



Vision Riders



Chapter 1038

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September 2009

Local Chapter News

This issue is being held until the State Rally is over to get the latest from there. Look for a report from there in this issue.

In other news, we got rid of the monkey on our back. A bunch of us went to the El Shaddai chapter meeting in Lancaster and passed on Timothy to them. Our group outnumbered the home chapter members present. All in all, we had a good ride, good meal, good meeting and a wonderful experience listening to a local lady sing a gospel song for us. What a blessing!



Darrell wraps Timothy's arms around the neck of El Shaddai's president.

Earlier, in August, we had an enjoyable ride in support of the South Russell Fire Department. We met in Columbia and covered quite a few miles to end up at the fire department building for a meal and closing activities. Many other groups also participated and a good time was had by all to raise funds for the department.

Observations From Our Road Captain



Beware of the Cage

With thousands of miles of riding behind us, we have a lot of thanks to give to God for safety. The

miles have been have fun but not without close calls. We have had group rides the last 3 days, different riders with different destinations, and we have had two close calls with cages (cars). Both times have been because the cage driver wanted to advance their position on the road instead being patient and letting the bikes stay in a pack. Both times the bike driver was aware of the situation and prepared to take defensive measures.

Rather than dwell on the frustration of these situations, I prefer to thank God for His shield of protection and remind everyone to be aware of their surroundings at ALL times. To get mad and bad mouth the driver does no good but to get our tempers and blood pressure up. Anger is hard to control and when we are threatened, it's even harder. But when we are riding, most of us are wearing our vest and patch that say we are Christians and we must react in a Christ-like manner. This is not always easy, but it is our responsibility to set the example.

So when you have a close call, thank God for His protection and let Him deal with the cages.

Darrell Smith, Road Captain

Youth Movement/Fastlane



We had a good month since the last report, another growing month. By next month I feel there will be two more patched in thru the youth movement.

In the last few weeks, our focus has been on the CMA State Rally. The youth took care of chapter night this year at the rally by doing a skit. The skit was very powerful for nothing audibly said in it. As the music played, they showed how easy it was to get caught up in worldly things. Then they showed how God can turn you around and clean you up when you get on your knees and ask for His forgiveness and then turn everything over to Him.

They also had their own bike games at the rally and got to show off some of their two wheel

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talents without motors. A good time was had by all at the rally and the youth represented Vision Riders in a great way. I'm very proud of these young men!! They are a inspiration to me and keep me on my toes. Until next time:

"To God Be The Glory"

Tommy Watkins (Youth Movement Leader)

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Doris Moore: 9/11

Keith & Jamie Morris: 9/14

Darrell Smith: 9/18

Coming Up In October:

Jeff Parson: 10/7

Keith Morris: 10/22

Jamie Morris: 10/31

Mitch & Theresa Collings: 10/23

Mike & Judy Fenwick: 10/31

From Our President



Faith Through Love

"The greatest thing is faith-the kind of faith that works through love." Galatians 5:6

The past couple of weeks I have been following a sermon series on the computer from a church in another area. The gist of what they are doing is to make Jesus famous by radically loving their community.

This type of faith was displayed by both the official and non-official members of the Vision Riders this past week. When the need was announced that a family was in dire straits, you rose to the occasion. There was joy and gladness in the hearts of the family served, but I also know that blessings were showered upon you in your actions of love. Remember, Jesus said that if we did things to aid His creation we were doing it to Him. Not only were physical needs met, but the family is attending church now to hear God's word,

they also have their own bibles to read about God and how his love is greater than anything else.

It does my heart and soul good to see our people willing to love those that others cast aside. I believe that God is pleased by your attitudes. The core of what our chapter is about is to give God the glory for all things.

There is coming in a few short weeks a time for us to do something we have never done before. Our first official election as a chapter occurs with nominations in October and elections in November. I pray that each of you will pray for, and ask God's guidance in choosing people to the leadership of this chapter. This could become a time of difference and contention if we allow the carnal side to come through by wanting to serve to promote ourselves or a special private agenda. BUT, if we are to continue to give God the glory—we will see to it that our hearts will select true servants of God to be those we put in office. The heart of a chapter is the officer team and the more they beat as one the more God is in control. Just to relieve any thoughts that I am using this article to campaign, I will be stepping down as president. PLEASE in the next few weeks pray to our God that we can and will put those in office that will continue to "give God the glory in all we do" as we go forward to spread the love of God in our world: first to bikers and also to others that the world has turned their back on.

