

CHAINLINK

The Magazine of the
Christian Motorcyclists' Association

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Autumn 2011
Jesus is Lord



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

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

The Bible says: "Seek and you will find". Matthew Chapter 7, Verse 7

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CMA UK is part of the CMA Worldwide
International Outreach Ministry

For more information: www.bike.org.uk

**The deadline for
submission of items for
the next edition is
6th January, 2012**

Articles for Chainlink are most welcome, and should be submitted by email to chainlink@bike.org.uk or by post to the address shown above.

The sender must obtain permission for the inclusion of ALL names, addresses and pictures, especially of children, prior to submission and provide accreditation for all material that is not original.

The sender takes all responsibility for all content and rights relating to all items that are submitted. If in doubt, please obtain verification from the National Chairman or the Exec committee.

All pictures must be 300dpi or higher in tiff or jpg format and submitted separately (i.e. not embedded in a text document).

“So what’s in it for me?”

Ever heard of ‘Youth Bike’?

It’s an event that is held each year south of Lincoln when youth teams from across the UK display motorcycles that they have decorated, restored or customised. They work on the bikes in their local areas with youth leaders, often two or three nights a week.

With my youth ministry background, I was eager to visit the event and work alongside the East Midlands Branch, as they have a Holy Joes on site.

Finally, this year I made it.

The entries were down due to cutbacks. Local authority youth work has taken a battering, but those who came were very enthusiastic. I had the privilege of presenting two CMA awards for the best restorations, known as “The Resurrection Awards” .

Let me share with you something that occurred on the final Sunday morning. I had packed my tent and was getting ready to ride to the CMA Ladies Conference at Swanwick, where I had been invited to preach at their final meeting.

I approached the Holy Joes Café, believing it to be empty of customers and I prayed a short prayer - “Whatever happens in this tent, Lord, I give into Your hands; Your way not mine.” If I am honest, I kind of hoped that our work was done at the event and my mind was focused on Swanwick and the sermon I was due to deliver. I could have done with a quiet moment to sort through my notes, so I was surprised to see two bikers having coffee and chatting with Ian Francis from North Cheshire.

Within seconds I heard one of the bikers say “It’s good in here because you don’t push the bible down our throats.”

“Hello”, I thought, “What have you planned here, Lord?”

Within minutes the biker began a deep conversation providing Ian and I with the opportunity to share the Gospel message. It was wonderful, but one specific phrase the biker called Malcolm used stayed with me; he said “So if I do this, what’s in it for me?”

I launched myself across the tent to answer him square in the eyes and said “You get to know the LOVE OF GOD!” Then I prayed the Holy Spirit would take those words and impact his heart with the truth of all it meant.

Having started the conversation by saying it was fine for us but it wasn’t for him, he accepted a Biker Bible and agreed to read it.

Now, an occasion like that makes any of my trips completely worthwhile. It doesn’t matter how far I ride or how cold and wet I get I love to talk to people about Jesus and His love for them. But how often do you and I simply reflect on the fact that ‘we are loved by Jesus’? If you are a Christian today, you will know the love of God; it is available constantly. Nothing will change His love for you; He cannot love you more; He cannot love you less.

You are loved.

Those we seek to reach sometimes misunderstand the reason we reach out to them - all we are offering them is to know the love of God personally.

Lives are transformed by that love, marriages restored, addictions broken, hearts set free, minds put at peace, burdens removed and sin forgiven. The full effect cannot be written on this page; my simple words would not do it justice.



Let me encourage you all to pray a similar prayer to mine “Whatever happens, Lord, I give it into Your hands, Your way not mine.” It will change your attitude and your day - there is nothing like it.

After leaving Youth Bike, I rode to Swanwick and preached on ‘Jesus loves me, this I know.’ I enjoyed reflecting on that, and I trust the ladies did, too.

Incidentally, preaching to sixty nine ladies is far more daunting than to a bunch of bikers.

What was the phrase from a scary film?

‘Be afraid, be very afraid.’

With Jesus, it’s ‘Be excited, be **VERY** excited.’



?? WHY GO TO A CMA AGM ??

Anna Rodgers : Suffolk

Not everyone can make the date, that's understandable; some really want to attend but are not able to, due to family, work or health issues.

OK, some of you find meetings boring, sitting through a couple of hours of folk from the Exec talking OK, maybe you don't know those on the Exec, etc, etc, etc.

OK, some may get irritated by a particular point of view or manner spoken by a brother or sister, and therefore avoid going..

OK, many can relate to all that, but how about if Our Father actually has a plan in store for you from your attending such an event?

What if He is waiting to bless you mightily, if only you would but step out of your comfort zone and make it happen, by attending an AGM / fellowship weekend / rally?

What if He is wanting to challenge you, to stretch you; to open a door you've been waiting on? You've asked Him, but are you hearing His voice in guidance urging you to go, and responding in trust?

It's great when we're having a good time together (including the ride-outs organised by the host branch!), but what about those challenging times when someone says something we don't agree with, or in a manner which offends us? Well, I believe He is using those situations, too, in our lives; perhaps to show us how we're growing, if we've risen above it in grace, humility and generosity of spirit - are we even-tempered? Or are there feelings and retorts of intolerance, or worse? If that's so, then He is showing us what still needs to be worked on, if we desire to be Christ-like and walk His path with Him.

You don't know what He has planned from your attending; His store house is full to the brim, but so often we can miss the opportunities He has lined up for these Gifts to be given. How disappointed He must be when we don't show up to the places He desires us to be, ignoring His promptings and, in doing so, stopping Him from handing them to us?

If you don't know other CMA members, then these weekends are great opportunities to get to meet and share. Strangers are only strangers until you stop and share.

There are quiet times, fun times, serious times, worship and praise times, someone to give to, someone to receive from - all there waiting for you if you just turn up!

I struggle health and energy wise, but blessings from the fun and fellowship, in giving and receiving, and a spiritual learning and understanding always come my way.

Andrew and I stay in a B&B and view these events as spending quality time with our brothers and sisters as well as how we can be of use to Him.

From participating in these CMA events we've made firm, solid relationships with members from all over the UK and have been so blessed these last few years from staying, or spending time over a meal, with members and their families in North and South Wales, Scotland, Yorkshire and with other open invites elsewhere, including abroad!

So I do encourage you, brothers and sisters, to pray about all the CMA events and opportunities, whether for yourself as riders and pillions, or for partners and family members not involved - ask Him to make 'it happen' for you, your mates and your family to attend, leaving it in His Hands.

As the Church is made up of individuals, so we, too, as individuals, make up the CMA and in so doing, we each matter and have something to offer and receive.

Thanks be to God!



Annual Ride To War Memorial



Scottish and Suffolk Members during the AGM weekend

When God gives the vision,
He gives the provision

Café Serves Up Bread of Life

Peter Clapham : West Midlands

There is more on offer at the Food Stop Café.

The Café is a popular meeting place with bikers from all over the Midlands. You can usually find over a 100 bikers in the car park most weekends. The café on the Kidderminster to Bridge North road at Quat is owned by Karen, who is a Christian; she has a real heart for the motorcycle community and is concerned about the lack of welcome for motorcyclists in churches.

Just over a year ago, we met up with Karen who gave us permission to place Biker Bibles and CMA leaflets in her café. During that time she has handed out 150 Biker Bibles to her motorcycling customers.

Last year I popped in with a new batch of

Bibles in the back of the car. As soon as I opened the boot, I had people asking "Are you the Bible man?"

I replied yes and was immediately surrounded by six bikers who wanted Bibles. They immediately put them in their back pockets.

The power of the cross on our backs produces some interesting chats, from a ribbing to in-depth conversation. There is a great thirst out there for the ministry of CMA and the Word of God that we carry out into the motorcycling community.

I was talking to one customer who said that the Jehovah Witnesses tried to copy our ministry and were told to leave.

The future holds great promise, as Karen



has given us permission to set up a CMA stand on Sunday afternoons to spread the share the hope and promise we have in Jesus.

If you are in the area, pop in and have a coffee; you will get a warm friendly greeting.

A five year old said grace at the family dinner one night. "Dear God, thank you for these pancakes." When he'd finished, his parents asked him why he thanked God for pancakes, when they were having chicken. He smiled and said, "I was just checking to see if He was paying attention tonight."



Karen with Debbie Clapham

Calling all CMA Members and Supporters

It sounds obvious, but please remember that Chainlink is your magazine. What would you like to see included in the content? If you have any suggestions about regular features, the format or anything related to it, please don't hesitate to contact us by email (chainlink@bike.org.uk). All items submitted for inclusion in the magazine will be considered. If, for reasons of space, an item doesn't make it into the next issue, the sender(s) will be informed, and their item may be taken forward to the following edition.

Photos from the National Rally

Peter Clapham has produced a DVD with nearly 500 pictures taken at the National rally. Copies of the DVD are for sale at £3.00 in order to meet Sandy Fitton's challenge to raise £100.00 per person for the CMA Bible fund.

Contact Peter via p.claph@gmail.com.



