



Rambling Willie  
**In God We Trust**



Serving Jesus Christ  
in Harness Racing



December, 2015

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

Greg Gehman, Vice President  
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Roger Huston  
The Meadows  
Little Brown Jug

Lori Romanetti  
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For newsletter questions  
or ideas please contact:

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



## Amazing Accomplishments

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Before setting out on a conquest of Asia, Alexander the Great enquired about the finances of his followers. So that they wouldn't be concerned about the care of their dependents, Alexander distributed wealth and estates from the treasury. After he had passed out most of the royal treasury, General Perdiccas asked what he had held back for himself. "Hope," the king answered. "In that case," Perdiccas responded, "we who share in your labors will also take part in your hopes." Then he and several other officials refused the estates given to them.

—From *Random Acts of Politeness* by Andrew Taylor

Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews? (John 18:33)." Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36). In the Gospel of John, Jesus promises to take us to where He is (14:3). Alexander the Great held the hope of a successful conquest against Asia above money and land. We have the hope of eternity with God in paradise. What are we willing to give in exchange for our salvation?

Of course, salvation is free. However, Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life" (John 14:6). Jesus tells us to "go and make disciples of all nations, [...]" teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20).

My friends, we are partners in ministry. We have a job to do in the work of the Lord. Together we are working to **Keep Christ Alive in Harness Racing!** The followers of Alexander the Great shared in the hope of the great general for his military conquests. We, the followers of Jesus Christ in harness racing, share the hope of Jesus who truly wants all women and men with Him for

all eternity.

Look at the list of amazing things we've done this year!

### 2015 Highlights

- + Attracted over 400 new members
- + 100 people inspired by Ron Dancer's testimony at Gaitway Farm BBQ
- + 40 people praised God at our Jug Prayer Breakfast
- + Published 50 great praise reports
- + Welcomed Pastor Joe DiDonato's ministry at The Meadows under CHHA umbrella
- + Encouraged Standardbred breeding with our Stallion Auction
- + Awarded three college scholarships
- + Began a CHHA Facebook page
- + Offered electronic newsletter delivery
- + Continued Pastoral Visits to farms, tracks and training centers
- Most importantly, we prayed...**
- + Over 60 Partners continue to pray for our members and the needs of the harness racing community
- + Chaplain Lee prayed through the entire member list 12 times in 2015
- + Chaplain Lee and other members pray for all our members every day

CHHA does not have a big staff or lots of money. As Executive Director, Chaplain Lee handles things nationally. This includes the newsletter, accounting,

**Accomplishments continued on page 2**

**Accomplishments cont. from page 1**

logistics and maintaining the website and Facebook page as well traveling to big races, horse sales, tracks, farms and training centers to meet and support members. Rich and Sandy Thorstenson volunteer their time at the Delaware Sales booth and The Jug. Pastor Joe takes care of everything at the Meadows assisted by a few folks that help when needed.

Our president, Amy Bondon, is indispensable at the Hambletonian, on our farm visits around Ocala and in various ways throughout the year. Amy, Suzanne D'Ambrose, Tim Hundertpfund and Pastor Joe pulled it all together at our Gaitway Farm event this year. And, we thank Tom Luchento for his support and for finding us such a perfect venue.

Lori Romanetti, Rich and Sandy Thortensen, Pastor Joe and Marci DiDonato and Chaplain Ken and Karen Carter orchestrated our Jug Prayer Breakfast. Phil Terry came through for us Jug Week. Ann MacNeill often blesses us with her photography.

Joanne Mann heads up the Scholarship committee assisted by Lori Romanetti, Lisa Schwartz and Chaplain Lee. Greg Gehman and his family put up with Chaplain Lee during the Harrisburg Sale. Roger Huston is selling crosses for us and other members help out in various ways.

In 2016 we hope to reach even more people with the Good News of Jesus Christ as we keep Christians in harness racing connected. In addition to our events at Gaitway Farm and The Jug, we hope to have a noontime event at Spring Garden Ranch in March.

How is God calling you to help? It takes us all. We would love to hear your ideas. Please send them to Chaplain Lee.

As we near the celebration of our Savior's birth, my hope is in the Christ Child for another banner year of service to Our Lord and King.

Thanks for doing your part!

