



Rambling Willie  
**In God We Trust**



Serving Jesus Christ  
in Harness Racing



February, 2016

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  
[lealphen@comcast.net](mailto:lealphen@comcast.net)  
or  
157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

This edition of  
the newsletter  
is published  
in memory of  
Donnie  
Conrad . Rest  
in peace  
Donnie.



## I Am Poor

*By Chaplain Lee Alphen*

I am poor, imprisoned and blind. Yes, that's right. You heard me. How about you? Are you rich or poor, powerful or not, healthy or sick?

Temperatures fall to the 40s at night in the mountains of Mexico. Yet, no one in our villages has heat. Every day they boil and grind corn to make tortillas over the wood fire. This is their staple.

Sometimes they have some beans or a little egg to put in the tortillas. Our friends feel blessed to have a home and something to eat. These women, men and kids visit and pray with each other and share what they have. Perhaps they are richer than I. Their faith is very strong and they love one another.



Luke tells about the day Jesus visited the synagogue in his home town of Nazareth, was handed a scroll and read a prophecy proclaimed by Isaiah probably 600 years before Jesus was born (Isaiah 61:6).

*The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
Because he has anointed me*

*To proclaim good news to the poor.*

*He has sent me to proclaim freedom for  
the prisoners*

*And recovery of sight for the blind,*

*To set the oppressed free,*

*To proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*

*Luke 4:14-19*

Jesus then told everyone He was the guy Isaiah was talking about. Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophecy.

Fishermen were first to be

called to follow the Lord. The poor, the lame and the sick all sought Him out. He hung out with tax collectors and sinners. It seems Jesus was not too careful in selecting friends. Everyone who enjoyed His company was welcome. The rich and powerful were welcome too, but, it appears, they were afraid of Jesus. Perhaps they were concerned He would outdo them, gain more followers, or in some way show them up.

The key to Jesus' success was that He always counted on the Holy Spirit and looked to God in heaven for help (Luke 4:14). As a parting gift, Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit too (John 16:13). If we choose, we can listen to the Spirit of God and know the truth which will set us free (John 8:32).

On my own I am poor. In a worldly sense there are always things I think I need. Sometimes I forget to ask for God's help with my work, projects, and in my everyday life. Imprisoned in a body that has limitations, many things are impossible. The worst part is I am often too blind to see the problem. When I look to God for help, guidance and direction, the Spirit helps me to be all God made me to be. That's why Jesus had to come and set me free. With God all things are possible for me (Matthew 19:26). With God, I am rich, strong and healthy.

How about you?

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor. *Isaiah 61:1-2*

## Praise Reports



Thank you Jesus

*From Harness Racing Update*

<http://www.harnessracingupdate.com/pdf/hru/hru011916.pdf>

Dave Briggs reported in the January 19<sup>th</sup> issue of HRU, "Owner Brad Grant, who lost four horses in the Classy Lane fire, bought three horses, including the sale topper, at the January Mixed Sale at the Meadowlands." Brad bought them to get trainer Ben Wallace back in business. Ben lost all the horses he was training and all his equipment in the fire.

David Reid, the general manager of the sale, told Dave Briggs, "Brad Grant has been a first-class individual the whole time since I started dealing with him. [...] He stepped up to the plate and God bless him."

*from Dorothy Geer*

Please thank the prayer partners for me. The Lord answered their prayers for me!

*From Joan Harp...*

Good news, Warren's C T and bone scans are clear. So the cancer is contained in the prostate. His doctor gave him a hormone shot today, he will see him in a month and if things look good he will get another shot that lasts 4 months, then we will go from there. He has decided on that type of treatment instead of radiation. We thank everyone for the prayers, we definitely know they help. Just knowing they are out there makes everything feel better for us. Mr. Anonymous is no more he is Warren:-)

*From Marsh Townley...*

We were blessed last week with the birth of a little baby girl who will be a week old Tuesday, 1/19. She is our 5<sup>th</sup> great grandchild.



Revival with the Mexico scholarship recipients

## Mexico Mission Trip Report

Lucas, Yarezmin and Arnulfo Benitez from Colonia Benito Juarez Mexico were part of Chaplain Lee Alphen's ministry at Rockingham Park in the 1990s. Close to 20 years ago, they invited her to visit their village in south, central Mexico. Since then, she and other members of her mission team have been visiting almost every year.

This year we fed almost 500 people at two revivals.

Saturday 125 people joined us for a revival and meal after which we interviewed 28 high school and college students and took their pictures. Twenty more kids also came looking for scholarships. They were given applications.

Sunday over 300 people joined us at the church for another revival and meal. The kids got to break open a couple of piñatas. Many of the people we've been helping with food came and thanked us. They were very grateful.

Over the course of our visit many stopped by. We were not able to travel around too much this time because it is still a bit dangerous.

