

We are at the half mile pole



Serving Jesus Christ in  
Harness Racing



In God We Trust

MARCH, 2013

CHRISTIAN HARNESS HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Remember...

I pray for all  
our members every day.



Chaplain Lee

### Board of Directors

[Chaplain Lee Alphen](#)  
Racetrack Ministry

Amy Bondon, President  
Estrorace, LLC

Bill Donovan  
Stirling Brook Farm

Peter Granich  
[Grandich.com](#)

Greg Gehman, Vice President  
Knight's Landing Stable

Carolyn Linder

Chaplain Waverly Parsons

Lori Romanetti  
Moshannon Stables

### Is Your Ax Sharp?

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

I read a story about a young man who was given a job with a logging crew after a fantastic tree felling demonstration on Monday. He worked hard each day putting in longer hours than everyone else. On Thursday he was called into the office, let go and given his final check.

Puzzled and embarrassed, he said, "I thought I was doing OK." The foreman told him since Monday he steadily dropped from first place to last in number of trees felled. Then he asked, "Have you been sharpening your ax?" The young man answered, "I've been working too hard to take the time."

Do we take the time to pray? Or are we too busy with family, work, horses, ministry and whatever else? Are our axes sharpened?

Jesus prayed often. He prayed especially before embarking on critical points in His ministry. In fact, he began his ministry with prayer as He was being baptized by John in the Jordan. (Luke

3:21) Jesus spent a whole night in prayer before choosing the 12 Apostles. (Luke 6:12-13) In Luke 5:16, we read "Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." Jesus took Peter, John and James with Him and went up onto a mountain to pray." (Matthew 9:28) Before He was taken to be crucified he went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. (Matthew 26:36)

Now, if Jesus needed to take time to pray then what makes us think everything will go along according to plan if we just continue along with our busy lives without a thought to God? OK, so maybe we give God a nod now and again. However, if we don't take the time to sharpen our axes with prayer, we are missing out on some pretty BIG blessings.

James 4:2 tells us, "You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God." (James 4:2) In the book of the prophet Jeremiah, we read, "Call to Me and I will answer you." (Jeremiah 33:3)

Cont. on Page 2



For newsletter questions  
or ideas please contact:

Lee Alphen, Editor  
[leealphen@comcast.net](mailto:leealphen@comcast.net)  
603-898-1927  
603-401-7271 (cell)

### Scholarship Applications

Now being accepted

Visit our website for the  
application and guidelines  
[www.chha.net](http://www.chha.net)



A few of the saints gather after Bible Study  
Fran Nori, Bruce Ranger and Gary Haining with some friends



Diane Helen, Fiesta Camcum and Jim Hogan



Chaplain Kelley  
Blanton



Claude Richards and  
Supporting Actress

### Around the track at Pompano

## Obituaries

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



**Kathleen Frances McMahon Abbatiello**, the wife of Hall of Fame horseman Anthony Abbatiello, died March 9.

**Terry David Ater**, 70, of Clarksburg, OH, passed away February 7.



**Horace Henry Barnard**, 83, of Afton, N.Y., died March 8 in Norwich.



**Doris Perzolla** passed away the end of February in NJ. Please keep her mother, Florence, in your prayers.

**Barbara Ruth Finn**, 76, died Feb. 20 in Saratoga.

**Shirley Fiske**, Melanie Fiske's mother, 89, passed away peacefully on February 28.



**Robert W. "Bob" Hickman**, 84, of Albion, N.Y., died March 6.

**Mac K. Johnson** of Piqua, OH, passed away Dec. 12 after a long illness. Mac loved horses and horse racing.

**Robert Knox**, 85, of Homewood, IL, passed away Feb 15. Mr. Knox served as a starter and trackman at various Chicago raceways in addition to being an accomplished trainer-driver in the 1970s and 1980s in Illinois.

**Bobby Manning**, 56, passed away March 8. Bobby spent his life training horses in New England and at Pocano. He had many friends in racing.

**Ax from Page 1** Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, says "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." (Matthew 7:7)

Scottish pastor and evangelist, Robert McCheynem, said, "If I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room, I would not fear a million enemies. Yet, distance makes no difference. He is praying for me." A pastor once suggested as we try to picture Jesus sitting right beside us ready to take our prayers to God in heaven. Yes, God wants us to bring all our needs before the throne. People often tell me they don't want to bother God because God has much more important things to do. Friends, YOU are the most important person to God. God wants to hear what you have to say. God wants to know what's bugging you. God wants to hear your struggles. GOD WANTS TO HELP YOU! God loves you. When you love someone you want to know everything about them. God wants that relationship with YOU.

