



The Beacon

Light House Riders Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 10

October 2010

“Changing the World, one Heart at a time.”



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Inside this issue:

President's Pulpit 2

Vice President's Word 3

Chaplain's Corner 4

Secretaries Report 5

Web Servant's Report 6

Pictures 7

Prayer Intentions 12

**President's Pulpit****Bill Lang****Distractions**

It's amazing how easily distracted people are these days. I believe as motorcyclists we have a tendency to be more attentive, especially when we are riding. You get this sense that the person chatting on the cell phone has no clue you're there, and sure enough they'll cut right in front of you. What's even better is when they give you the dirty look as if you did something wrong!! Many of us have loud pipes, loud horns, bright lights or modulating lights. This way we hope to acquire the motorist's attention. Elaine and I were out for a drive discussing the wonderful time we had at the Tri-State Rally in Woodbine, Maryland. I was preparing to pull out of a particularly blind intersection. Fortunately I was paying attention to the vehicle behind me, because this driver was so distracted he almost rear ended my car. I was able to avoid being rear ended, or pulling out into cross traffic. God is good!! But this brings me to the point of this article.

Philippians 3:12-14 NKJ

Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has laid hold of me, 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

We have an enemy who will use every trick in the book to distract us from this upward call. We also need to understand we are not perfect, we do get distracted. Paul doesn't use this as a license or an excuse, but instead he tells us to press on and get focused. We need to know what God has called us to and move forward.

To be sure a small fender bender to the rear of my car isn't nearly as disastrous as pulling out in front of a motorcycle or a car, but how sad would it be for us to miss God's call; or the opportunity to lead someone to Jesus because we live a distracted life.

Instead let's hone in and focus on the prize, Jesus himself. Nobody said it would be easy, don't allow your past or the fortunes of this world to distract you. Let's move forward toward all that God has for us in Christ Jesus.

Then we won't be a distraction to others, but a Blessing!!

Bill



Vice Presidents Word

Randy Bridgewater

Message from the VP

It's been a few weeks since taking a long ride; of course some of my long rides are 5 to 10 hours just for ice cream! One of the reasons I enjoy long rides is an opportunity to get closer to God! Rolling down the roads allows for time to share with God and be spiritually inspired!

During the recent Tri-State Rally Rick Steffy spoke from 1Timothy and during my late night ride home from the rally, I reflected back on all that happened. In 1Timothy 1:5-6, Paul says "The purpose of my instruction is that all believers would be filled with love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and genuine faith. But some people have missed this whole point. They have turned away from these things and spend their time in meaningless discussions". The question is how many times do we enter into meaningless discussion that we don't realize may hurt or offend someone? I know it is not intentional but the impact can be deep. As God's children we must be careful of how we communicate! As a chapter we have made a huge impression on the community we live in. Our chapter received an invite to a church barbeque. Entering into the parking lock we were approached by some men stating they see us everywhere. These men inquired about information of what we do and were surprised when told we strive to change one heart at a time spreading the light of Jesus Christ! One guy asked if he could ride with us even if he didn't attend the church we were at. I explained I didn't attend there either so it would be alright to ride with us! We are making a huge impression on those that we meet while traveling the roads! As we greet people and questions are asked about what CMA is about take heed to be pure of heart. When among each other we must practice being pure at heart! We need to think before we enter into any conversation with anyone.

As we continue to make an impact on God's community we constantly are challenged to become better disciples. At the time of these challenges we may ask why, but we need to thank God for allowing us to become better Christians improving our walk or ride while here on earth!

Just when I think our battles with the enemy may become overwhelming; God's Glory sheds a great beam of light, much like the name of our chapter! During the Tri-State Rally our chapter pulled together as a team assisting the Goodies team pack up for their travel back home. It makes me proud to see our chapter continue to blossom with a pure of heart and break away from meaningless discussion and meet the needs of those that we are around!

Be proud members of Light House Riders for God is shining his light on our chapter! In closing continue to pray about your choice as we nominate the 2011 leadership!

Keep your eyes focused forward and I will watch your back!

Randy





Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. James 1:2-3 (NIV)

This is the text that Rick Steffy was sharing from on Friday night at the Tri-state rally.

