



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983



In God We Trust

Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

October 2016

Remember,

I pray for all our members every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

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Roger Huston
 The Meadows and Little Brown Jug

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Wanted
Praise Reports
Testimonies
Articles

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen
leealphen@comcast.net
or

157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

Can you write or draw? Please send us something for the newsletter!

Use Your Brush

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

I read a story about a 5-year-old girl who learned in Sunday school that Jesus was coming back. She ran home and asked her mother, "Mommy, is Jesus coming back?"

"Yes, dear, He is."

"Do you really believe that?"

"Yes, honey, I do."

"Well, could he come back today?"

"Yes, dear."

"Could He come back right now?"

"Yes, he could."

"Mommy, please help me comb my hair" (from Michael Youssef, *End Times and the Secret of the Mahdi*).

We brush our horses before we take them to the track, especially on race day. We want a clean harness and race bike, nice white pants and laundered colors too. We might end up in the winner's circle.

This little girl knew she wanted to be ready when Jesus returned. She wanted to be ready to greet him and look her best.

Jesus is more concerned with the condition of our hearts than our hair. Are they filled with love? We probably do okay with our family and close friends. How wide is our circle? The circle of Jesus extends to the ends of the earth.

Esau was more concerned with his stomach than his birthright and sold it for a quick meal. Later when he wanted his father's blessing as the oldest son, he was too late (Genesis 25:29-34; Hebrews 12:16-17). Is there anything we value more than our relationship with Jesus?

Remember we are talking about our relationship with the One we are expecting to take us to heaven, the place where God lives. Are our names written in the Book of Life (Revelation 20:12, 15)?



Drawing by Ernie Lowell

Jesus came and suffered more than was humanly possible. Why? Why did He die on that cross? Who did He die for? You? Me? His disciples and followers? Those who persecuted and crucified Him? Who did Jesus hold a grudge against? Who did He want left out of heaven?

The Letter to the Hebrews reminds us to show hospitality to strangers and to remember those in prison (Hebrews 13:2-3). Jesus, in his parable about the sheep and the goats, tells us that whatever we do for the least of His people, we do for Him (Matthew 25:34-40). Most of us are doing something to help those who are struggling. Are there places where we fall short? Can we do more?

The question we come back to is, how is our relationship with Jesus? What can we do to improve it? Our relationship with Jesus begins with our relationships with the people around us. Are we treating everyone as we would treat Jesus? Perhaps there is a grudge we can let go, a friendship we can mend, a shoulder we can lend or a hand we can offer.

Are we ready to meet Jesus? Use your brush.

Blessings

From Kate Williams-Walker ...



Matt arrived at FARRIER School in OK and he's so excited! Please express his **MANY, MANY Thanks again**. Honestly, without God blessing Matt with your scholarship, this would not have been possible. It's now a reality!

I know you are busy people, but if you ever want to drop him a snail mail or a card :

Matt Hess · c/o OK Horseshoeing School
26446 Horseshoe Cir · Purcell, OK 73080

From Karen Crothers...

Thank you for the prayers. I know they are being heard by our Savior. My injury from the fall has me in therapy every day. I'm able to use my hand and the rest of the pains are slowly disappearing. Again, thank you for the prayers. My husband, Joe, is not doing well. He is in ICU this week fighting an infection from this horrible disease. Cancer is in his lungs, rib cage, chest cavity and has attached to his vocal cord and nerves to his right arm. The radiation and chemo is taking a toll on him. He has become too weak to walk on his own. It would take a miracle for him to recover from where he is today. Prayers for less pain are needed. Each day brings a new challenge. We will get through this each day with grace from God.



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

Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Sharron Adams** by: Larry and Joan Martin and Dean and Linda Hoffman

In memory of **John Eades** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz

In memory of **Sharon Finn** by: Jim and Judy Ferguson

In memory of **Ernie Miller, Jr** by: Kim Hankins

In memory of **Ben Stafford, Jr** by: Larry and Joan Martin

Neshoba County Fair

Continued from back page

"Just keep running. Just keep running!" Neshoba Devotion July 26, 2016

By Chaplain Edward Smith

Every year I like to get up in the morning and greet and talk to people as I make my way up to my favorite spot in the grandstand where I have quiet time and reflect with The Lord before the activities of the day begin and the heat of the sun rises.

I notice familiar runners that also get up early and get a workout as they pace their way around the track. They usually run alone and probably battle with getting their workout by saying- "Just keep running, just keep running!"

As I observe them running all seems peaceful and serene and safe. But I imagine like us the runners are facing conflicts, problems, serious issues and challenging tasks in front of them.

We know that today alone, a terrorist struck in Europe and murdered a priest and worshipper in their own church, a Texas Deputy Sheriff was murdered and two officers in Indiana were wounded. Wars and rumors of war and violence, hunger and suffering and pain are found everywhere in the world. So my devotional verse for you today is from Hebrews 12:1, "Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us."

