

New Life Riders

Motorcyclists Serving God and Community
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Dear Friends,

It's time to arise from our "long winter's nap" and fellowship with our biking brothers and sisters. Hazardous road conditions may have prevented our taking a scenic ride together. However, we have been blessed with several area bike events. But most of all, the laughter and hugs from friends as we all come out from hibernation, means so much.

Spring is almost upon us! Crocuses are beginning to break through the ground; the highways and twisty back roads beckon us to come out and ride! Along with the planned rides and biking activities, there is much to look forward to in the month of March: World Day of Prayer on March 2, St. Patrick's Day, and the observance of Holy Week. Because Easter is early this year, we will actually celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ before our April meeting on the sixth!

Recently thinking about our New Life Riders, the word that keeps coming to mind is "courageous." So much has been going on in the lives of our group. Several have serious back and leg pain, one is undergoing surgery for an aneurysm, another for cataracts, one receiving experimental medication for a serious illness, there are grandchildren who are ill and one whose niece was in a horrific automobile accident and another niece in hospice and the list goes on... I know that sometimes we find it hard to bear the pain and go through these heartbreaking situations, but we can thank the Lord for His Presence with us. In Romans 8:28 we read, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to HIS purpose." (KJV)

The Lord used the word courageous when He commissioned Joshua to lead the Israelites following the death of Moses. "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you... Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:7-9 (NIV)

The call for courage, then and now, is not for human courage but for a courageous faith centered in God and His Word. The Lord was telling Joshua and He is telling us to remain strong and stay in the Word!

Jesus understands about any difficulties and suffering that we may be going through. He understands our pain and doesn't watch with detachment, but comes right along-side of us with

His comfort and love. Jesus understands suffering, because He went all the way to the cross to die for our sins.

The Lord never leaves His work unfinished. Our work is not finished either. Just as God commissioned Joshua to follow in the work of Moses, Jesus has given us the Great Commission, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV) We are to go with His purpose, Ephesians 3:11 and in His power, "Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power. Colossians 1:11

If you are searching for something to believe in or belong to, you are not alone. We strive to open our hearts to the world and accept each person as a child of God. We are by no means perfect, but we take seriously Christ's call to invite all to participate in an experience of faith while working together to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. As Christians we place Jesus Christ at the center of all we do. Our mission is at the heart of all we do: To make disciples of Jesus Christ!

We update the website <u>www.newliferiders.com</u> often. Please keep checking it for biking events and activities that you can attend and let your light shine for Jesus. Be a blessing! Don't underestimate your ability to make a difference in someone's life and don't miss any opportunity to make an impact on the world. May you be blessed as you ride, work and witness for Him.

The Apostle Paul writing to the church at Colossae said, "Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Colossians 3:17 (New King James Version) A little further down in this passage, he says, "do your work wholeheartedly, as for the Lord."

The New Life Riders ride with the two-fold purpose of enjoying the wind in our faces and more importantly, serving God and the Community. You don't have to join or belong to any particular organization to be part of our ministry. Please feel especially invited to come out and fellowship with us. We want you and your family to know that everyone is welcome. Take a night off from dinner responsibilities and join us for good food and great fellowship at our next meeting on Friday, March 2nd at 6:30 PM at Bob Evans Restaurant, 6102 Cambridge Way, located off Route 267, just north of Route 70, Plainfield, Indiana 46168.

My wife, Kathy, and I pray you will be abundantly blessed during this season of Lent and Easter.

As always, I look forward to seeing you down the road.

Until next time...

God bless Riding with Jesus, Bob Dillon

Jesus said, "Go into the world. Go everywhere and announce the Message of God's good news to one and all." Mark 16:15 (The Message)