



CHAINLINK

The Magazine of the Christian Motorcyclists' Association UK

SPRING 2021

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From the Editor's Garage

During these present times when 'political correctness' seems to trump much common sense, we find ourselves having to watch what we say or how to say it so as not to offend a small but self-significant minority.

I lost a good friend earlier this year, George Russell from Aintree, Liverpool. George's amazing story appeared across two issues of this magazine a few years ago. To say, 'lost', is not really correct – I didn't 'lose' him nor did he get 'lost'. He is very much 'found' by the Saviour he loved and was so passionate about. Perhaps to say he 'changed address' or was 'promoted to a higher calling' would be more appropriate.

However you want to say it, I'm sure George wouldn't give a toss (in his own words) because he has taken up residence in a glorious place. The Bible says, 'absent from the body, and present with the Lord'. Wherever Jesus Christ is, to be with Him is definitely glorious. Chris and I were privileged to be invited to his funeral, where just a handful of family and friends were present. We heard testimony of his faithfulness to the Saviour and of the love and respect he rightly had from all who knew him. His departure was not due to Covid-19 and was pretty quick, much, I imagine, to both his and his family's relief.

As followers of Jesus Christ, only begotten Son of Almighty Father God, Creator of all, we have the same glorious hope that when we leave this life, for whatever reason, we will be ushered into His presence. What a day that will be!

George was a biker with a very 'colourful' history. He was a former member of the Tribe of Judah Motorcycle Ministries and was most at home when surrounded by one-percenters, giving his story of faith to all who listened. He wasn't afraid of talking to anyone. I admired him for that. His memory will stick with me for as long as I live. I wonder what I will be remembered for. What will people remember *you* for?

Ride safe (soon, we hope) and, as always, keep the tyres on the tarmac.

John

absent
from
the
body,
and
present
with
the
Lord

2 Corinthians 5:8

Articles for Chainlink are most welcome, and should preferably be submitted by e-mail to john@hodge.uk.com

All images should be high resolution (originals from your camera/smartphone) and **NOT** embedded in a text document. Vector graphics are also welcome. Text documents should be unformatted text or rich text format (RTF) files. MS Word, OpenOffice and WordPerfect documents are acceptable, **PDFs are not.**

The sender must have permission for the inclusion of ALL names, addresses and pictures, especially of children, prior to submission and be able to 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 Executive committee. The editor retains the right to correct spelling and grammar as appropriate.

National Chairman, CMA UK

Mike Fitton

Breathe on me

*Breathe on me breath of God
Breathe on me breath of God
And draw from me a praise that finds Your throne
Draw from me a praise that's Yours alone
Your praise will fall from my lips at all times
For I know, I know the love of God*

Claire Hamilton's song 'Breathe on me' has been a favourite of mine for a number of years now – we play it regularly in our church worship band and I sing it in my helmet as I ride to minister with CMA. It's a desperate prayer and possibly sums up how we have all felt at one time or another. It's a prayer that should be considered in a quiet place alone with Jesus – see Matthew 6:6.

Breathe on me breath of God

When our 'faith tank' feels like it is on reserve, circumstances we face appear to be much harder than we can cope with. Irrespective of our age, fatigue can have a huge effect on our trust.

Isaiah 40:30-31 – 'Even youths grow tired and weary'. and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Genesis 2:7 – 'When God created man, He breathed life into his nostrils, and he became a living creature'.

The very Word of God is Truth, Living, Powerful and God breathed.

2 Timothy 3:16 – 'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness'.

And draw from me a praise that finds Your throne

This is when we admit that we are struggling and need help, we are not sure if there is even a praise left in us. 'God draw from me a praise that will find Your throne'. David in tough days said, 'He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the LORD and put their trust in him.' – Psalm 40:3.

Notice he said, 'God PUT a new song in his mouth. God draw from me a praise'.

Draw from me a praise that's Yours alone

Perhaps our concentration isn't fully on Jesus. Hebrews 11 lists the heroes of faith but Hebrews 12:1-2 states to be a hero of faith, 'RUN with perseverance the race marked, FIXING OUR EYES ON JESUS, the pioneer and perfecter of faith'.

It's all about Jesus and He is worthy of our praise – wholly His and no one else.

Your praise will fall from my lips at all times

As God breathes His life into us, it can change a soul that is weary into a place of continual praise. Psalm 34:1 'I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

John 20:22 'After the resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples. They were overjoyed

'I know,
I know
the love
of God'



to see Him. And Jesus then "breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit'. They were never the same again.

The final words of the song are - **For I know, I know the love of God.**

As we face the days ahead, the Father heart of God would encourage us to take hold of these verses to the Church of Ephesus.

16 I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. 17 Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in

him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. ¹⁸ And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. ¹⁹ May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God (Ephesians 3:16-19).

God Bless you,
Mike

Official Stuff...

CMA UK Trustees

Brian Carbonero, Naomi Hogan,
Fraser McDougall, Rob Urand

trustees@bike.org.uk

CMA UK National Executive

National Chairman	Mike Fitton	thefittons@aol.com
National Treasurer	Rob Urand	4roberturand@gmail.com
National Secretary	Ted Russell	ted.russell26@gmail.com
Exec Member	Chris Houghton	secretary.soul.cmauk@gmail.com
Exec Member	Les Jones	les.jones75@ntlworld.com
Exec Member	Dave Lock	dave@palmydays.co.uk
Exec Member	Amy Stalker	amybstalker@aol.com

CMA UK National Officers

Membership Secretary	Ted Russell	ted.russell26@gmail.com
National Administrator	Bob Hudson	contact@bike.org.uk
Chainlink Editor	John Hodge	john@hodge.uk.com
Merchandise	Kobus Bensch	merchandise@bike.org.uk
FastTrack	Steve Clarke	fasttrack@bike.org.uk
Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Mel Gilday	safeguarding@bike.org.uk
GDPR Co-ordinator	Beccy Pemberton	contact@bike.org.uk
Webmasters	Stephen Hughes-Burton,	
	Philip Head	webmaster@bike.org.uk
Workbook & Publicity	Ian Cameron	workbooks@bike.org.uk

CMA UK Branches

For a complete and up-to-date list of all UK branches please check out the CMA UK website – see the link in the footer of this page.

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 Christ, and also seeking Him for themselves.

The Bible says: 'Seek and you will find'
St Matthew chapter 7, verse 7



CONTACT US:

CMA UK
PO Box 8155
Loughborough
LE11 9AR

Freefone
0800 0154479

contact@bike.org.uk
www.bike.org.uk



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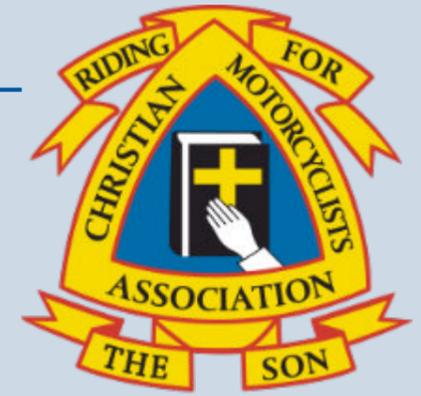
We make Scriptures available where there are none. We work to help the church engage with the Bible more effectively. And we endeavour - through the arts, education, media and politics - to make the Bible available, accessible and credible in our culture.



