

CHAINLINK

The Magazine of the
Christian Motorcyclists' Association

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Picture taken at the 2008 NABD rally Cheshire

Summer 2008 Jesus *is* Lord

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

The views expressed in *Chainlink* cannot be taken as the official CMA policy on any subject. The magazine is published three times a year, to provide information for its members and to encourage them in their personal walk with God.

We pray that this magazine will stimulate non-Christian readers into thinking more about Jesus, and also into seeking Him for themselves.

The Bible says: "Seek and you will find". Matthew.7.vs7

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many people

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What's in the Summer 2008 Chainlink

A Ferrari 355 (red)

Bob Bogart did 3 laps at Donnington Raceway. Great drive! He didn't quite break the 100mph mark, but had to admit that the Ferrari is a fantastic motor! It screams. On the straights he was going pretty fast, but in the 90 degree corners he was a bit timid, since they warned him how easy it is to spin out.
Go for it!



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President's Encouragement

by Mike Fitton, President CMA UK.

"Let your heart be on fire and your tongue free."



As I write to you it is not long since I returned from a trip to Belfast/Dublin/Dorset and the Isle of Man TT Road Races, during that two week period I have been involved in numerous opportunities to see Biker Bibles placed in the hands of 'NOT YET CHRISTIAN BIKERS'.

I don't know about you but I love to be encouraged and that does it for me!! I want to thank all of you that took a step of faith and a little courage to help raise the funds for the reprint of 10,000 Biker Bibles, each individual, each church, fellowship, each branch you all contributed to raise over £19,000 and we took delivery of the

bibles in May.

We are very grateful to PT Dibdin Ltd of Scunthorpe for storing the bibles until the branches could collect them. A few weeks ago I was at a church in the Leicester area with the East Mids Branch and a lady spoke briefly and shared how God had healed her after being wheelchair bound for many, many years. The point she wanted to make was that she was healed at a time when she wasn't specifically seeking healing, in fact on the day she was healed she had only just told another disabled friend "We will be in these wheelchairs for the rest of our lives."

I am sure she would agree that at that precise moment she hadn't taken God into the equation. Can you imagine the call that went throughout Heaven?

"Ok then Jan get up and walk."

Don't you just love the way God intervenes when we least expect it?

Praise His name.

With that in mind I can now officially inform you that after approaching a Christian Charitable Trust, sharing our vision and recent blessing of the Biker Bibles they have agreed to pay £19,000 to print another 10,000 bibles.

As I said I love to be encouraged and that does it for me as well!

The request they have made is that we should do all we can to match this sum to produce a FURTHER 10,000 copies then we will always be in a

position of having a large stock of bibles rather than running out towards the end of the rally / show season. With God on our side that's not a problem.

You see God likes to intervene when we least expect it, in ways we just can't imagine, and we still doubt and struggle. If God is for us who can stand against us?

So.

Are you willing to take up the mantle?

To stand in the gap.

To give all for the cause of Christ to bring the Word of God to the lost?

Let your heart be on fire and your tongue free.

Expect the unexpected, our God is an Awesome God.

God bless you.



An Encouraging Word

by Rev. Bob Bogart, West Mid's. Branch



Let all things be done decently and in order. I Corinthians 14:40

Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Philipians 4:5

The word in this issue is 'explosive'. In 1968 the rock band Steppenwolf graced our turbulent society with the very familiar hit single, Born To Be Wild. One of the memorable lines in the song says: Fire all of your guns at once and explode into space

To be brutally honest, that's exactly what happens when you fire all of your guns at once. The result usually terminates in one gigantic explosion after which usually follows pandemonium. My intent is not to do an exhaustive study on the thought patterns of John Kay and Steppenwolf, rather to pull the reins in a bit on our often explosive lives.

The Bible is clearly teaching that there must be a method to our madness. We

need to be orderly and act in moderation. The world is watching and the Lord is at hand.

The reference here is not too much peanut butter, chocolate or fried foods; neither too much booze or tobacco, but lives that reflect the predictability of the One we call Lord. If we call Him Lord and our lives are in perpetual mayhem, where does the "lordship" come in? Who then, is actually "lord" of our lives?

With Jesus at the helm there will be a growing consistency which is visible to those around us. The people I enjoy being around the most are the ones who have an even and predictable disposition. We can still be exciting, spontaneous and have an effervescent personality, whilst at the same time maintaining a steady course.

Sixty-three years ago history fired all of her guns at once; the aftermath was Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and years of devastating ruin.

As believers, we must allow God's temper to become our temper. Ask Him to help you through those peaks and valleys and to bring symmetry into your daily experience. Talk to the Lord today about your own personal chaos. Ask Him to deliver you from an explosive nature. Bikers have a reputation (often well deserved) of being wild and free. As Christian bikers we have a reputation to protect! Remember, we are not 'born to be wild', but born again to be daily transformed into the image of His dear Son.

Hi, It's me again

by Emma Angel-Jones

Hi everyone,
Just a quick note to tell you what's happening in these next few weeks coming up! I have been extremely blessed with the opportunity to go over to CMA USA to work as a volunteer for nine weeks from the 24th June to the 26th August! I will be going to Arkansas and working over there with the head office, I'm so excited!

I have been praying for a long long time now that God would bless me with the ability to work for him over a long summer period, and my prayer was completely answered. I really wanted to do something productive with my summer and hoped that it would be for God. I can't believe that I have been given this opportunity and it still hasn't hit home that I'm going!

I will be working at bike rallies, children's/youth events and attending a local church in Mena and cannot wait to see the way CMA works in America. I have been blessed by the support and prayer from everyone in CMA, you have encouraged me to take this massive step outside of my comfort zone and I would ask you please to remember me each day because I am sure to face many things that will stretch my faith, but that's the whole reason I am going! I am going to fly from Newcastle to



London, to Atlanta and then to Little Rock. Although I have flown many times this will be the first international flight I have taken alone but I have strong guidance from God and from Mike who is writing me a step-by-step guide to this trip! I shall be staying with a CMA family that Mike and Mom know and they have a daughter called Kristen who is approximately my age, just goes to show that God had it all planned in advance.

Her parents (Buddy and Becky) had been praying that God would bring someone along to encourage her in her faith, looks like I've got the job! Challenge? Or What! I'm sadly going to miss seeing you all at the National Rally. I promise to take lots of photographs and share my experience with you when I get back. It seems strange to think that as you read this I will already have been there for half the time. Anyway have you ever considered giving your summer to God? You don't have to go a long way and you don't have to do anything dramatic, yeah it is scary but I know that Jesus loves me and will never abandon me.

Thank you again for all your prayers and in a good old Arkansas way, Y'all have a nice daayy!

