

# CHAINLINK

The Magazine of the  
**Christian Motorcyclists' Association**

Reg Charity No. 1080911



Spring 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**

## CMA National Executive Area of Responsibility

Mike Fitton	National Chairman
Rob Urand	National Treasurer
Ted Russell	National Secretary
Jason Bee	Exec
Debbie Clapham	Exec
Jill Yalden	Exec
Tony Yalden	Exec

## Contact E-mail address

chairman@bike.org.uk  
 robert.urand@sky.com  
 cma-admin@bike.org.uk  
 jason@grapesofwrath.co.uk  
 debbie.claph@gmail.com  
 jillyy@talktalk.net  
 jill.ty@talktalk.net

### Editor

chainlink@bike.org.uk

Printed by  
 Barnwell's of Aylsham  
 Norfolk  
 Phone 01263 732767

## CMA National Officers (UK)

CMA UK Merchandise	Andy & Naomi Hogan
Membership Secretary	Dawn Baker
Webmaster	Paul Mitchell
Tracts Officer	Sid O'Neill
Chainlink Editorial	Bob Draper
FastTrack	Vacant
Youth Ministry	Vacant
Many other Ministries	all vacant

merchandise@bike.org.uk  
 membership@bike.org.uk  
 webmaster@bike.org.uk  
 sid.oneill@ntlworld.com  
 chainlink@bike.org.uk

cma-admin@bike.org.uk  
 Please contact cma-admin@bike.org.uk

**CMA UK**  
**PO BOX 8155**  
**Loughborough**  
**LE11 9AR**

[www.bike.org.uk](http://www.bike.org.uk)

## Chainlink - Spring 2011 - Contents

2	Executive and National Officers Contents	
3	CMA UK National Chairman	Mike Fitton.
	CMA UK Merchandise	
4	A Story For Easter	Buster Burton
5	CMA Ladies Conference 2011	Sandy Angel-Jones-Fitton
6	The Origins Of The Internet	
7	Church Visit	Cliff Lewis
8	Stormin'	Brian Carbonero
9	The New Season	Robert Stuart
10	Where to find CMA	
11	Who Am I?	Tanas Alqassis
12	Duty or Passion?	Bob Draper
14	Bikers Church	Ian Francis
15	When You're Obedient To Him	Anna Rodgers
16	A Very Special Day	Heike West
17	Round In Circles?	Sarge
18	Dorset Retreat	Various
19	Love Russia	Alex Cooke
20	National Chairman and the Executive Team	
	An Encouraging Word	Bob Bogart
21	Testimony	John Glass
22	From Prison to Praise	Phil Heaton
23	Gone to Heaven?	Yvonne Miller
	Ride The Winds of The Storm	
24	My Story	Miroslav
26	Raise Funds for Free	Andy & Naomi Hogan
	Going to church is vital to your spiritual health	

CMA UK is part of the CMA Worldwide  
International Outreach Ministry

For more information: [www.bike.org.uk](http://www.bike.org.uk)

***The deadline for  
 submission of items for  
 the next edition is  
 1st July 2011***

Articles for Chainlink are most welcome, and should be submitted by email to [chainlink@bike.org.uk](mailto: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).

# Mike Fitton - National Chairman CMA UK

John Ogden Senior is the Chief Executive Officer for CMA USA and I have the greatest of respect for him as a man of God and a personal friend.

Recently John shared with me a vision that God has placed on his heart for CMA's ministry throughout the world and I feel so strongly that this of God, that I just have to share it with you.

*"In late December the Holy Spirit spoke with me about four things God said He would do starting in 2011 and continuing throughout this decade. It was specifically for CMA around the world. I am sharing this information with you so that you can begin to pray and believe God. I have waited for a month to send it to you, but I now see all four areas at work and am convinced that it is from God.*

*First, we will see and experience a growth in the power of God throughout the ministry. God's anointing will increase and we will experience the miraculous power of God in every part of the ministry both in the USA and internationally.*

*Second, God's influence through CMA will increase and we will become more visible in the Christian community.*

*Third, the pace and speed of the ministry will increase and we must be ready to tear down the walls and pull together nationally and internationally as we never have before.*

*Fourth, finances to accomplish God's purposes will increase. Each time we have stepped out in faith, God has provided the means necessary to accomplish the task. It is the same with the feeding of the multitudes. It wasn't until the bread was broken that it was multiplied to meet the need. As long as it remained in the basket, it was just a loaf of bread.*

*It is an honor to serve in the ministry of CMA with you. I am very appreciative and thankful for the international family God has put together. We pray for each CMA International leader specifically every day."*

I am so grateful that whenever God brings a vision it is always bigger than my faith because it means my faith will have to grow to meet the challenge.

Remember that and reflect on it every day.

God's Word says in 1 Corinthians Ch.2 v.9 : **No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him.**



## CMA UK Merchandise

Information about available merchandise can be found via the link on the CMA UK web site, or you can go direct to :

<http://www.bike.org.uk/cma/merchandise>

The product codes are listed and you can download an order form from the site, but please ensure that it is completed fully, especially with sizes, where applicable.

As per Mike Fitton's article in the Winter 2010 / 11 issue, the CMA UK and CMA UK Supporter Patches are now available, costing £3.50 each.



**Back in Stock!!** - Large Belt Buckles : £12.00

We also have **new products**, including Antenna Flags, Waistcoat Extenders and Car Magnets (for those CMA events where we have to take cars and trailers)

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us :

**Email** [merchandise@bike.org.uk](mailto:merchandise@bike.org.uk)

or

**Call** **0800 0154479** and leave a message.

We can accept urgent orders via email.

All cheques should be made payable to "CMA UK Merchandise" and sent with your order form to the address shown on the form.

# A STORY FOR EASTER : Buster Burton – South West London

I've always enjoyed telling stories that give people something to think about after they've heard them. Something may happen, or somebody may say something quite innocently, that makes me think that it could be the basis for a good yarn. Here's one I thought of a while back and, being an apt time of year, I'd like to share it with you. I'm going to call it:

## A Page From the Devil's Diary

Here I am, sitting on top of Golgotha (The Place of the Skull) looking down at Jerusalem. It's Sunday afternoon and I've got the mother of all headaches.

It was only a week ago when I and a few of the lads were here chilling out in the sun, and we saw the procession in the distance approaching the gates of Jerusalem. "Let's go and see what's happening over there," I said, and away we went. It was Him! He was going to enter the city on a donkey and everyone was singing "Hosanna in the Highest" and laying palm leaves in front of Him. Now, I've been around a long time, and remember what that guy Zechariah wrote ages ago, "*Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*" (Zech 9:9 NIV). He looked across and gave me a smug wink – Grrrrrrrr, the audacity of it! This was as good as 'throwing the gauntlet' down in front of me! "Go get the others" I ordered my cohorts. "At last He's going to try and make a bid at regaining His kingdom, so I'm going to need everyone at my side."

He entered Jerusalem and it was incredible; He seemed to be playing right into my hands! Winding up the Pharisees and Sadducees, trashing the bazaar in the temple that was making untold wealth for the moneychangers – in fact, incredulous as it may sound, it looked as if He really wanted to be silenced! "This is just too easy," I told the others. "Parading around boasting about being 'The Son of God' and breaking Jewish tradition – we'll get him in front of the Romans on a charge of blasphemy!!"

So this is what I tried. Caiaphas, the High Priest, was always tense this time of year because, if he let the people get out of hand during the Passover festivities, it could mean not only his job but his social status as well – an excellent soul to manipulate. Unfortunately Pilate was not so easy to get through to. With his regimental mind, coupled with the fact that he didn't believe in the 'Jewish God' either, the only answer Caiaphas could get was that it was his affair and, if the people got out of hand, his job and also his neck would be on the line. Again I saw Him walk past me – again there was that same smug wink – Grrrrrrrr!

Then it came to me; of course, the title of 'King of The Jews' was His by birthright through Joseph, so we'll try that one – it's a 'Catch 22' situation. Either He denies it and lies, or He admits it and puts Himself in opposition to the Roman Empire – sweeeet! I got the idea into Caiaphas' head, and he then put it to Pilate in such a way that it had left him no choice but to at least hear Jesus' answers to the accusations. The thing I needed now was an inside man, and who better than Judas Iscariot, the weakest in faith of all the disciples – at least weak enough to be manipulated into leading the Romans to where Jesus was.

The stage was set; Judas led the troops to where Jesus was – "Thanks, Chum(p)!" I had trouble again with Pilate though; he just didn't seem to want to crucify Jesus for some reason.

First he tried to pass Him on to Herod to no avail and then he asked the crowds if they wanted Him released in keeping with the tradition at Passover time.

This was a bit tricky – we had to possess most of the crowd to get the freedom fighter called Barabbus freed instead.

Having done so though, we found that, by getting a few possessed Jews to start shouting "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" again and again, the rest of the crowd started doing the same. "Monkey see, monkey do!" Pilate tried flogging Him to try to satisfy the crowd, but again we and the rest of the crowd kept on shouting, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" As a last resort, Pilate gave Jesus one last chance to deny the accusations – and again He said nothing; ha ha, because He couldn't! Pilate washed his hands and sent Him off to be crucified – and we danced around. "Gotcha!," we mocked, "You've saved others, Jesus, now save yourself". "Where are your armies now 'King of the Jews'?", we shouted. "Bring down your angels to save you, Son of God", I whispered, knowingly, in His ear. "You can't though, can you? That would be exerting your power by force, thus making you just another dictator, wouldn't it?" I knew, just as he did, that there was nothing He could do!



At noon the sky turned black and I started to think that God might have a back up plan – but no! Another three hours went past then Jesus screamed His last. The earth shook, rocks split, the veil in the temple was magically ripped in two from top to bottom, tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. Again I thought it was a Godly back up plan – but no! Jesus was still hanging there - dead!!!! How we laughed and danced and partied, after all we'd just killed GOD! We partied all Friday night, all through Saturday and I woke up this morning outside the disciples' house. I'd spent most of the night winding the disciples up a treat, using their confusion, despair and lack of leadership

I was rudely awoken by that trollop Mary Magdalene with two of her friends running about screaming, "He's ALIVE!"