Dan

From Our VP



Our newsletter editor just reminded me, politely of course, that I was the last hold out on getting my submission in for the monthly chapter newsletter. I should have been more punctual because up until May of this year I had been responsible for putting out the newsletter for the chapter. I also had to remind people upon occasion that I needed their article to complete the issue.

Of course my first excuse was that I just had not had enough time. With working on my deck, preparing for State Rally, busy days at work and getting ready for Harley Drags, I just had not had the time to submit anything. My second thought was to heck with it, I won't submit anything at all. It will be a

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fine newsletter without anything from me. I was doing everything I could to self justify my reasons for not taking care of it earlier.

That got me to thinking about the reasons we use to either work or not work in this ministry, as well as how to work in the ministry of CMA.

What about our time? I believe that if we don't have enough time to do what God wants us to do, we are spending too much time doing what the devil wants us to. That doesn't mean that we have to be at every function or devote our every waking minute to this ministry. It does mean that we might have to prioritize our time though. As a chapter last year we decided we might want to cut back a little bit. The time and money that we invest might become a hardship for some, especially given the economy. But praise God we have increased our missions and outreach opportunities this past year.

What about our results? We always want instant gratification. But we have to realize that we are in the watering and planting business. God assures us that nothing we do in His name will be in vain. There will be results of what we do in the ministry. We may never see them or the effect that they might have on people, but it does make a difference. I know I have wondered many times if the effort is worth the results. But every so often I hear from someone who appreciates what we have done, even if it was insignificant to me at the time.

What about the ministry itself? We can go on the rides, come to the meetings and enjoy the fellowship of being with other Christian bikers. We can do these things but still not be involved in the real ministry. From my experiences in working with the Green River Lake ministry for 12 years and my three years or so with CMA, I can say first hand that being actively involved has brought me some great blessings. I have had experiences at the lake that were more spiritual than anything I have had in a church building. I have been taught lessons that have caused me to grow in faith at every Harley Drag I have attended. I wouldn't take anything for these experiences and I would not have had the chance to have them without being involved where the rubber meets the road. If you will make yourself available, God will use you and give you life-changing opportunities.

What about being active in the ministry? A person can become so enthusiastic in a ministry that it consumes all their time and energy. This sounds like the way we all should be, but it doesn't really work that way. After all, we are only human. We need to realize our limitations as well as the limitations of others. We

need to have a real heart felt desire to help others come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. We also need to develop our relationship with God so that we will be open to what He wants us to do and not what we or someone else wants us to do. I have a few basic guidelines to offer.

First, get involved. Don't sit on the sidelines. Actually get into doing something. That can be practically anything. Put yourself in a position that will involve interaction with your fellow workers and the people we are here to minister to. God will use you.

Second, don't burn out. We were reminded of this by Sam at the State Rally this year when we were talking about our activities. This chapter has a great group that is active and doesn't rely on just a few to get everything done. Develop a relationship with God to let you know what He wants of you. Not what I or someone else may want you to do. God doesn't want you to do everyone else's work. Be open to the Holy Spirit and follow Him.

Third, be forgiving. Not everyone is going to be involved in everything all the time. We have to realize that God has plans for each one of us. God will do His work and if we are open to the Holy Spirit He will provide the people and resources we need. Don't be too hard on those that are not doing as much. Focus on your work and the role you have in this ministry.

Fourth, pray and focus on what God wants for you and His ministry. Nothing can take the place of a deep and personal relationship with God.

If you will keep these four basics in mind, God will use you and you will grow in your spirituality and your faith. You will also have the opportunity to "change the world, one heart at a time."

