



Rambling Willie

In God We Trust



Serving Jesus Christ  
in Harness Racing



March 2015

Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

Remember...

I pray for all  
our members  
every day.



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Scholarship  
Application  
available  
See page 3

Needed  
Praise reports  
testimonies  
other articles  
for our newsletter  
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### The Liar

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

God threw Lucifer, the devil, out of heaven for being jealous of God and wanting to be God (Isaiah 14:12-15, Revelation 20:1-10). This jealous devil prowls the earth trying to ruin us now and forever. He is jealous of us, God's people, and the love God shows us. In retaliation he spends his time lying to us and trying to lead us astray so we can be miserable like him.

Money, power, possessions, drugs – sneering, Satan dangles them in front of us as prizes that promise happiness. When people listen to Satan, the father of lies, and take the lies to heart, evil spreads, pushing aside God's love. Satan is so clever, he does a great job of making people think following God is boring and won't make them happy.

Understanding the scriptures, learning the lessons life teaches and observing how God cares for nature all help us to realize that following the Lord is the one and only road to perfect happiness. Psalm 104 reminds us how God designed His creation

and so lovingly provides for it: "O God, how manifold are your works! In wisdom You have made them all; the earth is full of Your creatures. [...And] they are filled with



good things."

It was out of love that God brought about the world and everything in it. God created Adam and Eve and gave them a beautiful garden. Because He loved them so much, He "blessed them" (Genesis 1:28) and wanted the best for them. The plan was for them to look after the garden, the animals

God cont. page 2

### Florida Amateur Driving Club by Jack Alan Levine

The Florida Amateur Driving Club is a great way to experience first hand the thrills and joys of harness racing. Harness racing is the only sport where amateurs can actually compete just like the pros. Great training, friendships and the experience of a lifetime are benefits of belonging to the club. New members are always welcome. Our members compete on a professional level, yet maintain their amateur status by donating 100% of their driver earnings to charities. The FADC supports the CHHA ministry and has given over \$150,000 to local and national charitable groups over the last 15 years.



Florida Amateur Driving Club presents a check to CHHA at Pompano Park

**Cross from page 1**

and everything He made.

Like Adam and Eve, people today, just as people all through the centuries, sometimes don’t trust God. The evil one plants a seed of suspicion that God is a rival out to curtail their freedom. Satan tricks people into thinking that, if they really want to be happy, they have to cast God aside, trusting deceit rather than truth. Satan has even been successful in getting some people to follow in his footsteps (Isaiah 14:12-15). Some think they themselves are gods.



Because He loved Adam and Eve, God warned them about eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. God warns us too of the dangers around us. The still small voice of our conscience tries to get our attention when we begin to listen to the voice of evil.

The antidote to evil is love which is God. Our love in the face of evil can make a huge difference in our lives and in our world.

Checking a horse’s head makes the horse hold it high so as not to stumble and fall. Let’s lift high the cross and proclaim the love of Christ so that we don’t stumble either. Then, as the hymn “Lift High the Cross” goes, let’s continue “till all the world adores [God’s] sacred name.”

**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

**Lift High the Cross**

*Refrain:*  
Lift high the cross  
The love of Christ proclaim,  
Till all the world  
Adore His sacred name.

Led on their way  
By this triumphant sign,  
The hosts of God  
In conquering ranks combine.

*Refrain:*  
Each newborn servant  
Of the Crucified  
Bears on the brow  
The seal of Him who died.

*Refrain:*  
O Lord, once lifted  
On the glorious tree,  
As Thou hast promised  
Draw the world to Thee.

*Refrain:*  
So shall our song  
Of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified  
For victory.

*Refrain:*  
  
*Words: George William Kitchen and  
Michael Robert Newbolt, 1916*  
  
Go to [www.chha.net](http://www.chha.net) to listen  
to **Lift High the Cross** on our  
website.

**History of the Hymn**

“Lift High the Cross” was originally written for a festival celebration in Winchester Cathedral in 1887 by George William Kitchen who was Dean of the Cathedral.

The Anglican Priest, Michael Robert Newbolt, modified the words for publication in an Anglican Hymnal in 1916. From here the hymn made its way to other hymnals and became widely used throughout the English speaking world.

Lift High the Cross was first published in the United States in 1974 and is sung as a processional in most of the Christian churches,

Through the verses we are reminded many on earth continually do battle against evil and those in heaven have triumphed over evil.

Let’s help others find their way to the victorious Christ who emerged from the tomb after suffering a tortuous death so we can all go to heaven.

