



Vision Riders



Chapter 1038

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December 2011

Richard Durham Memorial Issue

Local Chapter Happenings



In Memory of Richard Durham

The above picture of Richard was the one he used for all his articles in the newsletter. Richard was known by many and had his impact on us all in one way or another. Your editor had known him for about 3 years and in those 3 short years, I found out why those of you that have known him a lot longer think about him the way you do.

His workload, when he became President, must have been tremendous. He held down his regular job and performed the duties of the President as well as kept up the Web site and edited the newsletter. He was also a dedicated husband, father and grandfather. After I was on the scene for a while, he was observant enough to know what skills I had and how to use them to glorify our Lord, while reducing some of his workload. He asked me to take over as the editor of this newsletter, which I gladly accepted to provide him some relief. That gave him more time for other things. A while after that, he found out I had somewhat of an IT background too and he gave me the duties of keeping the calendar on the Web page current. My IT skills were nowhere close to what he had but, with some of his help, I managed to figure out how to manage the calendar.

The Lord gives us all one or more skills as we go through life. Whether we use those skills to glorify the Lord, to make lots of money, to make ourselves look good or for some other reason, it is up to us. Richard chose to use all his skills to glorify the Lord. Because of that, I think we all became a little closer to our God. Now, Richard is with the One he glorified. I can't think of a better reward than that for living the life that Richard did.

Chaplain's Corner



The Final Chapter

Well folks, the end of an era is among us and my term of being your Chaplain will soon be over. When I was first asked to be Chaplain I wasn't sure if I could do the job properly and I still don't know if I did. What I did get was a major blessing while I allowed to be your Chaplain. I have seen lives saved and changed, prayers answered and people comforted. I have met people with the same purpose, not to change the whole world at one time but rather, one heart at a time. I have seen our group as gardeners for Christ as we go out into the motorcycle world spreading the Word. It's sort of like Johnny Appleseed, planting the seeds and letting God do the watering. All we needed to do was to open the door a crack to allow Christ to step in and do His miraculous work.

I have seen new relationships spring up as the result of our kindness and Christ-like attitude, in which we respect the person and try to gently persuade or direct them to a far better life. I have seen our good works spread from just a handful to a truckload. Our Christ-like attitude, showing compassion and caring, has not only opened the doors to new friends, but also to new salvations. We strive to show the secular world that the only difference between them and us is Christ. We love to ride our motorcycles no matter where or what the weather (well some of us anyway or rather we get caught in all types of weather), we enjoy talking about our exploits, whether they be funny or sad, eating good food, helping others in need, having a shoulder big enough for them to cry on and more eating.

Our compassion for people and the willingness to be there for the secular world has helped us to open the doors and allow people to share the love of God. One particular ride this year stands out a lot to me. We had just stopped at a gas station for rest stop, which so happened to across the street from a funeral home. A young couple had just lost their little baby and they were having visitation. The leader of the ride had been approached earlier by a family leader and asked that maybe we could stop by. Well, the club's president and a couple of others and I went over give the family our condolences. When then told them that we would go back across the street and gather the other bikers that wanted to and offer them a prayer, and they said that they would appreciate it. We went right to the station, announced our

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intentions and why, and then formed a big circle in the parking lot. Then while holding hands and heads bowed, I was to lead the group of 80 or so bikers in prayer for the young couple. Just as I was about to begin, I felt the circle shift and noticed that the young couple and other family members joined our circle for the prayer. All I can say was that it was a totally awesome sight and feeling that blessed me that day. I mean a whole bunch of scruffy looking bikers, taking up more than half the parking lot praying for a young family that we didn't know, but could relate to the situation. Isn't God great!

Well I could go on and on, but I will save some of the stories for later while sitting around the rally campfires or witnessing to others. I want to thank you for allowing me the honor of being your Chaplain these past few years and I will continue to keep you in my prayers. I also wish that Tim, our incoming Chaplain will have the same blessing or more during his tenure of office.