Richard

Upcoming Events

19 Sept. @ 1030 am EDT: El Shaddai benefit gospel sing and silent auction at the Boyle Co. fairgrounds in Danville.

19 Sept. @ 1100 am: Reborn Riders chapter meeting at the New Country Inn and Suites in London.

22 Sept. @ 6 pm: Vette City Disciples chapter meeting at Ryans Steak House in Bowling Green.

18 & 19 Sept.: Fall national women's conference. Check CMA Web site for details.

25 to 27 Sept.: Tentative dates for Harley Drags in Bowling Green.

26 Sept.: Benefit ride for Tony and Connie Hill. Registration @ 9:30 to 11:00 am at the Back Yard Bar-B-Q in Springfield – rain or shine.

26 Sept: Benefit ride for Angie Heath. Registration @

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10:00 am EDT at the IGA parking lot in Greensburg.

3 Oct.: Galilean Home Bug Run. Registration from 11:00 am to 12:15 pm at the Crosswoods Baptist Church, located at 4991 Harrodsburg Rd. in Nicholasville. Sponsored by the Bluegrass Believers Chapter of the C.M.A.

3 Oct.: El Shaddai chapter meeting @ 6:00 pm EDT at the Country Diner in Lancaster.

3 Oct.: Ride for Theresa. Sponsored by the Green River Southern Cruisers. Register at the IGA parking lot from 10 to 11 am. Ride starts at 11:00 am EST.

Mondays @ 6 pm EDT: Bike night at the Lebanon Sonic drive-in

Tuesdays @ 6 pm EDT: Bike night at the Subway on Broadway in Campbellsville

Thursdays @ 6 pm EDT: Bike night at the Subway in Greensburg

Prayer Requests

Theresa Collings: Pray that her skin graft surgery goes well and her recovery continues.

Tommy Watkins: Pray for a successful outcome from ankle surgery in October.

Our chapter: Pray for wisdom in the selection of officers in the upcoming election and that godly people will recognize their responsibility to minister to chapter members.

Others: There are probably many unspoken prayer requests for whatever reasons. Some are personal concerns and others wish to keep their privacy; still others consider their needs to be minor compared to others. The Lord knows who they are and we can support them in prayer without knowing any names or details.

From the C.M.A. Handbook: Ministering To Minors

CMA ministers to motorcyclists of all ages, and Youth and Children's Ministry is a growing sector of the ministry of CMA. Jesus welcomed the children on numerous occasions and cautioned those who would hurt them (Matthew 18:6). In order to protect children and the integrity of CMA and its members, it is required that all CMA members who are involved in ministry to minors complete the CMA Ministry Team for Children or Youth. A notarized National Criminal background check is required for completion of these ministry teams.

Special Feature: The Journey Inside

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Note: For the few that have seen this or have a copy, please don't reveal what follows in the next installment.

It is dark inside. The door seemed as if it is resisting me as I slowly pushed it open. It creaks and scrapes, almost like a protest. I am looking, but I am afraid of what I may find. I must get in and search everything

inside. One of the King's overseers said that I should make the journey to help me become more mature in my service to the King. I have to use the examples from the manual given to me by the King. How can anything be as perfect? I must do it. It is going to help me when I compare the things inside to the examples. There is a long hallway. It is dark and the air is dank and musty as if it has been a long time since someone was here. Was it me many years ago? I don't remember. Maybe that's why I am here now.¹

I start down the long hallway and realize that I have no flashlight to see where I am going. How am I going to get started? I remembered the manual in my hand. I don't know why, but I held it in front of me and opened it. Light came from the manual and brightly lit the hallway. I could see where I was going; the manual was sufficient for my needs. I began walking in slow steady steps, not knowing what was ahead.

After a short distance I spotted something. It was a ways off and I could barely make it out. The closer I came with the manual open, the object stood out even more. For lack of a better name, I called it Attitude. The Attitude blocked my way and prevented me from continuing on my journey. I searched the manual to see what I had to do to control the Attitude. I noticed that there were instructions throughout the manual for this thing called Attitude. When I came to certain parts of the manual, the light spewed forth even brighter to illuminate the Attitude and make it look terrifying. When I closed the manual entirely, I didn't even see the Attitude. It didn't seem so bad when the light was shut off from its source.

