

10 years of serving Christ

REDEMPTION



RIDERS
On the open Road

Riding Free

A publication of Redemption Riders Motorcycle Ministry

Volume 11, Issue 55

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*"To ride free in Christ
and lead others into
this true freedom."*

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Things to Remember:

- Bikers for Bethany Ride—
Saturday, Sept. 10
- Skyline Church Crash—
Sunday, Sept. 11
- Vitale's Pizza, Zeeland—
Fundraiser for Barnabas,
Monday, Sept. 19, 4-8
p.m.
- West Mich Color Tour—
Saturday, October 8
- Mid-Mich Color Tour—
Sunday, October 16

CHANGE!

By Pastor Don DeVlieger Jr.

As wrinkles continue to invade my face there is one thing I am learning—that I like to stay the same! It is easier to loiter in the same rut day after day than to make any changes. However change is a must if we are going to experience any increase in the quality of our lives. So we see a paradigm here: don't change and be comfortable or do change and increase! No matter how hard our bodies and minds want to stay the same the right answer is obvious - I must change! The nature of beast must be broken so we can experience growth and a richer life style.

*The only
constant in life
is change.*

The Greek philosopher Heraclitus said, "The only constant in life is change." That means no matter how hard we try to stop change from accruing it inevitably will break through all our boundaries and happen regardless. The fact is—if we attempt to defy change it will happen anyways and make us miserable. However if we embrace it, we may feel disquieted for a time but it will not devastate us in our resistance and it will produce greater results.

In the Good Book, St. Paul says, "The one thing I do is *forget the past* and *press on* towards the prize of the upward call of God." St. Paul recognized the crippling effect of the status quo, the same 'ol same 'ol has on people. To never change is to never grow and to never grow is to never increase. We must grow to increase the quality of our life. Grow in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus!

One thing that will help us change is to secure a vision for the future. A vision energizes us, gives us direction and a greater sense of being or reason to exist! Without a vision or reason to move forward we always revert backward to the standard that governs or has governed our lives in the past. Do not settle for mediocrity, the status quo, or any complacent, second-rate state of existence! Go for the gusto and make that alteration and I promise you; you will increase if you continue to press into the future via the vision God has put in your heart!

May God's best overtake you as your face cuts into the wind and your exhaust curls in the past!



Reaching Out

That is the question—WHO CAN YOU REACH FOR THE KINGDOM? Jesus said in Matthew 9: 37-38, *the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.* Have you asked God lately what He would have you do to reach those people around you? Have you asked Him how to do it? We all have something, a talent or gift that God has given us. Even those things you enjoy doing can be used for the kingdom.

Psalms 100:3 says, *Know ye that the Lord He is God: it is He that has made us, and not we ourselves, we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.* God has made us and knows the things that bring us pleasure. I'm a father of 4, with 5 grandchildren, and it brings me joy when I see my children and grandchildren doing those things that they enjoy and are good at. When we as God's people are using the gifts He has given us or doing the things we enjoy—we feel good and have a peace about us. This is a time to witness, a time to share with those who don't know God's Love.

God put a love of riding into my heart, and for years I just rode and enjoyed it, not giving much thought as to the reason why I enjoyed it so much. But God opened my spiritual eyes as to why that desire to ride is there. It's there to reach those unsaved, lost, and helpless people.

For 17 years I was lost and addicted to drugs and alcohol. I rode from bar to bar and spent days on the road riding while under the influence of drug and alcohol. God's hand was on me even while I was living for the Devil. Not only was I living for the Devil, I was living like the Devil. I rode with some rough guys and went out of my way to hurt people.

The Bible says in Matthew 6:24, *No one can serve two masters, either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.* Thank God I had a praying soul—what a blessing! Now I'm serving my real Father and His word says I'm a new creature, old things have passed away. PRAISE GOD! Now that I've been saved for over 22 years, I can look at the old things that have passed away and use them to witness and minister to the lost and unsaved.