Our mission is to make the life-changing wisdom of the Bible understandable and accessible to all.



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.



tes

supporting evangelism across the uk

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.



Remembrance with a Difference

Mark Coupe, Towcester

At Towcester Branch we have been holding a Biker based Remembrance Service for many years.

We have developed a standardised programme that has been honed over years to ensure a number of voices and different items as well as incorporating the Exhortation, Last Post, two minutes silence, Reveille and Kohima address. We mix in some poems, prayers, a bible reading, and a very short reflection to try and limit it to 20 minutes up to the two minutes silence. We also add in two or three songs, invariably 'Brothers in Arms' Dire Straits plus an Australian song about the Vietnam War ('I was just 19' by Red Gum). Finishing up we have tried a number of more obvious items such as the Forces Wives Choir and similar. We ask any attending members of the armed services, currently serving or retired, to come to the front for the two minute silence in recognition of their offer to sacrifice their lives to keep us safe. We ask them to take part, if they want to, with the readings. As a Christian outreach group we keep God in the event but we are aware that the attendees are not looking for a religious service of the conventional kind, or conventional length.

The event itself is held in the car park at the front of Jack's Hill Café on the A5 just north of Towcester. It is a popular place for bikers to meet and rest throughout the year. The owners have always been fully supportive and provide power to our equipment as well as allowing us to cordon off a large part of their car park to keep everyone safe.

Generally we will have 100-150 people attending. We do advertise around the local area but we are aware that if we were to become too large it would become an event requiring specialised management, so we are happy to maintain numbers at around this level. We have had on and off attendance by the Police and they have always seemed happy with how we are running things.

We hold collections for Help for Heroes and the Royal British Legion during the event.

Although the service is the main part of the event the Ride Out that follows (100+ bikes doing an 18 mile 'parade' circuit of local roads) requires more people and more planning as we close off each junction as the riders arrive to allow safe travel and to keep the group together. This got more and more difficult as more housing estates were built and 'empty' roundabouts



suddenly became busy requiring marshalling. We got to the point that we needed 20+ marshals just for the ride which, even with support from neighbouring branches (Bedford, Thames Valley, West Midlands), a local motorcycle club (Barrel Bikers BC), and friends, became too much for us to cope with. In the end I designed a new route which greatly reduced the marshalling and kept the overall distance.

In 2020 we were not able to put this event on as another lock down was coming into force and so we put together, at very short notice and with no discernible talent, a video of the event to circulate to everyone we knew on two wheels. We had two deadlines, one caused by the timing to complete the activity as we started at the beginning of October, and the other by the weather. We decided to cram it all in on the first dry weekend afternoon in an empty Jack's Hill car park. The very short notice between the kitchen planning meeting, at Malcolm and Fi Hysom's, and the filming, only a couple of days, meant that we ended up with exactly the right number of people for social distancing. Thanks to lock-down protocols all the men had facial hair, which is disproportionate for the biking community, but having two lady bikers meant that we were accurately representing the exciting increase in female riders. We decided that trying to find a trained camera man would be against the spirit of the event, which tries not to be too slick and achieves it excellently, so a very good friend did his best with a GoPro camera and, initially, a separate microphone. The microphone packed up halfway through so we had to continue with the GoPro microphone and there is a noticeable change in the sound quality. We also had to contend with passing traffic and fading light but we got there in the end.

In the middle is a short talk about Hope and Positivity with many references to the effects on mental health at this time. I recorded this through the medium of Zoom. My attempt at a photograph backdrop was not entirely successful as a door and a picture manage to manifest in the view of the park bench I was using as a reference. We decided not to include any songs as we did not want

to fall foul of copyrights. The camera man then turned into editor using rudimentary proprietary software and we passed cuts to and fro until we, a) were happy and, b) had run out of time. The Royal British Legion provides the trumpet calls with the silence in the middle which we rightfully included in our video.

Having a 'finished' product we then distributed it as far and wide as we could. We don't have the details of all those who normally attend so we emailed out to all that we did and requested them to share it with their biker friends. We shared it with the local branch of the Royal British Legion Riders and I also sent it to all the chairmen and women and the secretaries of the other CMA Branches. We had two formats – a YouTube channel we had set up and a downloadable Google Drive. We have had 107 views on YouTube and no idea about the Google Drive but for us it is not a competition but an offering. We pray that whoever needed to see it was able to.

YouTube link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_GOlgScMvgk&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR3jXRDFsbD_gyupUHKxJQeNdxAeXfDn4TqEU17P3aFrjh-HU7tMOp-xmZs

The 'Grace', which is at the end of the video, is not as common across all churches as I expected. It took an incredible number of goes (or 'takes' as we say in the



business, ha ha!), to get a simple phrase correct and together. The relief after we finally got it right was not shown but we are hoping for an 'out-takes' cut which will show the little dances of delight!

The credits are as follows:

Original Service ideaMalcolm Hysom
 Filming the 2020 versionFi Hysom
 Catalyst, producer, writer,
 co-director, props, talk, etc.Mark Coupe
 PoemJames Manning
 ActorsColeen Wallman
Chileen de Beer
Alex Cooke
Michael Dillow
James Manning
Deborah Manning
Malcolm Hysom
Mark Coupe
 Cameraman, Editor, Co-Director
 and absolute starRob Abbott

Thank you to Jack's Hill Café for allowing us the time and the place, Michael de Beer and the rest of the de Beer family for being there in support, and our Lord for the joy of serving Him and serving others.

Even if we could engender World Peace there will always be a need to remember the sacrifices made in different times – if only to remind ourselves not to make the same mistakes. The Service and the ride out will be continuing for the foreseeable future. We hope you may be able to attend. †

There is a Reason...

Pete Redman, Hants & Surrey

I would like to share a testimony of the goodness of God to me over the last few years, which I hope you will find encouraging. The story is not yet finished. It is an on-going journey.

I've ridden motorbikes all my life from a Norton Navigator (the first British integrated engine gearbox bike) in 1962 to a Honda Maggot (the couriers' favourite machine) in 1996 to a 'real' Triumph Bonnie in 2004 (my favourite) to a Triumph America in 2015, amongst others.



However in 2015 my life took a dramatic turn when rheumatoid arthritis (RA) flared up and reduced me progressively towards the four wheels of a mobility scooter.

Over the next many months I was in pain in most of the joints in my body whenever I moved them.

Motorcycling was way off the immediate agenda as I couldn't even stand let alone walk or ride, but riding again remained my determined goal.

So from early on in my pain and suffering I was seeking the Lord.

'Why Lord?'

'What is the reason for this?'

'Are You wanting me to hear and learn something from You?'



Every time I prayed it I felt He was simply saying to me, 'Love Me more'.

'But Lord you know I love you'.

'Love Me more' was the reply.'

Finally my reply was, 'OK Lord I've got the message'.

Yes, I did go to church every Sunday and I read the Bible and prayed, admittedly not very systematically. I really thought I was OK – after all I was a leader in the church.

