



Rambling Willie

## Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

October 2024

Remember,  
I pray for all  
our members  
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

### Trust God

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

A Texas woman, Donna Muñoz, was surprised when she came home to find a strange black cat comfortably slumbering on their couch. After their neighbor confirmed the feline was a stray, the family named him Jack and let him come and go as he pleased. Eventually Jack adopted the family. He quickly made friends with their three dogs. Frankie, the border collie, and Jack spend lots of time together. Harper, the Great Dane, ignores him and Riley, the German shepherd, is obsessed with him (Janet Mason, *Epoch Times Bright*, 7/24/24).

Jesus spent the day in a fishing boat, teaching the crowds gathered on the shore and in boats around Him about God's kingdom. He taught them about the seeds scattered in different places and the importance of God's word falling on good soil where the people would accept it and spread it. Raising lamps up on lampstands was necessary so everything would be seen and come out in the open. Those who embrace the word of God will grow in their faith while those who push God aside are in danger of losing the little faith they have (Mark 4:1-22).

If one were to sit back and watch the message of God catching on as people share it, they would be amazed. Some may not think they are doing much, yet when they are faithful to God and His word, others see and hear and faith explodes to the multitudes like a tiny mustard seed that grows into a large plant, pushing its branches up into the sky and becoming nesting places for the birds (Mark 4:30-32).

At the end of the day, Jesus said to his friends "Let's cross over to the other

side of the lake" (Mark 4:35 CEB). Jesus was sleeping in the bow of the boat when a violent storm came up and high winds and huge waves tossed the boat around while they took on lots of water. The disciples woke Jesus because they were afraid. "He got up and gave orders to the wind and the lake, saying, 'Silence! Be still!' The wind settled down and there was a great calm. Jesus asked them, 'Why are you frightened? Don't you have faith yet?'" (Mark 4:37-40 CEB).

Finally, "overcome with awe, they said to each other, 'Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!'" (Mark 4:41 CEB).

If we had been following along with Jesus and listened to His teachings that day, would we have sat quietly in a boat, trusting Jesus to keep us safe? Do we allow the word of God to germinate in our hearts and our minds to soar to where they understand His message?

Our country is going through difficult times. The world is struggling. Wars have been breaking out. What are we to do? I am choosing to trust God and live in peace, knowing that God has my back. Either He will straighten things out or see us through whatever comes our way. Worry and stress will not change anything.

Jack the cat had the right idea. Find a place of refuge and live in peace with the family and the dogs. Jesus said, "Whoever loves me will keep my word. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them" (John 14:23 CEB). Remember, God uses everything to bring about good (Romans 8:28).

My refuge is with Jesus. I am at home with the Lord. Please join me. Together let's spread the Good News by showing others that we trust God.

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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

Do the will of God  
today and trust Him  
with tomorrow.

JACK GRAHAM



## Blessings from God

### *From Steve Byrd...*

Steve's brother, Glen Byrd, got a good report from his oncologist. His tumor is pretty much gone. It is just a dot now. Praise God! However, he is having trouble with his thyroid, is in a lot of pain and gets short of breath.

### *From Brenda Jo Dennon*

You and the CHHA prayer team, partners, warriors are a blessing. You are God's messengers and I am sure glad you've chosen me and JC to be included. As rough and tough as things are, it could be worse. I see it every day at the hospital in the chemo and radiation buildings... on the 6:00 news; anywhere you go. I worked for years as a nurse's aid in nursing homes and believe me when I say that job makes me thankful for what you have! I'd clock out at the end of my shift and be giving thanks to God as I walked out to go home. I learned so much. I thank God and ask Him to bless and keep all of you in His hands.

JC and I are fighting for our health. The cancer is relentless and constant. Sometimes the "cure" seems worse than the disease. His skin, throat, tongue, gums, saliva glands and taste buds are burned from radiation. His teeth are weakened. The chemo affects his kidneys and blood counts. His immune system is shot and he's so weak. Nausea rules. Being in our 70's doesn't help either. For some reason God has put us on this new path to fight... Satan has a hand in this but God's hand is mighty and powerful and He has the final say.

I have the scars on my chest where they "Sawzalled" me open and repaired my heart, aorta, etc. They brought me back twice and told my family I had a 1% chance of surviving. When I came to, my doctors said I was their miracle. I remember nothing. I just knew God's not done with me yet. That's why I always pray for guidance and wisdom to understand and do what he wants. I'm so afraid I'll miss a sign or misinterpret,

As I said before, things could be so much worse. I praise God and give him all the glory for JC's progress. We don't know where we are so far, but the doctors are hopeful and we're both still alive. God is good and has led us to doctors and treatments and what it takes to live. He is our Father and Savior and we are blessed. God bless all of you. Your prayers and messages lift JC and me up in hope and spirit. Thank you! Sincerely, Brenda Jo

*"You will not live long enough to drain God of all the blessings He has for you. God didn't plan one disappointing day for you."*

*Kenny Gatlin*

### Lexi continued from Page 6

families and promoting the sport."

