



Rambling Willie

## Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

June 2026

Remember,  
I pray for all  
our members  
every day.



*Chaplain Lee Alphen*

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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](mailto:leealphen@comcast.net)

Or

157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

**God's free gift  
Eternal Life  
John 10:28**

## Do You Believe This?

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

More than six hundred racehorses a year are still alive thanks to Dot Morgan and her daughters, Winnie and Anna. Dot founded New Vocations Racehorse Adoption in 1992 to prevent our racehorses from being slaughtered. Instead, to date New Vocations has rehabilitated and retrained over nine thousand racehorses and placed them in adoptive homes.

Clark's Bears in Lincoln, NH rescues orphan bears from around the country. They live out their days in a wooded bear sanctuary and are cared for by the Clark family. In fact, they are part of the family and it appears the bears realize this. Some of them are trained to put on shows in the summer. However, bears that don't want to perform, don't have to and are retired into the bear habitat. Orphaned bears do not live very long in the wild.

American gospel songwriters Bill and Gloria Gaither were expecting their third child in the midst of the growing drug culture, racial tensions and the "God is dead" pronouncements of the 1960s. Bill was physically and emotionally drained due to mononucleosis. In the Story Behind "Because He Lives" on [fwbworship.com](http://fwbworship.com), Doug Little writes, "Gloria wondered, 'Who in their right mind would bring a child into a world like this? The world is so evil. Influences beyond our control are so strong. What will happen to this baby?'"

As Gloria sat with these negative thoughts, she began to feel released from it all. She said, "gradually the fear left and the joy began to return. I knew I could have that baby and face the future with optimism and trust. It was the

Resurrection affirming itself in our lives once again. It was LIFE conquering death in the regularity of my day."

Bill and Gloria were strengthened by their faith. Jesus knows what it is like to be human, to be tempted, to have friends turn on you and abandon you. He certainly understands persecution and being the victim of injustice. He experienced these attacks and much, much more while he walked the earth.

As the Gaithers learned, and proclaimed in the hymn on page 2, because Jesus lives, we too can face tomorrow. When we become His followers and put our faith and trust in Him, there is no need for us to worry. We can trust His promises that all our needs will be met. We will have good friends and important missions to carry out for the Lord. Our sins will be washed away and we will have peace, perfect peace. Filled with the Holy Spirit, our lives will be blessed. Then, when our time on earth is complete, God will call us home to live forever and ever with Him in Paradise. We will live and never die.

Dot and her family help extend the lives of retired racehorses by a few decades or so, giving them new and exciting purposes. The Clarks do the same for orphaned bears. However, Jesus Christ suffered and died on the cross so that we who believe in Him will live forever with Him in Paradise when our time on earth is complete.

The apostle John quotes Jesus, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand" (John 10:27-28).

Jesus said, "I am the Resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live,

**Do You cont. on page 2**

## Do You cont. from page 1

even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in Me will never die" (John 11:25 NIV). Jesus asked Martha and asks us all, "Do you believe this?" (John 11:26 NIV).

With your prayers and support and the help and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, CHHA will continue to bring this message of the Lord to the horse racing community as we work to **Keep Christ Alive in Harness Racing!**

## Because He Lives Lyrics

*By Bill and Gloria Gaither*

God sent His Son, they called him Jesus,  
He came to love, heal and forgive;  
He lived and died, to buy my pardon,  
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

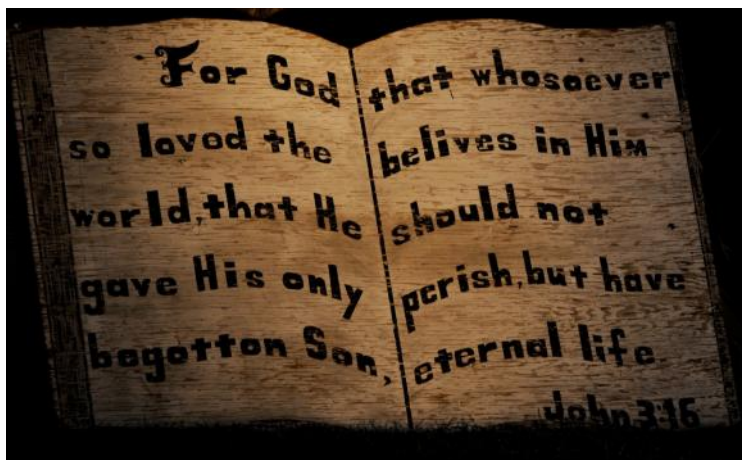
*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,  
Because He lives, all fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living just because He lives.*

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,  
And feel the pride, and joy he gives;  
But sweeter still the calm assurance,  
This child can face uncertain days because He lives.

