



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

January 2017

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



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ideas please contact:*

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Wanted
Praise Reports
Testimonies
Articles

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen
leealphen@comcast.net
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God's
blessings in
2017

What's New?

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

What's new? The horses and I were a year older on New Year's Day. Do you think we grew any wiser as the ball dropped in Times Square? Perhaps the horses have had a break and will come back with a better attitude. Certainly the babies improve with age. Me, I'm not so sure.

Generally, though, time heals. Turning an injured horse out for six weeks or a couple of months may tighten up a bow, heal a fracture or sweeten up one that's gone sour. It sure is nice when your horse comes back "good as new."

God says "Behold I make all things new" (Revelation 21:5). Yes, but that's what we will enjoy after Jesus comes on His white horse and welcomes us all into heaven. True. However, Jesus kept telling the people the kingdom of heaven was near (Matthew 3:2, 4:17 and 10:7). In fact, "the kingdom of God" occurs 96 times in the Bible. Often these words come from the mouth of Jesus in the gospels.

Yes, my friends, the kingdom of heaven is near. It was near when Jesus walked the earth and it is still near because Jesus said, "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20). Evidently, Jesus thought it was important that we knew this. He kept telling the disciples to join Him in proclaiming this to everyone. We are not alone. Jesus is with us everywhere we go. That means He hears everything we say and is privy to how we treat those in our lives.

Jesus also gave us a

"new" commandment: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (John 13:34). This can be hard. It is especially hard because Jesus said to love others as much as He loves us. The thing is, Jesus loves us so much more than we can even begin to understand. It does not matter if we are naughty or nice, Jesus loves us anyway. I guess that means that it does not matter how people treat us. Jesus wants us to love them anyway. What a crazy idea that is! Would that be wise?

A good friend has been struggling with family issues. He was ready to disown his daughter, her husband and the grandkids. After much prayer, soul searching and sharing his struggle with others, it clicked when another person decided to put aside her anger and have compassion. Things are not perfect yet. However, little by little, the compassion he is showing his family is making inroads. Things are less tense and the kids are responding with love for their granddad.

Well now, maybe that's the new idea we've been looking for. Perhaps we can make this our something new for 2017. What do you think? Remember, God is watching. Let's make him proud.



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

Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Donna Ingram** by: Jay Ingram
In memory of **Nancy Haskell** by: Evelyn and Greg Johnson
In memory of **Ben Stafford, Jr** by: Edmund and Daryl Gager
In memory of **Laurie Rosenthal** by: Jim and Judy Ferguson
In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Ken and Betsy Wood
In memory of **Leo McNamara** by: Cathy McNamara
In memory of **Tete and Rich King** by: Scott and Lisa Black

Blessings

From Kirby Clark...

Michael has finished the hard part, taking the medicine. Now the wait for the results to see if the hepatitis C is gone. Michael is hemophiliac since birth and back then anybody could and would supply blood for the factor 8 that he lacks. Red cross did not check for blood problems. Well long story short he was given tainted blood and factor 8. Michael was and is a very active person with a wife and daughter (15) and works full time in the intelligence area - cyber space for the government. I do not know just what he does. I do know he never misses work and many hours in a row when required. I have often asked why and his reply is, "If a man in a wheel chair who is fighting cancer can make it so can I."

Michael is always competing with anybody over anything. When we were having issues with the health insurance not wanting to pay for this very expensive medication, the whole program cost several hundred thousands of dollars, I asked Pastor Lee for help and I know that it was Pastor Lee and her prayer partners that played a major factor in getting us to the present waiting period. We praise the power of prayer and Pastor Lee with her prayer partners. Thank you, Kirby and Kathleen Clark and families!

From Chaplain Lee Alphen...

Harness Horsemen's International has nominated yours truly to receive their Appreciation Award. Know that as I mount the stage to accept the award in February, I will be receiving it on behalf of all of us who are partners in this great ministry. God is blessing our work as we spread the love of Christ at our racetracks, farms, training centers and wherever else the Lord takes us. It is a great honor to be recognized as a servant of the Lord. Praise God!

From Evelyn Johnson...