*Related scripture verses: Deut 32:3,  
1 Chron 16:32, Ps 92:1-2, Jn 3:14-15,  
Jn 12:32, 1 Cor:1:18 Rev 7:12  
(partial list)*

*Source: <http://www.gbod.org/resources/history-of-hymns-lift-high-the-cross>*

**Lift High the Cross Puzzle**

**John 12:32**

AND I, EARTH,  
WHEN WILL  
I AM DRAW  
LIFTED ALL  
UP PEOPLE  
FROM TO  
THE MYSELF.

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

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.

**Prayer Corner continued from page 5**

**These friends are also in need of our ongoing prayers:**

Chaplain Kelly Blanton, Gary Bennett, Amy Bondon, Peter Blood, 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 Petternel, 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 Lamiqui, Chris Petrullo and Elizabeth Welch.

**Special Intentions for this month:**

Bob is being tested for prostate cancer.

Karen Carter had a reaction to the chemo and they had to stop it. She can’t take it anymore. They go in Wednesday to see what her options are. The CA 125 came down from 500 to 69 with the first two treatments. Normal is 0 to 35. When she finished her treatments two years ago it was down to 18.

Gary Cartwright’s 2<sup>nd</sup> hip replacement is scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup>. He is doing great with the hip that was replaced last fall.

Cherise, 21, is struggling with ADD and dyslexia. Please pray that she finds suitable employment.

Sharon Cromer just had surgery for breast cancer.

Ray Cromer is scheduled for eye surgery March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Please pray for those with drug addictions and their families.

Hillary’s dad had a stroke and is not doing well.

Kelley asked for prayers.

Evan Leversage has an aggressive tumor and there is no chemotherapy that can stop it. His only option is radiation. And if radiation fails Evan could have weeks to months left here on earth. His family is praying for a miracle.

Jim Raymer is continuing his chemo treatments but they are making him quite sick.

Lori Romanetti was in for minor surgery. There was a complication with the anesthesia causing her lungs to fail and a 3 day stay in ICU. Though she is breathing better, she is still on oxygen.

John Minckler’s brother’s house burned to the ground recently.

Margaret Nields has been on dialysis for a year now. She’s on the kidney transplant list and three of their children have agreed to be living donors. She has to wait until June because she had a cardiac stent inserted late last year.

Sgt. Elizabeth Welch and her unit are headed for Kuwait. They are supposed to be back home by Christmas.

Evan Wellwood has cancer.

**Scholarship Applications available at  
www.chha.net**

CHHA will award 3 scholarships for the 2015/16 school year.

1. \$1,000 John and Janet Klark Memorial Scholarship
2. \$1,000 Rambling Willie Scholarship
3. \$ 500 Weldon and Nancy Stockwell Scholarship

**Applications must be postmarked by April 1, 2015.**

**CHHA needs your help!**

We expanded our newsletter because our readers enjoy the Praise Reports, Testimonials and articles sent in by other members. Do you have something to share? Articles can be very short or 350 to 400 words. Please send them to Chaplain Lee Alphen at the email address on the front cover or the postal address on the back.

**Please verify or add address on back**

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_




Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to:** leecalphen@comcast.net

**OR**  
CHHA  
157 North Main St.  
Salem, NH 03079

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

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

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

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_



**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](http://www.chha.net).**

**Obituaries continued from page 5**

14. Claude was a breeder, owner, trainer and driver of Standardbred racehorses that raced primarily at Batavia Downs and Buffalo Raceway.



**Russell Cyril Hill**, 83, of Fort Wayne, passed away Feb 20. After serving four years in the Air Force Russell became a Norfolk and Southern Railway train dispatcher for the next 42 years. He then owned and operated a TV repair business. Russ's passion was harness horses. He owned, trained, and raced horses over a 52 year period. He was inducted

into the Northwestern Ohio Colt Racing Association Hall of Fame as a driver-trainer in 2006.

**Dr Richard J. Hall ('Doc Hall')** of Eden, NY died Sunday, Feb 1. He was 91. Dr. Hall was a longtime breeder and owner of Standardbreds in western New York. He also served for many years as Buffalo Raceway track veterinarian. He was involved in harness racing for 80 years.

**Art Johnson** died Feb 15. Art started his horse racing career as grounds superintendent at Le Mesa Park in Raton, NM, after graduating from New Mexico Highlands University and serving three years in the United States Navy. He quickly rose in the ranks and when Sunland Park Racetrack opened in 1959 he was hired as the track's very first comptroller. A friendly man by nature, he befriended grooms, trainers and owners and became known as a

horseman's horseman. Among his accomplishments, he avoided an international incident by coming to terms with Juarez Racetrack, instituted simulcast betting in New Mexico and together with Tony Salerno, his son-in-law, brought Pocono Downs out of bankruptcy and made it a booming racing/casino operation. Mr. Johnson's philosophy, which he passed on to his son-in-law, was simple: Always be fair.

