



New Life Riders

Motorcyclists Serving God and Community

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Dear Friends,

I am sure you realize that I begin writing the New Life Riders Newsletter ahead of time. Today is the first of January and I am sitting here in front of my computer. Wait a minute, wasn't I supposed to be at the Hangover Rally benefitting Damar Services today? Yes I was, however, this morning the temperature was eight degrees below zero, not wind-chill, actual temperature. It may go to a high of two degrees later today. It's hard to imagine, spring, ice-free roads, and a new riding season are just around the corner!

The cold temperature this morning triggered a memory. In the early eighties, I was working the night shift at a company in Florence, New Jersey about twenty-five miles from my home in Philadelphia. I left the plant about 2AM and was surprised to find an unexpected storm had dropped a glistening white blanket over the entire area. Having ridden that night, I had no choice but to start paddle-walking toward the Burlington-Bristol Bridge which spans the Delaware River. It is one of those metal, grated bridges that are always slippery when wet. I was stopped by a Bridge Authority Guard who told me I could not cross because of the snow. He advised me to leave my bike at the entrance to the bridge. He thought perhaps I could call someone to come out in the storm for me. I explained that leaving my brand new '83 Suzuki 850L there overnight was not a viable option. We "discussed" for a few minutes. Finally, the Authority Guy told me he was going inside for a cup of coffee and that I had better be gone by the time he came out. I took his advice and left – straight over the bridge. A few hours later, my bike and I were safe at home in my garage.

I am older and (hopefully) wiser now, but I must admit I still would have some misgivings about leaving a motorcycle at the on-ramp to a bridge in a snowstorm.

I mentioned this memory because the really chilly riding season has arrived. 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.” In other words, we are given a fresh new start, a new life like being “born again.”

If you have not invited Jesus into your heart and life, I would urge you to do it today. Let Him take control of your life. When we turn our lives over to Jesus and let Him be the rider and we the passenger, it is a blessing to know that He is in charge. He knows what lies around the next corner. He knows how fast we can take the curves and He knows how to maintain us and keep us going. When we want to shout directions from the pillion seat, God will not force us to go down the roads that He knows are best. However, what a blessing when we allow Him to take us where He wills.

February is Bike ShowTime! Most of us have experienced some “cabin fever” and long to be out mingling with those who understand the joy of traveling on two or three wheels. That’s where the shows come in. What better place to see all the latest in bikes, gear and accessories. See our website’s events page for listings of shows and swap meets. I encourage you to spend some time praying before, during, and after an event you have attended to see what doors God may open.

The 57th Annual O’Reilly World of Wheels at Indiana State Fairgrounds, Exposition Hall, 1202 E. 38th Street, Indianapolis, will be held February 9-11. The show opens at 3pm on Friday and 10am on Saturday and Sunday. The cost is \$18 for Adults and \$6 for Children 6 to 12. Check out the Bikes, Cars, Charity Auction, Live Music and Much More. For more information call (248) 373-1700.

The 27th Annual Indiana Motorcycle Expo at the Indiana State Fairgrounds, Exposition Hall, 1202 E. 38th Street, Indianapolis, will be held February 16-18. Friday 2pm-8pm, Saturday 10am-8pm, Sunday 10am-5pm. For more show details call Janine Lawton at (765) 641-7712. To buy your tickets on-line, go to www.IndySportShow.com.

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 remember that we will not be meeting in February.** However, we want you and your family to know that all are welcome as we gather. Think about joining us for good food and great fellowship at our next meeting on Friday, March 2nd 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, please be in prayer for those who are ill and for all who are suffering from recent disasters, the floods, fires, mudslides and earthquakes. May they feel the comfort of the Lord’s presence.

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)***