Monday we reviewed our programs with Lucas, our director in Mexico, and planned for the coming year.

- We will continue to help the 75 families we are committed to with a garbage bag full of rice, beans, cooking oil, coffee, sugar and a roll of toilet paper every 3rd month. Our activities focus around three churches. Our team in Mexico goes to one each month, conducts a prayer service and distributes the food.
  - Due to the drought, many families will not have the corn they need for the coming year. Every day they boil and grind the corn and make tortillas over the wood fire. This is their staple. We agreed to provide one bag of corn a month to the families who need it in addition to the bag of food.
  - We are buying bibles for high school kids who will be attending a retreat. If we have the funds, we will buy more for the churches and individuals who want them.
  - We will continue to help the three churches in various ways.
  - German and Minerva, a husband and wife who are part of our committee in Mexico, have retired from teaching. I have been wanting to start a library and to encourage the kids to read. They don't have libraries in Mexico. I believe the kids will be more successful in life if they read more. German and Minerva agreed to buy the books with the funds we supply, house the library in their home and encourage the kids to read them. This is terrific since they know the kids.
  - The committee in Mexico will be meeting with the new scholarship applicants and determining if they need assistance now or can wait until next semester. We really want to see the kids go to school. After 9<sup>th</sup> grade, the students have to pay their own tuition, books, uniforms and transportation.
- For now, our water projects and the animals are doing well.

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 send my newsletter (circle below)  
electronically in the mail both

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

Please return to: [leealphen@comcast.net](mailto:leealphen@comcast.net)

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

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

OR

CHHA  
157 North Main St.  
Salem, NH 03079

**To Donate Now—Click here**

You can also request items below with on line donations.

### Mexico Mission Trip Report See Page 2



Food Distribution after prayer service at chapel in Mexico



Left: Chaplain Lee, Letzi, Crystal and Adolpho in Mexico

### Choose a Free Gift with your donation

#### Gifts

10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (pictured below)  (\$20) donation

Horseshoe Nail Cross—see below

Black Tie with harness horse—boxed  (\$20) donation

Unique Forged Items—visit [www.chha.net/forged-items](http://www.chha.net/forged-items)

#### 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 **While supplies last**



Rambling Willie Remembers

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

### Horseshoe Nail Crosses

Roger Huston is offering unique, handmade horseshoe nail crosses to benefit the Christian Harness Horsemen's Association. Available in red and blue, they make great gifts for a donation of only \$20.

Complete and mail the order form to the right to Roger and he will send you your crosses.

100% of the proceeds of these beautiful crosses will go to the Christian Harness Horsemen's Association. Thank you Roger!!!



Crosses measure about 2 inches

### Horseshoe Nail Cross Order Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Qty: Red  Blue

Mail with \$20 + \$4 shipping to:  
**Roger Huston**  
225 Fieldbrook Dr  
Cannonsburg, PA 15317

## Obituaries

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

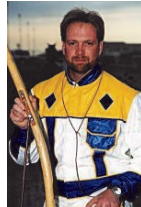
**Joseph G. Grube**, 79, of Lancaster, PA, went to be with the Lord Sep 21. Joe was retired from the former Martin's Hatchery and College Hill Hatchery, Lancaster. He and Mary Jane were married almost thirty-seven years. Joe and Mary Jane used to haul horses to the Harrisburg Yearling Sale and would stop to visit John Klark at the CHHA table.



**Pat Hall**, a longtime horseman and horse racing official, and son of Don Hall, died Jan 8, five days after his 67th birthday. He and his wife, Kathy, had been involved in a head on car collision on Nov 23 and had been in ICU at the University of Michigan Hospital with multiple injuries since then.

**Gregory Alan Hostetler**, 53, died Jan 2.

Gregory was a well-respected Standardbred horseman and was very passionate about his profession. His hobbies included playing the guitar, golfing and fishing. Above all, he loved spending time with his grandchildren.



**Gary E. Jackett**, 71, of Batavia, NY died Jan 6. Gary was a horse trainer for over 30 years. He was also a certified locksmith for over 40 years.

**Arnold (Arnie) Johnston**, 79, of Delaware, Ohio, died Dec 20. Arnie had been in the Standardbred business for more than 40 years as a driver, trainer and owner.

**Dr J Joseph "Joe" Johnston**, 70, of Essex, Ontario died suddenly Jan 12. Dr Joe was successful and popular vet in the Windsor area. He was thrust into the national spotlight in the late 1980s as the breeder/owner of A Worthy Lad who won 30 races in a row before being sold to Swedish interests.

**Mira Beth McKnight**, 6, joined the angels on Christmas Eve morning. Mira Beth was the grand-daughter of friends of Doc Cummings. She was a brave 6 year old girl who had fought a courageous battle against cancer. Everyone who met her grew to love her.