Emma x

Jim's Story

by Dot Gough, West Yorkshire Branch

On Thursday November 29th 2007 my husband Jim was involved in an accident whilst riding his motorbike. He'd run into the back of a parked vehicle, we probably will never know why, he cannot recollect anything of the accident. I got home from work around 6.15pm and he wasn't there. About 5 minutes later there was that knock at the door that everyone dreads. The policeman told me that Jim was at the hospital in Dewsbury, I



I didn't know what to expect. When I arrived at the hospital with friends Johnny and Molly it quickly became apparent how badly hurt Jim was. We were ushered into a small room and the prayer chain had already begun. We were covered in prayer from the very beginning and we will always be grateful to friends in the C.M.A and our church who faithfully sent out prayer requests via text and e-mail. Ruth, a friend from our church sent out over 300 texts in the first couple of days. She actually gets 500 free texts per month with her mobile phone contract. She rang the service provider and asked if she could upgrade to get extra texts because she needed them. They asked why she'd used so many texts in such a short time. When she told them about Jim, they gave her another 500 free texts. God's at work even within a mobile phone service provider.

The doctor came to speak to us and Jim was taken down for the first of several operations. Over the next couple of days we were told to expect the worst and prayer after prayer request was sent out. We now know that many hundreds of people were praying for Jim's healing. His physical injuries were massive and initially we were told that if they couldn't stop the bleeding then there was nothing more they could do. In all Jim was given 30 pints of blood. Of the many, many cards we received one said "You are in the doctor's care but you are in the Master's hands", how true that is. Jim was given an injection and the bleeding stopped. Praise God. The doctors and nurses in the unit were very much aware of our faith and our belief that Jim would be healed. Over the next few months, so many visitors came to see Jim, some from very long distances. Others like our friend Tony visited almost every day on his way home from work whilst Jim was in Dewsbury hospital. Every visit he brought me a bottle of orange juice and a bar of chocolate and if I missed him, there was always a scripture verse waiting for me. I was given some wonderful scripture verses from people to encourage me and on a visit from Colin and Jason, Colin gave me the word "Restoration".

We'd already seen evidence of that, couples who were divorced came together to visit Jim and neighbours who hadn't spoken for 10 years were speaking again. We knew that Jim was going to be restored to full health and we spent many an hour in the waiting room praying and giving thanks.

There were tears that were shed too, sometimes these tears were for other families who had lost a loved one whilst in the intensive care unit.

Jim was in intensive care for some weeks and we were given the news that he had a massive brain injury. They said he would not wake up and that we would not take him home. Many prayers and Bible readings were prayed over Jim as he lay there and he was anointed with oil. Over the next few weeks we prayed through every hurdle and there were setbacks, but Jim began to respond. It started with a flicker of an eye, a finger that moved and then a slight nod and shake of the head, which showed us he was there. Eventually Jim began to breathe on his own, Praise God and it was whilst the nurse was changing his tracheotomy tube that he spoke his first words and asked for a pot of tea. We were just so excited. The surgeon came to see Jim and said he'd heard great things about his progress and one of the nurses said that Jim was now half way up the mountain. He had now been moved to the High Dependency Ward and decisions needed to be made as to his future treatment. It was decided to send him to the Neurological Rehabilitation Unit at Pinderfields Hospital in Wakefield. This is a unit for just 12 patients and the treatment they receive is very intense. When he arrived there he could not move out of bed, but over the next few weeks with prayer he

progressed from being moved out of bed using a hoist, being in a wheelchair, to walking with a frame, then crutches and finally a walking stick. Each progression was greeted with thanks to God. Whilst Jim was in hospital regular updates and photographs were sent out via e-mail and we've been told that these updates were greeted with excitement and were eagerly anticipated. So many people have been touched in some way by Jim's accident and we believe that God will use this for His good.

Once Jim was walking we were able to take him home on Good Friday and he went to church for the first time since his accident on Easter Sunday. He still has physiotherapy and occupational therapy and his physical recovery has been quite remarkable. Jim has adjusted well to being at home and his progress moves on. We continue to pray for his memory to improve and also for his concentration and attention spans but we believe that this will happen in God's time. All the way through we have been aware of God's presence and on many occasions we have acknowledged that Jim's healing will be in God's time not ours. We have had to learn patience. We are eternally grateful to our family and friends who have never wavered in their belief that Jim would be restored and for those who have prayed and fasted faithfully for Jim's recovery. We also thank all the people involved in Jim's treatment and when we went back to visit them recently at the hospital it was encouraging to see how pleased they were to see Jim again.

Most of all thank you to God for His healing power and for sustaining me throughout it all.



CMA Ladies

by Sandy Angel-Jones-Fitton and Jackie Russell

LADIES OF CMA CONFERENCE Look to go in 2009



Sandy

Now is the time to book your place, and for your friends, to have a wonderful weekend of teaching and fellowship

contact:-

**CMA UK PO BOX 8155
Loughborough LE11 9AR
Free Phone 0800 0154479
Or see www.bike.org.uk**



Jackie



XCEL Men's Conference, 21st-22nd Nov 2008

by Rob Oates, North East Branch



Speaker 2008:
Pastor Dino Rizzo,
Healing Place Church,
Baton Rouge, Louisiana.



Speaker 2008:
Pastor Paul Scanlon,
Abundant Life Church
England.

Something powerful happens when we meet together as men of God. It reminds us that our brotherhood is nothing to do with natural blood lines, but is a spiritual dynamic, rooted in our common spiritual father, God himself.



The CMA at the 2007 Xcel conference

If you have a servant heart, come along and give some time to the CMA stand. Get to some of the teaching and interact with the men attending the Men's Xcel Conference. Some of the guys attending are bikers that do not know about CMA. Encourage them to sign up to meet with their local groups, to pray together, share their experiences, ride together, tell others about CMA; it's mission to other bikers and to make some lasting friendships. Be bold in His name.

Weston-Super-Mare bike nights

by Geraldine Ruskin, Bristol Branch



Geraldine top left, with Colin (from Glos branch), Ian, Nick & Sue

Weston Super Mare - (Or Weston Super Mud as known locally)! 2008 saw the start of (nearly regular) bike nights on the promenade. Most of May, all of June, part of July and all of August have been given over to bikers on Thursday evenings, in aid of the British Legion Poppy appeal, at W-S-M. What a wonderful turnout! Hundreds of bikers meeting, just to mingle and chat.

And from Bristol CMA, four, plus one honorary member of the branch; Colin from Gloucester. What beautiful weather we had. The sun shone and the Spirit filled us. We knew we were there to do the Lord's work.

The highlight was Sue, Ian's wife, who has not got on the back of a bike since an unfortunate accident some time ago. She decided that it was time to don her 'gear' and climb on the pillion! Wonderful! Nick, Bristol branch chairman, finds it hard to attend anywhere without meeting

someone that he knows, and sure enough he met an ex-colleague from his last job before retirement! Never mind, I could see a bored female just waiting for the conversation to end, so I decided that she 'needed' to chat to me.