EMC Rally Dates

Following the Presidents' Meeting at the EMC Rally in Norway, the venue and dates for the **EMC Rally 2012 in Germany** are

Host club : CMF Franken (website - www.cmf-franken.de)

Dates : 1st - 5th August 2012

Venue : Zeltplatz Schleuseninsel D-91301 Forchheim, Germany

This is not too far from the Czech border, in the area known as 'Franconian Switzerland'

There will be worship, teaching, live bands, bonfire, workshops, seminars, children's time, barbecues, ride outs and a bike parade through the city of Forchheim

Please note that **Denmark is now the confirmed venue for the EMC 2013**; dates are yet to be confirmed.

EMC 2014 will be in Portugal

Thank you for your prayer cover during the Norwegian rally, many lives were changed and many others challenged during the rally; praise God for His Grace.

Please continue to pray for the Norwegians that their country is healed by God's Grace as they come to terms with the devastating events that occurred early this summer.



Check out the web site (www.bike.org.uk) for events throughout 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.

GO FOR IT, SUPPORT YOUR CMA

CMA UK

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cma-admin@bike.org.uk

Tel: 0800 0154479

CMA UK PO BOX 8155,
Loughborough, LE11 9AR

The CMA go to many rallies, shows, and motorcycle events throughout the UK.

Let the CMA know about your rally.

Ask about the Holy Joe's Cafe that the CMA take to many rallies.

Please note that, as a registered charity, we have our rules and a constitution to help ensure that the CMA is run according to agreed principles.

There is a handbook, updated annually (usually in May), which is available on the web.

<http://www.bike.org.uk/cma/download.php>

On the CMA web site, there are various files for download, such as posters and flyers for CMA (UK) events, including the handbook. This is not a large document (37 pages). If you're unable to print it, contact the National Secretary for a copy, or your own branch members might be able to help.

Please make use of the handbook, as it guides the working of our branches and the CMA Ministry and provides most of the answers to your branch's working within the CMA ministry. However, always feel free to contact your Executive members for any clarification you might need.

A Better Country

Steve Grubb : Sussex Riders For Christ



“They were longing for a better country—a heavenly one...”

(Hebrews 11:16, NIV)

This world is not my home. I was made for something so much more... something eternal. I capture glimpses of this as I ride through beautiful landscapes. Even the man-made parts of the scenery are hints of the Creator's creativity, a natural expression of beings made in His image. It only takes a glance downward at the blur of concrete rushing by to be reminded of how fragile this life can be. But I have peace in knowing that when my time comes, the adventure that follows will be indescribably better.

What drove me to this longing? In my pre-teen years I responded (multiple times) to altar calls by chaplains at a US

army chapel in South Korea. My parents were missionaries in that country for 40 years. However, I continued to be secretly rebellious and angry in my heart. It wasn't until I was a teen at a boarding school a few hours from my Korea home that I really became committed in my spiritual journey. Growing in a personal relationship with Jesus – an infinite God – is a process that barely gets going in this short life. God is not finished with me yet... a good reminder to grow in reflecting Jesus' love and grace among us, despite our imperfections.

The concept of “home” became a bit more abstract during my university years. I was in California and my parents were still in Korea. Some holidays were spent with relatives around Los Angeles, and others were spent on the road (at that time I was a serious bicycle-traveller). I wrote a poem back then that still resonates with my spirit as I travel on my motorcycle. The “dove” in this poem represents the Spirit of God and my awareness of His presence through the journey. “First Home” recalls Eden, that perfect Genesis 2:8 garden where mankind first lived. We have the hope of a fully-restored creation after Jesus' return.

Two years later, I married my life-soul-mate, Renée. She has been a precious

pillion, sharing the joy of “dancing” on two wheels in God's gardens. Last December, we cruised beyond the 30th year of this wedded adventure... and the scenery gets grander as we go, seeing the hand of the Lord at work in the lives of our grown son and daughter and grandson.

The longing for a “better country” can (and does) get distorted, even for those of us who have been believers for many years. I have personally battled some lies that attempted to corrupt the inner peace that Jesus offers. Before moving to the UK, we lived in the southwest corner of Germany for 12 years, enjoying an ideal region to explore on motorcycle (Black Forest, French Alsace, and Swiss Alps, all within an hour or two). I recall times when I put too much value on motorcycling, subconsciously expecting a kind of fulfilment that only the Lord can bring. That's a common lie we are tempted to fall for – many different pursuits claim that our longings will be satisfied (modern-day idolatry, when we put our faith and hopes in those pursuits). I occasionally caught myself losing satisfaction in the ideal roads near my German home, taking for granted scenic beauty matched by few places in the world. This was a signal to me that my perspective was eroding... that I wasn't really relying on the Lord as the source of my inner well-being. I am ever thankful to Jesus for nudging me to be aware of this slippage in my spirit.

And He continues to remind me that motorcycling (like any hobby or pastime) can be blessed when I approach it with a heart of worship directed toward Him.

I pray that people can tune in to the deeper spiritual longings in their souls. Jesus is waiting with open arms to welcome us to an eternity with Him... a present adventure and a future home we were designed to enjoy. And that eternity can begin now... may we “dance” with Him through this life and beyond.

“Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling...”

(2 Corinthians 5:2, NIV)

First Home

Silent journey, for
Words are unworthy of such beauty;
Content merely with visual appreciation and praise,
In flight through scattered, but preserved parcels of Eden.
A dove flies with me.

They ask, "Where
Is your home, where uncluttered days are spent?"
A distant land, too much so; therefore, a substitute:
A deep river valley, a cattle-spotted meadow, a green and red forest, a coastal cliff.
Wasn't this my first home - this garden?

Fly onward, glide
On spoked wings so carefully balanced,
While others rest their feathers, flocked in family nests.
Soon will I see my faraway home; for now, patience, and I fly seemingly endlessly on (but
The dove flies with me).

Stephen Grubb 1978

ADELAIDE CAFÉ BIKE CLUB EVENT DAY 2011

Dawn Baker : Kent

Members of Kent Coast CMA have been regular faces at the Adelaide Farm Café Bike Club on the Sandwich to Deal road, every Wednesday evening come rain or shine, for several years now. Over this time, by exhibiting friendship ministry and genuinely caring for those we meet there, and showing them God's love without being overly pushy, we have become completely accepted by them and can therefore enjoy many good conversations with them about not only the great variety of bikes that we see there (of course!) but also, more importantly, about who we are, and what we want to share with them.

One lovely hot summer's Sunday in July 2011 (that's right – we did actually get one!!) Kent Coast CMA, jointly with one of the other club regulars, organised a charity bike event day at the Café. We managed to get it advertised on the local radio (getting in a good plug for the CMA as well!!!) and it was attended by several hundred bikers, raising over £650 for the local Air Ambulance.

There was a splendid BBQ, excellent music, both from a disco deck and also from a great local live band, and of course a bike competition which included many different categories. The winners of each category won a framed certificate and a magnificent trophy, expertly made by our very own member John (Woody) and were hotly contested – as you can see from the photos.

AND we managed to get our notice board set up in a prominent corner of the Café (by the toilets so no-one could miss it!) and gave away bibles and information to many interested bikers. The event was so successful that we are now planning on doing something similar for another year, and also other events throughout the year. Please pray with us that many bikers will be encouraged to join these future events, and it will lead them to being open to receiving the Good News of Jesus, and how He can transform their lives and give them the joy and inner peace that only He can give.



The CMA Display



The Trophies



Trophy Winner

German Manufacturer Backs CMA Portugal Riders

Eddie Fernandes : CMA Portugal

Once again BMW, generously sponsored the bikers of CMA Portugal on another historic mission - this time to the European Motorcyclist's for Christ Rally in Kvam, Norway.

David Baptista, a member of the Christian Motorcyclist's Association of Portugal's Lisbon chapter, hit the road, first riding from Santarém, Portugal, to Cap Nord, Europe's most northerly point situated at 71°10m21s. He departed on the 24th of July and returned to Portugal on August 10th, after crossing Portugal, Spain, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and finally Norway. During the round trip adventure, his faithful 1996 Yamaha YZF1000R ate up a total 13.677km of European tar! His longest day on the saddle lasted seventeen hours.

He was met in Kvam on August 4th by four other CMA Portugal members, including their national president, Pr. Eddie J. Fernandes. They gathered with 600 bikers representing dozens of

Motorrad Germany sponsored René and Ramon Changuion, and via them, five CMA Portugal members. They provided seven new motorcycles for their historic Lisbon to Moscow fundraiser ride. Over the ensuing years other BMW dealerships ensured that the men and women of CMA Portugal had wheels for their many activities abroad. In 2010, BMW Vines of South London generously provided CMA Portugal with five new motorcycles for their ride to Huddersfield, the market town of Kirklees, in West Yorkshire, situated halfway between Leeds and Manchester. The 10-man crew from Portugal attended the excellent EMC hosted by CMA in the UK on five new BMW's.

When asked why CMA Portugal is so generously sponsored by BMW, Eddie replies: "the answer is a mixture of the genius of BMW in marketing their product, the generosity and vision of the senior leaders of the company, closely linked to the grace and favour of God. However, it is chiefly attributed to the wonderful relationship René Changuion has developed with BMW over two decades. When I approach BMW, the reputation of our international coordinator and that of CMA opens many doors."

