



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

March 2019

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

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ideas please contact:

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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

Your life belongs to
God. You don't share
your time and talents
with Him; He shares
them with you!

He owns you and
everything about you.

Greg Laurie

Created for a Purpose

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Racehorses are bred for a purpose—to race. A good amount of time is spent considering bloodlines, past performance, strengths and weaknesses and the confirmation and overall health of sires and dams. Breeders are looking to combine certain features to come up with the perfect match and a champion racehorse.

According to a recent article in *Purdue Agriculture Magazine*, scientists consider desirable traits in plants, such as smaller plants with more leaves at the top in an effort to improve the development of next-generation crops.

The Word of the Lord came to Jeremiah saying, “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you” (Jeremiah 1:5). God knew Jeremiah before God made him in his mother’s womb. God planned just what he would look like and what skills he would have. The same goes for us. God didn’t just randomly make us. No, God formed us according to a specific design with a purpose.

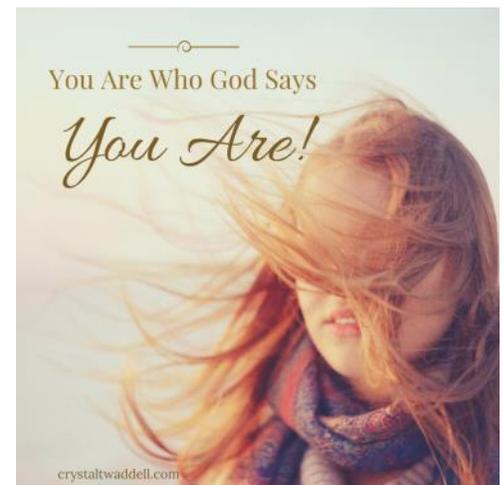
Some people are not interested in God’s purpose. Instead, they just go on their merry way doing as they please or with only their own goals in mind.

The Lord said to Jacob and Israel, “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine” (Isaiah 43:1). God says the same to us. We are called. We are chosen. God

has a purpose in mind for us.

God’s vision for each of us is very big. It’s much bigger than our five or six feet. It’s the size of God. When we get to know God’s vision for us, we tend to react like Jeremiah, “Lord, I do not know how to speak; I am too young” (Jeremiah 1:6). We see our limitations like Philip did, “It would take more than half a year’s wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!” (John 6:7). Philip and Jeremiah were both correct. However, they were not considering God’s help.

Philip did the math and knew they could not possibly feed 5,000 people. However, scripture says Jesus already knew what he was going to do to feed



the multitudes (John 6:6). In the same way, Jesus already knows just how to work in and through us bringing about God’s plans. God’s will is not dependent on our strength and capabilities. God is

Continued on Page 2

Blessings

From Lyndel Adamsky...

Dorothy Geer's Mother did get a pacemaker put in and is doing very well- even driving her car again.

From Patti Allen...

Here is an update on Private Jacob Perry. He is recovered from the shingles and back to regular military duties. He will be in Poland until May. He could still use prayers as do all service men and women. Thanks prayer partners! You are all the best!

From Beth Cain...

Jean went through a difficult time and finally found Christ. Please pray for her in her walk that she grows in her faith.

From Greg Gehman...

Unbelievable news...at least to me!! Dale Melvin went home less than ten days after a heart transplant!!! Anyone that says prayer doesn't work is as blind as a bat, as my Mom used to say!!! Thank you so much for all of your prayers. Dale called me a few minutes ago and said he was humbled by the outpouring of prayers by so many people he has never met and he has never felt so loved and he wanted to make sure I thanked everyone so...

THANK YOU!!!
Our God is truly amazing!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

From Dick and Loretta Hughes...

Wanted to update you on Jason's situation. He had the stent inserted last Friday. He came home the next day. He had one artery almost completely blocked. He had four others 70% blocked. Jason works on trees so we are concerned about him having an income. Please pass our gratitude to the partners for their prayers. Thank you. God bless you all. Loretta and Dick Hughes

From Larry Lederman...

Larry Lederman who had surgery and radiation last year to remove a previously inoperable brain tumor, called the full 14 race card at the Meadowlands a few times now. He also called the weekend races at Freehold a few times. Praise God!



