



Rambling Willie

**In God We Trust**



*Serving Jesus Christ in  
Harness Racing*



OCTOBER, 2014

CHRISTIAN HARNESS HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

**Remember...**

I pray for all our members every day.



*Chaplain Lee*

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**2015 Stallion Auction**



Please consider donating a breeding to our 2015 stallion auction.

**Horse Racing in 648 BC**

*By Chaplain Lee Alphen*

Hopefully Jesus had a saddle for His pony since they were first used just before He was born. Also, Jesus may have enjoyed horse racing which began in 648 BC. How do I know this? I read it in the Bible. Yes, that's right. The Bible is full of interesting

776 BC	1st Olympic Games
648 BC	Horse racing begins
540 BC	Horseback postal service
525 BC	Polo in Persia
1 AD	Saddles first used in Europe

*Information from Tyndale NIV Life Application Bible,*

information. Of course, it is also full of messages to us from God.

At the beginning of Tyndale Publishing's NIV Life Application Study Bible is a great Timeline covering the period from creation to when the Apostle John wrote the Book of Revelation in 95 AD. The information charted above in this article about horses is taken from this timeline. Many Bibles have timelines focusing on different aspects of history,

geography and civilization in Bible times.

Generally Bibles contain the sacred text translated into modern day languages by a committee of translators. Many Bibles have charts and maps to help the reader better visualize things like relationships, how the stories fit together and where the people in the Bible stories traveled.

Study Bibles provide lots of help including annotations explaining difficult passages, references to show relationships from one passage to others and a concordance which is a word index referring the reader to passages that include a given word. Lists and tables of things like the Miracles of Jesus, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, Parables, and parallel passages in the four gospels are common.

Life Application study Bibles focus on living out Bible principles. Traditional study Bibles focus their notations more on the historical details of the passage. While it is great to gather all the information we can from all the helps provided in our Bibles, please keep in mind, the notations and other aids are interpretations and not part of the sacred text.

Obviously, the sacred text is the most important part of the

*Bible cont. on page 3*



It's unanimous! We will have a prayer breakfast again next year. Yes, it was still dark out as Pastor Samuel Forshtay and his praise and worship team gathered us into the Buckeye Valley Booster Building by calling on the Lord with their beautiful music..

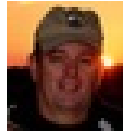
**Jug Week  
Prayer Breakfast  
The start of a tradition...**



## Obituaries

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

**Mark Austin**, one of Ontario's most popular and successful trainers, died Sep 14. He was 54. Mark died at Flamboro Downs where he was racing. The two horses that more recently made headlines for Mark were Sparky Mark and Fool Me Once.



**Edward M. Fitzpatrick**, 64, of Lansingburg, N.Y., died Aug 15. Ed retired in January following a long career in the insurance industry. He was a lifelong harness racing enthusiast and Standardbred owner.

**Kent Fox** of Cal Expo passed away from a heart attack Sep 12. "Foxy" to everyone who knew him had been a longtime owner, horseman and para mutual clerk for over 40 years. It was his love of the horses that made Foxy unique.



**Ruth Helen** of Massachusetts died May 22. She was 89. Ruthie's daughter, Diane Helen, races at Pompano Park in Florida and at Plainridge Racecourse in Massachusetts. Diane's father was also 89 when he passed away in 2011.

**Sandra Lovato**, 54, of Norwalk, Ohio died Sep 3 from injuries sustained from a car accident. Sandra moved to New York shortly after high school graduation where she started her career working with horses at the racetrack where she met the love of her life, Frankie Lovato, Jr. She returned to her hometown in 2006 with her family. She was the President for the Wooden Horse Corporation, a family owned company that produces the Equicizer, that she started with her husband, Frankie, in 2006. She has been a lifelong horse enthusiast whose passion and dreams came true when she founded Stampede of Dreams in Norwalk, Ohio, a program for Equine Assisted Horseback Riding lessons providing therapeutic benefits for children and adults with special needs.