Questioned whether BMW Portugal had ever partnered with them, Eddie responded, "sadly the answer is no. It seems that the words of Jesus apply when He said 'a prophet is not without honor, save in his own



country' (Matthew 13:57). Our hope is that BMW Portugal will follow the example of the Norwegians, the South Africans or the British one day."

When Eddie was asked about the reigning mood in Norway following the murder of 69 young adults in Utoya and a further 8 people in Oslo by Anders Breivik on July 22nd, Eddie replied: "Norwegian's are largely ashamed and still in shock that one of their own could have perpetrated such a barbaric and cruel act. We visited both sites and it was humbling to see how devastated and broken the people of this country are. There are candles, messages and flowers everywhere. I encourage CMA members globally to pray that this tragic event will bring Norwegians back to the church and back to the faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ."

Finally, giving feedback about the EMC in Norway, Eddie concluded: "The Holy Riders were tireless in their efforts to put on a very successful rally, despite the enormous challenges with the weather. They are to be congratulated. The fruit of the ministry of the Spirit via René each day was also evident; we trust it to last into eternity. I only hope and pray that in 2014, we in CMA Portugal can live up to the high standards set at EMC Huddersfield 2010 and EMC Kvam 2011."



Christian motorcycle clubs and ministries in Europe to celebrate their common faith in Jesus Christ. CMA had a strong presence at the EMC this year, with many members and eight national presidents participating, including CMA's International Coordinator, René Changuion, and CMA UK Chairman, Mike Fitton.

BMW Group Norge AS, and Country Manager Mr. Magne Eriksen, generously sponsored the riders from Portugal by providing two brand new motorcycles made by the German manufacturer: a BMW R1200GS and a BMW K1300R.

The BMW relationship with CMA Portugal began in 2006 when BMW



"Laid back" Eddie

Where to find a CMA Branch.

Scotland

(Aberdeenshire and Mearns)
Forth and Tay
Rest of Scotland
Scottish Borders

Midlands

East Midlands
Bedford
Norfolk
Norfolk Borders
Stafford
Towcester
West Midlands



Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland

North East

(East Yorks)
Lincs. & East Yorks.
North East

North East Derbyshire
West Yorkshire

North West

Lakes N' Lancs.
North Cheshire
South Lancs

South West

Bristol
Devon & Cornwall
Gloucester
Somerset & North Devon

Wales

North & West Wales
South Wales

South East

Hampshire and Dorset
Kent
Kent Coast
Most of Essex
(North East London)
South East London
South West London
(Suffolk)
Sussex
Thames Valley

*Items in (brackets) indicate
"Twigs" : branches in
development*

?? Want to know more ??

e-mail: cma-admin@bike.org.uk

Tel: 0800 0154479

Web www.bike.org.uk

CMA is established in the following countries

Albania
Argentina
Australia
Belgium
Bulgaria
Canada
Finland
France
Germany
Iceland
Ireland

Italy
Latvia
Mexico
Namibia
Napal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Paraguay
Philippines
Poland

Portugal
Serbia
South Africa
Spain
Sweden
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
USA
Zambia
Zimbabwe

For more information :
www.cmainternational.org/world-map.aspx



Yes, we know the map needs updating !!

Stormin' 2011

The **Stormin the Castle Rally** near Bishop Auckland was a huge success; thanks to all who supported us in prayer.

Please pray for all those who took Biker Bibles (90) and that they will find the Truth that will set them free.

MAG were delighted with our presence and thanked Mike Fitton and the CMA, stating that they hope we will be back next year.

We need a larger team to enable us to serve, to sit and chat with bikers to chat and offer to pray.

Book the date in your diary for next year's rally; 31st August - 2nd Sept 2012

Mike would like to compile a team list for next year, subject to confirmation nearer the day, so please consider it and encourage other members of your branch to consider joining the team.

Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians Ch3 20-21



CMA at the North Cape, Norway (see article on page 9)

For Your Diary : UK National Events 2011 / 2012

November 11th - 13th

CMA stand at the Combined Classic Motorbike Show and Classic Motor Show. NEC Birmingham

Check out the web site for up to date information on all of these events, and others.

2012

April 28th

CMA UK AGM
Woodgreen Evangelical Church
Hastings Drive
Warndon Villages
Worcester
WR4 0SR.

The web site provides lots of useful information about branch activities, too.

June 29th - July 1st

CMA Ireland : 1st National Rally
(www.cmaireland.ie)

August 1st - 5th

EMC Rally
Forchheim, Germany
(www.cmf-franken.de)

August 31st - 2nd September

Holy Joes Cafe at Stormin' The Castle Rally, Bishop Auckland

September

Ace Cafe Reunion, Brighton



The AGM (in April every year) is a weekend of fellowship, praise and half a day of the business. Have you ever been? The hospitality is always excellent, as is the food, etc. This is for everyone in the CMA.

Need to know more?

Ask your branch chair or a member of the exec.

The Exec are there for you to speak to - so ask all those questions.

**The deadline for the Winter 2011 / 12 edition is
6th January, 2012**

All Things To All Men

John Hodge : North Cheshire

OK, so some say I'm a born-again biker. Not proud of it, nor ashamed of it. Just the way it is. I had my first bike when I was 16. A Frantic B with a 150cc Villiers motor that cost me all of 12 quid. Had my first, well, second, encounter with the law (the first would take too long to explain here) when I got caught with my younger brother on the back while still on 'L' plates and ended up in juvenile court accompanied by my tearful mother. Dad & mum were, and still are, committed Christians and had prayed that I would come to know Christ as Saviour at an early age. I responded to an altar call just before my seventh birthday, in late 1956.

Time passed; I found a nice young lady to be pillion on my 1966 Bonneville T120 and was married at 21; brought up five children (one boy, four girls), had to pass the Bonnie to my younger brother, pastored a house church, was involved in the FGBMFI, ran my own business, all the usual stuff.

Forward to about 2000. I suggested to my wife, Chris, that we could go back to biking after all the kids had left school. We both worked at a Christian school in Liverpool and all our girls had attended the same school. Since we all travelled together, two wheels was not an option.

August 2002 - I decided to hire a bike for a day for my wife's 50th birthday, as a surprise. I was about 90% sure she would be OK about it. She was. We had a great day out in North Wales, with a few scary moments trying to brake with the gear lever and change gear with the brake pedal, but I was hooked again. Not long after, the last of the girls left school and I bought a Fazer 600. That was later changed for a Thundercat and I commuted to school - our street cred at the school soared. The current bike is a Sprint ST 1050. My wife is still the best pillion I've had on the back. We eventually became full members of North Cheshire CMA, having found a great



bunch of guys who were more interested in talking about the Lord than their bikes. My kind of people.

OK (again). Why was I prompted to write this? In BIKE magazine, August 2011, on page 30, there is an article entitled, 'Know your enemy' (meaning pedal cyclists) which I thought was very unfair towards the cycling community. A very strong bias against, in fact. I had written to the same magazine some years ago, protesting at their continued use of blasphemous comments about our Father God and the Lord Jesus. The letter was published and provoked some response, and for a time the general tone of the writing seemed to improve. Rather than complain again to said magazine about their deplorable slant against



Best pillion ever

cyclists ('Lycra-encased middle-management sausages'). I thought I'd submit my own slant to CMA readers who may have read the same article.

While we were raising the kids, the cheapest way for me to get on two wheels again was to buy a pushbike. In

the late eighties, I was working in downtown Liverpool and took the opportunity to cycle to work. I had a very lightweight racer. I was in my late thirties and was quite fit in those days. There happened to be a long hill down towards the city centre from the north end of the city and I usually made good use of it. 'Need for speed' comes to mind (things haven't changed much). It was my ambition then to get done for speeding. I could do well over 30 going down the hill. I never did get caught.

The point is, we're all different. We gravitate towards different hobbies, have different interests. Sometimes our physical state has a bearing on what we get hooked on. Have you ever seen a 25-stone male dressed in lycra on a pushbike? No? Yet there must be many real bikers in excess of this weight on proper bikes. Now, I have a real respect for keen cyclists. I've been there, done it, and worn the t-shirt - literally. I've done the Coast to Coast a couple of times, non-stop; 150 miles plus. It's hard work, but an achievement. I always give cyclists room on the roads. I would even stop to help a stranded cyclist. Remember the parable of the Good Samaritan? How about our scooter brothers? Remember the lone scooter rider at the National EMC last year? He was made very welcome but perhaps skitted just a bit.

Our mate, the apostle Paul (well, I'm sure he will be when we eventually get to meet him), in 1 Corinthians 9:22 (NKJ) has this to say - 'to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.' Read a bit more from verse 16. We have a mandate to share the Good News about Jesus with all we may come in contact with. This includes bikers, of course, but doesn't stop there. How about the neighbour, the workmate, the boss, family members? Our other mate, Peter, in his first letter said this - 'Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect' (1 Peter 3:15, NIV).