One last thing, this has been a very hard year, because we have all lost someone in our family or someone close to us. I lost a brother (Adam) and a spiritual brother, in Richard Durham. He was a very good man who cherished his family. To me he was a fun loving, humorous, intelligent, witty, biscuit and gravy cooking, spiritual, dependable, big shouldered, big hearted, bike riding, golf cart making, compassionate, caring, camping buddy and a good Christian man. He will be sorely missed but never forgotten. I know he has blessed and touched many just by knowing him and now he is riding his golf cart through the streets of Heaven. I hope he tells my mom and brother that I have been good. :>)

Your chaplain for a few more days and as your brother in Christ forever.... Mitch Collings

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**CMA
Handbook Spotlight
Chapter Fundraising**

There are times when a chapter may choose to do a fundraiser to help raise money for the chapter funds or to help offset project costs. Chapter fundraisers need to be the exception and not the norm for chapters. **Please notify the State Coordinator in advance before conducting a fundraising event.** **The annual Run for the Son is the **only** fundraiser that CMA endorses. CMA does not sponsor nor conduct poker runs, dances, or raffles.

Fundraising suggestions:

- Auctions
- Yard sales (avoid sexually suggestive items)
- Bake sales (avoid rum-cakes, bourbon-balls, etc.)
- Food Stand (Wal-Mart allows organizations to use their hot dog shed to sell hot dogs and sodas in front of their store to raise money)
- Car washes (be modest in your apparel)

Door Prizes

Door prizes can be collected from many different venues, for example: motorcycle shops, grocery stores, department stores, gas stations, video stores, restaurants, book stores, etc. Please use wisdom in obtaining door prizes and avoid items such as body piercing/tattoo, items with skulls on them, etc.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

December

Hershal Fisher	12/19
Vann and Valerie Lantz	12/12
Tommy and Angie Watkins	12/31

January

Mitch Collings	1/1
Theresa Collings	1/5
Christy Harper	1/13
Randall Shoffner	1/30
David & Christy Harper	1/10
Gordon & Sue Judd	1/16

Mileage Award

This month's mileage award went to Gordon Judd. Although Gordon doesn't put any miles on 2 wheels, he does plenty with 6 wheels. We give the award to Gordon each December to show our appreciation of his support as our rescue/support driver with his truck and trailer that follow us on our rides. Those that have needed his support can tell you how valuable he is to us in those circumstances.

Officer Listing for 2012

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Letter From Jesus About Christmas

Editors note: of course this letter is not actually from Jesus. If you want to see what He says to us all, just read your Bible. This letter was written by an unknown author and is printed here for your direction and enjoyment.

It has come to my attention that many of you are upset that folks are taking My name out of the season. How I personally feel about this celebration can probably be most easily understood by those of you who have been blessed with children of your own. I don't care what you call the day. If you want to celebrate My birth, just GET ALONG AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

Now, having said that let Me go on. If it bothers you that the town in which you live doesn't allow a scene depicting My birth, then just get rid of a couple of Santas and snowmen and put in a small Nativity scene on your own front lawn. If all My followers did that there wouldn't be any need for such a scene on the town square because there would be many of them all around town.

Stop worrying about the fact that people are calling the tree a holiday tree, instead of a Christmas tree. It was I who made all trees. You can remember Me anytime you see any tree. Decorate a grape vine if you wish: I actually spoke of that one in a teaching, explaining Who I am in relation to you and what each of our tasks were. If you have forgotten that one, look up John 15:1-8.

If you want to give Me a present in remembrance of My birth here is my wish list. Choose something from it:

1. Instead of writing protest letters objecting to the way My birthday is being celebrated, write letters of love and hope to soldiers away from home. They are terribly afraid and lonely this time of year. I know, they tell Me all the time.

2. Visit someone in a nursing home. You don't have to know them personally. They just need to know that someone cares about them.

