

CMA - UK



Jesus is Lord

BIKER
BIBLE

CHAINLINK

MAGAZINE OF THE CHRISTIAN MOTORCYCLIST ASSOCIATION

AUTUMN/WINTER 2017

www.bike.org.uk

Chainlink is the magazine of the Christian Motorcyclists' Association (CMA) UK

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This issue of **Chainlink** will shortly be available as a PDF publication to members on our website.

In addition to all photos viewable in full colour, online video clips, website references and e-mail addresses will be live hyperlinks. If you have an internet connection on your viewing device, clicking on a link will take you directly to the relevant site.

Now, that's
'making good progress'

The views expressed in *Chainlink* cannot be taken as official CMA policy on any subject. The magazine is published up to four times a year, to provide information for CMA members and to encourage them in their personal walk with God. We pray that this magazine will also stimulate non-Christian readers into thinking more about Jesus, and also seeking Him for themselves.

The Bible says: "Seek and you will find" · St Matthew Chapter 7, verse 7

National Chairman, CMA UK

Mike Fitton

Many of you will know that I love to worship the Lord, to have that intimate time to say thank you to Jesus for all the blessings He pours into our lives, even those I miss sometimes because I am too focused on the tough road ahead.

Worship helps me Thank Him, Praise Him, Wait upon Him, Rest in Him, Marvel at Him, Trust Him and Bow before Him, for as Psalm 145 v3 says 'Great is the Lord, He is most worthy of all our Praise.'

As I prepared for our National Rally the Lord sent two ladies to stay the night in our home, one was a minister and the other a missionary serving God in Africa. They were taking time out with Jesus on a pilgrim walk over four days. We had a great time with them but on the morning they left one of them said, "Jesus told the disciples to pick up the leftovers." This thought impacted my heart and over time I wrote the communion sermon for the Sunday morning entitled 'Nothing goes to waste.'

I wonder how many times we meet up with bikers and come away thinking 'What have I achieved?' John Ch6 v1-15 tells of how Jesus fed the 5,000. The crowd were hungry, isolated and there were no human resources to feed them, but Jesus miraculously turned a small packed lunch of fish and bread into a banquet.

When everyone had eaten there were fragments of food left over, discarded as unimportant, even the disciples didn't pay any attention to them. They couldn't see the pieces because they weren't looking for them, but Jesus was, they were significant pieces of His miracle.

Jesus told the disciples to **"Gather the leftovers, so that nothing is wasted."** Amazingly they amounted to twelve baskets of fragments.

Do you realise as you stand on a beach an ocean is a combination of water droplets or a snowdrift is a combination of individual snowflakes, each one completely different? We don't see them because we don't look for them, but they are there.

You might think your efforts are in vain but Jesus takes every fragment of Grace you bring to the biker community and nothing goes to waste.

Every
conversation
Every tea or
coffee
Every prayer
Every smile
Every welcome
Every offer of
support
Every listening
ear

The word 'insignificant' does not appear in the Bible for a good reason – you are not insignificant and nothing you do is insignificant.

Every conversation
Every tea or coffee
Every prayer
Every smile
Every welcome
Every offer of support
Every listening ear

Every act of kindness is like the leftovers of a miracle banquet and will not go to waste.

Matthew Ch25 v40

Jesus said "I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Instead of asking "What have I achieved?" look for the fragments and realise they are all part of God's miracle of Grace.

It is my privilege to serve alongside you in CMA UK.



What adventures the Lord has prepared for us, but you won't see them unless you look for them.

God bless you,

Mike and Sandy FITTON

Official stuff...

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CMA UK is part of the
CMA Worldwide International
Outreach Ministry

Registered UK Charity
1080911

Acknowledgements:

Front & back cover artwork
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Printed by:

Heritage Printers Ltd
Liverpool
www.heritageprint.co.uk

From the Editor's Garage

Well, here it is, the latest issue of Chainlink! You might recall the saying, 'Better late than never, but better never late!' It has taken much time to try and ensure that mistakes are kept to the absolute minimum, but, if you spot any, there may be a reward. Might not be this side of Heaven, but you never know!

So, I was looking at a very dirty bike. Most of the road dirt was from France, having just returned from Bikers Week at Le Pas Opton. It was a great week – fun, fellowship, food, etc. 2,000 miles later, I'm looking at the bike again. Having washed it, then a weekend at 'MaveFest' near Lancaster, it's almost as dirty as before. It's the same bike, performs the same as 2,000 miles ago – it's just dirty.

When Jesus washed his disciples' feet, His friend Peter objected – perhaps you remember the account of what happened – check it out (John 13:4-11). Anyway, Jesus said to Peter, "People who have bathed and are clean all over need to wash just their feet. And you, my disciples, are clean..." The thing is, for those of us who have accepted Jesus as Saviour and know Him as Lord, we are continually made clean by His blood (1 John 1:7): but, because we live in a dark world, we very often allow ourselves to become contaminated with the dirt that's around us. It's inevitable. So we must, as has been said, 'keep short accounts with God'. We don't have to be 're-saved' every day, just wiped off – check out John 15:3.

As I write this, I am doing so after carefully reading through the articles we have received so far. I have been so blessed already at what I have read. I hope you, too, enjoy this issue of Chainlink.

Be a blessing and be blessed!

John

P.S. the black Explorer was a test ride – mine's a blue one.



**The deadline
for submission
of items for the
next edition is
28th February 2018**

Articles for Chainlink are most welcome, and should preferably be submitted by e-mail to chainlink@bike.org.uk

All images must be 300dpi or higher in tiff or jpg format and submitted separately from a text document. Vector graphics are also welcome. Text documents should be either plain text or rich text format (RTF) files, not MS Word documents.

The sender must obtain permission for the inclusion of ALL names, addresses and pictures, especially of children, prior to submission and provide accreditation for all material that is not original. The sender takes all responsibility for all content and rights relating to all items that are submitted. If in doubt, please obtain verification from the National Chairman or the Exec committee.

Biker Hub – Scotland

John Carden, Rest of Scotland Branch

Following an Evenings Dedication Service in May of this year – the Rest of Scotland Branch have opened a new biker Hub in Kilmarnock, Ayrshire. The service was very well attended with many friends from the local Church – Central Evangelical – also taking part. The service was taken by our Branch Chaplain – Rev. Adam Plenderleith (the Rev. Rev.) and worship led by our musical members Brian Smith (Drummer Boy) and Roberta McDougall (Fourplates). An evening of fellowship followed and it gave those further travelled a chance to dry out!

Although the Rest of Scotland Branch covers a large area – the majority of our members are located in Ayrshire, Lanarkshire and Dumbartonshire, we have launched our new Biker Hub in Kilmarnock to cater for bikers from all over. This is the first offering of its kind from the CMA in Scotland and we are delighted with it. It is in a local industrial estate, with plenty of parking and the Biker Hub is fully equipped to feed the heart, belly and soul.

The Hub offers a friendly environment with a kitchen, several seating areas, a pool table and games machine. A full height roller shutter door allows access for bikes to a workshop area. There is a mezzanine seating area upstairs and a quiet room as a place for reflection.

Everyone is welcome with tea, coffee – our famous Hot Chocolate and biscuits aplenty. There is a hose, and buckets and sponges for those who have the urge to give their bikes a clean-up. The workshop area allows the more mechanically minded room to tinker with their bikes or to help when someone else has a problem.

It is open to all within the biking community. The Rest of Scotland Branch welcomes all old and new friends regardless of where you

live, your club or who you ride with. The Hub is there for all the biking community to use and we look forward to making more friends and seeing more bikes in the Hub.

The Branch lets everyone know that the hub is open simply by posting on our own and the CMA Facebook pages “Urn is on” and in a short period of time, the bikes and the people turn up.