I knew in my spirit that this was for me and the situations I have been going through. (Many others knew it was for them, too!) Even so, I could not lay hold of it. While I could face the trials I could not bring myself to be joyful about them. I knew I was wrong, and I knew I was not getting what the "it" was in "Count it all joy ..."

I spoke with Rick afterwards, and he was able to encourage me, and confirm that we were doing the things that we needed to do. Still, afterwards, I did not have "it" ... "it" eluded me. I was feeling somewhat better, in part for the confirmation of our current direction, and in part because I knew the Lord was speaking even if I was having trouble understanding.

After other events, and excellent teaching the rally was over and I headed home. The elusive "it" still not apprehended as yet. I went to a crazy day at work Monday, made it through, and then headed home on my bike. It was a beautiful afternoon, and a lovely ride. Halfway home my mind wandered ... when will I be getting the reminder that newsletter articles are due? From there my mind wandered to that teaching on Friday night, and all of a sudden the Lord made it clear to me. The trials get me (us?) looking at the problems, and concerned about the likely outcomes. Of course He does not want us to be joyful about those things. What we can be joyful about is that no matter how big the problem or how far it has progressed ... no matter how far gone things seem to be ... nothing is beyond the Lord's redemptive reach! It is not too far gone for Him to save. It is not too late for Him to restore. It is not so bad that He cannot take that which was intended for evil and turn it for good. It is this joy ... this "it" ... that keeps us from losing hope, from giving up ... from being overcome. Instead, we really can have joy in the trials. We are not joyful because of the trials or the possible earthly outcomes, we are joyful that until the final trumpet sounds we have a real and true hope.

A good example for this would be Peter in Matt. 14. He started out boldly, in faith.

"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." Matt. 14:28 (NIV)

He continued boldly and in faith, stepping out of the boat and walking on the water. It wasn't until he became concerned about the hazards, about the very real possible outcomes that were unpleasant and undesirable, that he began to sink. Usually we talk about the need to keep our eyes firmly fixed on the Lord. I now see that as true, but incomplete.

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Heb. 11:1 (NIV)

Until Jesus returns, while we do fix our eyes on Him and set our minds on things above, our natural eyes will also continue to see the world around us (the wind and the waves.) Faith, being sure of what we hope for, makes us able to see those things and still be joyful. To not be robbed of our hope. To be able to stand, whether against the natural world around us, the possible eternal outcomes of the choices of people we love, or the fearful thoughts whispered to us by the enemy.

No matter what we see around us, no matter what concerns or fears knock at our door, we serve and are loved by the living God, truly omnipotent, fiercely faithful, lovingly just and completely perfect.

What He has started, He will finish, what He has said, He will do, so we are never without hope and we can count it ALL JOY!

Secretaries Report

Sheryl Reiley

Leadership –

Skills to be a Leader:

There are many skills a leader needs to possess, according to “papers” that have been written on leadership. “Vision, perseverance, the will to carry the vision through no matter what someone says, the drive it takes to do the job, charisma, etc.” I can go on and on. But, for CMA and Light House Riders, we look to God to give us our leaders and what does God say about “leadership?”

God’s Leader: 1 Samuel 16:6-7 (New International Version)

⁶ When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD."

⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

As we pray about who we will nominate this month for officers, God’s pick for leaders is how we need to pray for the individuals we nominate for an office. It’s been told to us from the bible, as stated above in 1 Samuel. Also, individuals who we think would be the most likely candidates for the job, may not be. So, I just ask that when you pray ask for God to speak to you and give you the wisdom to truly pick “individuals” whose heart is about God, the people (the lost and the saved), and people who pray and ask for His guidance, and “His will to be done”. Because, the ultimate leaders for Light House Riders is **not** the “individuals”, but, **God and His Light**.



Web servants column by Elaine Lang

The Art of Listening in Love

¹My brothers and sisters, you were chosen to be free. But don't use your freedom as an excuse to live in sin. Instead, serve one another in love. ¹⁴ The whole law can be found in a single command. "Love your neighbor as you love yourself." Galatians 5:13-14

I have recently had challenges with communication in various relationships in my life. Of course communication includes, and requires, listening. Speaking from my own experience, too often I listen to that level that I consider important. Of course, this approach leads to the speaker and the listener not being on the same wavelength. I don't want to listen for an opening to say my two cents or for a weak point to attach. I don't want to pretend to pay attention while impatiently formulating my comeback.