**Hal Jones**, 90, of Montgomery, NY, died Jan 31. Hal began his career as manager of Pickwick Farms in Bucyrus, Ohio, for Walter Michael. In 1960 Hal began breeding mares by artificial insemination, instead of breeding by live cover, which was the norm at that time increasing the number of mares a stallion could breed in one season from 60 to over 100. In 1971 began a seven year career as manager of Hanover Shoe Farms. While he was their her purchased a 2% share in Albatross. This he used to buy Cameo Hills Farm. Hal was inducted into the Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame in 2010.



**Richard J. Morris**, 88, of Columbus, Ohio, died Feb. 27. Richard was a veteran of the US Merchant Marines in World War II and was retired from Ohio Bell Telephone Co. He had a 51-year affiliation with the Little Brown Jug, was a longtime scorekeeper for the Dublin-Coffman baseball team, and a Red Coat at Ohio Stadium for 35 years.



**Bernard Leo "Bernie" Offutt, Jr.** of Woodsboro, died February 4. Bernie continued in the long family tradition of owning, training and driving Standardbred horses as well as staying active in

farming.

**Norwood Shahan**, 75, died Feb 2. Norwood, a resident of Greenwood, DE, owned, trained and drove horses at the Mid-Atlantic area tracks for a number of years. He bred, raised and raced the outstanding pacer Abbe's Fancy. For two seasons, Abbe's Fancy, a former season's champion mare, was Horse of the Year at Dover Downs. In addition to racing at Delaware tracks, Abbe's Fancy won races at the Meadowlands.



**Patricia (Pat) Simmons**, 82, of Stow, Ohio, died Feb 11. Standardbred racing was a passion in Pat's life. She and her husband, Earl, were heavily involved in harness racing. She was Assistant Race Secretary at Northfield Park and also worked in the mutuels at night. "You don't find people like Pat every day. People like her are rare," said Gregg Keidel, her boss for more than 20 years. "She was a very gracious lady who never said a cross word about anyone."

**David L Wing**, 66, of Middletown, NY died at his home on January 14. Dave was a Vietnam veteran and was a truck



mechanic at Eastern Alloy for 30 years. Dave grew up in Kingfield, ME. His love of Standardbreds found him working at stables in Farmington, ME. Pompano, FL, Saratoga Springs, Blue Spruce Farm and most recently Bam Bury Cross Farm in NY. Dave loved and adored his family and leaves behind his

beloved wife of 41 years, Lynn, two daughters, and two beautiful grandchildren.

**Walter E. Young**, 95, of Barnesville, Ohio, died Feb 17. Walter owned and trained Standardbreds for more than 65 years. He drove and won his first race in 1945. He retired from RCA Corp. in Cambridge, Ohio, in 1958.



Visit our newly updated Memorial Page at [www.chha.net/obituaries](http://www.chha.net/obituaries)

### Lift High the Cross Puzzle Solution

			D	E					
H	T	R	A	E	L				
			T	P					
L	L	I	W	F	R	O	M		
		A	H	L	I	E			
		M	E	L	L	A	P	U	I
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	Y			H				N	
M				O	T			A	

Prescott cont. from page 6

Saratoga or Monticello during Sire Stakes week and count the Mercedes, Audis, or Lexus cars that pull into the parking lots. Or better yet attend a horse sale in



Lexington or Harrisburg and watch the exorbitant amounts people are willing to pay for yearling horses, sometimes one, two, or three hundred thousand, with no guarantee that they will ever race. Back in about 1980, I attended a horse sale in New Jersey where, I believe a full brother to Bret Hanover named

Boardwalk Chappie sold for 500,000 dollars. He never made it to the races. Wordsworth, Christmas, and the passing of Joe Robbins; I think most of us don't see the big picture.

Joe Robbins's death, my death ,your death; do you think any of us will escape? We live in time, a beginning, a birth and an end, death. But we also as Christians live forever with the blessing of eternity with God and Jesus guaranteed. The big picture is living forever and how that affects our daily lives. Sometimes I think some people

think I am unhinged. I ask people if they know where they are going when they die.

And here's the deal, as an evangelist called of God I am unhinged, that is, from the way most people see life. "Getting and spending...." there is more to life. James the brother of Jesus said in James 1:9-10, Phillip's translation "The brother who is poor may be glad because God has called him to the true riches. The rich may be glad that God has shown him his spiritual poverty. For the rich man, as such, will wither away as surely as summer flowers. One day the sunrise brings a scorching wind; the grass withers at once and so do all the flowers---all that lovely sight is destroyed. Just as surely will the rich man and all his extravagant ways fall into the blight of decay." May we all pause to think of the passing of Joe Robbins and to reflect on what his death means to us individually.