Chaplain Lee Alphen

## 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. Just let us know.



*From Sharon Cromer...*

Praise the Lord! I am very happy to report that my journey through chemo and radiation due to cancer is finished. I am truly blessed. God has directed my path through this long journey. I was reading the October CHHA newsletter article by Chaplain Alphen. 2 Chronicles 20:15 reads "Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army, for the battle is not yours, but God's." I admit, I was discouraged at times and I didn't want to see another doctor or have another IV or go through more tests. But you see, we are human and these are natural reactions. God knows this and when we go to Him in prayer and read His word, we can know that the battle is the LORD'S and He fights for us. Whatever the battle is, God is in control. We just have to run the race (Heb. 12:1,2). That is what got me through, plus many prayers lifted up by my brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank You CHHA members for your prayers.

Sharon

*From Tenia Vance...*

I thank God CHHA is always willing to pray for us, and I am so thankful for my children. They all are in church and trying to raise their children in the way of the Lord. I am so thankful for my husband. I waited and went to church for 35 years with my children alone. Now he is a minister and I thank God for that and that he will use us. I am so thankful for all the blessings he blessed us with and the blessings he will continue. And I thank God for Lee Alphen. She is always ready to listen and pray and always wants to know how things are working out. Together we can make miracles happen. Love to all.

Tenia Vance

*From Bill Mackey...*

Thank GOD for you I'm praying for you guys as well. Yes my family has been going through some things. My niece, April Hardin, and her 2 small children lost everything she ever had. But the devil didn't steal their lives in the house fire. They lost their home and everything they had but GOD spared them even though they don't have anywhere to live right now. But GOD is keeping them and I really thank him for that but GOD IS so wonderful and I really thank him and I really thank him for the Christian harness horse prayers. May GOD bless the entire association and all of our needs. And may GOD bless each and every one of you guys thank you so very much.

Bill Mackey

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

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

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

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

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

OR

CHHA  
157 North Main St.  
Salem, NH 03079

**To Donate Now—Click here**

You can request items below with on line donations.



**Rambling Willie Remembers**

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

**Great Christmas Gift Ideas!**

**Gifts**

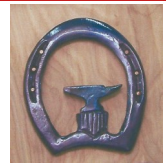
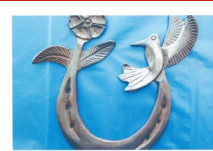
- 10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (pictured at left)  (\$20) donation
- Horseshoe Nail Cross—see below
- Black Tie with harness horse—boxed  (\$20) donation
- Unique Forged Items—see below

**Books**

- Live A Life That Matters for God* by Jack Levine  (\$25) donation
- My Addict Your Addict* by Jack Levine  (\$25) donation
- Where the Rubber Meets the Road with God* by Jack Levine  (\$20)
- Don't Blow It With God* by Jack Levine  (\$20) donation

**Unique Forged Items**

Blacksmith Ernie Lowe makes unique items with his forge call him at 207-468-4489. Mention CHHA and Ernie will donate a portion of his sales. See more samples at [www.chha.net/forged-items](http://www.chha.net/forged-items).



**Horseshoe Nail Crosses**

**Horseshoe Nail Cross Order Form**

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 Christmas 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!!!



Small size  
On left  
Has 4 nails



Large size  
On right  
Has 6 nails

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

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

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

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

Qty: Large size **Red** \_\_\_\_ **Blue** \_\_\_\_

Smaller size **Red** \_\_\_\_ **Blue** \_\_\_\_

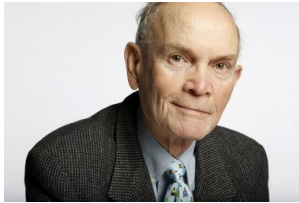
Mail with \$20 + \$2 shipping to:  
**Roger Huston**  
**225 Fieldbrook Dr**  
**Cannonsburg, PA 15317**

## Obituaries

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

**Beatrice Albee**, 95, of Pompano, Beach, FL and formerly of Salem, NH died Saturday, October 10. She was born and educated in Gardner, ME. Her daughter, Patsy Connors, works at Pompano Park and her grandson, Chuck, races mostly in NY now.

**Ray Brienza**, 80, of South Orange, NJ, a member of harness racing's Communicators Hall of Fame as a writer and columnist for the Star-Ledger for nearly 40 years, as well as the associate dean emeritus for admissions at New York University's School of Medicine, died Nov 6.