I ran to the tomb and, sure enough, He was gone. All that was left were two babbling guards who had witnessed it all. Well, I had to shut them up, so I inspired the chief priests and elders to pay them off – but the fact was still there, He had come back to life!!

So, here I am, sitting on top of Golgotha, no longer feeling victorious but now feeling the despair of defeat. I had unwittingly become just another pawn used to carry out His will. I'd been so wrapped up in parading my superior intellect and cleverness of bringing death, pain and destruction, not only to humans, but to God Himself as well, that I didn't pay enough attention to the deeper wonder being performed - God allowing Himself to be put to death needlessly and, although not doing away with death itself, giving salvation from the finality of death for all mankind. I'd tasted the sweetness of victory only to find it was not victory at all – I'd just been hoodwinked into thinking it was. Damn! This has given me the headache of all headaches and I'm pig sick of it all – why was I such a damn fool!





# Jesus has won it for YOU

"Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?"

(1 Corinthians 15:55 NIV)

**AMEN**

## CMA Ladies Conference 2011

The next CMA Ladies Conference is due to take place from 24th to 26th of June this year, at the Hayes Christian Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire. The cost of the full weekend conference, Friday afternoon to Sunday afternoon, including meals and accommodation, is £150.

This year's conference is based on developing your Spiritual Life. Our methods are workshop-based, as we realise that it is much easier to put things into your life if you have had practice!

Jackie Russell and I organise this conference and we are eager to invite all ladies of any age, and any connection whatsoever with CMA, to attend. This includes members of CMA and affiliates, wives who have absolutely no interest in the motorcycle world, friends, prayer partners, and church contacts. In other words, any lady who would like to attend, because we want you to receive a HUGE blessing.

We still have some places available and we would love to see you there. Why don't you invite a friend? Bless them too! All you need to do is contact Sandy on 01287 660329 or email [thefittons@aol.com](mailto:thefittons@aol.com) as soon as possible to secure your place.

We are sometimes able to provide financial assistance to anyone who is really struggling, so don't let money be the issue; if there is a problem, call Sandy and we will do our best to help.

God bless you.  
Sandy Angel-Jones-Fitton  
CMA Ladies Conference Leader



Sandie speaking at EMC 2010

## Courage

"There are too many people praying for mountains of difficulty to be removed, when what they really need is the courage and strength to climb them. Courage is being the only one who knows you're afraid."

- anon

"Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear - not absence of fear."

-Mark Twain

"Courage is the finest of human qualities because it guarantees all the others."

- Winston Churchill

"One person with courage is a majority."

- Andrew Jackson

"The first virtue in a soldier is endurance of fatigue; courage is only the second virtue"

- Napoleon Bonaparte

# The Origins of the Internet

You might have thought that you knew how the Internet started, but here's the "TRUE" story . . . . .

In ancient Israel, it came to pass that a young trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a young wife by the name of Dot.

And Dot Com was a comely woman, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she was often called Amazon Dot Com.

And she said unto Abraham, her husband: "Why dost thou travel so far from town to town to buy and sell thy goods when thou canst trade without ever leaving thy tent?"

And Abraham did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said: "How, dear?"

And Dot replied: "I will place drums in all the towns, and in between, to send messages saying what you wish to buy and what you have for sale, and people will reply, some telling you who hath the best price for you to buy and others when they wish to purchase your goods. The buying and selling transactions can be made on the drums and the delivery will be carried out by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS)."

Abraham thought long and hard and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. Soon, the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham bought and sold all the goods he had at the best prices, without ever having to move from his tent.

To prevent neighbouring countries from overhearing what the drums were saying, Dot devised a system that only she and the drummers knew. It was called Must Send Drum Over Sound (MSDOS), and she also developed a language to transmit ideas and pictures - Hebrew To The People (HTTP)

But this success did arouse envy. A man named Maccabia did secrete himself inside Abraham's drum and began to siphon off some of Abraham's business. But he was soon discovered, arrested and prosecuted - for insider trading.

And the young men did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung. They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Sybarites, or NERDS.

And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums, that no one noticed that the real riches were going to that enterprising drum

dealer, Brother William of Gates, who bought off every drum maker in the land, and indeed did insist on drums to be made that would work only with Brother Gates' drumheads and drumsticks.

And Dot did say: "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others."

And Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or eBay as it came to be known. He said: "We need a name that reflects what we are."

And Dot replied: "Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators."

"YAHOO!, you have it!" said Abraham.

And because it was Dot's idea, they named it YAHOO Dot Com.

Abraham's cousin, a young Gregarious Energetic Educated Kid (GEEK), soon started using Dot's drums to locate things around the countryside. It soon became known as God's Own Official Guide to Locating Everything (GOOGLE).

And that is how it all began.

*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. Get to a 'NABD' rally or the 'Farmyard'. What about 'Stormin the Castle' or the 'HJ at Bristol'?*

**GO FOR IT, SUPPORT YOUR CMA**

**CMA UK**

**www.bike.org.uk**

e-mail

**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.**

# Church Visit : Cliff Lewis - MESS

The following article was published in the November 2010 magazine of Trinity Methodist Church in Felixstowe, Suffolk, and followed a visit by a dozen folk from MESS Branch to attend an evening service, with several of us speaking about the CMA and sharing testimony. We were warmly welcomed and had a great evening.

=====

“At a recent evening service we welcomed members from the Most of Essex & South Suffolk Christian Motorcyclists Association to Trinity. Their testimony as to how they came to faith touched many of the congregation that night. They even brought two of their bikes into church! Thankfully there were no leaks!

I was reminded, however, of my very first motorbike, purchased for £10 when I was 16 years of age, a 125 BSA Bantam, which did leak very badly on my very first ride into work. I broke down along a 5 mile stretch of country road with petrol leaking onto the road from a split fuel pipe. I had no tools or knowledge as to how to stop the leak! As I stood helplessly wondering what to do another motorbike rode up the road and came to a stop behind me. I recognised the rider as Mr Allen, an elderly gentleman from the church I was attending in our village. His reassuring smile calmed my frantic feelings before he lent over my bike and turned off the fuel tap located next to the tank. The gush of fuel stopped immediately. He then produced a reel of black tape and mended the split pipe. Finally, he siphoned fuel from his own petrol tank into mine, enough to get me to work and back home later that day! Mr Allen also promised to help replace the damaged pipe later that evening. True to his word not only did he do this, but he taught me much about how to maintain my bike!

Sometimes in life we meet difficulties which at first seem insurmountable, but with a little help and advice we can work our way through them. As Christians we always have the help of Jesus, whatever we face. Jesus promised his disciples that when he returned to his Father he would send the Holy Spirit to “teach them all things and remind them of everything he had said to them”.

I truly believe and have personal experience of the fact that whatever happens in life, be it large or small, Jesus always sends someone who will be there to help us through, either giving us advice or simply being there to listen. That is the work of the Holy Spirit in a very practical way and it is truly the comfort that Jesus promised it would be.

So the next time you face a problem or difficulty in life, whatever its size, offer it to Jesus in prayer and be assured that he hears your prayers and will send the help you need.

A prayer: Lord Jesus, you know our needs before we ask, but help us recognise that you are always there for us and will send us, through your Holy Spirit, the strength we need to face all that life presents. Amen.

David”



## Stormin' : Brian Carbonero – MESS

In 2010 I went to MAG's "Stormin' the Castle" rally for the first time. It was held at Witton Castle, near Bishop Auckland in County Durham, over the weekend of the 3rd to 5th September. I always like to try and help out with at least one Holy Joe's Café each year. I could come up with all sorts of pious sounding reasons for it, but to be honest, it's actually because I'm very selfish; it's always such fun – I may come back tired, but it's always with a big smile on my face.

I went along with Rob who is also from the Most of Essex & South Suffolk (MESS) Branch. We travelled up on the Friday, mingling some more interesting country roads with the inevitable dual carriageways during the 280 mile journey. When we arrived we had a warm welcome in the form of Mike Fitton – he came to meet us and made sure we got our Marshals' security passes and knew where to camp. As with the Farmyard Rally, the Marshals have a fenced-in area to camp in with their own security and loos. As there is a permanent campsite at Stormin' there are even showers in a proper building as well – what luxury!

Once we'd pitched our tents and had a cup of tea in the "Marshals Survival Tent", we went to Holy Joe's Café and finalised which shifts we'd be doing. The HJ's was open 24 hours a day throughout the weekend, closing at 10 a.m. on the Sunday, with the time broken out into four-hour shifts. We could choose how many shifts we signed up for, and had a degree of choice over the times – consideration is given to your return journey, so you don't get put on a night shift if you've a long trip home the next day. We were also asked to see if we had any time spare to help MAG to marshal the site, as they were stretched in covering all their posts and time slots.

Throughout the weekend, everyone we came across was very welcoming. To me, CMA always feels like being part of a family – whether it's meeting up with other CMA UK folk, or with people who are part of other Christian motorcyclist organisations around the globe. The rest of the motorcyclists on site were also very friendly. When not working in HJ's, we took time to wander round the camp sites and chat with whoever we came across.

One guy had a trike towing a large trailer which had a double bed built into it – the trailer was bright pink and he'd named it "right price – wrong colour"...

So, what's it like when you're working in HJ's (. . . other than "fun")? We were in shifts of 3 - 4 people. These numbers were definitely needed just to keep service ticking over at peak times, such as in the breaks between bands on the main stage (located very close



to us). It also means that, should someone come in and want to talk, or ask for prayer, there is always someone who can find a quiet corner to spend time with them. The more practical parts of the work are keeping the water boilers topped up, making sure that at least one was at the boil ready to make drinks, pre-preparing cups with coffee granules / a tea bag / hot choc powder in them to speed up service, and keeping the tables clean, with biscuits available for anyone who wanted them. In the late evening and overnight, there is the occasional person who comes in and falls asleep at a table, which is when the "survival blankets" from the paramedics come in handy to keep them warm. You soon get to know your regular visitors, and people are happy to chat – and it's also a great chance to get to know other CMA folk, as many often come into HJ's outside of their shifts.

I also did a shift for MAG, marshalling the entrance to the main MAG compound. As well as building bridges with the MAG folk, this led to what was probably the strangest lost property request of the weekend.

