



Rambling Willie

**In God We Trust**



**Serving Jesus Christ  
in Harness Racing**



October, 2015

**Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter**

**Remember...**



I pray for all our members every day.

*Chaplain Lee*

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Wanted  
Praise Reports  
Testimonies  
Articles

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen  
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or

157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

**Who is fighting Your Battles**

*By Chaplain Lee Alphen*

Who is fighting your battles?

Have you seen the new movie "War Room"? I saw it twice already.

Great movie! It taught me a lot. Sure, I know the scriptures and thought I trusted God. Feisty old Miss Clara helped me see our battles are really with the devil. There is no way we are going to win against that cunning liar. Jesus is the only one who can win those wars.

I read the book *When Bad Things Happen to Good People* by Rabbi Harold Kushner. He is right on when he says that we are encouraged when others pray for us. It gives us the perseverance to go on and helps us realize we are not alone.

Rabbi Kushner also points out that God created the universe and set it in motion, and God then created life and gave people free will. We live in an imperfect world where things like floods and earthquakes just happen. He says, "They are not acts of God [...]. However, the efforts of people to reach out to help others through the devastation really are." Yes, God is at work when we are there for one another.

That's not all though. As Christians, we know the rest of the story. The scriptures are filled with examples of God answering prayer and Jesus performing mighty miracles. "The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those

who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor" (Luke 7:22). Jesus tells us, "Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be

complete" (John 16:24). David took on the giant because he knew God was with him (1 Samuel 17). David said to Goliath, "the battle is the Lord's" (1 Samuel 17:47). The Lord spoke through Jahaziel to King Jehosophat and all the people living in Judah and Jerusalem, telling them, "Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army, for the battle is not yours, but God's" (2

Chronicles 20:15). As the people of Judah and Jerusalem sang praises to God, their enemies slaughtered each other (2 Chronicles 20:22-24).

Believe it or not, we are not perfect. Neither are our horses. We all make mistakes and sometimes argue and fight. When things don't go our way, we are tempted to find someone to blame. Our battles are not with one another. They are with Lucifer, the deceiver. I give the devil the credit for all the bad things that happen in our world. Satan comes to destroy.

We can't win a battle against the devil. God can! Like David and King Jehosophat and the people of Judah and Jerusalem, like Miss Clara in the movie, I'm going to let God fight my battles. My weapon is prayer. How about you?

**It wasn't my idea to get parked the entire mile!**



**Life Is Like a Race**

*By Larry Lederman*

Life is a test.  
 Just like every horse race  
 Never feel defeated  
 When adversity stares you in  
 the face.

Stay positive and keep the faith  
 Along with the people who care.  
 We can help ourselves  
 Along with the power of prayer.



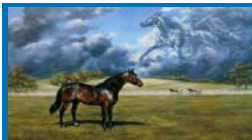
**Fun at the Little Brown Jug**



Lynn and Steve Smith are smiling every time I see them. Lynn's parents, Tim and Loveda Finley, were blessed to come from FL to join them at our Prayer Breakfast and in their box this year. They also got to watch their horse race on Tuesday of Jug week.



**Al Terwilliger** received the Civic Recognition Award from the Town of Clawson, MI for his acts of kindness and compassion. Way to go Al! You deserve it!



*May the angels lead you into paradise*  
 Memorials posted at [www.chha.net](http://www.chha.net)

**Memorial Contributions**

- In memory of **Richard Farrington** by: Albert and Mark Adams
- In memory of **Hal Jones** by: Albert and Mark Adams
- In memory of **Brandy Burns Kise** by: Amy Hollar
- In memory of **Edwin Reynolds** by: Twila and Stephen Mahar
- In memory of **Jim Powell** by: Richard Niccum
- In memory of **Brad Hanners** by: Dorothy, Rick and Bruce Farrington and Robin, Richard and Amy Cruise
- In memory of **Richard MaComber** by: Dorothy, Rick and Bruce Farrington and Robin, Richard and Amy Cruise



Chaplains Ken Carter, Lee Alphen and Joe DiDonato with Tim Finley and Rich Thorstenson



Karen and Chaplain Ken Carter, Ann MacNeill and Chaplain Lee Alphen



Rich Thorstenson and Chaplain Ken Carter both had their pictures taken with Clyde Francis and Jug winner Wiggle It Jiggle It



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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

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

## Praise Reports

Thank you Jesus

*From Patti Allen...*

Ten days after surgery and I'm feeling like I'm over the hump! Quite the experience that I wouldn't wish on anyone. I was so blessed to have such a talented surgeon and nurses. The recovery has been difficult, but God has heard all the prayers from those concerned and has blessed all those involved in my care. A big thank you goes out to all those who took their time to pray for a successful outcome

*From Lyse Breton....*

We just found out that Danny's wife, Jessika, got hired by the Police Department. Danny is getting better and his former boss wants him back to work. He will work in the office to start. I feel that is a great opportunity to get acquainted with the administration of the garage business. Love in Christ, Lyse

*From Robyn Rembleski...*

I am so blessed to have my health. My chemo oncologist told me yesterday that I am better each time he sees me and my labs were excellent. I see him every 3 months as part of my survivorship program. As time goes by I will see him less.