**Eugene "Gene" Frost**, 86, of Delray Beach, FL, who proudly stood in the Hambletonian winner's circle with his wife, Deena, and Continentalvictory, died Sunday, Oct 25. Gene and Deena campaigned many stakes winning trotters during 45 years of involvement in harness racing. Born in Boston, MA, Mr. Frost was a son of the late Jack and Marion Frost. He served his country with the US Marines. He was the CEO of a major packaging company in Massachusetts.

**Mary E. Hackett**, 87, of Delaware, OH died Oct 30. She was a member of DAR, a 1946 graduate of Willis High School, was employed by First National Bank, member St. Mary's Church, all in Delaware, member St. Patrick Church in London. Mary had a love of family and harness racing. She had a wonderful sense of humor and a quick wit.

**Lloyd E. Hawk**, 76, of Newark OH, died Nov 10. Mr. Hawk enjoyed driving and training, watching the races,

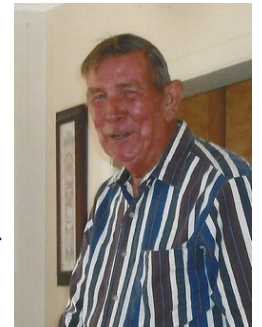
county fairs, and spending time with his family.

**Kevin Hewitt**, 60, a native of New Zealand who raced in New Jersey, died Nov 18. Kevin was a fixture on the backstretches of New Jersey training centers and tracks. In addition to having a few horses of his own over the years, he worked for Ross Croghan and most recently Mark Harder.

**Jack W. Leininger**, 68, of Union Township, Whitley County (Indiana) died Oct 25. Jack served in the United States Army at Fort Carson in Colorado. In 1969 he and his wife, returned to the family farm in Union Township. He also bred and trained harness horses. In addition to farming, he was employed by General Electric and retired in 2001.



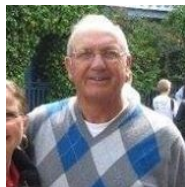
**William E. "Mr. Bill" Phillips**, 86, Barrington, MI, went home to his Lord on Nov 13. Bill worked for GM in the skilled trades and was a Union negotiator until his retirement in 1978. He owned and trained harness horses for 27 years. He also enjoyed, golf, boxing and softball.



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Testimonies  
Articles**  
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## Smile Time

*From Chaplain Sam Ed Spence*



## Cowboy Wisdom

Don't name a pig you plan to eat.  
Life is simpler when you plough *around* the stump.  
Forgive your enemies. It messes with their heads.  
Don't sell your mule to buy a plough.  
You can't unsay a cruel thing.  
Most of the stuff people worry about never happens.  
Don't squat with your spurs on.  
It's better to be a has-been than a never-was.  
Always drink upstream from the herd.  
Never miss a good chance to shut up.

## A Man and His Dog

A man wrote a letter to a small hotel in a mid-west town he planned to visit on his vacation. He wrote: "I would very much like to bring my dog with me. He is well-groomed and very well behaved. Would you be willing to permit me to keep him in my room with me at night?"

An immediate reply came from the hotel owner, who wrote: "I've been operating this hotel for many years. In all that time, I've never had a dog steal towels, bedclothes, silverware or pictures off the walls. I've never had to evict a dog in the middle of the night for being drunk and disorderly. And I've never had a dog run out on a hotel bill. Yes, indeed, your dog is welcome at my hotel...and, if your dog will vouch for you, you're welcome to stay here, too!"

## Who is Rambling Willie?

Those who know and love harness racing know Rambling Willie as the nondescript gelding who endeared himself to racing fans everywhere with his famous stretch drives, burning up the tracks for over a decade, setting records and winning over \$2,000,000 (a record in itself), and becoming a legend in his own time.

Willie happily lived out his retirement at Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, KY and has since passed away.



Cathy McNamara and Suzanne D'Ambrose above, prayed with Chaplain Lee for Leo McNamara who has cancer. Cathy says Leo is very grateful for all our prayers.

