



Vision Riders

January 2009
Newsletter



Upcoming Events:

- Feb 7, 2009 Officers conference- Victory Hill Church in Scottsville, KY.
- Feb 12 7:00 p.m. Chapter meeting
- March 27-29 Harley Drags
- April 3-4 Seasons of Refreshing
- May 2, 2009 Run For the Son
- May 16, 2009 Cox Interior Relay For Life
- May 22-25 Smoky Mountain Chapter Retreat
- June 26-28 Harley Drags
- July 21-26 National East Rally in WV

Birthdays:

- Theresa Collings 1/5
- Duane Orange 1/6
- Steven Bowles 2/12
- Tina Nesbitt 2/14
- Linda Hayes 2/24
- Dana Bowles 2/23

Anniversaries:

- Gordon and Sue Judd 1/16

President Notes:

As we were watching the movie "Facing the Giants," Tuesday this thought came to me. What is the purpose of this chapter?

The film showed that the sole purpose of our life should be for the glory of God! If we always give our "very best" and we blind ourselves to what we believe are limits there is NOTHING we can't accomplish for our God.

When we are "facing our giants" we need to remember that God never gives up on us and we should never give up on each other. We need to remember that our lives are not just about us but about the Lord.

As we begin a new year in our lives, in our chapter and in our witness for our Savior lets "Have No Fear" as we face the "giants" of the sinful world.

Let us remember to praise God in victory and more importantly to praise God when we fell defeated, and ask God to make us a David and be giant slayers for the "Glory of God."

Let us always remember that with God nothing is impossible.

Dan Hayes
President

Reflecting Forward

This past year we traveled many miles on many roads that took us to a lot of destinations. We received a LOT of positive feedback on our presence and activities, a few awards for our participation and support of other group's activities, and enjoyed the fellowship of each other. It was a BLESSED year for the Vision Riders. We have grown in numbers and matured as Christians as we have traveled this past year.

So what could be better? For us as individuals, and as a forming chapter, we enjoyed the opportunities that 2008 offered. This is evident in the weekly study sessions. For me, to share these blessings with others that do not have or know the love we share with each other would be great. We had opportunities in 2008 that we did not recognize at the time and felt like kicking ourselves afterwards for not recognizing. That is where the "Reflecting Forward" comes from.

With the words of wisdom that Herbie has shared with us during the study sessions, I have become more aware of opportunities and speak a little bit bolder than I did a year ago. I have become more aware of how MY behavior may impact someone else and therefore think before I act or speak out. I am starting to notice the way other people talk when I am around and think about how the same people used to talk. I have had some people apologize for their language. I sometimes wonder if this is the right time to witness to someone. They are aware that they may have offended me by what they said or they would not have apologized. But I don't want to jeopardize the relationship and lose any future opportunities. If this happens in a public place with other people around, I will not embarrass them. If there are no other people around, I make an effort. I don't talk about the language they used but focus on what the lord has blessed us with. By doing this, we can share God's love and witness in a way that we can get the other person's participation without them feeling like they are being "Preached" to. I already have some people in mind that I look forward to the opportunity to talk with in 2009. We will all have these opportunities if we will only be looking for them.

While I love my Vision Rider family, I look forward to riding with friends that do not have Christ in their lives that I may be able witness to this year.

May God Bless each of you this year that you may be able to share your love for Christ with someone you know.

Darrell Smith
Road Captain

CMA Board of Directors

Chairman of the Board
John Ogden

Regional Evangelist
Rick Steffy

State Coordinator
James Collins

Area Rep
Sam Polston

Chapter President
Dan Hayes

Chapter
Members

From the Handbook:

Every organization of any size needs an orderly chain of command. The diagram to the left illustrates the chain of command within the Christian Motorcyclists Association.

A properly developed and utilized chain of command helps to make sure that proper procedures and communications are maintained.

The chain of command has been put into place to help you and others to have the ability to get in touch with people in your area that will be best equipped to answer questions and resolve issues pertaining to our local area.



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Spyder's Web

There's a little ditty that goes like this:

"God is bigger than the Boogey man.....
He's bigger than Godzilla or the monsters on TV
God is bigger than the Boogey man
And He's watching over you and me"
(From Veggie Tales)

Isn't it great to have a God who's bigger than any monster that we can be confronted with?