Still scrambling around remodeling stalls, repairing indoor riding hall and bush-hogging the rest of place so it really looks nice when we open even though it's old. In WalMart a couple weeks ago, I decided to window shop for paint. I selected the color swatch I liked. My

main stable color is Burgundy (because of the Blood shed for me) and walked down the aisle pricing the paint. When I got to the end, lo and behold there were 3 shelves of paint marked down to 9 and 7 dollars. I started sorting thru them and there were 2 gallons of latex semi-gloss exterior in burgundy AND a gallon of white fence paint. I had tears welling up in my eyes as I thanked My Father :) Next day was weather perfect so I dived into that project. Every time I look at the stalls and the fence it is with gratitude for God making the way.



From Tom Leasure regarding his son, Caleb, who had two surgeries for seizures...

He is doing fantastic! Yes, he's home and doing well. The lord has blessed him. Thank everybody for the prayers.

From Chaplain John Prescott...

Valerie and I have been going through a good deal of testing. Valerie was diagnosed with uterine cancer the first of August. Two weeks later she had a hysterectomy. Lymph nodes were biopsied, and praise the Lord it was caught quickly and she is free of cancer. She did go through a regimen of radiation therapy.

From Joan Harp...

Warren's doctor said his bladder looks good. Thank you so much for your prayers. Can't imagine getting through life without our faith in God. Joan

From Michelle Hallett...

I would like to say a special thank you for all the support you have given Jonathan. Because of all that CHHA has done many kids that are able to fulfill their dreams. (Jonathan was initiated into the University of Central Florida Chapter of the Phi Sigma National Honor Society on November 2nd.)

Scholarship Recipient

Jenne' Venier

First off, I would again just like to thank the CHHA for granting me this scholarship which has been a great blessing in my life. God has truly been good by allowing me to attend Lourdes University because He has given me many opportunities to work for Him. At Lourdes I am learning many things that will help me to further my career in nursing. The more I learn the more excited I become to use my career to serve Him on the mission field, and win people to Christ. I am still very much involved with my church, and just recently helped serve veterans meals at an event my church holds every year. I love these experiences because they allow me to see God working in others people's lives, and I get to help bring His light to other people. God is truly helping me to accomplish my goals, and I see His hand in my life every day. This year I am learning many new and exciting things such as anatomy, psychology and to my dislike chemistry. College is a very new and wonderful experience, and one I recommend for everyone. By living on campus I am not always able to help out at the farm, but I do miss being a groom and helping with the horses. My family is always there to push me and help me to succeed in my dream and I thank God that He gave me the family that I have. I have many verses that I admire and look to for wisdom, but the one verse that helps me to get through every day is Colossians 1:10 "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;". College is a great experience to meet new people, learn new things, and just serve God.

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To Donate Now—Click here

Choose a Free Gift with your donation

Gifts

10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (see picture) (\$20) donation

Horseshoe Nail Cross necklaces and key rings—see below

Books

Live A Life That Matters for God by Jack Levine (\$20) donation

My Addict Your Addict by Jack Levine (\$20) donation

Where the Rubber Meets the Road with God by Jack Levine (\$20)

Don't Blow It With God by Jack Levine (\$20) donation

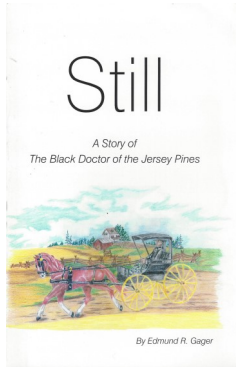
Sound Mouth—Sound Horse, The Gager Method of Equine Dental Care
by ER Gager and Bob "Dusty Rhodes" (\$20) donation

Still: A Story of the Black Doctor of the Jersey Pines **New Book true story**
by Edmund R Gager (\$20) donation **See below**



Rambling Willie Remembers

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



Still: A Story of the Black Doctor of the Jersey Pines

By Edmund R Gager

Dr. James Still, the son of former slaves, is one of South Jersey's most beloved folklore heroes. He spent less than 6 months in school, yet became a man of many talents and accomplishments. His herbal and homeopathic medical practice enabled him to become one of the wealthiest men in the Medford Vincentown area, owning several hundred acres of prime farmland.

His son, James Jr. became the second black man to graduate from Harvard Medical School. This short word chronicles some of his life and his medical practice, as well as the prejudices he had to endure and the faith that sustained him.

