



Rambling Willie

In God We Trust



**Serving Jesus Christ
in Harness Racing**



November, 2015

Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

Remember...

I pray for all our members every day.



Chaplain Lee

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[Chaplain Lee Alphen](#)
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or ideas please contact:*

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Wanted
Praise Reports
Testimonies
Articles

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen
leealphen@comcast.net

or

157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

Got Faith?

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

“Have faith in God, Jesus answered. [...] Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours” (Mark 11:22-24).

Ten year old Breana Carsey trusted God when she selected the dam of MJB Got Faith for her birthday gift and then named the colt, professing her faith in both God and the foal. MJB Got Faith, a horse that struggled to go fast enough to qualify to race, won his first race and every race this year. Breana's dream was fulfilled when, against all odds, he crossed



the wire as the Ohio State two year old champion.

There is more to this story we began to share in last month's newsletter. Steve Hartman interviewed Breana and her dad in a CBS "On the Road" segment. Breana has given half of MJB Got Faith's earnings to charity. The rest will be the down payment on a farm so she can walk out her back door to be with the horse she loves. You can watch the segment on our website at www.chha.net. Breana and her family share their story, giving God the credit for answering her prayers in response to her faith.

The poor widow with only enough flour and oil to make a cake for a final meal for herself and her son first fed the prophet, Elijah. The drought continued for a year as God continued to feed Elijah, the

widow and her son (Kings 17:10-16).

Jesus raised a girl to life, healed a woman with a blood flow, and restored sight to two blind men and speech to a man who was mute. People were so grateful and in awe that each of these news items spread quickly throughout the land (Matthew 9:18-33).

How is God working in your life? Please let me know so I can share it with our members for the building up of the family of God in the harness racing community.

Chaplain Ken and Karen Carter and their family have been greatly challenged over the last few years. Their grandson, Spencer, was killed in a car accident and his sister, Priscilla, died of cancer. Twice Karen underwent treatment for cancer. The example of their faith and commitment to ministry in the harness racing community in Ontario prompted Norm Clements, Ken Middleton and Bill Galvin to team up and promote The Stable that God Loves. One percent of the stable's \$4,000,000 in purses from 67 horses is tithed to Chaplain Ken's ministry.

Some CHHA members have enrolled their horses in our Racing for Christ Program. Others partner with us for the spread of the Gospel with regular contributions. One member sends a few dollars here and there with a few witty words that bring a smile to my face.

Whatever it is, whatever you send, I am always delighted to hear from you. Kirby Clark was doodling and enclosed his pen and ink sketch with his check. Unless he sends me something I like better, the pen and ink will show up in a future newsletter.

So, what do I believe? I have faith that God is blessing CHHA and helping us to carry out our mission to **"Keep Christ Alive in Harness Racing!"** I have faith in you to help us with our mission and to keep responding to the call of God in your own life.

"Just Checking In Today"

Author unknown

A Minister passing through his church
In the middle of the day,
Decided to pause by the altar
To see who came to pray.

Just then the back door opened,
And a man came down the aisle,
The minister frowned as he saw the man
Hadn't shaved in quite a while.

His shirt was torn and shabby,
And his coat was worn and frayed,
The man knelt down and bowed his head,
Then rose and walked away.

In the days that followed at precisely noon,
The preacher saw this chap,
Each time he knelt just for a moment,
A lunch pail in his lap.

Well, the minister's suspicions grew,
With robbery a main fear,
He decided to stop and ask the man,
'What are you doing here?'

The old man said he was a factory worker
And lunch was half an hour
Lunchtime was his prayer time,
For finding strength and power.

'I stay only a moment
Because the factory's far away;
As I kneel here talking to the Lord,
This is kinda what I say:

JUST CAME BY TO TELL YOU, LORD,
HOW HAPPY I HAVE BEEN,
SINCE WE FOUND EACH OTHERS FRIENDSHIP
AND YOU TOOK AWAY MY SIN.