Concerning her goals in life, Lexi aspires to become a perfusionist, a specialized medical professional responsible for operating the heart-lung machine during open-heart surgeries. She wants to make a difference in the lives of people who struggle with heart issues like her father has.

Lisa Schwartz, who heads up our scholarship committee, said to Lexi in her scholarship award letter, "The heart is an all-encompassing organ linking the body and the soul and your care of people's hearts will be a blessing to everyone you touch as well as their families. Keep striving for your goal! It's well within your reach."

*More on CHHA Scholars Aubrey Schwartz, Ryley Fusco and Jenna Fricke in future newsletters.*



### In Honor of Lucille Wick's Birthday

Susan Throm-White sent a donation in honor of Lucille's birthday. Lucille is a long time CHHA member.

Originally from Vernon, she and her late husband, Bill, who was a farrier, wintered in Pompano. There they participated in the bible studies held in the Florida Breeders office. Lucille often called Chaplain Lee to make sure she knew about different things happening in the harness racing community.



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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



#### 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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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 "Tom" Charles Barry**, 73, of Grand Haven, MI, formerly of Ohio, died July 9. He spent 40 years in various positions at harness racing tracks including in Ohio, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. He also managed professional and tough man competition boxers.



**Nora Bertrand**, 86, died July 24. Nora was a big fan of harness racing who got to know a few horsemen and helped as a groom from time to time. She introduced her son, Rick, to the sport when he was 15. He got a part time job at the track which turned into a longtime career as an owner, trainer, and driver. Rick Bertrand is currently racing at Running Aces in Minnesota. Nora was the head pastry chef at The Westin Hotel Renaissance Center in Michigan. She later opened a pastry shop with her daughters.



**James W. Booth, DVM**, 82, of Zanesville, OH, died July 1. Dr Booth began his career as a veterinarian at Pine Hollow Farm in New York. Later he moved back to Zanesville and started Dr. James W. Booth, DVM and specialized in horses. He was also the operator of E. & J. Crematory for many years, enjoyed hunting, fishing and taking his friends meals from the Putnam Tavern and the VFW.



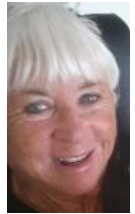
**John Michael Flanigan DVM**, 69, of Guelph, Ontario, died July 18. John was a lifelong fan of the Standardbred horse. He will be missed by many.



**Clarence Earl Hand**, 91, died July 21. Clarence and his wife of 68 years, Barbara, lived a full life together, raising a family and traveling to race tracks. He was an owner, trainer, driver and breeder of harness horses. Later in life, they spent time traveling to see what they both thought of as "this great country of ours." Mr. Hand is remembered as a big, funny, character of a man — devoted to his family and his horses.

**Russell Bennett Hundley**, 67, died July 31. Russell owned and bred Standardbreds. They brought him great joy and countless memories. He retired from UPS after a distinguished career spanning over 30 years, where he made many lifelong friends. He was devoted to his wife of 39 years, Dorothy.

**Carol A. Malcolm**, 83, of Pompano Beach, FL, died recently. Carol was active as a Standardbred owner and trainer in New England in the 1970s and 1980s. She worked as the simulcast coordinator at Hazel Park Raceway, served as an associate judge in Massachusetts and Minnesota, and spent many seasons as the paddock judge at Pompano Park. She also served as the executive director of the New England Harness Horsemen's Association and worked in the Massachusetts Gaming Commission's pari-mutuel division.



**James "Jim" M. McKee**, 79, of Saline, MI, died July 31. Jim had a successful career as an owner and trainer of Standardbreds. He loved to work with his hands and was quite skilled in carpentry. He enjoyed building anything and everything. Above all, he loved his family and took every chance to spend time with them.



**Robert Donald "Bobby" Smalley**, 67, of Circleville, OH, formerly of Ashville, OH, died Aug 2. Bobby was a caretaker with Gene Riegle Stables in Greenville, Ohio, for over 20 years along with other stables in Ohio. He had a gift for horses, which took him all over the states to different racetracks. He lived a simple life and always had a story to share.



**George C. Tackley**, 64, of Syracuse, NY, died July 21. George owned and trained Standardbreds. He was an avid horseman. His true passion in life were his dogs, his horses, and harness racing. He and his fiancé, Wendy, ventured to many tracks across the Northeast where they celebrated Team Tackley's countless wins. Together they owned and operated Aladdin Transportation.



**Donna M. "Pooch" Weyant**, 83, of Reynoldsdale, PA, died July 31. Donna and her business partner of over 50 years, Sandy Petersen, owned and operated Triple T Farms and Racing. She was still racing until May of this year. She was very successful at racing and made many friends along the way. She was a middle School English and American History teacher for 29 years. Donna was a member of Queen United Methodist Church.



### Sources for Obituary information include:

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

## Obituaries

**Myra Gale Terwilliger**, 81, of Gallipolis, OH, died July 27. Myra and her husband of over 50 years, Al, spent a lifetime creating equipment for Standardbred Harness Racing to improve the safety for horses and drivers. Once Myra met Al, she became his right-hand man at Protecto Horse Equipment, the business they co-owned. Myra started her professional career as a school teacher. She retired to Gallipolis from the Detroit suburbs. There she enjoyed local farmers markets, library events, First Fridays, walks by the waterfront, county fair and the Senior Center. Myra and Al are faithful CHHA members.