The aim is to provide a place where bikers can meet safely and have somewhere to sit and rest or work on their bikes all year round. It also offers the place to be for coffee and tea and a chat if required. We have a stand with the Biker Bibles and other tracts and magazines on display. Already there have been many good conversations and Bibles being requested. Please keep the Hub in your thoughts and prayers. We are having the privilege of meeting many people who are searching and asking questions – and coming back time and again. Pray that God is kept first and foremost in the Hub and in all that is done here.

We have had donations of parts, clothing and other stuff that we have been asked to pass on to anyone who need them. People have kindly donated tools and equipment for use within the Hub.

***The Hub is a centre
For coffee and a Chat
Open for Bikers
And all that we are
The Hub keeps on Turning
While you Ride Free
It's Just a Dry Space
A welcoming Place
For the Freedom Loving
To gather and rest
There are no Strangers in
this Clan
If you are a Biker
A woman or a man
On your pocket rocket
Or your old square four
You are always welcome
Through our door***

If you have any spare – in the garage – that you are not using – such as paddock stands, lubricants, spanners etc, all would be gratefully appreciated.

The official opening day in June gathered plenty of attention from the biking community and the local press. We had bikers and friends from as far apart as Dunfermline (Forth and Tay) and Liverpool (North Cheshire Branch) coming to celebrate with us and many more words and prayers of support were passed on by e-mail and on Facebook. There were over 200 bikers and friends at the Hub during the open day with their bikes on show. And what a show – and what a noise some of them made! This included many bike clubs from all over that we have slowly been making contact with over the last couple of years. This was a fantastic turn out and our thanks to all who helped – turned out – and were a part of a great day.

Also on offer was a chance to sample the Spanish food and BBQ, courtesy of our Chef Juan and the opportunity to make new friends, meet people and of course to showcase the facilities to everyone who arrived.

And if that wasn't enough, on the

open day, a professional photographer offered everyone a photo shoot of themselves and their beloved bikes – it was framed to take away on the day.

For more information about the Hub or the Branch check out the Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CMArestofscotland>

Look up the Website
www.bike.org.uk/Scotland.php

If you know any bikers in the area who would want more information on the Hub or the CMA please pass this information along to them.

Open day Highlights Video -
<https://vimeo.com/220237347> †



Risk and Reward

Rob Urand, CMA UK National Treasurer

Ask yourself, 'how good a motorcycle rider am I?' Most riders think they are above average in skill and safety, but they can't all be right can they? Could you or I become a better rider; is there any room for improvement? Riding a motorcycle is easy; riding a motorcycle safely is a whole lot more difficult.

We all know that riding motorcycles is a risky business, but it is also a rewarding one, so how could we make it less risky, and more rewarding? Motorcycles make up 1% of the annual vehicle miles covered in the U.K, but motorcyclists account for 21% of all road deaths. We as motorcyclists are 50 times more likely to be killed or seriously injured than car drivers.

In MESS branch we are currently involved in a partnership with FireBike to try to help some of our fellow riders in Essex to take their own safety much more seriously. FireBike is the motorcycle arm of the Fire Service, consisting of highly trained riders of Firebikes who go around putting out fires. No they don't, they go around to bike events to do all they can to help reduce the number of serious bike accidents in the county, because the Fire Service is involved in clearing up the aftermath of accidents, and it is a tragic and unnecessary loss of life. Our branch, supported by CMA Suffolk, have provided a church hall venue for safety awareness talks by Firebike, which is within sight of one of the most popular midweek evening bike meet venues at Great Bentley village green.

The police in this part of the country have been running the Bikesafe initiative for some time,

encouraging riders to recognise the need for more training. However, the very riders who need training the most, were found to be the least likely to recognise this and take it up. The police also found that certain motorcyclists viewed them as the enemy, and would not engage. Hence using the Fire Service was seen as a better option. Very generally, younger riders thought they were as good as Valentino Rossi (how safe would he be on our roads?), and older riders thought they were experienced enough to not need further training. As an aside, the first night we offered the FireBike talk at Great Bentley, one rider from the bike meet there was killed on his way home (he hadn't attended the safety talk).

I thought I would share my own experience here as a working example. Until about eight years ago, I had had no training whatsoever on a solo motorcycle, none, ever. Those who have ridden with me are now saying 'That makes a lot of sense'. I passed my bike test on a motorcycle and sidecar, and after about a year bought my first solo motorcycle. I was licensed to ride it even though I had never ridden one, and no CBT then either. Riding sidecar bikes and riding solo bikes is totally different; I might as well have been trying out a hang glider for the first time. I was useless on a solo for

years. I couldn't corner, or brake properly, and fell off it frequently, such that my father threatened to take a lump hammer to my bike if I fell off again. Eventually I became reasonably proficient by riding in company with much better riders whose skills gradually rubbed off a bit on me.

We have all had those moments when we have thought 'that was a close one' or we recognise that God has protected us from a life threatening situation. Over my years of riding, these occurrences had lessened as I slowly improved, the red mist had gradually subsided, and I had picked up most of the skills necessary to keep safe. However, I recognised that I could always improve my riding, and thus my safety, and thought I would do some advanced training one day, but when I had the time.

A friend, who was doing some engineering work for me, introduced me to the Essex Advanced Motorcycle Group (EAMG). Each area of the UK will have an equivalent group. I joined as an Associate Member (i.e. not yet passed an Advanced Bike Test) at a first year cost of £55, which includes all training (£40 in subsequent years including all training). As an Associate I was allocated an Observer, a highly trained and experienced rider, sometimes with a police background. He, or she, would arrange to ride out with me whenever convenient for both of us, and mentor, train and enhance my skills until he thought me ready to take my Advanced Bike Test. The Motorcycle Roadcraft manual was also given to me and I purchased the current Highway

Code edition, to learn the contents of both. Each time my Observer and I went out for an assessed ride I was expected to give him £10 to cover his fuel. At the end of each

As well as assessed rides with my Observer, I could also attend other training opportunities, run by the group on a regular basis, such as riding with a different Observer,

which is harder than the IAM test. Again I was allocated an Observer, who trained me through observed rides and assessment, until he thought I was ready for the RoSPA test. The examiners for RoSPA are all serving or retired police motorcycle riders. The RoSPA test is graded with four possible outcomes; fail, bronze, silver, or gold. I was really pleased to get a gold award. This test has to be retaken every three years.

So, what did I get out of this process? I received high quality, focused, and consistent training at low cost from highly skilled, experienced and enthusiastic riders. I learnt a great deal, enhanced my skills, and found that I thought much more about my riding, as well as enjoying it more. I have also got to know a new group of committed riders who need to know about the love of God for them.

Advanced training makes you a smoother rider, better able to plan ahead, and a safer rider. The effects of this can be to also make you a quicker rider, but they don't advertise that. I always want to be improving my riding, lowering the risk, and gaining the rewards. How about you? †



ride he would make out a detailed written report covering all aspects of my riding, and go through it with me so I understood the areas where improvement was needed.

Gradually, I improved, put in for my Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) motorcycle test and managed to pass.

and possibly another Associate, training talks, group rideouts, slow riding skills etc, all at no extra cost. Having passed my IAM test I was now a Full Member of EAMG, paying £25 per year.

After a while I started training for the RoSPA test (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents),

Now turn to page 17 to see a picture of a real trike! – ed.

'ABC' Ride June 2017

'Cross' Rob Oates, North East Branch, & Geordie Chapter Photographer

As a 'Holy David's Son' rider I bought my 1st Harley 14 years ago and felt lead to join my local Harley Chapter.

This year the Geordie Chapter again organised an Armed Forces Charity Ride between a local Army Barracks 'Albermarle', an RAF station 'Boulmer' & the Royal Navy base 'Calliope'

87 bikers attended on the day and the ride was 105 miles from start to finish on the River Tyne, at the Royal Navy base.