A young guy came up asking to be let through to MAG's portacabin office to check for an item of lost property. I was expecting him to say it was a mobile phone – but in fact it was his dad's false teeth! Apparently they flew out when he was at the top of one of the main funfair rides. They were never found, so if you were in the area and thought you saw a sheep with a rather strange smile . . . you now know why . . . .

From the figures I heard, there were around 5,000 people at the rally, and by Sunday morning over 4,000 drinks had been sold at HJ's, with many regulars for whom HJ's had been "the place to be". It's perhaps easy to lose sight of the impact we have through running HJ's, but I was reminded of it during one encounter when I was on shift. During one of the occasional quieter moments, a large, determined looking biker in his 40's strode in with a teenager in tow. I asked him if they'd like a drink – he said they didn't, as he was just here to sort something out. In a loud voice, he then proceeded to tell the teenager; "If you want to know what they're about, then look around – read their tee-shirts. I've been coming here to rallies for 14 years and these guys are always here – they don't rip you off, they'll look after you when you're drunk, and look – they even give you free biscuits!". With that he thanked us and walked out, with a very sheepish looking teenager in tow. I'm not sure exactly what was said to have sparked that off, but it underlines how just being there with an attitude of serving others is a great witness. It also reminded me of how we also need to be there for the long haul - when someone finally turns to Jesus, it's usually after a journey during which many other people have played a part.

So, I would encourage everyone in CMA to make sure that helping out in a Holy Joe's Cafe at a rally, or at least being on a stand at a show, is top of your list of things to do in the coming year. Once you do, I'm sure it will then always be on your "to do" list for future years!

Oh – and as a footnote to the story, I did come back with a new bike (well, a new second hand one), but contrary to some rumours, it was because I was looking for one anyway. It wasn't because I found riding pillion on Rob's BMW GS so uncomfortable that I had to get something else to come home on!



Right price - wrong colour !!



H.J.'s at night

"No one likes a change except a wet baby"  
- Noel Coward

Co-operation is spelt with two letters :  
**WE**

"Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognise a mistake when you make it again."  
- anon

"Wash your face every morning in a bath of praise."  
- Charles Spurgeon

## The New Season : Robert Stuart - Rest of Scotland



At our recent branch AGM we decided to make a couple of changes to our normal routine ahead of the new season and arranged both a prayer breakfast and also evangelism training. Whilst we knew we're not the first to arrange these events they were the first time our branch had held them in a few years or so.

Colin and Susan offered the hospitality of breakfast at their home and those from the branch who could attend had great fellowship over breakfast together. The food was good and the chat flowed freely as we started the day together. A spare chair was left free for those who couldn't come along and we also remembered them in the following prayer time.

The prayer time was split into ten or fifteen minute sessions relating to the season ahead, such as the need to dedicate it to The Lord, to pray for safety in travel and each and every conversation we might have. We praised God for past mercies and rejoiced in the certainty of future blessings. We also remembered those who don't know Jesus as their Saviour and the need for us to pray for them – the real reason for meeting up. We remembered the bike shows we take part in and the opportunities God will give us to share His Word with new friends and acquaintances. The time flew by as we

committed each other to God's service in the season ahead and asked that we would be fully available to Him to be used as He sees fit. If you've never held a prayer breakfast before, it's definitely worth arranging. We're already planning our next in a few months time, by which the season will have started and we'll be able to pray for past conversations and for future meetings – God-appointments. A big "Thank You" to Colin and Susan for the bacon butties and the rolls and sausage.

We also had a really exciting and enthusing time with Mike and Sandy the following weekend as they travelled north to lead us in evangelism training. It was brilliant; everyone who attended said that they wished that the Saturday afternoon could have run for a good deal longer. We were encouraged and rebuked, challenged and inspired and reminded of the need to tell everyone about God and His love for each of us. I know that I could do better for Him than I do and am conscious that my personal walk could mean a big difference to someone's life!

Mike and Sandy provided excellent prayer cards that we can use to encourage friends to pray for us and the wider work of CMA, posters that we can exhibit locally to encourage others to join us on future bike runs and also another stock of "Biker Bibles" and "The Hooligan". The great news is that we already need more, which we have requested via Rob Urand. How will God use those we have already been able to pass on to eager hearts? How many hearts is He preparing for the forthcoming season? The branch is especially grateful to Mike and Sandy for their efforts on our behalf at a time when Mike's mum was so close to her call to Glory. As you all know by now since our meeting she has been called into His presence and we pray for Mike and Sandy and the family now. This parting is just for a short while – Christians are re-united in a far better place when all sadness will be forgotten and we shall be made like Him.

Evangelism training and a prayer breakfast are events that all branches could arrange. If they receive even a fraction of the blessings those who could take part in our events have received, it will be worthwhile. Don't forget that prayer is God's very heart. Our Saviour prayed and even now prays for us at our Father's right hand. Someone prayed for each one of us at some time in the past and now we can pray for those who have no idea of Him and what a life with Him can mean. Evangelism training excites us and encourages us and, whilst it may not be possible to get Mike and Sandy to every branch's meetings, why not plan your own with local speakers? We're waiting on YWAM to contact us with further information so that we can arrange another session of inspiration.

Worried about the season ahead? Don't be, because He is in control! Concerned that you're not an evangelist? Don't be, because He will give you the words to say! Not sure if He can use you? Don't be, because He can use every one of us to His praise and glory. Make yourself available to Him and relax in the certainty that He can do far more than you can ever imagine possible. When we are weak, He is strong and He can change lives. Not sure if you can do it this season? Be certain that **you** cannot, but **He** can!



# 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 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](mailto:cma-admin@bike.org.uk)**

**Tel: 0800 0154479**

**Web [www.bike.org.uk](http://www.bike.org.uk)**

**CMA is established in the following countries**

**Albania  
 Argentina  
 Australia  
 Belgium  
 Canada  
 France  
 Germany  
 Iceland  
 Ireland  
 Italy**

**Latvia  
 Mexico  
 Namibia  
 Nepal  
 Netherlands  
 New Zealand  
 Paraguay  
 Philippines  
 Poland  
 Portugal**

**Serbia  
 South Africa  
 Spain  
 United Arab Emirates  
 United Kingdom  
 USA  
 Zambia  
 Zimbabwe**

For more information :  
[www.cmainternational.org/world-map.aspx](http://www.cmainternational.org/world-map.aspx)



## Who am I ? : Tanas Alqassis - Thames Valley

Try to answer this question 15 times and see what you come up with. It is amazing how easy it is to do the first five but after that you start thinking, what else? Be honest with yourself whilst doing it. Try and list them according to importance.

Our identity is shaped by a variety of things – childhood, family, community, situation, environment and events that have an impact on our lives. I was born in Bethlehem into a Christian family, a family that was well known and respected in our community. However, I was raised in a country that was – and still is – under occupation, so freedom had a very strong meaning in my life and justice and advocacy were two important pillars in my upbringing. My identity was very strong as a Palestinian, a freedom fighter and a justice seeker. Later in life I became a believer and my identity was challenged by my faith. I had a new identity now as a child of God. But I had many questions, such as what does it mean to be a believer, what responsibilities do I now have, does it mean that I am no longer a Palestinian and where do my loyalties stand?

Being a Palestinian, I was expected to be a freedom fighter, to fight for justice, to seek peace and work towards changing my situation. I was part of my community and there was no difference between myself and

others, for we were all Palestinians seeking freedom. Today, when I say I am a biker (part of my identity), I need to be a person who rides bikes and talks about bikes whenever possible. When I first met a football fan in Oxford, I could not stop him talking about the team he supported; he knew all the players' names, situations, how many goals each had scored, how many games they had played in, etc.

What would you think about a person who presents himself as a guitarist but never talks about it or even plays a guitar? You would probably doubt what they were saying and think that they were lying.

Look at this quote:

“My identity shapes my behavior, but my daily behavior shows my real identity.”

If I call myself a Christian, a believer, then I should be living it on a daily basis. My life should be all about my faith and my Lord. I should be so excited that I want to talk to others about my God because He is the most important thing in my life. It is like a child getting his first toy truck; you know that this kid will be showing all his friends his new toy and will be very proud of it. Are we proud of our Jesus?



Do we share the same excitement and want to tell people about Him? I am not talking about evangelizing people but the mere fact if we are asked about our lives and who we are then we will be able to share about Jesus.

So who am I? I am a Child of God and I am very proud of it and want to share it with everyone I know and meet.

So, who are you?

## For Your Info : UK National Events 2011

### April

**15th - 17th CMA UK AGM.**  
**23rd - 24th Staffs Classic Bike Show**  
**29th - 1st May Paignton Bike Festival**

### May

**6th - 8th You've been Nabbed Rally**  
**14th - 15th BMF.(Peterborough)**  
**20th Torque Festival (Ayr)**  
**30th - 10th June TT**  
North West 200.

### June

(TT see above)-  
**17th-19th MAG Farmyard Party.**  
**24th - 26th Ladies Conference.**

### July

**9th - 10th BMF Kelso Bikefest.**  
**21st - 24th National Rally**

### August

**1st - 7th EMC Rally : Kvam, Norway**

### September

**2nd - 4th Stormin the Castle**  
**11th Ace Cafe Reunion, Brighton**

### October

**2nd Ride to the Wall**  
**9th Brightona : Brighton**

**This list is a guide and is based upon information available when this issue went to press. Check out the web site for up to date information on all of these events, and more.**

**The web site also provides useful information about branch activities.**



Stormin' The Castle entrance

# Duty or Passion? : Bob Draper - CMA Sussex : Riders For Christ

You probably know these words already, but read them again :

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always until the very end of the age." (Matthew 28 v.18 – 20)*

The "great commission". Isn't this what we're all about?

How are we doing? Possibly not very well, it seems.

How many Christians see this as being their "duty", and blindly go for it . . . . get the conversion, another one down, on to the next?

But that's not what Jesus said; He didn't say "get converts." He said "make disciples" and instructed His followers to "teach them". A disciple is more than a convert; it's being a follower, living the lifestyle, having a different outlook to what one was before.

Shouldn't this be our passion? To bring people to know God's love and to have them bring about a change in their lives, so that they, too, live under God's authority, not the ways of the world.

If we see it as our duty, then it's not a lifestyle conviction. A duty is not usually something that comes from a desire, and it cannot be maintained for long periods. Duty can be likened to a drug. We get high on it for short periods and then, when we think that we've achieved our immediate goal, we put the tick in the "done" box until the next time that the duty call kicks in again.