Having got the message I deliberately chose to begin a concentrated daily Bible reading schedule and surprise, surprise I found that as I spent more time in the Word so I got more excited and became so immersed in it that I could hardly put the Bible down. It wasn't the knowledge I gained – it was a greater understanding of the character of God and my relationship with Him and what I discovered was awesome. I didn't need to be able to explain everything and answer every question in the Bible – that's impossible. It required an act of faith and trust.

That was difficult for me as an engineer because I needed to be able to explain how things worked and understand the science behind things. As I came to accept that there are things my mind will never be able to explain in this life I found my faith growing.

I knew that during this time very many people, friends, family and CMA-ers were faithfully praying for me which I'm convinced enabled me to hold onto my faith and affirm my hope in Christ through those rather dark and seemingly hopeless times that came along. There have been several amazing answers to prayer over these years.

One amazing answer to prayer was when God, in His grace, brought along to our church one Sunday morning a military amputee rehabilitation physiotherapist. On his first visit he saw me in a



wheelchair and asked me why I was in the chair. I told him and he said, "I think I can help you. Can I visit you?"

Over the next two years he helped me enormously through his physiotherapy programmes to regain a good level of mobility again. I believe it was no coincidence that he turned up at that time, it was God's gracious provision for me. Prayer makes a difference.

There followed another God-incidence, answer to prayer.

In the midst of all the RA pain and suffering one of my knees became so painful that it needed a joint replacement and the other one wasn't far behind. The NHS waiting list was up to a year so I decided (note the 'I decided') to have it done privately. To cut a long story short the surgeon managed to mis-align the new joint – hence I have continued difficulty in using that leg. When the second knee needed replacing I sought God first this time and, miracle of miracles, my surgeon turned out to be a born-again Christian who prayed with me on my first visit and at the operating table. Not only was he able to fast track me, the operation went perfectly. The lesson I learned from this is to first take all your circumstances to God and let Him direct you and don't decide for yourself the action to take. Prayer makes a difference!

I'm sure God uses the various good and bad circumstances of our life in order to get our attention

and cause us to seek Him more and to grow in Christ-likeness. So the question remains, however, that since God is sovereign and perfectly capable of an instant miracle of my healing, why is my situation just getting worse? The answer I got from God was that it wasn't about healing – it was about my relationship with Him in Christ. God reminded me that my relationship with Christ is never OK until we reach heaven so there is always room for improvement.

The RA is still causing severe stiffness in most joints in my body which means they are painful to move but the miracle of all this is that in spite of the loss of mobility and stability and pain I feel peaceful and content, not angry or shouting at God (or anybody else). That is not natural – that is supernatural. That is Christ deeper in me giving greater assurance of my hope – the hope of eternity in heaven. As I've journeyed and deepened my relationship with Christ, so I can see clearly how Paul

could say he's joyful in suffering – 'We also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character, and character, hope' (Romans 5:3-5).

So I believe there is an overall reason that these events are happening in my life which is to challenge me to grow in the Lord and become more Christlike and look forward into the future with faith and hope for what is to come in heaven whilst rejoicing in my moments here on earth.

It's not the end of my story, the journey goes on and and there's more to come.

I do thank those of you who know of my RA pain for your faithful prayers. I'm not pain free but God only knows what lies ahead. 🙏

it wasn't about healing, it was about my relationship with Christ



The Lockdown Blues

George & Caz Laws, Debbie Anderson, Tyne & Wear

Languishing in lockdown has been hard for most of us. With the approach of Christmas, memories of last year linger in the mind. Gatherings of bikers to bring presents to hospitals, CMA Christmas parties, ride-outs with friends and houses full of laughing, happy children—all oh so different this year.

Last Christmas

The last ride out was a small affair. Five bikes headed out into the countryside following full distance guidelines. Stopping for the obligatory bacon sandwich, it took all my skills as a photographer to get everyone into an image as no one would stand too near each other. The ride was fun but without the usual banter, it felt a little subdued. Only weeks previous we'd all sat together eating and enjoying each other's company. Looking back, I can imagine how the disciples felt when they realised that the last supper they had with Jesus was the last they would eat with him until he returned. If I'd known then that it would be so long before I sat with my fellow CMA members again, I would have made more of it.

Christmas in lockdown

But it's not all doom and gloom. Zoom meetings brought us back together, despite some people wanting to take a hammer to their computers and the internet strength falling so low that people had to prematurely leave. Quizzes and funny stories made us laugh and WhatsApp kept us in touch daily.

Then came the first of December and more Christmas jokes than you could shake a stick at (if you ever did want to shake a stick at a Christmas joke and many did by Christmas Eve). Example: *I asked my wife what she*



Socially distanced eating

had bought me for Christmas. She pointed outside to a bright red Harley Davidson. 'Do you see that bike out there?' I smiled and said 'yes'. 'Well, I've bought you a jumper that colour,' she said.



George, looking a tad overweight

Then the first signs of depression took hold, over-eating and, according to my wife, talking to myself. 'No, I didn't. Did I? Why am I asking you?' Wearing clothes I've never worn in years was a shock to my wife and for good reasons (see the overeating remark above). With the bike covered up and on trickle-charge there was nowhere to go. I'd seen all the re-runs of the films they re-ran last year. A smile came to my face when we received a card from Barbara and Ray. I haven't a clue who they are but they send us a card every year addressed to a Mr and Mrs F Chilton. I haven't a clue who they are either. It's nice to see they still send cards. They're probably thinking, 'We send the Chiltons a card every year and never get one in return.' Despite this it still takes pride of place on my mantelpiece. Perhaps it's something I should do, send random cards

to people I don't know, from people they don't know, wishing them God's blessing at Christmas.

I'd finished Henry Cole's biography and was a little saddened by the bad language, when I heard the theme music to 'The Good, the Bad and the Ugly.' It was my phone telling me I had a call. Catherine, a member of Tyne & Wear CMA told me to look outside my house. Opening the front door, Lee, her husband, stood dressed as Santa, with a CMA cut on, offering a socially distanced gift and card. After placing them on the ground in front of my door he took tentative steps

backwards as if the parcel contained a bomb. 'Happy Christmas,' he cried and like the real Santa was off to the next member, presents in hand. I took a picture of him with my phone and posted it on WhatsApp. By the time I got back into the house, my phone was going wild with images and messages from CMA members who had also been visited by the red-suited wonder and his wife. It's the little things that cheer people up the most, I think. Perhaps I should

stop posting Christmas jokes? Nooooooo, never—LOL

Ephesians 2:10 says *'For we are of God's masterpiece. He created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.'*

After reading this verse in Ephesians I felt that God was telling me that He had given me an important assignment and it is vital that I complete it. He has created me with unique abilities and I fit the role like a piece of a jigsaw puzzle. God has given me an assignment to do and it is important that I do it. All I had to do now was figure out how telling jokes, taking photographs and writing would fit into God's plans. Then I realised I didn't have to. God would lay on my heart the areas where my specific jigsaw piece fitted. I'd seen it so many times in other people.