We then went to a seaside version of the proverbial greasy spoon for a delightful banquet of burgers and chips. This event turned out to be one of the highlights of the evening, as the interaction of the different groups sat around the tables was absolutely brilliant. No one saw us as a threat, even though most of us were wearing the white cross. We were included in the general camaraderie.

Colin spoke to the people on the gate, and they said they were pleased to see the CMA there. It's good to know that where Jesus is we are welcomed.

As St. Frances said; 'Go out and preach the Gospel, and, if necessary, speak'.

President and the 2008 Executive Team



Mike Fitton (President)



Rob Urand



(Aje) Alan Johnston



Ted Russell



Debbie Jones



Jason Bee



Pete Crane



Ken Hardy

Note from the Editor

***The deadline for the Winter 2008 edition is
1st October 2008***

Publication dates are:- April - August - December

Outreaching by Ken Hardy

What a well supported AGM and so nice to see so many of the members. Thank you for voting me onto the Executive. Its something I have prayed about for a long time.

I am always aware with any charity that those who seem to run it are maybe distant. This is certainly not the case with the CMA. The only way the Executive can work well is for everyone to communicate. I expect all the Exec. members will be at a wide variety of events doing all those things they



have always done for the Glory of the Lord and to show others there is another way - Jesus. I have already been out on many rides/rallies and had a great time; luckily not too cold and not too wet. I have had some great conversations and, better still, have had several non christians visit me here at home. One guy, whose wife has been a Christian for many years, came to my church here in Norwich; the first time he had been to church since he was a child. Hopefully, he will come again. I have kept in contact with 250 local churches, and I now know of about 40 who would welcome a biker who maybe has just said the prayer of taking Jesus into his/her life. Once they have done that, then it's important for him/her to have a place of teaching and support. I am still rather puzzled that so many committed Christians do not know about the CMA and many people cannot accept that a biker can be a Christian. So there is your challenge. OUTREACH. We have the vision. Its wide ranging, it's challenging. All we now need to do is go out and tell others. - Communicate. Chat to your Exec.

Articles for the Chainlink are most welcome. **P L E A S E R E M E M B E R**. All names, addresses and pictures, especially of children, must have permission to be published. If I get them, I am assuming you have done just that, so the sender needs to be responsible for all information sent. If in doubt, run it past the President or the Exec. committee. **P L E A S E** read the following. All pictures must be separate from any document ie, send them as 300dpi or higher in tiff or jpg, either on e-mails or CD, by post. For all photos sent, give an accompanying description of them on a thumbnail picture page, so I can relate them to specific events, then they can go on downloads as a picture montage. All photos sent will be returned. Do not send pictures taken on mobiles unless they are 300dpi +

CMA Youth - How big is your bag?

by Liz Robertson, Gloucester Branch

How big is the bag you take to school? Actually, I should ask how much stuff is in your school bag? If you are anything like many of the young people I have taught over the years, your bag will be packed full of any possible item you may or may not need. The bags look so heavy it's a wonder they can even stand up!

We all do it to some extent.

We carry about things which are no longer, or never will be useful. We increase our burden because we can't let go of things.

This is what the Bible says:

Psalm 55 verse 22; 'Cast your burden on the Lord and He will sustain you.'

1 Peter 5 verse 7; 'Cast all your anxieties on Him, for He cares about you.'

We carry about the things which



worry us; the hurts from the past, the upsets, the grudges, just as if they are in a heavy bag on our backs. It stops us from being able to walk freely. It stops us doing what God wants us to do today and from being the person He wants us to be.

It doesn't have to be like that. God wants us to be free of those things which

weigh us down, by giving them to Him.

He really loves us and wants the very best for us. We can trust Him. The situations we worry about may not disappear, but by giving them to Him, He helps us to deal with them so they won't weigh us down any more.

Unpack your bag!



Cheers and Tears at North West 200

by Anne Gardiner, CMA Northern Ireland

This year's North West 200 was an emotional roller coaster!

The event started for us on the Tuesday afternoon. Brian, my husband, is an instructor (CMA gets advertised on his leathers) with the Motorcycle Union of Ireland and helps the 'new comers' at all the road races. They learn about the course including health and safety in a classroom environment, then tour the course by bus and when the roads close, they have a 20 minute session on the circuit following the race instructors. Later in the evening they go out for their timed practice. Tuesday night practice is my favourite part of the week; the noise, speed, people, coffee, sea and the sun going down, bliss!

A few members of the CMA met at the end of practice at the race Chaplain's base; a great time to catch up. The race Chaplains at the NW do a wonderful job, but also a job that others don't want to do. If there is a racing incident they contact the families and make themselves available in any way necessary.

They offer all the racers and their teams a mystery bus tour and carvery lunch on the Friday before race day and it's free. This year over 90 attended and we offered Biker Bibles to each of them. Many were ready to hear a spiritual message, as some emotions were a bit raw.

Robert Dunlop, brother of Joey, was killed during practice the night before. We heard on the 10pm news that he was seriously injured. At 10.30pm we got a text to say he had died. At 11pm the BBC news confirmed it.

We had just lost Martin Finnegan two weeks before at the Tandragee 100. He was 29, married with a little girl. Robert was 47, married with three boys. Two were on the racing track with him and one was

servicing in Afghanistan.

We all know road racing is a high risk sport, but, when we lose riders it stuns us.

Saturday, race day CMA Northern Ireland and Unchained Ireland based ourselves at a church on the circuit and gave out Biker Bibles and tracts. We had our allocated 300 bibles and they were gone in a few hours. After the roads closed we stood for a moment's silence, followed by applause. One of the commentators spoke about Robert and asked all to applaud again.

The first race was the 250cc Race; Robert's race. His two sons William and Michael decided to do the warm up lap. Then it was announced that Michael would race. How could he possibly do that?

The race took place and everyone had their heart in their mouth! He dived with another rider and they swapped for the lead several times. You knew from his riding he was out to win, and he did. Cheers and tears. He did what many of us had seen as impossible.

The rest of the day was like a celebration of racing, the best NW racing I have ever seen. The following day Robert was laid to rest.

If possible, could you keep in your prayers the Dunlop and Finnegan families, John, Noel and Edwin the race Chaplains, and the many strangers who accepted Biker Bibles, Also to the ones we made a personal contact with.

God be with you and may you know His Spirit.

CMA Northern Ireland (CMANI)

Do not run without a goal. 1 Corinthians 9:26

PS The North West 200 is a week long festival, over 120,000 attend on race day. If you fancy attending next year, get in touch with our branch.

Truly I tell you

By Colin Haynes, West Midlands Branch

"Truly I tell you, Today you will be with me in paradise."

