



Rambling Willie

In God We Trust

JANUARY, 2012



*Serving Jesus Christ in
Harness Racing*



CHRISTIAN HARNESS HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Remember...

I pray for all
our members every day.



Chaplain Lee

Board of Directors

Chaplain Lee Alphen
Racetrack Ministry

Amy Bondon, President
Estrorace, LLC

Bill Donovan
Stirling Brook Farm
Rev. Ron Fraker

Greg Gehman, Vice President
Knight's Landing Stable

Carolyn Linder

Chaplain Waverly Parsons

Lori Romanetti
Moshannon Stables

*For newsletter questions
or ideas please contact:*

*Lee Alphen, Editor
lealphen@comcast.net
603-898-1927
603-401-7271 (cell)*



Tim Tebow
Ephesians 2:8-10

Do You Like Football?

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Do you like football? Is it Tim Tebow's quarterbacking skills or his faith that encourages his teammates and allows them to prevail? Tebow is very open about the importance of scripture in his life even to the point of sporting scripture passages in the black under his eyes during the games. He lives his faith on and off the field. Present at each Broncos game are guests of Tebow with serious illnesses who are often flown in and receive special treatment including an hour of Tebow's time right after the game.



Paul tells us we are all one body and are all equally important (1 Corinthians 12:13). In Romans 12:3-8 he goes on to explain how we all have different gifts. It is important for all of us to work together to be successful in anything, especially when it comes to

spreading the "Good News".

The one quarterbacking gift Tebow has is his ability to run. Normally quarterbacks don't run. However running won Tebow the Heisman trophy. He has an uncanny ability to run with the football dodging the big, burly linemen wanting to tackle him and take the ball. All the defensive players have to chase Tebow instead of covering his team members leaving them open so Tebow can throw them the ball. It is really important for everyone on Tebow's team to realize they are part of the play whether they are just a decoy, a blocker or the one to receive the ball. At the beginning of each play, Tim encourages them so they will all be on the same page believing in the play.



In John 3:30, John the Baptist says of Jesus "He must increase but I must decrease". Tebow considers playing ball a gift and a privilege.



Continued on page 2

Dear CHHA,

First off, I would like to wish everyone a nice holiday and hope the new year holds good things for each and every one of us. I am out on Christmas break



**Chelsea Massie and
Pleasant Spur**

from the University of Findlay after a very tough semester. I had sixteen credit hours which included: small animal medicine, equine preventive medicine, organic chemistry II, a criminal justice class, and a software class for equine business management. The grades are in and I received a 3.53 GPA for this semester. In addition to school, I have been working in Findlay at Northview Primary Elementary School three days a week, tutoring 2nd graders for reading and math. On the weekends, I hold a

Continued on page 3

Perfect by Don Dean

Over the recent holidays, an eight partner, partnership of owners and fans raced a blue collar mare to a second place "win"... that means we cashed an owner's check and had a great time cheering for our steed in the rain. We were thrilled! Our mare showed racing character and grit, really tried. A successful outing for all! And in church at the track this week, we talked about what the Bible says about character and grit, the race of life and the results. Fact is, the human results are never quite perfect, in the racing business far from perfect. We learn from experience that the racing game is tough,



**Don Dean and Mr
Grey**

Continued on page 3

Pam's Story cont..

doctors didn't think of it as a life, they thought of it as a mass of fetal tissue.

While pregnant, Pam nearly lost their baby four times but refused to consider abortion. She recalled making a pledge to God with her husband: If you will give us a son, we'll name him Timothy and we'll make him a preacher.

Pam ultimately spent the last two months of her pregnancy in bed and eventually gave birth to a healthy baby boy August 14, 1987. Pam's youngest son is indeed a preacher. He preaches in prisons, makes hospital visits, and serves with his father's ministry in the Philippines. He also plays football. Pam's son is Tim Tebow.

The University of Florida's star quarterback became the first sophomore in history to win college football's highest award, the Heisman Trophy.

His current role as quarterback of the Denver Broncos has provided an incredible platform for Christian witness. As a result, he is being called The Mile-High Messiah.

Tim's notoriety and the family's inspiring story have given Pam numerous opportunities to speak on behalf of women's centers across the country. Pam Tebow believes that every little baby you save matters. I pray her tribe will increase! May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always!



Bob, Tim and Pam Tebow

Football continued from page 1 It is not about him. It is about serving the Lord wherever God calls him. In a post-game interview on January 14th, Tebow thanked God for the opportunity to play the New England Patriots. He attributed the Patriot's win to Belichick's great coaching skills and said Patriot's "Tom Brady is a great quarterback."

Joe Fitzgerald of the Boston Herald said before the game on the 14th, no matter what the outcome of the game; Tim Tebow is a winner because of his faith. Yes Joe, no matter what walk of your life you are in, if you keep your eyes focused on the Lord you are a winner.

