

CHAIN LINK

The Magazine of the
Christian Motorcyclists' Association

Reg Charity No. 1080911



Summer 2012 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
Elaine Williams	National Secretary
Jason Bee	Exec
Tony Yalden	Exec
Debbie Clapham	Exec
Bob Hughes-Burton	Exec
Ian Cameron	Exec
Sid O'Neill	Exec

Contact E-mail address

chairman@bike.org.uk
robert.urand@sky.com
cma-admin@bike.org.uk
jason@grapesofwrath.co.uk
tony.y@sky.com
debbie.claph@gmail.com
cmabob@btinternet.com
i.cameron@ntlworld.com
sid.oneill@ntlworld

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	Steve Clarke
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
fasttrack@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

Chainlink - Summer 2012 - Contents

2	<i>Executive and National Officers</i>
2	<i>Contents</i>
3	<i>Mike Fitton - CMA UK National Chairman</i>
4	<i>Irish Invasion of the Lake District; Jim Armstrong</i>
6	<i>Reflections on The Tribute to Malcolm; Tony Blakeborough</i>
7	<i>UK Prayer Co-ordinator; Steve Clarke</i>
8	<i>Paignton Bike Festival; Duncan Irwin</i>
10	<i>Where to find CMA</i>
11	<i>Love Your Nuts Rally; Graham Penfold</i> <i>For Your Diary</i>
12	<i>Reflections on "Ride To Russia"; Julia Harley</i>
14	<i>Animal Run; Brian Carbonero</i>
15	<i>Regional Day; Brian Finan</i>
16	<i>Thank You to CMA; Phil Parker</i> <i>Spring Harvest Minehead 2012; Duncan Irwin</i>
17	<i>CMA UK Executive</i> <i>My Moto Guzzi; Andy Howes</i>
18	<i>Fight The Good Fight; Werner Oder</i>
20	<i>Testimonies; Marie & Nigel Seymour</i>
21	<i>Peace; Gilly Kenny</i>
22	<i>Ask And You Shall Receive; Anna Rodgers</i>
23	<i>News From The National Secretary; Elaine Williams</i>
24	<i>Old And Green; via Sarge</i>
25	<i>Soggy Moggy; Mike Snailham</i> <i>One Liners; via Paul Cooley</i>

CMA UK is part of the CMA Worldwide
International Outreach Ministry

For more information: www.bike.org.uk

**The deadline for
submission of items for
the next edition is
16th September, 2012**

Cover photo supplied by Duncan
Irwin (CMA Devon & Cornwall)

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

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

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

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

Mike Fitton National Chairman CMA UK.

Jim Cymbala, Pastor of Brooklyn Tabernacle New York, once said;

"God nowhere asks anyone to have a large church. He only calls us to do His work, proclaiming His Word to people He loves under anointing power of the Holy Spirit to produce results that only He can bring about."

There is nothing I want more than to see Jesus impact lives through the witness of CMA up and down the UK and there is a Hillsong worship song that expresses this passion; it simply says "You're the reason that I live." That's it!!

Recently, I was at a large bike festival and I met up with a big muscly biker who I had come across once or twice in the past. Although he has never actually said he wasn't interested in discussing the Gospel, it was clearly something he tried to avoid at all costs. On this occasion, however, it seemed that he wasn't so defensive and when asked, he said that he would come to the open air biker service I was speaking at on Sunday morning.

Close by the CMA stand there was a Police Motorcycle Unit giving out road safely literature. On the Friday afternoon, I approached them and introduced myself; two of the guys were less than friendly and one was very chatty. Sandy and I prayed that God would break through hardened hearts and they would feel the love of God in a tangible life changing way.

On Sunday morning the big guy, his wife and his two friends came to the service, standing at the edge of the crowd, wanting to hear but maybe not wanting to be too obvious. The police officers were nearby, looking busy trying not to show they were listening.

I preached on "It's not what you know, it's who you know."

Nicodemus knew a lot about the scriptures but knowledge wasn't enough.

Bob Bogart said he grew up in church and one day realised he wasn't good enough and needed a Saviour.