Leaving Albermarle barracks, where the Army lads had put on



After Alnwick we headed to RAF Boulmer, where the Station Commander organised a photo opportunity on the old Helicopter landing pads.

With the 'Help for Heroes' flag proudly held high, the

waved as the parade of bikers rode by and some of the bikes were adorned with Union Jack flags and Help for Heroes regalia.

The Geordie Chapter road crew marked all the various junctions and all of us arrived safely at the Royal Naval base Calliope, where we were met by the Royal Navy Base Commander. All the bikers parked up in their secure compound overlooking the Tyne and it's picturesque bridges and quayside.

Pictures were duly taken for various magazines and the cash donations totted up — a total of £505 was raised for this worthy charity and this great ride was enjoyed by all. †



breakfast buns and teas, etc, the riders headed across Northumberland and to the market town of Alnwick for a lunch stop and comfort break an hour & a half later.

Brisk winds blew little clouds across the blue skies. The roads were picturesque in summer sunshine as a mixture of machines and riders enjoyed the views and roads.

photos were taken.

Next, the 50 mile ride down the coast to the River Tyne.

Passers-by



National AGM 2017 – Carrickfergus, N.I.

This year's National AGM was held at The Church of the Nazarene, Oakfield Drive, Carrickfergus in Northern Ireland. Either everyone's forgotten about it already or no one wanted to prepare a report for this issue of Chainlink. Maybe next year then!

So, here are pics of some of our members who attended, and braved the Irish Sea crossing and the gale force winds along the N.I. East coast up to Giants Causeway!



North Cheshire & South Lancs on the ferry leaving Holyhead...



Carrickfergus Castle

... and on the return journey leaving Dublin



Ballygally coastline



Llangollen Bike Show, North Wales

LlanBikeFest
at Llangollen
was a washout!



Born Again, Born Again Biker

Paul Hodge, North Cheshire

“Lord, what’s this all about? This could kill me!”

My adrenalin glands that hadn’t been provoked for some years were now pumping like crazy as I was being propelled at what seemed warp speed. I sat astride, or rather clung to, with every fibre of my 21 stone, this thing of engineering beauty with the sweetest revving four cylinder motor I’d encountered in my life, capable of producing nearly 100 bhp and over 60 ft-lb of torque and that red lined at 12,500 rpm!!!

Simultaneously, I was fully aware that the only connection with the hard stuff below me were two patches of rubber, of less surface area than the soles of my boots. The fact that it was quality rubber designed for the job didn’t seem to help much. I reflected on my understanding of the co-efficient of friction and that I should trust the laws of physics that experts have used in the design of these modern tyres. But that didn’t help that much!

It was the Saturday morning of my 60th birthday. The wind was shifting me all over the M56 as I was attempting to keep pace with my brother [Long John] on his 1050 Sprint ST en-route to J&S in Cheshire. It was my first ride-out for over 40 years! This was my surprise birthday present, a 2003 silver Yamaha 600 Foxeye Fazer. I was just a couple of notches short of petrified and thinking, am I too old for this? Is this crazy or what? I have a wife and two daughters, is this foolish and irresponsible? What’s to stop me falling off at these speeds, no seat belts! Suffice it to say my usual peaceful composure had gone into hiding, I was way outside my comfort zone.

John and I are first and second respectively of ten children born to Godly parents. This is a privilege we

don’t take lightly. I gave my life to the Lord when I was eleven years old essentially because I didn’t want to go to hell. It wasn’t so much that I loved Jesus but that I knew I was a sinner and sinners went to hell. Strangely, some years later, I recall thinking I didn’t particularly like the idea of going to heaven either, but this was also the first time I remember actually having a meaningful conversation with the Lord. He asked me what I liked best about life. I think I was about fifteen at the time and although I didn’t like school, playing basketball was the joy of my life. He said heaven was far better than the pleasure I got from playing basketball and I got the picture.

Since as long as I can remember, I have known that the Lord God Almighty is the perfect Father. I believe He likes it when we acknowledge this and trust Him. He has never let me down and I know He loves me more than I can imagine. After all, if I was the only sinner on the planet he would have sent his Son Jesus just for me!

In the beginning

My first bike was a Francis Barnett Plover which had a 150cc Villiers two-stroke motor. It was a heap really but a good one for practicing falling off. I rapidly moved on to a 1964 Triumph 200cc Trials Cub.

This was a nice machine. Never fell of this one but did get knocked off by some nutter driving an FB Victor indicating to turn left when, for some reason he presumably thought it would be more fun to turn right and knock me off as I was trying to pass him. I still have this vivid recollection of my loose change disappearing in all directions out of the pockets of my best blazer and parts of the said blazer being torn to shreds.

We used to live right by ‘Goodison Park’ the home of Everton F.C. I reckon someone needed to get back home one night after one of the games and thought it would be OK if he borrowed my bike. He could have asked I suppose. I never did see it again. Sadly, it wasn’t insured for theft and I was still paying for it for some time. What memories.

I had a brief encounter with a green Triumph T100SS and then John acquired a very nice orange D reg. T120 Bonnie. Following his wedding, the Bonnie had to go and I took it off him. This was a special machine and gave me some good times. Fell over on some ice, got knocked off by a dog, I remember seeing 110 on the A580 before thinking “Hmm, those lights could change”. Boy did it go. It even healed me of a really bad

toothache when I couldn't sleep early one Saturday morning. Took a few hours riding mind you, but that was a good ride. The Bonnie was my companion at the time in my life when I was desperate for the Lord to baptise me in His Holy Spirit. It accompanied me to my encounter, waited faithfully outside for me and then brought me home. That night God put something of eternity in me that I will never forget. Shortly after this, two wheels became four and other things happened. This was to be the last of my bikes — or so I thought.

Born again biker

Forty years later, I now find myself being challenged to the core, yet having the time of my life in the process. So much had happened in those years, far too much to detail here, but within the pattern of multiple highs and lows, I was at an all time point of desperation. My home improvement business was a mess, I was losing thousands on each job. I often felt like I was in prison — I just couldn't break free from the long days, sometimes seven days a week. I was worn out, my family life was suffering. Every time I thought I had got it right, the same thing happened. I was making all the decisions on my own, basing them on what I knew I could do in my own strength without considering the Lord. I also was bound by the inability to say 'no' to people. I found it so hard to submit everything to Him. Pride is despicable, destructive, divisive, detestable to God, and down-right deadly. Thankfully, like the prodigal son in the parable Jesus told, I 'came to my senses'. I knew I



needed a business meeting with Jesus, but I really thought I may well have gone too far away to be restored. As soon as I gave in however, He started speaking to me as a friend again. I knew I had to make the decision to stop what I was doing and create a void in front of me that had no answers or promise of provision other than Jesus Himself. My Heavenly Father is so faithful. Despite having no income generated by my hands, we have lacked for nothing. His promise to "...never leave you nor forsake you..." has been reality to me. Jesus, You are wonderful. Thank You.

There have been a few times in my life when the Lord has unequivocally told me he loved me. This gift of the bike was the latest of those. It's something very special when you discover that people have been planning good things for you. It shows that they love you, and I felt loved, not only by the Lord, but by those close to me who conceived, and executed this plan. I have to ask, do you believe God has plans for you? Do you believe they are plans to do you good and not harm? You need to. Please, if you

dare to believe what He has said, then you actually give pleasure to the God of all creation, the Almighty one true living God and that deposits something in heaven on your account. Don't waver, just do it!