**Thayer Maxwell**, 55, of Windsor, ON/Upper Sackville, NS died after a short but courageous battle with cancer on August 15. Thayer loved horses and for many years he owned, trained, and drove standard-bred race horses. He was also a skilled blacksmith. Most recently he was employed by Merchants Paper Company as a delivery truck driver and warehouse personnel. Thayer was known for his inner strength and inner peace, and was a very determined and focused man.



**Mark Miller**, 62, died Aug 26. Mark was an avid horseman and devoted most of his life to the sport. In the late 1970s and early 1980s he was a leading driver in the Chicago area. He also raced at Lebanon Raceway and Scioto Downs. He loved golfing, camping, fishing, searching for Indian artifacts and relaxing on the farm.



**Henry Nelson "Sandy" Morton**, 67, of Aiken, SC died Sep 15. Sandy worked as an electrician and a USTA racing official as a patrol judge, starter, paddock judge and an associate judge in DE for 20 years before retiring. He enjoyed playing golf, annual trips to Las Vegas with his sons, volunteering at several horse trials in the area and most recently working with his dog Baxter to become a therapy dog for local hospitals and retirement homes. Sandy is survived by his wife of 24 years, Theresa who was a former associate judge in Maryland and Delaware.



**Barbara O'Brien**, 76, of Lambeth, Ontario, died August 13. Her husband Sonny and her sons race in Canada.

**Andrew J. Tirpak Jr.**, 73, died Sep 29. Andrew was a graduate of Grove City College and served in the Army Reserve. He played college baseball and was an avid softball player and a proud member and third baseman of the winning Pittsburgh Gold, a team in the 65-plus North Allegheny Senior Softball League. He was also involved in harness racing at The Meadows, where he was a trainer, driver and owner for more than 10 years.



**John Willis Jr.**, 87, of Fort Seneca, Ohio, died Sept. 9. John retired from the U.S. Post Office after 32 years of service and managed Nature Trails Golf Course for eight years. He also was the owner/operator of the General Store in Fort Seneca and owned Pleasant View Stables from 1970-2012. He was an Old Fort School bus driver for 18 years and a softball, baseball and basketball official for 20 years. He also coached various sports at Old Fort School.



## Prayer Corner

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

**Debbie Boardman, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Rick Carson, Wayne Cowdry, Janet Dehart, Maryanne Doherty, Chaplain Tom Farley, Tiffany Fisher, John Fowler, Margaret Groce, Marilyn Hankins, Mary Haskell, Karen Hettrick, John Hufford, Betty James, Bob Kinsey, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Priscilla McFayden, Mrs. Miller, Corey Murphy, Randy Nix, Pierre Noel, Fran Nori, Jay O'Neil, Dee Parsons, Patsy Payne, Robyn Rembleski, Del Smart, Rose Sinclair, Jimmy Sommers, Jack Taylor, Gary Tyron, Fred Ward, Sr., Alice Wardman, Betty Wogoman, Marty Woebkenberg, Chaplain Yurian and Joyce Zeasapolowski.**



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

**Chaplain Kelly Blanton, Gary Bennett, Amy Bondon, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Diane Boyken, Lois Boyken, Phyllis Bunch's mom, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Carol Ann Case, Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta, Donny Currier, Jr, Dale, Harold Dancer, Dick, Blanche DiDonatto, Jimmy Doherty, Dennis Drenth, Chaplain Tom Farley, Nora Fenner, Barbara Elrod, Barbara Fowler, Sylvain Gagnon, Greg Gehman, Dr. Howard Gill, Bob Goth, David Graham, Debbie Gray, Harry Harvey, Bob Hilliard, Bob Jones, Nancy Haskell, Ruby Hensley, Miguel Hernandez, Paul and Mrs. Hershey, Carol Heusinkveld, Jerry Hissam, Donna Holterman, John Hostler, Jesse Hughes, Thelma Klark, Kenny Kane, Katherine Lonager, Faye Mackey, Pedro Martinez, Jr., Melissa MacNeill, Kaye McDonnell, Dean Miller, Raymond Miller, Stewart Nemiro, Bill Parker, Elaine Parlin, Rita Polese, Bruce Ranger, Donnie Richards, Ken and Peggy Roper, Rev. and Mrs. James Slack, Tom Smith, Brad Strawser, Tony, Lee Anne Taylor, Lorraine Truitt, Reggie Welch, Jr, Bill Wick and Tony Working.**