Jesus died on the cross and rose again as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world

His Love for us is more than enough.

As the service came to a close, it was obvious God was impacting lives. Many people asked for bibles and wanted to talk to the team. I went straight over to the big guy, as I could see he was fighting back emotion and struggling to speak. I told him to let go and receive the Love of God - just do it!

I saw myself in his eyes they reflected how I had felt all those years ago in 1978 - a mixture of fear and desperation. Is this true? Can I really trust God with my life?



Shortly after, I went back to the police officers and offered them biker bibles, and it really took me by surprise when the chatty one said no thank you and the two that ignored me said yes! You just never know what is going on in a heart that God has His hand on.

In the words of Jim Cymbala "He only calls us to do His work, proclaiming His Word to people He loves under anointing power of the Holy Spirit to produce results that only He can bring about."

Let me encourage you to seek more of God's anointing every day; that is a prayer He will always answer.

Ride safe,

Mike

The diligent tourist spotted the inscription over the State Archives building. It read : "What is past is prologue."

He asked the young tour guide what it meant.

She replied brightly, "It means - You ain't seen nothin' yet!"

The world says, "I'll believe it when I see it."

The Christian says, "I see it because believe it."

Mark Stibbe

Irish Invasion of The Lake District

Jim Armstrong : CMA NI

On the 20th April this year, nineteen bikes and two pillions crossed the Irish Sea from Larne to Cairnryan to make our way on our annual pilgrimage to the mainland. We had booked hostel accommodation at Thorney How Independent Hostel in Grasmere, in the Lake District.

The crossing was good and the craic mighty, and even the weather was kind to us. We berthed in Scotland and headed towards the A75. The long line of bikes made a lovely sight as we cruised along. Our first 'detour' was to leave the A75 for the A712 and head for the New Galloway forest. A few years ago, I discovered the café beside the reservoir and we were there in perfect time to help staff open up. I suggested that the first customer should be blessed with free coffee, but we were in Scotland, so that did not happen!

After coffee, we meandered through the country in a sort of 'Lake District' direction. The speedy members among us took of for a wee burst while those of a certain age continued to make haste but not speed. Eventually we arrived at our destination in Grasmere. The hostel was grand in a basic sort of way. Clean, tidy, the staff were friendly, they serve a good breakfast. The stoned car park area

For our evening meal we walked into the village for something to eat and a bit of craic.

Next day, we left Grasmere at 10 o'clock sharp (really 10.15 as some members tell the time by looking at the sun!) and travelled down a well



researched and learned route to Kirby Lonsdale, where the plan was that we would meet up with other CMA groups. Well, we did arrive at the rendezvous point but not by any route that I had planned. But sure, that is the fun in motorcycling, exploring new roads, getting lost and thoroughly enjoying yourself in the

was the only area of concern. The married couples were booked into a local bed and breakfast, as romance and bunk beds seldom appear in the same sentence.

process. We got directions for the 'Devil's Bridge' and to our surprise many other bikers had turned up. I learned this was a popular 'Biker's Meet' and we were warmly received and welcomed.

As you may remember, we invited everyone else who wanted to come and join us as I had booked too many beds. One brave Englishman responded - Paul Baker, who was a blessing to us and a credit to Kent CMA.

It was there that I had a cup of tea and a Kit Kat and the tea was in a proper cup. None of that plastic stuff we get at home. Even a heavy shower of rain did nothing but bring us closer together as we huddled together trying to get some shelter. After Mike and others prayed with us, we left to return to the southern area and up the coast of the Lake District.



The person who sows seeds of kindness will have a perpetual harvest.

**The deadline for articles for the next edition is
16th September, 2012**

Four local riders, Paul, Mark, Mike and Matt offered to accompany us and act as guides. The roads, scenery and craic was just great. We appreciate so much all that our 'Tonto's' showed us. And, when we had a wee mishap on the Hardnott Pass, Mark was able to come to the rescue. We just want to record our thanks and appreciation for all you guys did for us. You were just brilliant.

We dined that night in Ambleside and returned to our hostel in pouring rain.