DON'T KNOW MUCH OF HOW TO PRAY,
BUT I THINK ABOUT YOU EVERYDAY.
SO, JESUS, THIS IS BEN,
JUST CHECKING IN TODAY.'

The minister feeling foolish,
Told Ben that it was fine.
He told the man that he was welcome
To pray there anytime.

'It's time to go, and thanks,' Ben said
As he hurried to the door.
Then the minister knelt there at the altar,
Which he'd never done before.

His cold heart melted, warmed with love,
As he met with Jesus there.
As the tears flowed down his cheeks,

He repeated old Ben's prayer:

I JUST CAME BY TO TELL YOU, LORD,
HOW HAPPY I'VE BEEN,
SINCE WE FOUND EACH OTHERS FRIENDSHIP
AND YOU TOOK AWAY MY SIN.

I DON'T KNOW MUCH OF HOW TO PRAY,
BUT I THINK ABOUT YOU EVERYDAY.
SO, JESUS, THIS IS ME,
JUST CHECKING IN TODAY.'

Past noon one day, the minister noticed
That old Ben hadn't come.
As more days passed and still no Ben,
He began to worry some.

At the factory, he asked about him,
Learning he was ill.
The hospital staff was worried,
But he'd given them a thrill.

The week that Ben was with them,
Brought changes in the ward.
His smiles and joy contagious.
Changed people were his reward.

The head nurse couldn't understand
Why Ben could be so glad,
When no flowers, calls or cards came,
Not a visitor he had.

The minister stayed by his bed,
He voiced the nurse's concern:
No friends had come to show they cared.
He had nowhere to turn.

Looking surprised, old Ben spoke up
And with a winsome smile;
'The nurse is wrong, she couldn't know,
He's been here all the while.'

Everyday at noon He comes here,
A dear friend of mine, you see,
He sits right down and takes my hand,
Leans over and says to me:

I JUST CAME BY TO TELL YOU, BEN,
HOW HAPPY I HAVE BEEN,
SINCE WE FOUND THIS FRIENDSHIP,
AND I TOOK AWAY YOUR SIN.

I THINK ABOUT YOU ALWAYS
AND I LOVE TO HEAR YOU PRAY,
AND SO BEN, THIS IS JESUS,
JUST CHECKING IN TODAY.'

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 return to: lealphen@comcast.net

Please accept my donation of _____. Check Cash   

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) donationBlack tie with harness horse (\$20) donation

Items available while supplies last

[To Donate Now—Click here](#)Donations also accepted at www.chha.net

You can request free gifts and make other comments with on line donations.

First Professional Woman Harness Driver

Neva Elizabeth Burrignt, aka Grandma Burrignt, was the first professional woman harness driver in the United States. She retired after a 57 year career in harness racing that began in 1916 and included a Grand National circuit win and many record setting drives.

According to mi-harness.net, Grandma started out at the Midwest fairs, moved to race in the pari-mutels and then was invited to New York to help kick off harness racing in the Big Apple with an appearance on "What's My Line".

Grandma was the first person inducted into the Illinois Hall of Fame. Her daughter and son-in-law, Joyce and Jack Hankins, followed several years later. Certainly Neva is smiling down on her grandson, Kim Hankins, and all the good he does heading up the Meadows Standardbred Owners Association (MSOA) as the fifth generation involved in harness racing. Kim now has Grandma's crop in his office. Is it true he uses it to whip the Pennsylvania legislatures into shape?



Smile Time

Chaplain Sam Spence

A devout cowboy lost his favorite Bible while he was mending fence on the range. Three weeks later a cow walked up to him carrying the Bible in its mouth.

The cowboy couldn't believe his eyes. He took the precious book out of the cow's mouth, raised his eyes heavenward and exclaimed, "It's a miracle!"

"Not really," said the cow. "Your name is written inside the cover."

Praying The Lord's Prayer

By Sally Stancil

When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray, He gave them what we call "The Lord's Prayer". To me that is the most amazing prayer ever. He covered so much in so few words. For a long time now, I have prayed it every morning. As I pray through it, I expound on each part. For instance, when I say "give us this day our daily bread", I pray thanksgiving for the food and water He provides for me and for the bible where I get the bread of life each morning. I also pray for those held captive, such as sex slaves, or those without bread or clean water, or suffering Christians around the world. However the Lord leads me to pray on that morning is how I pray.