As we conclude our second year of being a part of CMA, can you remember challenges that the Vision Riders have been faced within the secular community?

We have faced some "Monsters" and I feel safe in saying there will be many more as we grow in number and in visibility in our activities doing Gods' work.

After watching the movie Facing the Giants in our Bible study meeting I have asked myself "what are my Giants" and I think we as a chapter need to identify what we think might be some giants that we will face in the future. How will we deal with these Giants in a Christ-like manner? Will we be able to allow God to "vanquish the foe" without taking matters into our own hands? Will we be like David and allow God to work thru us to defeat the monster?

We have a Prayer Warrior ministry that has had their hands full in the last 12 months. They have done a great job keeping us in God's Will for this chapter. When we put on the full armor of the one true living God He will prevail against the Giants who come at us with sword in hand. We must be ready to be used.

As I look back I see where we have opened our lives (chapter) to Him for just this purpose. He is moving in and thru us to reach the lost. My prayer for this chapter is that we will continue to stay in the center of God's will and whatever that brings to us we will be willing to "Face the Giants".

So don't forget...God is bigger than the Boogeyman and He's watching over you and me!!!!!!

In His Grip
Spyder



Prayer Requests:

Pray for our fellow chapters as many have new officers.

The family of Jack Robertson. Jack was killed while crossing the street in Greensburg.

The young lady who hit Jack. She is a new driver and is taking this hard.

Herbie Goff who is having tests on his lungs.

Linda's Aunt Jewell who is having tests for her health problems.

Mitch's father who battles health problems.

Rhonda's grandson Noah who has been in the hospital with breathing problems.

Mike Fenwick who is trying to get over a case of pneumonia. Hard to do in this weather.

Terry Laboyteaux who has had a hip replacement done.

Gordon Judd as he continues to have back problems and consults his doctor.

Also remember all of our local, state and national leaders in the Christian Motorcyclists Association. Pray for guidance in the upcoming riding season.

Witnessing Opportunities:

One day in December, Mitch Collings our chaplain happened to go to Wal-Mart. He wasn't on his bike this particular day, but wore his vest anyway. As he was in Wal-Mart a couple noticed his back patch and came up to him to talk to him about their son. Their son Mike Spear is a motorcycle policeman in California and commonly escorts celebs and that type of thing. As he was in a parking lot last month a car came through and hit him. He was injured pretty seriously and they obviously were very concerned. Mitch and the couple had prayer for their son Mike. Mitch emailed me and we were wondering if someone from CMA could possibly check on Mike out there in California. I located a chapter in Escondido that is within about 20 miles or so from Mike's home. I inquired as to whether or not they had any information at all about the accident. California is a big place with a lot of people and I thought it was a "shot in the dark" type of thing. I got a response back from Theresa Mohn who indicated they would check around and if I had any more information to contact them back. I then sent them everything I had. A day later I got an email from them. As it turns out one of their chapter members works with Mike and they were in the process of visiting Mike. A couple of days later she contacted me and told me that Mike was recovering at home with two broken hips.

Folks, what are the chances of one of our CMA members wearing his back patch at just the right time and place to have a complete stranger to come up and ask for prayer for their son in California, then to be able to contact a chapter across the country to ask for assistance, then to find out a member of that local chapter is a coworker to the man who had the accident. All of this had to happen to have the opportunity to "be there when you need us"? The odds are just too long to be chance. God was at work here.

This is another example of what God can do when we are open to the opportunities God gives us, and a testament to what Vision Riders and the Christian Motorcyclists Association can do for the work of our God.

Always try to be open to take advantage of the opportunities God gives us to witness for Him.

Richard Durham



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First Impressions:

As I was desperately trying to think of an article to write for this month's newsletter from my normally blank mind, an idea came to me (through God's help of course).

While Theresa and I were eating lunch Sunday. A young couple came into the place we were eating along with their 2 children who immediately upon gazing at me and my scraggly beard and hair mistook me for Santa Claus. That was the child's first impression of me.

In the Bible, first impressions of several people were totally wrong, such as Noah spending 120 years to build a boat, Goliath's impression of David as he was only armed with a slingshot or how about John the Baptist with his long hair and dressed in goatskins and even Jesus Christ, whom the Jewish people thought that he was a King to overthrow the cruel Roman Empire,

But through love, compassion, understanding and mercy was He able to show what God was all about and only through Him are all things possible.

