



Vision Riders



September 2017 Newsletter

Events Report

8/5 Firefighters Burn Run

The first Brothers Keepers burn run went off with no issues as we rode from Campbellsville to Columbia to Edmonton to Glasgow to Sulphur Wells to Greensburg and back to the American Legion post. There, a meal was served and an auction was held. This was to raise money for youngsters with burn injuries so they could attend summer camp. There was a good crowd and for a great cause. *Dan Hayes*

8/6 Lake Service

Psalms 90:14 says: "satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days."

August 6th, 2017 is a day that will forever be remembered by some and happily forgotten by others! After much discussion, many sleepless nights, changing directions and multiple practice sessions where the laughter was abundant, ladies from Vision Riders led the worship service at Green River Lake campground. The "cantata" was presented to the gathering of approximately 60 worshipers and was the ladies interpretation of several children Bible songs. The group, humorously known as G.G.S. was composed of 7 ladies: Robin Gearhardt, Cyndi Leslie, Diane Taylor, Jamie Morris, Anita Durham, Linda Hayes and Delores Mack. We interpreted songs such as Deep and Wide and This Little Light of Mine. The crowd expressed the joy as they participated in The Jesus Hokey Pokey. "Sista" Robin Gearhardt opened the worship with prayer and then brought the devotion. As the Sistas took the stage there was quite a bit of laughter from the audience as the ladies were dressed as small children with large adult arms; you had to be there to appreciate the humor. We appreciate the help from our stage crew and those who assisted in the audio and many critiques of our performance. We pray that God received the glory from our antics. We have been asked to perform this again in an upcoming church visit, so if you missed it the first time you have an opportunity to share in the joy we had in putting all this together.

Note: *At another event our ladies sponsored, this comment was overheard: "I didn't know Christians could have this much fun." This is proof that God loves for us to have joy in our lives and should make us more*

aware of how we are perceived by the secular groups to which we minister.

Linda Hayes



8/12 St. Jude Charity Ride

We had been working to make this ride a big event to insure we were able to donate as much as possible to the St Jude hospital.

Sadly, we had some rain come through in the morning before the event, which, as we all know, will really cut down on the participation in any motorcycle event. Attendance was good but I was expecting a larger crowd. There were 35 bikes and I am not sure of the number of people but it was a fair turnout for the weather conditions.

We rode to Lebanon and got on 49 and headed toward Liberty. Everything was going smoothly until we had a driver in a car pass and cut into the line of bikes. This as you can imagine was very dangerous. But it was handled and we continued with our event.

We traveled to Liberty and back to the American Legion pole barn where we tallied our monies for the event and ate. Melissa Mardis and Diane Taylor cooked and set up the food and they did an outstanding job. Anita Durham worked the sign booth at the ride and Dan and Linda Hayes worked on advertising and organizing the event. I am sure I am leaving out someone, but it was a team effort. As of the time I am writing this article we have raised a little over \$600 from the ride and then, adding the money from the yard sale and other donations, we are going to send more than \$1500 to St Jude. Good job Vision Riders! *Ron Mardis*

Editors Note: Sometimes it is hard to know exactly what a charity does that we support through our rides. St. Jude Hospital may sound like some big medical facility that helps kids and everyone is for that. Just recently, I learned that a family from my church has a 7 yr. old daughter that has a cancerous tumor on her brain. They were told that it was fatal and inoperable. Of course, requests for prayer went out for the little girl.

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Along with prayer, the family was given a glimmer of hope. Their daughter was admitted to St. Jude where their specialty is cancer in children. This is at no cost to them along with a free temporary hotel room for the family and then lodging at the Ronald McDonald House® for the long haul. Treatment is underway. Something like this gives us a look at what they do and what the money we raise is used for.

8/12 Raptor's Toy Ride

It was a good day for a ride. Theresa and I met up with Lisa in Lebanon and headed to Perryville for the Raptors annual toy run. We arrived a little early, which enabled us to meet and chat with some old friends and met new ones. Sign-ups were at the Legion which, believe it or not, was also the starting point of the ride. There were lots of people and several MCs present.

The ride began at the Legion and headed toward Springfield as the first stop. God provided us with some great weather and I could sense His presence there with us also. We were somewhere in the middle of the pack, which consisted of 215 bikes; when the line was stretched out it was a marvelous sight, bikes as far as you could see. After arriving at our first stop and waiting the mandatory 30 minutes, we took off for our second stop in Loretto. Again, there were no hitches or problems and the oncoming traffic was polite enough (or maybe a little scared) that they would slow down and pull off or over or both to allow us safe passage.

Once we arrived in Loretto we stopped for the 30 minute break and snack stop, which were free hot dogs and beans (extra fuel of course). We then proceeded to our next stop in Lebanon. On the way, there was a little mishap with a biker. Some of the Raptors stopped and the others continued to lead us to the next stop in Lebanon. After checking the whereabouts of each other and friends, prayers were being said for the downed biker. In a little while, here comes the rescue truck with and rider in tow. It seems that the girl ran off the road and banged her nose on the windshield. She stated she was fine and refused to go to the hospital and finished the ride although it was via rescue truck.

