



New Life Riders

Motorcyclists Serving God and Community

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Dear Friends,

This past Saturday, Kathy and I attended the Little Angels Ride organized by Jerome and Mandie Bergman in memory of their twins, Jerome III and Gracie. This is a truly worthwhile annual event. While grieving the loss of their twin babies, the Bergman's have extended themselves to help others in need. We like the fact that 100% of the proceeds benefits the Hendricks Regional Health Infant Bereavement Program that supports families who have lost children due to miscarriage, stillbirth or infant death. The program helps with burial costs, remembrance items and emotional support. It also provides new clothing and new toys for needy infants and children who have prolonged stays at the hospital.

It was good seeing so many children present as we gathered for the opening ceremonies before the ride. I feel so blessed that Kathy and I have two wonderful daughters. Growing up, both girls enjoyed riding with me and taking some special father/daughter trips together.

I was reminded of a trip I took with my youngest daughter, Robin, who is now the pastor of the Oak Chapel United Methodist Church in Ohio. Robin was just thirteen years old at the time. We started off in light rain that intensified as we traveled down the east coast. As the day went on, we discovered we were riding in Hurricane Diana. So much for "the best laid plans of mice and men." It rained seven out of the nine days we were on the road. Robin tells everyone that it drizzled on the two good days. Even with the inclement weather, the scenic views along Skyline Drive, the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Great Smokey Mountains were magnificent. Each time we got on the bike during the trip we would sing along with an old Willie Nelson tape, "On the Road Again."



Jesus told a story about a fellow who was "on the road" to Jericho. The narration was prompted by a question from an expert in the law who asked what he had to do to gain eternal life. Jesus, who was never content with theoretical discussions, responded by asking, "What is written in the law?" The lawyer replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus told him he had answered correctly. However, the lawyer, looking for a loophole, asked, "Who is my neighbor anyway?" Then Jesus gave the account of what has become known as the parable of the "Good Samaritan." I like to visualize the Samaritan as a biker.

The road from Jerusalem to Jericho descended some 3,000 feet in a distance of about 17 miles. It led through rocky, craggy, desolate country that provided excellent places for robbers to hide in order to prey upon defenseless travelers. Why this guy was alone in such a dangerous situation is unknown. He was mugged, robbed, and left half-dead. Two of the religious elite, a Priest and a Levite, each looked the other way as they came upon the suffering victim. It has been argued they would have been considered ceremonially unclean and not be able to perform their duties in the Temple if they touched a dead man. No matter how you look at it, they placed the letter of the law above love and compassion.

Then the Samaritan came along. Samaritans were despised and considered inferior. As bikers, we can identify because I'm sure at one time or another, we have all felt less than appreciated just because of our appearance and means of transportation. I can see this man taking his first-aid kit out of his saddlebag. The Bible says he poured wine and oil on the wounds, put the injured man on his own beast, and took him to a nearby inn. When he had to go his own way the next day, he left the equivalent of almost two months wages, telling the innkeeper if more were needed he would pay the bill on his return. When he finished the story, Jesus asked who the real neighbor was. The lawyer replied, "The one who helped."

We bikers, modern day Samaritans, have many opportunities to help others either "on the road" or at the many charity rides and events in the area. We update the New Life Riders website www.newliferiders.com often. Please keep checking it for biking events and activities that you can attend and 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. Be a blessing!

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. Everyone is welcome.

Please note at the June 10th Bible Study it was decided to cancel the studies for the summer because of the vacation plans of many of our members. Also, the New Life Riders meeting on Friday, July Fourth has been canceled so that our members can celebrate the Independence Day holiday with their families. As you observe this patriotic holiday, reflect upon Psalm 33:12, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."

Our next dinner meeting is on Friday, August 1st at 6:30 PM at the Bob Evans Restaurant, 25 South High School Road (located at the corner of High School Road and US 36, Indianapolis.) We hope to see you then.

As always, Kathy and 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)