Horseshoe Nail Cross Necklaces and Keyrings

Horseshoe Nail Cross Order Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____

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Necklace Qty: Red ____ Blue ____ Turquoise ____

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Mail with \$20 ea + \$4 shipping to:

Roger Huston · 225 Fieldbrook Dr · Cannonsburg, PA 15317

Obituaries cont from page 5

Marie Catherine Hill, 85, died Nov 22 in Merlin, OR. Marie attended her first harness race at St. Stephen, New Brunswick, when she was 11 years old. At 13 she wrote her first article for The Canadian Sportsman, a few paragraphs titled "Watchim on the Trot," which was about the trotting track record holder at St. Stephen. The story led to other articles for The Canadian Sportsman's Christmas editions. She also wrote for The Horseman And Fair World, Hoof Beats, The Harness Horse, and Trot magazines. She became one of harness racing's most prolific historians, writing six books. During the 1970s and early 1980s she bred, owned and raced horses in California, Kentucky and Indiana. She received many awards from harness racing organizations including the Pinnacle Award from the HRM and was inducted into the Communicators Hall of Fame in 2007. Marie loved her family, friends, animals, her Catholic faith, and was a devoted mother and daughter.

David Mast Kauffman, 83, of Millersburg, Ohio, died Sep 20. David had a brilliant mind with a vivacious and caring spirit. He always had time to help someone out or offer advice. He was a successful business owner, loved to play golf and always enjoyed a good game of euchre. He was an avid horseman for more than 50 years. Harness racing was his passion. Kauffman was a successful and respected owner/breeder/trainer/driver, racing at many local fairs, Northfield Park, The Meadows and Scioto Downs.



Erkki Laakkonen, 75, died Nov 20 in Finland. Many of the horses that Laakkonen bred were known for their 'E L' moniker. Laakkonen's most famous horses are super sire Andover Hall, the double millionaire O'Brien Award winner Cameron Hall and multiple stakeswinner. Laakkonen had a farm in the Toronto region, but he was struck by a massive stroke in 2007 and returned to his home country of Finland in 2008 by ambulance-flight. Laakkonen stayed at a nursing home and was surrounded by his four children. Erkki's daughter, Elina, 41, continues the family's racing traditions.



Erkki Laakkonen (Photo courtesy Karjalainen)

Craig S. Lipka, 56, died Dec 7. Craig had been a partner in the horse business predominately through Hillview Enterprises for more than three decades. He had a passion for Standardbred racing and he was quite active in related businesses including HRT, a technology company which uses results of previously run pari-mutual races as the operating system for alternative gaming. He was also a founding partner of Deo Volente Farms in Flemington, NJ.

Ken Marshall, 78, died Nov 5. Ken served as a harness racing official and track manager for over 50 years primarily in Florida, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Michigan.

Alexander "Bob" Rice Sr, 79, died Dec 5. Bob worked as a Mechanical Technologist in the Engineering Development Laboratory of DuPont from 1958-1991. In his early years, he had a passion for racing speed boats. Bob initially raced Thoroughbreds. He switched to Standardbreds and became a licensed trainer, driver, and owner. After purchasing Pine Tree Farm in Townsend, DE, Bob raced harness horses at tracks all along the east coast, including Brandywine Raceway, Dover Downs and Harrington Raceway.



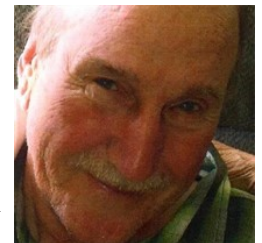
Laurie J Rosenthal, 62, from IL died in October. Laurie will be missed by her husband, Bill, the Fergusons and all her family and friends.



Kenneth David "Dave" Stohler, 73, of Markleville, IN died Nov 17. He spent his career at Delco Remy Division of General Motors from 1961 to 1997. A trip to the 1979 county fair in Connersville, got him hooked on harness racing. He and his brother, Merrill became horse owners. While working full time at his regular job, Dave trained and raced horses on the side. His best performer was Extreme Velocity, winner of the 1997 Breeders Crown. For Dave, the best thing about the Standardbred industry was the fact it is so family oriented. His son, Trent, is an active trainer based in Indiana. Helping at his son's training center and watching his horses compete on the racetrack filled Dave's life with joy and satisfaction, as he was proud of his son's achievements.