*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,  
Because He lives, all fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living just because He lives.*

And then one day I'll cross the river,  
I'll fight life's final war with pain;  
And then as death gives way to victory,  
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives.

*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,  
Because He lives, all fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living just because He lives.*



## Blessings from God

### *From Amy Bondon...*

Nick is finally feeling great, and told me he was headed back to the gym 3 days in a row. That's the old Nic! Better nutrition and healing from the bronchial infection that lingered for weeks is a direct answer to prayer. Thank you all!

### *From Jo-Dee Dennon...*

My heart and COPD dictate my life, but I have always been "hard-headed." JC's tongue and throat cancer is still in remission—praise God. Ashley is still holding steady. I thank God every day for what we have; it could be worse. She appreciates our prayers and asks us to continue to pray for her and her family.

### *From Greg Gehman...*

Jim Fucci came home from the hospital six days after having his left kidney, his spleen and part of his pancreas removed. He is getting around fine and has never needed to take a pill as he has had no pain!! Our God is amazing!!!

### *From Julie Manchester...*

She had a CAT scan and, praise God! She is cancer free! She thanks everyone for praying for her. She does have a colonoscopy coming up next month. But, other than that, they saw nothing on the CAT scan. She said, "In Jesus name, Amen. I'm so glad you guys are praying for me. Thank you, love you!"

### *From Bruce Ranger...*

Kevin Wallis has been on the prayer list for pancreatic cancer. After some operations and a lot of chemo, he weighs only 122 lbs. However, he is now cancer free. He's going to be checked every 3 months just in case. I told him you and the prayer partners will keep praying anyway. He's just thrilled to be alive. Another miracle for sure! ❤️

### *From Lisa Schwartz...*

Dr Bob is good to go! Released by physical therapy and back to the old grind. He might set off the metal detector at the airport but we'll cross that bridge when it turns up. (after shoulder replacement)

### *From Dick Vondenhuevel...*

Brittany had to have another operation on her skull and spine but is in full recovery. She thanks everyone for their prayers. She very much believes in the "Power of Prayer."

## Newsletter Articles Needed

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

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen  
leealphen@comcast.net

Or 157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

Please verify or add address on back

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

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Please pray for my intentions \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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Please send my newsletter (circle below)  
electronically in the mail both

Please accept my donation of \_\_\_\_\_. Check Cash   

Please return to: leecalphen@comcast.net

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OR

CHHA  
157 North Main St.  
Salem, NH 03079

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

[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

Books

- 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 books are available FREE as downloads at:

<https://www.jackalanlevine.com/ebooks>

- Downloading God Live A Life That Matters for God
- My Addict Your Addict Where the Rubber Meets the Road
- Don’t Blow It With God *We do still have a few of Jack’s print books left.*



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: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Horseshoe Nail Item Order Form  
Orders can also be placed at  
[www.chha.net/products](http://www.chha.net/products)

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 \_\_\_\_\_



**Jesus said, “I am the Resurrection and the life.  
The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;  
and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” John 11:25-26**

## Obituaries cont. from page 5

**Tom J. Bigler**, 65, of Northfield, OH, formerly of Pittsburgh, PA, died Mar 16. Tom was an owner and trainer with a small stable. Longtime owner Alan Hyatt described Bigler as a "gentle giant" with an ability and touch "that brought out the best whenever a horse went behind the starting gate. [...] He sure put his heart and soul into his horses, and his talent and patience as a trainer was his most admirable trait."

**Dermot Carroll Burke**, 83, of Bell, FL, died Nov 19. Dermot was involved in harness racing for 20 years as a trainer, identifier and paddock judge. Later he became an owner operator for a New Jersey air freight company.

**Shaun Christopher Callahan**, 44, of Cordova, MD, died Apr 6. Shaun's passion for the farm drove his career and led him to train and care for horses with his mother, father, and great friend Frank Gannon. He owned, trained and drove harness horses.

**Jack Wade Dailey**, 61, died Feb 15. Jack was a master driver and trainer and lived life at a full gallop. His love for horses was only matched by his passion for mowing – yes, you read that right – mowing everyone's lawn for free. It's safe to say, Jack never met a blade of grass he didn't want to cut or a person he wouldn't help.

**Wes "Fuzzy" Hershberger**, 72, went to be with the Lord Mar 16. First and foremost, Wes loved the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and followed Him faithfully. He worked as a mason before embarking on a thirty five year career owning and training racehorses. He loved the challenge of breaking yearlings,

**Donald "Skip" Hoover** of Pataskala, OH, died Mar 13. Skip was drafted by the New York Jets in 1965 and played for the Jets and the Houston Oilers in the National Football League. Later he founded Hoover Financial and Insurance Services and built it into one of central Ohio's leading financial services firms. He also pursued his lifelong passion for harness racing where he served in multiple leadership roles and had a national reputation as a horseman, breeder, administrator and tireless industry advocate.

