



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

September 2025

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

Serve God Racing Horses

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Have you been chosen to serve God by racing horses? Many horsemen and women have. But, you say, how can racing horses serve God?

God first created our world and everything in it. Then, when all of creation was complete and ready for human beings, "God said, 'Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth'" (Genesis 1:26 NRSVue).

Research on www.bibhub.com indicates the scripture above and also Genesis 2:15 "convey that humans are to cultivate and care for creation, reflecting the character of the One who entrusted them with such responsibility." In other words, as God loves and cares for us humans whom He made in His image and likeness, so are we to care for the animals and all of God's creation.

Several scripture verses remind us that all our gifts, including our horses, and all our talents, including our ability to care for and race horses, come from God.

As such, we are reminded to use our horse-related gifts as God intended them with the well-being of the horses in mind. These and all the other gifts and talents we have we received from God are to bring glory to His name. (Luke 16:2, 1 Corinthians 4:1, Titus 1:7, and 1 Peter 4:10)

We know Standardbreds were born to race. That's how God made them. That's their breeding. So, those of us blessed with the gifts and talents to

train and race horses are to manage our stables well and develop good relationships with our horses and others in the industry.

Using our God-given gifts and talents with the horses, we can also serve God in the way we relate to others, in how we handle failure and, most importantly, by appreciating all God has given us. It is important in the midst of our busy schedules to take time for God and others. Doing so gives God an opportunity to nudge us closer to where He wants us so we can be our very best.

God showers us with His love and mercy. This is the example God set for us to follow. Jesus said, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." (John 13:34 NIV).

We all know every trip behind the starting gate does not land us in the winner's circle. Some races will be disappointing, and not all horses will make it to the races.

Hardships are bound to come our way. Remember, we don't have to handle them alone. We can talk them through with God and listen to His take on the matter. Sometimes, when we give something over to God, He will make a way where there is no way. Remember too that I am happy to pray with you and for you. We also have about fifty CHHA prayer partners willing to pray for you and your needs.

Working hard and traveling with the horses sometimes breeds loneliness. This too can be a gift if we take the opportunity to spend time with God.

Every good and perfect gift comes from God (James 1:17). Certainly, we want to thank God each day for the

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ideas please contact:

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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

**"Everything good
is from God"
James 1:17 NIV**

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blessings we receive, acknowledging God's love and generosity. We definitely want to thank God for the privilege of serving Him in harness racing or whatever else we are called to do.

"I know the plans I have for you, 'declares the Lord', plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV). Yes, we can serve God and still have fun, be competitive and race our stables strategically.

Jesus will return on a white horse. In fact, His armies in heaven have white horses (Revelation 19:11-14). Who will get to train Jesus' horses in heaven? Will it be you?



Smile Time:

How did Jonah feel when the whale swallowed him?
Down in the mouth.

Our Plans

by RLT

As humans we want to see the way before us, both literally and figuratively. We want to know what is around the next bend before we make the journey. That is not how God works. If we had a road map for our life it would cancel out our need for real faith. If the Lord gave us insight into His plans for us, we wouldn't need to trust Him with our very life.

We spend countless prayers begging God to show us what to do; in reality we should be praying that we are living His will for us. Not our will but His will for us.

That is the sticking point for most of us: we protest, we whine, we argue, we even get mad because we are sure we know what is best for us. Do we? If we really knew what was best for us would we need God?

The short answer is no- if we truly knew what was best for us, we would have no need of a God that loves us so much He put His only Son out there to die for us. We would have no need of a God that kindly leads us to learn about ourselves and become a better human for it. We would have no need of a God that allows us to make huge mistakes and yet holds our hand and helps us rebuild from our foolishness.

No we don't know what is best for ourselves and the sooner we can understand that the sooner we can live in God's Will, exactly where He longs for us to be.

Blessings from God

From Paul Russel

His surgery went well. He thanks you for your prayers.

From Dick Vondenhuevel...

So glad I got the new hips. God sure has been so good to me and also great doctors. I'm back to shoeing horses, bailing hay and riding my ole horses, Bruce and Mac. Thank you for your prayers. The power of prayer is always so great!

Granddaughter, Brittany, is doing good also after the open-heart surgery. My daughter, Amanda, is doing great and is back to working with her cattle. I'm going to be 75 in a few weeks and still enjoy life.

