



Rambling Willie

In God We Trust



Serving Jesus Christ
in Harness Racing



May, 2015

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
- Greg Gehman, Vice President
Knight's Landing Stable
- Roger Huston
- Lori Romanetti
Moshannon Stables

For newsletter questions
or ideas please contact:

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

Needed
Praise reports
testimonies
other articles
for our newsletter

Racing for Christ



Your horse can too

Contact Chaplain Lee at CHHA

Who Loves You?

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Bruce Ranger works tirelessly encouraging addicts to find new life in Christ. Margaret Niels has three children registered as living donors to give her a kidney in June. Parents, children and siblings help family members who are struggling. Around the track we share our grain and sandwiches. That's love. By the way, giving of ourselves is also the secret to true happiness.

Jesus came to die on the cross and open the gates of heaven so we could live forever with God (John 3:16). As Max Lucado puts it in, "The Final Week of Jesus", this was not a "last-ditch effort" to save us. No, Jesus wanted to come to suffer horrid humiliation and die an excruciating death to show just how much God loves us. Without such a gruesome show of love we may not understand the depth of God's love. God went to the extreme, giving the best possible demonstration, pulling all the stops, providing every opportunity for us to understand. Still many don't really believe God loves them. What more must God do to prove it?

When we work hard getting our horse to the races and no one is really impressed, God is proud of us. As our finances dwindle, the bills mount and no one is there to help us, God is with us, opening a door for us to step through. When we are in the hospital with no visitors, God is there. When there is no one to talk to, we can talk with God.

When we begin to understand how God is working in our lives and the lives of those around us, we are walking with the Lord. Jesus said, "Now this is eternal life:

that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent" (John 17:3).

Eternal life means life now and for all eternity with God. We live with God now, thinking about "all that Jesus did and taught" (Acts 1:1) and studying the scriptures to gain an understanding of how best to live in faith. What is faith? It is believing God wants what is best for us and will work with us to bring it about. While we wait, in faith we continue to live godly lives. Sometimes we slip up, thinking we know better how to find happiness. We don't!

Hebrews 11:1 tells us "faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." The author then goes on to outline the faith of many in the scriptures who lived their faith in God even in extreme circumstances.

So what does Jesus ask of us? To love God with all our heart, mind and soul



and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves (Matthew 22:37-39). Who is our neighbor? How do we best show our love for God? Remember, God lives in all the strangers, family members and friends we meet each day. When we love these people as Jesus does, we love God. As the hymn says,

"They'll know we are Christians by our love."

Let's joyfully reach out in love and friendship to those around us as family, guarding their dignity and providing for their needs. This is how we spread the news that God is in our land and how we praise God from whom all good things come.

History of They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

Peter Raymond Scholtes wrote the hymn "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" while he was a parish priest at St. Brendan's on the South Side of Chicago in the 1960s. At the time, he was leading a youth choir out of the church basement, and was looking for an appropriate song for a series of ecumenical, interracial events. When he couldn't find such a song, he wrote the now-famous hymn in a single day. His experiences at St. Brendan's, and in the Chicago Civil Rights movement, influenced him for the rest of his life.

Peter had a profound impact on those who loved him, and on many more who never met him. He was blessed with amazing talents, and shared them generously with people all over the world. Throughout his life--whether as a priest, musician-composer, social worker, teacher, community organizer, therapist, author, or consultant--Peter had a genius for making complex and important ideas easy to grasp and put to use. He was confident in his convictions, but embraced differences, and cherished his friendships that bridged cultures and countries.

After working in the public sector in Lynn, Massachusetts, and Madison, Wisconsin, Peter became a management consultant traveling the globe to help businesses engage employees' talents more fully, humanely, and effectively.

It is interesting that CHHA member, Gary Cartwright, who is also a management consultant, told me this is a favorite hymn of the men who participate in his prison ministry. What's more interesting is that I met Peter Scholtes and sold his management books while working as CFO for a management research and consulting organization, GOAL/QPC. However, I never knew of his ministry or realized he authored this famous hymn. It is a small world. Yes, we are one in the Lord!



Excerpts from Peter Scholtes' obituary at www.pscholtes.com/obituary.htm.

