



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

May 2025

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



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Wanted

Praise Reports and Articles

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From Sadness to Joy

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

You have probably heard stories of dogs who mourn when their people die. The dog might wait on the doorstep for their person to come home, look for them every time a car goes by or mope around the house like they lost their best friend.

Elephants cry out in distress, trying to lift their friends and family members with their trunks and tusks as they watch them die. They also spend time near the remains of deceased elephants and cover them with leaves.

Bald eagles mate for life and share in parenting their young. When one of their offspring dies, other eagles flock to hang around the nest in a show of solidarity. If the mate dies, the surviving eagle will hover around the nest for a while in mourning.

Jesus told His disciples they were going back to Judea to wake Lazarus up, meaning that He was going to raise him from the dead. When they arrived, Jesus wept with Lazarus' sisters and the others mourning him. Obviously, Jesus was not mourning the death of this friend whom He would bring back to life, but wept with Lazarus' sisters, Mary and Martha, and the others out of compassion for them (John 11:11, 32-35).

We humans mourn when family and friends pass away. We are sad to see them go because we miss them. Also, from a human standpoint, we realize they will no longer experience life as we know it and we may feel they are missing out.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted" (Matthew 5:4 NIV).

What does it mean to mourn? According to the Oxford online dictionary, mourn means "to feel or show deep sorrow or regret for (someone or their death)". Or, "to feel regret or sadness about (the loss or disappearance of something)." When I searched for a biblical meaning, I found many. Yes, mourning the loss of a loved one was definitely there. A broader definition would include sorrow for sin and repentance and deep sadness over the evil in the world. We actually mourn over lots of things like losing a big race, a good horse breaking down, losing a job, getting a divorce, or a friend turning against us. It is good to remember that whatever the cause of our mourning, Christ is with us and will comfort us when we let Him.

We recently celebrated the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. He certainly went through a great deal of humiliation, suffering and a very, very painful death to pay the price for all of our sins. We know that everyone who believes Jesus, the Son of God, died on the cross to open the gates of heaven for us and chooses to follow Him in this life will live forever with God in Heaven.

Even so, many people are afraid to die. It could be a fear that God is not happy with the way they lived their lives, or of not really knowing what heaven is like. Or maybe they don't believe in life after death. You might discover a hopeful perspective from reading the story on the back page about twins, Faith and Doubt, conversing in their mother's womb about life after birth.

Were we afraid to be born into this world? Doubt in the story sure was and just wanted to stay in the safety of the

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Sadness continued from page 1

womb. Faith was anxious to meet Mother and experience life outside the womb.

The last two chapters of the Bible, Revelation 21 and 22, give us some insight on what to expect when we get to heaven. Of course, the main attraction will be basking in the presence of God.

Heaven is more beautiful than anything we can imagine. Besides, no one there ever gets sick or hurt, dies or has anything bad happen to them. There is only peace, happiness, love and joy. We will forever have everything we need. A few places in the book of Revelation mention lots of white horses and some red, black and pale ones too.

Thinking of Faith in the back page story, I am trusting God that I will be born into my forever home in heaven when my time here on earth ends. I hope to see you there one day—not too soon though.

"I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow" (Jeremiah 31:13 NIV).

Faith continued from back page

to go after birth.

"I am scared to even think about the time of delivery. Look at that thing that you are holding in your hand right now. Isn't it this cord that gives nourishment to us both? We can't keep this cord after birth. All ends after delivery. No one has ever returned here after delivery. There is no life after birth, Faith."

For a while Faith stared at Doubt, wondering how to wake up the lost sibling. It is important to tell the truth, after all.

Faith said: "You know, Doubt. I think we should not have fear. We shouldn't think that we need this cord after birth. I am sure there is something more there than just this cord. I believe we will move around freely and eat and live in an entirely different way. If life ends after delivery, tell me, what is the meaning of life in the womb?"

"You know, Doubt, I also believe that there is Mother, and she will keep us safe."

