



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

November 2024

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

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

603-898-1927

603-401-7271 (cell)

Wanted

Praise Reports and Articles

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen

leealphen@comcast.net

Or

157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

Happy
Thanksgiving

Give

God

Thanks

Template for Prayer

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Communicating

Our horses don't speak English. We speak to them anyway. We offer treats and scratch their favorite spots. We spend time with them and take them for walks. We communicate with our horses in many ways.

Jesus left a template with His disciples teaching us how to pray. He taught those gathered around Him then and us now the Lord's Prayer. This beloved prayer provides insight on how to talk with God who knows our needs better than we know them ourselves.

In this article I offer some reflections on the first few phrases of the Lord's Prayer to help you focus as you pray it, meditate or talk to God in your own words. We will continue with the rest of the prayer in a future newsletter.

Give thanks and praise

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name" (Matthew 6:9 NIV) is the beginning of how Jesus taught His disciples to pray. When we call upon God, the psalmist instructs us to "enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name" (Psalm 100:4 NIV).

Yes, I know, sometimes we are praying because things are not going well. Someone may be sick or dying or in trouble or there may be financial or relationship issues. Even in these circumstances, it is good to thank God and praise His holy name first. It puts us in a better frame of mind to pray, recognizing that God has already indeed blessed us and helps us to anticipate a favorable answer to our prayer.

When I pray with people, I always

begin by thanking God for them and specifically mentioning something good about them for which I am thankful. Remember, every good and perfect gift comes from God (James 1:17).

According to Colossians 3:17, we're to thank God in every word and action: "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" (NIV). Speak every word in gratitude, and do everything with a thankful heart.

The greatest treasure

The prayer goes on, "Your kingdom come" (Matthew 6:10 NIV). "The kingdom of God has come near" (Mark 1:15 NIV) are the first words Jesus says in Mark's gospel. Jesus compares God's kingdom to a pearl so valuable a merchant would sell everything to acquire it, and a person finding a treasure hidden in a field would spend every last penny to buy it. Jesus points out that whatever our treasure is, God's kingdom, which is like a tiny mustard seed, the smallest of seeds, that grows and expands welcoming everyone that comes to it, is inconceivably better. Our faith begins small, but as it grows and blossoms, the kingdom of God comes alive in us and around us (Matthew 13:44-46), (Luke 12:33-34).

God's will

"Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10 NIV). Jesus came to teach us to love and He set an awesome example of living life to the fullest. His most important teaching was to love God and one another which He said is the summation of all the law and the prophets. This includes The Ten Commandments (Matthew 22:37-39).

"God is love" (1 John 4:16 NIV). Heaven is full of God's love, leaving no

Template cont. on page 2

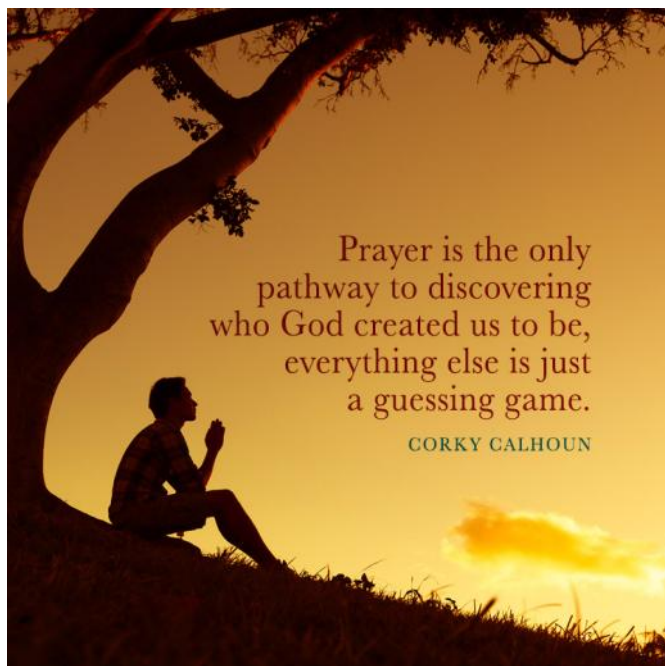
Template continued from page 1

room for death or mourning or crying or pain or sickness. When we pray for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven, this is what we ask for. Understanding and living the message of love in the Bible helps us to work towards this goal.

