



Rambling Willie

## Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

January 2025

Remember,  
I pray for all  
our members  
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

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ideas please contact:

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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

*Trust the past to God's  
mercy,  
The present to God's  
love  
and the future to God's  
providence.*

*Augustine*

## Opportunities & Blessings

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Happy birthday to all the horses! Au revoir to the 14-year-olds! Bonjour to the 2-year-olds. We pray for health, safety, fun and rewards for all our horses as they step into the opportunities awaiting them in 2025.

Perhaps the elders will embark on new, less taxing careers with some very special people. Or, maybe their present owners will provide them with forever homes in lush green pastures to live out their days.

It will be an exciting year for the youngsters as they get outfitted like the older horses and head to the track. Some will even race. Others will train a bit, then head back to the pasture to grow bigger and stronger.

As we usher in the new year, let's consider the new opportunities available to us.

Jesus and His disciples were leaving Jericho when the blind beggar, Bartimaeus, heard Jesus was passing by. He called out to Jesus, asking for mercy. The people told him to be quiet, but Jesus said to call him. Bartimaeus threw his cloak aside, jumped to his feet, and went to Jesus (Mark 10:46-50).

Jesus asked him respectfully, "What do you want me to do for you?" He answered, "Teacher, I want to see again." Jesus said, "Go. You are healed because you believed." Immediately the man was able to see again" (Mark 10:51-52 ERV).

Notice that Bartimaeus didn't hesitate but jumped right up leaving his cloak behind. Then Jesus didn't just assume he wanted to see. He asked him what he wanted. Jesus also invites us to ask for what we want.

A woman who had been bleeding for twelve years heard about Jesus and

followed Him along in a crowd of people. She thought that if she just touched His clothes she would be healed. As soon as she did, her bleeding stopped (Mark 5:25-29).

"Jesus immediately felt power go out from Him, so He stopped and turned around. 'Who touched my clothes?' He asked. [...] The woman knew that she was healed, so she came and bowed at Jesus' feet. She was shaking with fear. He said to her, 'Dear woman, you are made well because you believed. Go in peace. You will not suffer anymore'" (Mark 5:30, 33-34 ERV).

After the woman was healed, she wanted to just sneak off unnoticed, but Jesus wanted to give her more. He wanted her to see and feel His love for her and to know she was right in coming to Him.

As we begin 2025, let's be like Bartimaeus and leave behind all the baggage of past years. Then, following the example of Bartimaeus and the woman, we can turn to Jesus in faith by trusting Him with our biggest needs and to help us overcome all that holds us hostage. Then with a fresh outlook we will be free to enjoy all the exciting opportunities that await us.

We are free to follow Jesus, praising God and trusting Him to work powerfully in our lives (Luke 18:43 NIV). Let's accept this great gift and enjoy all the blessings the new year has to offer.



## JL Cruze's Purse Money Funds Wells

CHHA

member Ken Wood, Chaplain Lee Alphen and Pastor Bob Holet are all involved with well projects in third world countries.



Ken, 81, has been racing horses since 1971. He began a well drilling business in Maryland in 1961. In 2006 a York, PA church group wanted to buy a drill from him to drill wells in Africa. Instead of just selling them the drill, Ken founded Lifetime wells for Ghana, now called Lifetime Wells International, and began making quarterly trips to drill wells himself. The drilling in Ghana is now done by a local team year-round. Ken drills wells in Tanzania during his trips. The drilling ministry has now installed 3,300 wells.

In 2018 God opened the door for Ken to start Lifetime Wells Vision after learning of the huge need in his mission field and hearing one of the scriptures about Jesus healing a blind man. This vision ministry has performed 15,256 surgeries, distributed 37,688 pairs of eyeglasses and offered 106,124 treatments.

God's horse, as Ken refers to JL Cruze, funds a big part of these important ministries. The 13-year-old recently set a track record for trotters at Rosecroft, bringing his lifetime earnings to just under two million dollars, all of which goes to Ken's well and vision projects. What his horses don't earn comes from Ken's personal funds and donations. It is especially hard for Ken to say "no" to providing opportunities to bless people with eyesight.

Chaplain Lee began the Racetrack Ministry at Rockingham Park in 1975. In the late 1990s many Mexicans working with the Thoroughbreds were part of this ministry. Lucas Benitez, his wife and father were from a village in south central Mexico. They told Lee they had no water during much of the year and invited her to visit when they went home. She did and seeing lots of fruit growing on trees figured there must be water in the mountains where they lived.

Lee contacted a non-profit well drilling organization in Texas and arranged for them to go and drill a well in Lucas' village. That village now has plenty of water. Plans are in place for the ministry to install another well in a nearby village in January. This mission also helps the local churches and provides food and scholarships.

Pastor Bob recently traveled to Malawi, Africa as the coordinator for the Orthodox Church's Isaiah 44 well drilling project. On the list of much needed areas for relief, Father Nicodemus was delighted to hear the project could now drill at the next two locations. If these two drilling efforts are successful, the total will come to nine wells.