I knew that the manual was right and opened it back up. I checked the examples given to me by the King. I began to speak to the Attitude in question form. Who's in charge, you or the King? The Attitude growled and began to speak:

"I am in charge. The King wants me to follow Him, but my natural state is to go my own way. I am my own mast..."

The Attitude stopped speaking when I held the manual open and let the light shine on it. There was resistance. Smoke filled the area and the walls began to shake. I held my ground and stood there with the manual open and facing the Attitude. The King said the manual was all I needed. He was right. Soon the Attitude began to settle down and speak again:

"The light, the light, I see the light. Now I know that I should submit to the King. I will follow His lead from now on. I did such a terrible job when I thought I was in charge. Please, continue your search. I must go and communicate with the King and ask His forgiveness."

¹ 2 Cor 13:5 (NIV) Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test. Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong. Not that people will see that we have stood the test but that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed.

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The Attitude moved aside and let me pass.²

I continued down the hallway with the manual open to light the way. There were some curves up ahead. The floor felt like it was wet and slippery. Off to the side I could see an opening to a small room. The flickering of candles danced on the ceiling as I made my way inside. There were shrines in every corner of the room. On them were various items. The first one I saw had a TV set. On it was a football game. The second one had a brand new car with racing stripes. The third one had a pile of money on it. There were many more shrines too numerous to mention.

I didn't know what to do, then I remembered the manual. I began to look through and discovered that the King didn't like these things He gave me to be placed on the shrines like I had them. He gave me these items or means to get these items and I had ignored Him and put these items on the shrines. The instructions in the manual told me not to destroy the items, just remove them from where I had them. The problem was not the items themselves, it was my perception of the items and their position of importance in my life. They were to be used for the King's purpose. After I had removed the items from the shrines, I felt so much better and closer to the King. Now, I would be able to give Him my full attention and loyalty.³

I left the room with the shrines and continued down the hallway with manual open in front of me for light. The ceiling began to lower. It got to the point where I had to crawl on my hands and knees to get through. I noticed that there was a tent off to the side in a large cavern. In front of the tent was a table with food and water. A small man stood there behind the table. I was hungry and thirsty, so I approached the man. I asked the man if I could buy what he had. He looked at me with his eyes glaring and moving up and down as if to measure me for clothes.

Finally, after what seemed like an hour, the man spoke: "You can not buy any of the things here. They are free."

I smiled and began to reach towards the table, but the man grabbed my arm.

"These things are free, but only for the King's subjects. Are you one of the King's subjects? The King gives freely to His people."

I assured him that I was indeed one of the King's subjects and showed him the manual given to me by the King as a guide book. The man explained that he had to be careful. Some of the King's subjects did not act like His subjects. Only when they were with the other King's subjects did they act like a member of the Kingdom. All other times, they acted like those that surrounded them in the area called the world. By their behavior, they profaned the name of the King.⁴

After being refreshed and enjoying fellowship with the man, I continued on. The floor of the hallway began to point in a downwards direction. I was very careful not to slip on the wet floor. Finally, the floor leveled off again. Just around a few corners was a large room filled with TV screens. A calendar hung on the wall with Sundays in red. I looked at the TV screens and saw myself in different activities. The screen in the middle was the largest. It showed me in the presence of the King, honoring Him and studying His manual on the appointed day. The scene changed and there I was sitting in front of my home TV watching an automobile race instead of honoring the King. The other screens showed me in other activities that ignored the King. My time with the King was the shortest of any of them.

This alarmed me because I had never thought of this. I had always thought that the short time I spent with the King was enough, then I could do what I wanted. I began to search the manual. As I turned the pages, various intensities of light came forth. I held it open longer on some of the brighter ones. The light had an effect on me. I realized that I wasn't spending enough time honoring the King and studying His manual, especially on the appointed day. When I decided to change my practices, all the TV screens except the large one in the middle went away. The light diminished to a soft glow. It was time to continue on.⁵

...To be continued next month

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² Exodus 20:3 (NIV) "You shall have no other gods before me."

³ Exodus 20:4 (NIV) "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below."

⁴ Exodus 20:7 (NIV) "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD

your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name."

⁵ Exodus 20:8 (NIV) "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy."