



# Vision Riders



## October 2017 Newsletter

### From Our Chaplin

#### A permanent attitude in a temporary world.

Like me, you probably can name several people who have seemingly invested their everything into this world. You may, in some aspect of your life, be among them; it's so easy to get wrapped up in our own interests.

I can sit down with my "favorites" list and as I pour over what I love about this life and what brings me joy. I can't help but to smile because these are the things of this world that make me happy, my joys and prized possessions.

But no matter how much I love these things they will not go when I do, they will be left behind. Like so many before us, we will leave our treasures into the hands of those that see them as mere trinkets. We have no guarantee that the next generation will prize these things like we do and, before long, what we have placed so much value on will be gone, like dust in the wind.

As Christians we need to find more permanent treasures, we need to invest in people, family and otherwise. I am certain that the greater majority of us have no idea what Great Grandma's favorite bowl or most prized picture was or Great Grandpas most cherished pastime or hobby. I am sure we don't know their favorite foods, colors or seasons. We don't remember their greatest fears and disappointments but we can see that they, or in some cases someone else in their stead, did invest in our Grandparent who invested in our parents who invested in us, things like work ethic, attitude, manners, respect and the greatest thing anyone can instill in their family, a love for Jesus.

You see the greatest gift we can give is how we help shape those around us, we shape our children and family, our friends and coworkers, we can have a lasting legacy that can not be destroyed if we leave a legacy of love in Jesus Christ.

**"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."**

Mat. 6:19-21,ESV

It's our duty to break the worldly mold that our society has created. We need to help those around us understand that their permanent ideology will not get them past this temporary world.

Brothers and sisters: invest in those around you, forgive, love and serve and we will find ourselves building a legacy that will benefit the world.

Yours in Christ, *Dave Gerhardt*

### Events Report

#### **9/8 - 9/10 CMA State Rally**

Mitch and I attended the KY CMA State Rally September 8-10. We went down early Friday morning to help get everything set up. When we all finished getting everything ready we went to Little Dave's Steakhouse to eat. We had a group of about 20. One of the first things I noticed when we walked in was a framed picture of the Ten Commandments.

After our meal, Curtis Daniels asked the owner if any of them needed us to pray for them and the entire staff came out. We formed a circle, held hands, and had prayer in the middle of the restaurant.

At that night's service we had staff and kids visiting us from the Rough River Youth Ranch. On Saturday morning the youth at Glad Tidings Christian Church cooked breakfast for us to help raise funds for their ministry. They did a great job!

Our Saturday ride was a trip to visit all the kids at the Rough River Youth Ranch. What an amazing group of young people and some of their stories is just heart breaking. We let them take pictures sitting on our bikes and they gave us tours of the ranch. They had a cookout for all of us.

Saturday afternoon, around 3 PM, was the bike games. Everyone had a lot of fun, the participants and also the spectators. The air was filled with the sounds of bikes and laughter!

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Our National Evangelist for Region 5 is Peter Helgerson from New Hampshire. He had some powerful messages throughout the weekend. If you ever get the opportunity, you should attend a state event to meet Peter and his wife Connie. Mitch and I both feel very uplifted every time we hear Peter's message. We have come to love both of them dearly. Sunday was the last day of the rally and Curtis brought that morning's message. It was a weekend full of fun, riding, friendship, singing, worship, laughter, and tears. I can't wait until next year!

*Theresa Collings*



### 9/23 Fire Department Toy Run

We gathered at the parking lot just across from the AT&T store for the ride. The importance of this ride to the community is paramount. Without this event and some others around the community, 500 children would not have any presents on Christmas morning. Lisa Harris at the Fire Department schedules these events and does a wonderful job. She contacted us about having the ride and as our motto says: "We are here when you need us." They needed our help. Dan, Skip and I rode the route we had chosen early Saturday to be sure everything was clear for the event.

We had 25 riders and we had 4 of the Iron Horsemen come by and make a donation to the cause. They could not ride with us because they had another commitment but it was great that they took time to come by. The ride went well with no issues.

Dan and Linda, Skip, Tommy Watkins, Bear, Jim Shuffett and myself made up the group of Vision Riders that were there to help. When we returned to the Fire House, Lisa and her group had some lunch prepared for us. I am not sure as to the amount of money raised but I think it was around \$350 dollars.

*Ron Mardis*



### 9/24 Steel Horse Stampede

On Sunday, Sept. 24, Ron, Dan, Skip, Bear, Danny, Charles, and Gayle attended the Steel Horse Stampede Ride in Burkesville, KY. We attended the outdoor morning service and met with the CMA Cookeville, TN Chapter. Dan witnessed and counseled a gentleman before the ride.

The ride left Burkesville Baptist Church and stopped for cookies and drinks at the Wolf Creek Dam. After the break, several riders headed for home as it was a very hot day. The others returned to Burkesville High School where they were fed an awesome meal and participated in the auction.

The final count of bikes attending this year was down a little from last year, but still had a great turnout of 329 bikes.

*Skip Lesslie*

### 9/22 - 9/24 Harley Drags

Hello everybody, this is your rolling reporter coming to from the Holley Drags, formerly known as the Harley Drags. We arrived Sunday to stake out our campsite and it was a good thing we did, because the biker camping area was once again narrowed down to accommodate the migrant union workers' RVs. This meant that our favorite spot was moved inward about 3 rows which eliminated a lot of electric and water hook ups. You just had to camp out in the grassy fields.