Continued on page 13



Grampian Motorcycle Convention

Robert Stuart : Rest of Scotland

All Things To All Men (Cont'd)

I love talking about bikes. I love talking about Ham Radio, another interest of mine (you might have seen me in the comms room at the National with Big Bob (North Wales), a fellow Radio Ham). But most of all, I love talking to fellow saints about our wonderful Lord Jesus and Father God. I love watching our own church people grow in their walk with God. I love watching the Isle of Man TT more than any circuit race – because it's on real roads. I love talking about our life in Jesus because it's real life.

What is it that turns you on? Bikes? Computer games? Football? The list is endless. Read the first few verses in Paul's letter to the Colossians. In verse 2 he says this – 'Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.' This doesn't mean we must be so 'heavenly minded we're no earthly use', but rather always in close fellowship with Father God, so that at any appropriate time, He can direct us to share the Good News of the Gospel with 'all men' (and ladies too). This can mean a kind act or deed, a timely word of encouragement, lending a shoulder to be leant on. This list is endless, too. The kind of fruit that will last for eternity, not just here on earth.

A rejected opportunity to give is a missed opportunity to receive

"If you are suffering from tooth decay, go to your dentist. If you are suffering from truth decay, go to your Bible."

Mark Stibbe

The Convention takes place each year on the first Sunday in September in Alford, a normally quiet small, Aberdeenshire town. It's a busy weekend for the locals and biking community as it's a chance to catch up with each other, swap stories and visit trade stands. It's been on the CMA calendar for five or six years and the Rest of Scotland branch runs a stand, making the Bible and Christian literature available to anyone who wants to take it – young and old alike. It's all free to take but we don't "dish it out" for fear that the Word gets dropped on the ground around the corner from our pitch! How sad it would be to see the Bible dumped in a bin when it could be put to very effective use for Him.

This year, ninety Bibles and other literature were taken, which was a great blessing and a great encouragement to those of us on the stand, but we pray also that those who now have the Word available to them will share that joy too. Just imagine – ninety Bibles are now in the hands of willing readers! Just think of the possible transformation they will come to know if they ask Jesus into their hearts. Just imagine revival blessings breaking out in the north east of Scotland! Can you get to prayer please for each of those Bibles that, not only will the recipient take Christ into their heart, but many others will read those ninety Bibles, too. It only takes a spark to start a fire and the Bible in the hands of a new Christian could be that catalyst for new life. Please pray that there will be much rejoicing in the Grampian motorcycling community in the days ahead. It's been hard work for John McColl and the family in the area over the past years and it's very sad that other commitments mean that John does not have the time to take the twig forward but I am confident that one day there shall be a reward for all the work those dear folks have done in His glorious name!

If you've never been to Alford before, I can tell you that without a word of a lie the branch has only taken part in it once when the sun didn't shine. This year was no exception – it was a scorcher and the crowds came out to enjoy the fine weather and the show alike. Alford was packed full of faces, some of which we knew at the stand and others who were new to us. We enjoyed renewing acquaintances with those we knew and whilst some of the new friends were maybe a bit sceptical, many were curious. Please pray that we can take up the stand and the Lord's work next year and strengthen those new bonds of friendship. Perhaps next year those links will grow into a trusting relationship and curiosity will win more for friends for Christ!



The CMA stand at Alford is right in front of the back of the grandstand (if that made sense). In other words, you cannot miss us. So, if you are planning a trip north next year, please come and say "Hello!" We'll be so glad to see you and share how great our God is with you too! We can build each other up in the work for Him which we all know can sometimes be tough, so coming to the event will be a blessing to us and we hope to you also.

It has to be said that this summer has not been great in Scotland! It's been very wet and grey, but the Grampian Motorcycle Convention was a ray of sunshine for us. It was a privilege to take the Word of God to the area once more and the fact that so many Bibles were taken again proves the need for outreach. At a time when our country is crying out for hope, it's great to be able to share that with people. When there is such a huge need, we can all do our little bit and He will bless that work many times.

Have you wondered if you will see friends from the biking community in Glory? Have you wondered if you have done your best for Him? Don't worry about it – just do it! If your branch or you haven't been on the show circuit before, why not get involved when there's a show you can take part in. If you can assist another branch, give it a try and be amazed at what God can do with you. Are you afraid to step out for Him? Don't be, because the disciples were petrified until they let the Spirit of God take over. Look what happened when He got hold of them and be glad that He did, because if He hadn't, perhaps you wouldn't be reading this now! And what if you don't tell the local bikers around your area

Seven Take A Spin Around France

Brian Carbonero : MESS

On Friday 8th July at the crack of dawn (or so it felt!), seven adventurous folk from Most of Essex (MESS) and Suffolk gathered at the A12/M25 Brentwood services, ready to set off for a weekend enjoying the roads and countryside abroad.

The story starts last autumn, when we heard that CMA France had asked for some help during a large motorbike event which was about 120 miles from Calais. We chewed over the idea for a bit and a few of us decided that we'd offer to go over for the weekend and help. Unfortunately, by this spring we hadn't managed to get confirmation of when the event would be taking place, but as we were all looking forward to a trip abroad, we decided to just plan a weekend ourselves anyway!

Rob recommended a hotel in Gournay en Bray which he had stayed at during a Velocette owners club trip, and kindly offered to plan the route. We were all pleased to hear that the hotel owner was motorcyclist friendly, and had secure off-road parking – but we secretly hoped that none of us would need the “large garage and workshop” Rob also mentioned as a highlight, which is obviously a key hotel criterion for Velocette owners!

So, on that Friday, I met with Rob, Stephen, Andrew, Cliff, Phil and Sue (the one rose amongst us six thorns), and we headed off towards Dover. Four of us took the ferry whilst three opted for the channel tunnel. We met up again on the edge of Calais and, leaving behind the

slightly strange site of statues of various large vegetables in the middle of the Calais roundabouts, we started to wend our way down south towards Gournay en Bray, stopping occasionally en route.

wheels on the verge in their enthusiasm to make room for us to overtake. We honed our group riding skills, and Stephen, Cliff and Andrew also took the opportunity to try out each other's bikes.



Getting ready to set off from the Brentwood services

We deliberately avoided dual carriageways where we could, and so enjoyed both some wonderful roads and beautiful views – particularly along the coast,

We arrived late afternoon at the hotel, and settled in. The hotel rules when translated into English were . . . unique! We were obviously disappointed by the “Ban to polish shoes with hand towels”, but took the advice to “Think of aerating the room by going out” – so we did!

Whilst Gournay en Bray didn't have an overabundance of places to eat, the local restaurant was very good – and turned out to be run by a couple who were motorcyclists!

Saturday saw us taking a circular route out from the town, stopping at a supermarket to pick up food for a picnic lunch. The roads throughout the whole area were great. They were wide, in good condition and with nice sweeping curves, and you could see a long way ahead and around at lovely scenery. We saw very little traffic, but that which we did come across was very considerate – often putting two

and well wishers, many of whom gave us a wave as well.

As we returned to base we made sure we filled up our bikes on the edge of town, as many petrol stations are shut in France on Sunday. The one we stopped at had three French policemen monitoring the traffic, and our arrival stirred them into action from the cigarette break they were taking in their van. However, they didn't seem to know quite what to make of us as whilst they looked at us and our bikes from a short distance, they spent their time stopping cars going by on the road instead.



Fresh air and sunshine on the ferry

Saturday evening was spent eating (yes, another favorite pastime of ours!), and then wandering around the fairground that was in town for the weekend. Dodgems were not dodged, and the firework display in the main square was a great way to end the day.

Sunday morning saw us descending on the small congregation of an evangelical church that Cliff had spotted nearby, whose numbers were swelled by seven foreigners in leather.

Continued on page 15

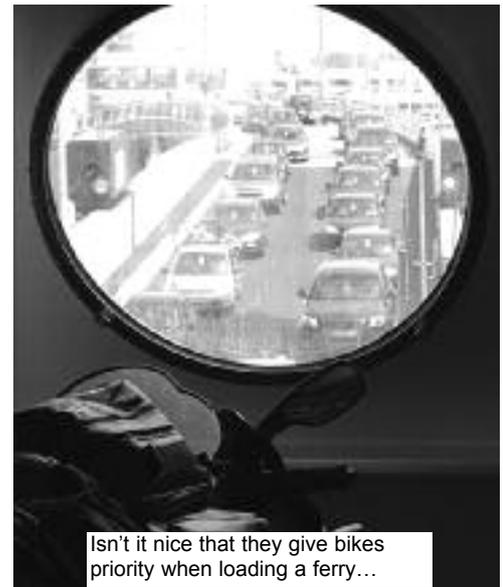


The joys of the open road



Taking a break over lunch

Encouraged, we started our journey back home. We took a more direct route, but still avoiding the dual carriageways where possible. The weather was kind to us all weekend, and the journey back was enjoyable and uneventful, although the congested motorways and potholed roads of the UK were a definite



Isn't it nice that they give bikes priority when loading a ferry...

contrast when we got back across the Channel!
They were very welcoming, and put up with our attempts to sing choruses and hymns in French! Fortunately the minister spoke very good English, and was kind enough to give us a quick summary of his sermon – something that perhaps more ministers I know could do, instead of taking thirty minutes to say something they could probably cover in five! He also invited us to speak to the congregation. Stephen and Andrew took up the challenge and described the work of the CMA and shared some testimony from the front of the church, whilst the minister acted as translator.

contrast when we got back across the Channel!