How to use this template

We may not be on the same page as God yet. However, we always have His attention. He said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5 NIV).

We can use this template to consider how we think of God. As we pray through this beautiful prayer, let's let our imaginations soar finding new thoughts about God and how to communicate with Him. Then, share your ideas with us on our The Lord's Prayer blog at www.chha.net/blogs.



More on the Jug

My favorite part about my time in Delaware is praying with people. Praise God! He sent lots of people our way again this year. Some came for prayers. Others just to visit. Every person was a blessing.



Mary Kay Welsh



Melissa Destke



Blessings from God

From Ken Burgdoff...

First my prayer of Thanksgiving for your prayers for me since my wife, Sharron's, passing a year ago (August 27). This August 27, I was able to visit her grave in my hometown of Red Bud, Illinois, about an hour drive from DuQuoin Fairgrounds. My brother Ron has been a "rock" for me as has my son, Jarrod. Ron and I were able to attend the harness races that day, as we were only a short drive from there. He and I were involved with county fair racing at the Perry County Fair nearby, before they discontinued it. Please keep our family in your prayers, and I will pray for all of you in the CHHA. God's blessings...Ken

Dawnelle Mock, who used to help manage our Facebook page, was just named Executive Director of the Meadows Standardbred Owners Association. Please keep her in your prayers. We wish you God's best Dawnelle!



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 Jack Baggitt by: Bob and Christine Baggitt
- In memory of Betty Lou Beatty by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
- In memory of Mark Bradley by: Arnold Williams
- In memory of Lois Combs by: Loren and Paul Combs
- In memory of Phil Cunningham by: Rich and Sandy Thorstenson
- In memory of Bob Farrington by: Joe and Karen Ewing
- In memory of Bob Ferguson by: Joe and Karen Ewing
- In memory of Daryl Gager by: Ed Gager
- In memory of Irene Gill by: Pastor Stan and Susan Gill
- In memory of Harold Kelly by: Bob and Christine Baggitt
- In memory of Harold and Sue Kelly by: Deb and Jeff Tillia
- In memory of Jodi Kirkpatrick by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
- In memory of Ruleen Lilley by: Jo-Dee Brown
- In memory of Sam, Meagan and Melissa McKee by: Amy Bondon, Rich and Sandy Thorstenson
- In memory of Bob McIntosh by: Jo-Dee Brown
- In memory of Paul A Pollara, Sr by: Paul Pollara
- In memory of Paul E Polarra by: Paul Pollara
- In memory of Myra Terwilliger by: Al Terwilliger
- In memory of Sharyn Wasiluk by: Amy Bondon
- In memory of Donna Weyant by: John and Judith McMullen
- In memory of Lucille Wick by: Susan Throm-White, Richard White, Michele Throm, Kimberlee Throm
- In memory of Andy Wood by: Longshot Stables

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—blue and gold
- CHHA hat—navy and white
- CHHA water bottle



New

Books

- God Wants You Well by Andrew Wommack
- 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

Jack Levine’s ebooks are available FREE as downloads at:
<https://www.jackalanlevine.com/ebooks>

Jack Levine’s print books available with 30% discount code FREEDOM
<https://www.jackalanlevine.com/shop>

New



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

William "Dean" Brickell, 70, of Rochester Mills, PA, died Aug 19. Dean owned, trained and drove Standardbreds. He raced at the county fairs and at the Meadows. He was a teacher of remedial math and reading.

Harold Jay Gerhardt, 89, of Richmond, VA, died Aug 17. Harold continued his parents' passion for horses and had a special interest in harness racing. He earned the title of Kentucky Colonel for his 36 years in the USTA licensing department. He lived across the street from the Delaware County Fairgrounds and enjoyed daily trips to the fair.

JoAnn (Jodi) Kirkpatrick, 91, of New Holland, OH, died Sep 7. Jodi and her husband, the late Kenny Kirkpatrick, raised, trained and raced their own horses. They also were actively engaged in farming. Jodi was a legal secretary, a relief postmistress and spent over 40 years as a presiding judge for the West Holland election board. She was a longtime member and Sunday school teacher at her United Methodist Church. Her son, Kenny, owns, trains, drives and breeds harness horses.