*From Kim Jan Tausch,,,*

I want to up date you on my cousin Tory Scott. She is progressing well. Walks with assistance, talks, and is improving cognitively. Prognosis

*Continued in next column*

is good. Praise the Lord. Low blood sugars is the suspected cause.

*From Gerry Teis...*

Thank you and all the CHHA folks that prayed for me. Praise God that I have been pain free for 10 days now. I was able this week to go to the Meadows and see some old friends. The best part of my week was this morning when I was able to attend my first Chapel service, meet Pastor Joe, and see the movie "Do You Believe". I have much to be thankful for and I'm truly blessed to know our Lord.

## "You've Got to Have Faith"

According to Harness Racing Update (HRU), 10 year old Breana Carsey owns the undefeated 2 year old Ohio Stakes Champion, MJB Got Faith.

Breana selected this mare in foal to Trainforthe future from a sales catalog for her 8th birthday present. She makes all the decisions regarding his training and racing and has decided not to sell him.

Breana's favorite phrase when it comes to this horse is "You've got to have faith." Indeed Breana puts her trust in God concerning the colt who has won just shy of \$200,000 before she turned him out to rest for the winter. Giving back to God, she donated \$2,000 to a fund set up for the family of driver Brad Hanners who recently passed away and donated money to a local family to help pay the funeral expenses for their child who died. I invited Breana to become a member of the CHHA.



Photo by Bill Finley, HRU

## Obituaries continued from page 5

**Dominick Bologna**, 79 formally of New City, and Queensbury, NY and most recently of Armonk, NY died on Aug 27. Dominick spent 20 years as a NYC police officer and Crime Squad Detective. When he retired in 1982 he went to work for the New York State Racing Board as an investigator. While there, he was asked to develop and initiate a drug testing and substance abuse program which is still in effect in New York State. He retired in October 2006. Dominick always tempered his work with licensees who had substance abuse problems with humanity, knowing that at times its frailties. He helped many people return from their demons knowing that the path for many of those he helped travelled through expected relapses. Dominick never lost faith in the human spirit to overcome even when those he was trying to help concocted some real good stories to avoid their own self-inflicted problems. He was indeed a good man himself and many in racing owe their second and third chances to his compassion.

**James Durand "J.D." Dennis**, 85, of Harrington, DE died Sep 21. Beginning in 1960, JD raced horses throughout the East Coast from Canada to Florida. In 1965 he was the driver with the most wins at the inaugural Pocono Downs meet with 29 victories in the 30 day meet. He was very active in supporting the sport of harness racing. After retiring from racing, JD enjoyed watching races on television or going out to the track. He had a special spot at the fence at Harrington Raceway to watch and talk with the horsemen. Many of the people would come up to him and talk about horses, and he was never at a loss for words.



**Hilda M. Frediani**, 84, died Sep 27. Hilda owned several Standardbred race horses including top Western New York trotting mare Laddies Irma. She attended Nazareth College and the University of Syracuse where she earned her Nursing Degree. She taught nursing at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester and was employed as a Nurse Practitioner at the Groveland Correctional Facility.



**Rick Robert Gehron**, 71, of Germantown, OH, died Sep 14. He was an owner, trainer, and driver for harness racing for 45 years and he enjoyed spending time at the track with his family.

**Bradley Howard Hanners**, 43, of Sabina, OH, died Sep 15 with his wife, Alicia, and children at his side. Brad was a great family man with a passion for the Standardbred business where he was an outstanding driver and trainer. He accumulated a total of 4,888 wins as a driver and 358 wins as



a trainer. Some of the better horses that he trained included Core Furst, Nannina, Paco Labrook and Rehab Mountain. He also loved watching his children play basketball and football. His children shared his passion for the horse business as well.

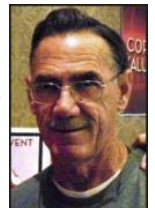
**Dianne Jeannott**, 64, of Colts Neck, NJ died Sep 9. Dianne was the owner of DJ Racing Stable and was a thoroughbred horse trainer for over 40 years. Her sister Kim Jeannott spent most of her life training Standardbreds.

**Brandy Michele Burns Kise**, age 31, of Unionville Center, died unexpectedly Sep 1. She was an administrative clerk for Carlisle Gifts/ Der Dutchman in Plain City. Brandy received an associate's degree in early childhood development from Columbus State Community College and was a former director at Jelly Bean Junction Daycare Center in Columbus. She also worked as an assistant director at Lil Tykes Learning Childcare Center in Marysville. She was a member of New California Presbyterian Church. Her grandmother, Joan Burns is a member of CHHA.



**Malcolm R. "Mac" Parks**, 64, of Lowville, NY died Sep 3. While in school, Mr. Parks worked on his parents' dairy farm in Depeyster. He graduated from Albany School of Pharmacy (Union College) in 1974. It appears Mac had a 40 year career as a pharmacist and also as a harness horsemen. He owned and operated Park's Breezy Knoll, a Standardbred horse breeding farm and racing stable.