Keith and I set up our handy dandy fancy time out campers that night. On Monday, I finished setting up my camper and pop-up and bought supplies such as ice and more ice, due to the extreme heat.

When Keith arrived from work we began to finish setting up his room when suddenly the wind picked up big time. We hailed another biker to help us hold it down then we noticed the pop-up flying across the camp ground. We retrieved it and staked it down and then it began to rain.

Oh well, it was what it was. On Tuesday and Wednesday we pretty much prepared the area for the upcoming drags and watched the mammoth RVs coming, trying to find a spot to camp. Where there's a will there's a way and they found it. By Friday morning the campground was filled up and extended into the overflow area near the track.

That night, biker's were test driving their bikes by riding around in circles along the roads. We kind of felt like a wagon train being circled by Indians. No bows or arrows just loud mufflers.

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When you're at a bike rally, there are also golf carts. Some of the carts were highly decorated with colorful beads, some with a few and some with a lot. The circling of the campers went on until the wee hours in the morning, oh well it is what it is.

On Saturday morning, we got up about 4 in the morning to prepare the coffee for the bathhouse area and, as usual, people were meeting us there to get some our special blend and hot coffee. This seemed to perk everyone up and they would hang around and chat a bit. This is always good. They talk about the night going ons, their bikes, other rallies, trips and friends. Some even tell us problems that they or someone they know may be having. Sometimes we even pray with them and ask God for his help. We also bless bikes. One guy said that he had his bike blessed a couple years ago and nothing bad happened, so he wanted to make sure that he got his new bike blessed.

While I was the bathhouse, Keith was at the campsite witnessing to him. After the coffee drinkers dwindled down, we packed up, got something to eat and then we watched the drag races. Later that evening we attended a biker service, brought to us by Rich Vreeland, a top fuel racer and race chaplain. The service was really good and afterwards we attended the baptism of 8 people. Originally I think only 3 were scheduled but others rededicated their life or were renting and wanted to be baptized. It was just wonderful and awesome.

Later, after the service, Keith was witnessing to the same man, who had been at the service and wanted to know more, and Keith obliged him.

On Sunday, we started out the same way as Saturday then we had a service at the race track, which was brought to the people by yours truly. These services are usually short due to racing begins early. Which was probably a good thing, but God doesn't need a lot to work with, he just needs us to pry the door open so that He can change their lives for the better.

As usual, it was a great weekend, good weather, no problems or major issues. It was just a bunch of people getting together, having a good time and acting silly and all the while God was there!

Gods servant, *Mitch Collings*.

Hey Keith are we off the air yet?



### 9/29 - 10/1 Men's Fall Ride

On Friday, we left Campbellsville about 7:30. It was a little cool but a beautiful day to ride while we traveled into Tennessee; the ride was great and the leaves had not turned color as much as I would have thought. We rode the Cherola Skyway and made our way to Mars Hill, with a few side trips and ended up spending the night after about 450 miles. We had a great devotional lead by Dan.

On Saturday, when we pulled out, it was about 45 degrees. We rode to Mountain City, where some clothing was removed for another great day for riding. We blessed some bikes and had prayer with the riders.

As we were eating lunch, I noticed a young couple with 2 small boys, before they ate, they had prayer and the oldest son prayed. God is good; we gave out some coins, and other things to the kids in Mickey Dee's.

We then traveled on some great roads and we all got to see majestic views of God's greatness. During the rest of the ride, we had a few side trips that was good for the soul. At the end of the day, we made it to the hotel and had another 300 miles or so under our belt.

On Sunday, after breakfast, we had a small devotional service and packed up and hit the road when it was about 40 degrees. I don't know about the others, but I had on everything!

We traveled a short distance and stopped for a warm-up, (this is where things got out of hand). When we left I had some bike problems and had to stop; we got separated from the others and got lost. We met back up with everyone in Hazard. (Big laughable moment.)

We traveled on and stopped at a few HD shops and had to make Dan leave. Is there a new bike in his future?

We stopped in Somerset for gas and water, had prayer because some of us split off at Columbia. Another Beautiful day to ride. This was a great time together, With God's people, and His creation!

*Jim Shuffett*

### Dan's Thoughts

*"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

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past month. We helped provide toys and/or money for the fire department in their striving to help make children's Christmas better. We had members that spent time at the Harley Drags ministering to the physical and spiritual needs of the biker community. I saw compassion in the hearts of our men as we blessed bikes, gave out Bibles and gave items to children on that ride.

Remember, Jesus said that if we did things to aid his creation we were doing it to Him. 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.

The months of October (nominations) and November (elections) are very important times for a CMA chapter, as we select the leaders for the Vision Riders for 2018. I pray that each of you will pray for, and ask God's guidance in choosing people for 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. 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 Hayes*



## From The Editor

For those of you that have written things in this newsletter that don't see your picture below what you wrote, it means that I don't have one. If you wish to have it in future issues, please send one to me via email.

Here is a non related subject for my fellow military veterans. For those of you that did a single tour or less than a full career that got you PX privileges, here is some good information. It seems that all honorably discharged vets will now be able to shop the PX online. Click this link for details:

<http://www.aafes.com/about-exchange/public-affairs/press-releases.htm>

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### October:

Mitch & Theresa Collings	10/23
Chris Foreman	10/27
Keith Morris	10/22
Jamie Morris	10/31

### November:

Herbie Goff	11/28
Harry Mack	11/17/47
Delores Mack	11/13
Shane Moore	11/28
Phillip Benningfield	11/27
Scott & Kathy Wheeler	11/20