In God's love and Truth, Rev. John Prescott  
*John Prescott is Chaplain at Vernon Downs.*



## 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, 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, 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.

Continued on page 3

## Obituaries

*Please pray for the families of these harness racing friends:*

**William Stanley "Stan" Alexander**, 84, died July 21, 2014 and his wife **Charlotte Alexander**, 85, died on July 16, 2014. Their daughter, Amy Alexander of Ft Lauderdale works for Diane Helen at Pompano.



**David Allen**, 74, died Feb. 15. David's first job was grooming horses on the Grand Circuit for Stanley Dancer when he was 15. He returned to Saratoga Raceway in 1969 where he continued his racing career for 50 years. David was a member of the Saratoga Harness Racing Hall of Fame.



**Charles E. "Chuck" Coon**, 86, of White Lake, MI, died Friday, January 30, after a short illness. After a two-year stint in the US Army, Chuck began a 40-plus year career maintaining and building racetracks for horse racing. His work took his all over North America and in 2008 he was inducted into the Harness

Racing Hall of Fame.

**Retired Major Marland "Doc" Dulaney, D.V.M.** died Feb 1. He was a well decorated by the US Army and Marines receiving several medals including the Purple Heart. Doc practiced veterinary medicine at Jefferson Downs and the Fairgrounds. He moved on to Birmingham, Alabama and later to Philadelphia Park and eventually, to Pocono Downs. Doc loved to travel with his wife, Carol Pilger, and often accompanied her to the races.

**Claude H. Fuller**, 83, of Fort Payne, AL died Feb

Continued on page 4



*May the angels  
lead you into paradise*

## Memorial Contributions

**Memorials are posted at [www.chha.net](http://www.chha.net).**

In memory of **Doc Mossbarger** by: Bob & Beth Cain; Roger Huston  
In memory of **Chuck Coon** by: Roger Hutson  
In memory of **Hal Jones** by: Roger Huston  
In memory of **David Wing** by: Mary Beth Wing  
In memory of **Stan and Charlotte Alexander** by: Diane Helen  
In memory of **Doug Ackerman** by: Ada Jean Ackerman

**Testimony: Rick Carson 1958-2013** by Peg Carson

Leukemia took my husband of 20 years in August, 2013. I was there when he took his last breath here and walked in to the arms of our Lord! Peacefully he let go of the cares of this world and stepped into the Heaven that awaits us.



I was there when he accepted the Lord as his Savior 10 years ago. It has only been since Rick died that I realized why I was left behind... **To Tell** others about the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Rick was not much of a horseman. But he supported me in my endeavors to breed and race them (Standardbreds). He once said of me to his friends, "She is either going to **make** a million dollars, or spend a million trying!"

Rick was a supporter of me with my Standardbreds, but never cared to jog one. This coming spring, a mare that he called "Another dumb, black, horse" will have a trotting colt which will be appropriately named, "**Broke the Bank.**"

*Why  
I was  
Left Behind*

**Praise Reports - Testimonies  
Articles wanted**

*Please send to Chaplain Lee*

*leealphen@comcast.net*

*OR*

*157 North Main St, Salem, NH 03079*

**Scholarship application available— See page 3**

**Praise Report** from Evelyn Johnson

Good Morning Pastor Lee,

I shared with you that I asked God to keep our little 1987 truck going till it can be replaced. Well, last week, out of the blue, the guy that Greg does side work for sometimes handed him 500 dollars and told him to get the Ford back on the road and that he could earn that off.

Saturday our buddy Sam picked us up, took us to the truck, got parts and helped Greg fix it. They had me in the truck trying to get it started. It was looking rather grim but I started saying "You is a Ford Blessed by the Lord" Pretty soon we got it cranked and started. Had bad gas ( been sitting for 8 months ) but we made it home. It needs a fuel filter and tanks drained Greg doing that today!!



Also Sam has a Honda car that he is selling us real cheap so we're taking part of that money and get that one on the road probably next weekend. We have to ask, believe and be open to receive!!

**With the Commercialism of Christmas, Many Ask Where Is Jesus.** by Rev John Prescott

Joe Robbins, a very fine man, died recently. He was confined to a wheel chair but that did not stop him from attending all the NY County Fair races where his family raced many good horses. This year his family raced Kruela who I believe went undefeated and won the County Fair Championship race at the end of the season.

Harness people at times seem consumed with nothing more than winning races and looking good while doing it. Just walk the backstretch of Vernon Downs or

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