Next morning we said our goodbyes to Paul who was heading south and we promised we would see each other again. We got packed and headed for Keswick, did a wee lap of about 30 miles in the area and then continued north towards Carlisle, Gretna and the boat home.



God bless you in all you do and may He keep you safe.

In the fields of opportunity, it is always ploughing time.

I would like to publicly express my appreciation for all the CMA members and friends that came to meet us at Devil's Bridge. Thanks to Mike who seemed to pull it all together. And thanks to the guys from 'Lakes and Lancs', who put themselves out for us. Thank you. You all made our trip memorable in a very good way.



Reflections on The Tribute To Malcom

Tony Blakeborough : CMA Sussex : Riders For Christ

I read the article, "A Tribute to Malcolm" in the winter 2011-2012 edition and, as I read the tribute, tears came to my eyes and a lump to my throat.

Malcolm's life made me realise not only how precious and very special life is, but more so, how special and important our faith is. I must confess, as I read Malcolm's story, I thought of my own life and how I had become far too complacent about my faith, sometimes taking far too much for granted.

I have taken people for granted as well as the many blessing in my life.

I realised the need to make a recommitment of my life to my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ and this I did that same day.

I feel incredibly privileged and blessed to be part of the Sussex branch of the CMA. They are totally awesome people who have become like family to me. I love them dearly! One of the best decisions I ever made was to become involved in CMA.

Thank you so much, Hampshire and Dorset Branch, for sharing Malcolm's life with us. His life was such an inspiration to me. Words cannot even begin to describe my sincere gratitude and thanks. I so wish I could have had the privilege of meeting Malcolm.

May God bless you all with His peace, joy and totally awesome love and protection which is ours through Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. I cannot imagine my life without Him.

Half Time

Until quite recently, many village non-conformist chapels were heated by a large stove in the middle of the room. One shrewd chapel steward used to put a whistling kettle on the stove during the hymn before the sermon.

One week, the visiting preacher commented afterwards that this was sure way of timing the sermon!

"Ah, yes sir," came the reply, "but with some of the preachers us gets 'ere, I only half fills the kettle."

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.

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.

Contact details : see next column

CMA UK

www.bike.org.uk

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

Tel: 0800 0154479

CMA UK PO BOX 8155,
Loughborough, LE11 9AR

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.

CMA UK Prayer Co-ordinator

Steve Clarke : CMA Suffolk

Hi. I'm Steve Clarke, and I'm a member of the newly-formed Suffolk branch of CMA, having been part of MESS branch for (I think) about seven years. I count it a real privilege that being part of CMA enables me to combine two of my great loves (Our Lord, and motorcycles) in serving Him.

I became a Christian when someone was loving and patient enough to share the Gospel with me, messed-up and mixed up as I was at the time. I don't have words to adequately describe how blessed I feel to have been accepted into God's family. An incredible journey started with one person sharing scripture and God's love with me, but it has put me deeply in debt. Not financially, and not a debt that I owe to that person (although they have my eternal gratitude). No, this is one of those situations where one person has entrusted something to another, to pass on to a third person, thereby creating an obligation. That debt or obligation is one we all have - to share what we've received.

The more I see of bikers, the more I know how desperate is their need. I'm sure we all know many whose lifestyle can be compared to chromed plastic. Looks great, at first, but it's not the real thing. It doesn't last and it certainly won't take any hard knocks. Close scrutiny soon shows it up as fake. CMA's message has something to offer which is much better. Something real, something eternal. When we see the change in people who start to follow the Lord, we know that's true.

I've recently been entrusted with the role of National Prayer Co-ordinator. I'm delighted to have the chance to serve in this way, and I want to thank Tony Yalden for covering this duty for the last three years. He's stood down now, due to family commitments and his role on the National Executive. I'll be assisted by Ian Cameron who will step in when I can't get to my laptop.



Steve & Suzanne Clarke

It's an old cliché, but prayer really is the fuel in the tank of the Christian Motorcyclists Association. Think of your bike without petrol. Looks lovely, it has a nice comfy seat, you can still give it a good polish once a week but IT'S GOING NOWHERE! I thought about adding some scripture here to make the point but frankly I'd just have to quote the entire bible, as there's hardly a page where you won't find God's people in close communication with Him.