We then finished the ride at the legion, where more food and drink was provided. Lisa had the third best hand which meant that she didn't win but it was close. We then ate our meal and talked with friends and others while we anxiously awaited to win our door prizes. We won a cap and a car wash---whoohooo! They said that there 215 bikes and 342 people on the

ride. God was there; He kept us safe and gave us some good weather to ride. Also want to give a shout out to the Raptors for a well organized run. *Mitch Collings*



8/19 Pitman Lodge Benefit Ride

The first Pitman Lodge Good Works Ride was off to a good start until about 2 miles out of town and a new rider to our community had some bike issues. His front brake calipers both locked up and put his and his wife in the ditch. The wife was relatively unhurt but Rodney suffered a broken ankle. Other than that incident the ride went off with no further hitches. We traveled about 100 miles and there was a good attendance and a nice amount of money was raised to be used by the lodge to promote good works in the community. *Dan Hayes*

8/26 Chapter Bike Games



This year was my first to attend and participate in bike games. I know everyone that I saw had a really good time visiting with each other and several members of other chapters that came in for the games and fellowship.

We had several visitors including our KY CMA State coordinator Curtis Daniels and his wife Theresa. Mike and Theresa Walden, our area representative were there too. We also had representatives from the Vette City Disciples out of Bowling Green, The Derby City Disciples out of Louisville, and the Bluegrass

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Believers from Lexington. One bike was blessed and good food and fellowship was shared by all.

The games went well with several different winners and some unique ways to play them learned by many. I think my favorite all the way around had to be the "big panty" race which was won by Skip Lesslie and Julz Austin. Daniel Taylor won the board race and Rod Hoffman won the slow ride. Melanie and Dale Forney out of Lexington won the water balloon toss, tennis ball race, and Dale won the ping-pong ride. Keith and Jamie Morris won the pin the diaper on the clothesline race. Tom and Judy Skaggs brought the most people to the ride on one bike with me, myself, and I.

I am thankful to be blessed to get to attend these events and enjoyed the many new experiences with my newfound brothers and sisters at the Vision Riders. *Diane Taylor*



9/1-9/3 Roads and Trails Rally

This was Kentucky's first CMA Roads and Trails Rally. Joey and Trisha Borders did an amazing job! This was mine and Mitch's 2nd roads and trails rally attended. We have fallen in love with this rally. It's unlike any other CMA rally. The atmosphere is so relaxing and laid back. The only thing scheduled is the time to go on the rides. We met up with some old friends from last years CMA 5th Region Rally and made several new friends this year. Merizdo Ministries is a huge part of this area. It includes Solomon's Porch, Lamp House Coffee, Black Mountain Exchange (a convenience store), Shekinah Village, and The Stables at Creekside Glen. The co-founders are Lonnie and Belinda Riley. We could set and listen to them for hours. You could see God all over this couple. When they arrived in 1999 this area was dying economically and the miracles performed by God in this area to revive it is completely astonishing. All I can say is our weekend in the area was completely soul refreshing! *Theresa Collings*



Words from the President

Hello again Vision Riders, I just want to let you know that this chapter is making a difference in the community. Last week I received 2 calls from local organizations asking if we could help them out. The first call was from the Taylor County Fire Department asking if we would help with their annual toy run. This event will allow 500 kids to have a Christmas; without this event, they would not have anything for Christmas.

I knew that our members would not allow these children to suffer through a Christmas with no toys. I immediately went to the other officers and we agreed to help. The event will be held on September 23rd. I know that is the same weekend as the Harley drags but, with our group of dedicated members I am confident we can cover both events.

About 2 hours later I received a call from the local Relay for Life coordinator asking if we could help them with their annual event and organize a ride and bike show on October the 7th. There will be many

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other things going on with Relay for Life the same day. There will be a car show and other things to raise money to fight cancer. Cancer touches almost everyone in one way or another and if we can contribute in some way to help we should.

As you know, we have had a very busy year and the busiest August I can remember. I am asking you to pray about it and if you can assist in these functions please do. We can use all the help we can get.

Thank you all for your dedication to our ministries and the work we do to help support our local communities and, most of all, for sowing seeds to lead people to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. God bless you all!

Ron Mardis



Dan's Thoughts

What makes your home different from your neighbors?

Sometimes people become confused/dismayed when our daily walk doesn't show that the God we serve causes us to be different.

We must choose a lifestyle that sets us apart from the world and tells them we have a relationship with our God. We are to actively pursue living holy lives. We are **set apart by God for His purposes and everything we do reflects on Him**. On a daily basis we need to let go of the things that distract us from the Lord.

Our lost brethren in the biker world often speak of freedom. To some of them, this simply means the right to rebel against God. We need to show them a freedom that leads to peace from God. Show them that a life yielded to God results in the joy of having peace that can be found nowhere else. We can do this through the great power from God that shows we are alive in Jesus.

I suppose that most of us would like to "take shortcuts" when it comes to living a set apart life. Sometimes we might ask, "how can I just get by as a Christian"? Joshua 24 calls for the people to choose whom they will serve. There is a patch that says "As for me and my bike we will serve the Lord". **Let's all be active in being in the world but not of the world.** God asks us all to live differently from the world. Let's

choose to live so that anyone can answer the opening question with responses that says God lives in them.

I hope and pray someone besides me needed this.

Dan Hayes