Newsletter Articles Needed

Please send Praise reports, Articles, testimonies, etc. for the newsletter. Submissions can be a few words up to 300 words.

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen

leealphen@comcast.net

Or 157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

Patience! Patience!

By Pastor Rick Smurdon

Patience, why are we in such a hurry?

In this fast-paced world we expect everything now and if not now, we want it yesterday.

The Lord is in control, things happen to His timing, His will. On the flip side Satan has the keys to this world until the second coming of Christ. Satan will want to lead you to make fast, bad decisions to stay away from the Lord's will. So, slow down, pray on it and.... wait for the Lord's answer. Patience! For the older crowd, the TV series Kung Fu, "Patience ... grasshopper".

"Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in His way, over the man who carries out evil devices! Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil. For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land" (Psalm 37:7-9).

"But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience" (Romans 8:25).

Are we patient?

Can we be patient?

Blessings, peace out.

Pastor Rick recently joined CHHA and is representing us in Northwest Indiana.



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Please pray for my intentions _____

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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



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: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Mail with \$20 each + \$4 shipping to:
Roger Huston · 154 Vista Drive · Cannonsburg, PA 15317

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

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



Obituaries continued from page 5

Guy Keith "Dudley" Carey, 104, of Columbus Junction, IA, died July 1. In 1950 Keith's brother, Red, was injured in a racing accident, so Guy and his late wife, Katherine, jumped in to help train and race the family horses. Thus began their involvement in harness racing on the Iowa, Illinois and Missouri circuits. Keith and Katherine were instrumental in the growth of Iowa harness racing.



Both he and Katherine were inducted into the Iowa Harness Racing Hall of Fame. For 67 years they lived on the family farm raising row crops, registered angus cattle, sheep, pigs, and Standardbred horses.

Eric Freeman, 80, of Princeton, NJ, died recently. Eric, along with Mitchel Skolnick, established Bluestone Farms in 1998. Frank Russo later joined them. Eric was also a principal owner of Capitol Risk Concepts, an insurance brokerage.

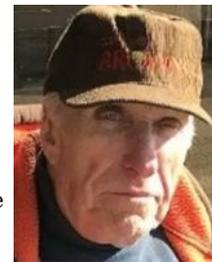
Hunter L. Hastings, 71, died April 18. Hunter began racing horses with his father, Russell, when he was a teenager and later became an accomplished trainer and driver. In 2003, he and his wife, Tici, moved to a farm in central Florida and raised Standardbred babies. Later he changed careers and went to work for Barrett Farm, a prestigious hunter jumper farm in Oviedo, FL.

Robert "Bobby" Hiel, 75, died July 2. Bobby was a successful trainer at Roosevelt and Yonkers in the 70's, 80's and 90's. Later he trained horses for Luca and Ester Balenzano at Pompano Park.

Richard Ansel Mathurin Sr., 88, of San Diego, CA, originally from Falmouth, ME, died June 18. In the early 1970s, Dick was farm manager at Saratoga Standardbred Farm and then continued his passion through his racing stable, RAM Racing Stables, that he owned with his son, Rich. He spent over 40 years as a respected mergers and acquisitions advisor and was a co-founder of Mathurin And Kaplan. He later founded Richard A. Mathurin & Associates.



Julius W. Molnar, Jr, 88, of Matawan, NJ, died July 11. Julius owned and trained Standardbreds. He was known for his strong work ethic and commitment to his trade as a plumber and pipefitter. He also found great joy in gardening, tending to his plants with the same care and attention he gave to everything in life.



Stanley Milton Myers, 94, of Wellington, OH, died June 3. He loved horses and horse racing and enjoyed training Standardbred horses. Stanley was a machinist by trade. He worked for Bendix for 30 years.



Phillip C. Peavyhouse, 86, of South Lyon, died July 20. Phil bred, trained and drove his own Standardbred horses. He was inducted into Michigan Harness Racing Hall of Fame for his many accomplishments. He was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed the simple pleasures of nature. Even in hunting it was the performance of the dogs that interested him. Phil's appreciation for God's creation and creatures was evident to all who knew him. Phil was an active member of Crossroads Community Church. His commitment to his faith was a positive influence on many.

Karen Marie Tkaczyk, 68, of Toledo, OH, died July 3. Karen was a highly respected harness horse trainer, known throughout Ohio, Michigan and Indiana. She had a stable at Raceway Park in Toledo for 30 years, and was even voted Horse Trainer of the Year. She was a wonderful Polish cook and used her skills preparing meals for others at Regina Coeli Catholic Church where she was a longtime parishioner.



