



Vision Riders



December 2017 Newsletter

Some Thoughts From Dan

I know some of you will notice that this is basically a repeat of the article I wrote a few years ago. I thought about what to say and I cannot think of anything better to say that what I penned then, so for the older ones here is a repeat.

We are in what I believe is the greatest time of the year. This season brings "joy to the world"; there seems to be hope in the eyes of almost everyone, as we try to show our love to each other in gift giving. We as Christians *know* where this comes from. It is from the greatest gift that was ever given: the gift of Jesus to a dying world. This means not only sharing Jesus but also showing the world His love by being radical in sharing our love to others. This will be just a sample of the radical love of God given to us.

As I write this, my last article as president (at that time) of our chapter, I think about the future of our chapter. Our chapter will be different next year as we have new leadership as our officer team. With all my heart I pray that our new officer team will be given the support and help I was given this year. I pledge my support to them by openly agreeing to pray for them and be willing to do what is asked of me as they lead us into a new era.

I have my last wish list for our chapter:

1. That next year we will show in a more radical way the love of God to those we minister to.
2. That we will continue to be led by God, only do what we leads us to do, to do nothing unless it bring glory to God, and to love each other as the first church did.
3. That we keep a single minded purpose for our chapter.
4. That we always remember we are at war with Satan and don't let our guard down to allow him or his demons to enter into our group.
5. Remember that as long as we love God with all our hearts, minds, and bodies *and* love our neighbors as ourselves we are doing God's will and are showing the world who we really are.

One more thing:

Thanks to all of you for your prayers the past year and for giving me the privilege to be a part of what I believe is a group of people who love God, love sharing God with the world and who truly want to "change the world one heart at a time".

Dan Hayes

Vision Rider Bell Ringers



Birthdays & Anniversaries In December:

Dave Gerhardt	12/4
Daniel Taylor	12/20
Tommy & Angie Watkins	12/31

Our 2018 Officers

President:	Ron Mardis
Vice President:	Dan Hayes
Secretary:	Cyndi Lesslie
Treasurer:	Jamie Morris
Road Captain:	Keith Morris
RFS Secretary:	Diane Taylor



Vision Riders



December 2017 Newsletter

The Greatest Gift

© 1994 by Harry Mack

As it is the custom in the Western world, to give gifts at the end of the year, I wonder if, through the hustle and bustle, people know the reason very clear. They fight in the stores to get the last of the latest toys that are the rage. They speed and cut off others on the roads, acting like someone half their age. You hear about the Christmas spirit and how everyone is so nice to each other. On the surface, it may look nice and sweet, supposedly caring about your brother. But, before the year comes to an end, all is forgotten and it's back to the same thing. Put it to the other guy; get yours first and race ahead to reach out for that golden ring. If a gift is given, is it because you feel obligated or want to show your wealth? Is it out of love that you gave it or was it to maintain your status and your health? How many children know that Christmas is about the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord? How many adults acknowledge Christ and learn His will by reading it in His Word? When was the first gift given that is the cause for the holiday activities known today? I can tell you that it wasn't from three wise men, like some of the songs do say. This gift was given before there was time and in love like no man can express. It is the gift of eternal life and came from God, the Father, I must truly confess. To give this gift, God sent His only Son to humiliate Himself taking on the flesh of man. His entrance was not into splendor, but into conditions spelled out in God's holy plan. The Son lived a life knowing hunger, pain and temptation, doing it so perfect and pure. What an example for us all to follow, think of the humiliation He had to always endure. He lived His life, teaching, healing and setting the target for everyone to hit. Of course, the Word says, everyone misses the mark; you'd better believe it. For those chosen not because of who they are or what they have done, will hit the bulls eye, because the Father sees only His righteous, perfect Son. Yes, He gave something priceless that will last forever to the end of time. Something that, when left to their own means, men will reject in kind. Something that takes His Holy Spirit to clear eyes blinded by a veil of sin. Something that takes those from another family and makes them one of kin. Eternal life is the greatest gift that knows no boundaries of time or space. This gift has been received by many in different times and in most any place. So, I ask you, have I made my point to you so you can see the light? Have you yielded to Him that gives the greatest gift or do you still put up a fight? I can't speak for you, but I accepted His gift and rejoice in His eternal love. Thank you, Father, for your greatest gift, sent from Heaven above.

Check our web page: www.visionriders.org for latest details on the Polar Bear Ride and other events.