



New Life Riders

Motorcyclists Serving God and Community

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Dear Friends,

For most of us here in the Midwest, we are currently experiencing the cold winter mix type of weather. However, we are blessed to know that balmy breezes and the riding season is just around the corner. It cannot come soon enough! Meanwhile, we can attend indoor biking activities, do winter maintenance and read motorcycle publications.

One event we have this month is the 29th Annual Indiana Motorcycle Expo. It takes place at the, Indiana State Fairgrounds, Exposition Hall, 1202 E. 38th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana on February 14th to the 16th. There will be a Bikers Showcase, Motorcycle Travel & Tourism, Tiny Tots Test Track, and much more. Friday 2pm-8pm, Saturday 10am-8pm, Sunday 10am-5pm. The Indiana Motorcycle & Powersports Expo is held the first weekend of the Ford Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show, and as a bonus, your ticket price gets you into both shows! Don't miss out – see you at the Shows! For more show details call Janine Lawton at (765) 641-7712. To buy your tickets on-line, go to www.IndySportShow.com.

During this frigid, icy snap, we can't be out riding, but can be in our garages lovingly polishing our bikes and trikes. As we do, praise God, we can thank the Lord for His love for us.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” John 3:16 (NKJV)

Our long-time friends remember when Kathy and I purchased our new Suzuki Cavalcade in 1986. Many of you whom we have met in recent years haven't heard the story. We prayed for a God-honoring name for the bike that would prompt questions about the Lord. As we were riding to the dealer to take delivery of the bike, we each indicated we had a name in mind. It was one of those, “Honey, you go first.” “No, you go first, things.” We simultaneously said, “Gideon.”

Over the years people have asked us about that name. We explain that it gives us the opportunity to relate the story of Gideon found in the Bible in the book of Judges. Israel had been under virtual siege by the Midianites for several weary years. Gideon was threshing wheat, crouching down in a winepress to avoid detection by the enemy when the Lord Himself appeared with a message. “The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.” Some translations put it this way, “The Lord is with you, mighty man of valor.” You can almost visualize Gideon wiping the dusty grain from his face as his head popped up from the winepress. “Er, excuse me, were you talking to me?” He had probably been called a lot of things by his friends and family, but never mighty warrior. Then the Lord turned to Gideon and said, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel. I am the One who is sending you.”

Gideon apparently wasn't aware of any strength. He sputtered and stuttered and reminded the Stranger that he was the weakest member of the weakest clan of the weakest tribe of the weak nation of Israel. He was definitely not a West Point graduate. If God was looking for warrior material, he must have been peering down the wrong winepress.

In the Living Bible paraphrase, Gideon says” I am the least thought of in my entire family.” Motorcyclists, particularly stereotypical bikers, are not always held in high esteem either. Often, they can relate to the story of Gideon. We tell them that God loves them, too, and they can have a relationship with Him through Jesus Christ.

God definitely called Gideon and He promised to be with Him. The scriptures record the inadequacy and misgivings voiced by those who were called by the Lord. Jeremiah said, "I cannot speak, for I am a child." Isaiah said, "I am a man of unclean lips and dwell among a people of unclean lips." Ananias essentially told the Lord what He was asking was ludicrous. "You want me to do what? You are asking me go down to Straight Street to help this fellow Saul who has been persecuting the Christians?"

There is a statement that is often overused, but true nevertheless. "God does not call the qualified, He qualifies the called." The Lord promised to be with each of His servants in Bible times and He promises to be with each one of us today. Just as he told Joshua of old, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed for the Lord they God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." Joshua 1:9 (KJV)

Gideon, the motorcycle, was converted to a trike in the spring of 2001. Dan Earle from JD's did the conversion. He was a bit apprehensive because he had never converted a Suzuki Cavalcade. Dan had done many Honda Gold Wings but this was something different. Then he received a call from Larry and Katie McGuire in Florida, the couple who had designed the conversion kit he was going to use. They were traveling to Indiana for a rally and asked if they could stay with him. The kit designer actually worked with Dan on Gideon's conversion! Even more exciting and beautiful is when the Master Designer changes a life!

A Christian artist, Mountainman, from West Virginia came north for the rally and he also spent a week at JD's. He painted a beautiful eagle with the scripture reference Isaiah 40:31 on the gas tank. We asked him to write "Motorcycle and Riders have been converted" on the trunk lid. That prompts some openings and discussions about the Lord, too!

We sold Gideon One, our Suzuki Cavalcade in 2006 after we converted Gideon Two our 2003 Honda Valkyrie into a trike. Over the years, our bikes/trikes have been tools in witnessing about the Lord.

We will not be meeting in February. However, we want you and your family to know that everyone is welcome as we gather on Friday, March 6th at 6:30 PM at Bob Evans Restaurant, 6102 Cambridge Way, located off Route 267, just north of Route 70, Plainfield, Indiana 46168.

As we enter the month of February, when the world emphasizes love, this would be an excellent time to accept the love of Jesus. Why not invite Him into your heart and life if you have not already done so. His love is unconditional. 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. (KJV)

Our purpose as New Life Riders is to enjoy the wind in our faces, and more importantly, to share the love of Jesus and to serve and God and the Community. You don't have to join or belong to any particular organization to be part of our ministry.

We update our website www.newliferiders.com often. Please keep checking it. Go and be a blessing! Don't underestimate your ability to make a difference in someone's life. May you be blessed as you ride, work and witness for Him.

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)**