

April 2015

Dear Friends,

Spring is finally here! The evidence is all around us. Crocuses are breaking through the ground and the grass is turning to several bright shades of green. For bikers, the roads are beckoning us to get out and ride.

It is also time for us to celebrate Easter, the longest observed and greatest annual festival on the Christian calendar. This year, the Resurrection of Jesus Christ will be celebrated on April 5. The dates for Easter vary and can fall on any Sunday between March 21 and April 25. It is observed on the first Sunday after the first full moon or after the spring equinox.

The dates are unimportant, what we are celebrating is, the Empty Tomb! Jesus died on the cross for your sins and mine in order to bring us in to a right relationship with God. But the grave could not hold Him, **He is Risen!**

"I serve a risen savior, He's in the world today" is the first line of the hymn, <u>He Lives</u>, written in 1933 by A.H. Ackley. Because He lives, we need not fear death. Because He lives, we are not alone. Because He lives, He walks *and rides* beside us. Because He lives, He calls us to be His hands and feet in this world. Because He lives, He gives us opportunities to ride to help provide funds to feed, clothe and shelter those in need, to provide medical attention for those who are ill, and to provide help for the oppressed and the abused!

We bikers have myriad opportunities to help others through these charity rides and events. One upcoming event is a dinner and silent auction to benefit the Faith Walkers Ministry to the homeless in Indianapolis on April 17, seven to ten PM at Valley Mills Christian Church, 5555 Kentucky Avenue. Dinner is \$7 per person or \$25 per family. For more information, please contact Bob Johnson at 317-502-5353.

We can serve and assist with all these things because in Jesus we have Resurrection Power!

In his letter to the Philippians, the Apostle Paul wrote, "That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death." This verse has come to mind again and again this year as I have thought of many of my fellow bikers who have been walking/riding with the Lord and have been sharing in many forms of suffering; some through accidents, loss of loved ones, loss of jobs, and physical conditions and diseases like cancer.

Praise God, because of the cross and the resurrection, we have a living hope. In 1 Peter 1:3-5, we read, "Blessed be the God and Father for our Lord Jesus Christ! By His great mercy He had given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading, *kept* in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." One of the translations says, "*Reserved in heaven for you*." When we bikers plan trips to Daytona, Sturgis, Americade, or any other out-of-town event, we make it a point to get our *reservations* in early! Get ready for the most important "ride" of your life!

If you have not invited Jesus into your heart and life, this would be a perfect time to do it.

For information regarding upcoming events, please check the New Life Riders website <u>www.newliferiders.com</u> frequently for places where you can let your light shine for Jesus. Remember, if because of time or distance, you are unable to attend the listed activities, and you know of one closer to your home, go and share the love of Jesus with a smile, a kind word or a listening ear. Be a blessing!

The New Life Riders ride with the purpose of serving God and the Community. You don't have to join or belong to any particular organization to be part of our group. Please feel especially invited to come out and fellowship with us. We want you and your family to know that everyone is welcome.

<u>Please note:</u> The New Life Riders will not meet on April 3rd so that our members may worship at their individual churches on Good Friday. We will meet again on the first of May.

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

God bless Riding with Jesus, Bob Dillon

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 (NIV)