



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

September/October 2026

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

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*For newsletter questions or
ideas please contact:*

Lee Alphen, Editor

leealphen@comcast.net

603-898-1927

603-401-7271 (cell)

The Best Plan

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Do you dream of a having a world-renowned colt in your stable that is a descendent of a great sire. You might have visions of breaking him, his training schedule and him winning his first race. Of course, you realize training schedules are subject to change since our horses don't fit nicely into a mold. Growth spurts come later for some. Others get hurt or go lame. And there are those who don't catch on as fast or would rather play around and cause mischief. Or you may have an exceptional colt that defies all odds and requires an advanced program.

God rescued the Israelites from the sad, hard life of enslavement to Pharoah and the Egyptians and showed He would provide for their needs. He led them to the promised land flowing with milk and honey. Yet the people began to turn away from Him by worshipping idols and behaving in other sinful ways. Eventually, God allowed the Babylonians to capture them and bring them to Babylon.

"For 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).

Jeremiah was God's faithful prophet. He conveyed God's message to the Israelites, telling them God wanted them to be happy and prosperous even while they were in captivity. He told them to marry, have kids, build houses, plant gardens and live in peace. God knew His long-range plan was to bring the Israelites back to Jerusalem and wanted them to be blessed even before that. More than anything, God wanted His people to turn back to Him and to

grow in relationship with Him and then to spend eternity with Him in heaven (Jeremiah 29:4-9).

God has plans for all of us too. And, since He made all of us unique, He has a different plan for each of us. His ultimate goal is to get us everyone home to heaven. Of course, He wants us to enjoy a blessed time here on earth first. Like the horses, we often take detours or get the plays wrong but God continues to adjust the plan to get us back on track.

Some of the Israelites chose to listen to the false prophets who gave them false hope rather than to God's prophet, Jeremiah. The false prophets told the Israelites everything would be fine if they stayed in Jerusalem. After a while, King Nebuchadnezzar II conquered those who stayed behind and either killed them or forced them to flee to Egypt (Jeremiah 14:14-16). Thankfully, the families of those who did listen to Jeremiah and obeyed God prospered and were eventually returned to Jerusalem.

Our horses do better when we are patient and take the time to adjust our training and racing plans as we go along. We want our horses to be the best they can. Bringing each horse and their plan before God and asking for His guidance will help us come up with the very best plan for those in our care.

Spirit of the Eclipse, Loretta Jones' new colt by the Western Ideal sire Artspeak is racing up a storm. He is racing for Christ through our CHHA Racing for Christ program. Lorretta enrolls her horses in this program because God is first in everything Loretta does.

Lorretta had a very difficult childhood with many ups and downs. It appears God had to adjust His plans for her many

Best Plan cont. on page 2

God's plan is

Perfect!

It's worth the wait.

Best Plan cont. from page 1

times before things clicked and she turned to Him. Now she participates in our online Bible studies and is very, very faithful to God. I believe doing God's will is Lorretta's main focus today. She is a well acclaimed Christian singer and has recorded many beautiful, spirit-filled songs. Her CD is available by filling out the order form on page 3 or by emailing me or you can use PayPal.



Lorretta Jones with Shirley's Delight and her colt Classic Ducky

Lorretta also wrote the beautiful poem, "The Ultimate Choice," printed below.

God blesses us when we take the time to bring all of our plans, dreams and concerns before Him and listen to what He tells us. God has all the answers. By the way, God can use all the twists and turns of our lives for good if we let Him. God adjusts His plans to meet us where we are, making His plans the very best.

THE ULTIMATE CHOICE

Inspired by the Holy Spirit

Written by Tony McCord and Lorretta Jones

Our thoughts come from three directions
 We have a voice to make a choice
 we know the voice of our Lord
 He's good He's kind He's always right
 we know the voice we are always trying to fight
 we know the voice that makes the choice
 we can go in the ways that are easy to follow
 or we can say no I'm not going to wallow
 I have a voice to make a choice
 I can listen to the Lord where the rewards are great
 or I can listen to the voice filled with hate
 I have a voice to make a choice
 I can listen to the Lord walk in the river of life
 or I can sink in the mire of confusion and strife
 I HAVE THE ULTIMATE CHOICE

**Blessings from God*****From Loretta and Dick Hughes and family...***

We want to thank you for all the prayers over the years. They have meant so much to us. We love you all. Loretta and Dick and family

From Joanne Mann...