The question still remains—who can you reach? If your past didn't include drugs or alcohol, then I'd be willing to bet that there's something that you have overcome. That something can be used by God through you to help others. Revelations 12:11 speaks this: *And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.* The Bible says that by the word of our testimony we overcome, and we can help other people overcome by sharing our experiences with them. Don't be religious about it either, just be real, and be a friend to them.

You'll be surprised how easy it is to share Christ with others, when you do it in a way that only you can do it. Be yourself and be honest, God will never forsake you. He made you and knows you, and God will use you the way you can be used, so don't fret—just do it.



Ride free In Christ....Harley James

5th Annual Muskegon Bike Time a Success!

It was hot. It was sunny. But it was a weekend filled with an estimated 90,000 visitors and 35,000 bikes. And as soon as the streets were cleared and vendors were packed up, next year's dates were tentatively set for July 20-22, 2012.

According to the Indianapolis-based company that has promoted the event for the past three years, Muskegon Bike Time is one of the fastest growing events of its kind—comparing it to Sturgis and Daytona which have been around for years.

Redemption Riders were there—thanks to all who came to the booth, walked the streets, rode in the Mayor's ride, attended the free concerts and participated in the Sunday church service.



GR's finest Street Bike stunt motorcycle team wowed the crowds.



Mayor's Ride Lineup of 230 bikes. Photo by Hot Rod Harley Davidson



A group of youth from McDonald's were passing out free drink cards and stopped by to hear about our ministry. Each took one of our salvation cards and shared in this photo at left.

Barnabas Ride for Runaways Raises Awareness

The 10th Annual Ride for Runaways was held Saturday, July 30, 2011. With 59 bikes and 85 people in attendance, the hot, sunny day was filled with nodding heads and giving hearts when hearing about the statistics of teens in Ottawa County that won't have a safe place to sleep this coming year. Over \$8,900 in sponsorships and donations was raised to support the Barnabas House Project—a 12 room facility that is expected to break ground in early 2012 on 25 acres donated by VictoryPoint Church in Holland.



Blessings were abound when a helmet was passed and collected \$859 in donations that will directly support teenage girls' ability to start the first day of school dressed for success. Thank you to all who came, who gave and who continue to pray for these youth.



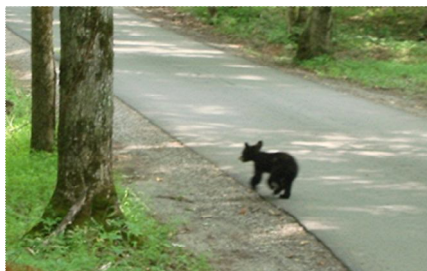
The Smokies—Mel & Shelly Plockmeyer

The view on the road through the Smoky Mountains is just incredible. It runs alongside a rock filled river the whole way. We enjoyed riding the Cherohala Skyway, the Foothills Parkway, US 129 "The Tail of the Dragon", State Road 71 to Cherokee, NC, and State Road 28, The Little River Road and Clingman's Dome Road.

One of the sites to see in the National Park is Cades Cove – a settlement from the early 1800's. While riding the 11 mile loop through the settlement you can see much wildlife. We had the privilege of seeing a momma black bear with 3 cubs amble across the road in front of us. A whole group of us were out walking around, taking pictures and she didn't even give us a second look. WOW is the only word that comes to mind.

We climbed to the top of Clingman's Dome. We were told it was a half mile walk on a paved pathway up to a lookout tower – what they forgot to tell us was it was almost a 400' increase in elevation in a half mile...in motorcycle gear (we got more than a few looks). We were also given directions to a waterfall that was back off the beaten path. She said when the pavement ends you have about 2 miles of gravel. We decided to try it since most of the gravel in Tennessee is crushed rock anyway. Well the 2 miles turned out to be 7 miles and then about a 10 minute walk up a trail (again in motorcycle gear) but boy was it worth it – what beautiful waterfalls.