I hope (actually I know) that I'm not alone in wanting CMA to grow in all sorts of ways. In numbers, naturally, but also in effectiveness, in wisdom, in holiness, in our ability to reach out and love the motorcycling community and each other. None of this will happen without regular, committed and sometimes intense prayer.

I wonder how many of us really understand what a powerful tool we have at our disposal? I don't think we'll really find out what effect all our prayers have had until we get to Glory. However, although I've only recently taken over this role I've already seen enough reports of answered prayer to know for a solid fact that prayer works when nothing else will.

I can't emphasise too strongly how important prayer is to the health and life of CMA. Please – if your branch doesn't have a prayer co-ordinator, appoint one and let me have their email address at cma.uk.fasttrack@hotmail.co.uk so I can include everyone in updates and requests for prayer. As that lovely old hymn reminds us, "What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer" - so I would also ask that when you, your family or friends need prayer please email a request to fasttrack@bike.org.uk and I'll send it out to every branch prayer co-ordinator, and they in turn will send it out to all their members and supporters. I know that many of our members then take those requests out more widely to the people they pray with, so each request sent to Fasttrack starts a mighty avalanche of prayer!



We don't know who we are until we can see what we can do.

Martha Grimes

Paignton Bike Festival

Duncan Irwin : CMA Devon and Cornwall



It was that time of year again where hundreds of bikers head down to south Devon and all assemble on Paignton green for a whole weekend of live music, beer, a funfair, lots of traders and every kind of bike imaginable on show. So, with a marquee, a 7ft high cross made of scrap bike parts and boxes and boxes of bibles the Devon



This year we had a number of large display boards with both national, international and local CMA photographs, info and events shown. We also had a large A1 map showing exactly where all the branches and Holy Joe's are in the country (this

Of course we had to have some pretty special bikes parked on the stand and these were real talking points and we were able to meet so many awesome people through conversations about the bikes. We had Mike's well-polished, limited edition Triumph Thruxton in full Isle of Man race trim, Derry's nice example of a 1953 Matchless in pretty much original condition, Tony's Harley in classic touring trim looking drop-dead gorgeous, Duncan's classic claret and silver Triumph Bonneville t100 which my dad has "had a little look at", and Abby's Yamaha Dragstar with its multi-coloured l.e.d. lights and apparently, so I've been told, not so shiny chrome! But I think everyone can agree that there was one bike that really stole the show with its unique style and undeniable charm; it was the battery powered mini cruiser. The mini Harley look-alike captivated both children and adults as they passed the stall and couldn't resist a photo. The look of pure amazement as the children pushed the foot pedal and the little bike slowly moved forward across the grass was lovely to see.

and Cornwall CMA branch pitched up on the Friday morning ready to bring Jesus to the world of bikers.

With a whole weekend ahead of us, we started by putting up the marquee and setting up the stand: After spending several years with the club stands down in the far reaches of the site, this year we managed to bag a prime site up with the traders and right opposite the show ring. After a bit of negotiation, we slightly shifted our position so that we didn't have the "gentle accompaniment" of the dodgems opposite and landed right on the end of the traders avenue; a prime site for foot fall.

proved to be a fab talking point for people visiting the stand). We were also running a free helmet park, offering free face painting and balloon modelling. We wanted to give the kids something fun to get involved in and also to encourage the parents to come and check out the stand. It was such a brilliant thing to be able to bless people with nothing but some balloons and face paint, it's really amazing how much joy you can bring (not only for the visitors) from such simple easy things.



You Christians look after a document containing enough dynamite to blow all civilisation to pieces, turn the world upside down and bring peace to a war-torn planet. But, you treat it as though it is nothing more than a piece of literature.

Mahatma Gandhi

It's amazing how you can have so many beautiful machines, but it's the tiny battery powered bike with stabilisers that really gets people smiling. That, and of course Jill and Tony's adorable dogs, Defer and Toffee: that were on the stand all weekend and loved meeting so many people.