My granddaughter will soon begin her second year at university. Her eating disorder is under control & her weight is stable. Praise God! Thanks for your prayers!

From Robyn Rembleski...

Robyn just completed a long difficult fought with cancer in rural North Dakota. She had many complications along the way including weeks in ICU, then a rehab for dialysis for a month, 2 months in assisted living and four weeks of radiation. All this time she was away from home. It appears her husband was with her when he could be but he had work to do at the farm. She almost died twice.

She credits all the prayers she received along the way for helping her daily. She says it is a huge blessing to be done with treatments and is happy to be alive. She will have follow up checks and tests. She credits her husband, James, saying, "James has been wonderful, caring, loving and helpful. I could not have done it without him!!!"

Robyn asks for prayers for rest and recuperation and healing. Also, for no side effects especially from the radiation.

She is back to house hunting to locate in Steele, NC, a nice small town where she was in assisted living. She said it is a great place to recover. She and James hope to find a house to buy so James can retire. They currently live on the farm where he works.



*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
 In memory of **Emily Emonin** by: Sallie Hayes, Korwin and Judi Hinshaw
 In memory of **Daryl Gager** by: Ed Gager
 In memory of **Joyce and Jimmy Hart** by: Dick and Loretta Hughes
 In memory of **Jerry Haws** by: Beth Cain, Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
 In memory of **Sam, Melissa and Meagan McKee** by: Amy Bondon
 In memory of **Ray Romanetti** by: Amy Bondon
 In memory of **Dixie Russell** by: Paul Russell

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Choose a Free Gift with your \$20 donation

Gifts for Family and Friends

Fruit of the Spirit CD by Lorretta Jones ☐ New10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (see picture) ☐

Horseshoe Nail Cross necklaces and key rings—see below

CHHA Hat ☐

Horseshoe Nail Cross Necklaces and Keyrings

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

Keyring Qty: Red ____ Blue ____ Other cross color _____

*Rambling Willie Remembers*

These lovely 5 x 7 Rambling Willie cards are packaged in sets of 10 cards. They are blank inside.

“Rejoice in all the good things the Lord your God has given to you and your household” (Deuteronomy 26:11).

“Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved—you and your household” (Acts 16:31).

“Every good and perfect gift is from above” (James 1:17).

*Thanks be to
our Lord Jesus Christ.*



Remembering Charlie Schulz

Obituaries cont. from page 5

Thomas Michael Aldrich of Hudson, OH, died Jun 13. Tom enjoyed a lifelong career at Northfield Park. He became Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President. He was inducted into the Ohio Harness Racing Hall of Fame and the Harness Racing Hall of Fame.

Charles Ted Andrews, 86, of PEI, died Jul 22. Ted raced Standardbreds at Sackville Downs. Eventually, he and his wife, Marilyn, moved to Florida wintering at Sunshine Meadows and racing at The Meadowlands, the Red Mile, The Meadows and the Grand Circuit.

Melisa "Missy" Blazek, 57, died Jul 15. Missy began her racing career alongside her dad. She enjoyed a decades long career as a racehorse trainer. Recently, she worked in the Test Barn.

Jim Boese, 84, died Jun 26. Jim was Chief Operating Officer of Harrington Raceway and a former USTA director. He started working at pari-mutuel tracks in South Dakota and then went on to work at several other tracks.

Carl O. Bray, 82, of Lebanon, OH, died Jun 24. Carl owned and trained harness horses. He enjoyed watching horses race and the camaraderie that came with winning.

Dean R. Brown Jr., 97, of Coconut Creek FL, died Jul 4. Dean was a very active Standardbred owner for most of his life. He raced mainly at Hinsdale Raceway, Green Mountain Park and Saratoga Raceway. He was a police officer and rose in the ranks to Ludlow, VT Chief of Police. Later he became the Town Manager of Ludlow.

Harold A. Coder, 76, of Cardington, OH, died Jun 27. Harold owned trained and drove harness horses. He also worked in construction and was a self-employed Heavy Equipment Operator.

