



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

December 2024

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

Do We Know Jesus?

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Well-groomed horses jogged up and down the aisles and posed for prospective buyers while consignment representatives answered questions and made suggestions at the Harrisburg Sale. Meanwhile, throughout the sales arena videos of young horses frolicking in beautiful fields played on computer screens. You could queue up whatever horses interested you. These options, along with the sales catalog, were available to encourage the bidders by giving them enough information to think they really knew the horses they wanted to take home.

Sometimes you see a horse racing and think you would like to have them in your stable. You gather as much information about the horse as possible. Probably your most important questions have to do with soundness, racing performance and pedigree. Once you are satisfied, you put in a claim on them before their next race.

In either case do you really know the horse?

Mary, the mother of Jesus, visited her cousin, Elizabeth, right after the angel told her Elizabeth also was miraculously pregnant. "When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill His promises to her!'" (Luke 1:41-45 NIV).

Mary, Elizabeth and John the Baptist knew Jesus.

An angel came and told the shepherds in the field about the Savior, the Messiah, the Lord, being born in a nearby stable. Then a multitude of angels appeared and sang of God's glory. After the angels left, the shepherds hurried off to see Jesus. "When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child" (Luke 2:17 NIV).

It seems the shepherds knew Jesus.

Jesus had a very interesting conversation with a Samaritan woman when she came to draw her daily water at the public well. She could only come at noon because she, as an outcast, was not supposed to mix with the other women (John 4:4-26).

This woman knew her scriptures well and absorbed everything that Jesus said. Jesus told her, "A time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth" (John 4:23-24 NIV).

The woman said, "I know that the Messiah is coming. When He comes, He will explain everything to us. Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am He" (John 4:25-26 NIV).

Many of the Samaritans from the woman's town believed in Him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did" (John 4:28 NIV).

The Samaritan woman knew Jesus. There are many others in the scriptures who knew Jesus as well.

Here we are a couple of Millenia later. We have heard and read a lot about Jesus, the Son of God, who came

Do We Know cont. on page 2

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Wanted

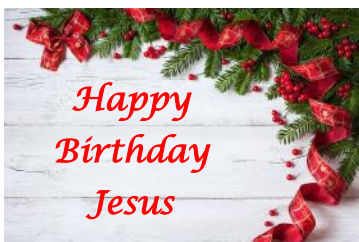
Praise Reports and Articles

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen

leealphen@comcast.net

Or

157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079



Do We Know continued from page 1

as a man, and then was ridiculed, suffered a great deal and died on a cross to pay the price for our sins. Jewish priests offered a lamb as a sacrifice for the sins of the people. The sacrifice of Jesus, the lamb of God, satisfied the debt for everyone who chooses to accept Him as their Lord and Savior.

When we buy a horse that we have not spent time with, we may know about the horse, but do we really know it? Only when we spend time with it, get to know its personality, likes, dislikes and idiosyncrasies, will we really know the horse. The same goes for Jesus. We get to know Him by spending time with Him, speaking with Him, listening to Him and learning about Him through studying His word in the Bible.

Do we know Jesus?

CHHA Bible Studies

CHHA has begun online Bible Studies to help us all get to know Jesus better through His word in the Bible. Check out our website, www.chha.net, for more information. Shenandoah Downs chaplain, Pastor Bob Holet, is planning a December Bible study online, **The True Meaning of Christmas.**



Blessings from God

From Bruce Ranger...

Update from Brian...

I have a small praise report to tell you about concerning my granddaughter, Lillian Rose. The state of Florida Medicaid, and John Hopkins are going to fully fund everything, and anything, my granddaughter is going to need. Thank you for all the prayers.

From Denise Riley...

My surgery was a success. They did both my aflutter and AFib. Thank you all for all your prayers, support and encouragement. Denise

Dick Vondenhuevel

My daughter, Amanda, got her operation. All went well, and she was negative for cancer. I thank God so much.

From Brenda Jo Dennon

First and foremost, Praise God and thank you Jesus for JC's throat/tongue cancer remission. As his chemo doctor and his radiation doctor both told us, "He's in remission, NOT cured." The first words out of my mouth were, "Thank God." I went limp, started tearing up and tried to gather my thoughts. I told them prayer works, and God has blessed us.

Our battle/journey is far from over. Cancer is ruthless and relentless, but that's okay. God is our Savior and shield and will give us strength to reach His destination. People tell us we are lucky. I tell them, "No, we are blessed."