So this was like a new beginning. I needed help to stay in one piece and despite feeling more comfortable the more I rode, I was still so conscious of my inadequacy. There was a biker event taking place at Irby in the Wirral not far from where we were lived. John suggested I might get along to it as CMA had a presence there and it would be good to introduce myself. Saturday afternoon, great weather, why not? It was a pleasure to meet Big Bob from North Wales along with others and I'm beginning to get a focus as to possible purpose for me, the bike and the Kingdom of God. Oh yes, and it's fun, a real pleasure! I'm relaxed and enjoying myself, something I haven't done for a long time. I'm surrounded by great people, beautiful engineering, vibrant colours, the smell of bikes and burgers, this must be a taste of heaven.

Born Again, Born Again Biker

...continued

As I'm looking around, I come across some guys representing the Institute of Advanced Motorists. I'm pretty much hooked straightaway as I think this could be just the thing I need to improve my riding skills and do a lot for my confidence. I'm impressed by the people and pleased to learn that they can fit me in on the next, soon to start, six week programme. All in all a great afternoon and the beginning of an amazing adventure.

Before I continue, I am compelled to ask you, whoever you are as you read this, a very sincere question. What sort of a relationship do you have with your Creator, your Saviour, your Comforter and Helper? Do you know Him intimately? So many people don't know what a father is or is even supposed to be, because their natural fathers have not been there for them for whatever reason. Yet God has designed that we should know him as our heavenly Father. Human deficiencies detract from the greatness and glory of this image and consequently we are robbed of the most beautiful and powerful relationship available to us. I am no more special than anyone else, but I know I'm loved. I also know that I'm not loved more than anyone else, past present or future. Every soul on the face of the planet is loved equally. "For God so loved the world [people, not places] that He gave..." I know that if I can have an open and intimate relationship with The Lord God almighty, then so can you if you want it and earnestly pursue Him. He responds to our desires towards Him. Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, is the best friend and

advocate we could wish for. We can get as close to Him as we want and He will never, ever push us away or turn his back on us. His love cannot be measured against ours, or any experience we may have had. Our lives are enveloped by the Holy Spirit, who is the

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- IT'S ALL ABOUT MAKING PROGRESS, SAFELY
 - RIDE YOUR OWN RIDE
 - BEING IN THE RIGHT PLACE
 - NEVER SACRIFICE SAFETY FOR POSITION
 - FIX YOUR FOCUS AS FAR AHEAD AS YOU CAN SEE I.E., THE VISION POINT
-

greatest comforter, guide, helper and empowerer. He has every resource we will ever need to overcome in this life.

The great 'I AM' – I am listening Lord

With a mix of apprehension and excitement, I set out early one Saturday morning for the first session of the course. Not knowing exactly what to expect and being conscious of feeling inadequate about my riding ability, this was a

big challenge for me. The base line however, was that I really believed the Lord was in this so I was pretty much at peace about the whole thing.

I found my way to the venue without trauma and was made very welcome. I was excited about being in a company of experienced bikers who had my best interest at heart. Keeping me safe and preventing me from becoming a hazard seem good sense to me and not dissimilar to the purpose of good church. I'm feeling at home already and then it happened, prelude over, God speaks!!!

"It's all about making progress, safely."

"Ride your own ride."

"Being in the right place."

"Never sacrifice safety for position."

"Fix your focus as far ahead as you can see i.e., the vision point."

I have heard the Lord speak to me many times but not like this. These guys aren't Christians but what I was hearing was definitely from God! Any excitement I had about becoming a better biker was overtaken faster than you could drop a cog and flick the wrist. I was away on what might be described as the ride of my life. Past failures and disappointments were disappearing into the distance with each statement of truth. "*I want you to make progress safely*" – wow! The Christian life is about progress. What's the point of having the greatest gift in the world and not using it. Just knowing you've got it isn't enough, it's pointless. You can look at your bike

all you like, you can clean it every day, you can talk about it until you are blue in the face, you can put juice in it and even start it up, but unless you get on it and ride, you are missing the point. You don't go anywhere unless you go somewhere. You don't have a life unless you live it!

'Ride your own ride.' When I heard these words, my whole life paraded before me and I realised how much I had been controlled significantly by other people. The Lord was saying, "Don't try to be someone else. Don't let them entice you to go too fast or in the wrong direction. Don't let them hold you back either, but be gracious in your overtakes. Just be who I made you to be." This was so liberating. The fear of man is just as bad a snare as the pride of wanting to be in someone else's position. We break the law – speeding for instance. We all do it for various reasons. It could be contempt, ignorance, carelessness, impatience, enticement, maybe just outright rebellion. Whatever the reason we are accountable to the authority over us. We can't blame any one else, it's our name on the licence. Riding our own ride is being accountable as well as being free. The contract we have in the Blood of Jesus is a licence to 'live holy and godly lives' (2 Peter 3 v 11). Submitting to Him who has all authority and power is wisdom not foolishness. It's certainly not licence to please ourselves. God had speed cameras way before man even thought of them and they are everywhere, yes everywhere!

'Being in the right place.' If you want to stay safe and also make progress then being in the right place at the right time is crucial. I was being told that you have to command your space and exude confidence. Hesitancy doesn't help others. Decisions need to be clear and obvious. You need to be visible, others need to see you and know that you are there – this helps them as well as you. You need to keep your distance from those who can hurt you. All these points are so transferable to spiritual life.

'Never sacrifice safety for position.' There is an optimum position to be in at any given point on the road for maximum vision or manoeuvring and progress. That position might become hazardous for a particular reason. If it does, then safety overrides position every time. Our salvation is of greater value than any progress, achievement or position we might aspire to. It was said of one of the senior guys, an ex-bike bobbie, that he can give a valid reason for being where he is at any given point when riding. This impressed on me the incredible levels of insight, anticipation, awareness, wisdom, planning and physical reactions he was utilising in order to be able to do this. It's not easy to achieve excellence. The level of

concentration and focus needed for this is so hard and demanding, yet so rewarding and satisfying when you step off the bike after such a ride.

Jesus said, "My yoke is easy and my burden is light". This is a bit like the bike. It can be difficult to manage when static, but becomes light and agile (depending on the bike of course) when moving and will do amazing things when directed. Continued safe progress needs every bit of commitment to the cause. Sloppy, careless management has consequences for both riding and life. You may have the best handling bike in the world, but if you don't do your bit, you're likely to get hurt.



Born Again, Born Again Biker

...continued

'Fix your focus as far ahead as you can see i.e., the vision point.' This is an amazing truth. I've been familiar with this for most of my driving life, but very rarely applied it. Most of the time, with four wheels, laziness kicks in and modern cars are so good at accommodating this. With bikes, you can't get away with this approach. The riding lines we choose are crucial to our safety, let alone making good progress along with the pleasure of getting it right. It requires discipline, concentration and courage to execute properly. In essence we are talking about faith. You have to trust your peripheral vision and allow it to deal with where you are and what you are going through, while keeping your eyes fixed on where you want to go. Is this God or what? If we focus on a hole in the road surface, that's where we end up. In life, if we focus on the problem, the problem consumes us and we don't get to where we want to go. So often the problem overtakes us rather than us overtaking the problem. It's always about our focus.

We set ourselves up for the long sweeping bend and subconsciously adopt the right line to ride through it. The same thing happens with multiple twisties – we just ride through them keeping our eyes fixed as far ahead as we can. God made us with this ability to show us how faith works and also to teach us that there is pleasure to be had in trusting Him. The same rule applies for slow speed manoeuvres. If we look where we want to go, it works. If we look at the front wheel, more often than not, we fall off or at best get embarrassed. The

Bible talks about 'fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith' (Hebrews 12 v 2). It also says that 'without faith it is impossible to please Him' [Hebrews 11 v 6]. This is talking about active faith, not the passive 'sit on your bum, wait for it to come' faith. It's the 'get on your bike 'n ride like the wind' stuff that brings a smile to the face of our God and King!