3. Instead of writing the President complaining about the wording on the cards his staff sent out this year, why don't you write and tell him that you'll be praying for him and his family this year. Then follow up... It will be nice hearing from you again.

4. Instead of giving your children a lot of gifts you can't afford and they don't need, spend time with them. Tell them the story of My birth, and why I came to live with you down here. Hold them in your arms and remind them that I love them.

5 Pick someone that has hurt you in the past and forgive him or her.

6. Did you know that someone in your town will attempt to take their own life this season because they feel so alone and hopeless? Since you don't know who that person is, try giving everyone you meet a warm smile; it could make the difference.

7. Instead of nit picking about what the retailer in your town calls the holiday, be patient with the people who work there. Give them a warm smile and a kind word. Even if they aren't allowed to wish you a "Merry Christmas" that doesn't keep you from wishing them one. Then stop shopping there on Sunday. If the store didn't make so much money on that day they'd close and let their employees spend the day worshipping or be at home with their families.

8. If you really want to make a difference, support a missionary-- especially one who takes My love and Good News to those who have never heard My name.

9. Here's a good one. There are individuals and whole families in your town who not only will have no "Christmas" tree, but neither will they have any presents to give or receive. If you don't know them, buy some food and a few gifts and give them to the Salvation Army or some other charity that believes in Me and they will make the delivery for you.

10. Finally, if you want to make a statement about your belief in and loyalty to Me, then behave like a Christian. Don't do things in secret that you wouldn't do in My presence. Let people know by your actions that you are one of mine.

Don't forget; I am God and can take care of Myself. Just love Me and do what I have told you to do. I'll take care of all the rest. Check out the list above and get to work; time is short. I'll help you, but the ball is now in your court. And do have a most blessed Christmas with all those whom you love and remember:

I love you,
Jesus

Upcoming Events

Please review and make your plans in advance to avoid last minute inconveniences and expenses. For events and rides sponsored by other organizations, check our Web page. Most, if not all events are listed there.

Tuesday Evenings: Bible study @Keith and Jamie's home @ 7 pm Eastern. No pre-session meals this year.

Dec. 16, 17: Amazon gift-wrapping to raise funds. Check Web page for times and details.

Jan. 1, 2012: Polar Bear Run – we meet @ the rear of Campbellsville Baptist Church @ 1:30 Eastern. Dress warm!

My memories of Richard Durham (1957-2011)

"A LITTLE MAN WITH A BIG HEART"

By Tommy Watkins



He was a man I met in the fall of 2006 at Greensburg. He rode up with only a dress shirt and a vest, riding a little red and silver Yamaha Virago, if I remember right. He got off the bike, walked up and shook my hand and said my name is Richard Durham from Campbellsville. I said to him, don't you have a coat? "What for," he said, "this is my kind of weather," man it was pretty dang cool I thought!

We then, of course, started talking about our bikes, fellowshipped a little, then it was time for everyone to head back home. I figured we would meet up again sometime down the road. Little did I know, right?

Well the next time I saw Rich was in the summer of 2007 at a benefit cancer ride in Campbellsville. The ride, now annual, was called Wings of Pink; a local lady was promoting it. Well this was the first time either Angie or I had ridden together in a large ride or a benefit ride. During the ride we made a stop in Russell Springs; there was one spot that nobody was road guarding so we jumped out and blocked it. When we pulled up with the other bikes Rich walked over and said, "hey brother", thanked me and said, "man we forgot about that one. I'm glad you covered it." I said no problem, was glad to do it.

After the ride was over they had a meal at the lake. That was when I talked to Rich next. Again he started the conversation by saying: "Hey brother! Let me ask you something about your Intruder." That's all it took.

This was also the first time I met Keith and Jamie. I knew when Keith started talking he was from around here>:) I asked Rich, you know those cats that's riding the Victory? He answered, "not really but they live down the street from me. Let's go check out his bike." Once again it all started by talking about the bike. That was his simple way he got to know you.