"Well, according to the map I think we're now in the centre of Paris, but the sat nav says we're in Basingstoke..."



Coming across a wedding procession

We all did over 700 miles during the weekend, and had a wonderful time. The two of us who were taking our bikes abroad for the first time more than survived the experience – we came back enthusiastic to travel abroad on our bikes again.

page. You don't need to have a Facebook account to view our page, and there is a whole album just from our France trip.

It turned out that he was particularly encouraged to discover that there was a Christian motorcyclists group, as he knew that in his suit it would be very hard for him to speak with motorcyclists about his faith. He said that there was a big gathering of motorcyclists each year in a town nearby, and it would be great if we were able to return next year for that event – and yes, it is the same one that CMA France had mentioned!

We were also very encouraged from meeting with the local Christians in Gournay en Bray, and are already considering returning next year to coincide with the bike event.

I've included a few photos, but if you want to see the rest – along with fuller descriptions and many more comments, then search for "Christian Motorcyclists Association MESS" in your internet browser, and one of the first links to come up will be our Facebook



Stopping for a bite to eat (what else!) on the return trip

CMA at VMCC Events Keith Sanders : Bedfordshire

For the past few years CMA Bedford, plus friends from other branches, have been working with the Vintage MotorCyclists Club at two of their major events, The Banbury Run and the Festival of 1000 Bikes at Mallory Park.



CMA at Festival of 1000 Bikes

The VMCC is one of the biggest clubs in the U.K. with 16,000 members, but they, like us, have difficulty sometimes in getting the necessary volunteers to work at their events. This year they asked us if, in addition to running the helmet park, selling programmes and staffing a CMA stand, we would be able to help out by providing "pushers", i.e. fit people, to give some of these vintage bikes, and bikers, a helping hand to get going.

Having looked at our members, and considering the word "fit", I was pretty certain that we wouldn't be able to assist, until I hit on the idea of inviting one of our affiliated churches to help out by sending some of their youth club. Rushden Full Gospel Church very kindly took up the challenge and sent three of their members, having held "pushing trials" with Dougie's BMW in the church car park before the event.

It turned out to be a very successful complement to our team and two of the girls subsequently helped us out at the Festival of 1000 Bikes, for which we were very grateful. We were so busy at this event, almost doubling the numbers of helmets stored and programmes sold, that we would have had great difficulty managing if they had not been there. If you fancy helping out at this event next July, please get in touch with Beds Branch.

Kerry and Angela have written the following accounts about what these events meant to them.

Recently I've had the privilege of volunteering at two vintage motorcycle meetings thanks to the CMA. Before the Banbury meeting, I could not imagine myself standing between a gaggle of eager motorcyclists and a start line, but Kerry, Catherine and I were given the task of co-ordinating them into position ready to set off. When the volunteer co-ordinator told us what he expected us to do, I was nervous; what biker would



After a while, we told them that we'd come with CMA and that we were Christians and about the God we know. They asked us questions about what "being a Christian" was, and I was so grateful to both God and the CMA for letting us have the opportunity to tell these guys about the reality of God.

These two events were great and I am so thankful to the CMA for inviting us along. I enjoyed it all, but what I loved most was meeting each member of our local CMA and hearing their stories: it's really encouraging to hear about what God has done in these men's lives and together they are proof that our God is the God of the impossible and the God of love. Over the two weekends, I learnt so much about our local CMA, not just what they have done, but who they are as a group, and I'm sure that the gentleness and love that these men show each other paints a picture of our God to every biker who meets them.

Angela Patrick

listen to an eighteen year old girl telling them to turn off their engines? However, it was a great opportunity to talk to some of the guys about everything from the weather to the history of their teddy mascot, and an even greater opportunity to talk to a member of the team we were volunteering with about God.

A few weeks later, Kerry and I camped with the CMA at a bike show at Mallory Park. After two days of selling programmes in beautiful sunshine, Kerry and I were blessed with another opportunity to share our faith. We met a couple of lads working on the security team, only a few years older than us, and stood in a field with them, daring each other to eat chilli brownies, and sharing jelly babies.



To communicate is risky; not to communicate is riskier

My dad is part of CMA Bedford and he asked me if I wanted to go to some CMA events to help out.

I've now been to two different CMA events and I have loved them both. The atmosphere made by both the CMA and the people we meet is so friendly.

At Banbury, we had a challenge to give out three Biker Bibles. This gave us a



chance to share our faith with new people and although it was slightly scary to be face to face/helmet with real tough bikers, it was real, good, fun.

At Mallory Park, I was selling programmes and there was a gentleman who was looking at a Biker Bible. I offered it to him a few times and every time he said "I don't read the Bible". After a while I took the Bible, explained about the testimonies in it and he took it.

I saw him when he was leaving and he thanked me for giving him the Bible. I'm not sure if he reads the Bible or if it is used as a doorstop, but I believe that had the CMA not given the Bibles out, he would not have one which he may read.

I really enjoy going out with the CMA, as it is a chance to share my faith, knowing that if I'm asked something I don't know the answer to, I can ask one of the CMA members.

The CMA do amazing things and I would love to help out again.

Kerry Spence

Join the CMA at the many rallies and events that can be found at:-
www.bike.org.uk

Phone us on UK freefone:-
0800 0154479
for more information.



A Supporter's Story

Dave Palmer (Radar) : Kent

I have been a biker, on and off, for about 42 years. Not being brought up in an evangelical home, I had an experience with God at 18 that changed my life. The Christian conversion for me was dynamic and I wanted to serve God and know Him better. When I was young I was enthusiastic, but foolish because I didn't have God's wisdom. Forty years later, I am even more enthusiastic, but, I hope, a lot wiser. The Christian journey can be exciting and can sometimes bring suffering. I still have a long way to go to be like Christ, but I have had my fair share of excitement, serving God all over the world as a missionary engineer (I think there is a book there somewhere), and in my younger days working with Youth for Christ as an associate evangelist.

I have learned that, as long as we are close to God, we can be relaxed as biker evangelists as he gives many opportunities to share our faith.

Sometimes, I just talk about bikes and wait for the other person to ask a question. Sometimes God gives me some wisdom for that person which opens up a conversation.

A couple of years ago, I had to give up work to care for a family member. I had felt in the previous year that God was telling me to change my ministry from engineering to evangelism. I discussed this with my minister. I was enjoying motor cycling, as it brought some relief from a stressful home life and I felt God's presence was close to me. I did a web search looking for an opening to serve God. This was the first time I heard about CMA. I met with a group and very soon after felt God's calling when I visited Holy Joe's at the 2010 BMF show at Peterborough. I have now been with the Kent group as a supporter



Dave and Anita

for about ten months and at the same show this year, I enjoyed being involved in talking to other bikers, about bikes and faith.

You don't have to be a superman to talk to others about God, and there is no need to be afraid. Be yourself; talk to God, and listen to Him. He does the converting, just our caring attitude, a friendly smile and conversation will open up many bikers' hearts. Remember, God does the converting - all we have to do is be obedient.

The Wheelie Good Bike Show

David Hunter : Rest of Scotland

Earlier this year, Robert, our Chairman, was contacted by a Christian lady who runs a coffee shop and Christian bookshop in Newton Stewart, a town located in the Dumfries and Galloway district of South West Scotland. The local Rotary Club were intending to run a bike show in the main street on Sunday 7th August in aid of charity, and wondered whether we, as Christian bikers, would be interested in taking part in this event, to be called The Wheelie Good Bike Show.

The idea was for a local bike racer - Ian Simpson - to lead a ride out into the town where the bikes would be parked up in the main street, which would be closed to other traffic for the day. Various trading stands were to be erected to attract and cater for bikers and visitors to the show - the first street bike show to be held in Scotland, we understand. As this seemed too good an opportunity to miss; we asked permission to erect a gazebo and our display stand in the trading area, and this was duly granted by the organisers. Unfortunately, the local Council raised a late objection to the trading area being located in the large car park just off the main street, which would have been an excellent site, as it was just a few yards from where all the bikes were to be parked. The organisers had to make a late change to enable the show to continue, and due to the generosity of a local farmer, a grassy area was made available across a footbridge spanning the river from the car park and then a short distance up a track.

We set up our stand early on the morning of the show - in the dry, despite very heavy rain all around Newton Stewart. The distance from the main street unfortunately meant that fewer people than would otherwise have been the

case came to the trading area, but nevertheless we had a steady stream of visitors to the stand - both bikers and locals - from early morning until the show closed in the late afternoon.



Quite a few Biker Bibles and other Christian material was taken from our two tables on the stand, and we had good conversations during the course of the day. Good relationships were also formed with the other stallholders and organisers from the Rotary Club. Especially good relations were formed with the yummy cake stand right next to ours, as we felt it our duty to sample their wares in order to be polite - not that we really wanted to eat them! (The strawberries and cream cakes were to die for!!!) The other blessing was that, despite the horrendous weather forecast for the majority of the country that day, the one spot where the sun shone (albeit a watery one) was . . . Newton Stewart. Other than a couple of very light showers during the day, it was dry where we were, but pouring with rain all day just a few miles away in every direction.