Christians know that Jesus made many promises about eternal life. The promise he made to the penitent criminal who was crucified alongside him is perhaps the most

poignant. My article however is not about a criminal, quite the opposite. Bob Giddings came to my Church less than a year ago. He was battling with cancer and rediscovering Jesus. Deep down he had always been a Christian, but like most of us, Bob had a life to lead. He was a good man, who worked hard and looked after his family. He led a good life and probably had less to repent of than many other people, but facing death brought him closer to Jesus and to some new friends in my Church.

For a couple of months, I only really knew Bob as a name on our prayer list, but one day he saw my CMA shirt and asked about the organisation. From that moment we became great friends. We had two common interests, Jesus and Motorcycles. Bob was in the process of restoring an Ariel Arrow, and over the next few months we would talk, swap magazines and visit shows and



museums. It became absolutely clear to me that Bob had totally accepted Jesus into his life and was at peace. Of course he would have liked more time with his family, but he knew that he was promised eternal life, and accepted what God had planned for him. Everybody who met

Bob knew that they were close to someone special. Christians or not, they never failed to be impressed by his strength and his inner peace.

I am convinced that God was working through Bob. Here was someone facing the most difficult of circumstances, showing seasoned Christians what it really meant to believe in Jesus. He prayed every day. How many of us can truly say that? When he was in hospital he told me one evening that he had prayed for everyone in the ward, but he felt that to pray for himself was selfish.

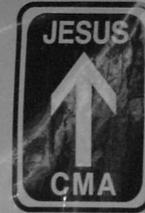
In October 2007, I took Bob to the Stafford Classic Motorcycle Mechanics Show. There he met some of our brothers and sisters from Stafford and Cheshire. Even though Bob was tired and still suffering from the effects of Chemo-therapy, he had a great time.

We also went to The National Motorcycle Museum and the Coventry Museum of Road Transport. Even though he was often tired, he was great fun to be with. Even though we only knew him for a short time, we miss him so much.

St Luke doesn't tell us the name of the penitent criminal, but for me he is one of the most important characters in the Bible. He shows us that nobody is beyond redemption, and that by simply

acknowledging who Jesus is, we can have the key to eternal life.

The Christian Motorcyclists Association



Bob Giddings knew who Jesus was, and I know that he is at peace. Bob's

Ariel will be finished this year, and hopefully shown as a testimony to his great faith. Maybe through his story, even those who never knew Bob might know the peace that the love of Jesus Christ can bring to all of us, even in the darkest of times.



Rest in Peace Bob,
and Rise in Glory

Thank you for blessings

By Mike Fitton, President UK CMA

Dear all,
I'm Celma the Brazilian girl who has received the bike.

I have been in India for eight months. Since I came, I have been involved with children's ministry and teaching, which is something I like doing. Now I have got the opportunity to teach Spanish in KASIGA school, which seems to be a new Education System in India. I have around 45 students who are 10 to 16 years old. It has been a great challenge for me, but I know God has placed me there to be His witness and show His love to all those who are studying and working

there. It wasn't going to be possible if you hadn't given me this precious gift. I'm very thankful to all who made my life very



easy with the bike and those who have a heart for mission. I got some driving lessons with a girl who also belongs to our team and now I'm confident how to ride nicely. I pray that God may reward you all with very abundant blessings in Jesus Christ our Lord.

I wish all the best for you,
With love, Celma Barros.

THANK YOU FROM THE MASSINA TEAM.

Thank you so much for your extremely generous gift of a DT125, which will be used by Sergio and Fransisca, a Brazilian couple that have now joined the team.

We work in the delta area of Mali, amongst the Fulani people. The Fulani are traditionally a semi-nomadic people, although many have now settled. In our area there are village upon village, of Fulani who have yet to respond to the gospel, and a DT will be a fantastic way to visit these people.

Sergio and Fransisca will be doing initial language learning in Bamako for 3 months and then moving to Tenenkou, where they will be based.

Thank you again for your wonderful gift. God bless, Christine.



Return to Uganda 2008

by Sid O'Neill, North Cheshire Branch

My second trip to Uganda started with a bump. No not the plane landing or the bumpy roads, it was the riot going on as we headed in to Kampala to exchange money and buy supplies for the three week mission to help the people of this very poor African country.



how I reported that I had walked down a very steep hill to help the children collect dirty water to use for washing and cooking. As you can see in the photo on the nesxt page, they dipped their jerry cans into the stream.

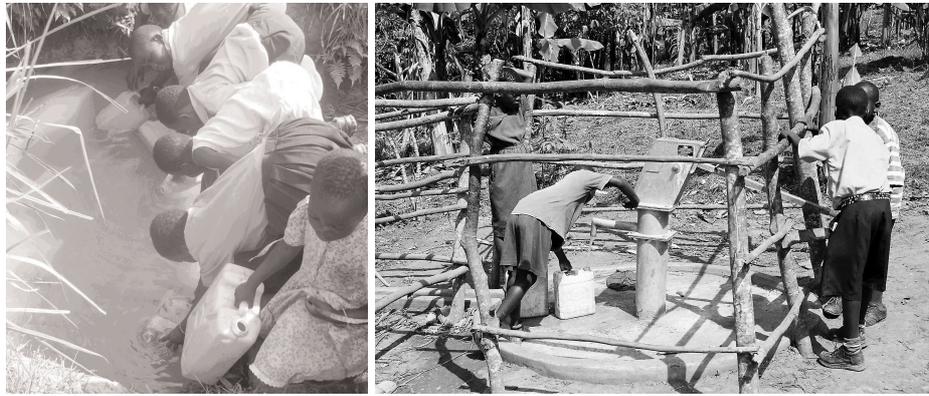
We found a company called "Water is Life",

We could see the fires burning as we edged our way through the packed streets of the city, our driver took any road he could as the Police tried to keep people away from the troubles. During the riot we later discovered that four men had been shot dead. We could smell the tear gas and smoke from the tyres burning in the roads as we collected our things.

And so here I was again, back in a country I never thought I'd ever visit, or if I'm honest gave much thought to I'd seen the film 'The last king of Scotland' before I left for my first trip in 2007, just to cheer me up before heading off. I can remember last year thinking I'm not coming back" But the Lord had other plans, when I returned with the news of the things I had seen while there. It stirred the hearts of my work colleagues back home. They held a charity week and, before I knew what was going on, I had £2000 to spend in Uganda again. Not to mention that I ended up in all the papers in the North West, as my company used this as a PR opportunity. So I set in motion a project to bring clean water to an Orphanage in Ssanga, a small village just north of Kampala. You may remember last year

who, for £2000, drilled a 30m bore hole that now provides clean water to the orphanage. So I sent the money over to Uganda via Western Union to get the project started. I then sent money over in instalments as the project made progress. But it didnt end there, mre money came in, and before we knew it, over £16,000 was donated to help the children of Uganda. The Lord just moved peoples hearts and they gave what they could. People would put £10 in my hand after reading the newspaper reports. One dear lady pushed £1000 into my hands one morning. Wow! I was loaded.