Sources for Obituary information include:

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

Obituaries

Sarah E. (Gehman) Allen, 32, of Lancaster, PA, died July 17. Sarah was first and foremost, a daughter of Christ. Growing up she developed a great work ethic on her family's horse farm. Her passion for Jesus led her to travel all over the globe as part of Youth With a Mission (YWAM). At the same time, she built a great photography business. Sarah was a creative entrepreneur who established a few small businesses of her own and always had a new idea in her pocket. She attended LCBC Manheim Campus, and New Covenant Church, Ephrata. Sarah's dad, Greg Gehman, is Vice President of CHHA.



Obituaries continued on page 4

There is nothing more important than
Your Eternal Salvation

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, Teresa Hubbard Givens, Holly Graffam, Pastor Bill Grant, Cody Greeno, Margaret Groce, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Glenda Holloway, Audrey Henry, Layla Hundertpfund, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, Bob Jones, Jennifer Jugg, AJ Keaton, Julie Kerr, Donnie Knight, David Kovach, Betsy Krantz, Rox Liles, Anabelle Lisi, 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 and 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, Anthony Coletta, Chet Crane, Karen Crothers, Brenda Jo Dennon, Richard Dunmire, Anna Farley, Scott Freck,



*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 **Sarah Gehman Allen** by: Amy Bondon, Lori and Ray Romanetti
In memory of **Daryl Gager** by: Ed Gager
In memory of **The McKees** by: Amy Bondon
In memory of **Bill Wick and family** by: Susan Throm White
In memory of **Betsy Wood** by: Longshot Stables

Memorial Contributions

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



Please visit us, like us and share
<https://www.facebook.com/ChristianHarnessHorsemen>.

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, 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 Petruzzo, Sgt David Thomas, Elizabeth Welch and Nigel Willabus.

Special Intentions for this month:

Karen Andre had her hand reattached after an accident.
Tommy Dawson has a malignant kidney.
Marilyn Hankins is facing her 4th round of cancer.
Ray Romanetti's radiation pneumonia continues to worsen. He is really struggling to breathe.
James Swihart has swelling in his legs and feet.
Val is recovering from surgery.

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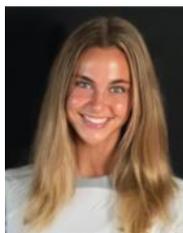


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Address corrections

CHHA Scholars

CHHA welcomed Becky Wulber and Connie Polhamus to our scholarship committee in June. The committee met July 1st to review this year's applications.

Lexi Twaddle was awarded the John and Janet Klark scholarship to help fund her senior year at Walsh University. She is majoring in biology with minors in business and psychology. Beginning right after graduation, she plans to pursue a master's degree at Carlow University and complete her training to become a pediatric perfusionist.



Samantha Mayhugh was awarded the Rambling Willie scholarship to continue her studies at the Ohio State University in Columbus. She is majoring in agricultural business and applied economics with a minor in equine studies. She hopes to help shape the future of harness racing.



Thanks go to our Scholarship Committee Chair and Ohio Colt Racing Secretary/Treasurer, Lisa Schwartz, and our committee members for their good work selecting these two dedicated, hardworking Christian women to receive our scholarships.

Lexi and Samantha, we trust that with God's help, you will accomplish great things.

Look for more about Lexi and Samantha in future newsletters.



Bible Study online

Rejoice with God and celebrate His creation and His mercy, forgiveness and blessings. Cry to God from the depths of despair. Sharing our honest feelings with God sets us free. King David, Moses, Solomon and others show us how in the book of Psalms.

Our Monday night online Bible Studies will resume September 8th with an eight week study of Psalms. Check out our website at <https://chha.net/bible-studies> for information and to register. You can also reach it from our home page at www.chha.net.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105).



Jug Week

Seeing many CHHA members and making new friends Jug Week at the Delaware County Fairgrounds is a highlight of the year.

Please stop by for a visit or a prayer. We will be in the OHHA tent across from the Paddock entrance.

We will not be hosting a Prayer Breakfast this year. Like many people, we have to tighten our purse strings.



HELP! HELP! HELP!

Funds are low. Please consider making a donation to CHHA so we can continue our work to **Keep Christ Alive in Harness Racing!**