Tim Tebow is a winner in football and in life. What can we learn from him?

Thanks to my brother, Chris, for helping me with this article.

**John Klark** *continued from back page*

loved you too. I know I am sad to know I will never speak with John on the phone again or see him at one of the tracks or be able to visit him at his home in Vermont.

There is a terrific obituary on the Ricker Funeral Home website expounding on John's many gifts, talents and contributions to society as well as his family. If you have internet access, I really suggest you read it. John was a very intelligent and diverse man. Go to www.rickerfh.com and click on Obituaries. Many members have shared there fond memories of John. These have been passed on to the family.

Day of Prayer for You!

Each month I spend one full day in prayer for CHHA. I spend time praying specifically for each member, benefactor and person on our prayer list. Please send me your intentions.

Prayer Corner

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

Jean and Gary Bedillion, Clara Bondon Gary Bryant, Steve Condren, Janice DeHart, Jimmy Derue, Gary Ellis, Marlene Hammonds, Larry Lederman, June McLaughlin, Linda Nelson, Doris Perzolla, Rose Sinclair, Joan Van Blarcom, Fred Ward, Sr. and Joyce Zeasapowski.

Please continue to pray for **Weldon and Nancy Stockwell.**

These friends are also in need of our ongoing prayers:

Brenda and Angel Cayouette, Gary D'Alfonso, Chaplain Joe DiDonado, Maude Donovan, Billy Dubois, Nora Fenner, Barbara Fowler, Gerasimof babies, Debbie Gray, Paul Jenkins, Joyce, Miguel Hernandez, Donna Holterman, Thelma & Winthrop Klark, Carolyn Linder's step-mother, Irving Liverman, Ferdinand Neft, Elaine Parlin, Dave Rankin, Lucy Marie Schmucker Sharon Spaulding.

Please pray for those serving in the military, especially: Sgt Joshua Hankins and Chris Petruolo.

Bill James's friend, **Kathy**, recently had surgery. Please pray for a speedy and complete recovery.



Waverly Parsons is in a great deal of pain throughout his body and especially in his wrist, hip and back.

98 year old **Faye Clayborne's** stomach cancer has returned after 5 years and the chemo is no longer working.

Tom Thomson, Dir. of Racing for the Little Brown Jug, is seriously ill and in need of your prayers.

Dee Parsons has lymphoma in a mass growing between stomach and her back. Tests show one nodule in her chest as well.

Bill Parker has a bad urinary infection as well as other health issues. Please keep him in and his wife Dorothy in your prayers.

Please pray for Susan Luttrell-Jordan and her mother. Her mother recently had a golf sized tumor removed from her lung. She is in recovery.

Please continue to pray for **Chaplain Joe DiDonado**. He is improving but has a ways to go yet.

Beth Cain hurt her ankle, wrist and shoulder in a fall. Please keep her in your prayers.

Marsh Townley will be wearing a heart monitor for about a month. Please keep him in your prayers.

Please verify or add address on back

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

Email address _____




Please pray for my intentions _____

Phone _____

Please return to: leealphen@comcast.net

OR CHHA
157 North Main St.
Salem, NH 03079

Circle one:

Please accept my donation of _____. Check Cash   

Credit Card # _____ Exp Date ____/____

Name on card _____

Choose from these free gifts with your donation

Please send me free copy of *Where the Rubber Meets the Road* (\$25) donation
Books available while supplies last

Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Bill Chambers** from Sal DiMario

In memory of **Steve Gray** by Max Heath

Chelsea Massie cont...

second job in Upper Sandusky at the Wyandot County Humane Society and Horse Rescue, where I have been working for the past couple years. Both of these jobs have been a very rewarding experience for me. Starting in January, when I start school again, I have an internship at Hickory Lane Farms where I will be helping breed mares and caring for mares and foals.

For my upcoming and final semester at UF, I will be enrolled with 17 credit hours. My classes will include: my internship, medical terminology, equine exercise physiology, horse production, introduction to therapeutic riding, an art class, and my senior seminar class.

I will be searching for jobs soon and working towards paying off my loans. The money that your association sent me went towards my tuition this semester and is greatly appreciated. I will be graduating in May with a degree in Animal Science. Thanks for your support during my college experience and I hope to pay it forward in the near future.

Sincerely,
Chelsea Massie

The Meadows Auction cont...

items. Much sought after sports memorabilia, harness, hoppers, cash, gift certificates, gift baskets, art work and even part ownership in a race horse for a day were available.

There was a terrific showing of the horsemen and women from The Meadows. I was happy to see Wayne and Trudy Hite there with their kids. I have not seen them since they raced at Rockingham about ten years ago. We all had lots of fun that summer.