When we meet somebody who is trying to sell us something, what makes us want to know more? That person's knowledge of the facts? Probably not. But what if they are undoubtedly enthusiastic and passionate about what they are bringing across? It's a natural reaction to want to listen and take in what is being told. Somebody who lives what they are selling, practicing what they preach, is more likely to arouse interest than the person who simply spouts facts and jargon at you.

A true story to illustrate the message : A man was doing the weekly shop in Tesco's, sticking to the list his wife had prepared, and was passing the ice cream section, when a woman, whom he'd never met before, tapped him on the shoulder and said "you should try that raspberry ripple ice cream, it's really, really good". The man took no notice, but in

his journey round the store, he kept meeting the lady, who repeatedly gave him the same message, until he went back to the ice cream section and put a tub of said product in his basket and took it home. When his wife queried why he'd bought it when it wasn't on the list, he recounted what had happened and told her that the woman had obviously tried it herself and that her enthusiasm for it was contagious.

Enthusiasm sells. Passion in reality seals the deal.

We have to be sure that people we meet can see that we live by what we are saying to them. Our desire to share our faith must be backed up by the reality of our lives and lifestyles. People need to see us as convincing.

It is not our role to convert people; that is the work of the Holy Spirit. In John's Gospel (chapter 16 v 8 – 11) Jesus tells us that "*He (the Holy Spirit) will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin . . .*" The Holy Spirit will open the eyes of men to the reality of their lives. Jesus, continuing to speak about the work of the Holy Spirit, then tells us (John 16 v 13 – 15) that the Holy Spirit is the one who will "guide you into all truth." We are instruments used by God to bring people to the point where they are open to that happening; maybe we're simply stepping stones along a person's path to God. The Holy Spirit makes the final conviction.

But, if that person cannot see the light of God in the way we live, how we act and behave, if they cannot see that we live by what we say, how can we expect them to want to move towards the place where they can be changed? If our telling doesn't show that we live by the message, then what's the point? We must live it before we share it.

The problem is that we read "go make disciples . . .", but we act like it says "go get converts . . .".

Conversion is shorthand for a decision made in a moment of time. Becoming a disciple is to fully become a follower of Christ; it's a lifestyle change. You cannot make a person a disciple in a moment in time. Their decision is only the start of the process to becoming a disciple.

This process requires modelling, and we are the examples. Being an example needs a profound sense of conviction. If the new convert doesn't see it in us, then they will quickly lose their enthusiasm, and will drift away.

Statistics have shown that, at Billy Graham's last London Crusade, there was an eight percent response to the call to God. Half of those who came forward in response went



through a conversion experience. However, it is significant that, of those, only half maintained their new found faith. In any sphere of life, a two percent growth rate is impossible to maintain. It's reckoned that churches in the UK currently require a 10% growth (i.e. newcomers) per annum, just to stand still!

If the number of people who are "converted" at rallies and crusades were to be in our churches, we wouldn't be worried about the lack of growth, but we'd be in a permanent state of revival! We'd be building churches at a greater rate than we're currently closing them down.

Conversion is **not** what it's about. What **it is** about, is Kingdom Life. A life of fellowship, of discipleship. Acts 2 (v 46 – 47) tells us that "*Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved*". Previous verses tell us about the fact that the believers were together and had everything in common, selling goods and possessions and giving as needs arose.

If we're not bringing God's message across, with a lifestyle that reflects what we're saying, no wonder it falls on deaf ears.

Getting somebody to that point of making their decision, the conversion, isn't enough. We need to lead them further, to help them "journey through" the experience of changing from a secular to a Christian lifestyle. So, if we're not living it ourselves, what chance have we of setting an example to others? And, unfortunately, a "church" lifestyle doesn't necessarily mean that it's a Christian lifestyle. It's not about being at church every Sunday, attending the monthly prayer meeting and being a member of the coffee rota ("so long as it's only once a quarter"). Christian life, the Kingdom life, is striving to be what God wants of us; if we're living it, it should shine through to others in our approach to all things.

When Jesus said to his first disciples "Come, follow me", we are told that "at once, they left their nets and followed Him" (Matthew 4 v 18 - 21). Lifestyle change? You'd better believe it. These men were breadwinners. Their lives changed immediately.

Levi (also known as Matthew) was a tax collector. Jesus told him (he didn't ask!) "Follow me". Levi got up, left everything and followed him (Matthew 9 v 9 / Luke 5 v 27). So, as a writer of one of the Gospels, Matthew certainly knew what it was like to undergo a lifestyle change. Tax collector to disciple of Jesus in one move. Lifestyle change in spades!

There is the story of the rich young man (Mark 10 v 17 - 31) who found that he could not face the prospect of a lifestyle change, and so walked away from Jesus. He was told what the decision to follow Jesus would mean, by Jesus himself. Do we bring that element across when we speak with people?

Do we share our own experiences, showing that we have changed? Do we share this with enthusiasm and passion? Can people we meet see this in our lives?

We have a presence at rallies and events across the globe and meet thousands of

people. Of all those we meet, how many, there and then, come to the moment of decision? As stated earlier, our meeting with them may be but a stepping stone on their journey towards God, so we shouldn't berate ourselves for not getting that "sale" at that time. But, of those that we are honoured to witness in their decision to accept Christ, how many become "disciples" and how many will drift back within a short time after that "conversion experience".

Where is the discipleship for these new believers? Who is responsible for their on-going growth? Here's the shock . . . we are!

We may think that we've achieved that "tick in the box" as that person leaves the CMA stand or tent and goes their merry way, and that we've done our bit in the "great commission." Sorry, but no.

If this is how we see it, then we're taking the word of God far too lightly. We've changed the word "disciples" to "converts". We're not going far enough.

If we find ourselves doing "tick in the box" evangelism, then we need to think again. We need to go after that new believer, take them to one side and make sure that we know that there will be a sound and secure support for

their next steps and future growth. And if there isn't one immediately obvious, find the nearest mirror and recognise that what you're looking at, is it. It's you. When we are instrumental in bringing a person through the Kingdom gate, then we assume full responsibility for their continued well-being. That's called discipleship.

If we are doing "tick in the box", evangelism, then we're probably doing it out of a sense of duty. So, probably, there won't be a need to do any follow up, because the person we're talking to won't get to the decision point due to the fact that they aren't convinced by our conviction, our passion, our lifestyle.

But, if our lifestyle, both as individuals and as members of our group, shows a passion for what we believe, then we'd better have a queuing system, because they'll be lining up to "sign up", simply because they want to get some of what we've got.

Duty or passion? Do we have a choice? Yes, we do. Do we live the Kingdom lifestyle or not and can people see that in us?

## ***The deadline for submission of items for the next edition is 1st July 2011***

**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.**



### **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](mailto: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.



Ian Francis

North Cheshire



When some brothers from CMA UK came back from a visit to South Africa with a vision for Bikers Church, their enthusiasm was infectious. Their vision was of a 'Full Gospel' church, run by bikers, for bikers.

Within weeks, a Methodist Minister called Sally had offered her church for us to use as we felt led and the CMA Bikers Church was a reality.

The first meeting was in September 2010 when 85 people came to listen to Mike Fitton preach the gospel. They were mainly CMA members, friends & family. Since that first service, we have had between 65 and 85 people at every service; the number of CMA people has slowly diminished to be replaced by non-CMA people. Our prayer is that people who don't 'fit' into a normal church family will find God's love and a sense of belonging amongst believers who are willing to accept them, regardless of their background or past.

Every month, the Gospel is preached, and in December eight people came forward to give their lives to the Lord. Two of these people were the parents of little Summer who was dedicated at the same service. In April, Bikers Church will be hosting its first wedding, when Summer's parents will be getting married, and there will also be a couple who will be renewing their vows.

In January, we started a monthly prayer and Bible study meeting, which is still in its infancy but, with God's blessing, will help people grow in their Christian walk.

The chapel at Rixton has been an excellent start for Bikers Church, but we have reached the capacity of the building and we have the opportunity to move to bigger premises in Warrington to a church that seats 250, I am confident this will happen in God's timing in the not too distant future.

We meet on the first Sunday of each month for an outreach service and on the third Sunday of each month for a Bible Feast and Prayer night. Everyone is welcome to join us. If, as a branch, you feel led to come and join us and take part in the service, that would be fantastic.



Full church

Whilst we praise God for what He has done, it is only right and proper to give thanks to the members of S Lancs, N Cheshire, Stafford, Wales, W Yorks and Midlands branches for their continued support and prayers, to give thanks to all of you who have prayed with us and to give thanks to the Rev. Sally from the local Methodist church for allowing us to take over her church and giving us the freedom to run a 'Full Gospel' church.



Praise Team

# When You're Obedient to Him : Anna Rodgers - MESS

Obedience - to obey . . . but how many of us find this so very difficult?

We pray and speak of obeying Him, yet when we are put to the Test or 'given' an opportunity to act, so often we can miserably fail His prompting.

Yet when we do obey (when we at least feel like doing so), what blessings we unexpectedly receive!

This is to encourage you, when you recognise such a situation, to 'overcome' and fight the evil one's voice telling you 'not to bother' or to 'ignore'.

Last January I did not 'feel like' going out to the monthly friendship club where I help with teas etc.

I didn't have the energy to go out and join in but I just 'knew' I had to go. It was a fight but I 'obeyed' the pull.

I was introduced to a Dutch lady about my own age. I could see she was suffering and, because of my weariness, didn't 'feel like' going any further with the conversation. But overcoming the second battle, it was on my heart to do so. This is the reality in day to day living - what we are taught as "dying to self" - the laying aside of one's own wants and needs to put another's first.

This lady told me she had been widowed just ten days before and her father had died in Holland the same week, just three weeks after moving from Holland to Stowmarket, (where her husband had grown up).

Clearly she was grieving; we spent the afternoon together and exchanged phone numbers.

We spoke daily and met most days, as she was having a traumatic time sorting the benefits she was entitled to receive whilst in her bereavement. I advised her on the process, and who to go to for assistance - all of which she acted upon.