*May the angels
lead you into paradise*

Memorials posted at www.chha.net

Memorial Contributions

- In memory of **Benny Haller** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
- In memory of **Sherie Hankins** by: Kim Hankins
- In memory of **Taila Kaponinsky** by: Paul Fontaine
- In memory of **John and Janet Klark** by: Craig Holterman
- In memory of **William Lancaster** by: Joy and Ron Dolan
- In memory of **Terry Tucker** by: Max Heath
- In memory of **Bill Wick and Family** by: Susan Throm-White

Scholarship Recipient Updates

Casey Hite

I have been spending the majority of my time focusing on my studies and doing pre softball season training. In the aspect of working for the MSOA, I have been having a blast working events with Dawnelle Mock and learning how to take amazing pictures with Chris Gooden. Over Christmas break, I dressed as an elf and welcomed Santa to the Meadows. I am so blessed and am looking forward to what 2019 is going to bring.



Created Continued from page 1

glorified when we realize our accomplishments are thanks to God.

Jeremiah was called as a prophet to the nations (Jeremiah 1:10). As Christians we have been called to make disciples of all nations (Mathew 20:18). That does not mean everyone has to travel all over the world. Rather, the more we seek out God's will for our lives and live according to God's plan for us, the more God can use us to touch others.

David's faith was strong. He confidently told Goliath, "This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. [. . .] The whole world will know that there is a God in Israel" (1 Samuel 17:46). David didn't travel the world, yet the faith of Bible readers everywhere is strengthened by his example.

God says, "I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11). God has big plans for all of us. Do we want to focus on our limitations and weaknesses or on God's strength and do as God asks?

Racehorses are bred for a purpose. Vegetables are grown to provide food. God created us for a purpose too.

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Please pray for my intentions _____

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OR

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Salem, NH 03079

To Donate Now—Click here

Choose a Free Gift with your \$20 donation

Gifts for family and friends

10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (see picture)

CHHA Blue Hat

Horseshoe Nail Cross necklaces and key rings—see below

Books

Daily Oats by Chaplain Sam Ed Spence

Downloading God by Jack Levine

Live A Life That Matters for God by Jack Levine

My Addict Your Addict by Jack Levine

Where the Rubber Meets the Road with God by Jack Levine

Don't Blow It With God by Jack Levine

Sound Mouth—Sound Horse, The Gager Method of Equine Dental Care
by ER Gager and Bob “Dusty Rhodes”

Still: A Story of the Black Doctor of the Jersey Pines by Edmund R Gager



CHHA Hat



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

Horseshoe Nail Product Descriptions

Key Ring: Horseshoe nails are bent into a cross and tied together with colored wire. Key ring is attached with rawhide.

Necklace: Key ring: Horseshoe nails are bent in to a cross and tied together with colored wire.

Horseshoe Nail Item Order Form—Orders can also be placed at www.chha.net/products

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

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

Roger Huston · 225 Fieldbrook Dr · Cannonsburg, PA 15317

Necklace Qty: **Red** ____ **Blue** ____ **Turquoise** ____

Keyring Qty: **Red** ____ **Blue** ____ **Turquoise** ____ **Silver** ____

Other colors are available upon request.



Obituaries continued from page 5

John J. Celii Jr, 75, of West Chester, PA, died Dec 20. John had a deep passion for horse racing and owned and bred many successful racehorses. His pride and joy was Badlands Hanover. John was very successful in business holding many different titles over his 40 year career focusing on finance, mergers and acquisitions. His greatest success was the love he had for his wife, two daughters, granddaughter, and his Golden Retriever and best friend, Shane. He served on many committees and helped numerous charitable organizations including the Standardbred Retirement Foundation.



Esther Mae Crownover, 93, of McArthur, OH, died Jan 21. Esther was well known in Ohio harness racing circles, breeding and campaigning numerous stars. Many of her horses had the "Crown Time" preface in their names. Along with her husband, Leo, she owned and operated Crownover Lumber Company Inc. in McArthur.