As the course unfolded, the Lord continued to show me so much more, taking away any doubt I may have had about the rightness of my birthday present and the ride I was now on. The observed rideouts themselves were great, the support and care offered would shame many who would profess to be Christian. The passion and commitment of these people was admirable. It was definitely for love, not money.

There was one ride I will never forget. We were going over the Denbigh Moors, just one observer and me. I had only ever been in this area once, maybe twice before and that was in a car. So I didn't know it that well. My observer talked me through the plan and we started off, me in front. We were quite high up and I had a clear view of the road ahead for some distance. In front of me was a fairly straight section of road which dipped initially and then rose a bit before going into a tight right hand bend lined with a low dry wall. I was making good progress and heading for the bend at an appropriate speed. As I progressed, the rise in the road allowed me to see over the wall just before the turn. What I saw was a spectacular lake that

appeared as out of nowhere. It took me by surprise and in that fraction of time I lost my focus. There was that adrenalin rush again. I had to push the bike further down than I was comfortable with and with no complaint whatever, it sorted me out, carrying me through that momentary lapse of focus and concentration. I was very grateful and elated at the same time.

Proving God by personal experience has to be one of the greatest things in life. Without any intent to dishonour the Holy Spirit in any way I have often likened Him to my bike. So powerful and smooth, beautiful to look at, sounds great, more capable than I will ever need, faithful, totally trustworthy and yet he doesn't do anything until I ask it of him. He takes me where I want to go and even accommodates my indiscretions. He thrills and excites me and satisfies me in ways nothing else can. He responds to all the care and attention I give him by satisfying me even more.

In sharing my experience with you, I want to invite you to acquaint yourself with the Holy Spirit if you haven't already done so, and let him take you on the ride of your life. I would encourage you also to consider the I.A.M. course. It's brilliant and could save your life. More importantly I would urge you to consider the great 'I AM', Jesus himself. He can, and will, definitely save your life.

Ride safe, be blessed.

Paul ✝

Easy Fundraising

Andy Hogan

Dear CMA Family and Friends,

In the run up to Christmas shopping, it may be a good time to remind you about the free and easy way to raise money for CMA while we shop...

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be collecting free donations for Christian Motorcyclists Association UK - CMA UK?

There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's – it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...

1. Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/cmauk/> and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and Christian Motorcyclists Association UK – CMA UK will be really grateful for your donations. So far we have already raised over £1000 for CMA through sites such as eBay, Amazon, Argos, Screwfix, IHG Hotels, John Lewis, Ticketmaster, Bunches Flowers and many many more!

Thank you for your support. 🙏



EMC Rally 2017 – Latvia

Philip Head, Devon & Cornwall

Well. I didn't know what EMC stood for. I didn't know where Latvia was. I was nonetheless determined to do the trip and to find out what goes on at an EMC!

Having completed my probationary year with CMA in July 2017 and having just been accepted in to full membership, a road trip to Latvia leaving on 31st July was just a little daunting, I don't mind confessing! Not only that, but I'd started riding only two years prior in January 2015, when I was aged 64, took my Modules 1 and 2 the following month and to be honest was still finding my feet and growing in confidence on two wheels.

When I retired in March this year I treated myself to a Triumph Tiger 800 XRt, you know, the model with the heated grips, heated seats, cruise control and fog lamps, so I



was determined to put the bike to good use! (OK, not exactly slumming it, I hear somebody say.) I had added luggage as part of the deal, so with a high viz for France, a GB sticker for the left pannier, a first aid kit, spare bulbs and a

booster pack in case my battery failed, all that was left was suitable clothing and I was ready to go – oh! – and don't forget spare fuses, travel insurance and passport. OK.

DAY 1 – 295 miles. My first day was the ride up from Cornwall to Folkestone, where I stayed in a bit-of-a-dive hotel overnight. I had arranged to meet a fellow EMC attendee, Kobus, a South African who lives in Berkshire, at the STOP 24 Services on the M20 at 7 o'clock the following morning, so no time for breakfast.

DAY 2 – 401 miles. Up, shower, read the Word, pray, cup o' tea, rev up and head for the M20. The plan was that Kobus and I would ride together to Hanover in Germany, where we would meet others attending EMC in the hotel. (Hanover used to be in North East Germany when I lived there, but with the inner German border gone, it is now in the north midlands of the country).

Well, Kobus roared up on his GS just a little early, which was



fantastic. How pleased and blessed I was to meet this man! When we got to the Folkestone terminal we shared a little breakfast and got to know one another a little. Then on to the train to take us through the Eurotunnel, then Calais, here we come!

The ride from Calais to Hanover was quite a challenge. We stopped every couple of hours for fuel and sustenance, but the distance was some 400 miles +, and with huge traffic jams on the Antwerp by-pass we were quite whacked when we arrived at Hanover at about 7:30 p.m. Having freshened up we were pleased to meet Mike and Sandy, Penny, Jason and Mark & Mercy who had crossed the channel on various ferries and made their way independently to the hotel.

DAY 3 – 323 miles Mike took a lead; Kobus rode as Tail-end-Charlie and we rode in group formation from Hanover to Poznan in Poland. Each time we made food and fuel stops, Mike set a splendid example of getting alongside other bikers, listening to them and

seeking opportunities to pray for or minister to them in some other way. In this way there were many opportunities to meet people at their point of need and to minister in to their lives. We even gave away some Biker Bibles when it seemed the right thing to do.



DAY 4 – 360 miles. From Poznan in the west of Poland to Suwalki in the north east of Poland. I was enjoying the fellowship and the friendship as much as the ride.

Along the way a rider with an 'NL' plate joined us at the back of the convoy. An hour later, when we stopped for fuel, I met this new rider properly. He is Laurenz from Holland, a member of the Dutch CMA and a regular visitor to EMC. He is such a lovely guy. He rode with us for the remainder of the journey.

DAY 5 – 216 miles. Suwalki in Poland, through Lithuania, north to Zajenieki, our destination in Latvia.

On a stop for fuel, Mike was found talking to another Dutchman by the name of Kus. He was on his way up

north somewhere, saw no harm in riding through Latvia, so he too joined us. He was camping and needed to find somewhere to stay; I suggested he camp on the campsite at EMC, so he did. He also attended the evening meeting and was challenged by the message he heard from René Changuion, the President of CMA in South Africa. Whilst talking to Kus after the meeting, I couldn't help but notice a woman hovering close to us. It transpires that she lives in the same village as Kus in Holland; indeed, she is a friend of his sister! Clearly God, who brought this lady, Inneke, to EMC had placed her in the same village as this stranger we picked up at a roadside filling station. Kus doesn't stand a chance, does he?!

The food, the friendship, the fellowship, the ministry and the ride-outs were absolutely first class. The teaching was relevant and appropriate. There were worship teams from around Europe. There was plenty of free time for people to enjoy each other's company, to shake hands, exchange hugs and to make new friends of the brothers and sisters from around Europe. There were two ride-outs. Again, they were relevant and appropriate. In particular, we were taken to a monastery in Lithuania where it is situated beside the 'Hill of the Crosses'. People take a cross to the hill and place it there for many reasons, perhaps in memory of a loved one. It is estimated that there are over two million crosses there.

Then, after a two-and-a-half



day conference, the journey home, taking an extra day, as we spent two nights in Poznan in order to see a bit of Poland without it whizzing by at 70+ miles an hour.