## 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, Betty James, Bob Kinsey, Larry Lederman, Evan Leversage, Rox Liles, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Donna McIvor, Leo McNamara, Mrs. Miller, Corey Murphy, Randy Nix, Pierre Noel, Fran Nori, Jay O'Neil, Dee Parsons, Robyn Rembleski, Daren Richner, Del Smart, Doug Stringer, 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:**

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

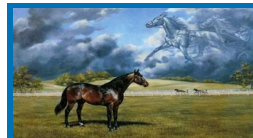
With the kind permission of his owner, Vivian Farrington, Willie has been captured on canvas by nationally-acclaimed California artist, Gloria Saaf Bilotta.

This inspiring oil painting has been reproduced into note cards and is offered in sets of 10 cards and envelopes for \$20. Proceeds go to the Christian Harness Horsemen's Association to help **Keep Christ Alive in Harness Racing!**

The Rambling Willie graphic is also available for tomb stones. Contact Chaplain Lee for more information.



## Obituaries are on page 4



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

### Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Bill Wick** by: Elizabeth Saul, Carol Jochman, Susan and Richard White, Kymberlee and Michele Throm, Matt Long, Jerry and Nancy Kipp, Ada Jean Ackerman, Roger Huston, Robert and Laurie DeBruine, Virginia Radloff, The Holbrook Kids

In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Ken and Betsy Wood

In memory of **Charlie and Lorraine Hurley** by: Linda Hurley

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, Justin Vance, 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:**

**Kathie Baitzel and her husband** are both recovering from surgery.

**Danny Breton** is scheduled for a bone graft.

**Leroy Copeland** had back surgery.

**Sherie Hankins** was hospitalized with a diabetic episode.

**April Hardin** and her 2 small children lost everything in a fire.

**Donna Holterman** is really struggling with her MS. Please keep her husband, Craig, her caregiver in your prayers as well.

**Jake and Rosie Huff** lost her mother and his brother recently.

**Rita Jacobs** has cancer.

**Robert Keyser** has cancer.

**Donnie Knight** has a malignant knot on the back of his mouth.

**Bill Long Jr** is recovering from an Oct 16 spill.

**John Lowndes** has health issues.

**Mira McKnight**, 6, is nearing the end of her battle with brain cancer.

**Ricky Macomber** has a cancerous growth around his kidneys.

**Beverley Sweeney** would like prayers for her cancer to be in remission.

**Debbie Sweeney** broke her ankle.

**Richard Sweeney** has some health issues.



157 North Main St  
Salem, NH 03079  
USA



Please indicate  
Address corrections

### Great Christmas Gift Ideas—See Page 3



Homey umbrella tables, a white picket fence, colorful flowers and orange pumpkins welcome sales goers to the Fox Den Farm barn at the Harrisburg Sale. Linda and Tom Winebrenner serve up delicious, made from scratch soup, sandwiches and yummy deserts providing a respite and lunch as the auctioneer's voice drones on in the sales arena. This is their gift to the harness racing community.

I understand their farm nestled in the rolling hills of Frederick County, MD is another prize and just as welcoming. Linda tells me they pride themselves on the personal attention they pay to all the young horses, broodmares and stallions in their care. In addition to the breeding and consignment operation, they offer post-operative care and lay-ups for race horses.

Tom blessed CHHA last year with breedings to two of his stallions. We are very grateful. Those who know them, tell me the Winebrenner family does everything well.



#### Ladies from The Meadows

June Durand, Ruth Altmeyer, Lori Romanetti and Janet Campbell

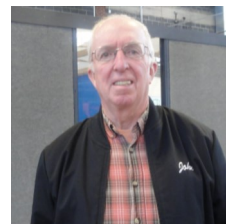
The Black Book  
Standardbred  
Horse Sales  
Company  
At  
Harrisburg



Jackie Warner's birthday was Tuesday. She said she liked the CHHA cross. God bless you with a great year Jackie!



Apples, coffee, water, candy and pastries flew out of Hanover's blue and orange food stand—all gratis. Hanover's generosity continues through the year. CHHA is very grateful for the breedings they donate to our Stallion Auction.



It was good to see long time member John Balzer.



Marcus Lindgren of Sweden always stops to say "Hi".

### Please donate a breeding to our Stallion Auction

#### Stallion Auction Coming

Fred Dowling was in Harrisburg looking for brood mares. Fred always buys a breeding or two at our stallion auction. The 2016 auction is scheduled for **February 2 - 6, 2016** at [www.ongait.com](http://www.ongait.com). Bids will also be accepted by phone.



Seth, Dot and Fred Dowling