And so I gave in. Ok Lord so I'm going back. I joined a team of eight again last February for my 2nd mission. The money raised came in to all the team during the year from all over the UK. Above, you can see me handing over a small gift to two young girls who are sponsored by a friend who could not make the trip. As you can imagine I couldn't wait to see the new water well. I could have cried when I saw the children pumping the water. I was later told that a child had drowned last year after falling in when collecting water from the stream.



The other children had panicked and by the time Esther got down to the water it was too late. I was gutted, if only we could have done it sooner I thought. Thankfully they won't ever need to risk their little lives again just to get a drink. Thanks to all the folks at home who gave, we really can make a real difference.

So you can see the Lord knows what he's doing. He just needs us to co-operate. We can't just sit back and leave it to someone else or, like most, blame God for not fixing it. Remember, He gave us dominion over the earth. Now I'm not sure why he chose me to get involved; but I'm sure glad He did. We spent three weeks in Uganda and stayed in a town or village for a week, visiting schools hospitals and some prisons. I'd taken a wheel chair over that had belonged to my father in law, Ben, who had passed away just days before Christmas day. The family wanted it to go over with me. I gave it to a clinic in Hioma. They only had one in the whole hospital, so along with other gifts of medicine and cash they were very happy to see us. We also paid to have the engine fixed on the only ambulance in the area. The head gasket had gone. A simple repair, but no one had the cash to pay for it. Small repairs in Uganda just get left and, before you know it, people forget what was

wrong with it in the first place. I guess when you have to spend over 70% of what you earn just on food, things do tend to get left to rot. We had one day off to relax during the trip, so we decided to take a trip to a nature reserve. This meant a 3hr boat trip up river. We were heading to the Murchison Falls, a truly remarkable place, teeming with wild life. We saw elephants and hippos, monkeys, fish eagles and crocodiles. It was a feast for the eye. Then as the boat chugged up the river, it became apparent that the captain was concerned about the smoke coming from the engine. It just chugged to a halt and we started drifting backwards with the current, closer to the crocodiles, and with no life vest's or life boat, we were stuck. I went to the back of the boat to watch Rodney, an ex naval engineer from our team, try to fix the problem, a major oil leak. "Hey! you have a second engine" I pointed out. "Oh, that broke in 2000" the captain beamed back at me. "Does this happen often" I asked. "Well we've broken down everyday this week so far", the captain explained! Erm!! Getting a little annoyed, I pointing out that we were drifting quite fast. Do you have an anchor? "Yes" he shouted proudly as if this would impress us.

So I headed to the front and dropped it in. It took just over an hour to fix the leak, and then we carried on. As we rounded the bend in the river we could see the mist from the water fall. It was wonderful to see.



international hospital for the operation. You know, I could fill the Chainlink with what the Lord did in Uganda, but will end it here and hope you get a taste of what's going on over there. My next

The boat went really close to the falls, and we'd forgotten all about the breakdown by now!

We had a few other mishaps as we travelled. One day, as we moved camp, our mini bus lost a front brake calliper as we bumped along the road, which meant we could have crashed trying to stop? I was amazed to see the driver had spare brakes. He'd seen this before, he explained. It was sad to see small children run out in front of the bus with a spade and throw dirt into the pot holes for you to drive over, and then kneel down and beg for food or money for their service.

That's the hardest part of being there. You see so much need but can only help a few. We found a two year old girl who needed an operation to drain fluid from her skull. It would cost 1million shillings (£350) to help her. As you can imagine the family could never afford this. The mum had been praying for help. We only spotted her by chance. Judy had given a child a doll and her mum ran back to thank her, and asked for one for her sick baby. Judy, an ex nurse, asked to see the child. Walking into a single room hut with a tin roof she saw the child unable to raise her head because it was so swollen. I'm crying as I write this!!! I'm just so grateful that we could be there at that time and offer hope. We had the child taken to an

project is to try to supply solar lighting to the orphanage where we had the well dug. It's going to cost just over £2000. I'm trusting in the Lord for this money to help give these children a simple light that we take for granted in the UK.

This way we can reduce the risk of fires in the orphanage as the children use candles and oil burners. We visited one poor chap in hospital who had pulled an oil lamp on himself as he slept, burning 70% of his body. Some people have pointed out to me that there is need here in the UK, and that's correct. But we have a social security network that will catch people as they fall. In Uganda they only have the gutter to catch them! I believe the Lord has a heart to help, but will only work through us if we allow Him. He can direct us but then it's up to us.

If you are interested in helping in any way, then please contact me:
sid.oneill@ntlworld.com

Thankyou for your prayers, Check out the latest toy in Uganda.



The Holy Spirit and the art of motorcycle maintenance

by Jim Holbrook, Lakes N' Lancs Branch

The Holy Spirit and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance (or the view from the shed) It's that time of year again where many of us have our bikes off the road, to do those little jobs we've been meaning to do all year. Maybe it's to sort out that brake light switch that seems to stick, or that tyre that loses a bit of air over a week or so. Or the shims that you've been meaning to



see to for the last 6,000 miles but haven't been able to get to because you haven't found the time. One of the things that I like about the yearly service is the chance to get underneath the ol' girl and give her a real good clean. You know the parts you can't get to unless you take the time to pull your ride apart just a little bit to get in there and let the Gunk and stiff brush/jet wash do its work. I really love the intimate contact with your own machine that only those of us who do our own maintenance can appreciate. This is not the reason why I seem to be the last one mobile out of

Lakes N Lancs every year, honest!

It struck me as I was doing this last year, the parallels between our bike maintenance and our need for spiritual maintenance. Just as we rush around, we stand the chance of not taking time out to clear out those area of our lives where we can let sin accumulate, hidden from view to the casual observer, but there nonetheless. A few days of this and we wonder why we're not running right. Hebrews 4:13 says: "There is nothing that can be hidden from God; everything in all creation is exposed and lies open before his eyes. And it is to him we must give an account of ourselves." And just as we love the contact with our machines, how much more does our Big Daddy in Heaven love the contact with his sons and daughters and the chance to clear out the junk and fix up the damage that life inevitably throws at us?

Clive James. Bedford Branch.

A biker is riding by the zoo, when he sees a little girl leaning into the lion's cage. Suddenly, the lion grabs her by the cuff of her jacket and tries to pull her inside to slaughter her, under the eyes of her screaming parents. The biker jumps off his bike, runs to the cage and slams the lion square on the nose with a powerful fist. Whimpering from the pain the lion jumps back letting go of the girl, and the biker brings her to her terrified parents, who thank him endlessly. A reporter has seen the whole scene, and addressing the biker, says "Sir, this was the most gallant and brave thing I saw a man do in my whole life." "Why, it was nothing, really, the lion was behind bars. I just saw this little kid in danger and acted as I felt right." "Well, I'll make sure this won't go unnoticed. I'm a journalist, you know, and tomorrow's papers will have this story on the first page. What motorcycle do you ride?" "A VMax."