Hearing this, Doubt broke into a hysterical laugh and said: "What Mother?! There can't be anything like that. Where is she now if you think she really exists? Have you seen her? I don't believe what I don't see with my eyes."

Faith assured: "Mother is there. Else how and why do we exist? Trust me. I always feel her loving compassion all around us. This warmth that we experience all the time, and those soft whispers and hums that we hear. Who is speaking to us then if not Mother? We are surrounded by Mother. We will meet her after birth. Then it will be all

Blessings from God

From Suzanne D'Ambrose...

Ellen Taylor is doing well. Radiation is complete!

From Mary Ann Molnar...

Her mother, Patricia, is doing much better.



bright around us. There will not be darkness anymore."

Doubt said: "Nonsense. I don't trust any of this. There is no life after birth, no Mother, and no light. This darkness and this cord are the truth. Let me sleep now, you bothered me enough already."

Faith said in a comforting voice: "Sleep well, Doubt. But soon, we both will open our eyes in a beautiful bright world and meet Mother. That day is coming near. I feel it every single moment."

Once again, there was silence in the womb. And time went on. Then came the day of delivery.

The about-to-be-born twins were naturally anxious about the "unknown" future.

Then suddenly being born into the world full of light, they squeezed their eyes shut and broke into cries. But when they felt that familiar warmth and heard that soothing whisper once again, they slowly opened their eyes and saw their beautiful Mother. They couldn't help but gaze at her with their baby eyes wide open. "Oh, Mother is so beautiful," their hearts exclaimed. "And she loves us unconditionally!"

Their innocent hearts knew they had unraveled the mystery: They were safe and had arrived Home.

There are many versions of this parable available online which have been passed along through storytelling over the ages. Many claim Henri J. W. Nouwen as the original author.

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Gifts for Family and Friends

10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (see picture) ☐

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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.

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Horseshoe Nail Item Order Form
Orders can also be placed at
www.chha.net/products

Obituaries continued from page 5

Genevieve Lundrigan Cummins, 98, died March 20. Genevieve and her husband Alvin lived a life of partnership and entrepreneurship, co-owning the Clay Wachs Stockyards, New Link Tobacco Warehouse, various Chevrolet dealerships, and many winning Standardbreds. She was a beacon of love and support, often described as faith-filled, loving, and funny by all who were blessed to know her. She was a devout member of Mary Queen of the Holy Rosary.

Thomas Allen "Tom" Davis Sr., 66, died March 7. Tom was a longtime harness horse owner and Virginia Harness Horse Association Board member. He was on the negotiating committee for the development of Colonial Downs to ensure harness racing in the State of Virginia. He was also the driving force behind the Maryland Horse Auction and the Eastern Select Sale.

Geraldine B. Goodsell, 81, died Feb 16. Geraldine worked with her husband, Harold, in the harness racing industry until retiring in 2015. Together they owned, raced and bred a number of Standardbreds.

Lloyd "Lucky" Johnson, 86, died March 23. Lloyd had a long career announcing harness races. He worked at racetracks in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and Florida, but eventually ended up back in Maine at Scarborough Downs. He was a staunch supporter of horsemen who treated their horses well. People really enjoyed his race calls. He had an energy and "flair for the dramatic" and a way of rhythmically calling the race.

Donna Lee, 72, of Harrodsburg, KY, died Feb 19. Donna trained a small stable of harness horses in Illinois. Later she joined her son, Tony Alagna. Tony confidently sent his Grand Circuit horses to Canada with his mother while he remained state-side with the rest of his horses. Eventually her son, Peter, joined her at the family training center in Kentucky while Tony stayed at the farm in New Jersey.

Susan Laden, 80, died recently. Susan was a prominent Standardbred owner of champions in the 1980s. Her approach to harness racing was hands on. She studied pedigrees in sales catalogs and then went to the yearling sales to personally inspect the horses she liked on paper. She also had a successful flea market that she established in Union City, N.J.

Barry Lefkowitz, 65, died recently. Barry was a longtime publicist and executive in harness racing and a driving force in the resurgence of the United States Harness Writers Association as the current chair of the board.