Michael Joseph Kravchak, 47, died Sep 5. Michael was a driver/trainer at Scarborough Downs in the 2010s. He made guest appearances as the track announcer at Scarborough and served as trackside MC during the 2012 Maine Sire Stakes finals. He was a realtor. His faith played a central role in his life



Frank C. Kuening, 89, died Aug 14. Frank was the former co-owner and manager of Post Printing which was one of the owners of Horseman Publishing Co. which published The Horseman and Fair World magazine and founded harnessracing.com. Post also prints many of the Standardbred sale catalogs. Frank, along with his partner, the late Glenn Thompson Sr., was a strong supporter of harness racing and bullish about its future.

Ruleen Ruth (McCallum) Lilley, 64, of Dutton, Ontario, died Aug 4. Ruleen grew up on a farm where she assumed all the duties of farm life. Later, working at Mac Lilley Farms she married Jeff Lilley. They raced horses all around North America before taking on the responsibilities of the breeding end of the business. Ruleen was a director for Standardbred Canada and a director and chair of West Elgin Mutual Insurance.



Heather MacMaster, 37, of Westmoreland, NY, died Aug 5. Heather liked horses and horse racing. She owned three Standardbreds. At one time she was employed as a bus driver.



Kathleen Jane "Kathy" Mattison, 75, of Hinsdale, NH, died Aug 19. Kathy owned, trained, drove and bred Standardbreds. She was one of the sport's first female drivers. She worked as a machine operator.



Retta J. McNeil, 85, of Charlotte, MI, died Sep 5. Retta and her husband, Glenwood, raised and raced Standardbred horses for many years. Retta was an elementary school teacher and math consultant.

Robert "Bob" A. McIntosh, 71, of Windsor, Ontario, died Jul 28. Bob began his career in horse racing with his family's stable. He became a trainer and breeder. He was inducted into the U.S. Harness Racing Hall of Fame and the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame.



Dossie Lee Minor, 69, died Aug 12. Dossie owned, trained, drove and bred harness horses. He was an entrepreneur with integrity and honesty who loved the horse racing. He accepted Christ as a Baptist.



Dixie Lee Russell, 83, of Pinckney, MI, died Aug 17.

Dixie lived on a farm with her husband, Paul. She will be remembered as a very social and active lady who loved to travel. The family never fully recovered from a 2019 fire that destroyed their barn killing seven horses. She was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church. Dixie and Paul were CHHA members.



Chuck Simon, 57, of Saratoga, NY, died Sep 8. Chuck briefly served as assistant racing secretary at Yonkers during the early 1990s. Later he had a successful training career in the Thoroughbred industry.

Norman L. "Bud" Thompson, 88, of Arcadia, IL, died Aug 8. Bud raised and raced harness horses as an owner, trainer, driver and breeder. He served as a presiding judge at the fairs and a paddock judge. Bud was also an active member of the Baptist Church.



Sharyn Wasiluk, 77, of Tampa, FL, died Aug 3. Sharyn began her racing career as a groom then was a pony girl and a trainer. She and her husband, Peter, worked side by side in their Thoroughbred stable for over 40 years. She served on the board of directors for the HBPA at Tampa Bay Downs. She was highly involved in the Racetrack Chaplaincy and served as President of the Tampa Bay Downs chapter.



Dr. Alan Frank Weisenberg, 77, of Columbus, OH, died Aug 27. Dr Weisenberg was an emergency room physician. He owned and bred Standardbreds, and his passion was harness racing. He often told friends that he had attended the Little Brown Jug at the Delaware County Fair for 54 straight years. He was a longtime member of Temple Beth Shalom in Columbus, Ohio.

Sources for Obituary information include:

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

Obituaries

Betty Lou Beatty, 97, of Columbus, OH, formerly of Washington CH, OH, died Aug 28. Betty owned Standardbreds. Her son, Hugh, is an owner, trainer and driver. She was a Licensed Practical Nurse and formerly attended the Presbyterian Church.



