

# ~ *New Life Riders* ~

*Motorcyclists Serving God and Community*

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*Dear Friends,*

*Happy New Year! As we step on the threshold of this New Year, none of us knows what the future holds for us. However, as the old saying goes, "We do know Who holds the future." Jesus can be thoroughly depended upon to meet your every need.*

*We had hoped for good weather for all those great rides scheduled for the first of January. Often, at this time of year, snowstorms and icy conditions prevent safe riding. This year, the sun was shining, but with the outside temperature reading twenty-two degrees and upper respiratory infections, we decided to forgo our annual January first ride on Gideon, deciding that truly, discretion is the better part of valor.*

*Most of the motorcycle trade shows and swap meets don't start until February. This makes for a brief downtime when we bikers go "just a little bit crazy." It is, however, an excellent time for general cleaning and sprucing up. Now we guys have to be really intentional about this. If we look the least bit bored, even wives and girl friends who are motorcycle enthusiasts themselves, will get out the job jar and start doling out tasks to keep us busy. When my wife, Kathy, says, "Honey, it's snowing. Why don't you clean out your filing cabinets," that's my cue to retreat to the sanctuary (the garage) and get busy working on the bike.*

*The amount of "stuff" one accumulates in the saddlebags over the riding season is amazing. The back box on Gideon seems to be a catch all for everything. It really starts to overflow with useless items. If saddlebags or a motorcycle trailer can become littered over time, how much more cluttered can our lives become if we let them?*

*The Bible is pretty clear about cleaning up this clutter. In First John 1:8-9, we read, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Now the interesting thing about this verse is that it is in the present progressive in the original Greek. So it is really saying the Lord will forgive us and **keep on** cleansing us from all unrighteousness." This verse could be considered God's shop rag. Cleaning the bikes is a daily process. They pick up grime from the road when we are riding, but they also get dirty sitting still in the garage. In the same way we lovingly polish our bikes, we need to go to the Lord daily and ask Him to cleanse and renew us.*

*Having done that, it becomes time to move forward. J.B. Phillips translates it this way, "My brothers, I do not consider myself to have arrived spiritually, nor do I consider myself already perfect. But I keep going on, grasping more firmly that purpose for which Christ grasped me. My brothers, I do not consider myself to have fully grasped it even now. But I do concentrate on this: I leave the past behind and with hands out stretched to whatever lies ahead, I go straight for the goal – my reward the honor of being called by God in Christ." Philippians 3:13-14.*

*We, too, can leave 2013 behind. If you have not asked Jesus into your heart and life, the beginning of 2014 would be an excellent time. Kathy and I pray you are blessed with good health and safe riding in the New Year. Until next time.....*

*God bless*

*Riding with Jesus,*

*Bob Dillon*

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***"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)***