On the Friday, we were blessed with dry weather, but this was accompanied by strong wind (which caused a serious reason for prayer as to whether the gazebo/mess tent would still be there in the morning – it was, with only slight damage).

We took full advantage of our new, high profile pitch and set up the scrap cross right on the corner and it proved to be a major talking point all weekend. Friday evening is always quieter, but there were plenty of opportunities to talk to people and spread the Word. This year, due to our higher profile pitch, we decided to stay open longer and this allowed for some leisurely evening discussions and photo opportunities looking round our bikes as we chatted. This year we decided the on-site catering was going to cost us a fortune, so Gill kept us wonderfully supplied all weekend with all manner of rolls, bacon butties and snacks, for which we were all very grateful.

Saturday dawned bright and dry and we were blessed with the arrival for the weekend of Mike and Sandy Fitton and Karl and Debbie and family from the South Wales branch. The festival soon filled up and at times the bikes out front were lost in a sea of people; the helmet

day for nothing. A lot of visitors were interested to see that there were CMA branches all over the country, so don't be surprised if branches get interest from Paignton visitors.

To get out and promote what we were doing, Abbie put on a massive lion mascot costume and with minder in tow went round the festival giving out leaflets and waving at the kids, it's amazing how much joy you can spread around if you're in a furry costume.



As the evening drew in, our thoughts started to focus on the next morning's service. Our chairman Stephen Hague was on the radio bright and early on Sunday morning and we all assembled just after 8:00 a.m. at the stand, the PA system was set up, and we did our sound check; I was joined by a couple of friends from our church with a second guitar and drums. By 9:00 a.m. we had a congregation of over fifty including some stall holders, guys from the Blue Knights and local church goers; and the whole of Paignton green and the sea front resounded to full throttle Christian worship.



park started to fill, much to the bemusement of some who couldn't get their heads round the fact that someone would look after their gear safely for the



We were all blessed by Mike's thought-provoking preaching, after which a whole box of bibles were requested by those present. Both Duncan and Mike had discussions with one of the on-site security guards and he stayed for most of the service, then came back at the end of the service and left with a Biker Bible.

Sunday was hot, dry and very busy, the helmet park did brisk business, the little battery bike was once again a prime attraction and our bikes out front were the catalyst for many opportunities to spread God's word. As the festival drew to a close we were already making plans for

next year, planning how we can bring God's word in an even more vibrant and relevant way next year. One of the best parts of an event like this is how it shows that, when we come together as the body of Christ, we can achieve something much greater than if we were on our own. Whether we are organisers, planners, talkers, caterers, prayers, counsellors or befrienders (plus countless other invaluable jobs) we all have our part to play in spreading the Word.



Where to find a CMA Branch.

Scotland

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 Yorkshire)
Lincs. & East Yorks
(Northallerton (Thirsk))

North East

North East Derbyshire

West Yorkshire

North West

Lakes N' Lancs.

North Cheshire

South Lancs

South West

Bristol

Devon & Cornwall

Gloucester

Wales

North & West Wales

South Wales

South East

Hampshire and Dorset
Hampshire and Surrey Borders

Kent

Kent Coast

Most of Essex

South East London

(North East London)

South West London

Suffolk

Sussex

Thames Valley

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

?? Want to know more ??

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

Tel: 0800 0154479

Web www.bike.org.uk

CMA is established in the following countries

**Albania
Argentina
Australia
Belgium
Canada
Finland
France
Germany
Ireland
Italy
Latvia**

**Mexico
Namibia
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Paraguay
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Serbia
South Africa**

**Spain
Sweden
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
USA
Zambia
Zimbabwe**

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



Yes, we know the map needs
updating (still) !!

Love Your Nuts Rally

Graham Penfold : CMA Bedford

I had a great weekend away at the LYN Rally at Towcester organised by the MAG and CMA Towcester Branch, Arriving on Friday morning in the car (due to no clutch on the trike) I was warmly greeted by Graham Sharp who happily took my £10.00 and said the field is yours, camp where you like. Driving to a quiet corner spot, I just managed to miss Sarge and Gaynor and their tent, and as I was setting up the tent, a deep voice was heard "like a cup of tea, old man?" (good old Sarge). Eventually it came and then the usual banter between us, along with the reflections of the BMF the weekend before.