It was just breathtaking to be able to spend 4 days out in God's creation. Just in awe of His marvelous handiwork (and wondering why we couldn't have just a few of those mountains in Michigan!) We know a lot of you have already been to the Smoky Mountains, but if you haven't – you need to put it at the top of your list!

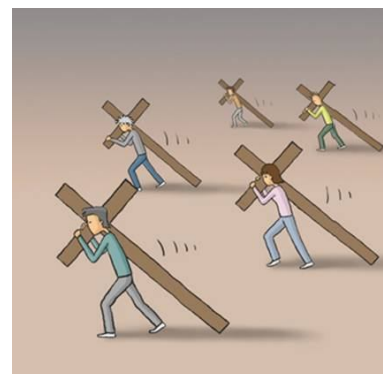


***BE BLESSED &
BE A BLESSING
TO OTHERS!***



YOUR CROSS

Whatever your cross
Whatever your pain
There will always be sunshine.
After the rain
Perhaps you may stumble
Perhaps even fall
But God's always there
To help you through it all.



Nothing is given to man on earth – struggle is built into the nature of life, and conflict is possible.

The hero is the man who lets no obstacle prevent him from pursuing the values he has chosen.

~ Andrew Bernstein

Contact Information:

www.redemption-riders.org

info@redemption-riders.org

Newsletter Editor: Diana Mavis
diana@redemption-riders.org

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Jonathan Livingston Seagull a story

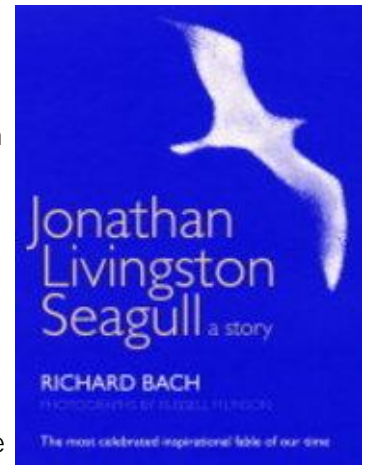
Part One of the book finds young Jonathan Livingston frustrated with the meaningless materialism and conformity and limitation of the seagull life. He is seized with a passion for flight of all kinds, and his soul soars as he experiments with exhilarating challenges of daring and triumphant aerial feats. Eventually, his lack of conformity to the limited seagull life leads him into conflict with his flock, and they turn their backs on him, casting him out of their society and exiling him. Not deterred by this, Jonathan continues his efforts to reach higher and higher flight goals, finding he is often successful but eventually he can fly no higher. He is then met by two radiant, loving seagulls who explain to him that he has learned much, and that they are there now to teach him more.

In **Part Two**, Jonathan transcends into a society where all the gulls enjoy flying. He is only capable of this after practicing hard alone for a long time (described in the first part). In this other society, real respect emerges as a contrast of the coercive force that was keeping the former "Breakfast Flock" together. The learning process, linking the highly experienced teacher and the diligent student, is raised into almost sacred levels, suggesting that this may be the true relation between human and God. Because of this, each has been described as believing that human and God, regardless of the all immense difference, are sharing something of great importance that can bind them together: "You've got to understand that a seagull is an unlimited idea of freedom, an image of the Great Gull." He realizes that you have to be true to yourself: "You have the freedom to be yourself, your true self, here and now, and nothing can stand in your way".

In **Part Three** of the book are the last words of Jonathan's teacher: " Keep working on love." Through his teachings, Jonathan understands that the spirit cannot be really free without the ability to forgive, and that the way to progress leads—for him, at least—through becoming a teacher, not just through working hard as a student. Jonathan returns to the Breakfast Flock to share his newly discovered ideals and the recent tremendous experience, ready for the difficult fight against the current rules of that society. The ability to forgive seems to be a mandatory "passing condition."