They will Know We Are Christians by Our Love

1. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

Refrain

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

2. We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.

3. We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.

4. All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one.

Go to www.chha.net to listen to
They Will Know We are Christians by Our Love

By Peter Raymond Scholtes

Favorite Hymns

Do you have a favorite hymn you would like to know more about or would like to see printed in our newsletter and added to our website? Or do you have information on a hymn you would like to share. Please contact Chaplain Lee Alphen.



Contact information is on page 1 and page 6.

Love God Puzzle Matthew 22:37

LOVE MIND
LORD, SOUL
YOUR AND
GOD NEIGHBOR
WITH AS
ALLYOUR YOURSELF
HEART

F F L D M M D G
T L N O O L E G
R A E W R U V M
A S I S G O O M
E T G R R S L I
H U H R G U A N
A B B A E G O D
R U O Y L L A Y
E A R T H T R N

Words may read top to bottom, bottom to top, left to right, right to left or diagonally in any direction. Some words may be looped together. Solution is on page 4.

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 _____

Circle one:

Please accept my donation of _____. Check Cash   

Please return to: leedalphen@comcast.net

OR

CHHA
157 North Main St.
Salem, NH 03079

Credit Card # _____ Exp Date ____/____

Name on Card _____

New Books!

Choose from these free gifts with your donation

Live A Life That Matters for God by Jack Levine (\$25) donation

Bruce Ranger reprints _____ qty (free)

My Addict Your Addict by Jack Levine (\$25) donation

Black tie with harness horse (\$20) donation

Items available while supplies last

Donations and orders also accepted at www.chha.net.

Mr. Anonymous and his wife thank you for your prayers. Surgery went great! Tumor is benign. All is well. God is good!

Praise God! Bob Cain came through his knee replacement surgery with flying colors.

Gary Cartwright's hip replacement surgery went great. He even went home a day early.

Elinor's surgery went great praise God! No problems.

Glen Miller is doing great. There was no damage to his heart.

Madisyn Smith has begun to be able to pull herself to standing in her pack and plays which is huge for her. I wanted to thank you for your continued prayers for her. *Jess Smith*



Ameilia and
Madisyn Smith

The Minckler family whose house burned to the ground about three weeks ago are seeing how God is working in their lives.

from Randy Nix... via Marsh Townley

I would like to give a Praise report now that everything has gone through and is done. I had thousands of dollars in medical cost from having to go to the emergency room at the hospital.

I received a message on Facebook asking me how I was doing financially. I shared about the medical bills and a ministry paid off this great debt of mine. I want you to know it was like the Lord opening the Red Sea for me. It was just a miracle, what a heavy load over my life was removed. I have to Praise the Lord for this wonderful act of love and blessing. Praise the Lord!! *Cont. in next column*

At different times people have been such a blessing knowing what a difficult time it has been for my wife and me.

Praise Reports

That's what I am talking about how beautiful people can be. Our lives can be so affected by others and we can affect other's lives also. Let us be a blessing to others, let us love one another.

Wonderful things happen when we go out of the boundaries of us four and no more. That's when we begin to touch other's lives. You are very special people, you may not feel very special but I can assure you that you are wonderfully and beautifully made by God and created to be a blessing.

Our love and prayers sent to you tonight, God bless you and thank you for the wonderful blessing you are.....love Randy and Catherine Nix.



Prayer Corner continued from page 5

Jim Alphen has an iron deficiency and possible internal bleeding.

Karen and Chris Belluomini are expecting baby, Joy, in June. Joy has Down Syndrome. Mother and baby both have many complications.

Lincoln Chaffee, a harness racing blacksmith, is running for US President.

Sharon Cromer just began chemo following her breast cancer surgery.

Janice DeHart, is 18 months away from being declared cancer free.

Priscilla Halfyard, Ken Carter's granddaughter, has decided no chemo.

Sherie Hankins fell and broke her collarbone and is still having trouble getting around.

Rick Jackson had heart by-pass surgery and he cannot kick a cough he has had all winter.

Scott Ramnarin just lost his wife and his job.

Wally Ross, Sr had a slight stroke this week at Pompano.

Chaplain Ed Smith of Victim Relief Ministries had a heart attack.

Obituaries continued from page 5

racing community. He owned, trained and raised Standardbreds with exceptional skill and patience.

Louis J. Brigandi Sr., 82, of Hicksville, N.Y., died April 19. He campaigned his horses, including 1987 New York-bred stakes winner National Way, on the New York circuit and enjoyed jogging horses at Roosevelt Raceway.



Gary Collins, who raced in New England. died recently.

Gratien Deschenes, 89, of Quebec died April 17. Gratien, a driver and trainer and breeder, was known for picking out and developing the great trotting mare Grades Singing. The mare was inducted to the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame in 1996.



Mickey DiFranco, a driver, trainer, owner who raced in NY and CA, died prematurely.

Barbara Elrod died the week of April 6. She was 71. She was the companion to Ray Lineweaver for 30 years. Barbara worked in the race office at Rosecroft Raceway for many years and also managed the track's dorms.

Normand Richard (Norm) Fluet Sr., 59, of Aberdeen, NC, died April 24. He was born in Sherbrooke, Quebec but has lived and raised his family in the states for the past 45 years. Norm followed his father into harness racing and became a very successful driver and trainer. He had a natural gift when working with trotters and breaking babies in preparation for handling and racing. In 2007 Norm stopped driving and passed the reins to his son, Phillip. Norm, Phillip, and Lori worked closely together preparing yearlings down south and racing them in the northeast.



Paul "Biff" Lowry, 87, a racing publicist and executive for more than 50 years died April 9 in St. George, UT. Biff started his career in racing in 1947. He became publicity director and later assistant general manager for Western Harness, which operated harness meets at both Hollywood Park and Santa Anita Park in the late 1940s and 1950s. In 1968 he went to the Red Mile eventually becoming president and GM 1981.



Greg MacDonald, 86, formerly of Sydney, Nova Scotia and Smyrna, DE, died April 13, as a result of heart failure. Greg began his driving career in 1962 north of the border having great success with the pacer, Bob Brook. In 1963 he made the break to the U.S., working as second trainer for the late Hugh Bell. Greg trained many \$100,000 winners. He last drove in 1988 at Monticello Raceway. An accomplished all around horseman he was seen in his later years sitting in



his pickup trackside watching training miles with his Jack Russell, Lizzy by his side.

Chuck McCann, who raced in New England, died recently.

Doris Niccum, 86 of Fowlerville, MI died April 15 after a brief illness following hip surgery. She was the mother of trainers Don and Stan Niccum and longtime U.S. Trotting Association tattoo technician Richard Niccum. Doris worked as a secretary at the University of Illinois and in the South Lyon, Mich., public school system. Of course, she always helped with the family stable. A huge fan of the sport, she loved to watch harness racing on RTN on a daily basis.

Edward R. Razzetti, 79, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ, first vice present of the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey (SBOANJ) and a board member for nearly three decades, passed away April 5. "Ed was one of the finest men I ever knew," said SBOANJ President Tom Luchento. "He always provided good counsel to me and to the SBOANJ. He was my right hand man. I will miss him dearly. All of us at the SBOANJ send our condolences to his family." An Army veteran, he was the owner of Fairmount Car and Truck Leasing in Hackensack for 50 years. Ed was a devoted horse owner and breeder for many years, racing horses at various tracks, including the Meadowlands. He was the longest serving member of the SBOANJ.

Renee Ross, wife of Wally Ross, Jr, had an aneurism and died this week at her home in Margate, FL while she was caring for her handicapped daughter.

Rose Sinclair passed away on April 1 and entered into the presence of Jesus, her God and Savior after a courageous battle with cancer. Rosie and her husband Michael Sinclair raced in Ontario. Rosie's infectious smile and positive attitude will be greatly missed by those that knew her.

Anthony Michael Strollo, 76, died April 26 after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. Tony was a retired Standardbred trainer and driver at Batavia Downs, Buffalo Raceway, Yonkers Raceway, the Meadowlands and Garden State Park. "Tony was one of the nicest guys you'll ever meet around a racetrack," said Todd Haight, Director/GM of Live Racing at Batavia Downs. "One of few just left handed drivers on the Western New York circuit; he was notorious for bringing home some long priced winners."