## Blessings from God

*From Dickie Vondenhuevel...*

Thank you for all the prayers for Brittany's operation, a very long one. It went well. I got to talk with her on the phone at midnight. She will be in ICU for a few days. Her heart is taken care of. God is so good, and the power of prayer is fantastic. Boy, I've been so worried because it had to be in California, and I couldn't be there. At least her mother was able to be with her and her boyfriend. Daughter Amanda's operation went well too. She is negative to cancer. Praise God! Again, thank you for your great support. May God keep blessing our country and His angels protect us. Keep God in your heart.

## The Wells of Abraham and Isaac

Abraham and Isaac dug many wells, and, over time their enemies either claimed them for themselves or filled them with sand. Each time both men chose to live in peace and moved on to dig new wells. When Isaac went to Beersheba, the Lord spoke to him at night telling him He was the God of his father Abraham. Because of Abraham, the Lord promised to make Isaac's family great.



The next day Isaac's enemies visited him telling him they knew the Lord was with him. They wanted to make an agreement with him promising to live in peace with each other.

Isaac gave a party for them. Then the next morning, they all made their promises to each other and the guests left in peace. (Genesis 26:12-33).



*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 **Lois Combs** by: Loren and Paul Combs, Joanne White  
 In memory of **Larry Farrington** by: Jim and Judy Ferguson, Misty McCloud  
 In memory of **Leigh Fitch** by: Bruce Ranger  
 In memory of **Daryl Gager** by: Ed Gager  
 In memory of **Kermit, Janet and John Hinshaw** by: Korwin and Judi Hinshaw  
 In memory of **Christine McKee's girls and Sam** by: Amy Bondon  
 In memory of **John Otrembiak** by: Mary Beth Wing  
 In memory of **Cathy Rutherford** by: Susan and Alan Finn  
 In memory of **Geri Schwartz** by: George Smith  
 In memory of **Iva Sheetz** by: Joanne White  
 In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables

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



## Obituaries continued from page 5

**Paul Randall Corey**, 69, of Canonsburg, PA, died Oct 18. Paul kept his stable small, but his horses were always considered viable competitors in every race. He owned, trained, drove and bred harness horses. He was involved in numerous business ventures before going full time as a Standardbred trainer.

**Thomas G. Daniel**, 71, of Rochester Hills, MI, died Oct 29. Tom was the patriarch of his extended family and the one everyone turned to for advice on just about everything. Tom's brother, CHHA member Danny Daniel, said, "Tom was like a father to me. He was always there, the serious and mature one. I think he would want me to be that person now for my siblings and family. God will help me to do so. I will need His strength and pray for it earnestly." Tom was a very faithful Catholic who attended San Francesco Catholic Church.

**William (Billy) Donofrio**, 85, died Oct. 24. Billy raced many horses at Freehold Raceway, Monticello Raceway, Pocono Downs and others from 1960-2016. He was a trainer and a groom.

**Daniel E. (Don) Gillis**, 87, of Canada, died recently. Don was recognized as a competent and patient trainer, especially with younger horses. He had some very successful horses in his small stable in the United States and Canada.

**David R. Goodrich**, 88, of Peru, NY, died Oct 23. David and his wife, Melissa, opened a Standardbred breeding/racing stable and planned to retire doing that. When his daughter, Mary Aliss, became a trainer it became a family affair. Throughout his life he held a variety of finance related positions.



**John Thomas Green**, 89, of Spencer, TN, died Oct 29. John owned trained, drove and bred harness horses while he lived in Ohio for over 50 years. He was well known for his garden vegetables. John attended the Mooneyham Freewill Baptist Church.



**Gerald Douglas Kilgore Jr**, 81, died Nov 11. Gerald owned, trained, drove and bred harness horses. He was an extremely hardworking man and an excellent provider for not only his family, but also for whomever needed a little extra help. He ran a successful construction company, Kilgore's Construction, and served the Town of Paris as Selectman from 1994-2016.



**Robert Mitchell**, 84, of Smyrna, DE, formerly of Goldsboro, MD, died Oct 15. Robert owned and trained harness horses most of his life. He worked a while at Playtex and had his own roofing business.



**George Paul Mueller**, 87, of Litchfield, OH, died Oct 21. George worked as a lab and x-ray technician before becoming a Standardbred driver, trainer, owner and breeder. He trained locally at the Medina County Fairgrounds before moving his stable to his farm/track in

Litchfield. He became a dear friend to the Amish community driving them places and fixing broken bikes for them to use. He was a member of Zion Lutheran Church.



**William J Pocza**, 62, of Pompano Beach, FL, died Sep 18. William drove and trained harness horses. His sister, Jody, said, "His knowledge and eye for horses, took us to the top! Rest in peace little brother."



**Richard "Dick" Roadarmel**, 87, of Bloomsburg, PA, died Sep 1. Dick trained 2 and 3 year-old fillies at the Bloomsburg Fairgrounds and worked at the farm from 1967 to 1982. After the sale of the horse farm, he began operating his own stable. During his life, he broke yearlings and was a fixture at the Harrisburg Standardbred Horse Sale. Before embarking on his racing career, he taught for 5 years and worked at U. C. Steele.