Edward Dougherty, 95, of Doylestown, PA, died Jan 18. While serving in the US Army in World War II, he was seriously wounded by an enemy artillery shell. After graduating from the Wharton School, Edward worked with Sun Chemicals, selling printing ink for the newspaper industry. He returned to the Delaware Valley in the early 1960s to help build Liberty Bell Park. He served two terms as president of the Harness Tracks of America and earned numerous awards for his promotional abilities.

Richard C. Flemming, 83, died Dec 23. Richard served in the Army and worked for Rochester Products, retiring after 35 years of service. He enjoyed harness racing and working on his small farm. He owned and trained Standardbred racehorses with his partner Ed Beadle and occasionally sat behind one in an overnight race.

Donald Irving, 68, of Ocala, FL, died Dec 28. A member of the USTA for 52 years, Donald was a highly successful and respected trainer and driver until 1988 and then continued as an accomplished horse breeder in the state of Florida. He was Breeder of the Year for six consecutive years and was inducted into the Florida Racing Hall of Fame in 1999.

Jack Wesley James, 85, died Jan 6. He was a life-long harness horseman who retired at the age of 84. He bought his first horse in 1962. He worked at National Cash Register for 14 years in Dayton, Ohio, and retired from Donnelly's after 25 years.

William E. "Bill" Kirwan, 80, of Westmont, PA, died Jan 18. In 1960 Bill was employed by Penelec as an engineer. He co-founded KirCon Inc. with his wife, Maureen, and later merged the company with Richard Yeager to form KirCon-Breco Inc. Bill was involved in harness racing for many years, as both an owner and as a past director of the Meadows Standardbred Owners Association.



Dale L McConnell, 75, of Meadowlands Farm, Meadow Lands,

PA, died Jan 2. Dale was a lifelong member of the Church of Christ who enjoyed hunting in the area and out West and especially his fishing trips to Canada. Dale was a well-known horseman, trainer and driver of Standardbreds and was known as "Mr. Trot". A quiet and kind man, he had countless friends.

Gerry Nelson, 86, of Truro, Nova Scotia, died Jan 11. Gerry worked for Ron Waples and Archie McNeil. He went to the U.S. to work for Joe O'Brien. He returned to Nova Scotia where he ran a successful public stable. In 1977, he returned to California to spend five more years overseeing training for the Joe O'Brien Stable.



Anthony L. Romano, 82, of Barnegat, NJ, died Jan 9. Anthony was a Superintendent and Vice-President at Napp-Greco, Newark, for sixty years before retiring in 2015. A horse racing enthusiast, he enjoyed many racetracks but was especially fond of Saratoga. For many years he owned Standardbred horses.



James C Shipley, 79, of Mount Vernon, OH, died Jan 3. James was a family farmer first, but he later served as a representative for Pioneer Seed. He then established Shipley Seed Service with his family. James served as the Mount Vernon city treasurer and was a representative for Moor Man's in Illinois. He retired from the Mount Vernon Farmers Exchange. James served on the Knox County Fair Board for more than 40 years.



Betty C. Shoup, 87 of Troy, OH, died Jan 24. Betty worked as a real estate agent for 25 years throughout Miami County. Her daughter, Becky Wulber, writes, "We thank you for your prayers and how God's Holy Spirit connects us in thoughts and prayers. Looking back, God ordered our steps in placing mom, decluttering the house, moving dad, and more. Hallelujah! God bless all the prayer warriors! Mom & dad loved to watch us race our horses. Becky & Ron Wulber"



Sal Villante, 58, of East Windsor, NJ, died Jan 3. Sal was a truly dedicated horseman. He was a wonderful loving husband, father, and grandfather. If you knew Sal, you knew his love of a great meal time with his family, a long night of poker playing accompanied by a good cigar and a glass of Glenlivet. Sal was the brother of Rosie Huff, the Secretary of the Florida Breeders Association.

Donald Zich, 76, of Akron, NY, died Jan 22. Donald worked with uncle, Herb Schweitzer, at Vernon Downs during school vacations. After serving his country during the Vietnam War he went right back to the track and started his lifelong career training and driving at Batavia Downs and Buffalo Raceway. Donald was also a 30-year employee of General Motors in Buffalo .