I recognised a strength in her and shared the Father's Word to encourage her; it was very rewarding the day she said she had found peace and a quiet calm and recognised now that He had always been present in her heart from when she was a girl, but only now understood it. And so a solid and equal sister relationship grew. I became part of her family, meeting her stepsons and in-laws.

That summer she helped me by driving me on errands and I showed her where the pleasant places were in our Suffolk countryside. We attended fellowship activities together.

Once, we shared an incredible sighting of deer and a stag so close by on the edge of a field one late summer's evening as the sun was going down; so royal and splendid a sight!

She told me we would take a visit to Holland later in the year to visit her two daughters and, in October, we took this trip together. Apart from losing my blackberry mobile at the start of the journey (and having it handed in to lost property!), it was a calm and stress-free journey by train and ferry. The wheelchair assistance worked well and Pien, having been her disabled husband's carer, was calm and natural in recognising needs. She could see from my eyes when I was struggling and needing rest, and would immediately find someplace quiet to sit and get a cup of tea and something to eat which would work wonders on reviving my energy levels.

Her daughters and their partners welcomed me as part of the family and included me in everything. I had a wonderful few days experience of staying in their homes, visiting the local markets (and of course Ikea!) and seeing the Dutch countryside and amazing waterways and canals with the vast broad barges sailing on to Switzerland.

So wouldn't you say this was a blessing enough from the act of obedience when having first been introduced to Pien?

For if I had not 'bothered' and not let her speak further, keeping myself to myself to reserve my energies, I would have lost out on a very special friendship **and** this experience of visiting Holland.

Well, if that wasn't blessing enough – The Father had even more in store, for, on the journey home, we had seen a number of motorcyclists heading towards the ferry; it had been such mild weather.

I had a Bikers Bible in my hand luggage and was alert for an opportunity to give it out. Whilst sitting in the lounge of the ferry shortly after leaving the port, I heard footsteps and saw a pair of motorcyclist's red and black boots. I looked up and it was a young man who walked further down, but then turned and sat directly opposite me.

A few minutes later, I broke the ice, saying "Hi, what bike have you got?"

He responded and we spent several minutes chatting. He had travelled from Hungary where he came from, and was now living in Manchester. We shared about our bikes; he was very interested that we (Andrew, my husband and I) had a Hayabusa. I told him we were members of the CMA UK, and then



I showed him the Bikers Bible, telling him he'd find the testimonies interesting. I wished him a safe journey (the weather had changed to very windy and heavy rain in England). He made to give me back the Bible and I said, "No that's yours, it's for you". He smiled and received those words as the gift that the Bikers Bible truly is. You can tell can't you? - such encouragement and so rewarding on those occasions!

I could see him reading it throughout the journey, occasionally looking up at me. When he got up to put his gear on as we neared Harwich port, he stopped and said "I want to thank you so much for giving me the Bible". I could tell The Father has something mega for this young man, maybe He had already been calling him. There was something about his manner, a humility and strength of character. I truly believe I will see or hear great things in His name from this young man.

And so, The Father had my Dutch friend move to the UK when she did and put it on her heart to stay. He led us to meet - and become close. Which led to the Holland trip. Which led to the rewarding meeting of this guy and who knows what else!!

I can tell you it was a fight to overcome my wanting to keep to myself that January day but how glad I am I died to self and obeyed His voice and prompting.

Try it and be blown away by how Father works in your life!



## A Very Special Day : Heike West - Thames Valley



October 2nd, 2010, was a very special day for the CMA Thames Valley. One of their members – that is, me! – got married! And my lovely biker buddies made sure it was a special day.

Firstly they were so helpful in the run-up to the wedding – in prayer, helping out with items and organising the wedding car (thank you so much Tom!). So, when I came out of the house to get into the wedding car (a lovely 2nd world war vehicle), there they all were. On their bikes with purple ribbons on their helmets, beeping their horns, and almost making me to cry before I even got to the church! I had an 11-bike escort. How fantastic!

People still talk about our fantastic church service. Especially as they've never been to a wedding ceremony with such a diversity of people there. Bikers in full bike gear definitely went down well. My husband's mum still talks about how lovely the bikers were, as they really looked after her without being asked . . . God's love was "so" shining through 'my boys' (I am the youngest in the branch and they still call me mum . . . .).



Even when it started to rain, they stayed with us to escort us to the hall. We took the scenic route – I wanted to be seen with such a fantastic escort and car!

We got some lovely photos taken and had so much fun doing it, as well as a rather crazy video filmed from the bike by our chairman. I hope the pictures can portray a little of the magic of the day. It is just so special to see God's love being spread while wearing leathers!

My husband is planning on getting involved in the CMA and taking his bike test. So, hopefully, very soon he is going to join us in wearing one of our white crosses on his back.



## Round In Circles ? : Sarge - CMA Sussex : Riders For Christ

Imagine, you're going on a journey from home to the National AG.M, meeting up with others on the way. You know the towns you need to visit and have the post-codes and your trusty satnav (e.g. TomTom or Garmin). All well and good, but how many times have you entered the destination(s), started the run and found that you either go along a road you wish you hadn't, or missed a rest stop or pick-up point. Have you longed to have more control over where this wonderful piece of technology takes you? It allows you to enter the first stop and then another, and so on, to the end of the journey, but wouldn't it be better to program the journey (i.e. the roads you want to use) as a whole?

When I brought my satnav, it was still a relatively new concept and it was not easy to understand how to get the best from it for such things as programming in a route for a branch ride out, or simply taking the route I wanted to go. After some searching on-line, I've found what I think is a great tool which allows me to have far more control over how and where my satnav takes me. With this application, I can plan a route on my computer (using its bigger screen), with as many stops as I wish, along the roads I want to travel, and then transfer it to my satnav.

A satnav device will follow the quickest or shortest route (whatever you've set it to work out), but not both, and is mainly designed for cars. By programming my own routes, I can save many miles, often the difference between doing the journey on one tank or having to refuel. Last year, I saved around £30.00 in petrol on my bike by using this system.

So, what's this wonderful tool? It's a free web application called "Tyre" which is down-loaded to your computer. It provides a way of planning your route, adjusting it, adding stops and getting mileage and fuel information. There is a link within the program to Google maps which enables way-points to be set to produce a route. The route can be amended to suit and, when completed, it can be saved and transferred to the satnav when needed or emailed to another satnav user. Favourite points can be saved to use as the basis for future routes and this means that your local knowledge can be used to miss traffic or road works. Routes can be produced ahead of time, giving more flexibility to travel arrangements.

Using "Tyre", I have produced some great ride-outs for the branch and it makes journeys to and from national events a pleasure and part of the event, rather than something to be suffered and got through as soon as possible. I've found that it has added a new dimension to my riding. "Tyre" is the application I use as it suits my satnav (TomTom Rider 1); there are others out there, so I suggest you find one that is applicable to the device you have, as not all are the same and some are free but some are not.



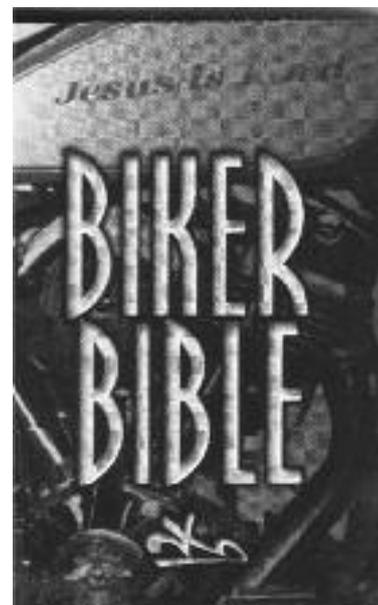
*Editor's note : Just after receiving this informative piece, it was noted that the February edition of Ride magazine also had a piece on route planning; worth a look!*

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

Church hymns suitable for those with a penchant for speed:  
Er...isn't that most of us?

45 mph  
55 mph  
65 mph  
75 mph  
85 mph  
95 mph  
Over 100 mph

God Will Take Care of You  
Guide Me, O thou Great Jehovah  
Nearer My God to Thee  
Nearer Still Nearer  
This World Is Not My Home  
Lord, I'm Coming Home  
Precious Memories



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

# Dorset Retreat : Kent Coast & HAND

**Last October, members of the Kent Coast and Hampshire and Dorset branches spent a weekend at a retreat centre. Here are some of their testimonies about the event.**

**Paul Baker : Chairman - Kent Coast:**

"After spending the night at the Othona Community as part of the Full Throttle Numball Rally – Lands End to Dover earlier in the year, I felt the Lord telling me to bring the branch there for a weekend retreat, to enable us to spend time before Him, and look at our own journey with Him. So, in October 2010, eleven of us, members of both Kent Coast and Hampshire & Dorset branches, gathered there on the Friday evening and left after lunch on the Sunday.

Jason, our branch pastor, led us with some very thought provoking seminars throughout the weekend. The Lord was with us and blessed us in a mighty way. We had times of stimulating conversation, prayer and quiet reflection, and over the weekend we felt the Lord dealing with us, both as individuals and as a branch. The high point of the weekend was when John Glass gave his heart to the Lord in a way he had never done before.

However, as we at Kent Coast often say - "All work and no play . . . is not good and leads to stale and exhausted people." God wants us to be vibrant and full of zeal for Him - so we know how important it is to chill out and have some fun, as well as doing the work.

Each evening we relaxed with games and quizzes and had some rather mad times with the guitars – you know who you are!!! On the Saturday afternoon we went into the town to meet with some local bikers and enjoyed a great time of fellowship with them.

I felt that over the weekend the Lord blessed each one of us in a mighty way, bringing us into a closer relationship with Himself, and also with each other. We are now closer as a branch, refreshed by the Spirit and fired up for work for Him, working with bikers in our area, showing them that the Lord loves and cares for them.

It was felt that the weekend was such a special time, that we are now planning to make it an annual event. We spend so much of our time working for the Lord, telling others of the Good News, that we can overlook our own walk with Him. So it is so important to take time to come before Him, without our daily distractions, and just sit quietly and pray, and listen to what God has to say to us.

But even after we had all said our farewells, God hadn't stopped working. On the way home, stopping at a garage for fuel, a man came up to us and asked if I was CMA? (I was wearing my cross on my back – as always.) He told me that his church was having an outreach to bikers in that area and did we have anything we could give him to give to bikers. Praise God! I was able to put him in contact with his local branch. What a God we have – he opens doors even at times and in places when we are not expecting it."