After that ride I started going to the bike nights and rode a few other rides with Rich, Dan and the others. I rode in the Run for the Son ride the next year with them and just learned more about that CMA patch they wore. Dan, Darrell and Rich all three told me all about CMA and I thought it was a good thing but didn't figure it

was my thing. I just wanted to ride with some good clean folks. During this time I was also struggling with my emotions. My son Micah was going to have a serious surgery on his chest. Richard never failed to ask me about it and you could see his concern when he asked. Well as time went on and the weekly fellowship continued I joined Vision Riders in July 2008.

I was never pressured to join but Rich and the others never let me forget about it. What I mean was about every other week Rich would make a point to talk to me about the different ministries CMA had. He never asked me to join but he never gave up taking the opportunity to discuss what CMA was about. I remember very well when I told Rich I had decided to join, we were sitting on a cooler at Summersville Days in the summer of 08. He said, "Well you have taken enough time about doing it! So tell me, which ministry are you going to take?" When I told him the youth he just smiled and said, "that's what I've been praying for." That's just an example of what the chapter meant to him. This chapter was very important to Rich and he took it to heart! He was one of the core members and an officer from the start. Even when things didn't go so well with the chapter he never gave up. He told me several different times that he had thought about just quitting because you can't please hardly anybody! Then he told me he couldn't, the good Lord wouldn't let him do it. "Because I first have to please the Lord! That is called obedience, dedication and the will to serve," and he did just that.

The last thing he did with the chapter was the Greensburg Christmas Parade. He rode thru the parade with Anita, while steering Miss Abigail (little blue golf cart) that he named after his beautiful granddaughter that in his eyes, "Hung the Moon." He had the Vision Riders banner in tow behind the cart, going from one side of the street to the other giving the little ones candy. He as always was smiling from ear to ear enjoying himself as they rode thru the crowded streets, waving and greeting people. When someone would speak he would say, like he always did: "well hey there brother." He went out a winner too, we were voted first place in the civic division. Of course in the newspaper was a picture and yes there was that big ole smile.

Well friends I could write on and on about Richard because he and I had a lot of good times since 2006 and I will cherish those memories dearly and I'll see him again. One more thing, as someone would say.

One of the last things Richard did was install the lights on my Kaw and they are shining brighter than ever. Thanks for everything you did Richard Durham and your light my friend will always shine bright. Little did I know in 2006 that God would give me such a friend as Richard.

I will never ever forget the very "High Honor" I had by riding Richard's very "bright & shiny" silver Yamaha 1100 V-Star in Richard's last ride.

When we arrived at the cemetery I parked the bike as close to his grave as I could, while all the others rode by. I had chill bumps from head to toe as they passed one by one looking over at their brothers V-Star. When the hearse got there I wanted to go help take Rich to the grave but I just couldn't pull myself away from his V-Star. Thanks Rich for an awesome ride that I will never forget.

Love ya Brother! See ya later Rich,
Tommy Watkins

Vision Riders Newsletter, December 2011

CMA chapters and other groups from all over the state came out to honor Richard.



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Words From Our Road Captain



As you know Christmas is just around the corner. It's hard to get in the spirit when so much has gone on in these last few months. With our loss of Richard all of us have lost someone dear to us. But with his passing we all should find some comfort in knowing that Richard is with our Lord and Savior looking down on each and everyone of us. As the new year approaches I am praying for our new leaders in our chapter. I also pray that each and every one of us give them the same respect as you all have given me. I loved being your road captain and I thank all of you for helping me out when I needed it. Merry Christmas to each and every one of you. May God Bless and keep all of you safe.

Your R.C.
Redneck



Here, Richard takes a break while helping Vann & Valarie get ready to move.



Here is Richard preparing our CMA banner for the Greensburg Christmas parade.