Obituaries

Joseph Aloy, 81, died Jan 6. In 1963 started his racing stable, Echo Brook Farms. He owned, trained and drove several outstanding Standardbreds. Joe owned and operated Aloy's Harness & Equipment located on the grounds of Saratoga Harness Track for 32 years, retiring in December 2009. He loved the job and the people he saw daily. He expanded the original business to include sales of Thoroughbred stables, polo, and pleasure horses. He enjoyed traveling with his family, Ogunquit, Maine being a yearly favorite trip.



Dean W Beachy, 62, of Millersburg, OH, died Jan 24. He and his son, Steve, were shot trying to save a girl from a gunman in a restaurant. Dean was a renowned auctioneer. He worked both sides of horse sales, as an auctioneer and bidspotter and buyer, often purchasing horses under the name of Holmes Stock Farm. His Dean Beachy & Associates Company worked the Blooded Horse Sale and he was also active at sales conducted by the



Standardbred Horse Sales Co. and Tattersalls. He was a member of Walnut Creek Mennonite Church.

Steve Beachy, 19, died Jan 25. Steve was a recent Hiland High School graduate, was a good baseball player who had a bright future ahead of him. "I don't know what he was going to do with his life, but he was going to do it well," Jerry Haws said. Chris Dages was Steve's baseball coach at Hiland. "He was a passionate kid — whether it was baseball or going on mission trips. Whatever he was doing, he did it with 110 percent. He was the type of person who just bounced into class or my office whenever I saw him.



Whether he was playing or not, he was a big leader on our team. He was always cheering on his teammates from the dugout," he said.

Obituaries continued on pg 4

Sources for Obituary information include:

www.harnessracing.com, www.ustrotting.com and www.standardbredcanada.ca

Prayer Corner

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

Lynn Antonelli, Lew Arsenaull, Dan Ater, Emily Bier, Rev Kelly Blanton, Debbie Boardman, Jeanne Duso Boudot, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Chaplain Bo Bullock, Rick Carson, Karen Carter, Sam Castimore, Candice Coleman, Barbara Connors, Sharon Cromer, Joe Crothers, John Cross, Rolly Day, Mike Deeters, Barbara Dinning, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Francine Federici, Tiffany Fisher, Lloyd Fortune, Rodney Grady, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, Warren Harp, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Glenda Holloway, Jeff Hurst, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, AJ Keaton, Harold Kelly, Bob Kinsey, Jim Kolnick, Donnie Knight, David Kovach, Larry Lederman, Rox Liles, Anabelle Lisi, Kevin Mack, Ricky Macomber, Nelson Malin, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Donna McIvor, Mrs. Miller, Frank Mirahmadi, Lalya Mosley, Corey Murphy, Howard Niels, Pierre Noel, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Dee Parsons, Margie Polhamus, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Emily Roper, Daren Richner, Taila Kaponinskyi, Del Smart, Elaina Storlazi, Doug Stringer, Jack Taylor, Carrie Thompson, Gary Tyron, Fred Ward Sr, Roland Wardel, Marty Woebkenberg, Maddy Wright, Joyce Zeasapolowski.

These friends are also in need of our ongoing prayers:

Jason Apperti, Jordan Aracena, Chaplain Kelly Blanton, Ken Bartels, Pleasant Batson, Gary Bennett, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Stephanie Bouchard, Danny Breton, Charlie Brigham, Betsy Brown, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Bob Cain, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Mary Clements, Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta, Bev Crane, Chet Crane, Karen Crothers, Dale, Jim Ferguson, Melanie Fisk, Scott Freck, Sylvain Gagnon, Greg Gehman, Dr Howard Gill,