It was a blessed time. I thank all for their friendship on the journey and thank all I met at the EMC. Peace be with you. ✝



Reaching the Lost

John Hodgson, South Lancs

Shortly after arriving in our holiday flat in Ballycastle, Northern Ireland, we suddenly heard a beloved familiar sound – loud popping pipes! Running out we were blessed to find out that our holiday stay was right across from a biker stop! A club ride out on vintage bikes had just rolled up; so the mission field was just across the road from us. We had some great talks and gave out tracts, but sadly we were not fully prepared since we neglected to take some biker bibles. Being ready to share the gospel is our business so here's one of John's Bible studies from Ecclesiastes to spur us all on in our sunny seasons ahead. The cartoon caption, by the way, came right from the mouth of an Irish biker we met, who loved his new bike!

Ride with care, the Tights.



Ecclesiastes 11:1-6

'Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.' The first part of verse one is in the imperative mood and this means it is a command. This is the same as, 'Go ye into all the world' in Mark 16:15.



The word for 'cast' in Hebrew refers to sending or casting in a rigorous, intensive or even violent manner.

Jesus said of Himself, "I am the bread of Life" (John 6:48). The seed is the Word of God (Luke 8:11) so the bread we cast is the pure

gospel of the Lord. Repent, believe, receive.

'Upon the waters', from this same verse, refers to the peoples of the earth (see Rev. 17:15 as an example of waters signifying peoples). Interestingly the scripture says 'the face of the

waters', meaning we cannot touch everyone in the world of ourselves but we can reach those in our vicinity.

'Thou shalt find it after many days.' This is a call to perseverance because it is easy to get disheartened in the work of the Lord. 'And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not'. (Gal 6:9)

'Give a portion to seven and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth.'

In Strong's concordance 'portion' = smoothness of the tongue. This means sharing that which God has

← John playing drums at
The Great Gig In The Vale
(see page 26)



given us with someone else verbally or through the written spoken word.

Seven = the perfect number. (Strong's = the sacred full one). God rested on the seventh day after all was complete. Eight = the idea of plumpness: surplus above the perfect seven. So we should share with completeness and even beyond to plumpness. In other words tell as many as you can and even more!!

'For thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the Earth' = 'the night cometh, when no man can work' (John 9:4), since we do not know what tomorrow might bring so that we can no longer preach the gospel freely. Besides this, you never know how close people are to stepping into eternity.

'If the clouds be full of rain, they empty [themselves] upon the earth: and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be.' Being full of rain would imply being full of the Spirit of God so that we must give out from our own fullness. This shows the need

for our personal times with Jesus in prayer and being full of His Word. In Jude we see false brethren who are described as clouds without water showing that such charlatans do not work by the Holy Spirit. ('Whoso boasteth himself of a false gift [is like] clouds and wind without rain.' Prov 25:14)

The tree falls in one of two directions implying towards God or away from Him: Heaven or Hell. Notice that where the tree falls that is where it remains. (Psalm 1:3 and Judges 9 are examples of where men are alluded to as trees.)

'He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap.' Get on with the job of witnessing and don't make excuses – you can do it!

Proverbs 26:13 'The slothful man saith, *There is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets*'. Looking at signs around that discourage may stop us doing the work of the Lord.

'As thou knowest not what [is] the way of the spirit, [nor] how the bones [do grow] in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou

knowest not the works of God who maketh all.' Jesus puts it across like this to Nicodemus:

'The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit' (John 3:8).

God is at work and we cannot see what He is doing in the hearts of men.

'In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both [shall be] alike good.' From first light to sunset; in times of light and in times of darkness; when things are going well and when things are not, 'Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season' (2 Timothy 4:2).

Ride out brothers and sisters and preach the gospel.

God Bless,

Tight John ✚

**Lord, deliver us
from the rules and
regulations of
religion, and help
us develop and
maintain a right
relationship
with You!**

Is there a branch near
to where you live?

Check out the branch
directory on page 4

**Walking with the
Lord can be like
going on a train
journey – you don't
see the train driver
but you know he's
there because the
train is running and
it's on time!**

Bikers Week at Le Pas Opton, France

Martin Highmore, Hampshire & Dorset

I had decided to go to Spring Harvest, France at Le Pas Opton near St Gilles-Crox-de-Vie on the Atlantic coast. Surely on the last week in September it should be 'Harvest Harvest'!! I live on the south coast (Bournemouth) so it's easy to get to France.

I've never ridden a motorcycle abroad before. I've cycled, driven right and left hand cars, but never motorcycles. I don't consider myself an experienced motorcyclist, but the chance to spend a week camping and with Christian friends in France, seemed too good to be true.

I ride a Yamaha 650 Dragstar, not known as a touring bike, but I loaded it up with my tent and all my other camping gear. I try and travel as light as I can.

I'd spoken to Spring Harvest and they booked me in to go on an overnight ferry from Portsmouth to St Malo. This meant I left Portsmouth in the evening and arrived in St Malo in the morning, giving me all day to poodle down to Le Pas Opton.

I got to Portsmouth, queued up with other bikers, looking around for any sign of other CMA members that might be going my way. I was hoping I could tag along, but there was no one else on the boat going to Le Pas Opton.

I had a sat-nav on my phone and had recently put a USB charger on my bike, so I switched on my sat-nav, powered it up through the bike, and off I went.

I had decided to take my time and enjoy the ride down, 170 miles (272 km). The weather was glorious and the sat-nav got me to Le Pas Opton without any problems.

Le Pas Opton is a campsite that can take up to 1,200 people, but on the Bikers Week there were only just over 100. I arrived expecting to be camping with other hard core campers, but there were none!! The rest were all in caravans.

I was sort of on my own at the beginning of the week. I knew there was another couple from my branch, but I didn't know them that well. That's the Hampshire and Dorset branch. As soon as my tent was up and people were passing by, all that changed. People started talking and inviting me for coffee and tea, so no way was I on my own for very long. I became a part of a big family.

Each day there was a meeting in the morning and evening with Sandy and Mike taking it in turns to lead the meeting. The worship leader for the week was Jim from



Romsey, with his young family.

I had decided I would try and cook properly for myself, as I was setting up camp and not moving for a week. I could go down to the hypermarket each day and choose what I would have for tea each night. It worked for a few nights, but I kept getting invited out for meals. This was great as I got to know so many people and Mike



and Sandy insisted that I go to their caravan for breakfast each day. I have always thought it's so important to have a good breakfast, so I was very grateful for this gesture.

On site was an outdoor pool, cycle and canoe hire facilities, and a motorcycle ride out was organised most days. I did not go on any of the ride outs. For me the



afternoons were spent around the pool each day, the temperature got up to 26 to 27 degrees, so it was fabulous. The nights got quite cold though.

I hired a bike one day and about 13 of us had an escorted ride to St Gilles. It's a lovely town with a harbour and a beach. We parked our bikes near the harbour and walked down to the beach, where

ice cream was the order of the day. It really was good because we cycled down mainly traffic free cycle ways and then returned back to the campsite via a different route, all traffic free.

A few lunch times were 'open house' at the caravans. I did try and take things along, but most of the time I was just invited and did not need to take anything.

Another afternoon 7 of us took canoes out for a couple of hours. The camp site backs onto a river, it was great, I saw an otter, an egret, a buzzard and to cap it all a kingfisher. The river is very slow moving, so no need to worry about getting swept away.

I also had a short motorcycle ride out with David who is part of the Hampshire and Dorset branch, that I belong to. We headed towards the

coast at St Gilles and then turned south and after a while we stopped at a bench, looking out at the Atlantic, chatting, before heading back to St Gilles for an ice cream.

The afternoons in the pool were great, doing what boys do, bombing and going down the slide as fast as we could, and in as many different ways as we could. I must admit I did join in and I got carried away a bit too.

It was a great week, a week when I got to know a lot of people. We all had great fellowship, as well as having a great time.

I can't wait until next year!! †



Into the Valley 2017

Ian and Sue Saunders ('Camo' and 'Pink'), Norfolk Borders

A great time of friendship and fellowship. Holy Joes was good fun. Pink was enabled to counsel and support a guy in great need – he was prayed for and took a Biker Bible!