**Ted Russell - HAND :**

"I thought the weekend was a real blessing and a great opportunity to really get to know each other better. It was good to have the balance between the spiritual, the free discussion about what we understand, and plenty of time to relax and have fun".



During a seminar



Evening Chilling



Inside the chapel



Out and about

**John Sales - Kent Coast :**

“Reluctantly, having never been to a retreat before, we headed off to the Othona retreat in Dorset. We all met up there between four and six o'clock and shared a meal together. The people who ran the retreat were very nice and welcoming, and we were pleased to find out that the two main leaders were Christians. We had an absolutely marvellous weekend and the structure of our meetings, led by Pastor Jason were very challenging to us all. The highlight for me was that my CMA brother, John Glass (Greengrass), gave his life to the Lord after many years of prayer. Thanks to Paul and Dawn for organising this event”.

**Jason (TT) - Kent Coast :**

“When I was on the way down to the retreat I wasn't sure what to expect. Up until now all the retreats I had been on were solo and monastic in nature - I wasn't sure what to expect from a group retreat. As it turned out, I had a very rewarding time. Thanks to the hard work of Jason "Surehands" Ankers, the programme of events was both rewarding and challenging. I feel that I have come away from this with new vigour, especially having been able to be present when one of my brothers gave his life to Christ. That was one of the most rewarding moments of the weekend.”



Those mad pastors!!

*A full testimony from John Glass can be found on page 21*

## Love Russia

Just to follow on from Dudley Martin's article in the last issue, I can confirm there are twelve riders including Dudley and myself, registered on the Ride for Russia in June.

The start point will be St Thomas' Square Newport, Isle of Wight, on 1st June at 09.00 a.m. and the riders will visit Red Square Moscow and Alexander Square, St Petersburg. Each rider hopes to raise £1 for every mile ridden and all proceeds will go to the Love Russia Genesis program for young orphanage leavers. No costs will be deducted from the proceeds and all riders will pay their own expenses.

Several riders are members of the CMA from different parts of the UK and it is our hope that we will be able to witness to those who are not yet in the Kingdom during our time together on the ride. We would be pleased to welcome other riders if they have the time and commitment. There will also be a preparation weekend in Irthlingborough near Northampton from the 1st to the 3rd of April and an "after the ride party", with food and live music, to announce the grand total collected and to hand over the cheque to the Love Russia charity on July 16th / 17th in Thrumpton, near Nottingham.



Please contact me if you would like any further information. My mobile is 07779127816 and my office number at Love Russia is 01983530262.

Alex Cooke  
CEO and International Director

Please visit the website at

[www.loverussia.org](http://www.loverussia.org)

for the latest news on the Ride for Russia and pictures of the riders and their bikes.

1993 to 2011 Helping to change lives

[www.loverussia.org](http://www.loverussia.org)



# National Chairman and the 2010 Executive Team



**Mike Fitton**  
National Chairman



**Ted Russell**  
National Secretary



**Rob Urand**  
National Treasurer



**Jason Bee**



**Tony Yalden**



**Debbie Clapham**



**Jill Yalden**

Executive News is available after the Executive meetings, 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.

## An Encouraging Word : Bob Bogart

The word this issue is "light". Have any of you ever tried riding your bike at night without a headlight? Back in the 1960's the only transportation I had was a BSA motorcycle that had no battery in it. It had a magneto for the ignition and, sometimes, the lights. The lights were very dim when they did work and would go out from time to time. I never knew when that was about to happen, so I got into the habit of making sure if I went somewhere, I would get home before dark. There were those stranded times, however. I would then make sure a friend and riding buddy I trusted would ride next to me and I would use his lights to get home.

Talk about faith and trust! It is the same way with being a follower of Jesus. We have faith in Him and trust Him to light the way. I admit, at times, following Him can be a real challenge. I believe that all things work together for good in the end (Romans 8:28), but I'd do a lot better in dark times if I knew exactly what the light looked like. God doesn't usually show us where He is taking us. He just asks us to trust and follow Him, just like your riding buddy when your lights went out.



It is like riding a motorcycle at night. Even when the lights are working they never shine all the way to your destination. They shine only about 150 feet ahead, but that doesn't deter us from moving forward. We trust our lights, or our buddy's lights. All we need is enough light to keep moving forward.

God's word is like headlights in the dark times. It is all we need to keep from running into the ditch. His word says He will never leave us nor forsake us (Heb 13:5). He tells us our trials are there to make us better -- not bitter. (James 1:2-3)

So, the next time you feel like you are riding in the dark, trust the headlights of God's Word and it will light your way home!

Bob & Debby Bogart  
1203 E. Broadway Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501

605 222 6747 (cell)  
605 224 4393 (home)  
bogartbd@yahoo.com

## Testimony : John Glass - Kent Coast

"Amazing Grace:- The favourite hymn of a majority of people - Certainly it's been mine for as long as I can remember.

When did I become a Christian? Well, I suppose it's what your interpretation or expectation is. When questioned, my answer was, "It's what you do Mon - Fri that counts, **not** the fact that you're seen going to church on Sunday". It's also true to say that just because you do "good to others / Christian work", that in itself doesn't make you a Christian any more than one naughty act doesn't make you a naughty person. These thoughts go through my mind when people ask me if I am a Christian, or question my, and occasionally my friends', Christianity.

Start at the beginning. I was baptised . . . not that I can remember! I went to Sunday school, but religion was really a history lesson, a visit to the church, then back in its box till next Sunday. Confirmation came around as I was involved in the church and the youth-group.

I went to Grammar School and got up to the usual mischief that lads do, winding up teachers, blowing a hole in the chemistry lab's wall (miscarriage of justice that), setting off a fire extinguisher over the senior teachers (not my fault!!), but the best was blowing up a desk, one of those huge chart table things, just as the junior teacher was saying how he was going to 'control us rabble'. I had my own spot outside the Head's office for my daily dose of discipline. I was interested in motorcycles from those early days; in fact, believe it or not, I won several prizes for my schoolwork. These were book tokens which I exchanged for motorcycle books which met with some disapproval at prize-giving in the Town Hall.

I started work in an engineering shop, the machinery being driven by a gas engine! I still got up to mischief. The weekend "raves" in the local village hall saw a fair amount of underage drinking and associated trouble. We'd only get a one-way bus ticket as we always missed the last one, and usually got brought back by the local police, more miscarriages of justice!

As a young lad I tried to join the Services, but no-go, so I left home to find fame and fortune. But after a couple of years in London, I returned home, met the girl who's now my wife and started a new era. My first and only bike was an old "Fanny - B" : Francis Barnett Cruiser 80. A 200cc single-pot 2-stroke with no baffles in the exhaust. Dad banned me from riding it home late at night because of the noise. I was OK as, living on a hill, I could free-wheel home.

That was 45 years ago. I had 40 years in the lift trade, doing installations repairs and service. That got me all over Kent and Sussex and abroad, especially as I was involved with lifts on the boats, which meant long spells away from home in shipyards both here and abroad.

My religion took a back seat, my answer was always - "I have my own beliefs", whilst I carried on getting into mischief. I always remember people saying "I used to enjoy myself, but now I'm a Christian". I've always believed I've had a guardian angel, certainly when I recall some of the situations I've got caught up in, the close shaves I've had on the road, and being caught under a lift as it came down out of control. But I had an identity problem and didn't see a man on a cross.

Some time ago I did an Alpha course, and started attending the Church a few doors down the road from home. The previous pastor used to go to Romania to help the "Children in the Sewers". That was about five years ago. Since then I've been three times a year with different organisations to different locations. My wife and I now support a sanctuary near Medias, (Transylvania) which is run by a Welsh couple who gave up everything over here to help up to 14 children suffering from HIV-AIDS to have a better quality of life after they've been thrown out by their own families. The site [www.lovelightromania.com](http://www.lovelightromania.com) shows the work they do. They are an outdoor couple, interested in motorcycles, so I left them a "Biker Bible". She (Jo) e-mailed a short time after, saying it just fits in her handbag and she refers to it every day!! So you've a Bible in Romania!!

When we first started going I had to say to the Pastor, "I can't go, I'm not a Christian." That was because we would be giving testimonies in churches and rescue centres over there. So the "team" prayed for me. Since then the journey has not been without doubt, especially when seeing some of the things over there. But we kept going.

Then one evening, this "assortment" of individuals turned up at the church. One of the members (our branch Chairman) is a member of the church, and my wife and I had known Paul and Dawn for several years. I thought at the time that I would like to get back in the scene, but not having a bike at the time, put it on hold. But I did go to a few meetings where they were and heard some good testimonies. Rather hear a good testimony than a sermon!!



I then started attending local CMA events, and joined. Having not been on two wheels for some time (45yrs!!), I decided to get one with stabilisers - so got a trike and progressed up to a Yamaha Virago XV110.

They're a good bunch down here at Kent Coast. Last October we went on a weekend retreat. It got me reflecting on things past, the work the couple in Romania do, the close shaves I'd had, the chats I've had with the lads and where they've come from and how lucky we are to be where we are, that I was happy to repeat "The Prayer" and have the lads pray for me. I know I've still got a way to go, but I do feel different - better, because of it.

I sent my friends who run the sanctuary in Romania a copy of the testimony for their comments.

Within a few days, Ron phoned me with reference to my comments on bikes, thinking I may have said the wrong thing. He also commented, "interested in them, used to live for them. My heart is in choppers, but rode a Kawasaki ZZR1100, which was sold to fund the move and setting up the sanctuary".



# From Prison to Praise : Phil Heaton - North Cheshire

## The Story of Big Phil (Tank)

I was born in the Lancashire town of Bolton on the 16 August 1951. My mother was a working girl and had hardly any time for me. One day, she was so mad, she wrapped me up in a blanket and dumped me in a bin behind the ABC cinema. There, a man who had just committed a robbery heard me as he ran from the police. He stopped, picked me out of the bin, and waited for the police to catch up with him so that he could hand me over. I hear that he got a shortened prison sentence for doing the right thing.