Gradually the field filled up, and a great atmosphere was felt. It felt strange to me because this was, I think, the first real Biker Rally I had attended in the UK. Previous rallies had been in Dubai with the HOG Chapter; the rallies there were in a five star hotel with swimming pool, spa, BBQ and live music. Also Sue couldn't be with me.

But here was a simple field, good toilets and showers, a social club and live bands (Folk and Blues /Rock).

The weather was a scorcher compared to what we had recently been getting. It was good to walk around the site and chat to fellow bikers, finding out where they had come from and about their bikes and just to be friendly, showing them that knowing the Lord doesn't stop you from enjoying life. The rally is only a small one but then, it isn't one where you have to queue for facilities. It was also nice to hear that people found it to be safe to leave things around and there were no loud parties, I think the only real noise, if you call it that, in the field was the sound of Harleys (to me it's music sent from above).



This year was the second year of the rally and I would go again and hope to see the numbers increase to support the great charity. I would estimate there were about 100 in attendance, it can take another 100 and next year the social club extension and increased facilities will be complete to make it even better. I say well done to all those who organised it and here's to many more.

LYN but better still, LYG

For Your Diary : Events

August

1st - 5th : EMC : hosted by CMF Franken; Forchheim, Germany

12th : CMA Sussex - Superbike Show; Ardingly

17th - 19th : CMA Gloucester / West Midlands - Family Rally; Slimbridge

19th : CMA Hampshire & Dorset - Popham Megameet Bike Show; Popham Airfield

19th : CMA Towcester - Brackley Festival of Motorcycling; Brackley

24th - 27th : Greenbelt, Cheltenham

31st - 2nd Sept : Stormin' The Castle, Bishop Auckland

31st - 1st Sept : CMA Kent - NCC Flames & Frames Custom Show; Tunbridge Wells

September

2nd : CMA Rest of Scotland - Grampian Motorcycle Convention; Alford

9th : CMA Sussex - Ace Cafe Reunion-Brighton

9th : CMA North East London - Southend Shakedown; Southend

15th - 16th : CMA North East : Gold Cup Road Races - Scarborough

16th :CMA Most of Essex - Essex Air Ambulance Run (ending in Harwich)

October

6th : Ride to the Wall (National Memorial Arboretum)

14th : CMA Sussex - Brightona; Brighton

November

25th : Hampshire & Surrey Borders - Broom Farm Toy Run (from Legoland, Windsor)

For information about these items, and regular / local branch events and activities, go to the CMA UK web site pages

www.bike.org.uk



P.S. If it's on your branch web page, it's more likely to be included here! Ed.



REFLECTIONS ON "RIDE TO RUSSIA"

Julia Harley : CMA North East Derbyshire

It's over a year since I completed the "Love Russia" motorbike challenge ride to Moscow and back (4000+ miles in two weeks). Therefore, by news standards it is already history. However, there are always lessons to learn from history, and a good story is certainly worth hearing again, so I think this trip is worth reflecting upon because it fits both categories.

It is a story involving God's guidance, provision, protection, deliverance and healing, and finished up being a successful project. Yet, looking at things on a human level, it could have been a very different story because the odds were very much stacked up and we were not free of problems or attacks to prevent us getting through.

To start with, on a personal level, I was uncertain of my own emotional and physical state, as I was just pulling out of a very tough set of life-pounding experiences and still felt 'delicate'. I balked at asking for money, yet had lots to raise in sponsorship. My concentration was poor, although improving, yet I would have to spend hours on the road. My memory had a will of its own and I had the daunting task of mounds of documents and paperwork to deal with, motorbike maintenance to learn, and had to remember where I had packed everything to get quick access. Not to mention the question of fitness and stamina and the fact that someone told me I would get so sore I wouldn't be

able to sit down. There was also concern about cramp, and damage to my hearing caused by wind rush (despite my moulded earplugs) and not forgetting the misery of riding and coping with rain on such journeys.