On Saturday night Simon and Wijit prayed for me. I felt the power of the Holy Spirit on me. A good deal of mental issues were given over to God. Wijit remarked that he had received healing for his knee as we prayed! I had a severe injury to my knee. I realized my knee felt so much better. I was looking at surgery.

God will never need or want us to lie for Him. So here it is. I have all movement back in my knee. I don't need my stick. I can sleep, almost no swelling. I have a little soreness which continues to improve!

Praise Jesus our Lord and Saviour! God Bless †

7 Daily Steps to Trust in the Lord with All Your Heart

by John UpChurch

Perhaps you've been told that as a Christian you must learn to "trust in the Lord with all your heart." But this famous passage from Proverbs 3 contains more than just a general statement about living. Instead, you'll find the steps you need each day to truly walk with God. Follow these 7 daily steps to make sure you're leaning on the Lord:

1. Don't Depend on You

We live in a world where trust must be earned and seems to be in short supply. But Solomon, the famous king who wrote Proverbs, knew that trust is exactly where we must start:

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;" (Proverbs 3:5)

Most of us have faced disappointments, which have taught us that we can only depend upon ourselves. But living the life God has called us to means unlearning that lesson. Instead, we're meant to rest in God's understanding.

We may know in our minds that He possesses all wisdom:

"Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!" Romans 11:33

But sometimes trusting Him completely like that can be tough. So, each day we must consciously lay aside our own plans and expectations—and surrender to His plans.

What if we don't feel like we can trust Him like that? That's where step 2 comes in...

2. Cry out to God

Surrendering to God begins with our lips and our thoughts. We need more than a commitment to depend on Him; we need to cry out to Him to show that dependence.

"in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:6)

When we pray, we admit that His ways are higher than ours. We show that we're leaving our troubles and burdens and dreams in His capable hands. In fact, the Bible promises that when we reach out to Him in prayer, He hears us:

"Evening, morning, and noon I cry out in distress, and

he hears my voice." (Psalm 55:17)

We handed the keys of our lives to Him, and we know that He's able to lead us. But in order for that to work, we have to...

3. Run from Evil

So much in this world can clutter up our relationship with God. John, the writer of the fourth gospel, describes them as the desires of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes, and the pride in our lives (1 John 2:16). In other words, our blessings can easily become our stumbling blocks when we think of them as what we deserve or what we need to be happy.

Instead, life works best when we remember the true source of our blessings—God—and focus on the things that please Him:

"Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil." (Proverbs 3:7)

Sometimes, the only way to live the life God wants us to live is by separating ourselves from the bad influences that keep dragging us down. That works the best when we start pursuing something else in their place:

"Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart." (2 Timothy 2:22)

Is that easy? Not at all. Fleeing from the evil desires that pull at us means spending a lot of time crying out to God and leaning on Him. But our Creator promises to honour our commitment to Him when we shun evil:

"This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones." (Proverbs 3:8)

When we pursue Him, we find life—abundant life. Running from evil and pursuing God doesn't come naturally to most of us. Instead, it means we have to make a serious change:

4. Put God First in Your Life

It's easiest to put ourselves first. When something good happens, we want to congratulate ourselves with a reward. When something bad happens, we want to console ourselves or find someone to blame. In other words, we often have a "me-centric" starting place.

And when it comes to money, the struggle is even harder. But Solomon, who had quite a bit of wealth himself, knew that his money didn't belong to him:

"Honour the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine." (Proverbs 3:9–10)

If we can trust God with the first of our wealth, we're truly showing how much we depend on Him. Handing over the first part of our paycheck takes a huge amount of faith, after all. But doing so means being God-centric.

To get there, though, make sure you...

5. Check Yourself by God's Word

Let's be honest. We aren't so good at evaluating ourselves. We will go to great lengths to excuse our behaviour, our actions, and our sins. Who needs a defence attorney when we can pretty much find a reason for any bad thing we do? The prophet Jeremiah captures this very well:

"The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?" (Jeremiah 17:9)

If we're ever going to truly trust in God and flee evil, we have to know exactly where we stand. We have to find an objective measure that tells us the truth. And that truth comes from God and His Word.

Of course, that doesn't mean we'll always like what we see or how we see it:

"My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline and do not resent his rebuke," (Proverbs 3:11)

That's right. Sometimes it takes something bad happening or seeing ourselves in a bad light before we finally admit that we need to change. And the more we're in the Bible, the more likely this is to happen.

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." (Psalm 119:11)

When we have Scripture planted firmly in our hearts, God will often use that to deal with us.

6. Listen to the Holy Spirit

When Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to the church, He told His disciples that this Counselor would be their spiritual compass or GPS:

"But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." (John 14:26)

As we go through our day, this same Holy Spirit guides us, too. That means we don't have to go it alone or hope we're getting it right. No, the Holy Spirit leads us into all truth and protects us:

"Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us." (2 Timothy 1:14)

After all, the gift of the Holy Spirit to us believers reminds us that we can truly...

7. Rest in God's Love

When we face a difficult world each day, we can sometimes wonder if God even cares. Why do bad things happen? Where is God when I need Him? Solomon reminds us that God never takes a break or leaves us to fend for ourselves:

"because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in." (Proverbs 3:12)

Even in the midst of turmoil, God sticks with us and uses those challenges to shape us. When we understand that, our perspective completely flips. No longer do we see our setbacks as failures; we see them as moments when God, as our loving Father, works on us.

And that's exactly why we can trust in the Lord with all our hearts. He cares for us each and every day. He gives us what we need to thrive. He pours blessing after blessing upon us.

Of course, following each of these daily steps isn't easy. That's why Jesus said we have to deny ourselves and follow Him (Matthew 16:24). Trusting God takes a whole-hearted commitment from dawn till dusk. But we're never alone in it:

"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:20b) †

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The Great Gig In The Vale

Kev Cummings, South Lincs

In 1975 The Sex Pistols played a gig in Manchester to 20 people and Punk Rock was born. Decades later the number of people who claim to have been at that gig would fill Wembley Stadium, and decades from now the number of people claiming to be at Darwen Vale in 2017 will be the same – not because of the band, not because a musical genre was born but because God's Spirit moved and 700 teenagers from 12 to 15 who don't yet understand will in time come to faith and be the evangelists of their generation and will say it all began in Darwen.



Too big a dream?

Well you needed to be there.

Sometimes when the dust settles and you have time to look back, only then do you see what happened – they were dancing in the aisles, knee sliding in the mosh pit, arm swaying and one brave soul even considered crowd surfing. We even had a riot with water spraying, bottle throwing and shoe launching at each other but the band played on, it was just like being in Saxon. When the two girls who started it came to say sorry, two sweeter young things you couldn't hope to meet, although they were surprised by our high fives and calls of respect because we enjoyed the riot.

The kids couldn't believe Christians played such driving praise/rock



music and were even more surprised we play the same songs in church every Sunday.

But... when Fred and Fran stood up to talk about The Pilgrim Bike and Robert's murder you could hear a pin drop. The shock and looks of disbelief on the young people's faces when they said they had forgiven the killers of their son in the strength of Jesus... wow... that is going to stay with those kids forever.

On such a blessed day it is wrong to pick people out for special mention or even to thank anyone as everyone was working together to glorify God so I won't, but you know who you are and what you did, you will know in your spirit and heart you are part of God's great plan, and if only for a day, we walked with Angels.

Until next time... although how we top that I do not know but I'm sure God does...