Bob Goth, Barbara and Brent Graham, Debbie Gray, Bob Hilliard, Vickie Howard, Bob Jones, Ruby Hensley, Miguel Hernandez, Paul and Mrs. Hershey, Carol Heusinkveld, Trudy Hite, Jerry Hissam, John Hostler, Jason Hughes, Jesse Hughes, Donna Ingram, Don James, Barb Jenkins, Kenny Kane, Dave Kelly, Barbara Kinsey, Thelma Klark, Michael Klark, Victor Kiss, Art LaPlante, Larry Lawter, Ray Levay, Sam Lilli, Katherine Lonager, Sharon Lowell, Faye Mackey, Terry Mahar, Joanne Maiorca, Pedro Martinez, Jr, Melissa MacNeill, Kaye McDonnell, Dean Miller, Raymond Miller, Nancy Miner, Mike Murphy, Doug Nash, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Waverly Parsons, Susan Parks, Louise Pelletier, Rita Polese, Noreen Paulen, Art Plant, Joanne Ranger, Donnie Richards, Lori Romanetti, Tori Scott, Delma Smart, Madisyn Smith, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Monica Thors, Lorraine Truitt, Mel Turcott, Justin Vance, Barry Vicroy, Max Walton, Steve Warner, Greggie Welch, Jr, Alice Williams, Anne Winters

Please try to keep me updated about the people on our prayer list.

Please pray for those serving in the military, especially:

John Beauregard, Joshua Hankins, Yann Lamiqu, Chris Petruzzo, Sgt David Thomas, and Elizabeth Welch.

Special Intentions for this month:

Lyndel Adamsky's mom was hospitalized.

Chaplain Lee Alphen is scheduled for shoulder surgery March 6th.

Chaplain Kelly Blanton has squamous cell cancer.

Harry Haag has lymphoma.

Mavis may have suffered a TIA or mini seizure.

John Morris has some medical challenges.

George Popelas has cancer.

Paul Russell lost everything in a barn fire in Michigan.

Melody Turner recently had brain tumor surgery.

Will has anger issues and problems with God.



157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Information at www.chha.net

Please indicate
Address corrections

Sherie Hankins Memorial

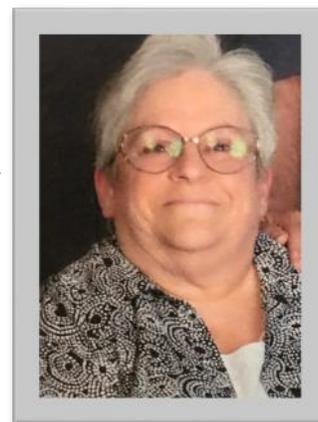
Sherie Hankins was a big fan of CHHA. She had some great ideas for furthering CHHA's mission to **Keep Christ Alive in Harness Racing!** which she shared with Chaplain Lee Alphen on her trips to the Meadows. She and her husband, Meadows Standardbred Owners Association Executive Director, Kim Hankins, were faithful supporters of CHHA.

A significant brain bleed sent Sherie to the hospital the end of 2016. She had been unable to speak, moved very little and was fed through a feeding tube in February of 2017 when Kim, presented the Dan Patch Award to Chaplain Lee in Las Vegas.

When Chaplain Lee was called to the stage to receive her award, she invited the some 500 people gathered in the ballroom to bow their heads and pray for Sherie. Soon after, Kim received a call from Lori Romanetti who put Sherri on the phone. You can imagine the joy Kim felt as he heard Sherie say "Hi, I love you and can't wait to see you!" Sherie made consistent progress for the next five months and shared some happy times with Kim. She went to be with the Lord July 25, 2017.

Kim increased his support of CHHA in memory of Sherri.

Thank you Kim! Thank you Sherie!



Legacy Bibles

by Gary Cartwright

I led a mission trip to New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. One night when we were having a worship service a speaker made reference to a legacy bible and how he had read a bible and given it to a family member. The light bulb went on for me. I thought what a great gift for my family. Since that time I have read and given a bible with a note from me in the front and have included the dates read to my wife, four children, son-in-law, daughter-in-law and 5 grandchildren. I am currently reading the "Hands On" Blue Bible which will go to my grandson, Noe' Lee, when he turns 5 in December. At this point I have one more Blue Bible and one Pink Bible to read for grandchildren. I take the bible I am reading wherever I go for ministry and have taken a Pink Bible to prison many times for our services in Arizona or bible study in Ohio. I always buy a bible with scripture that will be appropriate all of their lives (versus children version) but get one for the age group they are in for the commentary and activities their parents can do with them. There are many wonderful options today.

Long after Grandpa is with Jesus, they will have God's Word with a personal note.

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17 NLT)

Note: Gary was the speaker at our Jug Prayer Breakfast last year and told us about his Legacy Bibles.