## Looking for someone who would love me.

I was placed into social services care which was meant to last until I was 18 years old. I was three years old when I was fostered out to the Fultons for eight years. But I never settled down properly. My mother had started to visit me when I was six years old and I had found out by ten years of age where she lived. I thought she would want me back if I turned up on her door step. She didn't and I was returned to the Fultons. I kept running away, looking for someone who would love me

When I was sixteen, I joined the Fusiliers and did three years with them. Then I transferred to the Paras. I thought I had finally found where I belonged. While serving in the army, I was in the Falklands and the first Gulf war. I left the army after 27 years' service with a fist full of medals and my pockets full of cash. I spent the next few years getting drunk and into trouble, ending up in prison for 18 months after hitting a policeman. This happened just after a car smash when I was in a coma for three days and I was told by nurses that I had died three times.

After my release from prison, I linked up with John, an old army friend, and we set up a security consulting company in Guyana.



Phil in 2006

While I was at dinner one evening, an off-duty policeman tried to rob me and stuck his gun in my face. It was then that I hit him and he went down with a thud and was dead before he hit the floor. I received a five year sentence for that. My prison cell was 6 feet by 6 feet and I shared it with twelve other prisoners. We took it in turns to sleep in two-hour shifts.

## Visited by an Angel

In February 1998, I felt depressed and planned to escape so I could get shot by the special police. Just as I was about to put my plan into action, a prison officer said he wanted to pray for me. We argued for 45 minutes and in the end I gave in and then went to sleep for 14 hours. When I woke up, I demanded to see the governor to ask him about the screw who had prayed for me. The Governor told me, after he had checked the staff files, there was no such officer. It was not until I became a Christian that I realised I had been visited by an angel. I was released on the 31st March 1998.

Back in Britain, in December 2003, I attended a FGB dinner in Bolton. The speaker that night was a Chinese Christian named Kim Yoh. He told his story of how he got saved and about the weapons and drugs he had used. I sat there nodding my head as he talked. He called me to one side and said Jesus loves you and wants you now. I told Him to do one or I was going to kill him. But he poked me in the chest and said it again and I tried to lift my fist to hit him, but I could not lift my fist above my belt. I found myself saying, "OK, pray for me then!" That is when I made my commitment to Jesus. The following week I was invited to go along to the CMA (Christian Motorcycle Association) and was made to feel at home. It took 18 months, but finally Jesus got through to me and mellowed me so that I now help people instead of hurting them.

## Meeting God half way

Since then I have talked to business men at FGB dinners and bikers at motorbike rallies. I tell them about the change Jesus has made to my life in the last three years. I show them that, if they want to change, all they have to do is ask Jesus into their lives and he will come in and change them, too. So, in finishing, let me say that the Christian life is not always easy. But if you ask Jesus, He will help you through, even if you think He is not helping you. I would like to share with you the prayer I said when I became a Christian. If you say it, and mean it from your heart, your life will change for the better.

*Dear GOD I will meet you half way,  
If you will help me and carry me the rest of  
the way, then I will do what I can to pass on  
your love and hope.*

*In Jesus name*

*Amen "*

They missed him! They were looking for a lion; He came as a lamb, and they missed Him.

They were looking for a warrior; He came as a peacemaker, and they missed Him.

They were looking for a king; He came as a servant, and they missed Him.

They were looking for liberation from Rome; He submitted to the Roman stake, and they missed Him.

They were looking for a fit to their mould; He was the mould breaker, and they missed Him.

Will you ?

# Gone to Heaven ? : Yvonne Miller - CMA Sussex : Riders For Christ

Jesus said: *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."* (John 14:6)

Then he (the criminal who was crucified next to Jesus) said, *"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom"*. Jesus answered him, *"I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise"*. (Luke 23:42-43).

It truly saddens me when I hear non-believers convincing themselves and others that their beloved, departed friends and family have 'gone to heaven' and are happy 'up there'. It is a very, very painful and difficult situation for us believing Christians to witness these scenes at funerals, or in conversations with people who have lost someone whom they considered lived a good life and who deserves to be in heaven at last.

These same people proclaim that they never go to church, never read the Bible, and some even say they "don't believe in that rubbish!" Yet they believe that they will 'go to heaven' when they die!

Compassion and respect prevents us from proclaiming the words of Jesus that only through Him can we hope to enter into God's presence in His kingdom.

Famous politicians, world leaders, royalty and even notorious criminals are given great send-offs and there is extensive media coverage of the celebration of their lives; more often than not, the public are convinced these folk now reside in heavenly comfort with their loved ones, and with God.

Sadly, unless anyone acknowledges Jesus Christ as the living, risen, Son of God, and has confessed and accepted Jesus as their Saviour, there is no way that anyone can enter into God's Kingdom. Jesus Himself confirmed this when He was on earth, and we know that there is only One Mediator, the Lord Jesus Christ, between man and God. We cannot enter heaven through our good deeds, through our generosity in this life, or through living a quiet, caring life, working for others. We can only enter heaven through the Lord Jesus Christ, when we accept Him as Lord and Saviour in our lives.



This is why Jesus encouraged His disciples and all who believed on Him, to go out into the world and proclaim the Good News of the Gospel, to all who will hear and listen. Jesus commands us to spread the Good News of His salvation. It is our duty to use every opportunity that comes our way to invite others to know Jesus and receive His forgiveness for our sins, and His saving grace.

When Jesus was on the cross, in His final hours of suffering, He gave us the perfect example of His love, His forgiveness, His promise, His truth and His compassion. Not only did He ask His Father to forgive those who put Him on the cross (yes, that includes you and me) but He promised the criminal on the cross next to Him, that because he had acknowledged Jesus and asked Him to remember him, Jesus would see him in heaven that very day.

What an amazing promise from Jesus! Just to know that we only have to call on Him, ask His forgiveness, acknowledge and accept Him, and He wipes away all our past sins, accepts us, and takes us to be with Him forever.

We cannot, of course, say that anyone who has lived a life without Christ has not gone to heaven, because we can never know whether in that person's dying moments, the seconds before they lose complete consciousness, if they called on the Lord Jesus for forgiveness. The Bible tells us that anyone who calls on the name of Jesus and truly believes that He is the Son of God, who

was raised from the dead, will be saved. We can hold on to that promise because we know that in Jesus, every promise He made will be honoured.

However, it does not mean that everyone who says "Jesus" will be saved! The name Jesus is so abused, misused and thrown around carelessly these days by those who don't even know Him as their Lord. The media is no help in getting folk to respect, love and honour the One who creates, loves and waits for us to come to Him.

It is not for us to jump in and shout "But they are NOT in heaven!" when we hear someone grieving and talking of their loved ones.

But it is important for us to try, before death calls our friends and family away, to find an opportunity to invite them to know the joy, the promise, the hope of knowing that through Jesus we may leave our earthly bodies, but we won't die an eternal death. We will live an eternal, beautiful new life with Him, forever.

My prayer for all of you, is that Jesus, through His Holy Spirit, will give you many fruitful opportunities to encourage and invite others to come to know His forgiveness, His saving grace, and His promise of eternal life with Him in the Father's Kingdom.

Lord Jesus, we thank and praise You for Your love, for Your wisdom and for Your strength, and we ask that You will provide us with more ground to find those who are lost, who seek purpose and hope in their lives. We ask, precious Saviour, that through Your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, we can be Your instruments in showing this nation and the world, what a glorious hope we have in You, what victory we have over sin and death, and the eternal joy of living with You forever when You call us home. We ask this in the beautiful name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, and the living Son of God. Amen.

## Ride The Winds of The Storm

Did you know that an eagle knows when a storm is approaching, long before it breaks?

The eagle will fly to some high spot and wait for the winds to come. When the storm hits, it sets its wings so that the wind will pick it up and lift it above the storm. While the storm rages below, the eagle is soaring above it.

The eagle doesn't escape the storm - it simply uses the storm to lift it higher. It rises on the winds that bring the storm.

When the storms of life come upon us - and all of us will experience them - we can rise above them by setting our minds and belief towards God. The storms don't have to overcome us. We can allow God's power to lift us above them.

God enables us to ride the winds of the storms that bring sickness, tragedy, failure and disappointment in our lives.

It is not the burdens of life that weigh us down, it's how we handle them.

*"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles"*  
Isaiah 40 : 31

- J. John / Mark Stubbs

# My Story : Miroslav - North East London

"Now, I'm dyslexic and probably have Asperger's Syndrome too, so this testimony has been rewritten several times over. Hopefully, you'll understand it. I am attempting to explain how God and his Son (the present Deputy Earth Boss), named Jesus (The Christ), caught/found/accepted me.

(He is The Boss until He transfers all the power back to His dad, that is; - Theology Punk Style, - LOVE IT!)

Lets go back to 1987.

'T'was the time! God's appointed one. I felt the need to kneel before the Lord and open up, confess, give up, say as it is in my heart and brain, come in truth as well as the spirit. That evening - I remember it easily; it was 19:45 on the 06/03/1987. I know, now, that it was the Holy Spirit who entered my bedroom. I heard my father snoring in the next room and that made me feel more secure in kneeling by my bedside in trying to speak to God again.

For me, prayer always required privacy, whether it was during army service being covered by a blanket in a bed in Tito's Guard barracks (the elite army group adjacent to Marshal Tito's mausoleum and the Yugoslav parliament), or a work place. Jesus' principle of going a stone's throw away to pray in privacy must have been imprinted into my genes? More probably, my Bible readings were guiding my actions with principles explained by His word.

Two weeks before, I had visited a friend on "impulse". I wanted to ask my friend for a help with some DIY analogue TV signal disruption electronics. On top of my agenda, this friend's father asked him to invite me to their House Church Fellowship, which took place around the kitchen table on Friday evenings.

Let me digress: I never bothered with the fact that my friend was a Baptist. I always felt myself to be an outsider and out of place, so I welcomed those of "weird" backgrounds into my life, including Jews, in my home town of Vinkovci. I had lost my mother to a type of bone cancer when I was 13 in 1979.

My disregard for mundane life eased local Punks into accepting me as one of them. I felt welcome. In front of the Peko shoe shop, during the evenings when all the youth came out to the town centre, I added occasional spit to a common spit pool. For a long time I was, and still am, a Punk in a way, but without Sex, Drugs or the infamous Rock'n'Roll lifestyle.