Be Blessed, Kev ✝



Thames Valley CMA visit North Wales

Bill Hughes, Secretary, North Wales

On Saturday 23rd of September my wife Amanda and I rode up to the Ponderosa Cafe on the Horseshoe Pass, Llangollen, representing the North Wales Branch of CMA. We were welcoming Thames Valley Branch who were visiting North Wales, presumably to ride on some proper roads! On arrival we spotted a CMA cross, and found that CMA West Yorkshire were also there, along with



representatives from East Midlands and Devon. We spent an hour or so in pleasant company, after which the Thames Valley contingent arrived to swell the numbers even more.

The next morning we all met for worship at the Gateway Church on the Wrexham Glyndwr University campus. The congregation made us most welcome, and provided fresh continental breakfast. During the service Tanas spoke eloquently about the history and ministry of CMA, and also shared his own testimony. After the service there was a



social fellowship, during which church members and leaders expressed a keen interest in our ministry. North Wales CMA will actively endeavour to maintain links with the Church.

All too soon after this, Tanas marshalled the bikes for the ride home. I am sure we all departed feeling uplifted by the fellowship of the weekend. †

Towcester Branch Activity

Alexander Cooke

CMA Towcester Branch members at Hoggin' the Bridge 2017

Members and supporters from Towcester rode down to Seven View Services on the M48 to take part in Hoggin' the Bridge 2017 on Sunday 8th October and to support Bristol and Gloucester CMA Branches who provided the Helmet Park. Weather was fine and we all enjoyed an excellent ride both ways.



Harley Pete with
Best in Class award



"Posers"



Brackley Festival of Motorcycling August 2017

Rob Abbott at the Towcester CMA Stand at Brackley Festival of Motorcycling 2017



Ponderosa Ride with Thames Valley CMA 2017

Debbie and Rudi Benardie and Alex Cooke, Members of Towcester branch, went along to join the Ponderosa Ride on 23rd/24th September organised by Thames Valley CMA. While the main group stayed overnight in Wales after their long ride, the Towcester riders just had coffee and cake and rode back home.

Towcester Branch CMA Members at RTTW 2017

Towcester Branch members were well represented at RTTW on Saturday 7th October 2017 at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, Staffordshire. We were joined by Doug from Bedford Branch for the ride up and met several others from surrounding CMA branches while we were there.



Towcester Branch Activity

Alex adds this note:

“Don't know if anyone would be interested in joining us in a new-ish venture/outreach to the Biking Community we have started in Buckingham. We started in April this year by inviting local Bikers to meet up for a chat over food and usually get around 20 to 25 people turn up. So far we have had Curry, Chilli and BBQ it all depends on who is cooking.”

**JOIN US AT BUCKS BIKE NIGHTS ON THE THIRD FRIDAY
EACH MONTH FOR FREE FOOD AND SOCIAL CHAT**

**WHERE – THE CENTRE, VERNEY CLOSE
BUCKINGHAM MK18 1JP**

TIME – 19.00 TO 21.00

WHEN - EVERY THIRD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

**ALL ARE WELCOME –
YOU DON'T HAVE TO HAVE A MOTORCYCLE**



Introducing Our Daily Bread Ministries

Chris Wale, ODBM Editor

Our Daily Bread Ministries is known around the world for the popular Bible reading notes *Our Daily Bread*. We've existed since 1938, when one man took one microphone and began one mission: to share the message of God's love and forgiveness with anyone who would listen!

From one radio programme, God has grown Our Daily Bread Ministries into a non-denominational, non-profit global ministry with more than 600 staff and 1,000 volunteers in over 35 offices. Together we share more than 60 million resources across 150 different countries in over 55 languages!

We're excited to be able to create new, relevant and topical resources each year; all of which are available without any

tell their story and display 'The Pilgrim', their Harley Davidson Softail bike.

On 27 December 2007, they lost their seventeen year old son Robert. Three young men tried to steal his money late that night. When they failed, they threw him off a bridge into a river. God put the words from Isaiah 43:2 on Frances' mind, giving her a strong sense that God was with Robert in the water in his final moments. She adds, "Robert was a young



obligation to donate. We want to help our readers get to know God better, grow in their faith and share their journey with Jesus with their friends and family.

And we're delighted to be able to support the CMA with our resources. We are in the early stages of adapting some of the content, and creating new resources, to help share the gospel and offer Bible teaching to bikers and their families.

"When you go through deep waters, I will be with you." Isaiah 43:2

Recently we met with Frances and Fred. They go to lots of different motorbike shows and festivals to

Christian. That's why we have the hope of where he is. Robert asked Jesus to be his friend when he was ten years old."

Their decision to stand firm in God's grace and forgiveness in 2007 is still having a profound effect today on many hundreds of people. Fred and Frances travel to different motorbike shows and festivals, taking 'The Pilgrim' with them. Fred said he built the bike as a 'Thank You' to God, 'and to show in the artwork something of His beauty and peace.'

At each event many people come to see the bike and hear their incredibly painful story—in doing so, they see a powerful example of the forgiveness Jesus offers to



everyone. You can watch Fred and Frances tell the full story at ourdailybread.org/story/frances-and-freds-story

You can also find out more about Our Daily Bread Ministries, including who we are and how we can support you, online at ourdailybread.org

Partners with CMA UK

We are supported by the following organisations:



Open Doors is an international ministry serving persecuted Christians and churches worldwide. We supply Bibles, leadership training, literacy programmes, livelihood support and advocacy.



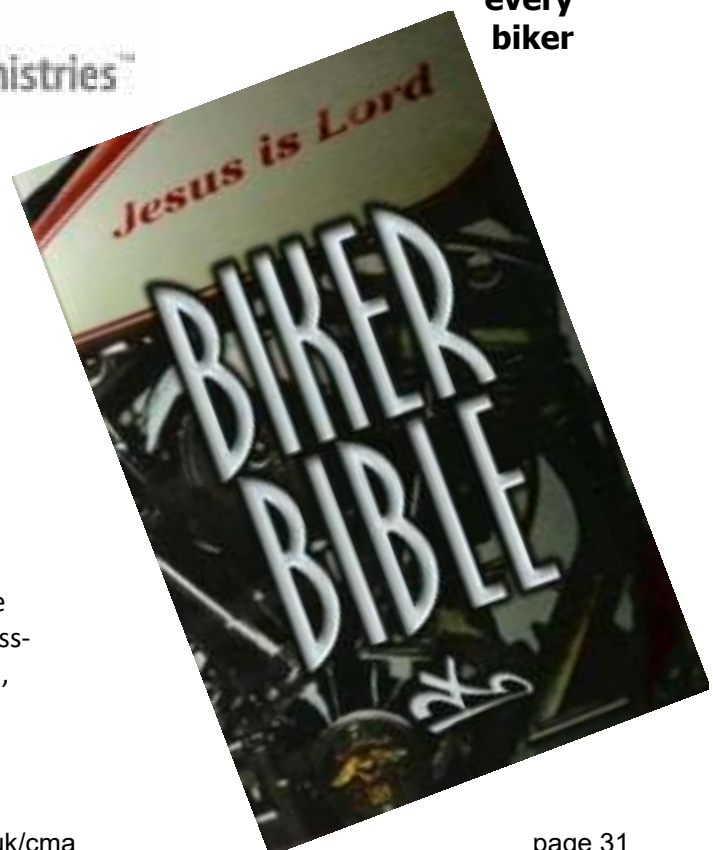
For 150 years The Evangelization Society (TES) has served the UK as a major evangelistic organisation – seeking to see men, women and children brought into the Kingdom of God.

We make Scriptures available where there are none. We work to help the church engage with the Bible more effectively. And we endeavour - through the arts, education, media and politics – to make the Bible available, accessible and credible in our culture.

**The target:
a Bible for
every
biker**



World Horizons exists on behalf of places and people not yet prayed for, churches not yet planted and cross-cultural workers not yet sent. We are a prayer based, pioneering, prophetic, pastoral mission movement.



CMA-UK



www.bike.org.uk