**Philip Morris**, 53, died Dec 29, at Spring Garden Ranch. Philip was born in Scotland and was a former groom, common law partner and close friend of Jo-Dee Brown. He had a heart of gold and would do anything to help another person. He groomed Standardbreds for many trainers in New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Ohio, Georgia and Florida.

**Robert Wayne Newman**, 56, of Mackinaw, IL, formally of Mt Sterling, died Jan 7. After high school, Bob followed his dream of working with horses by graduating as a licensed farrier from Midwest Horseshoeing School in Macomb, IL. He became an owner, trainer, driver, and farm manager. His love of adventure and travel spurred a move to Colorado where he joined a ski search and rescue team and spent his free time fly fishing, hiking, and back country skiing.



**Francine Nori** died Jan 8 in Florida after a long battle with cancer. She has many friends around Pompano.



**Michael Parisi** was just a teenager when, in 1985 or 1986, Joe invited him to come and work and live on the farm. Pam DeBaun said, "Michael was a pleasure to be around. He was hardworking and funny. The others working on the farm really enjoyed his humor and easy going personality. I'm sure he will be missed by all of his friends. I know he is with his Mom and Dad again."

**John Payne**, 85, of Guthrie, OK died Dec 16.

John worked for the BF Phillips Ranch in Pilot Point, TX traveling the US fitting and showing horses. He also spent time as a horse wrangler for the movies and the Rancho Vistadores organization in California. John eventually settled in OK when Remington Park opened in 1988 and where he met Patsy, his beloved wife of 25 ½ years. Patsy died March 24, 2015.



**William "Bill" Perretti**, 36, close nephew of SBOANJ Board Director Anthony Perretti, died Dec 26. Bill was a passionate surfer, skateboarder and sport bike rider.

**John Reid**, 59, who spent many years driving at Raceway Park, Hazel Park and Windsor Raceway, died Jan 16. With his family by his side he was relieved of his pain and reunited with his beloved Aggie.

**Carmelo J. Sabatino**, 95, a retired senior executive with Delaware North Co. and former general manager of Batavia Downs, died Jan 10. Carmelo served in the Army during World War II. Upon returning home in 1946 he joined the Delaware North Co, which he helped to build. Following his retirement from the company in 1976, Mr. Sabatino joined the management staff at Batavia Downs, where he continued to work until 1999. Art Plant said, "Carm Sabatino hired me as the track oddsmaker at Batavia Downs. Carm was a truly kind and honorable man. May he enjoy his place in heaven with our Savior."

**Raymond I. Sugg**, 77, of Wauseon, Ohio, headed "down the stretch" for the final time and won the most important race of his life on January 15. His family surrounded him at the winners circle to celebrate his victory. Raymond was a driver/trainer for over 60 years, racing at tracks throughout the United States and Canada. At the age of 16 he was the youngest to receive a driver's license from the USTA. He worked for the Ohio Department of Transportation in Fulton County for 29 years retiring in 2007. He was a true family man, enjoyed family cookouts and gatherings, playing cards, golfing, and "putzing" around at the Fulton County fairgrounds at the barn with his horses. He was a member of Wauseon First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), serving as a deacon for many years.

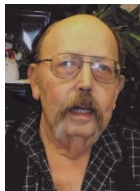


**Victor Zeinfeld**, 92, died Jan 2. Victor's early years were spent in the family grocery business in Maywood, then 40 years as a horseman took him around the country, finally settling his family in Cypress, CA, where he later retired. He was a prominent Standardbred owner and breeder, who most notably bred Adios Vic, the first horse who beat Bret Hanover and ended the latter's win streak at 35 races. In 2006 he was given the USTA President's Award for his many contributions to the sport of harness racing.



## Obituaries

**Teddy F Barcus**, 70 of Delaware, OH died Dec 30. Teddy was a janitor for Alpha Industries. He enjoyed going to fairs all over the state and especially the Delaware County Fair. Teddy collected hats, loved trains, big names and long words. Teddy was a friend to everyone and never met a stranger. He spent time helping various horsemen at the fairgrounds grooming and feeding horses and made many friends who this Christmas sent him 300 plus cards.