Later teens brought romantic tendencies and I looked more like a New Romantic than a Punk, but with hair styled thanks to Wash&GO, which made my hair stand like

Jello Biafra of the Dead Kennedy's. Everyone knows that Punks have spiky hair, but mine had an attitude that earned me the nickname "Shock" among my home town Punks. I was friends at school with some members of the local motorcycle bunch. However, my father had experienced hatred first hand from some Ustashe Croatians, as he was of Serbian/Orthodox background. This generational nationalism soaked in folk-quasi Roman Catholic religion, has a real culpable background, which made my father paranoid. As a result of the fear and, without a motorcycle, and not wanting to be anybody's "biatxx", I could only look on it at the side. Being overly "protected" by father's fears, I was kept from experiencing the biking side of life, and worse things.

There were godly people living in my home town as well, and some of them were the people I met two weeks before my ultimate prayer. I was intrigued and glad that someone should ask me to join them to show me how they worship God, which I expressed openly. After the meeting (with singing and exposition of the God's Word), I spoke to my friend at length until I started saying things he may have not liked (he may have felt I was blaspheming), as I felt we were going nowhere, until finally the Holy Spirit spoke through him saying "You must understand Jesus and accept him into your life".

"Ah! That was it!" I thought. It may have taken me two weeks to meditate on it, but two weeks later I was on my knees, speechless. Down on my knees I had nothing to say. Crippled by the spirit of religiosity, I confessed to Jesus that I am too proud to receive anything for free without earning it. My whole life, I had been told that if I wanted anything, I had to earn it. It was an attempt to please, which I was rubbish at and as result, I never knew how to be myself, always trying to please others.

In the sorrow while sobbing, with the realisation that I had nothing to give, I saw a vision where I was being turned 180 degrees toward the Cross of Christ, from the darkness of my own shadow to the light of the forgiveness in the Cross. I saw a narrow goat-like track in front of me; there were stones and boulders on it, which represented the wrongs I've done until then. I opened my eyes in disbelief. I, indeed, did see what I saw, as this wasn't the eyes of my body, but the eyes of my spirit that I saw the vision with. That evening I committed my life to Christ to live life as He instructs me, from there on, in the eyes of onlookers for better or worse for me.

What happened with my Father, you may ask? Poor man. He would never let me hug him or show any affection to me. I now see how the generational sins of my ancestors and their resulting curses, made his life a



pile of misery. Crying for justice, and never reaching pure contentment in himself. When I was baptized with water (as my public acknowledgement of the work of Christ in my life), I was ordered to leave the house, as he would not live in the same house with me, if I was following Jesus. All his dreams vanished after he moved to Serbia on the eve of that "brotherly" killing spree between Catholic Croatians and Orthodox Serbs, living in the Yugoslav Republic of Croatia. (Yugoslavia: This name feels warm around my heart. Rest in peace, dear one.) Then he saw NATO's bombing of Serbia in 1999. He was a dear soul, but a drunk with demonic oppression and, even with a third wife, could not take any more. This is when all his dreams ended for good, and all his demons made him give up, with a POP! That pop came from his short barrel Magnum replica, that splat his brain over the coal in the coal store.

So how did I become what I am? I am firstly an alternative person. A Goth with a Punk background, if you will. Just because you ride a motorcycle, it doesn't mean that you're a "biker". There are lots of commuters on bikes, some small some bigger, but their lifestyles don't make them bikers. There are a lot of bikers that recognise you and respect you on country roads. There are a few alternative people I nod to and they nod back to me. There is an awful lot of people on bikes in urban areas, who do not recognise, or give any respect to, anybody. On the other hand, you can be a biker, without being a commuter. You can be both.

You may think you are different? Good. Alternative people may think they are different, but are just same old mundane types in a different skins. But really, only those who know Christ, and, moreover, speak to His Father (as a daddy), and do what He wants of them, aren't mundane. They have transcended this third rock from the sun; live in the flesh, but are not of the flesh. Not of this Earth. We are all Spirit-beings, living in flesh and having a soul. Does this not sound alternative? I consider myself to be a Christian in alternative culture,

as a Goth foremost before being a biker. But hey! Ultimately, regardless of your background, what I meant to say, has already been said by brother Johnny Cash, "We are all in it together, if we are in it at all".

I am proof of the fact that coming to Jesus isn't a "Cinderella story". There is no riding into the sunset of a sudden happy ever-after. All of us come to Christ with all our brokenness and our insecurities.

I recently had a dream in which I ran to my Father (that is Daddy God) and grabbed him with all the strength in me. While he lost footing and we tumbled, as I was holding so fast, He started laughing with joy and I crying with an understandable pain of joy, as it felt I was finally able to hug my Dad for dear life. Suddenly as the tears swelled in my eyes, I realised it was a dream and reality dawned on me. While this never happened to me with my earthly father, this is exactly what is happening with me and my Heavenly Dad.

He is glad for me and laughs with joy. Never mind how many times my weaknesses got the better of me, I am forgiven. I realise that I have the right and the duty to tell the Devil that, regardless of how long he has pulled the strings in my life, he now has no chance, because my Dad loves me. To those Christians who think that God has no part in making his people laugh or cry, or fall down and roll about, or do whatever in prophetic symbolism, I say." poor fools, may Dad show them grace to get a grip, and stop grieving.

Then it dawned on me. I started crying in bed while wide awake. My Dad loves me so much that even if it hurts him with me holding him so tight, he will never let me down. My Dad indeed heals my wounds. He also speaks to me through dreams now, as well as audibly.

"Devil! Why did you ever think you were a winner?! You've got no chance!!"



Join the CMA at the many rallies and events that can be found at:-  
[www.bike.org.uk](http://www.bike.org.uk)

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



## CMA is supported by the following organisations



# WardGethin

SOLICITORS



Andy Bennett, former National Superstock 500 and Thundersport rider whom Ward Gethin are sponsoring again this year, with Neil John, the founder of the BMF Biker Legal Line. Neil is a solicitor at Ward Gethin, one of the largest firms in East Anglia, which is dedicated to serving the needs of bikers and their families. Ward Gethin has departments dealing with many areas of law, including Personal Injury claims, Civil and Commercial Disputes, House Sales and Purchases, Family Law, Wills and IHT Planning.

For friendly and efficient advice, from one biker to another, call Neil in the first instance on 01553 660033.

King's Lynn Office:  
10-12 Tuesday Market Place  
King's Lynn  
Norfolk  
01553 660033

Swaffham Office:  
11 London Street  
Swaffham  
Norfolk  
01780 721992

[www.wardgethin.co.uk](http://www.wardgethin.co.uk)

## Going to church is vital to your spiritual health.

Have you noticed that people make up all kinds of excuses why they CAN'T attend church.

If you take those excuses about church and apply them to another important area of your life – such as eating – the list might look like this:

1. I only eat on special occasions, like Christmas and Easter.
2. I used to eat, but I got bored and stopped.
3. There are so many different kinds of food, I can't decide what to eat.
4. People who eat regularly are hypocrites; they aren't really hungry.
5. I was forced to eat as a child.
6. None of my friends will eat with me.
7. I'll start eating when I get older.
8. I'm so busy, I just don't have time to eat.
9. Eating doesn't do anybody any good. It's just a crutch.
10. Restaurants and grocery stores are only after your money.

Sounds crazy, doesn't it?

**“We will not neglect the house of our God.”  
Nehemiah  
10:39**

I saw this church before it was,  
The church was meant to be  
And I will stay with it because  
It means so much to me

...I saw Hell's Angels flocking there  
They sat on bikes outside  
They looked quite rough with flowing hair  
I was afraid to bide

I found a place inside to be  
Then a voice caused me to lurch  
It asked me who I was and I said,  
Esther from this church

This was a dream from long ago  
Before the church was there  
I hope those bikers come to know  
The Jesus that we share

Esther Lofthouse  
Family Life Church - Thirsk

Written before the church was founded  
Submitted by Andy Hogan

## Raise Funds for Free

By Andy and Naomi Hogan, Merchandise dept.

Below are the details of how to raise free funds for CMA if you do any sort of shopping online. This includes bike insurance. We have already raised over £600, with only twenty people signed up. We believe we can do more!

We have set up an Easy Fundraising Account for CMA. It's a site that has links to hundreds of online retailers. All you have to do is:

Register your details at [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

You need to choose Christian Motorcyclists' Association - CMA UK, as the "cause" of your choice and then, everytime you shop online, log in and click through from the site and start your shopping. The list of online companies is great - from Home Insurance, Ebay to Amazon and even your groceries!

We set this up for our trip to the Philippines in early 2007 and have since raised over £350 with just two or three of us doing this! (and we don't always

remember to log in) That's more than £100 per person, per year. Imagine what we could raise for CMA if 100 people signed up! We can guarantee that this does work.

Please help us raise funds for CMA while you do your online shopping. It couldn't be easier and it's FREE!

God Bless You All and Happy Shopping

Andy & Naomi Hogan





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:**  
CMA UK PO BOX 8155 Loughborough  
LE11 9AR  
Free Phone 0800 0154479

## Is there a branch near you?

Aberdeenshire & Mearns  
Bedford  
Bristol  
Devon & Cornwall  
East Midlands  
East Yorkshire  
Forth and Tay  
Gloucester  
Hampshire and Dorset  
Kent  
Kent Coast  
Lakes and Lancs  
Lincs and East Yorks  
Most of Essex  
Norfolk  
Norfolk Borders

North and West Wales  
North Cheshire  
North East  
North East Derbyshire  
North East London  
Northern Ireland  
Rest of Scotland  
Scottish Borders  
Somerset and North Devon  
South East London  
South Lancs  
South West London  
Staffordshire  
Suffolk  
Sussex  
Thames Valley

Towcester  
West Midlands  
West Yorkshire.

[www.bike.org.uk](http://www.bike.org.uk)



**TuffMap™**  
**The Map that LASTS**

Chainlink Spring 2011

The maps are published by Roy O'Hara, a member of the CMA. Profit from sales are going to CMA National funds. Members also get a good discount. Phone 0800 0154479 and leave a message.

Also available for Western Europe & London Street Map  
12 miles to 1 inch UK & N. Ireland

# Christian Motorcyclists' Association



Tel: 0800 0154479

e-mail: [cma-admin@bike.org.uk](mailto:cma-admin@bike.org.uk) Web [www.bike.org.uk](http://www.bike.org.uk)