Another example is where I pray "forgive us our sins as we forgive others". When I pray this, I always ask the Lord to show me anyone I am holding any un-forgiveness or judgment for. I have been doing this for so long that it amazes me how He will bring someone I've never even thought about to my mind. I don't want any un-forgiveness to stand between me and Jesus when I face Him face to face one day. I can tell He has brought so much freedom in my life as I pray this.

In your prayer time each day, consider praying the Lord's Prayer and personalizing it in your own life.



Obituaries cont. from page 5

Richard J. Donley, 74 of Paris, MI, died Oct 17. Richard worked in the oil fields and retired from MichCon in 1998. He continued as a consultant for 14 more years. At the age of 50, Richard and his wife, Joyce, bought their first horse and began harness horse training and racing.



Richard Granat, 66, died Oct 14. Richard was a popular Standardbred owner in Chicago during the 1990s and early 2000s. He was a fixture around the backstretches of Balmoral, Sportsman's Park, and Hawthorne where he was friends with virtually everyone. He loved to go to the markets in Chicago and buy huge bags of carrots and painstakingly cut them into bite-size pieces for his horses in the Ken Rucker barn. A twice-wounded U.S. Army veteran of the war in Vietnam, he was a fearless man who loved horses and horse racing and was always ready and willing to help backstretch people out in any way he could.

Terry McDonnell, 72, the former racing secretary at Windsor Raceway and GM of the Windsor Spitfires died Sep 8. According to Standardbred Canada, Terry was the patriarch of his racing family. He is best known to many as the former race secretary at Greenwood Raceway, Windsor Raceway and Rideau Carleton Raceway.



Ole Bach Nielsen, 57, of East Windsor, NJ died Oct 1 from injuries sustained while crossing the road at the Red Mile after leaving the track. Ole bought, sold and owned harness horses for over 20 years. According to the Red Mile, "Ole Bach was of Danish descent, lived in New Jersey, and visited Lexington annually for the Fall Trots and Annual Sale."



Rena E. Stoll, 99, of Kearny, NJ died after a long, classy and fulfilling life. Rena will be laid to rest alongside her husband George and son Jeffrey in the Arlington Cemetery. Rena was an active member of The First Presbyterian Church of Arlington where she served as a Deacon. She and her daughter were friends with CHHA President, Amy Bondon, and her mother, Mary. Mary and Rena's friendship spanned from kindergarten to Mary's death at 95. Rena was a sales associate at Saks Fifth Avenue until she retired at 93. At the time she was the oldest employee and likely the longest as well.



Barry Townsend of Windsor, Ontario passed away Tuesday, July 7. Barry was a retiree of Central Stamping after thirty years of service. He loved standardbred horses,

owning and racing them locally. Jo-Dee Brown trained for him in the 90s.

Rosemarie Villante 77, of Margate, FL, formerly of Englishtown, NJ, died Oct 20. She belonged to Our Lady of Mercy Church in Englishtown and St. Vincent Church in Margate. She worked for Manalapan High School before retiring to Florida in 2004. Rosemarie's daughter, Rose Huff, works at the Florida Standardbred Breeder's Office at Pompano.



William "Bill" Wick, 93, of Pompano Beach, FL and Taberg, NY, died Oct 13. Bill attended the University of Minnesota for a year and graduated from Horseshoeing School at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, California. As a young man Bill drove truck and sailed in the Merchant Service but his first love was horses. He started shoeing horses in 1949. He traveled the Grand Circuit for 19 years and spent winters at Ben White Raceway and Pompano Park. During those 19 years he shod 18 Little Brown Jug and 14 Hambletonian winners. For the next 19 years he spent winters at Pompano Park and summers at Vernon Downs. He retired from shoeing horses in 1993. His favorite horse was Bret Hanover. The last horse he shod was for Brian Sears at Vernon Downs. The last thing he read was the Pompano Park Racing Program. Bill and his wife, Lucille, were part of the Thursday night Bible Study at Pompano Park and members of the CHHA. The Florida Chapter of the United States Harness Writers Association gave Bill the Dan Gawlas Good Guy Award in 2002 and in 2010 he was elected to the Florida Harness Racing Hall of Fame. CHHA thanks Bill's family for suggesting donations in his memory be made to the Christian Harness Horsemen's Association.