The strangest thing about the show was a guy in the trading area who had two alpacas (a bit like llama's) in a small enclosure. Quite what they had to do with a bike show no-one could work out,

but at one point in the afternoon he took one of the alpacas for a walk on a lead around the stands, with the other alpaca following along, like a dog following his master. Strange!!! And some folks think bikers are a bit weird?!!

By the end of the day, the Rotary Club had raised approximately £1,800 for local charities and Riders for Health, and were very pleased with their first ever bike show. It is their intention to hold this event every two years from now, and we have asked that they let us know when the next show will be, as we would like to be involved again. Now that the Rotary Club has

had experience of running their first 'bike' show, it is hoped that future events will be bigger and better, with more raised for their chosen charities and more opportunities for us to witness.

It is always impossible to quantify the 'success' of our presence at such shows or events, but we trust that the conversations we had and the Biker Bibles and other Christian literature taken will, in due course, impact upon lives and bring fruit into the Kingdom. What a thrill it will be to meet folks in Heaven who tell us that their journey to faith began through meeting a CMA member at a bike event, or out on the road somewhere! Then, either through the conversation that took place, or through taking and reading a Biker Bible, they started to search for and ultimately accepted Jesus as their Saviour. What a challenge for us to be always ready to take these opportunities when they are presented to us - for each and every one is, indeed, a 'God appointment'!

On Sunday, 6 November 2011, The British Christian Scooterists Association will be featured on BBC1 Songs of Praise. There is an interview with Phill Ingram and film from the Mods and Rockers Bike and Scooter Show in Halifax from 7 August 2011.

Advertising in Chainlink

Our magazine, Chainlink, costs money to produce and distribute, and we hope that you'd agree that it would be good policy to reduce these costs as far as we can. Following requests from members and other sources to place advertisements in Chainlink, the policy for such items was reviewed by the National Executive, and the following will apply :

1 General

We will include a limited amount of advertising in each issue of Chainlink

There will be a maximum equivalent of two pages of advertising in each issue.

Individual adverts may be placed on different pages of the magazine (i.e. there will not be a specific "classified adverts" section)

The location of an advert in the magazine will be at the discretion of the editor. Advertisers will not be able to specify the location of an item in the magazine

Adverts will be placed for two consecutive issues (we usually have three issues per year : Spring / Summer / Winter)

2 Priority of Placement

In the event of demand exceeding capacity, the placement of an advert in the magazine will be prioritised as follows :

- 1 Adverts placed by members
- 2 Adverts from Christian organisations
- 3 Bike-related adverts
- 4 Other

If the space allocation is full, priority will be given to existing items (i.e. those that have still to be published for the second of their two entries)

3 Subjects and Content

Adverts should be for suitable subjects including :

- events
- products (e.g. biking accessories)
- services (e.g. insurance / recovery)
- accommodation (e.g. b&b's / hostels)
- business (e.g. printing / accountancy)
- etc.

Adverts for individual "items for sale" (bikes, tools, clothing, etc.) will not be accepted

Advertising material must not include words or images that may cause offence, or be perceived to have the potential to do so

The Chainlink editor will have the final say in such matters

The advertiser is fully responsible for the content of the advert.

Chainlink editorial is not responsible for errors originating from the advertiser's material (spelling, etc.)

If a CMA member submits advertising material on behalf of a third party, they must accept all responsibility for the content

4 Material

All items must be submitted in their final format; i.e. text graphics and or image(s) must be as the advertiser requires them to be displayed

The magazine is produced in mono (black and white), with internal colour pages being an exception. Note : where this happens, the additional cost of printing is fully covered by a donor

Any advertisement submitted with coloured text or images will be printed in black and white

Costs will not be refunded / reduced if the advertiser has not taken this into account

All material should be submitted by email to chainlink@bike.org.uk or on cd / dvd to

Editor : Chainlink
c/o Pentire Solutions Ltd
4 Queens Crescent
Burgess Hill
West Sussex
RH15 9EU

Include contact details of sender (telephone AND email)

Receipt of material will be acknowledged, with information about placing (see Priority of Placement, above)

If there is a (potential) problem with the material / content, the sender will be contacted as soon as this is identified

Each advert in the magazine will be "boxed" when placed

Material received after the closing date for submissions for an issue will not be accepted

Submission dates for forthcoming issues are in each edition and also emailed to members

5 Size and Costs

There are three sizes of advertisement (related to an A4 page size).

The following shows the costs for two issues (showing CMA members' discounted costs)

- Eighth page £50 (members : £ 35)
- Quarter page £75 (members : £ 52)
- Half page £100 (members : £70)

For the cost of placement in more than two issues, email the editor (chainlink@bike.org.uk) with the requirements to obtain information

Payment must be received, and funds cleared, before advertising material can be inserted into the magazine

Payment by cheque to CMA (UK). Cheque to be sent to the address given above for emailed items or with cd / dvd material

There will be no refund following the retraction of an advertisement by the advertiser following the first issue

If an advert is removed by the editor (e.g. upon request of the National Executive), a refund of 30% may be given

This policy will be reviewed regularly by the Chainlink editor and the National Executive.

If you know of any business, organisation or event organisers who might wish to take the opportunity to advertise in Chainlink, please pass this information on.

If you have any comments or queries relating to any of the information above, please contact the editor (chainlink@bike.org.uk).

Trusting In God

Julie Waite : North East

The weekend of 23rd - 24th July was going to be a busy weekend for CMA North East Branch. There was the National Rally, Oliver's Mount Road Races, the Helmet Park at Bikewise for Durham Police, people going to Keswick Convention, and we were also asked to have a stand at Brough Castle Ice Cream Parlour Open Day.



Most of our members planned to go to the National Rally; five volunteered for the Helmet Park which left the four of us,

myself, Steven and our children, Naomi and Fiona, for Oliver's Mount and trusting in God for helpers. Friday evening was a disaster; the trailer wasn't packed properly and we arrived at Scarborough hoping to put up the new tent in ten minutes or so No!! Two hours later we were still struggling , about ready to give up and go home, but we persevered and at 11 p.m. we were only just putting up our own tent on the camping field.

Saturday; a new day dawned. The car park was fairly quiet. We were watching and talking to people as they came in when the phone went. Five of our friends from Scotland had arrived from the National Rally to help us, followed by five from East Yorkshire and one from North East

Derbyshire, (sorry if I've miscounted). What a blessing. The Scottish crowd stayed for four hours and then had to

return to the National Rally, as they wanted to see the baptisms, but by this time the cars had stopped coming in.

The Saturday evening ritual is to go to the paddock and see the riders, especially Number 43, Stephen Degnan who is a friend of ours and rides with CMA stickers on his bike. He does not believe in God but has noticed an improvement on his riding and feels that someone is watching over him as he goes round the course, that someone being God.

On Sunday we were joined by Julia from North Derbyshire and later on, by Rob who plans to join the East Yorks branch. God was certainly there during the weekend; He brought people in that we didn't expect and we were more relaxed on the journey home and less tired when we got home.

We would just like to thank those who continue to support us on this venture - we couldn't do it without you all.

If we can help

Alex Bowler (via Pete Warford : Lakes 'n' Lancs)

Nigeria is a country with a lot of motor bikes in it! I know this because I have the privilege of undertaking gospel crusades out there! The Alex Bowler Evangelistic Association has been doing gospel crusades in Cross River State since 2007 and it was during our first trip to Nigeria that I met and made friends with Pastor Francis Utomi from Etomi, where we held our first crusade.

Pastor Francis (pictured right) is a very good friend of our ABEA Nigeria Crusade Director Ntui Ntui Etta and prays for us and encourages us greatly in our evangelistic ministry and when he contacted me to ask if I could help him to fix his broken motor bike, I knew I had to do all I could to get him back on the road! I immediately contacted my brother-in-law, Pete Warford from the CMA, to ask if they could help.

What could be better than Christian bikers helping a fellow Christian biker to

fix his bike? Pete kindly put me in touch with Ted Russell, the National Secretary and through the generosity of the CMA Pastor Francis is back on the road!



He extends his sincere thanks to the CMA for their help in paying for his motor bike to be fixed and together we praise God for His wonderful provision!



Hope for Etomi

Pastor Francis's fixed motor bike will enable him to travel down the jungle roads once more. It won't get him to heaven though - only the Lord Jesus Christ, who died for our sins on the cross and rose again, can do that - but it will help him to tell others how to get there!

Alex Bowler

For further information about the work of the Alex Bowler Evangelistic Association please see their website: www.abea.org.uk

National Chairman and the 2011 Executive Team



Mike Fitton
National Chairman



Ted Russell
National Secretary



Rob Urand
National Treasurer



Jason Bee



Ian Cameron



Tony Yalden



Debbie Clapham



Jill Yalden



Sid O'Neill



Executive News is available after the executive meeting, giving a brief rundown as to what's been happening, via the website The Exec are there to serve. Do not be afraid to contact them.

Well, what's in it for me?