On a group level, the chances of ten vehicles (nine bikes and one support vehicle) travelling together over 4000 miles, having to pass through twelve countries spanning three time zones, (Holland, Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Russia, Estonia, Latvia and back), on roads full of potential hazards - some having more potholes than road surface, keeping to a very tight schedule, having no serious delays through breakdown or accident, and all twelve travellers arriving home on time, were fairly remote. Added to the odds was the fact that we had never ridden together before as we were more or less strangers and knew little of each other's strengths, weaknesses or riding abilities. Oh! And there would be a little matter of dealing with Russian bureaucracy at the border.

It would have been so easy to give in to worry and over-concern, and to let fears dwell in the background. But I was having none of that. I knew from the beginning that God had led me to take part in this trip, and I hung onto the fact that 'Where God guides, He provides'. I was also given a number of promises from the Bible, each covering a different area of the challenge. Two of the first ones I was given were Jeremiah 1 v 8: 'Don't be afraid, for I will see you through' -the NIV says 'rescue' - and Isaiah 26 v 3: 'God will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Him.'

So where lay the success? The answer is in the Easter message, the power of the Cross, and how we respond to this. I had been learning earlier of the importance of total trust without doubting and, applying it to every situation I faced and chatting with Jesus, as I moved along, I saw blessing

after blessing being released.

In addition to my faith, I knew that the prayers of others would be important. A few days before departure I was pondering on exactly what to ask the church to pray for, and the following words were given. 'Pray that God will send his angel of protection to go ahead each day to clear the path - removing any obstacles which will delay, damage or harm'. You can imagine my surprise and joy when on the Isle of Wight on the eve of departure I was given Psalm 91 v 9-12 'He will command His angels to guard you in all your ways: they will lift you up in their hands.' God was saying, "Yes I will". No wonder I went flying over all those big potholes as if they didn't exist!

This trip had everything to be expected of a biking challenge and would be hard work, but I wasn't intrepid. I believe it was my faith and the positive attitude, which carried me through. From the outset I was excited, expectant and looked forward with eager anticipation to what lay ahead. I relished the challenges and rewards equally and enjoyed every minute on the bike.



British Embassy

I won't forget in a hurry the speed on, and the alertness needed for the German autobahns, the game of pothole dodging in Russia, staying calm and

cool in long traffic jams in St. Petersburg in temperatures of over 90 degrees, and the thrill and fun of tackling the enormous amount of traffic in Moscow, but oh, the joy of the open roads in the contrasting serenity of the countryside in Poland and Estonia. It all



felt like a celebration and enjoyment of a gift, which it was. God was restoring my lost biking days according to Joel 2 v 25 'I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten', and when God gives, there are no black strings attached.

This did not mean things were easy. We were all stretched physically and mentally, both on and off the bikes, and had to cope with some long hard days; some of the group had additional pain and health issues. There were also the demands and issues in bonding. We had to quickly learn to work as a group, working out strategies to keep the convoy together, looking out for each other, sharing our advice and skills – in the group were three policemen, a doctor, and a sports injury masseur – all valuable assets!

I knew my own weaknesses and the dangers of too little sleep, so there were times when I had to make some hard choices, for example, whether to eat or sleep - here I resorted to my trusty honey, glucose and energy bars and went to bed, leaving the group in the restaurant to enjoy whatever it was I had paid for.

The greatest lesson God gave me in all

this was that, as Christians, it is our job to concentrate on relationships, including that with Him and that He will take charge of everything else.

In the light of what was prayed for and promised, who can't but be thrilled at hearing that all the riders successfully completed the 'Ride For Russia'



challenge in the scheduled time and with no accidents, although there were hair-raising moments and some very, very close shaves. There were no major mechanical breakdowns,

only a few minor repairs quickly solved, until of course we landed back in Britain where the leading bike just gave up the ghost and had to be trailed back to the Isle of Wight - well it was a Harley Davidson and the leader, Alex, deserved a good rest. Also contrary to the norm in early June in Europe, the weather was ideal, perfect for biking with fine sunny days, and what rain did fall in Latvia wasn't on us – we had just unloaded into the hotel when the heavens opened.