JC still has some problems- fatigue, saliva and taste buds burned beyond function, skin issues from radiation, kidney issues from chemo and my health issues. It could be worse. I thank God every day for what He has let us keep.

Everyone has their cross to bear. That's why I'm so glad to have God walking with me and JC. We know God is our guide and guardian, and we need to have faith. It's that complicated and that simple. That's why I pray for wisdom. That's what it takes to do what God expects. He gives us choices and free reign...roots and wings.

I choose to stay close to God, follow Him and give thanks for all He's given me. I want to be worthy of God's love and gifts. Well, I need Him more than He needs me. Tell everyone their prayers were heard, and we are so thankful. I'll be 77 in January so pray for my health and strength also. I gotta keep up! Sincerely, Brenda Jo.

*Please send Praise reports,
Articles, testimonies, etc.
for the newsletter.*

Wanted

Submissions can be a few words up to 300 words.

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen
lealphen@comcast.net

Or 157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

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

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Please pray for my intentions _____

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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—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

Rebecca J. "Becky" Ater, 93, of Clarksburg, OH, died Oct 7. Becky loved watching her son, Kyle, and her late son, Dan, race their horses. Kyle owns, trains and drives harness horses in Ohio. Becky worked as a teacher's aide.



Malvern "Mal" Burroughs, 84, of Huntington, NY, formerly of Rutherford, NJ, died Sep 20. Mal became a horse owner in the 70s. In the 80s he started driving in the Billings Amateur Series. His partnership with Hall of Famer, Jimmy Takter, brought him much success in harness racing. Mal made many contributions to the sport beyond racing and was elected to the Harness Racing Hall of Fame this year.



Larry Eugene Farrington, 74, of Richwood, OH, died Sep 27. Larry was the owner/operator of Farrington Trucking for over 45 years. He enjoyed working on the farm helping his dad. He even helped race his dad's and his wife's horses. His wife, Debbie, owns, trains, drives and breeds harness horses. They are CHHA members.



Hugh Joseph Gallagher III, 75, of Goldsboro, MD, died Sep 18. Hugh became a horse racing steward in the early 80s. He was the state steward at Pompano Park and Scioto Downs. From 1987 -1997. Then he served as presiding judge at the Meadowlands harness racing meet. Finally, he served as an official for various racing commissions and race tracks.



John Joseph Gazzo, Jr, 72, died Sep 10. John bred, owned, trained and drove harness horses. He also did his own blacksmith work for his horses which were mostly trotters. He had a 40+ year career at DuPont in finance. He was a devout Catholic. Through his battle with leukemia, his faith never wavered.



Sam M Hodgett, 88, of Sheffield, IL, died Oct 3. Sam drove, trained and bred harness horses in Illinois and Iowa. He and his wife farmed in Bureau County, IL for over 50 years, where he took pride in his soybean fields. He also worked at the Mineral Elevator and the Kewanee Sale Barn. He played trumpet and sang in dance bands since he was 11. He was a member of the Church of Peace in rural Kewanee.



Johnny Todd Johnson, 69, of Eaton, OH, died Sep 23. Johnny attended farrier school in Illinois and throughout his life trained and raced Standardbreds in numerous tracks around the country. He loved coaching little league baseball and football.

John H. Lare, 81, of Seaford, DE, died Sep 15. John spent over 50 years as an owner, trainer, driver and breeder of Standardbreds. He loved horse racing and especially loved watching his sons race. When his eye sight got bad, he made sure to find out what races they were in and listened in on the races.



John Paul Mondrick, Durhamville, NY, died Sep 27. John was awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star and Cluster earned during his service as a Halo Paratrooper in the United States Army. Back in civilian life, John bred and raised several racehorses. He also was a trainer and driver based at Vernon Downs.



Sharon Marie Pratt, 60, of Macedonia, OH, died Oct 1. She was the longtime horsemen's bookkeeper at MGM Northfield Park.



Catherine A Rutherford, 58, of Martinsville, IL, died Sep 28. Cathy owned, bred, trained and drove Standardbred horses. She raced at numerous tracks in the mid-West as well as Canada. Later, she was a Paddock Judge in Kentucky and most recently her beloved Shenandoah Downs where she was working just a few days before she died.