James (Jimmy) Calvin Davis, 80, died Jun 17. In addition to his work on the family farm, Jimmy thoroughly enjoyed his time racing Standardbred horses across several racetracks in the Mid-Atlantic Area.

William Beverly Fletcher, 97, of Horsey, VA, died Jun 5. Bev bred and trained harness horses and was the local hay man. He was excited when he saw foals on the ground for the first time and witnessed 2-year-old colts become ready for their first races. Bev was a devoted member and patriarch of Emmanuel Episcopal Church. His faith never wavered.

Erika Lynn Forsberg, 30, of Robinson Township, PA, died May 31. Erika's aunt and uncle, Dina & Sal Digati, raced horses at The Meadows, and she was always with them. She was very involved with Pastor Joe's ministry.

Thomas Clive Johnson, 81, of Las Vegas, NV, died Jan 2. Tom worked at tracks in KY, FL, and Canada, before a 5-year stint as the Director of Marketing and



Publicity at Saratoga Harness Raceway. He served as the head of PR for the Winter Olympics before moving to Las Vegas and began a 25-year career in the Race & Sports industry.

Jessie James Orbin, Jr., 20, of Houston, PA, died Jun 14. Jessie would have been a senior at Waynesburg University while working at the track with his father. He was an outstanding wrestler and captain of the Waynesburg Wrestling Team. **Margaret (Mugsie) Rousseau**, 74, of Flint, MI, died Jun 18. Mugsie trained horses all over the country. She grew up racing at the Michigan fairs with her dad and brother, Dave. Later, she moved on to pari-mutuel tracks around the United States and in Canada.

Don Sider, 77, of Hastings on the Hudson, NY, died Jun 28. Don was a well-respected trainer at Yonkers. He followed in the footsteps of his uncles, Bud, George, Guy and Lloyd Gilmore racing in Ontario before settling in NY to train at Roosevelt, Meadowlands and Yonkers.

Jerry "Buck" Sprinkle, 77, died Jul 26. Buck's racing career began at Vernon and included working for the respected veterinarians, Dr. John Steele and Dr. Paul Nolan. He trained some good trotters over the years. Buck and his wife, Ute, discussed buying a yearling a few days before he suffered a stroke and passed away.

James M. Teynor, 74, of Bucyrus, OH, died Jun 8. James owned and trained harness horses. He was deeply involved in the family masonry business, eventually co-owning Design Built Construction with his brothers. He was a devout member of Calvary Baptist Church in Bucyrus.

RL (Roy) Turner, 85, of Shelbyville, KY, died Jul 5. Roy and his wife, Judy, worked side by side breeding and raising Standardbreds. He began as a foaling man at Hanover Shoe Farm before becoming farm manager for Lana Lobell Farm and later as farm manager at Walnut Hall Ltd. in Lexington, Kentucky.

Alvin "Bozo" Watson, 85, of North Carolina, formerly of Saratoga, NY, died Jun 27. Bozo, a driver and trainer, was one of "the first responders" when Hinsdale Raceway opened in 1958. Initially, he spent his summers at Saratoga and wintered at Pompano Park. Later he and Kathy, his wife of 40 years, decided to stay in Saratoga and they both got jobs with the town.

Chris Young, 82, of Pennington, NJ, died Jun 14. Chris owned horses with his daughter Laura Young who manages Southwind Farm.

**Sources for Obituary information include:**

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

Obituaries

Jerry Marvin Haws, 85, of Wilmore, KY, died Jul 3. Jerry joined his former father-in-law, Asa H. Jewell, at the Blooded Horse Sales Company. He proudly served as president of the company for nearly fifty years before transitioning the role to the his son, Jerry Junior (JJ), at the beginning of this year. He dedicated decades of service to many harness racing organizations boards of directors. A devoted believer in Jesus, Jerry was an elder and former treasurer of the Wilmore Presbyterian Church and was involved with global mission work. Jerry and his wife, Billie, are CHHA members.



Marvin Andrew Shoup, 97 of Troy, OH, died June 17. Marvin worked at Hobart Manufacturing, Ochs Tool & Die, Kerr's Office Supply and retired from ADCO. Most importantly, Marvin loved God and his family deeply. He was a soldier in the Lord's army. He was a tool in God's hand, and he lived every day with the joy of the Lord as his strength. Marvin is CHHA member, Becky Wulber's, father.