	F	D		
	T	L	N	L
	R	A	E	W
	A	S	I	S
	E	T	G	R
	H	H	U	N
		B	G	O
	R	U	O	Y
			L	L
			A	Y
				R

**Love God
Puzzle Solution**

Racetrack Chaplaincy of America (RTCA)

It was great to spend some time with the Thoroughbred chaplains and others associated with their ministries at the RTCA Chaplain School. Rev. Dr. Isaac Canales, PhD and his son, Pastor Josh Canales spoke in depth encouraging us to always be in full accord with the Lord and ministering with the mind of Christ.



Chaplain Craig Wiley and Arnie Frazee

A Prayer by Chaplain Craig Wiley

Dear Lord,
Thank you for the blessing this new day. Only you know how this day will unfold for me, so I trust you to take me through the challenges that await me. I will honor you with my life today and thank you for always being with me. This I pray in the name of the Father, the Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

"I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture." John 10:9 NIV

Obituaries

Please pray for the families of our harness racing friends:

Larry Wright Barnett, 77, of Warrensburg, IL, died April 5. He graduated from St. Louis College of Pharmacy in 1959. Larry retired from Adolf Meyer Center in 1988 and from St. Mary's Hospital in 2003. Following in his father's footsteps, he was a respected competitor within the horse



Obituaries cont on page 4

Prayer Corner

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

Katherine Aracena, Debbie Boardman, Jeanne Duso Boudot, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Rick Carson, Karen Carter, Gary Cartwright, Wayne Cowdry, Margaret Cromer, Sharon Cromer, Janet Dehart, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Tiffany Fisher, Margaret Groce, Marilyn Hankins, Rose Hennessey, Bob Hogfieldt, John Hufford, Betty James, Bob Kinsey, Larry Ledderman, Evan Leversage, Rox Liles, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Priscilla McFayden, Mrs. Miller, Corey Murphy, Randy Nix, Pierre Noel, Fran Nori, Jay O'Neil, Dee Parsons, Patsy Payne, Jim Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Del Smart, Rose Sinclair, Jimmy Sommers, Jack Taylor, Gary Tyron, Fred Ward Sr., Alice Wardman, Evan Wellwood, Betty Wogoman, Marty Woebkenberg, Chaplain Yurian, Joyce Zeasapolowski.

These friends are also in need of our ongoing prayers:

Chaplain Kelly Blanton, Gary Bennett, Amy Bondon, Peter Blood,

Devotion from Chaplain Sam Spence

A man was once drawn by the idea that living in "quiet contemplation away from human society" was the sure path to happiness. He wandered into the desert to become a hermit. After many days, he found a cave near a spring where he could obtain water and grow a few plants for food. Feeling self-sufficient, he spent many idle hours in solitude. Eventually, the hours of the day seemed never to end.

His loneliness oppressed him. Feeling more wretched than holy, he cried, "Father God, let me die. I am weary of this life." Exhausted, he fell asleep and dreamed that an angel stood before him, saying, "Cut down the palm tree that grows near the spring and turn its fibers into a rope."

The hermit awoke and with great effort and many hours of toil, he felled the palm and made a coil of rope from its fibers. Again the angel appeared to him, saying, "I've seen you smiling every day as you worked. I can tell you are no longer weary of life. Go back into the world with your rope and find employment with it. Let it remind you toil is sweet."

Work not only benefits the mind and wallet, but the body, emotions, and soul. Work keeps all parts of the human machine in order. Just as machines rust out faster than they wear out, so, too, with people.

He who is slothful in his work is a brother to him who is a great destroyer. Proverbs 18:9 NKJV

The Trinity compared to Jello

From Herman Drenth

Take a box of Jello - that's God the Father

Add hot water and stir - that's the Son

Then add the cold water and stir again - the Holy Spirit
Once the Jello is stirred, it can't be separated. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are One - The Trinity