"Do you want to fly so much that you will forgive the Flock, and learn, and go back to them one day and work to help them know?" Jonathan asks his first student, Fletcher Lynd Seagull, before getting into any further talks. The idea that the stronger can reach more by leaving the weaker friends behind seems totally rejected.

Hence, love, deserved respect, and forgiveness all seem to be equally important to the freedom from the pressure to obey the rules just because they are commonly accepted. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jonathan_Livingston_Seagull



*People are gathered around, chatting and enjoying the day in St. Ignace. Bored with the simplistic nature of the day, John shares a story he once heard that seagulls would eat anything, including Alka Seltzer placed in bread, which would then have an undesirable affect on the bird. "Let's get some," he says. Mardee, who loves all God's creatures, in her effort to protect the poor birds, takes away John's motorcycle keys, attached to a leather cross, and tosses them across the grass. The seagull, who **will eat anything**, scoops down and picks them up and flies over Lake Huron while on-lookers, some horrified and others laughing profusely at the sight of those "chasing" the bird, finally watch as the bird comes to rest on the roof of the 2nd story, K Royale Hotel we are staying at. Maintenance crews retrieve the key, of which there was a spare in John's pocket. ...Yep, love and forgiveness. There are lessons to be learned.*



Mid-Michigan Ride Schedule

September

Sun 4th MMRR ride– Hastings
 Tue 13th MMRR meeting
 Sun 18th MMRR ride– Lowell

October

Sun 2nd MMRR ride– Clarksville
 Tue 11th MMRR meeting
 Sun 16th MMRR Color Ride—Meet at OCC
 @1:30pm

November

Tue 8th MMRR meeting

Meet Location Sunday Rides

Speedway Station@ M66 & M50 @ 3 pm
**Times are subject to change depending
 on destination**

**Chapter meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of
 each month at 6:30 pm at
 Outreach Christian Church, 7831 N.
 Jordan Lake, Lake Odessa, MI 48849**

**For information contact:
 mmcinfo@redemption-riders.org**



Mid-Michigan has welcomed several new members this summer. Pictured left is President, Scott Thatcher, welcoming Jay and Carrie Pratt in May. Suzie and Bob McWilliams also joined.



The **Big Ticket Festival** on June 25 had MMRR leading and following marathon runners and reaching out to concert-goers.

On July 3 MMRR had a booth at the **Art in the Park** event in Lake Odessa, sharing the ministry objectives with the community.

Biker Sunday was held at the Outreach Christian Church in Lake Odessa on Sunday, August 14th. It was well attended and included many members from West Michigan chapter. Shown top left is the group praying before departing on a ride to the Gun Lake area.



Mid-Mich Chapter participated in the **Blessing of the Bikers in Carson City** June (shown right). The day included fellowship and a picnic lunch.

CHAPTER CORNER

West Michigan members have also been busy this summer. In addition to our own sponsored events and rides, we keep membership up to date with various opportunities and motorcycle related activities in the area.



June 2011—members attended the **Fallen Biker Rally Memorial Ride** event at Ottawa County Fairgrounds where proceeds benefited the families of fallen bikers. May God bless you all.



June 26—**Church Crash** event at **Robinson Grace Church**. Pictured top left are new members Mark and Sandy Tanis who attended the beautiful morning ride to Grand Haven.

West Mi said goodbye to Doug Johnson, pictured left, who moved to Farmington, New Mexico for employment and to build his dream solar, earth-shelter home. Good Luck Doug—God *is* on your side.



West Michigan Ride Schedule

September

| | | |
|---------|-----|-------------------------|
| Sept 6 | Tue | Dorr |
| Sept 10 | Tue | Bikers for Bethany Ride |
| Sept 13 | Tue | Borculo |
| Sept 20 | Tue | Jenison |
| Sept 27 | Tue | Drenthe |

October

| | | |
|-------|-----|-------------------|
| Oct 8 | Sat | Color Tour |
|-------|-----|-------------------|

Chapter Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month. J's Again, 430 W Washington, Zeeland

**For information contact:
wmcinfo@redemption-riders.org**

TUESDAY NIGHT RIDES

Meet Location: 48th Ave. and Port Sheldon St.
Mobil Station. Meet at 6:45 p.m.