The new greeting

Instead of giving out her usual bracelets saying, 'Jesus loves you,' Caz, my wife felt God speak to her. Buying several small wooden Christmas decorations depicting the nativity, she sent them out to each CMA member with a Christmas card. For those that weren't Christians she gave them a small jigsaw piece with the message, 'You are a piece in the jigsaw puzzle of my life. Thank you, Caz'. Showing Christian values can sometimes be as good as speaking to people.

Visit to Women's Domestic Violence Refuge

Just before Christmas Caz went up into the loft to get down Christmas presents (previously bought throughout the year), along with decorations and wrapping paper. To her surprise she found a huge bag which she thought contained Christmas decorations. When opening it she discovered a bag which had been somehow overlooked for two years.

In the bag was already-wrapped Christmas presents! 'Very intriguing...' she thought and wondered how they could be up there. The only thing she could think of was they were put up there two years ago when she was ill and taken into hospital on Christmas Eve. As normal on Christmas Day the family come to our house with the grandchildren. I had been upset that Caz hadn't been there on Christmas morning and had forgotten to give out the presents.

Bringing the presents downstairs she sent a text to our children to ask if they had received presents that year. Sheepishly they said they thought it was very unusual to not receive any but didn't like to say anything as they were upset by the fact Caz was not there to celebrate opening presents with them.

Caz had already bought presents for all the family this year so prayed about what she should do. In the past couple of years she had given gifts to Salvation Army in

Sunderland. She thought about her past and how blessed she was now. Before we were married she was once in a similar situation to the women and children in our local Refuge. Nodding to herself she decided there and then to donate the pre-wrapped presents to the local Women's Refuge. She talked it over briefly with me and I was totally in favour. I trust her judgement and know she will have prayed about the situation to get clarification.

She shared this info with members of our Tyne & Wear Branch CMA through WhatsApp, who were all totally in favour too. She asked if someone could go along to the Refuge with her as I wouldn't be allowed access. Covid restrictions had been eased as Lockdown Two edged towards Christmas. This gave Caz the opportunity to deliver the presents.

The call Caz put out for someone to join her was picked up by Debbie who responded very quickly and was glad she was able to go along. Caz then phoned the Women's Refuge in Sunderland and spoke to the woman at the local Refuge and arranged to go along with the gifts. Before they left Caz put business cards from our CMA branch onto each gift so they would know they were from us as an organisation, with everyone's blessing.

Wearing their cuts (and masks of course – lockdown rules) they approached what I had always thought was

just an ordinary block of flats. Because Caz had phoned earlier, they were both buzzed straight through security to meet with one of the managers. When they arrived, they chatted with a lovely female member of staff who told them a little about the Refuge. Caz explained about her situation many years ago and why she felt this was the right place to give the gifts.

The manager was very open, friendly, and appreciative of the presents Caz was bringing for the women and children in the refuge. They had a good chat about the work they were doing, and the work of CMA and their faith. To Caz and Debbie's surprise they were invited to return at any time to chat with her and the people living in the Refuge. They said they could revisit at Easter and the manager said that would be lovely.

There is something special about working for God and building relationships within your own community and they hope to go back at Easter. Caz felt she couldn't do this by herself but in God's strength she realised she could do anything.

'Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory... my flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.' Psalm 73:23-26, NIV 🙏



Tyne & Wear last supper

They Crucified My Lord Today

Stephanie Thomas, Hants & Dorset

They crucified my Lord today
They hung him high for all to see
God gave to us his only son
Who died alone to set us free

This man his name is Jesus
Let me tell you what I know
If you ask Jesus to live in you
His seed of love inside will grow

Jesus came to share good news
Great crowds would gather near
As he poured out such compassion
His amazing love cast out all fear

Jesus calls us all to be followers
To walk the humble life he led
In communion with God his Father
These mighty words he said

I am the way the true and the life
Whosoever believes in me
Will not die but they shall live
I have come to set you free

Oh Lord they didn't listen to you
They were told that you were bad
And laughed at all your teachings
For they thought that you were mad

They mocked and beat you badly
But you said Father, please forgive
They know not what they are doing
For you died so mankind could live

They crucified my Lord today
His body was whipped and torn
They nailed his hands onto a cross
On his head a crown of thorns

And while He hung there dying
For everyone to come and see
They heard him cry out to his Father
Why have you forsaken me

They crucified my Lord today
As the sky turned wild and black
His body was placed inside a tomb
But he said he would come back

The tomb they found was empty
The stone had been rolled away
Jesus had kept his promise to us
For he rose up on that third day

They crucified my Lord today
But inside my heart will sing
Jesus has victory over the grave
Now death has lost its sting

Let us bow in awe before Jesus
Worshipping our Lord of everything
Turn from our wicked ways
Repent and praise our holy King

Amen

God's Timing

Vince Neale, Devon & Cornwall

It never ceases to amaze me how God is always on time...

Since graduating from Bible College in 2012 after four years of study (Pastoral track) it has been a waiting game, applying for 'Church jobs', different avenues of Christian Ministry and being the Senior Pastor of a Christian Biker Church/Ministry things have kind of tailed off over time for whatever reason.

We spend a lot of time waiting, waiting for this and waiting for that. God is in our waiting and, at the right time, He moves. We may not see changes in these times, but God knows when to move.

God's timing is always perfect; sometimes God's timing for us isn't always how we expect it.

Being a 'Doctor Who' fan, the 'Doctor' is a 'Time Lord' from the planet Gallifrey, travelling around the universe in time and space stepping in on time. There are some times I wish I had the TARDIS materialising on time! But you know that God is the ultimate Lord of time!

We read several stories in the Old and New Testaments about characters who waited on God and his timing. God is always on time and it's always perfect timing – whatever we apply for and wait on Him either for an answer to prayer or to a job applied for.

I can testify to God's amazing timing. Just recently I applied for a (voluntary) Hospital Chaplain post at the other Hospital site here in Plymouth. Needless to say I was successful – again his timing and right plan for me. I had to wait for that of course and some more waiting for security/DBS checks. The timing couldn't be more perfect!

So if you're waiting on God for something specific for an answer don't give up now! You're on the edge of something amazing! You're in good company, I can assure you, and you're certainly not alone! Keep waiting – God is on the way!

Some Biblical Scriptures to encourage you: Psalm 27:4, Galatians 6:9 and Psalm 37:7 to name just a few.

BE BLESSED! †



Psalm 27:4

'One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.'

Galatians 6:9

'And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.'

Psalm 37:7

'Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!'

CHAINLINK Junior

In the last issue, Winter 2020-21, we introduced a new feature, CHAINLINK Junior, as an experiment, hoping to have some feedback. None was offered so, taking into account the extra resources required to produce the 4-page addition, we have not repeated the exercise. Should there be any strong feeling either way then please contact the magazine editor.



Photo by Jordan Nyah

You Are Feeling Very Sleepy...

Brian Carbonero, Essex

With the prospect of at least the current lockdown restrictions easing in the coming weeks/months, I'm sure we're all keen to get back on our bikes and do more than just 'stay local'. With all that pent up enthusiasm for hitting the road and the prospect of longer rides, there is also the prospect of fatigue. It may not seem like a major concern but studies show that fatigue is responsible for as many as 20% of all vehicle crashes – and our riding ability is affected by fatigue long before we get to the stage of feeling sleepy. So here are some tips on helping to fight fatigue, compiled from various sources and my own experience.