The journalist leaves. The following morning the biker buys the paper to see if it indeed brings news of his actions, and reads, on page one, above the fold:
BIKER GANG MEMBER ASSAULTS AFRICAN IMMIGRANT AND STEALS HIS LUNCH.

Major CMA National Events List, 2008

Always check out the web site www.bike.org.uk under events, for events throughout the UK. Look at the whole of the UK. The major events where the CMA have a presence also need your support. Go, you will love it; give it a try. Get to a 'NABD' rally or the 'Farmyard'. What about 'Stormin the Castle' or the 'HJ at Bristol'? - GO FOR IT, SUPPORT YOUR CMA.

August 'Stormin' the Castle' in the Castle HOLY JOE'S Hexham, Barnard Castle.

October Autumn Leader's Meeting at St. Luke's Church, Tittenson, Staffordshire

October NABD Rally

October (1st Sunday) Copdock Ipswich MC show

November Xcel Mens' Conference 21st to the 22nd Abundant Life Ministries XCEL Men's Conference in Bradford. CMA has a display at this popular event.



Just a small part of the CMA rally in Yorkshire, want to know more? then go to www.bike.org.uk
The CMA go to many rallies many with the Holy Joe's cafe, be part of this exciting outreach opportunity.

To find up-to-date information of events, look at www.bike.org.uk

Dog's Dinner Dash 2007

by Dave Ringrose, Royal Enfield Owners club, Northants and Leicester

Sunday 9th September 2007 saw the 3rd Annual Charity Pet Food Run, now re-named the 'Dog's Dinner Dash', in aid of Leicester and Leicestershire Animal Aid Association (LAA) at Huncote, Leicestershire.

LAA is a sanctuary and rehoming centre for unwanted cats and dogs, which receives no government or lottery funding and is entirely reliant on charity income and grants. Three years ago, just before their 50th Anniversary, the Centre was in financial crisis and facing possible closure. Having become aware of their plight I volunteered to stage a pet food run and organised it through the Royal Enfield Owners Club (N. Northants & S. Leics). This first run was a very last minute affair but leaflets and posters were distributed and local radio informed. I very naively expected a few bikes to turn up, but was surprised when 35 arrived, amongst them a contingent from the Leicestershire branch of the CMA. "Who's doing the marshalling?" they asked. This was something I had not considered! In they stepped, and by using a rolling marshalling system, they enabled us all to arrive safely at our destination. The run was a total success and a good amount of cash and provisions were handed over, which helped to ease the centre's burden. The crisis was averted due to hard work and fund raising by staff and volunteers, and the immense support of the general public, but there is obviously an ongoing need for funds and supplies, which brings



us back to this, our 3rd Annual Run.

107 motorbikes, scooters and trikes set off from Rockingham Classics and Sports Ltd at Great Oxendon, Nr Market Harborough in perfect weather. The convoy stretched for over a mile and made an inspiring sight as it travelled through some of Leicestershire's finest countryside. Since the 2nd run we have had the added weight of the BMF with us and the ongoing support and marshalling by our friends from the CMA. On arrival at LAA, the riders were welcomed with tea, coffee and the now legendary 'Huncote Rock Cakes'. The donated pet food and general supplies were valued at around £1000 and a further £745 was raised through donations, a BBQ and a Bric-a-brac sale. A great day was had and my thanks go out to everyone for their support and generosity. See you again next year? The date will be:-

Sunday 7th September 2008

Be encouraged

In addition to the report, kindly submitted by Dave Ringrose, over 30 Biker Bibles were distributed, either during the preparation and practice runs, to the marshals and event organisers, or taken on the day by the riders taking part.

Your brother

**David (aka Zippy) Whittall
Secretary East Midlands Branch
Christian Motorcyclists' Association**

What's the difference between a CMA T-shirt and a Tesco carrier bag?

by Liz Robertson, Gloucester Branch

What's the difference between a CMA T-shirt and a Tesco's carrier bag?

It sounds like a joke waiting for a punchline, doesn't it, but, in fact, it's a serious question.

At our recent National AGM the question of CMA T-shirts was once again aired. Having given my 'two penny-worth' at the meeting, I felt that I'd like to explore the topic further.

Why does CMA sell merchandise? It was stated that it is to support the organisation through the funds it generates. I'm sure that is true. For example, rally T-shirts and badges are a good way of raising money from those who have attended and enjoyed a particular event.

I don't, however, believe that is the whole reason for merchandise. I refer especially to clothing and badges with the CMA logo, bearing the name of Jesus.



Any retailer (such as Tescos) will tell you the value of using their name and logos. It takes their brand 'out there'. It's seen and recognised. It represents the brand 'ethos'.

It's even more true when we wear regalia with the name of Jesus on. It is a responsibility, because it's part of our witness. Do you drive more considerately when you have a Christian sticker on your bike or car? (It shouldn't make a difference, of course, because you always drive considerately, don't you?) How we act when we wear that logo really matters.

Wearing the name of Jesus is another way of proclaiming Him. His is not just a name, it is the name; Acts ch.4 v12: 'There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.'

If somebody has a bad heart, they can plug this jack in at night as they go to bed and it will monitor their heart throughout the night. And the next morning, when they wake up dead, there'll be a record."
Mark S. Fowler, FCC Chairman

Let Battle Commence

An open letter to all who care about riding their bike - by Jim Graves

I read the other day this letter from Grav, the DJ at the NABD Rally; This is an issue which could affect all of us and is of grave concern to many within the biking community. I have written to my MP, who is raising this issue with the Minister of State at the home office.

I would urge all of us to take a stance in this and write to your MP / Powys police / your MEP etc and let them know that this sort of behaviour is not acceptable. You can contact your MP/ MEP etc via the web site www.theyworkforyou.com and let your views be known. This is our mission field and our responsibility.

I have attached Grav's letter as I think it says what needs to be said: Jason Bee

Let Battle Commence, - An open letter to all who care about riding their bike.

The recent cancellation of the Welsh National Motorcycle Show by the committee of the Royal Welsh Agricultural Showground, due to representations made by Dyfed Powys Police, has not only saddened me, but has made me angry. Angry that my very way of life is facing its most dangerous threat ever; a threat that could end biking in this country for good. I cannot stand idly by and let this happen. Dyfed Powys Police made representations to the committee regarding the 'potential' threat of violence at the show and that they could not guarantee public safety, courtesy of the ongoing feud between certain Motorcycle Clubs. The organisers of the Welsh National Motorcycle Show were not invited to this meeting to refute Police Claims. They found out after the decision had been made, with no chance to appeal the decision.