So, when you get in life's starting gate every morning, thank The Lord for another day. Hand your fears and concerns over to Him. And then go boldly into the day and live hopefully in the moment, embrace your life and with Jesus just keep running, just keep running! Blessings



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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 rigs—see below
- Black Tie with harness horse—boxed (\$20) donation

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



Rambling Willie Remembers

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

Horseshoe Nail Cross Necklaces and Keyrings

Roger Huston is selling these beautiful, hand made horseshoe nail cross necklaces and keyrings to benefit the Christian Harness Horsemen's Association. The cross necklaces are available in red, blue and turquoise and the keyrings in red, blue, turquoise and silver. They make great gifts for a donation of only \$20. Complete and mail the order form to below 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.

Horseshoe Nail Cross Order Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Necklace Qty: Red ____ Blue ____ Turquoise ____

Keyring Qty: Red ____ Blue ____ Turquoise ____ Silver ____

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

Roger Huston · 225 Fieldbrook Dr · Cannonsburg, PA 15317



Roger Huston



Harness racing was in his blood from an early age. He raced professionally as a driver for 30 years from 1962 until 1992, and continued on as a trainer until his death. With more than 900 wins as a driver, his best year was 1982 when he had 862 starts and 160 wins.

Bonnie Christine Insko, 82, wife of Hall of Famer Del Insko, died Aug 25, in her home with her husband and family at her side. Bonnie was the co-owner of the Del Insko Stables. For 16 years she was employed with the Rockton School District and was a longtime member of Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church.

John S. "Shack" Kenney, DVM, 79, died Aug 27. Dr. Kenney's lifelong love of horses led him to his distinguished career as an equine veterinarian. He also was one of the breeders of Albatross. Dr. Kenney played a wicked good game of racquetball and tennis. His unabashed Southern charm, good looks, and snarky humor endeared him to many. The consummate curmudgeon, he loved to rile and be riled by anybody up for the challenge and would kill to win a heated game of Scrabble; he was also a really sore loser. He ventured into real estate and truly enjoyed being a docent at Polly Hill Arboretum along with his wife, Corinne, whom he adored.



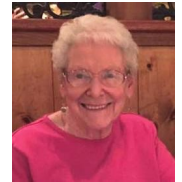
Walter T. Marks, 85, of Cochranville, died July 26. Walter raised, trained and drove Standardbreds. He also served as an Airplane Mechanic in the Air Force during the Korean War. He was a member of Parkesburg VFW.



Joe Marsh Jr, 82, one of the top drivers from the "glory days" of harness racing, died July 27. Joe, following in his father's footsteps, became a groom in 1952 and started driving in 1959 finishing the year as 12th in the nation. Joe and his son Ron share membership in the "5,000 win club" as the only father-son driving team in harness racing history to achieve that elite status. In 1974 Joe became the first American driver to win the World Driving Championship. He was voted 1973 Horseman of the Year by Harness Horsemen International. Besides steering racehorses in California, Florida, New York, New Jersey, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, he drove in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Europe. In 1972 and 1973 Mr. Marsh finished second to Herve Filion in North American dash wins, and was also voted Chicago Driver of the Year in 1972.



Janet A. Nightingale, 87, died July 29. Janet's daughter and her husband, Kimberly and Steve Murchison, race at Scarborough Downs.



Dr. Charlene Ratchford, 45, died July 15 after a brief illness with cancer. Born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, she was the daughter of Gus and the late Caroline Ratchford.

Placido "Pat" Anthony Salerno, 81, of Flemington, NJ died Aug 26. Pat was an accomplished musician who belonged to several bands that played throughout New York and the Poconos. In 1958, his band, the Bobby Warren 5, recorded their hit single "Nightbeat". Pat attended Trenton State College and received his teaching degree. He became director of the music department at St. Anthony's High School. There he developed one of the finest music programs in the state, and many of his students went on to be successful professional musicians. Pat had a deep love for horses and racing. In the summer months, when school was out, he became involved in pony races at Spruce Run Park in Flemington, NJ. After several summers of pony races, Pat took the next step and bought his first race horse, and what started out as a hobby, quickly became a career. In 1974, he gave up teaching and with the help of his sons, he opened Salerno Stables. In 1985, Pat became Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Harness Horsemen's Association and later served as the Executive Director of the Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of NJ. He worked tirelessly for the benefit of all involved in the sport that he loved. In 1998, Pat received the Harness Horsemen's International "Man of the Year" Award, an honor that he was truly proud of. He was a very active member of the Our Lady of Victories R.C. Church in Baptistown, NJ.



Jason Allan Simms, 30, of Washington, died July 15. Jason groomed and trained harness horses at The Meadows Racetrack. He was a loving father, son and uncle. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and all outdoor activities.