**George M Kehm**, 95, of Oakdale, PA, died Jan 26. George founded Kehm Oil which has become the leading provider of fuel and lubrications in the area. When the Meadows opened, he partnered with other local businessmen and became a prominent owner of Standardbreds racing at The Meadows. George and Jerry continued

racing their stable at The Meadows right up until he died. At the time of George's funeral, their horse, Brooks, won the third race. George was a big supporter of the Oakdale United Presbyterian Church where his daughter leads the Sunday service. "He Did it His Way."

**Joseph R. "Sonny" Krystofolski** died Jan 16. Sonny was a longtime participant in the harness racing industry. He began his career as a trainer in the 1970s, racing at Liberty Bell Park and Brandywine Raceway. Later he served as paddock judge at Freehold Raceway and then at Harrah's Philadelphia.

**James R. Otto**, 93, died Mar 17. Jim retired as plant manager of RW Sidley. For more than 50 years he owned trained and drove harness horses. He also owned J & S Feed and Horse Transport. Jim frequented horse auctions and participated in pony pulls, raced stock cars and collected maple syrup. Jim served for more than 20 years on the Ashtabula County Fair Board.

**E. Russell Rash**, 88, of Felton, DE, died Feb 2. Russell's entire life was devoted to harness racing. He was always with his horses as a trainer and a driver. He raced mostly at Yonkers and Roosevelt Raceways. His motto was "If you could race here on these tracks, you could race anywhere."

**Thomas R. "Moose" Sheehan**, 88, of Ohio, died Feb 13. Thomas was a well-known fixture at the Lexington trots and sales during the 1970s and 1980s. He and his close friend Bob O'Donnell of Hobby Horse Farm, were always the life of the party wherever they went. He will be best remembered for his broodmare, Richelle Hanover.

**Theodore "Ted" James Torgerson**, of North Fort Myers, FL, died Mar 10. Ted got his start as an assistant paddock judge at the Springfield State Fair and went on to work at Quad City Downs, Maywood, Sportsman's, Balmoral, Fairmont Parks, and Hawthorne Race Course. Ted's harness racing career spanned over 50 years. He sailed through his 2024 cancer treatments with a positive attitude and was in remission. He often witnessed to and prayed for those sitting next to him in the treatment room.

**Lincoln R. Wadsworth**, 89, formerly of Jackson, NJ, died Feb 2. Linc was a Standardbred horse owner/trainer for many years. Paul Wojtowicz says he worked for him for many years and was very reliable and responsible.



### Sources for Obituary information include:

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

## Obituaries

**Joyce Marie Hart**, 87, died Mar 1. Her husband, Jimmy, died Feb 4. Joyce enjoyed a 30-year distinguished career in the business office at Michigan State University. She was awarded a certificate of honorary membership from the County Treasurers' Association for her "faithful, devoted, and untiring service to county government and the County Treasurers' Association." Last November she reaffirmed her faith in Jesus Christ, as her Lord and Savior. Joyce was CHHA member Lorretta Hughes' sister.



**Jimmy Joe Hart**, 89, died Feb 4. Jimmy spent 30 years working for the US Department of Agriculture in Kansas and later in Oklahoma. He reaffirmed his faith in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior last November. Jimmy was CHHA member Lorretta Hughes' brother-in-law.



**James "Jimmy" Austin**, 63, of Pawnee, IL, died Mar 29. Jimmy had a lifelong passion for harness racing as an owner, trainer, driver and presiding judge. He will be remembered for his willingness to always help his family, friends and neighbors, and for his witty sense of humor.



**Phyllis Copeland**, 82, of Frankford, DE, died April 3. Phyllis enjoyed a 60 year standardbred racing career. She served as the identifier in the Foxboro paddock, marshal at Monticello and trained horses with her husband Roger Plante, Sr. She also trained Thoroughbreds and broke young horses to saddle. In later years, Phyllis moved to Delaware to join forces with her oldest son, Roger Plante Jr. where she continued to train a long list of successful racehorses. Phyllis was related to CHHA members Perley and Jane Plante.