Both Dyfed Powys Police and the Royal Welsh Agricultural Showground committee know that the Welsh National Motorcycle Show is one of the most peaceful, well

attended events in Wales. Many Bikers take their children to the event, knowing their children will be in a safe environment. This is due to the reputation that the organisers of the show have worked extremely hard to maintain over the last 18 years. Yet Dyfed Powys Police totally disregarded this, in favour of indulging in what has now been seen in many quarters as a concerted police campaign to close down every single bike related event in the UK.

THIS MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO HAPPEN!

This is a violation of our civil liberties and our way of life faces its darkest hour. If we lose this fight, we lose everything. Our events, our meeting places, our clubs that we have enjoyed being members of since biking began. Whether you are a dyed in the wool Rally Biker like myself, or you just enjoy riding your bike on sunny Sundays to one of the many peaceful meeting places around the land. This affects YOU! It affects every last one of us and if we do not make a stand now, then we are lost, consigned to history as a group who did nothing when we were trampled underfoot.

I call upon M.A.G, the B.M.F, the N.A.B.D and every single bike club in the land to unite and stop this madness; to stand up as one and defend our way of life. Write to your MP, write to the Home Office, write to anyone you think will listen and make the powers that be aware that we will stand tall and fight. We have succeeded before when threatened with stupid safety measures that were designed to maim and kill. We can succeed again. But we need to start NOW.

*Once more unto the breach my friends.....
Jim Graves a.k.a Grav - Biker.*

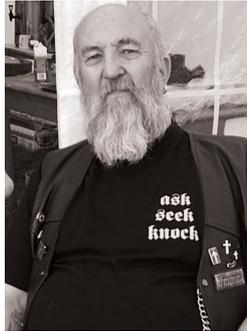
Tithe the profits

by Ray (Treebeard) Knapman, Kent Branch

As a result of several medical ailments, I am unable to work. This means a constant struggle to make ends even come near to meeting. My friends and I prayed over the situation and God provided me with a little job on a Saturday in the local auction house. I porter for them, which could be looked on as a mistake as I really play to a crowd, given the slightest opportunity.

A few weeks ago somebody put two armchairs in for sale, which I quite fancied for myself. The reserve on these chairs was £15, a little more than I was prepared to pay. Nobody bid for them, and they were included in the sale the following week for £10. I thought to that if no-one bid for them I would, but I was still uncomfortable with the price.

On the third week they were still there, but with a reserve, and I thought, "go for it this week, Carpe Deum as the ancient lats used to say" The lot came round and still no bids. The auctioneer started at £10, no takers (looking good for me.) He



dropped down to £8, nothing. £6, £5, £4, I could stand the tension no longer and made my opening bid at £3. Nothing moved: I heard going, going, sold for £3. I thought, 'victory'. A bargain. I thanked God quietly for His provision and made arrangements to get them home. My boss said he would deliver them free on Monday, so I paid his wife for

my purchase. £3.30. I had forgotten about the commission.

Monday, dawn, bright and clear, and I prepared for my acquisitions to arrive. I thought I heard rattling from one of the chairs when they were delivered, so after Rob had left, I turned it over and slit the bottom enough to get my hand in. My ears had not played tricks on me. Sure enough there was money in there. After prolonged groping I came away with £3.72. A profit, no less, of £0.42 of your English pennies. Once again I thanked God for His provision and promptly tithed the profits.

<http://www.bike.org.uk/cma/norfolk.php> look under events.

If you want to see a wide range of pictures, plus a video, plus other stuff, then look at the above site.

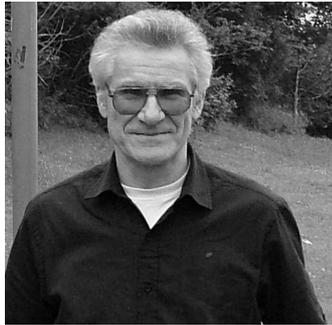
or

go to at www.bike.org.uk then branches then Norfolk then links. If you have any photos you wish to add, so people get a broader picture of what the CMA is all about, do let me know.

Editor

"Traditionally, most of Australia's imports come from overseas." Keppel Enderbery

A little personal information



In this issue, it's from David Thornton of the Bedford Branch. Do you know David? No? Well I am sure he would be very happy for you to chat to him. Why not phone your brothers and sisters in Christ from time to time.

BIKER DAVE, THE BMF AND THE CMA

I'm sometimes referred to as Postman Pat, reflecting the colour and style of the graphics on my bike, a BMW K1, in red and yellow. (see back page for the bike)

I started biking at the age of 16, the same year England won the World Cup! In 1969 man landed on the moon, Concorde first flew and I became a Christian, but that's another story.

At the time, the BMF Rally was a one day affair held on a Sunday in May at Woburn Abbey, where, incidentally I was born, but that's another story! It was quite a small rally, much like a club weekend, with silly games in the main arena, a few trade stands and one make club stands. I believe the last BMF held at Woburn was in 1971. I was there of course, it being mandatory! However, I didn't spot whether or not the CMA were present (I did not know of the CMA at the time).

The BMF then moved to Castle Donington, becoming in the process, rather larger. I was there for the two or three years at this venue, but still didn't spot any CMA presence (still had not heard of the Association).

The next move was to Peterborough, and I have diary records showing that I attended in 1985 and 1991, but I honestly don't recall the experience. However, in 1997 I had a powerful urge to attend,

despite prior engagements, eventually finding my way to the show on the fantastic B660 Kimbolton Road, although I had to return home to fix a misfire (loose spark plug) so didn't arrive until after midday; some force trying to stop me?

On arriving, the FIRST marquee I wandered into was, surprise surprise, the CMA's! Remember, I'd not heard of this organisation before that day, so we meet at last. They found me a coffee and we chatted; we liked each other! Sadly, the Bedford branch regular meetings were on the same night as another organisation I'm a member of (RAYNET, and the call sign is GOEHF before you ask). So nothing happened.

1998, Again I found myself heading towards Peterborough (on the brilliant B660), I can't explain it other than it was divine intervention in my life. Needless to say, the FIRST marquee I entered was the CMA's. Now, I'm not one to believe in coincidences, so I joined up. Miraculously, the regular meetings were now on a free night, so no excuses.

By the time the paperwork came through it was late in the year and on the first meeting I attended, there was a fine dusting of snow on the ground. It's a BIKE 'club', I went on the bike!

There was some confusion at first, as another member had an identical bike. It was a brilliant meeting (thanks Wendy) and I felt immediately at home.

Back in 1969 I had been on a church holiday to north Wales with all the youth from our chapel. It was a great holiday and I made a commitment, after a particularly thought provoking talk, to follow Christ to wherever he sent me. It seems that sometimes it might take a while to realise that destination! I felt no particular urge to go banging on doors although, to be fair, I was involved in helping with the stage lighting for the chapel outreach choir (The Harmonizers) and, inevitably, ended up talking to youngsters about my new-found faith.