George Arthur Vanderhoof, 84, died July 15. He was an avid hunter, fisherman, golfer and bowler. He enjoyed spending the winters in Florida. George liked attending the races in Saratoga. His daughter and her husband, Cheryl and Irv Mauran, race at Scarborough Downs.



Wayne M. Yontz, 74, of Indiana died June 18 at IU Health Goshen Hospital. Wayne raced harness horses in Indiana.

Obituaries

Charles Bacon, 80, of Batavia died recently. He was a regular on the Buffalo Raceway-Batavia Downs circuit for nearly 40 years. Charles began his driving career in 1978 and remained in the sulky until 2015. His last career start in the bike was his only one in 2015, and it was a victory aboard the aptly named Charlies Last on Aug 4 at the Chemung County Fair in Elmira, NY.

Michael Woodrow Buffington, 73, of Denison, TX died Aug 25. Michael owned and raced thoroughbreds and served on the national board of the Racetrack Chaplaincy of America.

James J. "Jimmy" Dunnigan Jr, 79, died Aug 25 in Phoenix, AZ. Jimmy was the son of Hall of Famer James Dunnigan Sr, who founded Buffalo Raceway and managed that track for 25 years. His grandfather, John, authored the 1939 legislation that permitted pari-mutuel wagering on horse racing in New York. Jimmy served as race secretary at Monticello and Roosevelt and as Director of Racing at the Phoenix Trotting Park. He also trained and drove horses. In 1980 he was named sales director at the

resurrected Old Glory Sales. In later years he worked as a yearling scout for George Steinbrenner.

Yvon Giguere, 63, died Aug 8, 2016. Yvon was the simulcast manager for Grand River Raceway since 2010. He was committed to harness racing and the growth of Grand River Raceway and its employees. While in Quebec, Yvon also owned, trained and drove Standardbreds and was a passionate advocate for the sport. He was a third-generation horseman. His father Jules and Uncle George are both members of the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame.

Julia M. Howard, 90, of Worcester, MA died Aug 15. Julia was a devoted and loving mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She leaves her eight children including CHHA member, Judy Nelson.



Ronald Ingrassia, 75, of Hurleyville, NY died Aug 4. Ronald trained and drove standardbreds at Monticello Raceway. He was first a family man; he loved being with his children and grandchildren.



Obituaries cont. on page 4

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, Janet Dehart, Barbara Dinning, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Tiffany Fisher, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, 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 Mclvor, Mira McKnight, Mrs. Miller, Lalya Mosley, Corey Murphy, Randy Nix, Pierre Noel, 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, Alice Wardman, 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, Gaetane Breton, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, 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, Nancy 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, Gordon Murphy, Margaret Niels, 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 Strawser, 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:

Joe Crothers is fighting a cancer related infection.
Warren Harp continues to battle health issues.
Ann MacNeill broke her ankle.
Monmouth Park announcer, Frank Mirahmadi, was operated on for colon cancer.
Nancy Minor is recovering from hip replacement surgery.
Shari Okusko is struggling with stage four colon cancer that has travelled into surrounding organs.
Joan Samataro has a prolapsed bladder.
Jim Shasteen had his right knee replaced.
Charles Vance got thrown from his young colt and broke his sternum.
Barb Wise was severely injured in an automobile accident.



157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA

Racing for Christ



Information at www.chha.net

Please indicate
Address corrections

Chaplains Edward Smith and Waverly Parsons faithfully bring Christ to the horsemen and women at the Neshoba County Fair in Mississippi. Over 100 men, women and children gather to hear each day's devotion and testimony. The chaplains and ministry organizer, Ruth Ann McDonald, cover everyone on the grounds and especially the drivers and riders in prayer. The fair boasts both harness racing and thoroughbreds. Often as they walk through the stables they stop to pray with someone. In the afternoons they pass out cold drinks, watermelon and more prayers. Here and on page 2 are a couple of Chaplain Edward's daily devotions and some pictures.

Delta Downs leading jockey, David Alvarez, blessed everyone with his testimony again this year. He and his family are in the picture to the right.

Neshoba County Fair Philadelphia, MS



Prayer in "the paddock" as the horses are prepared for the post parade.



Jockey David Alvarez and his family with Chaplains Waverly Parsons and Edward Smith and Ruth Ann McDonald

For The Chariot Teams Neshoba Devotion July 27, 2016 by Edward Smith *Habakkuk 1:8 (my interpretation)*

Their horses and chariots are swifter than leopards, more fierce than the evening wolves; their chariots press proudly against all they race against, their chariots come to Neshoba from near and far; they race with the swiftness of eagles pressing with God toward the finish line.

Lord bless the harness teams and all who prepare the chariots for their races. Protect them against all harm, bless them personally and bless and protect their families. Thank you for all you are doing in their lives Father and lead them to the finish line in the race of life. In the name of Jesus this devotion is dedicated to the chariot riders!