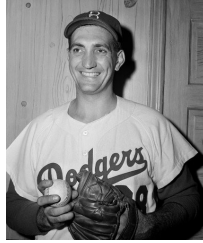
Ron Stokley, 81, of Lebanon, Ohio, died Nov 29. Ron attended the University of Florida on a full football and basketball scholarship. He was an employee of ARMCO and was also a Standardbred trainer for 25 years. Ron and his wife managed the Treasure's Dust Antique Store in Lebanon for 10 years. According to Standardbred Canada, "In 1967, Ohio's Double Z and P Stables, which included Pacey Mindlin, bought a small colt named Lightning Wave at the Tattersalls sale. On Facebook, Mindlin noted that the colt was "smaller than a pony," but still "shocked the harness world," as he won the Ohio Standardbred at Delaware, a heat of the Little Brown Jug, and his division of the American National. "We feared no one back then as Stokley took our little band of horses to race against the best and we beat them," Mindlin wrote.



Obituaries

John W. Blackwell died Nov 14. John was best known for his love of horses. He transported race horses for stables in and around Monmouth County for many years. He was a lifelong resident of the Freehold area.

Ralph Branca, 90, died Nov 23. Ralph was the beloved three-time All-Star pitcher for the Brooklyn Dodgers who gave up a home run known as the Shot Heard 'Round the World' lifting the NY Giants right into the World Series. He played 12 seasons in the MLB, from 1944 through the 1956 season. Ralph threw for three teams: The Dodgers, the Detroit Tigers, and the New York Yankees. Ralph also owned harness horses, most notably under the nom de course of Bramble Patch Farm.

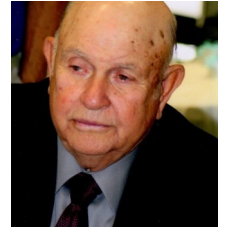


Leonard Buckner, 83, of Apple Creek Ohio died Nov 19. Leonard was a successful businessman, prominent horse owner and partner of Hickory Lane Farm. Some of Mr. Buckner's most successful racehorses included world champions Golly Too and Doc Mistake, Ruffstuff Baker, Lovin Every



Moment and Picture This.

Lloyd Glenn Daulton, 88, of Nancy, KY died Nov 18. Lloyd was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War. He was a nationally known and industry revered retired horseman and had earned the nickname, "Maverick". He was also a member of White Oak Baptist Church.



Phil Georgeff, 85, died Nov 7. Phil called more than 96,000 races including both standardbreds and thoroughbreds at many Chicago area tracks. He is in the Guinness Book of World Records. According to Horsemen and Fair World, Phil said "he didn't call races for track management or the press, but for the fans. 'I call every race like I bet on the winner,' He said. 'I play to the crowd, and when I hear the crowd roar I feel like an entertainer.'"

Obituaries continued on page 4

Sources for Obituary information include:

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

Prayer Corner

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

Lew Arsenault, Dan Ater, Debbie Boardman, Jeanne Duso Boudot, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Rick Carson, Karen Carter, Sam Castimore, Ginny Chudoba, Candice Coleman, Sharon Cromer, Joe Crothers, Barbara Dinning, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Tiffany Fisher, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, Warren Harp, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, Bob Kinsey, Donnie Knight, Larry Lederman, Rox Liles, Ricky Macomber, Nelson Malin, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Donna McIvor, Mira McKnight, Mrs. Miller, Frank Mirahmadi, Lalya Mosley, Corey Murphy, Pierre Noel, Shari Okusko, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Dee Parsons, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Daren Richner, Taila Kapo Rinski, Del Smart, Elaina Storlazi, Doug Stringer, Beverley Sweeney, Jack Taylor, Carrie Thompson, Gary Tyron, Butch Ward, Fred Ward Sr., Roland Wardel, Evan Wellwood, Marty Woebkenberg, Joyce Zeasapolowski

These friends are also in need of our ongoing prayers:

Joe Adamsky, Jason Apperti, Jordan Aracena, Chaplain Kelly Blanton, Gary Bennett, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Danny Breton, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Mary Clements, Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta, Bev Crane, Karen Crothers, Dale, Dennis Drenth, Jeff Frizzell, Sylvain Gagnon, Greg Gehman, Dr. Howard Gill, Bob Goth, Barbara and Brent Graham, Debbie Gray, Sherie Hankins, Bob Hilliard, Bob Jones, Doug