**Richard 'Dick' Baumann**, 70, died Jan 3. Dick was an avid horse owner and trainer for more than 30 years

**Frank Colville**, 78, of Ontario died Dec 21. Raised in Toronto, Frank was a long distance Transport driver and heavy machinery mover until his retirement. The Colville family discovered an interest in harness racing many years ago. Frank held a trainer's license and always had a horse or two. Frank's daughters Joanne and Annemarie continue to be very involved in Ontario harness racing. Upon his retirement he often helped train his daughter Joanne's High Stakes

## 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, Sam Castimore, Ginny Chudoba, Sharon Cromer, Janet Dehart, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Tiffany Fisher, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Marilyn Hankins, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, Bob Kinsey, Donnie Knight, Larry Lederman, Evan Leversage, Rox Liles, Ricky Macomber, Leo Macnamara, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Donna McIvor, Mira McKnight, Leo McNamara, Mrs. Miller, Corey Murphy, Randy Nix, Pierre Noel, Jay O'Neil, Dee Parsons, Robyn Rembleski, Daren Richner, Del Smart, Elaina Storlazi, Doug Stringer, Beverley Sweeney, Jack Taylor, Carrie Thompson, Gary Tyron, Fred Ward Sr., Alice Wardman, Evan Wellwood, Marty Woebkenberg, Joyce Zeasapolowski

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

Jason Apperti, 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, 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,

Stable's horses alongside son-in-law Jack Moiseyev.

**Dave "Shooter" Garling**, 64, a former security guard at Raceway Park died Dec 30. Dave also owned and trained his own Standardbreds. Dave also worked for Russ and Sam Mignano and raced on the Michigan/Ohio circuit for many years. He was a dedicated fan of the Detroit Tigers, Detroit Red Wings, Detroit Lions and University of Michigan teams, as well as a very good bowler and a proud veteran.

**Norma "Sue" Gregory**, 69, the wife of horseman Gary Gregory and mother of Jeff Gregory, died suddenly Dec 28. Sue spent years working at Milex Drugs in Caledonia, NY and was a proud member of the Western New York Harness Horsemen's Association.



Obituaries continued on page 4



Brad Strawser, Tony, 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:*

Lyndel Adamsky's mother, **Donna**, is very sick following food poisoning and a heart attack.

**Dan Ater** is back fighting cancer again.

**David Belliveau** tore his meniscus and will have surgery to repair it.

**Chaplain Bob Miller** had surgery for a detached retina.

Please pray for everyone impacted by the **Classy Lane fire**.

**Linda Conlon** is dealing with health issues and would like prayers.

**Bev Crane** fell again and had surgery for several broken several bones.

Please ask God to lead **Peg Carson** to the perfect job.

**Sonny Dancer** is dealing with health issues and would like prayers.

**Jeff Frizell**, 30s or 40s, contracted Hepatitis C from childhood leukemia treatments. As a result he now is suffering from cirrhosis of the liver.

**Mary Jane Grube** is struggling following the death of her husband.

**Lindsay Hagemeyer** is pursuing Vet School.

**Howie** recently had hip replacement and is doing well. He would appreciate prayer for his continued healing.

**Jason** is in drug rehab. He and his mother are working on restoring their relationship.

**Nancy Lisi** has pneumonia.

**Chris Patterson** slipped and fell on ice last week and broke his leg in three places. He is in rehab.

**Ross Springer** needs heart surgery.

Let's also pray for our **government leaders** that they listen to God and make right decisions.



157 North Main St  
Salem, NH 03079  
USA

Please indicate  
Address corrections

Wanted  
Praise Reports  
Testimonies  
Articles  
Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen  
leealphen@comcast.net  
or  
157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

### CHHA in Florida

Join us Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at Spring Garden Ranch in DeLeon, Florida for lunch with Jack Levine.

Jack was a top Madison Avenue advertising executive, owned a successful television production company and raced as an amateur harness driver. Eventually he became an author, philanthropist, nationally known public speaker and addiction expert.



Jack Levine

Jack is now in full time ministry in Orlando, FL. You will definitely enjoy his dynamic, inspirational presentation.

The event will be held trackside at the Spring Garden Ranch Restaurant at 12:00 Noon. Lunch is on us! Diane Hugel of Rockingham Park is providing the meal.



See page 3 for a list of Jack's books. It is a real blessing to call Jack a friend. Come and meet him so he can be your friend too.

### Gaitway Farm Event

Yes, we are planning another New Jersey event for 2016. Despite the scorching heat, 100 people were inspired by Ron Dancer's moving presentation last July. Be assured, this year we will pick a date before it gets too hot.



### Electronic Newsletter Delivery

Electronic Newsletter Delivery is now available. If you would prefer to read the PDF version of our newsletter on your favorite device, go to [www.chha.net/delivery-options](http://www.chha.net/delivery-options) or email Chaplain Lee at [leealphen@comcast.net](mailto:leealphen@comcast.net) and let us know. You can have it both ways if you want.



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

#### Memorial Contributions

- In memory of **Max Russell** by: John Russell
- In memory of **James J Ingram** by: Donna Ingram
- In memory of **Joseph Grube** by: Mary Jane Grube
- In memory of **Cindy Bourne** by: Jacquelyn Kopacz
- In memory of **Donnie Conrad** by: Roselea Conrad
- In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Ken and Betsy Wood
- In memory of **John Payne** by: Pastor Joe DiDonato