**Edwin Reynolds**, 64, a Bangor Raceway employee, was killed in a freak accident Sep 9 when he was struck with the wings of the starting gate. Track employees were working on the car in preparation for the meet that was scheduled to begin Sep 14 and 15. The track has cancelled racing for those two days and will not race until Oct 5 out of respect for Edwin, his family and the track employees.



**John J. "JT" Taylor**, 63, of Paris, MI died Sep 16. John's passion and lifetime career for 47 years was Standardbred training for Taylor Stables. His first race was at the age of 16 on May 31 in Marion with Delightful Lady. As a 16 year old in 1969, he took top honors for most wins on the Matinee circuit in Northern Michigan. On Dec. 9, 1971, at Northville Downs he had his first pari-mutuel start at age 18, also with Delightful Lady. John enjoyed hunting with his buddies and he was a fun loving man that was always willing to help a friend. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

**Arthur Winkler**, 71, died Sep 12 at his home in Lexington, VA. Arthur was a former executive with the New Jersey Sports & Exposition Authority, Garden State Park and Freehold Raceway.

## Jesus Loves Me and the Blacksmith

By Lisa Schwartz

So the term blacksmith might mean one who forges swords or it might mean one who shoes horses. In this case our local blacksmith, Donnie Payne, is the latter. He spends his days putting new shoes on race horses, show horses and pet horses. He goes home at night and pays the bills, does the laundry and takes care of his wife who has very serious health issues. He NEVER complains. He never says a harsh word. He will always help you. He makes you laugh.



Donnie Payne and  
Jesuslovesme

Besides all of this, he trains a racehorse at the local fairgrounds that belongs to a very nice lady that is otherwise in the Quarterhorse business. The racehorse's name is Jesuslovesme. He's a 3 year old trotter that's not a world beater, just a hobby horse. He makes enough to pay his own feed bill but he has a more important job...he makes you stop and think. Every time you hear the announcer call his name "Jesuslovesme" you think to

yourself "why yes, He does". And you smile and go on. You go on with your everyday life, helping whomever you can and passing on a kind word to others. So in 18 starts Jesusloves me has had 5 wins on the racetrack and countless others in the hearts of the Christian Harness Horsemen who hear his name from the announcer or see it on the back of the trailer that serves as his chariot.



## Obituaries

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

**Tom Audley**, 70, died Sep 14. He lived in the Bell, Fla., area and campaigned many Sunshine State stakes winners. Tom was a Graduate of Marquette University and retired Deputy Inspector of the Waukesha County

**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, 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, 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, Gary Tyron, Fred Ward Sr., Alice Wardman, Evan Wellwood, Marty Woebkenberg, Chaplain Yurian, 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, Sandy Weiss, Greggie Welch, Jr., Bill and Lucille Wick

***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 Petrullo and Elizabeth Welch

***Special Intentions for this month:***

Dr Sam Castimore has cancer.

Ginny Chudoba has many health issues.

Sharon Cromer is beginning chemo.

Cory Hatcher was kicked by a horse and broke his leg.

For Kurt, 32, had emergency surgery for a heart infection.

Melissa McKee is in a stroke treatment program.

Leo McNamara - Executive Administrator of SBOA-NJ is fighting cancer and is in treatment now.

Carrie Thompson was just diagnosed with cervical cancer.

Timmy and Crystal Vance have a one year old foster child they would like to adopt.

Brenda Watson's 95 year old mother is improving and would like to return home.

Let's pray for God to raise up spirit filled leaders for all His churches and to provide the finances so that God's name will be praised as God's people grow in their faith.

Pray for protection and safety on and off duty for all our Police and Fire Fighters.



157 North Main St  
Salem, NH 03079  
USA



Your horse can too

Contact Chaplain Lee for information

Please indicate  
Address corrections

**See you in Harrisburg!  
Stop by for a prayer or a visit.**



"O God How Great Thou Art" filled the tent praising the name of the Lord in culmination of the great time of worship.



Thanks to Ann MacNeill, Sees The Moment Photography, for the great Jug Week pictures. You can

reach Ann at [anndon@eastlink.ca](mailto:anndon@eastlink.ca) or (902) 393-8288 or visit her at [www.annmacneill.com](http://www.annmacneill.com).

### Jug Week Prayer Breakfast



Chaplain Ken Carter from Ontario shared his testimony explaining his conversion and how God called him into the ministry and then to serve at the track. Chaplain Ken and his wife Karen are pictured above talking with Ralph Deshetsky of MI.



The PigFoot Barbeque Cooking Team provided a gourmet feast. It was so good Lori Romanetti brought us chaplains back to the Backstretch Hospitality Tent for lunch. We already reserved the tent for next year's Prayer Breakfast.



Sandy and Rich Thorstenson did a great job setting everything up at the fairgrounds.



Zach Crawford and Tavarion Henderson did a super job serving up the food. They love the Lord and are now members of CHHA.



Larry and Joanne Boroff



Tim Finley told us how the Lord led him to begin CHHA on his kitchen table by mailing out flyers and drafting out By-Laws. Pictured above are Rich Thostenson, Loveda and Tim Finley, Ralph Deshetsky and Chaplain Lee Alphen.