If I am going to truly love my neighbor as myself then I must be genuinely interested in understanding what the other person (in any interaction) is not only saying, but thinking, feeling, wanting, while actively checking my understand before responding. If a response is even necessary.

If you struggle with this as much as I do, then it ought to be very humbling when you realize just how difficult and rare it is to have a conversation with someone during which you are far more interested in what they are saying than what you are about to say. It's hard to clear your mind, offer our undivided attention and really listen.

If we dig deeper, we will likely discover that our "me-centered" conversations are just one of many ways in which we fail to demonstrate love for each other. In our world of expected instant gratification and response, we've simply stopped noticing that we've stopped listening.

The next time you're speaking to someone, especially if they are hurting, make an effort to erase any thoughts of yourself. Instead, give them one hundred percent of your attention. Make a commitment to ensure that they are able to get their point across, and don't worry about yours. It seems like such a small thing, but it will make a huge difference in not only how you perceive people, but how they perceive you.

You see, loving your neighbor is not like loving your spouse. It may not be something you feel, but it is something that you do. It's the act of sacrificing your own needs and desires for the sake of someone else.

You can demonstrate that love in such a meaningful way by just listening.

"We were given two ears but only one mouth, because listening is twice as hard as talking."

Elaine Lang
9/23/10



Riders Report

Saturday 09/11/10

Our ride down to Wildwood started out with breakfast with Bill and Elaine and the weather was just gorgeous

When we got into Wildwood we parked almost in front of the CMA tent. Dee and I were introduced to other chapter members there.

It was a great day all around and it is so good to see other bikers who were wearing the CMA back patch and to know we are out there making a presence in the world for Christ.

Bill & Dee Showard

JOYOUS NEWS FROM OUR FRIEND PASTOR ANDY

Jim, thanks for all your prayers...here is the answer to those prayers! please pass them along to your CMA group! I will look forward to a spring ride to come to NJ and share the road with you all! God's peace

"If you want to see the future you have to look to the edges." -Bishop Claire Burkat

D. Andrew Fetters
Pastor, Grace Overflows, Elmhurst, Queens, NY
www.graceoverflows.org



Introducing to the Chapter Norah Eloise Fetters and proud parents

Tech Tip by Jim Mayhew

Did you know your motorcycle had a brain? With new fuel injection systems and CDI ignitions chances are your motorcycle has a “brain”. But that is not the brain I want to talk about in this article. I want to talk about the brain inside your head that you wrap a helmet around to protect. Now just like your motorcycle’s brain if something happens to your brain you won’t be doing any riding. Now contrary to Chapter opinion we all have a brain and I’m going to pass along some tips from studies on how you can take care of the Brainium in your Cranium.

COFFEE: Not to long ago coffee was being denounce as not good for you. But recently a large European study has shown that drinking 3 to 5 cups of coffee per day in mid-life can cut your Alzheimer’s risk 65% in late life. The thought is that caffeine reduces dementia causing amyloid. Others credit coffees antioxidants.

FLOSS: The health of your teeth and gums can help predict dementia. A USC study found that having periodontal disease before age 35 quadrupled the odds of dementia years later. Other studies show older people with tooth and gum disease score lower on memory and cognition tests. Experts suspect that inflammation in diseased mouths migrate to the brain.

GOOGLE: Doing an online search can stimulate your aging brain even more than reading a book. A researcher at UCLA used brain MRI’s to prove this point. Surprisingly novice Internet surfers, ages 55 to 78, activated key memory and learning centers in the brain after only a week of Web surfing for an hour a day.

GROW NEW BRAIN CELLS: It used to be thought that growing new brain cells was impossible. Now it’s believed that thousands of brain cells are born daily. The trick is to keep new ones alive. What helps: aerobic exercise, strenuous mental activity, eat salmon and other fatty fish and avoiding obesity, chronic stress, sleep deprivation, heavy drinking and vitamin B deficiency.

APPLE JUICE: Apple juice can push production of acetylcholine which is similar to how the popular Alzheimer’s drug Aricept works. Mice given apple juice did better on learning and memory tests than mice who received water. A dose for humans: 16 ounces or 2 –3 apples a day.