Marilyn Bondon, Diane Boyken, Gaetane Breton, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta, Dale, Harold Dancer, Jimmy Doherty, Dennis Drenth, Nora Fenner, Barbara Elrod, Barbara Fowler, Sylvain Gagnon, Dr. Howard Gill, Bob Goth, Barbara and Brent Graham, David Graham, Debbie Gray, Harry Harvey, Bob Hilliard, Bob Jones, Mary Jones, Nancy Haskell, Ruby Hensley, Miguel Hernandez, Paul and Mrs. Hershey, Carol Heusinkveld, Jerry Hissam, Donna Holterman, John Hostler, Jesse Hughes, Thelma Klark, Kenny Kane, Katherine Lonager, Billy Long, Sharon Lowell, Faye Mackey, Joanne Maiorca, Pedro Martinez, Jr., Melissa MacNeill, Kaye McDonnell, Patty Menne, Dean Miller, Raymond Miller, Margaret Nields, Bill Parker, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Susan Parks, Aaron Peternel, Rita Polese, Joanne Ranger, Donnie Richards, Lori Romanetti, Gerald Russell, Madisyn Smith, Brad Strawser, Tony, Lee Anne Taylor, Lorraine Truitt, Mel Turcott, Sandy Weiss, Greggie Welch, Jr, Bill and Lucille Wick, Tony Working.

Please pray for those serving in the military, especially Joshua Hankins, Yann Lamiqu, Chris Petruzzo and Elizabeth Welch.

Special Intentions for this month:

Continued on page 3



157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Contact Chaplain Lee for information

Please indicate
Address corrections

Focus on God

By Lee Newcomber

Training horses in Aiken, SC over the winter, away from my family, I had extra time to focus on God and attend Oasis Church pastored by Ray Popham. He taught me God is so big that He is with us 24/7, even when we think we are on our own.

We put blinders on horses so they can't see and get spooked. The song Amazing Grace says, "I was blind but now I see." When you remove the blinders the horse usually goes better and faster just like we do. We can see more and realize there is more to life just like the song says.

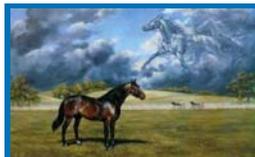
Listening to God, the Lord gave me some challenges. One was to help start a men's group at our home church, Free Christian, pastored by James Fry of Continental Ohio. During my free time at the track, I studied.

When I got back, we had our first lesson from the Stepping Up series. It was a big success and a great experience because I was letting God take control and speak through me to share with these men. We expect our horses to win races. God wants us to step up and win races by sharing his word and reaching the ones that want to know him as well as those who don't know he's real. We all know some horses take more time than others to be strong and bold and to make good race horses. We

expect them not to be afraid. We should not be afraid either.

The scripture I want to share is 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 "Be watchful, stand firm in faith, act like men, be strong. Let ALL that you do be done in love." This is how we all need to be in life. There is eternal life and we want to be good Stewards of God's word, so when we all get to heaven what a place of rejoicing it will be. When we will all see Jesus we will sing an shout the victory. This is like winning a race, we are all excited for the win and our blood is pumping fast. When we lose it's like we're in the valley. We try and improve the horse. We ask God for help, when we are in the valley. When we are on the top of the mountain, we need to praise him.

He is teaching us every step of the way . We must dig into the bible and learn the basics before we can run. When we do, God will rejoice and be glad in it, just like us when we win a race . It's our responsibility to share the word of The Lord, no matter where we are. God will always have our back if we will let him.



*May the angels
lead you into paradise*

Memorials posted at www.chha.net

Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Jim Doherty** by: Ada Jean Ackerman
In memory of **Lou Guida** by: Albert Adams
In memory of **Hal Jones** by: Albert Adams
In memory of **Patsy Payne** by: CHHA-The Meadows and Pastor Joe and Marcella DiDonatto
In memory of **Tom Croakarín** by: Salvatore Dimario
In memory of **Bo Beauregard** by: Salvatore Dimario
In memory of **Mickey Di Franco** by: Chaplain John Prescott

CHHA is coming to New Jersey

John us Monday, July 20th at Gaitway Farm

Free BBQ Fun Inspiration Music

Guest Speaker: Ron Dancer

Assemblyman Ron Dancer, son of the late Stanley Dancer and a devout Christian is often called to speak in churches. He is a successful horseman and former Commissioner of the N.J. Horse Racing Commission and Trustee of the N.J. Department of Agriculture's Sire Stakes Board.