James R. "Jim" McDonald, 69, of Fort Lauderdale, FL, originally from Newfoundland, died March 15. Jim is an accomplished lifelong horseman and Florida Harness Racing Hall of Famer. Jim's roots in harness racing began with his grandfather, Patrick McDonald Sr, and father, James McDonald. They helped launch the Avalon Raceway in Goulds, Newfoundland.

Craig T. McEvoy, 76, of Casselberry, FL, died Aug 9, 2024. Craig owned and bred many harness horses. He enjoyed a 40-year career as a mail carrier for the United States Postal Service. According to his spouse, Joyce, his home was filled with harness racing memorabilia. It was a harness horse museum. He was a member of St. Stephen Catholic Church

Ethel Ann Milby, 91, died March 9. Ethel and her husband, the late Franklin Milby, raced harness horses. All three of their children are involved in harness racing, and five of their seven grandchildren are actively involved in the sport.

Carol J Paris, 88, of Ottumwa, IA, died Feb 16. Carol served 61 years as a race secretary for of the Iowa Colt Stakes and the Iowa Harness Horse Racing Association. She also owned and bred Standardbreds. She taught in Eldon, Batavia and later worked in New Town Harris, MO. She was inducted into the IHHA Hall of Fame.

Walter Petersen Jr., 78, of Elverta, CA, died in Dec 2024. Walter owned, trained, drove and bred horses in Michigan, Maryland and Florida before settling in California. In 2005 he became paddock judge at Cal Expo while his wife Patty served as clerk of course. "Wally was a true friend for over 45 years," said fellow horseman J.R. Williams. "In all that time, I never saw him have a bad day. He always had a smile and a laugh for everyone."

Kenneth E. Schultz Jr., 63, died Feb 19. Kenneth spent many years training and racing Standardbreds and developed many lifelong friendships in the sport. He was also a forklift operator at Family Dollar Distribution Center. He always enjoyed being outdoors with the horses.

Joy M. Sheaffer, 95, of Port Royal, PA, died March 7. Joy served as the racing secretary at various Pennsylvania fairs for many years. She spent 40 years teaching music in the Juniata County School District and was a member of the Port Royal Lutheran Church.

Robert Gene Wiley, 90, of Richwood, OH, died March 26. Robert was a Presiding Judge and a starter for the Ohio State Racing Commission. He worked at Parker Hannifin in Green Camp, Ohio, as a production manager.



Sources for Obituary information include:

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

Obituaries

Gale Milton Franklin, 91, of Jamestown, OH, died March 5. Gale and his wife Sharon raised and raced Standardbred horses. He was a mentor to many. They farmed together all their lives and established the Franklin Family Century farm. It was first farmed by his grandfather in 1914. Gale was a man of respect and integrity who cherished his legacy of Christianity and stewardship. Gale and Sharon have been CHHA members since the very beginning in the 1980s. Memorial gifts can be made on our website or by mail to CHHA · 157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079



Hunter Myers, 27, of Chagrin Falls, OH, died March 20. Hunter grew up in a harness racing family. He dedicated himself to his dream of becoming a driver which he did very well. He was known for his compassion and generosity. He had a kind heart and a strong desire to help others. His



selflessness was a defining trait, and he continued to embody this spirit until the very end, giving the gift of life through organ and tissue donation. Hunter and his fiancé, Chloe are strong Christians.

William “Don” Cantrell, 76, of Oil Springs, KY, died March 6. Over the years Don owned horses that raced throughout the Midwest and in Delaware. Despite being successful in many states, his favorite place to race was in his home state of Kentucky. He was a retired educator with the Johnson County School system.



Esau Cooper, Jr, 85, of Auburn, ME, died Feb 8. Esau owned, trained and drove Standardbreds. He and his late wife, Diana, ran a successful asphalt paving business, Cooper Paving. His family says, “Though we grieve his absence here, we find solace knowing he is finally reunited with the love of his life, where their bond will forever bloom in the light of God’s grace.”