August 19, 2011 marked the **25th Silver Anniversary of the Midnight Ride** which benefits Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Although not a RRMM event, there were 28 of us lined up along the St. Ignace roadway to watch the parade of lights. Up at dawn cleaning bikes, fires at night, sharing timeless stories and creating lasting memories—a great time was had by all. On Saturday a group rode and took the ferry over to Drummond Island. Sunday we had breakfast as a group. Truly great fun!



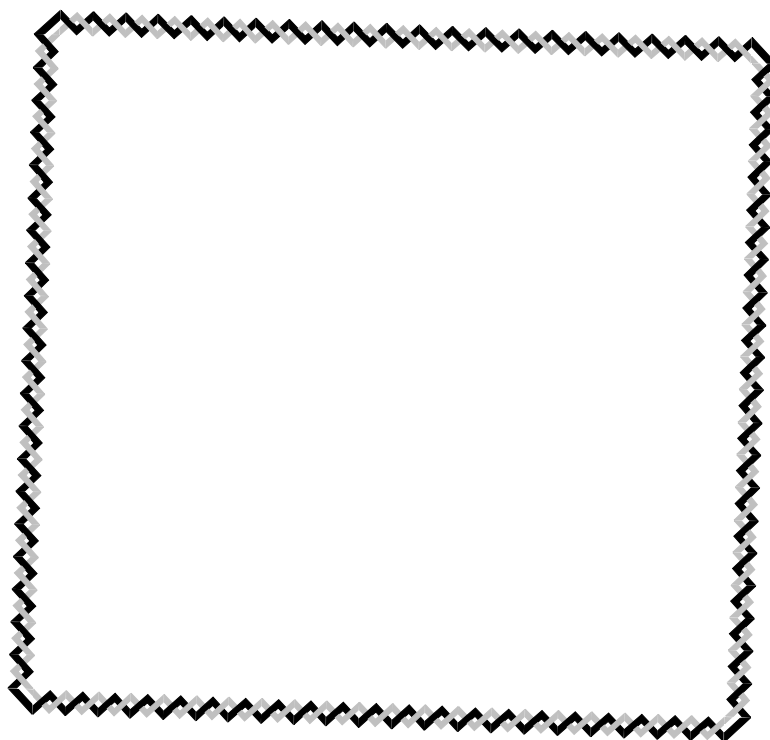
**Celebrating 10 Years of
Riding for Christ**

Redemption Riders
Motorcycle Ministry
7041 Pingree, Allendale, MI 49401

www.redemption-riders.org
info@redemption-riders.org

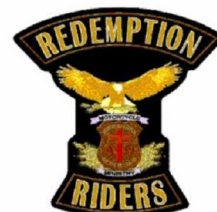
*For whom the Son sets free,
is free indeed. —John 8:36*

Sign up on-line for E-Newsletters
and "Go Green!"



Eat Pizza and Support Barnabas Ministries new Youth Shelter

Ottawa County's first, and only, emergency shelter for
homeless, runaway, and throwaway youth.



Monday, September 19, 2011 from 4 – 8 p.m.

Redemption Riders Motorcycle Ministry is partnering with Vitale's Pizza in Zeeland.

Vitale's Pizza will donate 15% of all food orders
during this time to Barnabas Ministries.

(dine in or carry out only, not valid on delivery orders)

*Please tell everyone you know to come eat pizza and
help the youth of Ottawa County have a safe place to sleep.*



Vitale's is located at 59 W. Washington Avenue, Zeeland, MI 49464

www.vitaleszeeland.com Phone 616-772-5900