Even on long trips where you're trying to cover a long distance in good time, don't just stick to one type of road (e.g. motorways) but plan a route that includes varied roads. Apart from the variety, we are more mentally and physically active in controlling the bike on more minor / winding roads.

If you're taking luggage, and particularly if it's the first time you're packing a bike, have a practice run at least the day before the actual trip. Load it up and go for a local run so you can get used to how it handles, particularly at low speeds. You don't want to be getting used to it on a long run and particularly if you get tired. You may even find that you don't want to take half the stuff you'd planned on!

Ensure you're appropriately dressed for the weather conditions. Too hot and you'll dehydrate even faster than normal, too cold and your reflexes will slow down – both will result in your becoming fatigued more quickly.

Plan regular stops. If we're wanting to cover a lot of miles it's tempting to keep going for as long as the bike has fuel and we can physically manage it, as stopping wastes time right? If you turn every stop into a half hour coffee break then it will substantially add to the journey time, but more frequent short stops (even just 5 mins to walk around and stretch) make a big difference to our mental alertness and to our physical condition—both during the ride and at the end of it.



With Beverley outside the World Horizons HQ near Lille, France

My back issues mean I no longer have the choice but to make at least a short stop every hour or so. It sounds annoying but I've actually found that they make a big difference to how enjoyable the journey is because I'm fresher for more of the journey than in the past when I'd keep going for as long as possible.

Drink plenty of water, both before you go and during the journey – even if you're not feeling thirsty. On average men need at least 2 litres of fluid a day and women 1.5 litres. This is an average in normal conditions. The amount needed increases the bigger we are, and in full bike gear on (hopefully) a warm or even hot day we will need more.

We can lose 1-2% of our body's water content before we feel thirsty. That may not sound like much, but research shows that losing just 1% of our water content negatively affects our attention, memory and coordination. There is also a limit to how quickly our body can absorb the water we drink, so if we wait until we feel thirsty before drinking we may stop it getting worse but we won't actually improve our hydration level overall. So drinking before we leave (pre-hydration) and having a drink at each stop helps our bodies to keep on top of the water loss, preventing dehydration. This also helps ensure we take regular breaks – to find a toilet! 😊

Avoid 'energy drinks' or other drinks high in caffeine/sugar. They may provide an initial short term buzz but this is followed by an energy 'crash' when our alertness

and bodies will be worse of than we were before. Also, avoid big meals and foods high in carbohydrate, fat and sugar. These slow your body down while it concentrates on digesting the food. Smaller more frequent snacks are a better option.

During the stops don't just sit on the bike or a chair, but walk up and down and maybe even do a few stretches (there are various websites with ideas for stretches for motorcyclists). There are even some stretches you can do while riding the bike – although only in the right conditions and you'll want to make sure you practice them somewhere safe first! Examples include:

- Stand up on the pegs and/or stretch out your legs.
- A version of the 'cat cow' yoga position where you slide your bum back on the seat and arch your back out, then slide your bum to the front of the seat while pushing your chest forwards and shoulders back.
- With your hands still on the grips as normal and for each hand in turn, touch the tip of your thumb to the tip of each finger in turn.
- Move your knees out as far at you can, then bring them back in and grip the tank with them for a few seconds.

Wind noise also contributes to fatigue, so a good pair of ear plugs are a good idea – and also protect your hearing in the long term. You can get ones that remove a lot of the high frequency wind noise but don't wipe out all the 'normal' useful noises you'd want to hear as a rider. Opinions and research seem to be divided on whether listening to something while in charge of a vehicle is a

good idea or not. Having some background music seems to generally be considered helpful on monotonous roads, while listening to something like an audio book which needs more of our attention is generally considered a bad idea. Although it may mean we are more attentive, when we are listening to a book our attention is taken away from the road, as both use the same part of the brain – the bit we rely on for planning movements, spatial awareness and decision making. There is also the longer term impact on our hearing to consider, as the volume needed to adequately hear anything above any wind/road noise is likely to be damaging over the long term. Perhaps stick with ear plugs...

Finally, it should go without saying that if we ever find ourselves tired or even sleepy while riding, then we should stop as soon as we safely can and have a break – even a nap. I found myself in this situation when coming back from the Isle of Man one year, so pulled over and had a 30 min sleep on a bench in the services. Just that short sleep was enough to make me feel really refreshed.

Anyway, I hope you find that one or more of the above are useful. Enjoy riding and keep safe. 🙏



At the Calf of Man, during the Isle of Man TT

Book Reviews

David Thornton,

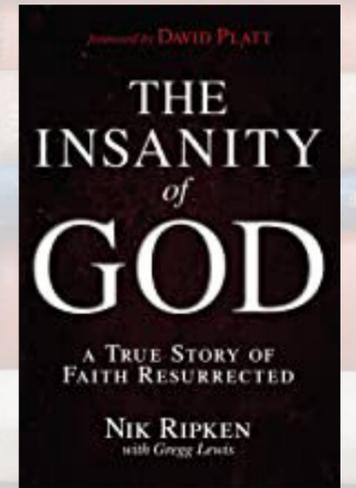
Most of us enjoy a good read—me included—and we have had plenty of time in the last year to catch up on that pile of books we received as presents.

I have chosen two that I found particularly challenging plus a biography of an amazing lady who co-founded El-Shaddai Children's Rescue in Goa, India and a Sci-Fi story written by a very good Christian friend of mine who showed me the way of salvation many years ago.



'The Insanity of God' – Nik Ripken

First off, have a box of Kleenex handy – you're going to need them! This is the account of Nik and his wife accepting God's challenge to go into the world to spread the gospel... or so they thought! Virtually straight out of college and newly married they were pitched into the hell that was Somalia during the civil war. They were there 15 years with the relief organisation they created, catering for 5,000 every day, with no apparent fruit for their endeavours and the loss of friends in this radical Muslim controlled country. Then a change of tack, going into what were communist countries within the USSR and discovering how the house churches had not only survived but thrived under severe persecution. His experiences and the stories he relates of the persecution in China and how it grew the church there are almost unbelievable and mind-blowing. About 60 countries visited. Amazing.



'Why me? Why now?' – Anita Edgar

This is Anita's biography from being a still-born baby to becoming 'Anita Mother' to the children of El Shaddai.