Let's sharpen our axes and give God a chance to help us be everything God made us to be.

## Harness Raffle

Al Terwilliger joined Chaplain Lee at Chaplain Kelley Blanton's Pompano Park Bible Study on February 28th to draw the winner of this year's harness raffle. Scott Hayden of Pierson, MI won the Protec-to harness donated by Al and Myra Terwilliger. Al and Myra love the CHHA and are always happy to help. God bless them!



## Memorial Contributions

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

In memory of **Nancy Stockwell** by Dr. and Mrs. RW Fish and Art Paint  
In memory of **Carol Yohn** by Dr. and Mrs. RW Fish and Pastor Joe DiDonato

In memory of **Jim Heyman** by Jodi Hamernik and Weldon Stockwell  
In Memory of **Terry D. Ater** by Bob and Lisa Schwartz

## Prayer Corner

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

**Doug Ackerman, Debbie Boardman, Gary Bryant, Rick Carson, Helen Collins, Janet Dehart, Jan Donovan, Chaplain Tom Farley, Marilyn Hankins, Mary Haskell, Betty Haws, John Hufford, Betty James, Karen Carter, Bob Kinsey, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Michael McDonnell, Stephen McDonnell, Mrs. Miller, Corey Murphy, Suzanne Murphy, Fran Nori, Jay O'Neil, Dee Parsons, Doris Perzolla, Dr. Art Reynolds, Pete Richards, Rose Sinclair, Jimmy Summers, Fred Ward, Sr., Joyce Zeasapolowski and Will.**

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

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

**Lois Boyken, Mary Burton, Joyce Cardoza, Carol Ann Case, Faye Clayborn, Joan Collins, Dale, Dick, Mr. DiDonatto, Dennis Drenth, Billy Dubois, Nora Fenner, Barbara Elrod, Barbara Fowler, Debbie Gray, Harry Harvey, Nancy Haskell, Ruby Hensley, Miguel Hernandez, Paul and Mrs. Hershey, Carol Heusinkveld, Jerry Hissam, Donna Holterman, John Hostler, Jesse Hughes, Thelma and Winthrop Klark, Kenny Kane, Irving Liverman, Katherine Lonager, Faye Mackey, Pedro Martinez, Jr., Dean Miller, Stewart Nemiro, Bill Parker, Elaine Parlin, Waverly Parsons, Ralph Rosenberry, Rev. and Mrs. James Slack, Abe Stoltzfus, Tony, and Bill Wick.**



**Please pray for those serving in the military, especially: Chris Petruzzo.**

**Al Terwilliger** fell and broke his ankle.

**Tammara Carlstrom** is trying to find a place to settle, a support system and God's will for her life and for 2yr old, Joseph,.

**Cathy** has some disturbing medical issues.

**Peter Blood** has a heart that is working only 40%.

**Tom Long** has two more hernias. He just had hernia surgery last year.

**Leonard LeBlanc** broke 3 vertebrae in a spill and has pneumonia.  
**Noella**, his wife, has cancer.

**Bristol Townley**, 3 weeks old, is congested and has an ear infection.  
**Kam Rogers**, 2 months, 4lbs 12 oz, is on a ventilator due to reactions to his vaccinations.

## Praise Reports

**Bill Wick** is home from his several month stay at the hospital and nursing home.

Last fall **Jodi Townley** was told to make funeral arrangements for her unborn baby. **Bristol** arrived at a healthy 8lbs. 10 oz. Feb. 22.

**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:** leealphen@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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Choose from these free gifts with your donation**

*Don't Blow it with God*  (\$25) donation

Please email PDF of *Confessions of a Wall St Whiz Kid*  (free)

*Where the Rubber Meets the Road*  (\$25) donation

*Bruce Ranger reprints* \_\_\_\_\_ qty  (free)

Please enter \_\_\_\_\_ harness raffle tickets for my \$\_\_\_\_\_ donation. (\$10 each, 7 for \$50)

**Publications available while supplies last**

**Donations also accepted at [www.chha.net](http://www.chha.net).**

**Pastor Joe DiDonato's January Report**

*I thought you might enjoy reading about the life and work of a racetrack chaplain...*