**Paul A. Vacca**, 89, of Norton, MA, died Nov 5. Paul owned, trained and drove harness horses. He was deeply involved in harness racing throughout New England, New York and New Jersey. He campaigned many horses in the Massachusetts Breeders Stake races through the years.



**James Parnell "Jim" Redfern**, 81, of Lebanon, KY, died Oct 16. Jim owned, trained and bred harness horses. He was a proud United States Navy Veteran.



**Richard "Richie" Ringler**, 67, died Oct 14. Richie was good at getting young horses to the races. This led to a 16 year partnership with Mike and Pat LaChance. In 2021 he moved over to the official side of the business and became the starter for Harrington, Freehold and Vernon.

**Roy J. Salute Jr**, 64, of Clifton Heights, PA, died Oct 16. Roy loved harness racing and owned several Standardbreds. He was a self-employed plumber, a longtime coach for the Clifton Heights PAL and volunteered as a coach for several teams through the years.

**John E. Schmigel**, 79, of Freehold, NJ, died Sep 26. John enjoyed a lifetime career in the Standardbred horse industry as an owner, trainer, driver, and most recently, horse transporter. John also served in the National Guard for ten years.

**William "Bill" Leavitt Varney**, 83, died Oct 11. In later years Bill was involved with harness racing and sire stakes breeding. His horses carried the "Pembroke" moniker referring back to caring for and racing horses with his grandfather. He was also a Commissioner of the Maine State Harness Racing Commission. During his lifetime he started, expanded and sold many businesses.

**Sources for Obituary information include:**

[www.ustrotting.com](http://www.ustrotting.com), [www.harnesslink.com](http://www.harnesslink.com) and [www.Standardbredcanada.ca](http://www.Standardbredcanada.ca)

## Obituaries

**Marilyn Arledge**, 86, of Circleville, OH, died Nov 17. Marilyn loved to help her husband groom the horses for over 50 years. She loved the Buckeyes and loved spending time with her family. She was CHHA member Jim Arledge's mother.



**Leigh W. Fitch**, 79, Of Sebago, ME, died Oct. 26. Leigh was a Maine harness racing icon whose daring, rail-hugging driving style propelled him to 7,592 victories and more than anyone's share of driving spills during a 53-year career. Shane Bacon, executive director of the Maine Harness Racing Commission, who was the announcer at Lewiston in the '80s said, "The mark of a great driver is winning with a horse that isn't the best or fastest. And that's what Mr. Fitch did day after day. He was just smarter."



Leigh and his wife, Stacey Lord, Fitch are CHHA members.

**Roger Roland**, 87, of Grinnell, IA, died Nov 7. Roger loved farming and horses. In 1967, Roger and Judy bought their first horse, marking the beginning of a cherished family involvement in harness racing. He lived on the family farm for 50 years where he shared his passions and values with his loved ones. He was also a clerk of course at the fairs and a CPA. Roger's brother, CHHA member Royal Roland, also races horses.



[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, Brittany 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:**

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 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:**

Ellen Beinhauer – pray for continued recovery.  
Marilyn Bondon has health issues.  
Paul Combs has a mass on his lungs.  
Roselea Conrad requested prayers for her family.  
Danny Daniel lost a brother and brother-in-law.  
Brenda Edwards has health issues.  
Sarah Gehman wants to be in a Boston cancer trial.  
Don Hawk is recovering from open heart surgery.  
Greg Lee is recovering from open heart surgery.  
Donna Phillips' Parkinsons continues to worsen.  
Ray Romanetti has an issue with one lung.  
Ellen Taylor is starting radiation.  
Brittany Vondenhuevel is recovering from heart surgery.  
Dale Welk has had 4 surgeries caused by a nail in his foot.  
Ken Wood is anxious to be done with chemo and back to his ministries.

157 North Main St  
Salem, NH 03079  
USA



Please indicate  
Address corrections

### New Year Online Bible Study

Welcome 2025 with lessons from Jesus. Join our six-week study of Luke chapters 4 and 5 as we think about what meaning the beginning of Jesus' public ministry might have for us as we begin 2025. This study will meet Monday nights January 13 through February 17 at 7:00 PM on Zoom. Chaplain Lee Alphen will lead this study.

Register at [www.chha.net/bible-studies](http://www.chha.net/bible-studies) so we can send you login information and materials.



CHHA VP, Greg Gehman and CHHA member Chris Zazzo



Harness racing TV personality, Heather Vitale and Chaplain Lee Alphen

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



Greg and Lee met with CHHA scholarship recipient, Meadow Twaddle, who wants to give back! Meadow will be helping CHHA with social media. She has a new job with the Pennsylvania Horse Racing Association. Congratulations!

#### 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!?**

CHHA Vice President, Greg Gehman, and Chaplain Lee welcomed sale goers to our booth and were blessed to pray with many. It was nice to share the general area with Chris Tully and all the folks from the Harness Racing Museum. They are all very talented and do an outstanding job promoting harness racing.

### Meadow Twaddle

(left) offered help CHHA with Social Media. Praise God!



Donna Duer  
New CHHA member