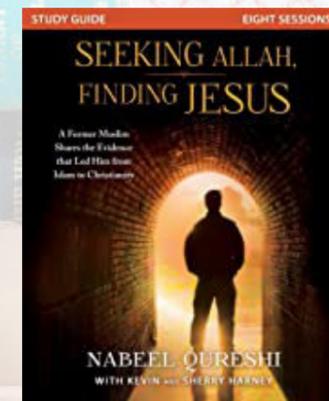
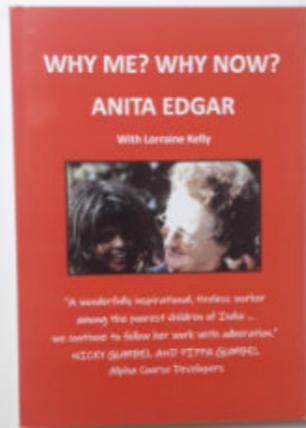
Having known Anita personally for about ten years, I was familiar with much of her 'story'. Nonetheless, there is a lot I didn't know and I found the book difficult to put down. Her struggles early on with a young family and a wayward husband, as an SRN and so much more. The part I am familiar with is how she and her daughter were in Goa, India in the first place. Briefly, she had been driving relief trucks for several years into former Soviet countries after the breakdown of Communism in 1989. Nicky, her daughter, seeing that she was completely exhausted arranged a two week holiday for the two of them to Goa in 1996. Some holiday! She was initially appalled at the hotel, but more importantly, appalled at the state of the tiny children having to rummage around in the bins at the back of the hotel looking for scraps of food and nobody, seemingly, doing anything about it. Then she met Matthew! I shan't spoil the story of how she met Matthew, the co-founder of El Shaddai, just to say that God had His hand in this right from the start and to the last detail.

It was a huge leap of faith and she survived the landing trusting God's promises at every step.

As you can imagine, life has been very different and difficult for the children and workers at the school and homes during the Pandemic and the sale of her book will help in some way as all the proceeds will go to the charity.

You can buy a signed copy direct from Anita at £9.99 + £2 p&p. Cheques payable to El Shaddai Charitable Trust Ltd. (NOT Anita).

Anita Edgar, 3 Ashleigh Drive, Teignmouth, Devon TQ14 8QX (07813 345367) or at: www.elshaddaisupportuk.org



'Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus' – Nabeel Qureshi

Some time ago we purchased a number of titles for the 'Books to Borrow' table at our church. This was one recommended to me and I can say it is a must. Most of us think we have an idea concerning the Muslim faith and a desire to introduce those whose faith it is to the gospel. What this book does so admirably is to show how inordinately difficult and heartbreaking it is for a Muslim to convert even if they believe the concept of Christian salvation.

Nabeel sets out to challenge the Bible (and God) and ultimately accepts Christ as his saviour, but this is after many years as he unravels the myths of Islam and the person who was Muhammed. As his story progresses you can see, as can he, how God's hand is on his journey to salvation.

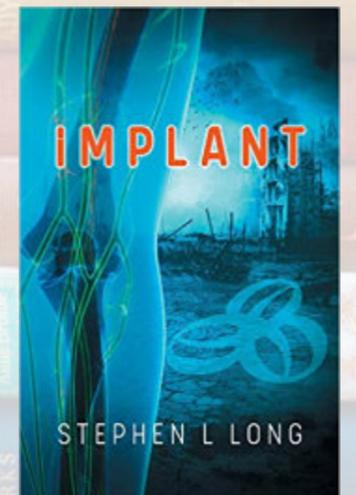
It is an easy book to read and difficult to put down; reading like a thriller. Go on, you will not be disappointed and you will be edified.

'Implant' – Stephen Long

Does your dog or cat have an implant which can be scanned to verify its owner if found? Now imagine a world where every citizen has an implant which tracks their every movement and even controls whether they can have children! Communism at its worst.

This is the story of two dissenters who become outlaws, struggling to evade capture by the authorities and their journey to Israel where it is believed the country isn't party to the global single government that controls the world after a devastating nuclear war in 2166.

Stephen (Steve) Long is a long-time Christian who was instrumental in helping me find salvation when we were apprentices together back in 1969 in Cambridge. This is his first book and has a Christian flavour. It's available from Amazon and 'printed to order'. Give it a try – you won't be disappointed but you may be looking behind you a lot more! 🙏



Keep the Rubber Down

Steve Wilds, West Yorkshire

It will be great to get out on the bikes again, both in terms of riding and fellowship together. It will be good for us to meet up in our local groups and to enjoy the company as well as the thrill of biking again. Remember it may well have been a while since the bike has been used in anger and we will need to do thorough pre-ride checks. Then as you set off, take it easy until the confidence returns fully, it's like swimming you never forget, you just get out of shape! All important is to keep that rubber firmly fixed to the road, no spills please, no broken bones and no loss of blood.

I have been fortunate to have been riding all through the lock down periods because I am a blood biker with Yorkshire White-knights. I use a BMW

1200 RT, with all the emergency livery, so that other road users can move aside when we are delivering the blood products to various locations. We never



The other Yorkshire White-knights

actually meet any of the patients but we know that the items we move about, especially the blood for testing, makes a vital contribution to their recovery.

I remember my daughter recently needed a blood test and remarked, 'the answer is in the blood'. What insightful words she spoke, because for us the answer is in the blood of Jesus that He shed for you and for me on Calvary. That day, when he gave His life for us, was the most important day of all history, the day when a way back to God was provided for all mankind. The only way to God, the only way of salvation is through Jesus.

Some people don't like the sight of blood – my other daughter faints at the sight of it, yet it is the essence of life, it carries goodness around our bodies and removes the impurities too – it is indeed the essence of life.

When Jesus died on that Cross, He gave His life that we might be forgiven our sins, He died, but arose in victory three days later. These events were so momentous and we marvel each time we think about what happened; but never forget that this was no ordinary man that died – He was God too, and He gave His life for you and for me so that we can have the burden of sin removed from our shoulders. Just think about that, God came to earth, took on the form of a man and allowed Himself to die on that Cross for each one of us. As God, He couldn't die – that's why He came as a man and gave

that awesome sacrifice that has influenced all of history since that day.

So, take it easy fellow bikers as you resume riding, don't rush into those bends too quickly, keep safe and remember to carry that Cross on your back. Not only do you represent bikers to the wider world but also represent the love of God through the blood He shed for you on Calvary.

If all of the above means little to you I would encourage you to find out more – you will be amazed at the joy and peace a Christian life brings. As Christians we still have to face the troubles of this world but we have a God who has overcome the world and who directs our path, including when we are on our bikes. †



Covid, Me and Jesus

Dave Lock, Lakes & Lancs



No, I am not going to say I have had Covid-19, I'm pretty sure I have not. Even though over the last year or so I have had a number of times when looking back people have said maybe that was it.

What I have had is the jab. Yesterday I was invited to have the first of two AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine jabs. They said there might be some side effect symptoms, quite wide ranging too when you read the leaflet.

To begin with all was fine, no problems, just like the flu jab – a little scratch and it was

done. Later that evening a little tenderness appeared on the arm and I thought 'well that's perfectly reasonable, it's not every day you meet a pretty nurse and within a few minutes she's stabbed you in the arm, that could leave a bit of trauma'.

Then I went to bed and things got strange. I seemed to nod off OK but a strange kind of dream about boats and floating started up and awoke me. I figured it was suggesting I go to the loo so off I went but as I walked my body started to shudder and shiver

uncontrollably. Something wasn't right but I had a sense it wasn't actually happening to me.

I made it back to my bed and it was more like I was watching it happen to a body I was outside of, as I often do at times like these. I looked around to see if there was anyone else there and sure enough there was. I got the sense that the person was holding me while we watched together as this body shook and rattled like a box of dice travelling over cobbles or the middle of a railway line – it was quite savage.