Norman Ramsey : Sussex Riders for Christ

What a wonderful few days together at our National Rally; to be with people you have never met before and others with whom you have been just had a short acquaintance. To feel at ease, with a sense of anticipation. What has brought us together? Surely members of the early church, when they met, must have had the same feelings, and they didn't even have motorbikes in those days

**Here I am Lord
It is I Lord
I have heard you calling in the night**

Yes, this must be it. Yes, or we wouldn't be feeling the way we are.

All the worship and seminars were inspiring. God has us all "earmarked" in His plan, so keep reaching out and, believe me, its getting more exciting every day.

Mike showed some emotion when telling about when a young man he was sharing Jesus with asked "Well, what's in it for me?". Sadly we come across this too often. This brought to mind John's first letter to the churches where he is stating the facts as he had witnessed them. I feel the same and, through The Holy Spirit, I can say with the same assurance as John, "This is true". We do not want anyone to miss out of the love and joy that we know in this truth and we are now able to experience this together.



Legacies : Some Thoughts

Rob Urand : National Treasurer

Have you thought of leaving a legacy to the CMA, so that we can continue to reach out to bikers with the Good News of Jesus, and His love for them, even though you have gone to glory?

Q What is a legacy?

A A legacy is a gift that you decide to make, usually to an individual or a charity, as part of your will.

Q What if I haven't made a will?

A You need to make one urgently, so that you can choose how your possessions should be divided up when you die.

Q What if I don't make a will?

A Then you will have no say in who does, and who doesn't, receive a share of what you own.

Q Isn't thinking about all this morbid?

A Maybe you could see it as such, but it is responsible.

Q Are there any other advantages in making a will?

A For Christians, a will allows us to continue to support those Christian organisations we supported during our lifetime.

Q How do I go about making a will?

A Make an appointment to see your solicitor about it, if you have one.

If not, contact a local firm of solicitors. First get some estimates of costs from them.

Q How can I find out more about legacies?

A Take a look at the web sites of the big Christian charitable organisations.

They have a lot of valuable information and advice about making a will, and leaving legacies.

Don't put it off!



Listening

"When you talk, you repeat what you already know. When you listen, you often learn something"
Jaren Sparks

God speaks to those who take time to listen.

LITTLE STEPS

"How are you doing, Bob ?"

"Little steps, Norm, little steps !"

It started as a joke. . . . when you feel the size of a leprechaun, and you're faced with a mountainside, you take the route your little legs can cope with.

By the end of our short stay in Snowdonia, we recognised that life is a chain of little steps. At some time, we all try to take on too much, or go too fast. We try to take large strides and go at a pace we think is necessary to achieve our own ends. God often has other ideas and plans for us, and we are forced, sometimes dramatically, to rethink our approach.

God's way is fixed; we have to learn to take the path He shows us, at the pace He sets for us. Little steps will get us to the same destination as huge strides. We don't always have to keep up with others. God has set them their own pace, and shows them paths which may be different from ours. But we are never alone; God provides for us. He gives us wonderful and supportive companions who are also on the same path with whom we can share our journey through life.

At the end of the climb, we are all able to see the same magnificent views, although we may have taken different routes at different speeds to get there.

Little steps, Norm, little steps.

The AGM, (in April every year) is a weekend of fellowship, praise and half a day of the business. Have you ever been? The hospitality is always excellent, as is the food, etc. This is for everyone in the CMA.

Need to know more? Ask your branch chair or a member of the Exec. The Exec are there for you to speak to - so ask all those questions (email addresses are on page 2).

An Encouraging Word

**Rev Rob Bogart : CMA USA Missouri River Riders, Pierre, South Dakota
(formerly a member of the West Mids Branch)**

What can we bring to the Lord to make up for what we've done? Should we bow before God with offerings of yearling calves? Should we sacrifice our firstborn children to pay for the sins of our souls? Would that make him glad?

(Micah 6:6-7)

It's a question that, today, not nearly enough people are asking. The problem, however, is in the question itself. The question of what we can bring or what we can do is fundamentally wrong. The answer, of course, is nothing. There is absolutely nothing we can bring or nothing we can do to account for the sins of our souls. If there were, then Jesus' death on the cross would have been in vain. There would have been no need for a resurrection or for His promised return to claim His bride, the church.

In one television episode of Everybody Loves Raymond, Raymond loses over \$2,000 to his father in a poker game. The father is resistant to give his son the money back even at the pleading and manipulation of his wife. The father

says, a lesson must be taught! Finally, Raymond asserts his opinion in the matter. Ray says he cannot accept the money. After all, he says, what kind of message would that send to my children? That whenever you mess up your father will be there to bail you out! At hearing this, the father firmly pushes the money into his son's hand. You're absolutely right, says Frank; a father should be there when his children mess up.

It satisfies my soul to know that what I could never accomplish, God did through His only begotten Son. You see, the answer to the question of what we must do to pay for our sins is bound up in one single word, love. God's love for us, His children, is so powerful and everlasting that He laid our guilt squarely upon the shoulders of innocence. It's called mercy. We'll never be able to explain it. We certainly cannot do anything to earn it and never could we be good enough to merit it. We must simply accept it. To accept the finished work of Christ means casting our own sin at the foot of the cross, and that's what makes Him glad!



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CMA is supported by the following organisations



Open Doors
Serving persecuted Christians worldwide



Carl

Carl was a quiet man. He didn't talk much. He would always greet you with a big smile and a firm handshake. Even after living in our neighbourhood for over 50 years, no one could really say they knew him very well.

Before his retirement, he took the bus to work each morning. He had a slight limp from a bullet wound received in WWII. Watching him, we worried that although he had survived WWII, he may not make it through our changing uptown neighbourhood with its ever-increasing random violence, gangs, and drug activity.

When he saw the flyer at our local church asking for volunteers to care for the gardens behind the minister's residence, he responded in his characteristically unassuming manner. Without fanfare, he just signed up.

He was well into his 87th year when the very thing we had always feared finally happened.

He was just finishing his watering for the day when three gang members approached him. Ignoring their attempt to intimidate him, he simply asked, "Would you like a drink from the hose?"

The tallest and toughest-looking of the three said, "Yeah, sure," with a malevolent little smile. As Carl offered the hose to him, the other two grabbed Carl's arm, throwing him down. The hose snaked crazily over the ground, dousing everything in its way, and Carl's assailants stole his retirement watch and his wallet, and then fled.

Carl tried to get himself up, but he had been thrown down on his bad leg. He lay there trying to gather himself as the minister came running to help him. Although the minister had witnessed the attack from his window, he couldn't get there fast enough to stop it.

"Carl, are you okay? Are you hurt?" the minister kept asking as he helped Carl to his feet.

Carl just passed a hand over his brow and sighed, shaking his head. "Just some punk kids. I hope they'll wise-up someday." His wet clothes clung to his slight frame as he bent to pick up the hose. He adjusted the nozzle again and started to water. Confused and a little concerned, the minister asked, "Carl, what are you doing?" "I've got to finish my watering. It's been very dry lately," came the calm reply. Satisfying himself that Carl really was all right, the minister could only marvel. Carl was a man from a different time and place.

A few weeks later the three returned. Just as before, their threat was unchallenged. Carl again offered them a drink from his hose.

This time they didn't rob him. They wrenched the hose from his hand and drenched him head to foot in the icy water.

When they had finished their humiliation of him, they sauntered off down the street, throwing catcalls and curses, falling over one another laughing at the hilarity of what they had just done. Carl just watched them. Then he turned toward the warmth-giving sun, picked up his hose, and went on with his watering.



The summer was quickly fading into fall. Carl was doing some tilling, when he was startled by the sudden approach of someone behind him. He stumbled and fell into some evergreen branches. As he struggled to regain his footing, he turned to see the tall leader of his summer tormentors reaching down for him. He braced himself for the expected attack.

"Don't worry old man, I'm not gonna hurt you this time." The young man spoke softly, still offering the tattooed and scarred hand to Carl. As he helped Carl get up, the man pulled a crumpled bag from his pocket and handed it to Carl.

"What's this?" Carl asked. "It's your stuff," the man explained. "It's your stuff back. Even the money in your wallet." "I don't understand," Carl said. "Why would you help me now?"

The man shifted his feet, seeming embarrassed and ill at ease. "I learned something from you," he said. "I ran with that gang and hurt people like you, we picked you because you were old and we knew we could do it. But every time we came and did something to you, instead of yelling and fighting back, you tried to give us a drink. You didn't hate us for hating you. You kept showing love against our hate."

He stopped for a moment. "I couldn't sleep after we stole your stuff, so here it is back." He paused for another awkward moment, not knowing what more there was to say. "That bag's my way of saying thanks for straightening me out, I guess."

And with that, he walked off down the street.

Carl looked down at the bag in his hands and gingerly opened it. He took out his retirement watch and put it back on his wrist. Opening his wallet, he checked for his wedding photo. He gazed for a moment at the young bride that still smiled back at him from all those years ago.

He died one cold day after Christmas that winter. Many people attended his funeral in spite of the weather. In particular the minister noticed a tall young man that he didn't know sitting quietly in a distant corner of the church.

