



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

July 2025

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



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The Healing Beauty of God's Handiwork

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

A beautiful well-bred white Heifer was featured in a Cattle for Christ email. She was being auctioned off as a fundraiser. I wanted to bid on her because she was different from any cow I have ever seen. However, I don't know much about cows and don't have a place to keep her. Most likely I would have been outbid anyway.

Certainly, there are lots of beautiful horses at our horse sales. When they leave their stalls to model for prospective buyers, others in the area will spend time ogling them and commenting on their outstanding features. Of course, since we are not buying show horses, beauty isn't a main selection criterion. Still, enjoying their

Here's Why," talked about some experiments proving God's beauty can heal. In one study by Roger Ulrich, 46 patients had the same gallbladder surgery. Those with a view of nature outside their windows spent one less day in the hospital with fewer doses of medication, complications and negative nursing note comments than those who faced a brick wall.

Psalm 8 certainly leads us to appreciate all of God's creation. Reading it prayerfully raises our thoughts in awe at the wonders and beauty of all God provides for us.

"Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens" (Psalm 8:1 NIV).

How many win pictures do you have? When you look at some of them you probably smile, remembering the trip around the oval, and feel a sense of accomplishment for yourself, the horse and others who had a part in the jaunt to the winner's circle.

Seeing a newborn foal with its mother is generally heartwarming. Beautiful farms with lush green pastures filled with horses bring joy to horse lovers. Staring at the oceans, lakes and rivers fills many of us with peace. Visiting the majestic mountains and their scenic vistas helps us recognize the grandeur of God's work. Seeing a small child caring for a hurt animal or younger sibling or helping an elderly person often fills our heart with love.

Horses may not enjoy beauty the way we do. However, when they are let loose in a huge green field, it doesn't take them long to kick up their heels, and dash off to explore. Rolling around in the dirt or grass is fun too. I



Photo by Ann MacNeill

beauty blesses us.

In Genesis we read how God created all of nature and declared it very good (Genesis 1). A recent *Epoch Times* report, "Your Brain Craves Beauty,

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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 not boast about
tomorrow, for you do not
know what a day may
bring."

Proverbs 27:1 NIV

Healing continued on page 2

Healing continued from page 1

understand they also have a good sense of smell, which may be another reason exploring the great outdoors calls to them.

What or who do you find beautiful? When I am stressed, it helps to stare at the sun brilliantly shining on the beautiful blue ocean. I especially like to walk the Marginal Way, a lovely coastal path in Ogunquit, Maine. Across from the Fuller Estate in North Hampton, New Hampshire, is a short walk that juts out into the ocean. It also relaxes me.

According to the article, "Researchers placed participants in brain scanners and showed them beautiful paintings. A specific brain region—the orbitofrontal cortex—lit up instantly." This area is "sometimes dubbed 'the beauty center' [...]. This instantaneous recognition hints that we simply know beauty when we see it."

We learn from the article that "Beauty often evokes awe—a feeling of being in the presence of something vast, sublime and beyond comprehension. [...] Out of thousands of responses, the most commonly cited source of awe was witnessing exceptional virtue—courage, kindness, resilience and selflessness." Those who are in tune with God tend to exhibit these virtues and more.

The author points out that "Beauty is not confined to the eyes. Beautiful music also heals, lowering cortisol levels and increasing immunity. While classical music consistently calms anxiety and stress, other music, such as heavy metal, increases tension and hostility." I believe art forms that heal and lead us towards God are preferable.

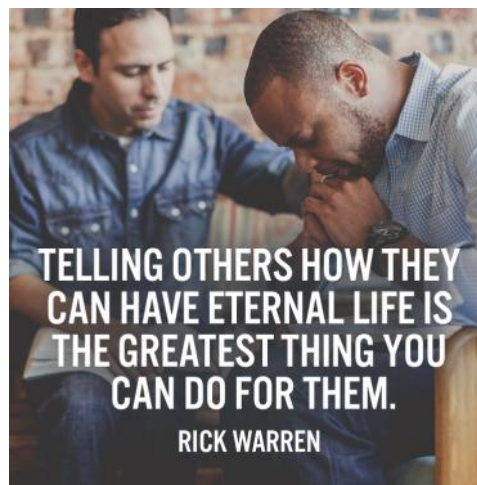
As we learn to appreciate the beauty of the world around us and all it contains, let's continually raise our spirits in awe of God, our Creator, as we cry out joyfully in thanksgiving for all the wonderful blessings He gave us to enjoy.



Blessings from God

From Brenda Jo Dennon...