While watching my mind turned to all those other people who were lining up the day before waiting for their jabs, an elderly lady ahead of me, a lady in a wheelchair, a man walking with a stick, I thought 'how are they coping, are they going through this too, are they worried maybe even terrified, do they have this peace that I have?'

Thinking of how hard and even hopeless it must feel for them I began to sob and the person holding me also sobbed, I prayed for them and all the others around the world facing the vaccine and fighting the covid bug also, the person with me also prayed for them.

Yes, as cheesy as you may think it, I believe it was Jesus! He was holding me, helping me through this and saying 'so many are facing this without me and all I want to do is hold them and help them through it! To show them I love them and long to be in their lives'.

If you are one struggling with covid, the vaccine or even just the stresses of life or if you know someone who is, then please be assured Jesus is there waiting for you and all you need to do is ask 'Jesus please hold me through this, give me Your peace come into my life and bring me through safely'.

When I awoke from all of that I sensed I was being placed gently back in my bed, like a child that has fallen asleep after a long journey and told to rest. All of the shivering and shaking had passed, I felt quite drained but absolutely at peace. I still feel the peace even though my body is tired and aching, I believe I am through!

Now don't get me wrong; I'm no super spiritual saint, no superhero of faith, no perfect man. I am just a broken man, nothing special but I am forgiven and accepted through Jesus – that's why I know if you ask He'll respond to you too!

May God bless you and keep you safe.

P.S. If you do ask Him and He responds, then thank Him. If you then decide you want to feel more of that then say sorry for all the bad you have done, ask Jesus to forgive you and take over from you in your life, to come into you and make you new!

Then please do contact someone who knows Jesus and tell them what you've done. There are contact details in the front of the magazine. Or go to the website. ✝

Sid Finally Puts His Hands in His Pocket!

Sid O'Neill, North Cheshire

A few years ago I was sitting at 'The Tap' bikers' pub in Eastham, on the Wirral side of the Mersey. My bike was still packed with sleeping bag, etc., since we had been off somewhere. Returning home, I had followed Top Box [a.k.a. John Finan – Ed.] to the pub and John had nipped in to buy the drinks. I was troubled by something as I sat waiting in the garden. Pondering this problem, I suddenly felt the Lord remind me that I had arrived on a bike I'd not paid for; the helmet, gloves and jacket had all been given to me and even the sleeping bag on the bike was a gift! So what was I worrying for? "Trust me," said the Lord.

I must have had a silly grin on my face as Top Box returned with the drinks he'd paid for! "What are you smiling at?" asked John.

"The Lord's just reminded me I'm a free loader John!" Laughing, I drank my free drink. It's true – I had no reason to worry. The Lord has always had everything in hand. You see, over the years some people have been very good to me. I've not had to buy anything I've ever needed for a long time while serving in CMA (Philippians 4:19). When I first joined CMA I had bought a ZZR600 which I crashed after hitting some diesel and bust my leg. Being third party insurance only, I was without a bike and Arthur Sutton gave me a Suzuki GS850 shaft drive, which got me back on the road. I did then buy a ZRX1100 from Jason Bee for £1,000 and ran it for many years. It clocked up nearly 98,000 miles and was a fantastic bike but towards the end I seemed to fix it more than ride it and at the time money was tight.

Talking to Charlie Bays at a NABD Rally a few years back, he offered me his 1994 Honda CB1000. He's given up riding bikes and wasn't using it. Off I went to Bedford and brought it back on a trailer. With a new battery and petrol in the tank, off I went into years of trouble-free CMA service. Jason Bee even bought the old non-running ZRX back, which meant I could buy Lisa a new washing machine. She was getting tired of walking down to the banks of the Mersey!

It was wonderful – new bike and new washing machine. Everything always seemed to fall into place. I remember one cold winter night we'd been out somewhere as a branch and my fingers were frozen.

"Heated grips would help," someone with heated grips gushed. I had a look on eBay and realised they were not cheap.

"I'll hang on, Lord, because if I'm meant to have them You will provide." He did! A week later my cousin nipped round with a carrier bag and asked 'could I use these?' Guess what? Yep, heated grips! Too flipping right, you beauty!

Helmets, gloves, bikes, accessories and once, even a garage roof. Yep, I fell through my (asbestos) garage roof, cutting the trees at the back of it! Big hole, just missed my free bike. Looked on eBay – ouch, that's not cheap to replace. My boss phoned me.

"You're getting moved to the Liverpool depot," he said. Off I went, and found out it had just been re-roofed. I spotted some metal roofing sheets on a pallet and asked the new boss could I have some.

"Yes, no problem," he said, "need them out of the way". Thank you Lord, free garage roof! Having a free CB1000 was sometimes a great way to witness to the Love of God. I was once visiting Roy Burtonwood in hospital. He was one of our branch members at the time. As I came out of the hospital young man was looking at my free bike.

"Lovely that mate, I bet you paid a few quid for that?"

"Actually, I paid nothing! It was a free gift. Would you like a free gift?" I asked.

"Is it a bike?" he replied.

"No, it's even better." I handed him a Biker Bible and explained the offer of the free gift of salvation. You get the picture.



As time went on the trusty CB1000, now 20 years old, was beginning to creak a little. Still fantastic to ride but the exhaust was howling and a few other bits needed replacing. Up pops Paul Hodge.

"I've got a 2006 Triumph Tiger you can use if you want," he said. Well, I thought, 'if it helps you out mate, I'll use it and do up the Honda'. Always willing to help folk out when bikes get in their way! So, for the last few years I've been riding Paul's Tiger. It's a lovely handling bike. I've tried to pay him a few quid but he's always resisted the temptation to take any money off me. Why have so many folk been so kind to me over the years? Because I can be a right git at times! I can only assume that our Lord speaks to their hearts, because even God loves gits and the work He's begun in me He's not finished yet! Oh, did I mention Top Box got me a job as well. I'd been made redundant and was running out of money, like you do. I'd sat in a car park and prayed, "Lord, today would be a good day to get a job". I rang Top Box and he mentioned me to his boss – I got an interview. The boss asked me how I would handle an irate customer, to which I replied, "I could try a rugby tackle!" Hey presto, I got the job. The boss did mention that no one had ever answered that question the way I did and that's what got me the job! I wasn't being flippant, I just trusted God that if He wanted me to have the job, I could have a little fun in

the interview. To be honest I'm supposed to be writing about finally buying a new bike, but I keep remembering really good stuff the Lord's done over the years. Sorry about this! I hope it makes sense and reminds you that God is good and if you trust Him, He will provide for you if it's His will for you at a particular time in your life.

STOP PRESS!... You won't believe this – I just had a text off my new Indian friend Chiru asking if he could bring a curry round that his wife Reka has made for us! Free flipping food! I kid you not – as I write this article about free stuff I get a free curry delivered. Please pray for them – Reka's mother Rajamma died on my driveway last year and I tried CPR on her for fifteen minutes before an ambulance arrived; very sad because she was only 61, but we have become great friends. OK, where was I? (the curry smells lovely by the way!) So now I'm doing up the CB1000 while riding Paul's Tiger, and I've tidied that up too. I wasn't looking for any other bike, because with all the free stuff, I've got no space! Then one day I look in the mirror and, blow me, I've only managed to turn 55 years old!