PROTECT YOUR HEAD: Blows to the head, even mild ones early in life, increase odds of dementia years later. Pro football players have 19 times the typical rate of memory related diseases. **WEAR YOUR HELMET!!!**

VITAMIN D: A study from England shows that a vitamin D deficiency boosts older peoples risk of cognitive impairment a whopping 394%.

MEDITATE: Brain scans show that people who meditate regularly have less cognitive decline and brain shrinkage as they age. These are both classic symptoms of Alzhemier’s. A study by the University of Pennsylvania showed that after 2 months of meditating 12 minutes a day seniors experienced improved blood flow to the brain and increased cognitive functions in seniors who had memory problems.

Now I’ll admit I’m no medical expert, I just wanted to throw this information out to you so we can all keep riding longer and not turn into Scarecrows!! (Sorry Bill)

GWRRRA Picnic at Arnie and Ro Silvers





More pictures from CLC Bookstore Family Day



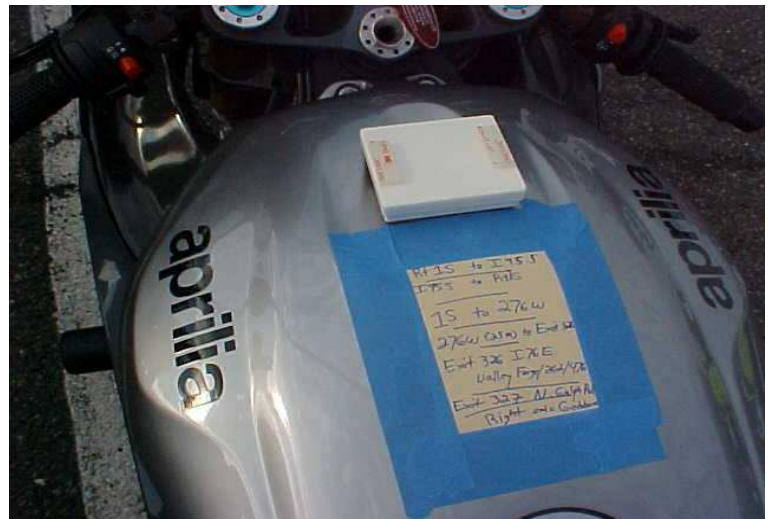
Fellowship Alliance Chapel Men's Fellowship and Pig Roast 9/12/2010



Ride for the Kids 9/19/2010



The 3 R's Randy River Riding



Italian GPS

Ride for the Kids continued



The Trought Family



The STARS



A weekend in the life of a Light House Rider

Try to keep up with me this is a condensed version of a weekend in the life of a Light House Rider. Friday night starts out with our chapter meeting. Food, Fellowship, information and inspirational talks all add up to an interesting ,informational and fun meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 and Friday night is done. Get home because tomorrow is a full day. Meet Bruce, John , River and Randy at the Bridgewater's to take the boot shine trailer and the water wagon to the CLC's Family fun day. Ooops can't leave just yet...the boot shine trailer's light are not working. It takes 15 minutes to identify a disconnected ground wire and repair it off we go. Arrive at the bookstores parking lot and set up on a corner with both trailers. We are between the kids game tent and a flat bed trailer doubling as a music stage. Our new friend Bill, we met at our meeting, arrives and we have a fully staffed booth. We were set up for over 4 hours and shined 3 or 4 sets of boots, gave away over 60 bottles of water and answered many questions about CMA and our chapter. River started out playing games in the kids tent and by the end of the day he was running some of the games and had his own ministry going. By 4:30 we were packed up and ready to head to our next event. Randy and River rode home and John and I went to the Gold Wing Chapter C meeting to thank them for inviting us to their picnic and to invite them to our Lighthouse ride. Colleen showed up to say hello to all her old friends at Chapter C and show support. After a great dinner the meeting started and before we could say thank you they had Arnie and Ro stand up to talk about the picnic. First thing they did was hold up the card the Chapter had sent them and proceeded to tell the other Goldwingers how we had thanked them all for the invite and the great time. We got our chance to talk about the Lighthouse ride and got a lot of positive feedback about the ride. Another meeting adjourned and we are heading for home because we still have Sunday to get through. Back to the Bridgewater's Sunday to meet up with Bill L, C Bear, Bruce and Randy for a short ride to the Fellowship Alliance Chapel for a pig roast and fellowship. We had front row parking, right outside the front door where registration was being held so almost every visitor had to pass us. Again the Water Wagon was in attendance but only as a display. Lots of good food, good fellowship and meeting some people interested in the CMA. After several hours and several plates of food we decided to call it a weekend and went out separate ways home to R&R for next weekend. This is pretty much how our weekends have gone this year with multiple events attended by multiple members. Not only have we spread the word of the Lord ,but also our Chapter and the CMA. I think I'll need the rest of the week to recover for next weekend. Were you able to keep up or did I tire you out? Until next weekend Peace be with you all.

Prayer Intentions

For continued growth both in membership and Spirituality in the Lighthouse Riders Chapter.

For the continued safety of all the riders in the Lighthouse Riders Chapter.

For good health and well wishes for our Chapter members who have moved.

Pastor Andy and his Wife on the continued good health of their expanded family.

For Barbara, our waitress at Denny's, for a speedy recovery from her successful double knee surgery.

I KNOW WE HAVE MORE PRAYER INTENTIONS!!!!!!!



From the Captains Chair

Jim Mayhew

Trust in the Lord with all thine Heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6



On September 19, 2010 Randy, River and I participated in the Philadelphia Ride for the Kids event. The ride started in King of Prussia and ended with lunch at Longwood Gardens. The first few miles were through Valley Forge Park which included many twists and turns and even a covered bridge. The ride covered a total of about 65 miles and included some of the most scenic roads Chester County had to offer. Included in the 485 participants were 13 Ride for the Kids “stars”. These “stars” were all brain tumor survivors and ranged in age from 7 to 23 years old. After we had eaten lunch the Celebration of Life portion of the program started. Each “star” was interviewed and shared their life’s story, 3 of them attend college on scholarships funded by donations raised in the 5 previous Ride for the Kids runs. Over \$130,000 were raised this year which was a 7% increase over last year. When Randy, River and I reached the end of the ride the first thing I told them was “man that was a great ride. I got ideas for 3 newsletter articles while riding!” It must have had something to do with the beautiful weather or maybe the fresh air or perhaps the gorgeous roads we traveled. Boy did I think I knew it all and had the plan....but guess what? The Lord had others plans and he wanted to show me how little I really knew. Now this part of the story begins before we reached the starting point. Our route to the start had us riding out the Surekill Expressway (misspelled but a more appropriate name for that highway). On the way we came across a family of 4 riding two motorcycles. The mother and son were tailing on a Can Am Spyder while the father and daughter were on a KTM dual sport bike. Neat a whole family riding together, I was impressed. Next they followed us into the parking lot where the ride was starting. I made sure I met them at the registration table and told them I would like to get a picture of them for our newsletter and they happily agreed. I had my eye on them so I could get the picture I wanted but they were always busy talking with others and showing off their bikes. I figured I would have to catch them at the finish. When I reached the finished who should be parked not 20 feet away but the subjects for my photo. I raced over lined them up and snap picture taken. I asked them their name and they said the Trought family. I thank them very much then proceeded to find where to stuff my face. Well another part of the program is where they recognize the top 5 individual money raisers and the top 5 Club/Chapter money raisers. Boy imagine my surprise when they announced the Trought family as the top individual money raisers having raised \$28,720, and even more surprised when the Club top money raiser was a club headed by Mr. Trought which raised \$46,754!!! Their total was half the money the whole event raised. I went over later and shook their hands and congratulated them, I told them how the Lord had made them visible to me as a family and when I thought I knew it all he blew me away with the gift of their generosity!

What an awesome God!

Deacon Ron's quote Corner



"The mark of a true church, is not merely right doctrine, but right actions, the true evidence of the Holy Spirits work".

Become involved in your church, just don't show up on Sunday for an hour. Even if it's just shaking some hands and welcoming your Christian brothers and sisters as they enter God's house.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Anniversaries: Kathleen and Randy Bridgewater 10/5

Birthdays: Kaitlin Lang 10/22

Sheryl Reiley 10/24

Bill Showard 10/2