Thank you and all the prayer partners for the prayers and good thoughts for me, JC Napier and Ashley. Their cancer is still in remission, but JC's MRI shows benign cysts on his adrenal gland. The blessing here is BENIGN. His doctors are cautiously optimistic, thanks and praise to God! We are blessed! I (we) thank God every day. There is no one I would trade places with. I try to focus on what I have rather than what I've lost or no longer have.



No Tomorrows Promised

By RL T

Our hearts, as members of the worldwide harness racing family, have been rocked hard in the spring of 2025. Twice in less than a couple of months we lost young, vibrant souls to death. As we contemplate the pain and grief, we must consider that the best legacy these two fine gentlemen left for us is: Tomorrow is not promised to anyone.

We live in a place where fast is better; our horses need to be fast; we need to get where we are going fast. Our information arrives in our hands in mere seconds; our meals are so often rushed affairs; and our interactions with our family and friends are too often distracted, multi-tasking snippets of time. However, we are not promised tomorrow.

In the span of a few short weeks, we lost two kind, generous people, Hunter Myers, a driver doing the very job he loved. When he looked at the race program for March 19th, he no doubt saw some winners, some check getters, and some horses that needed a better opportunity on a different day. Australian native, Greg Sugars, went to get a good night's sleep after shipping a few horses to New South Wales to race the next day. We can believe as he drifted off to sleep thinking of the

Tomorrows continued on page 5

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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

Name: _____ Phone: _____

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Necklace Qty: Red ____ Blue ____ Turquoise ____ Fuchsia ____ Green ____

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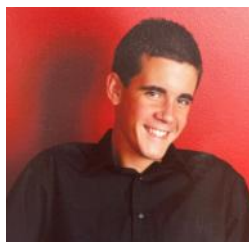
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www.chha.net/products

Obituaries

Joan Frances Arn, 92, of Bucyrus, Ohio, died May 13. Joan helped her husband, Neal A. Arn, train and race Standardbred horses for several years. She was a homemaker and loved animals.



Jacob Frederick Bluhm, 34, of Plain City, OH, died April 15. Jacob worked as a receiving manager for Giant Eagle. He was a talented welder and enjoyed working on motorcycles. His father, Fred, and brother, Jason, own Standardbreds. Jason is also a race secretary.



John Allan Martin, 73, died May 19. For John, harness racing was "a way of life." He began racing at 14. He owned trained and drove Standardbreds. When most who were blessed to be part of his life reminisce about him, they are sure to remember his love of family, his Indian reservation, harness racing, and his loyalty to the Buffalo Bills, Sabres and Bandits.

William D. Myers, 87, of Goshen, IN, died May 24. William owned and trained harness horses. He was an officer for the Dayton and Beavercreek, Ohio police departments. Later he became a Management Consultant for manufacturers for over 25 years. He was a member of Faith United Methodist Church in Goshen.



Richard O'Donnell, 87, of Manasquan, NJ, died May 7. Richard became State Steward at Freehold Raceway in 1980 where he remained until his retirement. Before that he served in the Racing Office and/or Judges Stand at about a dozen different tracks.

James "Jimmy" Robert Schlotzhauer, 72, of Harrington, DE, died May 14. Jimmy had a long rewarding career as a Standardbred driver, trainer and owner. He had a special knack for taking horses with lameness issues and getting them back to being a successful racehorse. He grew up with his siblings on the family dairy farm in Cordova, Maryland where he continued to work until he began his harness racing career.



Thomas Eugene Shinn, 78, of Newton, IL, died May 14. Tom bought his first broodmare when he was 16. Over the years, he raised several successful horses and loved them all regardless of success. Later, he became a charter and worked for 50 years charting for several colt associations and fairs. He was inducted into the Illinois Harness Horse Hall of Fame. He was also a teacher retiring in 2001. Tom was faithful member of the Newton Christian Church



Rhonda Kay Six, 68, of Washington CH, died April 15. Rhonda was an Assistant Manager in Retail and worked as a Caretaker for many years. She had previously attended The Gathering Place Church. Her daughter and son-in law, Melissa and Bobby Sword of Washington CH, Ohio, own Standardbreds.



Michael Charles Torcello, 72, of Claymont, DE, died May 6. He followed in his father's footsteps to Batavia Downs as the Track Superintendent. Eventually he worked at Buffalo Raceway. Then, transitioned to Delaware, where he managed the track at Harrah's Philadelphia Casino and Racetrack.



Edward "Eddie" Zitone, 89, of Montague, NJ, died April 29. Eddie established Big Z Stables in 1972. He was a co-founder of Zitone Construction and owner/operator of the Matamoras Golf Driving Range. He was a lifelong member of the Montague Fire Department.

Just in at press time...

Barb Huston, Roger Huston's wife of 43 years, died June 2nd after a nearly two year battle with cancer. We will have her obituary next month.