Martyn 'Marty' Allan Adler, of , Ontario, 81, died Aug 24. Marty spent 40 years as the Windsor Raceway track announcer. He also trained and drove his own horses. He was a tireless advocate of the sport.

Donna Bradbury, 71, formerly of Monticello, NY, and Foxborough, MA, died recently. Donna owned and bred horses with her late husband, Norman, who raced in New England and at Rosecroft for many years. Donna did administrative work for Monticello Raceway and Empire Resort.

Lucille A. Wick, 89, of Rome, NY, and formerly of Pompano Beach, FL and Taberg, NY, died Sep17. Lucille and her late husband, Bill, traveled seasonally between Vernon and Pompano Beach. Bill was a blacksmith there, shoeing harness horses racing in each location. Lucille did the bookkeeping and accounting for their blacksmith business. Lucille's Catholic faith was very important to her. She was a big help with the bible studies held in the Florida Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association at Pompano which were coordinated by her good friend FSBOA office administrator, Rosie Huff. Lucille also kept Chaplain Lee updated about the people in harness racing. She was a CHHA member.



Obituaries cont. 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 Nields, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Carol Parker, Margie Polhamus, Valerie Prescott, Leigh Rayer, 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 Woebkenberg, 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 Beinbauer, 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 Maura, 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, Reggie 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:

Micah Aracena has Lyme disease.
Pray for Carmen Cappotelli, Jeff Jacobs and Jim Compton.
Chaplain Ken Carter is recovering from a heart attack.
Joe Ewing is recovering from back surgeries.
Tim and Loveda Finley need prayers for health.
Jeff Gural broke his pelvis.
Jackson is going through a rough time.
Tim Lane had back surgery.
Lillian Rose is receiving chemo for a benign tumor.
Wendy Miner is recovering from a seizure or stroke.
Jacob Moulton, 27, has acute Leukemia.
Kim Johnson Ortiz has stage four cancer in five organs.
Doug Richner has cancer.
Tiffany has two masses on her pelvis and a blockage.
Lillian Rose has a benign tumor that is growing.
Brittany Vondenhuevel is recovering from heart surgery.
Wayland Vondenhuevel struggles with alcoholism.
Dennis Whittemore is recovering from heart surgery.
Ken Wood is recovering from lung surgery.

157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Please indicate
Address corrections

Online Bible Studies

CHHA began online bible studies in October. Our next one, **The Real Story of Christmas**, is scheduled for Monday evenings, December 2nd, 9th, 16th and maybe the 23rd on Zoom. We will be studying Matthew 1-2 and Luke 1-2. Shenandoah Downs Chaplain, Rev Bob Holet, will lead this study.



Register at www.chha.net/bible-studies so we can send you login information and materials.

Blogs

Bible Study Blogs

Share your ideas for future bible studies and experiences with the studies we have already hosted at www.chha.net/blogs.

The Lord's Prayer Blog

After reading the first page article, *Template for Prayer*, share your ideas with us on our bible study blog.

Praise Reports

Share your praise reports and please let me know if I can publish them in our newsletter.

Keep Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

On this blog, please share your ideas for furthering this mission.

Manage the Blogs

As these blogs become more popular, we will need some help monitoring them. Please let Chaplain Lee know if you can help.

The 79th Little Brown Jug

Jug week in Delaware is always fun! We see lots of old friends and make new friends.

The new programs we rolled at our Prayer Breakfast to help us **Keep Christ Alive in Harness Racing!** were well received. We began our online bible studies in October with two sessions featuring short video clips of Tim Tebo.

In the first video Tim explained why he changed the black under his eyes from Philippians 4:13 to John 3:16 and the tremendous ramifications. God used Tim's black mightily! The second session helped us to see that God is really enough.

We also began some blogs. This is a great way for you to keep in touch with us: let us know how we can help you; provide input and ideas for our programs; share your praise reports of God working in your life and, suggest new blogs. The blog information is on the left.



Christine Holet, Pastor Joe DiDonato and Pastor Bob Holet



Steve Byrd, Lisa Schwartz and Tom May

Karen and Dan Cocherl



Jo-Dee Brown and Sasha

See page 2 for more on Jug week in Delaware.