Lori Romanetti, Janet Campbell, and the rest of the ministry team worked very hard to pull everything together. It was well worth the effort. God bless you for a job well done!

Perfect cont...

requires patience and perseverance and lots of hard work. And, we love it.

We learn from the Bible that the race of life is about keeping our perspective balanced, dependent on the truth of the Bible's words. It's not about a check or this week's finish, but about what has already been done to assure our future - it's about hope and trust and faith. Because Jesus has already won the race of life for us, already loves us, already has a place in eternity ready for us. We don't have to earn anything; it has already been done for us in that Bethlehem manger and on the cross of Calvary.

As the new year begins in racing we ponder (sometimes worry) about how many racing dates there will be, the size of the purses, the price of feed, the health of our four legged check earners and the bank balance – the human stuff that dominates our backstretch days and nights. This Christmas Eve we visited our favorite runner after backstretch church and the reality of the manger was overwhelming – Jesus was born a man, like us, to provide a life for you and me that we cannot provide for ourselves through grit, hard work. It free and it is wonderful. Christ's gift to us is love and hope and joy, unthinkable in human terms.

I'm thankful this day for the industry that provides, that dominates a majority of my thinking and doing life, but most thankful for my Maker who makes "perfect" a reality. Jesus loves you and me and that is perfect. And, it is a promise from the maker of the universe.

Praise the Lord for his goodness as the pages turn on 2011 and we look forward to the challenges and opportunities this New Year will bring us.

Don Dean



157 North Main St.
Salem, NH 03079

<i>Do You Like Football?</i>	1
<i>Chelsea Massie</i>	1
<i>Perfect by Don Dean</i>	2
<i>Prayer Corner</i>	2
<i>Day of Prayer for You!</i>	2
<i>Return coupon</i>	3
<i>John Klark home with the Lord</i>	4
<i>Meadows Chinese Auction</i>	4
<i>Obituaries</i>	4
<i>Pam's Story</i>	4

Please indicate
address corrections.

CHHA Eastern Region Representative, John Klark, 63, went to be with Jesus Christ, his Lord and Savior, on Friday, January 13, 2012, at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Hanover, NH, surrounded by his loving family. John Klark loved CHHA and all the members. He loved racing, horses and horse people. Yes John, CHHA *Continued on Page 2*



Chinese Auction at The Meadows
Hite Family (left)

The Chaplaincy Board at The Meadows hosted a huge Chinese Auction last month. Hundreds of people purchased tickets in hopes of winning the draw for hundreds of donated

Continued page 3

Sally Stancil sent this story



Pam's Story

In a recent email, I read about a woman named Pam, who knows the pain of considering abortion. More than 24 years ago, she and her husband Bob were serving as missionaries to the Philippines and praying for a fifth child. Pam contracted amoebic dysentery, an infection of the intestine caused by a parasite found in contaminated food or drink. She went into a coma and was treated with strong antibiotics before they discovered she was pregnant.

Doctors urged her to abort the baby for her own safety and told her that the medicines had caused irreversible damage to her baby. She refused the abortion and cited her Christian faith as the reason for her hope that her son would be born without the devastating disabilities physicians predicted. Pam said the

Obituaries

Please pray for the families of these harness racing friends.

Dallis Hughes, son of Dick and Lorretta Hughes, lost his battle with cancer Jan. 7 and went home to the Lord. He was 57. Dallis and his family really appreciated the prayers all the CHHA members offered on his behalf.



Dale Ross of Vienna, Ohio, died Dec. 17, at the Cleveland Clinic. He was 71. Ross raced horses mostly throughout Ohio.

Russell "Russ" Crawford Sr., 92, known for his Harness Brokerage company which insured Standardbred horses, died.



Walter L. Christman, 74, of Washington, Pa., died Jan. 3 from complications of diabetes.



Barbara A. Betts, 74, died Jan. 4 after a battle with cancer. She was a lifelong resident of Pickaway County, Ohio.

Lynn M. Proesel, 65, of Loxahatchee, Fla., died Dec. 31. She trained Standardbreds since 1998.

Jerry Norman Watson, 72, born and raised in Cornish, Maine passed away in his home Nov. 17 surrounded by his wife and children. Jerry (Butch) raced in Delaware and NY before returning to Maine.



Lloyd Arnold, 82, a longtime Standardbred owner and former racetrack operator, died Jan. 8. Originally the owner of Arnold Cattle Co. in Iowa, Mr. Arnold raced hundreds of horses in Illinois and across the Midwest throughout the 60s and early 70s.



Richard Steven "Steve" Gray, Sr., 50, of Anderson, Indiana, passed away Dec. 8 in Anderson, Indiana. Steve was a successful trainer, accomplished blacksmith and a family man who loved his children and grandchildren.



Donations

Reynolds Hay and Straw sent a contribution to CHHA in the name of their loyal customers. **Thank you!**