I then receive a letter about four pensions I had forgotten about and were frozen and, 'Would I like 25% tax free?' 'Too flipping right,' I replied! It never



The bike lift is an old hospital bed that Rocket Roy [Roy O'Hara, now in Glory – Ed.] rescued from a skip and converted to a bike table.

entered my head to buy a new bike. Lisa did ask me what bike I would consider buying and to be honest I had no idea. She's said for years, 'Sid you've ridden bikes someone has fallen out with or just locked away, why not consider buying a new bike?' It was at this point I did think, well if the Lord wants me to have a new bike He would supply one, or help me find one. Then a few weeks ago Christopher Houghton from South Lancs CMA turns up at our branch AGM on his Honda Crosstourer 1200. Hmmm! 'I like that', I said, and the rest, they say, is history. I mentioned it to Lisa that I just might have spotted a bike I'd actually buy. Off we went the next day and after some driving around, we found one at Wigan Motorcycles. It was three and a bit years old with one owner, £3,000 worth of extras and 20k miles on the clock.

I left £200 deposit and there we have it, for the first time in years I'd bought a new bike. It was a weird place to be in. I did Lisa's head in a bit questioning if I had done the right thing but I'm so grateful. Picking it up a week later I was a little nervous and excited.

Actually it was a little tall for me and a young lad picking up a similar bike dropped his as he rode off, which I was praying wouldn't happen to me. My wife and daughters came to watch, which didn't help as they film everything, but I thought if I drop it we'll get the £200 deposit back as the video heads off to *You've been Framed!* A week later I've gotten used to the bike and Lisa has joined me too as we enjoy the open road. I can't wait to use it for CMA. This year sadly as we all know most events have been cancelled. But we look to the future when we can serve again at biking events around the UK.

It's been a fantastic journey watching the Lord provide over the years. I'm grateful to the Arthurs, Jasons, Charlies and Pauls of this world that have in many ways helped me keep riding during the times I needed a little help. All these men have a heart touched by God. At times maybe you will feel that touch as the Lord puts it on your heart to help someone. I remember years ago I bought a VW Polo for £60. I took it for an MOT and it failed on a windscreen wiper!

Sorted, I got up one morning to head to church in the MOT'd Polo and as clear as day the Lord said you'll give this car away today. I laughed because I thought, 'I doubt that Lord – it's got 12 months MOT!'

As I sat in my seat a young man sat next to me and said, "That's a nice car Sid!" I said "it is and it's just passed its MOT!" He said, "great, I'm going to let you give me that car Sid" and without any hesitation I handed him the keys! He was just about to get married, didn't have a pot to pee in and needed a car to get to work. I knew all of that weeks ago as I'd worked at the re-hab centre he'd come through as he was set free from drug abuse! I walked home and as I stepped in the house Lisa asked if the the Polo had broken down. I explained I had given it away and she said, "Are you nuts? It had 12 months MOT!"

"Yes," I replied, "I'm bonkers!" May you too be bonkers as you trust in our Lord – because at times the Lord will ask you to do bonkers stuff, like give away a

motorcycle you could flog for cash—or a car you've just fixed up—who knows? To the world, believing in God is bonkers and to many who believe, really trusting in Him at times can be bonkers too! May you be bonkers too about our Lord. He loves you in spite of yourself and is rooting for you.

The Bible is full of stories of men and women who God spoke to and at times asked them to do crazy things – too many to mention. It's impossible to please God without faith (Hebrews 11:6) – faith to hear and faith to act. I'm praying that the new Honda will take me on lots of new adventures. It's great to have Lisa joining me and I pray we will get the chance to serve the Lord in many ways on this new bike. Did I mention I've got a new bike? Oh, and that old CB1000 – as you read this, it's being completely restored and re-painted – ready for its next journey! There's a whole new article about restoration looming.

May God bless you. ✚

The new bike, a Honda Crosstourer 1200



Editor's Page

Now I know what you're all thinking! Your eyes have been drawn to the image on the next page. Your thoughts are something like, "How stupid is that!" or, "What on earth is he thinking of?" or, "He *can't* be a proper biker!"

Yes, I know. When I first saw the photo, browsing through a selection of images looking for the front cover page, my thoughts were of *total disbelief* that someone would ride without *any* protection—totally *unprepared* in the event of an accident! I mean, he's not even looking straight ahead! Perhaps the rider had total confidence that he would not encounter any situation that would cause a mishap.

Of course, not one of us would ever ride like that, would we? Would you? Really? I'm guessing that, as the relaxation of the current lock-down approaches, most of us will be chomping at the bit to get back on the roads for some much-missed riding—and ministry to the biker world. The thing is, how prepared are we going to be for both the latter? The bike has been laid up, not just for the winter, but for the past 12 months or so. Hopefully, you will have had the battery on trickle charge, kept the tank full of petrol, had some protection on the chrome and now you're all good to go. [You'll find some great pre-ride tips from Brian Carbonero on pages 16 & 17 and Steve Wilds on pages 22 & 23.]

So how about the rest of you—body, soul and spirit? All good to go? We cannot give what we have not got, we can't share what we haven't received and we can't hope to help out if we are not in the right physical/mental/spiritual state to do so.

Back up to the second paragraph. Perhaps you have *total* confidence that your bike will start first go without any trickle charge. Great! Perhaps you've no need to check the oil and other fluids. Good stuff. But how about you, yourself? How is your daily walk with the Lord? I have heard of many who's faith has taken a huge knock during the past 12 months. Where has God been in all the Covid-19 situation? Why has there been so much suffering? Why have my loved-ones been taken by the deadly virus? So many questions. Only One has all the answers—but he does not always give us the answers. Rather, our Heavenly Father tells us *what we need to know*—not what we want to know. There are several examples of this in the New Testament where Jesus answered questions put to Him by His disciples—check them out.¹

So, are we prepared now for what's to come? Well, unlike the gentleman opposite, presumably, I'm sure we know by experience that things don't always go to plan. Accidents happen, sure. Opposition comes, often. When the apostle Paul, writing to the Ephesian church, instructed them to '*put on the whole armour of God*',² he wasn't suggesting that it would be a nice thing to do but rather implying that it was absolutely *essential* in our everyday walk with God. Paul also said, '*as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him*'.³ Well, we received Christ *by faith* so we must also walk *by faith*. But faith is not blind—it sees. It comes by *hearing the Word of God*.⁴ When we remember that our Father in heaven has *always* been in control of all that happens on *His* earth⁵ then we realise too that He always works according to His word. I often remind our own church fellowship saints that, '*the more of the Truth you know, the more freedom you will enjoy*'!⁶ So, keep your eyes fixed on Jesus and His word rather than all that's going on around you!

I want to be fully prepared for what's ahead. Do you?

¹ Matthew 24:3-14, Acts 1:6-8

² Ephesians 6:10-18

³ Colossians 2:6

⁴ Romans 10:17

⁵ Psalm 24:1

⁶ John 8:31,32



There are
other
marques
besides



Photo by Michael Fousert