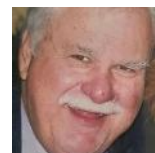
Gerald F. "Jerry" Schneider, 87, of Waynesville, Ohio, died Sep 5. Gerald and his wife, Barbara bred, owned, trained and drove harness horses. He retired as Chief Psychologist at Hamilton County School District and from his private practice.



Joseph Scorsone, 85, of Chesterfield, NJ, died Sep 19. Joe enjoyed training, driving and racing Standardbreds, landscaping, card games, and billiards. Most of all he loved being with his grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He was a parishioner at Mary, Mother of the Church Parish in Bordentown.



Vincent "Chancy" Tancredi, 79, of Boca Raton, FL, formerly of Herkimer, NY, died Sep 13. Chancy was an owner and trainer of Standardbreds for over 35 years. He spent his nights at tracks from Vernon Downs to Pompano Park. He was formerly in sales and a local business owner.



Sources for Obituary information include:
www.ustrotting.com, www.harnesslink.com and
www.Standardbredcanada.ca

Obituaries

William Harold Hogue Jr, 89, died Sep 16. Harold loved farming, steers and horses. He found great joy in planting beans, corn, and wheat, watching them grow and then harvesting them. He showed steers and later judged steer shows at many Ohio country fairs. He was most passionate about harness horses and the Little Brown Jug. Above all, he had a personal relationship with His Savior, Jesus Christ. He knew his home was not here but in heaven with Jesus. He would want you to know Him too. Bill was a CHHA member with his wife, Barbara.



Obituaries cont. 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, 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, Jacob Moulton, Linda Moyer, Corey Murphy, JC Napier, Howard Nields, Jay O'Neil, Kim Ortiz, 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 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 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



*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 **Becky Ater** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
 In memory of **Richard "Boots" Awbrey** by: Jim Mayes
 In memory of **Larry Farrington** by: Gary Cameron, Mike and Jill Kirby
 In memory of **Daryl Gager** by: Ed Gager
 In memory of **Harold and Sue Kelly** by: Deb and Jeff Tillia
 In memory of **The McKee Family** by: Amy Bondon
 In memory of **Dossie Lee Minor** by: Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association
 In memory of **Sharon Pratt** by: Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association
 In memory of **Jim Reese** by: Dr James Cummings
 In memory of **John E Schmigel** by: Glen Vetrano
 In memory of **Lucille Wick** by: Jerry and Nancy Kipp
 In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables

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 Ken Wood.

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 is worn out caring for her elderly Mom. Ashley Dennon-Cohen and Tim Adams need prayers. Roger Huston has a number of ulcers. Peg and Randy Miller need prayers. Kymberlee Throm continues to battle breast cancer. Tiffany has two 2 masses on her pelvis and a blockage. Please pray for the victims of recent hurricanes.

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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!

What else can CHHA do to help **Keep Christ Alive in Harness Racing!**?

Winter Blues in Horses and Humans

The winter solstice occurs on the shortest day of the year, the day with the fewest hours of daylight. This year it is December 21st here in the Northern Hemisphere. Some people struggle with depression during the dark winter days due to a condition called Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). Curious to know if horses suffered with this too, I did some research.

Sure enough, some horses do. According to several internet articles, exercise, companionship, proper diet and light among other things help horses suffering from the winter blues. It appears keeping our horses happy goes a long way towards keeping them healthy. Light appears to be the biggest issue.

I imagine the same goes for humans. People who are isolated and don't get much exercise or sunlight during the long winter months can easily get depressed. Some who suffer with SAD seem to do better when certain lighting is introduced. However, we have to be careful to recognize that some people may be suffering from a medical condition that only the longer days of spring will heal.

One article suggested teaching the horses to turn on the lights in the barn and went on to say that some actually do. **Jesus is the light of the world.** It is good we celebrate His birthday at the time of year light is most needed. Please join me in asking God to be the light for those suffering from the lack of sunshine.



Ideas Please

Bible Studies

What Bible studies would you like to see CHHA offer? In October we hosted a fun study led off by a Tim Tebo video. He talked about wearing scripture in his eye black. This month's study is *The Real Meaning of Christmas*. Would you like to see a more in depth study of book of the bible or a topic such as the Holy Spirit, hope, courage, fear, listening to God ?

Please post your ideas on our Bible Study Idea Blog at www.chha.net/bible-study-ideas/ or email us at chha1@comcast.net.