine cancer.

Please pray for everyone affected by recent tornadoes and hurricanes.

157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
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Please indicate
Address corrections

Trusting God in Today’s Turmoil

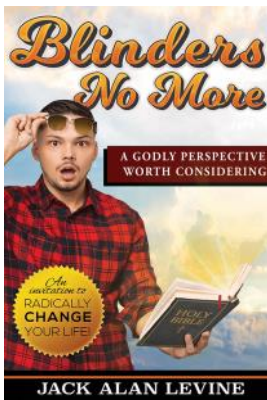
By Jack Levine

With all this crazy turmoil we see in the world today, the wars going on in Ukraine and Israel, along with so many other issues, I am reminded that God says, “No one knows the hour or the day” He will return. But our only job is to be faithful! None of what is happening surprises God. God knew before the beginning of the world all of this would happen. It is prophesized and predicted accurately in both the Old and New Testament. Our only job is to be faithful and to be a light in a world of darkness and salt to a tasteless generation.



Christians are not supposed to panic. Christians are not supposed to get freaked out about all these things that are happening. We don’t have to like them. We don’t have to enjoy them. We have to understand God is in control.

Again, our job, just like the apostles and disciples and believers of old is just to be faithful to God. To be the love and light of Christ to the world around us, so that people see our faith and certainty in Jesus and want the same themselves; the peace, joy, salvation and eternal life that comes only from the Lord.



Jack’s books inspire. I look forward to reading one of his newer books: *Blinders No More: A Godly Perspective Worth Considering.*

In his book *Blinders No More: A Godly Perspective Worth Considering*, Jack gives a fresh insight into the timeless truths of God’s word. With stories, insights and analogies into the word of God, you will have your perspective shifted and see the truth in a way you never have before. It is meant to enlighten, encourage and give every believer a closer walk with God. Your understanding of the truth of God in this book will both enable and force you to take the blinders off your own eyes and see God and His word as it really is.

Jack’s books are available on his website, www.jackalanlevine.com/shop. PDF and e-book versions are free. He also has paper copies for sale. We have a few of them. See page 3..



*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 **Mike Arnold** by: Jim and Judy Ferguson
- In memory of **Robert Briley** by: Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Assoc.
- In memory of **Mickey Burke** by: Pastor Joe and Friends at the Meadows, Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
- In memory of **Keith Chupp** by: Sam and Ellen Lilly
- In memory of **Lois Combs** by: Loren and Paul Combs
- In memory of **Phil Cunningham** by: Melody Cunningham
- In memory of **Owen Julius** by: Sam and Ellen Lilly
- In memory of **Terry Lee Kibler** by: Betsy Brown
- In memory of **Jerry Knappenberger** by: Bob and Nancy Richardson
- In memory of **Larry Lederman** by: Alan Lederman
- In Honor of **Larry Lederman** by: Chris McKee
- In memory of **Alan Leavitt** by: Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Assoc.
- In memory of **Mellisa, Meagan and Sam McKee** by: Amy Bondon
- In memory of **Stanley Miller** by: Sam and Ellen Lilly
- In memory of **Julie Schwartz** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
- In memory of **Iva Walker Sheets** by: Joanne White
- In memory of **Walter and Pauline Warrington** by: Steven Warrington
- In memory of **Conell Willis** by: Sam and Ellen Lilly
- In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables