

Church On Choppers

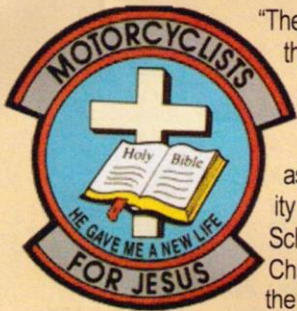


established their organization 2000 and that vision has grown over the years. In the Book of Proverbs in chapter 29:18 it says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." May we all as bikers continue to catch the vision as we feel the wind in our faces!

As always, I look forward to seeing you down the road. Until next time, love Jesus and keep on doing the "good stuff".....

God bless
Riding with Jesus,
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Dear Friends,



"There shall be showers of blessing" The words of the old gospel song came to mind as the day progressed on July 11. The warm sunshine that appeared at dawn was fleeting and temporary, turning into a torrential downpour as sixty-one bikes driven by the Mars Hill Charity Riders entered the grounds of the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. The Charity Riders had organized the event to benefit the Indiana Blind Children's Foundation.

As participants gathered, drenched riders huddled in the gazebo and under the portico of the stately school. My wife, Kathy, began chatting with Gina Radice, Executive Director of the Indiana Blind Children's Foundation which was founded in 1994 to benefit blind and visually impaired by supporting the work of the school and enhancing the education and lives of the students. Ranging from three years of age to twenty-two, some pupils are residential, some are commuters. Through its outreach, the school provides hundreds of services to students throughout the state who are blind or visually impaired but are not enrolled at the school, giving them self-confidence and peer acceptance as well as an excellent education.

Kathy explained to Gina that this ride was particularly meaningful for us because a special friend is an alumna of the school. Our friend has often shared about her time at the school. She is a remarkable woman who does everything – except drive!

We want to express our appreciation to the Mars Hill Charity Riders for this really special event. Since their establishment in 2000, they have raised over \$750,000 for charities and local individuals in need. Kathy and I met them in 2001 when a friend mentioned they were hosting a ride to combat Autism. Since then, we have counted it a privilege to be able to attend their events whenever our schedules permit. They are a great group of people.

Of course, one cannot think of "Charity" without reflecting upon the Apostle Paul's letter to the Corinthians, especially in chapter thirteen. The word charity in that passage is the Greek word agape, meaning love. It's the kind of sacrificial love that sent Jesus all the way to the cross to die for my sins and yours. Dear friends, if you have not invited Him into your hearts, I would strongly urge you to do so.

In these trouble economic times, I see this sacrificial love in the faces and lives of all the motorcyclists with whom I come in contact. Even when the majority of bikers are down to their last couple of dollars, they are willing to give to assist others in need. We have seen some use their grocery money to buy a few parts to help a brother get his bike up and running. These bikers know what doing "the good stuff" is all about. The larger community as a whole, both civic and "religious" could learn from those of us who ride, to be sure!

The Indiana Blind Children's Foundation has a vision, "Our highest wish is to connect with and serve more children, families, teachers, and schools throughout Indiana and to further our national prominence as a center of excellence." The Mars Hill Charity Riders had a vision to help others when they