Puzzle Solution
Puzzle on page 5

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	L	A				U	B		
	I	H	S	R	U	O	Y		
W						P	Y		

Puzzle

"Whatever you ask in prayer, believe you have received and it will be yours." Mark 11:22-24

D	D	E	V	I	E	C	E	R	W	H	A	T	E	R
A	R	E	W	A	V	A	V	R	Y	O	U	A	S	K
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H	W	H	A	S	P	Y	S	O	B	E				
									Y	O	U	R	S	

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 on Page 4



*May the angels
lead you into paradise*
Memorials posted at www.chha.net

Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Bill Wick** by: Janice Sarnie
In memory of **Rene Stoll** by: Amy Bondon

Obituaries

Please pray for the families of our harness racing friends:

David Errol Baird, 76, of Findlay, OH died Oct 19 of gallbladder cancer. David trained and raced harness horses. He was also a farmer in Northwestern Ohio and Michigan and was partners with his son, CHHA member Darrell. He attended Eagleville Church of Christ for many years. He also worked for Baird Excavating and Masonry for 20 years. Darrel said, "He made it clear that he knew where he was going and was very much at peace. Seeing him go through this process and knowing where he was going reminded me of the psalm, "Oh death where is they sting".

Obituaries cont on page 4

Prayer Corner

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

Debbie Boardman, Jeanne Duso Boudot, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Rick Carson, Karen Carter, Sam Castimore, Ginny Chudoba, Margaret Cromer, Sharon Cromer, Janet Dehart, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Tiffany Fisher, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Marilyn Hankins, Rose Hennessey, John Hufford, Betty James, Bob Kinsey, Larry Lederman, Evan Leversage, Rox Liles, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Leo McNamara, Mrs. Miller, Corey Murphy, Randy Nix, Pierre Noel, Fran Nori, Jay O'Neil, Dee Parsons, Robyn Rembleski, Daren Richner, Del Smart, Jimmy Sommers, Doug Stringer, Jack Taylor, Carrie Thompson, Gary Tyron, Fred Ward Sr., Alice Wardman, Evan Wellwood, Marty Woebkenberg, Joyce Zeasapolowski

These friends are also in need of our ongoing prayers:

Chaplain Kelly Blanton, Gary Bennett, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Danny Breton, Gaetane Breton, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta, Dale, Harold Dancer, Dennis Drenth, Nora Fenner, Sylvain Gagnon, Dr. Howard Gill, Bob Goth, Barbara and Brent Graham, Debbie Gray, Harry Harvey, Bob Hilliard, Bob Jones, Doug Haskell, Nancy Haskell, Ruby Hensley, Miguel Hernandez, Paul and Mrs. Hershey, Carol Heusinkveld, Jerry Hissam, Donna Holterman, John Hostler, Jesse Hughes, Don James, Thelma Klark, Kenny Kane, Sam Lilli, Katherine Lonager, Billy Long, Sharon Lowell, Faye Mackey, Joanne Maiorca, Tom Malibashka, Pedro Martinez, Jr., Melissa MacNeill, Kaye McDonnell, Melissa McKee, Dean Miller, Raymond Miller, Gordon Murphy, Margaret Nields, Bill Parker, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Waverly Parsons, Susan Parks, Aaron Petternel, Rita Polese, Joanne Ranger, Donnie Richards, Gerald Russell, Tori Scott, Madisyn Smith,

Brad Strawser, Tony, Lee Anne Taylor, Marsh Townley, Lorraine Truitt, Mel Turcott, Rose Villante, Steve Warner, Greggie Welch, Jr.,

Please try to keep me updated about the people on our prayer list.