**Please pray for those serving in the military, especially Joshua Hankins, Yann Lamiqu and Chris Petruolo.**

Please pray for all the Christians who are being persecuted for their faith and for peace especially in the Mideast.

Diane's dog bit her thumb requiring surgery.

Tiffany Fisher is still fighting cancer. They are struggling financially.

Rose Hennessey has just been diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer and treatment started.

Please pray for Jay who has cancer.

Rox Liles is undergoing chemo and battling cancer.

Margaret Nields is in need of a new kidney. Please pray she gets one soon.

Fran Nori who is still undergoing chemo has a virus in her throat.

Ronnie Parker is on life support following a motorcycle accident.

Susan Parks has a lung problem.

Mel Turcott had a heart attack.

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**Don't Blow it with God** by Jack Levine  (\$25) donation **Where the Rubber Meets the Road** by Jack Levine  (\$25) donation

*Publications available while supplies last*

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

**Bible cont. from page 1**

Bible. God speaks to each of us individually as we read. It is good to spend time each day with God and the Word. In fact, there are many passages in the Bible that direct us to meditate on God's Word. Joshua 1:8 and Psalms 1:2 are examples.

As we read, we can think about things like the people and places in the stories. Perhaps we can even locate the places on a map. Or, we might want to place ourselves in the story. Sometimes it is best to just keep re-reading and re-reading a very short passage and allow God to speak to us through the words. As we do, there is a good chance we will come to an understanding. This is God's gift to us.

Feel free to contact me if you would like information and recommendations on the different Bible versions.

By the way, I did a search at [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com). The word "horse" appears over 160 times in the Bible. Enjoy your time with God as you read and think about what God is saying to you. Remember, I am praying for you.

**Praise Reports**

God blessed our Jug Prayer Breakfast and gave us two terrific days at the Jug meeting old friends and making new ones. The beautiful weather and great racing contributed to everyone's upbeat attitude.

Dot Morgan's New Vocations Race Horse Adoption and the Little Brown Jug Society netted over \$60,000 at their Pre-Jug Gala and Charity Auction.

**50/50 Raffle Draw**

Dan Fick and Jay Bernadini drew our 50/50 Raffle at the head of the stretch at Suffolk Downs. Winners were:

**Win:** *Charlie and Dot Morgan*

**Place:** *David Delisle*

**Show:** *Pastor Joey DiDonato*



Dan Fick and Jay Bernadini

**Memorial Contributions**

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

In memory of **Weldon and Nancy Stockwell** by: Mark Stockwell

In memory of **Keith Nixon** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz

In memory of **Ryder Steck** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz

In memory of **Doug Ackerman** by: Larry Martin

In memory of **Skip Lewis** by: Larry Martin

In memory of **Warren Cameron** by: Larry Martin

In memory of **John Willis, Jr** by: Jo-Dee Brown

In memory of **Thayer Maxwell** by: Jo-Dee Brown

In memory of **Barbara O'Brien** by: Jo-Dee Brown

In memory of **illie "Jackrabbit" Bottoms** by: David and Amber Yoder

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Please indicate  
address corrections.

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**Please consider donating a breeding  
to our 2015  
Stallion Auction**



Jason Settlemore, Chaplain Lee Alphen and  
Phil Terry



Jo-Dee Brown and Lori Pollard



Suzie Telle

*The 69th  
Little Brown Jug*



Rich Thortensen and Roger Huston



Chaplain Lee Alphen and Danica Fick



Nancy and Ayers Ratliff



Rhonda Curran and Rich Thorstensen