HOWDY! Hey, what do you want from a preacher that just returned from a visit to Nashville, TN? It was awesome! Along with the rich history in music, there is also a wealth of church history. As the pages of our history here at The Meadows continued to unfold in this New Year of 2013, the first month included 20 off-track visits, 8 hospital visits, 7 home visits, 7 nursing home visits, 4 chapel services, 2 funeral home visits, 2 funeral services, and 1 minister/prayer meeting. There were 2 emergency hospital visits and one funeral home visit and service held in Cameron, WV. There were several other long drives taken this month too. Some good overall ministry took place as many lives were touched in a special way. I thank God for allowing me to be in the center of it all. It is very humbling.



Some of the things I handled this month included helping horsemen with medical assistance forms and then taking care of the follow up letters and phone calls. I also helped folks who needed to get into various rehab programs and specialized counseling.

There were many good nights of fellowship too including taking a large van full of folks to the movie premier of the film "Amazing Racer," that used The Meadows for the main location and had many from our track community in various roles. Our Thursday Night Bowling League continued to be a fun evening for everyone involved, and it was nice to spend time with many of our track families at a championship wrestling match that included several teens who have attended many of our children's programs and outings over the years.

All the other usual day to day things took place too. There is always a lot of paperwork involved with end of the year receipts and other types of bookwork. Hopefully 2013 has been off to a great start for each and everyone who gets this report and is involved with The Meadows.

GOD'S BEST!

Pastor Joe DiDonato 2/4/13

**Letter from a member...**

I was floored by the generosity of you folks at CHHA! God certainly opened the gates of heaven for me... I feel the prayers you all offer up on my behalf. I was feeling so alone and forgotten. My life has been steady and I have been blessed with a college degree and good jobs and a husband with good jobs. My attention has always been on those in need. But I became so distraught and overlooked by God. Then, I remembered the prophet, Job. He never cursed God. I had that "mustard seed" of faith.

Please continue to pray for me to find a job. It is =almost= impossible. And, as we know, NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD.

PS

I saw a woman in the Laundromat with a baby and four big dryers full of clothes. I dropped my "tithe" into her open lunch box without her seeing me do it. I bet she was surprised later!

**Word Search**

Circle the words to the right in the grid below. They may read top to bottom, bottom to top, left to right, right to left or diagonally in any direction.

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

**Find these words**

- award
- banquet
- Congress
- Meadows
- Pompano
- Ranger
- Easter
- sharp
- vocation
- win





157 North Main St.  
Salem, NH 03079

*Scholarship Applications are now being accepted.  
Visit [www.chha.net](http://www.chha.net).*

<i>Is Your Ax Sharp?</i>	1
<i>Around the track at Pompano</i>	1
<i>Obituaries</i>	2
<i>Harness Raffle Winner</i>	2
<i>Memorial Contributions</i>	2
<i>Prayer Corner</i>	2
<i>Praise Reports</i>	2
<i>Return Coupon</i>	3
<i>Pastor Joe DiDonato's Report</i>	3
<i>Letter from a Member...</i>	3
<i>Word Search</i>	3

Please indicate  
address corrections.

**Happy Easter**



Marv Bachrad, Bill Augustine and Brenda Watson

*Harness Racing  
Congress  
And  
Awards Banquet*



Jean Emerson and Rosie Huff

Harness Horsemen's International, Harness Tracks of America, United States Harness Writers Association and the USTA joined together for Harness Racing Congress VI 2013 and the Dan Patch

Awards Banquet in Ft Lauderdale, FL February 28-March 4.

It was a great event and included some excellent breakout sessions. Jason Settlemoir participated in a panel on Converting Slot Players in to

Horseplayers. Sam McKee moderated a session on the Globalization of Harness Racing and Paul Fontaine was host to experts with some new ideas on addressing the medication issue.

**Award Winning CHHA Members**

Jug Announcer and voice of the Meadows, Roger Houston, was an MC for the Dan Patch Awards Ceremonies at the Harness Racing Congress in Ft Lauderdale. Dot Morgan of New Vocations Racehorse Adoption was honored as the Unsung Hero. Kim Hankins was given the President's Award. Kim Rinker (sorry, no picture) is the USHWAN of the Year.



Dot Morgan



Kim Hankins



Roger Houston



Jim and Judy Winske



Jon Erdner



Dr Tim Powers