There is nothing more important than
Your Eternal Salvation

Kirk Cameron

Sources for Obituary information include:

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

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horses he was planning to race that perhaps he felt one was a winner, maybe one was a check getter, and maybe one needed a better opportunity on another day. Neither of these men would get another day; neither knew that the day and night they were in was their last. Tomorrow is not promised.

The loss of these two incredible human beings cannot be for nothing. There has to be a greater plan of all of us, maybe even something good from two men who embodied good. As Christians, we are taught that tomorrow is not promised; we read very clearly in the Bible (James 4:13-14) that we are to live in today. Maybe the greater plan is learning that God knows the number of our days just as he knows the number of the hairs on our head (Matthew 10:30). We are not promised tomorrow, but with God's help, we can offer kindness to our fellow humans and to ourselves today. We can think of Hunter and Greg and remember to slow down in our daily grind and live fully in today. Tomorrow is not promised.

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, 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 Niels, 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 and 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,



*May the angels
lead you into paradise*
Memorials posted at www.chha.net

Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Doug Ackerman** by: Ada Jean Ackerman
In memory of **Tim Adams** by: Brenda Jo Dennon
In memory of **Joe Adamsky** by: Lyndel Adamsky
In memory of **Jacob Bluhm** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
In memory of **Lois Combs**: Paul and Loren Combs, Joanne White
In memory of **Daryl Gager** by: Ed Gager
In memory of **Jerry Knappenburger** by: Bob and Nancy Richardson
In memory of **Sam, Meagan and Meliss McKee** by: Amy Bondon
In memory of **Jim McDonald** by: Peter Blood
In memory of **Hunter Myers** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
In memory of **Iva Sheets** by: Joanne White
In memory of **Rhonda Six** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
In memory of **Gerald Walker** by: Joanne White
In memory of **Betsy Wood** by: Longshot Stables

Memorial Contributions

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

Brenda Jo Dennon, 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 Maurant, 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, 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 Petrullo, Sgt David Thomas, Elizabeth Welch and Nigel Willabus.

Special Intentions for this month:

Tommy Dawson has a spot on his bladder.

Lynn has heart issues.

Christine Robey has Rocky Mountain Fever.

Phillip Truitt has stomach cancer.

157 North Main St
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USA



Please indicate
Address corrections

Why Did God Make Dogs?

By Sam Ed Spence

Why did God make dogs? I don't think it was accidental, so why do you suppose hounds are around?

Recently, I watched an elderly woman trying to recover from a stroke. Her brain was damaged, and her arm was weak, so her therapist brought, of all things, a dog to help out. Instead of completing monotonous drills the elderly patient threw a bright red frisbee across the room, and the dog bounced over, picked it up, and brought it back, his eyes begging, "Throw it again, please!" And she did, over and over and over, forgetting that she was actually working quite hard.

What possessed God to make dogs anyway? Certainly there are exceptions, and certainly people can breed dogs to bring out the worst in them, but in general, there is nothing more selfless, loving or patient than a dog. Mistreat it and it comes back to you anyway. Ignore it and it never gives up hope that you will be its friend again. Make it wait days to go play, and it will still be ready. It offers you friendship and companionship and in return asks only for food, water and an occasional scratch behind the ears. Why would God bother to make such a creature?

I suppose that if dogs were like people they would eventually give up on us . . . but they never do. A dog's love is almost impossible to destroy, because it's not a love you earn; it's simply a love you are given. In other words, dogs love unconditionally.

Unconditional love; unending patience; faithfulness to the very end. Do you suppose, just perhaps, that God made dogs to show us a little something about Himself? Do you think maybe "man's best friend" is really pointing us to the One who is truly our very Best Friend?*

Scripture: The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.

Psalms 19:1-2 NIV



Psalms—A Glimpse

The writings of a number of authors are included in the Book of Psalms. Psalms itself is a collection of prayers and hymns used in worship through the ages and continuing today. It is broken up into five books. Each book relates to one of the first five books of the Old Testament.

Several major themes are included in Psalms such as: praise, God's power, forgiveness, questions, suffering, thankfulness and trust. Often Bibles, like the Gideon Bibles in hotels, include lists of what to read at different times in our lives. Below is a short list for Psalms. Looking for something different? Let me know. I can try to help.

When you want to	Psalms
Find comfort	23
Trust God	34
Grow in relationship with God	103
Learn a new prayer or song	136, 92
Learn more about God	24
Understand yourself	8
Come to God daily	5
Forgiveness	51
Feel worthwhile	139
Praise God	145
Know God is in control	146
Give God thanks	136
Please God	15
Why you should worship God	104