



New Life Riders

Motorcyclists Serving God and Community

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Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! It's January! A New Year and a New Riding Season has begun. For those in and around central Indiana, it starts on the first with the Hangover Rally to benefit Damar Services (January 1, 2015 - 33rd Annual, Midwest M/C Hangover Rally. Proceeds benefit Damar Services. Location: Mid-West Clubhouse, 310 S Harding Street, Indianapolis, Indiana. Registration: from 10 am, first bike out at 10 am. Cost: \$20 for the rider and \$20 for a passenger. Need more information, please call 317-557-2130).

It is always a joy getting together with all those who have braved the frigid weather to ride for a good cause.

January is named for Janus, the mythological Roman god of the gates and of beginnings. He is depicted with two faces, looking in opposite directions. At the threshold of a new year, we often find ourselves in that position as well, reviewing the past and looking forward to the future.

In his letter to the church at Philippi, the Apostle Paul talks about the importance of looking ahead. He has just given his readers a glimpse of his family heritage and his accomplishments. He has taken stock of his life and has considered what is important and what is not. He tells them that for him everything is a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus his Lord. He disclaims any idea that he is a perfect and complete Christian. His goal is the prize of the upward call of God. He goes on to say. "Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13,14. But unlike the athlete in a race, Paul is not concerned about himself. In the Christian race there is not one single winner. Paul's ambition is for his friends that each person should come to know and be the very best for Jesus.

My friends, we too, need to look forward. We can become hindered by the weight of the past. Former failures and even the memories of previous successes may prevent us from moving ahead and the baggage can be dangerous.

A few years ago, Kathy and I were riding to Missouri with a group of friends. We were following a couple who had their bike so loaded with supplies, luggage and a cooler, they were the proverbial "accident waiting to happen." We were praying that they would be safe. At one of the rest stops, a gentleman who had joined our group was pulling a trailer behind his bike. He offered to take some of their "stuff."

Jesus offers to take our “stuff”, too. We can leave all the hurt, anger, failures, and burdens behind and press on with Him. Jesus says, “Come unto me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28

Just like Paul, we can forget what is behind and move forward. The writer of Hebrews puts it this way, “Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him, endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” It is Jesus who should be the focal point in our lives. Jesus is the perfect expression of God. When we look to Him, we are so drawn by His understanding and encouraging love that we can begin to let go of the things that weigh us down and trip us up. We can make it to the finish line and run into the arms of Jesus who has already run the race and can share with us the joy of God the Father.

Dear friends, the beginning of this New Year would be an excellent time to invite Jesus into your heart and life if you have not already done so. “Behold, now is the day of salvation.” Second Corinthians 6:2.

Please check the New Life Riders website www.newliferiders.com frequently for events and activities 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!

I look forward to seeing you at the New Life Riders dinner meeting on Friday, January second at 6:30 P.M. at Bob Evans Restaurant, 25 South High School Road (located at the corner of High School Road and US 36, Indianapolis.

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 always be glad you shared a table with us. Everyone is welcome.

My wife, Kathy, and I pray you are abundantly blessed and have good health and safe riding in the New Year. 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)