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

Special Intentions for this month:

Danny Breton may have to have his foot amputated.

Jessika Breton dislocated her shoulder.

Pierre Noel Breton is in the hospital with a kidney infection.

Loni Marie Clark had a car accident resulting in big hospital bills and the need for a new car. Thank God she is okay.

Bret Crawford broke his leg in an accident at Vernon Downs.

Earl Croswell is battling cancer.

Dorothy Geer had open heart surgery to repair two valves

Cindy Graham's Mom is having kidney problems.

Greg's COPD is getting worse, and he now needs oxygen.

Mark Homa is going through a difficult time.

Evan Leversage, 7, is battling an inoperable brain tumor.

Donna Mclvor is battling cancer.

Melonie is fighting brain cancer.

Shirley Mills needs open heart surgery and may have cancer.

Lori Romanetti is recovering from surgery.

Dr Linda Quodomine's new clinic is threatened by a pipeline that will send gas overseas.

Jeff Smith has a brain tumor.

Kristina Smith has a stress fracture in her foot.

Terry was just put on kidney dialysis.

Justin Vance broke his pelvis, ribs, collar bone and also has collapsed lungs. He needs several operations.

Anna Willis is hospitalized fighting a recurrence of cancer.



157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Information at www.chha.net

Please indicate
Address corrections



From Ann MacNeill...

Kurt, 32, who had emergency surgery for a heart infection went home from the hospital. Thank you for your prayers. It is absolutely a miracle he survived and is doing as well as he is. His wife is very tired being his nurse the rest of the time and working full time, so she could use some prayer for strength.

From Sam Mckee...

Melisa is doing better. She is in the Kessler Neurological Stroke rehab program here in New Jersey. Just having a direction and a plan is such a positive thing for her and for my wife and I. Physically she is doing fine other than a slight tremor in the right hand. They are concentrating on her speech, mental connectivity, and memory. It will take time but at age 24 she's got plenty of that. Thanks so much for your prayers and thoughts.

From Howard Nields...

On September 9th I was taken to Holy Spirit Hospital with "chest pains". On the 15th I underwent quadruple bypass surgery. As you can imagine, our world has changed immensely this past month. I'm home as of the 3rd of October, but am plagued with a blood pressure drop when I stand. Other than that I am told that I healed pretty good for an 81 year old. Praise God for his healing gifts and the current state of cardiac surgery. In the joy of His service, Howard Nields

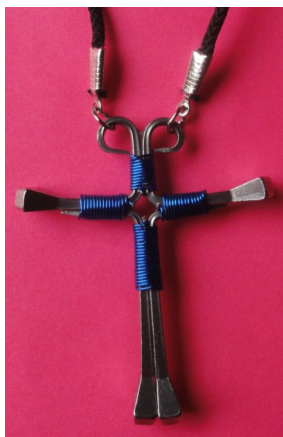
From Joe-Dee Lyn Brown in Ontario...

Evan is only 7 years old and has terminal cancer. He's been told that he may not make it to Christmas. However, his home town of St. George, Ontario pulled together to make sure he has one last Christmas. Hundreds of families decorated their homes and strung lights in time for a huge Santa Claus parade that went by his house in October. According to the CBC News website, Evan asked his mom, "Why?" She said, "Because you have a whole town that loves you."



Horseshoe Nail Crosses Available

Roger Huston is offering unique, handmade horseshoe nail crosses to benefit the Christian Harness Horsemen's Association. Available in red and blue, they make great Christmas gifts for a donation of only \$20.



Complete and mail the order form to the right to Roger and he will send you your crosses.

100% of the proceeds of these beautiful crosses will go to the Christian Harness Horsemen's Association. Thank you Roger!!!

**Horseshoe Nail Cross
Order Form**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Qty: Red _____ Blue _____

Mail with \$20 + \$2 shipping to:
Roger Huston
225 Fieldbrook Dr
Cannonsburg, PA 15317