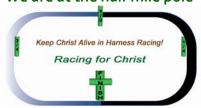
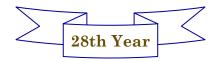
We are at the half mile pole





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

For newsletter questions or ideas please contact:

Lee Alphen, Editor <u>leealphen@comcast.net</u> 603-898-1927 603-401-7271 (cell)

Scholarship Applications

Now being accepted

Visit our website for the application and guidelines www.chha.net

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

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



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



BIG blessings.

Chaplain Kelley Blanton

Around the track at Pompano



Claude Richards and Supporting Actress

Obituaries

Please pray for the families of these harness racing friends:



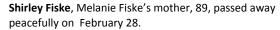
Kathleen Frances McMahon Abbatiello, the wife of Hall of Fame horseman Anthony Abbatiello, died March 9.

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.



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 Protecto 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.

In memory of **Nancy Stockwell** by Dr. and Mrs. RW Fish and Art Palnt 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 Petrullo.

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.

MARCH, 2013	CHRISTIAN HARNE	SS HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER	PAGE 3			
Please verify	or add address on back	Please activate my FREE membership.	My address is on the back. \Box			
Email Address _		Please pray for my intentions				
Phone			Circle one:			
Please return to	: leealphen@comcast.net	Please accept my donation of	. Check Cash VISA			
or	CHHA 157 North Main St.	Credit Card #	Exp Date/			
	Salem, NH 03079	Name on Card				
Choose from these free gifts with your donation						
Don't Blow it with G	God (\$25) dona	tion Please email PDF of (Confessions of a Wall St Whiz Kid \square (free)			
		tion Bruce Ranger reprints donation. (\$10 each, 7 for \$50)	s qty			
Publications availa	ble while supplies last	Donations also a	accepted at 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 Nashiville, 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	Т	R	Ν	Χ	W	Α	С	В	С	Find these
I	Ε	С	Ε	I	G	F	0	Ε	D	words
S	U	Ε	Ε	Т	W	L	Ν	М	Ν	award
W	Q	Р	R	R	S	P	G	0	R	banquet congress
0	N	R	0	S	R	Α	R	U	Ε	meadows
D	Α	Α	Χ	М	W	U	Ε	V	G	Pompano ranger
Α	В	Н	Υ	Z	Р	Α	S	Ε	N	Easter
Ε	F	S	Ε	D	С	Α	S	Ε	Α	sharp
М	Α	W	Α	R	D	G	N	Z	R	vocation win
Н	I	٧	0	С	Α	Т	I	0	N	





Letter from a Member...

Word Search

157 North Main St. Salem, NH 03079

Scholarship Applications are now being accepted. Vísít www.chha.net.

Is Your Ax Sharp?	:
Around the track at Pompano	1
Obituaries	2
Harness Raffle Winner	2
Memorial Contributions	2
Prayer Corner	2
Praise Reports	2
Return Coupon	3
Pastor Joe DiDonato's Report	3

Please indicate address corrections.







Mary Bachrad, Bill Augustine and Brenda Watson

Harness Racing Congress





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 Horseplayers. Sam McKee moderated February 28-March 4.

some excellent breakout sessions. Jason Settlemoir participated in a panel on Converting Slot Players in to

a session on the Globalization of It was a great event and included 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