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, David Bower, Bob Briley, Georgianna Brocco, Jana Gary Bryant, Lore Burke, Glenn Byrd, Rick Carson, Barbara Carter, Mike Carter, Sam Castimore, Candice Coleman, Loren Combs, Joe Crothers, Danny 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, Ron Fraker, 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, 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, Corey Murphy, JC Napier, Howard Nields, Jay O’Neil, John Panetta, Carol Parker, Margie Polhamus, Valerie Prescott, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Ray Romanetti, 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, 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, Anthony Coletta, Chet Crane, Karen Crothers, Richard Dunmire, Anna Farley, Scott Freck, Sylvain Gagnon, Greg 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, 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, Tori Scott, Jody Sexton, Lynn Silver, Delma Smart, Rev Edward Smith, Madisyn Smith, Ryan Stahl, Caryn Stellino, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Dick Terien, 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 Petrullo, Sgt David Thomas, Elizabeth Welch and Nigel Willabus.

Special Intentions for this month:

Brett has leukemia.

Cindy – relief from stress.

Harold Coder has congestive heart failure.

Loren Combs is battling cancer.

Jess Gehman – safe delivery of a healthy baby

Ann Iadonisi – cancer and other health issues

Julie Manchester – undergoing chemo

Chris McKee’s mom is facing many challenges.

Nicki Richard’s husband has health issues.

Sarah Spaulding broke her ankle.

157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Please indicate
Address corrections

Lent/Easter/ Pentecost Bible Study

Prepare to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Join our current Bible study. This study meets Monday nights through May 19th at 7:00 PM on Zoom. Chaplain Lee Alphen and Pastor Bob Holet will lead this study together. Register at www.chha.net/bible-studies so we can send you login information and materials. You can also reach the registration information from www.chha.net.



Do You Believe in Life After Birth? A Tale of Twins in the Womb

From Epoch Times Bright 4/23/2023 published 10/21/24

Somewhere, a pregnant mom's blissful bump was carrying twin babies—Faith and Doubt. They were healthy and developing fast. One day, a sudden conversation sparked between the siblings.

Faith said: "Doubt, you know, I really believe in the idea of life after birth. What about you?"

Doubt remarked: "What?! It would be good if you stop dreaming, Faith. There is nothing beyond this materialistic existence that you and I are perceiving right now. What life after birth? This is life, right now and here. There doesn't exist anything called life after birth."

Faith insisted: "I am sure there is something more out there that is even better and more beautiful than this existence. There will be birth and it will be soon ... and there is life after birth."

Doubt criticized Faith yet again, saying: "Don't be a fool, Faith. Be practical. Everything is finished after birth. There is nowhere

Twins continued on page 2

Scholarships

CHHA will be awarding at least two scholarships for the 2025/2026 school year. Students, who demonstrate a strong commitment to their Christian faith and are involved in harness racing, are encouraged to apply.

Students must be full-time and may be enrolled in degree or certificate programs. Graduate students are not eligible.

Applications are available at www.chha.net and are due May 31.



Memorial Contributions

Memorial gifts can be made on our website or by mail to CHHA · 157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079.



*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 **Yves Breton** by: Lyse Breton
In memory of **Janna Brocco** by: CHHA—The Meadows
In memory of **Lois Combs**: Loren and Paul Combs
In memory of **Gale Franklin** by: Sharon Franklin, Mayer Law, Ltd.
In memory of **Daryl Gager** by: Ed Gager
In memory of **Harold Kelly 90th BD** by: Deb and Jeff Tillia
In memory of **Sam, Meagan and Meliss McKee** by: Amy Bondon
In memory of **Carol Paris** by: Dr James and Rosalyn Cummings, Sam and Ellen Lilly
In memory of **Roger Roland** by: Sam and Ellen Lilly
In memory of **Wayne Shaffer** by: Ohio Harness Horsemen's Assoc.
In memory of **Betsy Wood** by: Longshot Stables