**Daryl A. Gager** of Vincentown, NJ, died Aug 11. Daryl was a school teacher for forty-five years. She taught in the Burlington County Christian School for twenty years and at Southampton Twp. School for twenty-five years. She was teacher of the year in 1991 and was mentioned in Who's Who of American Teachers. For twenty-five years she also taught Sunday School at Lakes Community Chapel in Lake Pine. Daryl helped her husband Ed with his feed company at Fox Chase Farm. Daryl and Ed were founding and faithful members of CHHA joining the organization when it first began in 1983.



**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, David Bower, Bob Briley, Georgianna Brocco, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Lore Burke, Glenn Byrd, Rick Carson, Barbara Carter, Mike Carter, Sam Castimore, Candice Coleman, Joe Crothers, Danny Daniel, Thomas Daniel, Mike Deeters, Brenda Jo Dennon, Ashley Dennon-Coen, Declan Donaway, Scott Dube, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Francine Federici, Tim Finley, 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, Barb Huston, 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, JC Napier, Howard Niels, 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, Ellen Taylor, 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:**

Dennis Albert, 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, 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, Janice 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, Diane Long, Katherine Lonager, Diane Long, 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:**

Lyndel Adamsky and her mother, Peggy, need strength. Tommy Dawson is recovering from a warm up accident. Shirley Edwards is wheelchair bound following a stroke. Fran is having trouble breathing. Sarah Gehman is undergoing cancer treatment. Barbara Huston has stage 4 cancer. Lance Klassen needs a complete healing from the top of his head to the bottom of his feet. Julie Manchester is recovering from an accident. Nev Ross is recovering from surgery. Lori Romanetti is recovering from knee surgery. Lucille Wick has complications from cellulitis. Please pray for the success of our Jug Week Prayer Breakfast and our time at the Delaware Valley Fairgrounds. Please pray that many lives are touched and set on fire for the Lord.

157 North Main St  
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## CHHA Scholars

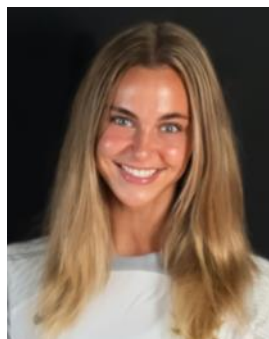
**Lexi Twaddle** was awarded the John and Janet Klark Scholarship to continue her studies at Walsh University. She is majoring in biology with minors in psychology and business.

Lexi tells us in her application essay, "My faith is the cornerstone of my life, guiding me through every challenge and triumph. [...] My faith is not just a belief but a living, breathing part of who I am and how I interact with the world around me. Scripture plays a vital role in my daily life centering and grounding me during difficult times. Verses like Isaiah 43:18, Philippians 4:13 Romans 8:18, Psalm 55:22 and Philippians 1:3 are my constant companions providing comfort and strength. These scriptures remind me of God's enduring presence and the hope that faith brings. Christianity and faith have always been immensely important to me."

Often Lexi brings classmates to Sunday church services. Most of these friends, some of whom are from different countries, have never been to a religious service before. She writes, "It brings me immense joy to see them experience God's love in their own time and way, leading to shared moments of prayer and spiritual growth."

Growing up in a harness racing family, Lexi spent many hours at the barn and enjoyed the horses and environment. She realizes the hard work and dedication required to have a successful stable and spent the last few summers helping her dad, Tim Twaddle with his stable. In addition to barn work, Lexi promotes her dad's business on social media. She serves as "Meadow," the mascot for the Meadows. She "had the joy of entertaining

**Lexi continued on Page 2**



*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 **Jim Booth, DVM** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
- In memory of **Frank Dubreuil** by: Peter Blood
- In memory of **Bob, Dick, Brad and Rod Farrington** by: Jim and Judy Ferguson
- In memory of **Daryl Gager** by: Ed Gager
- In memory of **Harold Kelly 4th anniv.** by: Linda and Thomas Moyer
- In memory of **Jerry Kipp** by: Lucille Wick and the Boardmans of Briarwood Farm
- In memory of **Donna Manchester** by: Amy Bondon
- In memory of **Sam, Meagan and Melissa McKee** by: Amy Bondon
- In memory of **Iva Walker Sheets 90th BD** by: Joanne White
- In memory of **Gerald Walker 94th BD** by: Joanne White
- In memory of **Sharyn Wasiluk** by: Amy Bondon
- In memory of **Connel Willis** by: Kim Rinker
- In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables

## Thank God for the broccoli

*By Chaplain Sam Ed Spence*

A four-year-old boy was asked to pray before dinner. The family members bowed their heads. He began his prayer, thanking God for all his friends and family members. Then he began to thank God for the food. He gave thanks for the chicken, the mashed potatoes, the fruit salad, and even the milk. Then he paused, and everyone waited. After a long silence, the little boy opened one eye, looked at his mother, and asked, "If I thank God for the broccoli, won't He know that I'm lying?"