As CMAers, we must remember that in the real world most people at first see us as bikers and may be stereotyped as a bad sort. This is why it is imperative that our actions and attitudes are Christ like so that we can gain their trust and support.

In the same token, we must use these same Christian attitudes to differentiate us from the other bikers of the secular world, we must be willing to listen, show compassion, mercy and even forgiveness to our fellow bikers so that Christ may shine through us,

Thank goodness God does not judge us by the first impression, but by our actions and what is in our hearts. Praise God for his good works and also for his Love-----with the Love of Christ.

Mitch Collings
Chaplain



In our Dec. report we had already made note of the trip to Danville. There is something I would like to add to it that stood out to me.

At this activity were four kids and myself that made the trip.

It was a blessing to see four totally different boys come together and enjoy each other's friendship and show respect for each other.

Speaking of respect on Dec. 21st Micah Watkins spoke on respect at Greensburg Baptist Church at the evening service. Justin Smith was there along with several other CMA members showing their support for him. It was a good service.

After Micah spoke there were several kids who stood up with prayer requests and some even gave a testimony. Everyone there got a blessing. It's so good to see the Youth working for Jesus.

We as adults need to teach the Youth as much about Jesus as we can. But at the same time we as adults can learn from the Youth as well.

Thanks kids for all that you do. "You are the Future"

*"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"
(Psalm 46:10)*

Take time and do as verse 10 says, just *Be still*. Pick you out a spot that you can just *Be still* and talk to God just you and He. And build on making that good relationship that we all need with God..

God Bless You,

Tommy Watkins
Youth Movement

Chapter News:

On Jan 1 we started the year by having our first ever-annual Polar Bear Run. The idea started out as just being a chance for our chapter to take a quick ride and grab some hot soup or something on New Year's Day. We decided to invite all the bikers in our area to join us and thought, hey let's see if we can raise some funds for a local charity. We decided to split up anything we got among the food pantries in the counties our members are from. Chapter members kicked in to provide soup and sandwiches and Campbellsville Baptist Church allowed us the use of their facilities. We thought we would be lucky to get 20 bikes out. But praise God about 46 bikes and well over 50 people showed up to ride and help out. We raised over \$750.00 to donate to the local food pantries.

We have finished our study sessions on personal evangelism and after a couple of weeks off for the Christmas season, we have resumed our Tuesday night get together by watching the movie "Facing the Giants" and have started our first lesson on Discipleship.

We continue to see interest and growth in our Youth Movement led by Tommy Watkins. We are also starting to reach out to the sport bikers, ATV and off-road bikers in our area. We also have one of our members who is very interested in heading up our FastLane program.

We also visited New Life church where our own Jon Nesbitt was filling in and playing bass for the Spirit Seekers gospel band.

Our chapter fundraising effort of gift-wrapping packages at Amazon was a great success and we raised almost \$1500.00 for our chapter. This gives us a real good start on our anticipated budget for the mission outreach programs we will be doing this year.

Our weekly meetings and our chapter meetings continue to attract new faces interested in what we are and what we are about. We have 3 people now who we have asked us about becoming a member. After counseling and explanation about what Vision Riders and CMA is about, they requested applications. We look forward to their decision to become a part of the ministry of CMA.

We completed our second riding season as a chapter and the people who have made the decision to be a part of our ministry have truly blessed us. We have also seen our influence and respect in the local biking community grow. But the greatest blessing has been the way each and every member of our chapter has desired to keep our fellowship going through the dark winter months. It is a great thing to know so many of our chapter members are willing to step up and do what needs to be done.

Richard Durham



May 2, 2009 will be upon us before you know it. Now is the time to be contacting friends, family, businesses and churches about helping us in this ministry. 40% of each dollar donated goes to mission programs in the United States to reach out to the biking community. 60% is divided evenly between the Jesus Film Project, Open Doors and Missionary Ventures. These three organizations provide outreach, mission and evangelizing ministries throughout the world. 100% of all donations go to these programs.



Christian Motorcyclists Association
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CMA Headquarters: (870)-389-6196
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Jan Mileage Award:

Shane Moore was the winner of the mileage award at our chapter meeting on January 8, 2009. Shane uses his GoldWing almost all the time to pull his trials bike.

I wonder if he is counting mileage on both bikes????