



New Life Riders

Motorcyclists Serving God and Community

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Dear friends,

It is my prayer that you will feel God's Presence during this beautiful season. Among the things my wife Kathy and I really enjoy about the Christmas Season, is receiving cards and letters from people we do not have the pleasure of seeing very often and finding out what has been going on in their lives. The joy of hearing about weddings, new babies, and the fantastic scenic rides they have taken during the year is always special. As the song goes, "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!"

In the Bible in Luke 2:8 we read, "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night."

How wonderful and thoroughly remarkable that the Good News of Jesus' birth was first announced to the shepherds! To ordinary working people. Not the kings, not the priests, not the scribes nor the Pharisees, but it was to the shepherds, simple men of the fields that God's message first came!

In an Advent study, several years ago, the pastor at our home church here in Indiana asked which of the characters in the Nativity story we most related to. The responses were varied. Kathy and I shared that because of our ministry to motorcyclists, we felt a special bond with the shepherds.

Let's take a minute or two and think about those first-century Palestinian shepherds and what the biker might have in common with them. First of all, they were stereotyped as being a rather "rough crowd" with a poor reputation. The stereotypical biker is aware of being looked down on or snubbed simply because of his mode of transportation. Shepherds were considered unreliable. The general feeling of the time was that they were OK to tend your sheep, but you wouldn't want your daughter to marry one of them.

Because of the nature of their work, they were unable to keep all the details of ceremonial laws; they couldn't observe all the meticulous hand washings and rules and regulations. Most of the time they were ceremonially unclean and were excluded from worship services in the Temple. After riding our bike in the rain, dust, storms etc., we have had the feeling of being a bit "ceremonially unclean" ourselves. Just as the shepherds were misunderstood by the religious folk of their day, there are times when motorcyclists are somewhat misunderstood by the "respectable people" of our day, the mainstream of society. But take heart, it was to the shepherds that the angel of the Lord spoke that night. And it was the shepherds who first spread the message of the Christ Child. They were our first evangelists!

Today, the Lord still speaks to ordinary people like us and, yes, He even uses people like you and me to spread the Good News of Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes the sin of the world. Christmas isn't about candy canes, or lights all aglow, it's the hearts that we touch, and the care that we exhibit.

We hope to see you at our Christmas Celebration on Friday, December 6th. **We will not be meeting at Bob Evans. Please contact me for the time and location.**

At our November meeting, Kathy gave a great devotional message. Ron Moore will be sharing a devotional message this month. Also, those of you who were there will agree with me that Ron put a lot of time and effort into preparing and setting up his Veterans' Day Concert at the Fu Yuan Restaurant in Plainfield, last month. We were blessed by his dedication.

Looking ahead, consider getting out and riding on New Year's Day. The Midwest Motorcycle Club's 39th Annual Hangover Rally benefiting Damar Services is a great way to connect with people you may not have seen for a while and you will be helping a good cause. The event starts at 10:00 AM at 310 South Harding Street, Indianapolis. The cost is \$20 for rider and \$20 for passenger. For more information call Scott at 317-697-6836.

Please continue to check out the New Life Riders Website www.newliferiders.com for upcoming events. 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. Be a blessing! Don't miss any opportunity to make an impact on the world. No matter what your abilities or gifts are, Jesus will use them to reach people for Him.



Dear friends, It is my prayer that you have trusted in the One who came to purchase our salvation. If not, during this Advent/Christmas season would be an excellent time to ask him into your heart and life.

Kathy and I wish all of you God's richest blessings during this joyous Christmas season. May His spirit fill your home with peace, joy and love. We pray that you will be abundantly blessed with good health and safe riding in the New Year.

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)