Haskell, Ruby Hensley, Miguel Hernandez, Paul and Mrs. Hershey, Carol Heusinkveld, Jerry Hissam, John Hostler, Jesse Hughes, Don James, Kenny Kane, Barbara Kinsey, Thelma Klark, Michael Klark, Larry Lawter, Sam Lilli, Katherine Lonager, Billy Long, Sharon Lowell, Faye Mackey, Joanne Maiorca, Pedro Martinez, Jr., Melissa MacNeill, Kaye McDonnell, Melissa McKee, Dean Miller, Raymond Miller, Nancy Miner, Gordon Murphy, Margaret Nields, Bill Parker, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Waverly Parsons, Susan Parks, Aaron Petternel, Rita Polese, Joanne Ranger, Donnie Richards, Lori Romanetti, Gerald Russell, Tori Scott, Madisyn Smith, Brad Strawsener, Lee Anne Taylor, Marsh Townley, Lorraine Truitt, Mel Turcott, Justin Vance, Max Walton, 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 Petruzzo and Elizabeth Welch

Special Intentions for this month:

Ronny Battis has lung cancer.

Chaplain Ken Carter had a mild stroke.

Karen Carter's cancer numbers are down though they still indicate some cancer.

Frank Deierivio is hospitalized following 2 knee replacements.

Paul Jenkins has health issues.

Barb Jenkins has a lesion on her pancreas.

Russ MacKinnon had his hip and knee replaced.

Ray Romanetti has high blood pressure.

Roger Smith recently had back surgery.



157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



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Address corrections

Information at www.chha.net

Stallion Auction January 24-28, 2017

Up to date List of Stallions at
www.chha.net/stallion-auction

Bid at www.ongait.com or 603-898-1927

Place your bids on line at www.ongait.com or by phone at 603-898-1927 from noon on Tuesday January 24, 2017 through noon on Saturday January 28, 2017.

State	Stallion	G	Standing At	Donated by	Stud Fee
IN	Blueridge Camegot	P	AE Stables	Amos Wengerd	1,000
IN	He's Gorgeous	P	Schwartz Boarding Farm	Alvin Schwartz	2,500
MD	Charlie de Vie	T	Fox Den Farm	Joie de Vie Farm	1,500
MD	Totally Western	P	Winbak MD	Joie de Vie Farm	2,000
NY	Lucky Chucky	T	Winbak NY	Perretti Farms	4,000
NY	Quality of Life	P	Surf Cast Paradise	John Prescott	1,000
NY	Well Said	P	Hanover	Jeff Snyder	7,500
OH	Cayenne Turbo	T	Raimonde Farms	Joseph Yoder	1,500
OH	Powerful Toy	P	ATI-OSU	Jeff Stacy	750
OH	Three Olives	P	ATI-OSU	Jeff Stacy	750
NJ	Great Vintage	P	Walnridge Farm	Jimmy Takter	2,000
OH	Stomin Normand	T	Abby Stable	Jimmy Takter	3,000
NY	Manningly	T	Morrisville College Equine	Morrisville College	2,500
NY	Third Straight	P	Morrisville College Equine	Morrisville College	1,000
MI	Gunthatwonthewest	P	Stoneboro Farm	Richard Copp	750
Ontario	Sir Luck	P	Casimir	Murray McConnell	1,500
Ontario	Up the Credit	P	Casimir	Murray McConnell	3,000

Spring Garden Ranch Event

Monday, February 13 at 1:00 PM

Be inspired with the music of the Truitt Family and a message from Jack Levine. Lunch is on us.



Electronic Newsletter Delivery

Electronic newsletter delivery is available. If you would prefer to read our newsletter on your favorite device, go to www.chha.net/delivery-options or email Chaplain Lee at leealphen@comcast.net and let us know. You can have it both ways if you want.



Auction Bid Instructions

Minimum raise is \$100. Winning bidders owe a 10% deposit, minimum \$100, postmarked by January 31, 2017. The balance (90%) is due on the birth of a live foal. Ongait.com will also charge \$50 for each winning bid. There is no return privilege. Please only bid on breedings you intend to use. No ownership change on a mare is permitted until the service fee is paid unless a statement from a licensed veterinarian declaring the mare is not in foal is provided. Please do not bid for mares over 20 years old.