So after 29 years of preparation and 10 years in CMA where am I? Well, I'm not shy about talking to strangers and have

had some good conversations over the years. Have I helped anyone? Well yes, my son James! He was 9 years old and got up troubled one night. We had a talk and he committed his life to Christ, probably the best day of my life (and his). How important is it to tell people? Absolutely VITAL. Whilst writing this tale, I have received a phone call from my friend, who introduced me to Christ, to say that a mutual Christian friend has died suddenly and completely unexpectedly!

We may not see the results of our labours on earth, but I think we will have some wonderful surprises when we get to heaven. So don't get despondent and don't give up, it really is worth it.

Only one life 'twill soon be past
Only what's done for Jesus will last



Part of the team at the BMF in 2006. The CMA have had a marquee at the BMF for many years, taking Jesus to the biking community of the UK The BMF is one of the biggest biker gatherings. Want to be part of this exciting ministry. Then look at www.bike.org.uk.

There are over 32 branches throughout the UK, with over 500 members. There will be a branch near you.

Testimony of Biker Dave

by Dave Thornton Bedford Branch



You may remember in my last epistle how I discovered the CMA at the BMF Show. Well this is another story!

As I mentioned in that last diatribe, 1969 was a good year; Concorde made its maiden flight with Brian Trubshaw at the controls, Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon, I bought my first new bike, (a BSA 500 Royal Star) and Christ came into my life.

I was an apprentice at the Cambridge Instrument Company and most of us rode bikes; they were nearly all British makes. One chap I was particularly pally with invited me to his church coffee bar at Therfield Chapel, near Royston. Some local bikers met there on Wednesdays. They'd drink coffee, chat bikes, chat-up the girls and race up and down the hill, but they had to put up with the 'God Spot'. We arranged for me to pick him up from his digs, a large old house, affectionately known as Quackers (really The Quakers), in rural Hertfordshire, and ride up to the coffee bar that week. It was late summer and the ride was terrific. There was a lot of interest in the bike and most particularly by one of the girls. I was introduced to some of the regulars and, as we sat down

with a coffee, a young lad asked me straight "Are you a Christian?" "So what is a Christian?" I replied. He explained and it all seemed very simple, but I felt nothing. Anyway, I seemed to be getting on all right with Sandy, the lass who had admired the bike and ended up taking her home, which left my pal Steve to find his own way back.

I dated Sandy for some months and would meet her at the coffee bar and on Sunday evenings at the chapel. I was eventually persuaded in to an evening service, despite it not being "my scene." I think I enjoyed it; I certainly enjoyed the company in the back row. I started going regularly, but it still didn't click. At this time the chapel had a resident outreach band called 'The Harmonizers', which I went to see with Sandy; very professional and they sang the sort of music I liked. With my interest in all things electronic and electric, I was easily persuaded to help with the lighting. We travelled extensively in southern England, taking the message of Jesus Christ to youth clubs, churches and similar venues. Despite all of this I still hadn't really understood the message, it just hadn't clicked.

On Thursday evenings at the chapel, they were running a series of films from America (Moody Institute, I think) called "Fact and Faith", a bit dated now, although I have seen clips on secular TV. One of them you may have seen, where a guy rides a Harley Davidson whilst wearing very unusual goggles which inverted the image. Amazingly, after wearing these things constantly for some weeks, the brain compensated for the error and he could ride the bike perfectly safely. Another film, "City of the Bees", showed how worker bees would go out, bring back nectar and do a dance to show the others the direction to go to find it. The honey they produce is stored in a comb made of wax, as you know, but did you know that the hexagonal form employed is the most efficient shape for minimal use of wax and the angles produced where the layers join is mathematically perfect! This 'simple' fact made everything click. I understood and believed, but still no commitment, not just yet.

One Wednesday evening at the coffee bar, I quietly sloped off to find Allon the pastor. He was making a model of a Spitfire aeroplane which we discussed, but then he said "I think I know why you've come to see me." We talked at length of the road to salvation. Finally, he asked me whether I understood and would I give my life to Christ? It was a weird feeling, as if I was suddenly totally deaf to the outside world, like being underwater in a way. My heart was pounding so hard I thought Allon must be able to hear it. My mind was in turmoil, I didn't want to say yes, I didn't want to say no. This feeling went on for what seemed an eternity. I made up my mind to say "no, not now" but what came out, when I eventually spoke, was "yes!" ...I couldn't believe I'd said that and didn't

understand how, but that's what I wanted to do. Christ had won the battle for my life and my heart stopped pounding.

I had to pray for forgiveness. I didn't know what to say other than "Lord, I have sinned, please forgive me." I could hardly believe I was doing this. Somehow I didn't feel different inside, had anything happened? Allon went back to the passage we had read earlier about whoever asked God for forgiveness would not die but have everlasting life Acts 2v21. God does not lie - I believed and wanted to tell the world - I started by telling Sonia, Allon's wife.

Thinking back over the preceding years, I can see how God was guiding and guarding my life until I made that life-saving decision.

From denying Christ at Sunday school, to going to a New Year's Eve service with my mother, in the snow, and thinking it was better than any pub party I had been to previously. I went to an Easter service with a non-Christian friend on the spur of the moment, just dressed in really scruffy clothes. I protested, but his mother pointed out that God is more interested in what's on the inside, not the outside.

It's now been almost 40 years since I gave my life to Christ and one of the best moments was leading my young son to Christ one night. We are a family of four and all saved.

Until joining CMA ten years ago I couldn't see myself witnessing to strangers, finding it difficult at best. But now that has all changed and I see where my mission field lies. The white cross we wear on our backs does prompt questions, so be prepared with an answer.

In Memory of Rob

by Fred and Fran Gill, Bedford Branch



Robert (5th from left) with the many from Bedford branch at the national rally

For anyone who doesn't know, our son, Robert went missing 2 days after Christmas. He was found drowned in the River Great Ouse in Bedford a few days later and the police have a murder investigation in progress. We cannot say more now because of the legal process.

We have had so much support in so many ways and from so many of our brothers and sisters in CMA. You have been so sensitive to our needs, not to overwhelm us with your concern, but to ensure that we have had all the love and support we could need. This means so much to us in our loss and our grieving. Some have travelled many miles to be with us and support us in prayer, others have prayed for us faithfully where you are. Friends have been willing to offer whatever support we need, whenever

we need it and that support has often been very timely. To list those involved would take pages, but I would like especially to thank Keith and Ann for all their work liaising with us so we didn't need to be on the phone to everyone - there have been days when the phone hasn't seemed to stop from morning to night - and for co-ordinating things for us so willingly, and Kate for keeping our needs in your prayers. Please forgive me for making the list so short. We have appreciated every one of your calls.

If ever there was an example of the body of Christ in action, showing His love this has surely been it and we are so privileged to be the ones benefiting from so much love and kindness. God has been so good to us. That probably sounds crazy.