**Obituaries continued on page 4**

## Prayer Corner

**Please pray for all the people on our Prayer List who are battling cancer, especially:**

Lew Arsenault, Emily Bier, Debbie Boardman, Amy Bondon, David Bower, Bob Briley, Georgianna Brocco, Jana Gary Bryant, Lore Burke, Nick Caras, Rick Carson, Barbara Carter, Mike Carter, Sam Castimore, Candice Coleman, Loren Combs, Joe Crothers, Danny Daniel, Mike Deeters, Ashley Dennon-Coen, Marylou Dodge, Declan Donaway, Scott Dube, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Ray Farmer, Francine Federici, Tim Finley, Tiffany Fisher, Katie Folkins, Ron Fraker, Teresa Hubbard Givens, Holly Graffam, Pastor Bill Grant, Cody Greeno, Margaret Groce, Marilyn Hankins, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Glenda Holloway, Audrey Henry, Layla Hundertpfund, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, 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 Niels, Jay O'Neil, 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 Taktter, Bobbi Tanner, Ellen Taylor, Jack Taylor, Dick Terrien, Brenda Tippin, Phillip Truitt, Gary Tyron, Brittanty Vondenhuevel, Kevin Wallis, Roland Wardel, Teresa Willabus, Kate Williams, Steve Wiseman, Marty Woebkenberg, Bobby Williams, 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, Elaine Burke, Kristen Burke, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Bob Cain, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Robin Cino, Dan Cocherl, Anthony Coletta, Chet Crane, Karen Crothers, Brenda Jo Dennon, Richard Dunmire, Anna Farley, Scott Freck, Sylvain Gagnon, Greg Gehman, Richie Gillock, Bob Goth, Barbara and Brent Graham, Debbie Gray, Janice Hankins, Rich Heffington, Bob Hilliard, Vickie Howard, Ruby Hensley, Miguel Hernandez, Paul and Mrs Hershey, Carol Heusinkveld, Trudy Hite, Jerry Hissam, Joyce Hollingsworth, John Hostler, Dick 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 Mauraan, Dean Miller, Peg Miller, Raymond Miller, Nancy Miner, John Morris, Mike Murphy, Doug Nash, Ronnie Norman, Stephen Otrembiak, 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, Gregg 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:**

Maura Alexander needs a total shoulder replacement.  
Brett Beckwith broke his wrist, jaw and has a minor brain bleed.  
Marilyn Bondon is recovering from a broken knee and shoulder.  
Georganna Brocco is dealing with heart issues.  
Dan Clements is recovery from aortic valve replacement.  
Jorgen's recovery is very slow—brain injury, broken and bones.  
Mary Draper has medical issues.  
Hanover Shoe Farms is recovering from a major barn fire.  
Anthony Hufford is hospitalized waiting for a new heart.  
John Kane's cancer has returned.  
Katherine Mullen is having medical issues.  
Pastor Sue Petritis suffered many fractures and a brain bleed.  
Lori Romanetti desperately needs a knee replacement.  
Andy Santeramo has medical issues.  
Miriam Toland has medical issues.  
John Vanbebber is fighting metastatic melanoma.  
Ken Wood is hoping to have Proton radiation for his cancer.

157 North Main St  
Salem, NH 03079  
USA



Please indicate  
Address corrections

## Dedicating United States to God

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people He chose for his inheritance" (Psalm 33:12).

In honor of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States of America winning her independence from Britain, celebrations are planned throughout the year across the country. Many of these will be times of prayer and Bible reading to re-dedicate the nation to God. Freedom 250 website, [www.whitehouse.gov/freedom250](http://www.whitehouse.gov/freedom250), is one of the many related websites. On May 17, President Trump hosted a National Day of Prayer to emphasize that bringing religion back is critical to the future of our county. America was founded on the principle that our rights come from God, our Creator, not the government.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness" (Declaration of Independence).

Canada celebrates its Independence Day, now called Canada Day, on July 1st.

*Right*  
Suzanne  
D'Ambrose and  
the late  
Independent  
Act served as  
the color guard  
for the Open  
Space parade  
to Freehold  
Raceway.



*May the angels  
lead you into paradise*  
Memorials posted at [www.chha.net](http://www.chha.net)

### Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Sarah Gehman Allen** by: Greg Gehman  
In memory of **Lois Combs** 89th birthday by: Joanne White  
In memory of **Jack Dailey** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz  
In memory of **John Emonin** by: Emily Emonin  
In memory of **Daryl Gager** by: Ed Gager  
In memory of **Jim Hart** by: Loretta Hughes  
In memory of **George Kehm** by: Mark Goldberg, Curby and Mark Stillings  
In memory of **Skip Hoovler** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz  
In memory of **Sam, Melissa and Meagan McKee** by: Amy Bondon  
In memory of **Jim Otto** by: Jo-Dee Brown, Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz  
In memory of **Ray Romanetti** by: Amy Bondon, Wendy Fitzpatrick, Loretta Jones  
In memory of **Chaplain Yurian Santiesteban** by: Amy Bondon  
In memory of **Lincoln Wadsworth** by: Paul and Vera Wojtowicz

## God Bless America!

On Independence Day,  
And every day,  
Let us pray to ask God  
To restore the heart of America.  
May our people be united  
And our land be healed  
We put our country  
Into Your loving hands, Lord. Amen

From Think Positive Power on Facebook