



New Life Riders

Motorcyclists Serving God and Community

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Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I want to take this opportunity to wish each of you God's richest blessings in 2017. I hope you had a joyous Christmas season. Among the things Kathy and I really love about the holidays, 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. It is a joy hearing about weddings, new babies, promotions and the scenic rides they have taken through the year. Sadly, sometimes the messages contain tragic news of terminal illness, divorce and the loss of loved ones.

Speaking of hearing from you, we were blessed by having George Partridge, one of our members from Kentucky, making a surprise visit at our December dinner meeting. We were sorry that his wife Jan was unable to be with us. We appreciate George's faith and generosity and are grateful for the postage he gave us for our next two mailings.

As I mentioned last month, consider getting out and riding on New Year's Day. The Midwest Motorcycle Club's 35th 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 great 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 visit their website at www.midwestmc.com or call 317-828-3941.

Sometimes the busyness and demands of life keep us from appreciating all the beauty around us. Riding and feeling the wind in our faces brings us closer to the wonders of creation, whatever the season. We are more accessible to people on a bike than we would be in other vehicles. We experience the joy of meeting people as we travel on two or three wheels and are blessed as we recall precious memories of conversations with those the Lord has placed in our path.

As we enter 2017, we pray that we have opportunities to share God's love with those we meet each day. May we all meet people who need to meet Jesus!

As we begin this New Year we are approaching the really chilly riding season. My wife, Kathy, and I have always enjoyed riding year-round. Of course, it's always wise to check the wind-chill index and the weather report for any potentially hazardous conditions. As bikers, we should take care to be covered with the proper attire to protect us from the elements. Praise God, He has provided a covering for us through Jesus. Psalm 32:1 tells us "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered." I think Eugene Peterson's paraphrase of this verse is particularly fitting for the New Year. He says, "Count yourself lucky, how happy you must be – you get a fresh start, your slate's wiped clean."



We read in Second Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if anyone be in Christ, he is a new creation, old things are passed away, behold all things become new."

Our thoughts and prayers are ever with the men and women who are faithfully serving in the military in difficult places around the globe. Most did not have the opportunity to come home to share in the Christmas celebrations with their families. As they are fighting for the freedom of this great nation of ours, there were empty places around tables here at home as Christmas dinner was served.

I think and pray particularly for the families of those who did go HOME for Christmas, our service men and women who have given their lives, the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

I am grateful for the Patriot Guard Riders who are always there to show honor and respect at the memorial services and funerals of our fallen heroes. It has been my privilege to ride with them on several missions. This is another great opportunity for us as bikers to reach out to others.

We are at the threshold of a New Year. The days ahead may be uncertain with some valleys to go through and some joyful mountain peaks to experience. But, Praise God, Jesus Christ is with us through it all!

Dear friends, if you do not have that personal relationship with Jesus, I invite you to ask Him into your heart and life today. This New Year would be an excellent time to do it. Where you have been and what you have done does not matter. He stands waiting to receive you with open arms if you will accept His unconditional love. We cannot earn his love. It is His gift to us. "For by grace are you saved through faith; and not that of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." Ephesians 2:8,9.

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, January 6th at 6:30 PM at Bob Evans Restaurant, 6102 Cambridge Way, located off Route 267, just north of Route 70, Plainfield, Indiana 46168.

In closing, what do you think of our new "Letterhead"? We have changed our letterhead several times over the years. With that thought in mind, I now ask, how many times have we changed restaurants, since New Life Riders was formed in 2001? The first person who can name all of them will get their meal free at our January meeting!

My wife, Kathy, and I wish you good health, safe riding and many blessings in the New Year.

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

*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)***