Thomas Calder "Tom" Wine II, 62, of Wilkes-Barre, PA, died Aug 4. Tom began racing in 1979 and continued as an owner trainer driver for over four decades. Harness racing was not simply a profession or pastime for him—it was a lifelong passion and an important part of who he was. His son, Tee, is a CHHA member and also trains horses.



W. Kenneth Wood, 82, of Denton, MD, died Jul 11. He was the owner and operator of Lifetime Wells in Denton. He was very active in harness racing and was internationally known for Lifetime Wells International and its philanthropic mission of drilling for clean waters in communities in Ghana and Tanzania, as well as restoring eyesight to thousands of people in Africa. Ken's horse, JL Cruz, helped fund his missionary endeavors. He was also an active life-time member of the St. Benedict's Roman Catholic Church in Ridgely, MD. Ken was a faithful CHHA member.



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, Scott Klark, 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, Dennis Nadon, JC Napier, Howard Nields, 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 Takter, 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, Bobby Williams, Marty Woebkenberg, Ken Wood, Alan Wroblewskii, 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 Mauran, 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, 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:

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

Special Intentions for this month:

Chris Alphen has a spiculated nodule in his lung.
Chaplain Ken Carter is recovering from knee replacement surgery.
Marvin Combs is diabetic and has some related health issues.
Jim Donnelly had lower thumb joint replacement.
Scott Klark's cancer medication disagreed with him.
Nancy Lisi has a tumor on her sternum and needs a knee replacement.
Ron Moore suffered a stroke.
Judy Winske is recovering from Covid

157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Please indicate
Address corrections

CHHA Scholars

Samantha Mayhugh was awarded our 2026 John and Janet Klark scholarship to continue her studies towards a BS in Agriculture at Ohio State University in Columbus, OH. She says, "Faith has always been the foundation of who I am. It guides how I treat others, how I face challenges, and how I view my purpose in life." This year she experienced a big growth spurt in her relationship with Jesus by joining a new church and attending their weekly services and Bible studies. She now considers the members family.



Samantha helps her dad, Sam Mayhugh, a great deal in the barn as well as with jogging and training the family horses. In addition, she works for the Litt Stables and paddocks horses when she has the opportunity.

As an intern for Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association and a volunteer for the Pickaway County Fair, Samantha helps to educate children and families about harness racing, participates in various promotional activities, distributes blankets in the winner's circle and helps in many other ways.

This past year as an OHHA intern, she helped "to promote and grow the sport, including developing the Backstretch Buddies children's program which now boasts over 100 members.

Samantha says she plans to use the knowledge she's gained from her family, work experiences and education to "continue supporting and promoting the sport" and to "help the harness racing industry grow and remain strong for future generations.

Parker Twaddle was awarded the 2026 Rambling Willie scholarship to study for a BA in Business Administration at Washington and Jefferson College.

Parker has been involved with Pastor Joe



DiDonato and the Meadows chapel his whole life. He says that his participation in the Bible camps and other events offered through the chapel helped him build friendships, learn important life lessons, and strengthen his relationship with God.

He says, "Pastor Joe's chapel has guided me in the direction of following Jesus and living with faith, kindness and respect for others. My faith has taught me the importance of hard work, discipline and treating people the right way. [...] I believe being dependable, respectful and motivated are important qualities in achieving goals. Throughout my life, I have learned that success does not come without effort, and I always try to give my best in everything I do."

Parker hopes to build a successful future where he can use his financial knowledge and work ethic to create financial opportunities for himself and others.

One day Parker hopes to have his own race horses and continue his dad's legacy.



Bible Study online

Please join our online Bible Studies at 7 PM Monday nights. A long term commitment is not necessary. Join us when you can,

For more information and to register, go to our website at <https://chha.net/bible-studies>. You can also reach the registration page from our home page at www.chha.net. Chaplain Lee will send you a confirmation and login information when you register. Please allow a day or longer for a response.

We are currently studying the letter of James and expect to begin Ruth later this month. James is practical. He knows nobody's life is perfect. Instead of telling us to live trouble free, he tells us how to live when troubles hit. The book of Ruth shows how everyday acts of loyalty and goodness can change lives.