The minister spoke of Carl's garden as a lesson in life. In a voice made thick with unshed tears, he said, "Do your best and make your garden as beautiful as you can. We will never forget Carl and his garden."

The following spring another flyer went up. It read: "Person needed to care for Carl's garden." The flyer went unnoticed by the busy parishioners until one day when a knock was heard at the minister's office door.

Opening the door, the minister saw a pair of scarred and tattooed hands holding the flyer. "I believe this is my job, if you'll have me," the young man said. The minister recognized him as the same young man who had returned the stolen watch and wallet to Carl. He knew that Carl's kindness had turned this man's life around. As the minister handed him the keys to the garden shed, he said, "Yes, go take care of Carl's garden and honor him."

The man went to work and, for several years, he tended the flowers and vegetables just as Carl had done. During that time, he went to college, got married, and became a prominent member of the community. But he never forgot his promise to Carl's memory and kept the garden as beautiful as he thought Carl would have kept it.

One day he approached the new minister and told him that he couldn't care for the garden any longer. He explained with a shy and happy smile, "My wife just had a baby boy last night, and she's bringing him home on Saturday."

"Well, congratulations!" said the minister, as he was handed the garden shed keys. "That's wonderful! What's the baby's name?"

"Carl," he replied.

Barnabus Fund Benefits From Scottish Bike Run

Robert Stuart : Rest of Scotland

Each year our branch undertakes a sponsored run in aid of a Christian charity and this year all money gathered shall be forwarded to Barnabas Fund which does a great work assisting the persecuted church. Our theme for this year's event was "Prisons", so there was a perfect fit and as we gathered at Cornton Vale Prison, Stirling. Those who could take part in the run – including a non-member of CMA - were cheered away by some friends of the branch which was a real encouragement. Whilst there are prisons run by the Home Office which deny people their liberty for a wide variety of reasons, readers will know that there are also prisons of the mind, of the bottle or drugs and the prison of sin that traps all who are not yet found in Christ.

Whilst the number of those who could attend this year's run was down on previous years, there was a great sense of fellowship as we joined the route. George, who had once again drafted a cracking route, commended us to the Lord in prayer and we set off on a dull morning just glad to be out on a run when it wasn't raining. This summer in Scotland has been extremely wet with few reasons to cheer the warmer weather! The route was to follow a series of rides past sites of existing or former prisons and also prisoner of war camps in the Central, Tayside, Grampian and Highland regions of Scotland and it had something for everyone – twisties, long sweeping bends and faster straights – but outstanding scenery wherever it went, Scotland is a beautiful country despite the weather and, as we headed up the A93 to Glenshee and then to Braemar, Ballater and

Aberdeen, the sun shone! In fact, the truth is that, apart from when we headed home from Inverness on the Sunday afternoon, the weather remained dry for most of our run. Bike runs are a great way to see God's magnificent imagination to its fullest, riding through the countryside. When He designed Scotland's grandeur, He didn't hold back! If you have never come north of the border, you'll be amazed at the beauty of this country and how obvious it is that God's handiwork is written through the mountains, rivers and forests.

Bike runs are great for fellowship, aren't they? It's perhaps what drew each of us to CMA and maybe holds us together when times are tough. When our faith is tested and we feel a bit dry, our friends in the organisation can be a real encouragement. Sharing a ride is great fun and spending time with like-minded folks blows the cobwebs away. Stopping for a cup of tea and a piece of cake, an ice-cream cone or lunch give us the opportunity to review the last few miles and also chat with other bikers or travellers who have stopped for a break.

As we all know, bikes bring people around and open the door for us to share our faith. However, it's important to get to know the person we're speaking with before we rush into "saving" them. God does the saving, but we can be used by Him to generate an opening and the opportunity to make a difference in that person's life. How often do we rush in without asking for His leading in the conversation that's about to start? Do we wait for Him to lead us to the person that

needs His help that day? Do we bumble in and force someone away from the saving Gospel, missing His opportunity or do we wait on His guidance? I wonder if I missed an opportunity for Him on our Sponsored Run this year. Could I have listened harder or waited a bit longer before He pushed the door to someone's heart a bit wider open? Have I driven a lost soul away from God by my feeble efforts, or did something I say resonate with that person's needs? When we get to Glory will we see the dear folks we shared with on a recent run? It scares me to think that I missed or wasted an opportunity to impact a life for Him because I ran head-long into an opportunity.

This year's run was quite uneventful in that we didn't have any hardware or people fall off bikes. A few years ago Alistair's bike had only three bolts holding the back wheel on! A few years before that, his bike wouldn't start and, a few years before that, he had a flat tyre during the run! Is there a common thread running through these facts? But putting all of the above aside, the reduced number of folks on the run was unavoidable due to branch members having made other plans and another member's wife expecting their second child. Perhaps next year we'll have to re-think which month we arrange the run. It would be great if we could get a bigger group together for next year – unless He has anything else planned beforehand.

?? Dream Bike ??

New Feature

What is your "dream" bike ????

Old or New?

Which, given no barriers, such as price, insurance, maintenance costs and that age-old chestnut, guilt, would you ride ?

And why ?

Send us a photo (or we'll try to find one) and a couple of words about your choice; we'll publish one or two in future editions.



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The sun will always shine,
in our hearts and souls,
as we have one divine father who
looks over us,
and the lets the fire of his power
and love,
burn within us,
which will always keep us safe and
warm,
and able to face each day,
one step, at a time.

Annabel
Sussex Riders For Christ

Kindness

Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes the ice melt, kindness causes misunderstandings, mistrust and hostility to disappear.

Albert Schweitzer

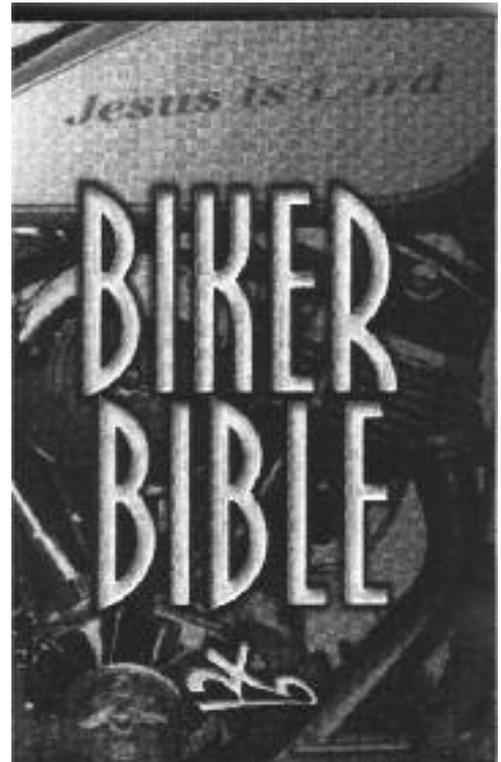
Greatest man in history, named Jesus,
He had no servants, yet they called Him Master.
He had no degree, yet they called Him Teacher.
He had no medicines, yet they called Him Healer.
He had no army, yet kings feared Him.
He won no military battles, yet He conquered the world.
He committed no crime, yet they crucified Him.
He was buried in a tomb, yet **He Lives Today.**

Kindness

A biker ordered breakfast in a road-side cafe. The waitress was rather grumpy and rude, and when his breakfast arrived, he looked up at her and asked, "How about a kind word?"

She leaned over to him and said, "Don't eat the eggs!"

**50,000 Biker Bibles given away
in 3 years.**



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



Sandy, Mike, Emma

In our Chainlink magazine we try to include articles that will help you see that as Christian Bikers we have a relationship with Jesus Christ and that it is the most important thing in our lives, even second to riding bikes!

We haven't always been Christians though; there was a time in our lives when we considered how much God loves us and then responded to it personally.

But you might ask, how can we have a relationship with Jesus? By being good? No, because we could never be good enough. Well, how then? The Bible clearly states that the one thing that creates a barrier between God and us is our 'sin'. In other words, the things we do wrong. God loves you and I so much that He wanted to forgive us and begin a relationship with us, but He had to deal with the sin first.

So out of love for you, God sent His Son Jesus Christ to earth, to die on a cross to pay for the sins of the world, then rise again three days later. He hadn't done anything wrong, but He would be held responsible for your sins and mine. It hardly seems fair, does it, that Jesus should pay for the debt I owe, but He did. All that we are required to do is believe that He died for our sin and ask God to forgive us.

It seems so incredibly simple that it can't be true, but that doesn't change the fact that it is.

You can begin a relationship with Jesus Christ today, right now.

God will hear your prayer. If you have never prayed before, try the one below:

Lord Jesus, You died on the cross so that my sins could be forgiven. I want You to come into my life and take charge. Please forgive all the wrong things I have done, make me clean and fill me with Your Holy Spirit to live the life you want me to live. Amen.

If you have prayed this prayer for the first time and meant it from the heart, well done.

You may not feel any different at first, but it will be a good idea to tell the person who gave you this magazine. With God's help you need to find a good church that can offer you the support, understanding and friendship you need. You are now part of God's family. God Bless you,

Mike FITTON

National Chairman CMA UK

**We want to support you too, so get in touch with us at:
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Chainlink Autumn 2011

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