I rejoiced in the power of God to protect when I experienced no problems with cramp, when my earplugs gave perfect protection every day, when my stamina and concentration levels held out and when my fitness levels were constant.

There were threatening incidents, such as when a sharp metal bungee-strap-end buried itself deeply into my finger, but it caused no problem and was quickly healed. Also, when my bike and I were sprayed with a fountain of petrol from a faulty pump, and people close by shot away like bullets expecting ignition, nothing set on fire. A little more serious was the time when I headed at 60+ miles an hour along an open road, suddenly coming upon two stationary cars, totally across my path, both presumably waiting to turn, but unnecessarily blocking the whole road. With no time or place for me to turn, a crash was inevitable, but I held my trust that God would protect and with just a few feet to spare the first car moved slowly away, and I slithered through without impact! God was covering us all the way. It was no coincidence that at some point every day an eagle came and hovered over us.

To top it all, after my return, close examination of my bike showed the bike tyres had no wear on them whatsoever and they were as new, and the chain needed little (1/4 notch) adjustment. Also the sponsorship money raised was almost double that which I aimed for – a magnificent £3,500 (the group total was £27,000).

So this 'trip of a life time' is not history, but can be considered to be 'the trip for a lifetime', because the money raised is not only giving a life to disadvantaged young people in Russia now, but the experience and lessons I have learned will carry me through my lifetime.

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). 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.

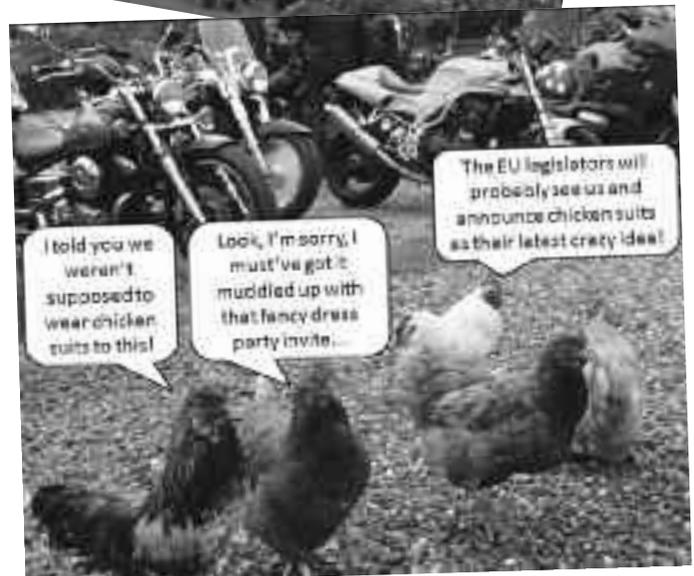
Animal Run - Essex

Brian Carbonero : CMA MESS

Each year Colchester MAG arrange a run from Colchester to the Mistley Animal Sanctuary to help raise funds for their charity - an event that MESS Branch has always supported. This year, it was on 5th May.

The run set out from The Bungalow Cafe at the A12 & A120 junction at Marks Tey - which gave those folk with particularly large appetites the chance to stoke up their bellies before the run began, whilst others of us had the chance to catch up with friends over a cuppa. Barbara from Colchester MAG led the ride-out to the animal sanctuary on her trike, whilst a combination of MAG and CMA marshals ensured the column of bikes stayed together as we wended our way around the outskirts of Colchester and through the countryside to Mistley. As well as the chance to see the menagerie of animals at the sanctuary, there is also a cafe and so the chance of another brew and food. A good time was had by all - it provided a great chance to catch up with our friends from Colchester MAG and Suffolk CMA, and also to raise a bundle of cash to help support the running of the sanctuary.

A selection of photos are included here, but if you want to see more, then search "Christian Motorcyclists Association MESS" on your internet browser - you'll find our facebook page, which you can view even if you aren't a Facebook member.



Regional Day

Brian Finan : CMA East Yorkshire

CMA Northern Regional Away Day on 17th March 2012 OR : let's talk about what we do and how we can improve upon it.

Set a date, find a venue (making the travelling distance fair for each attendee), send out invitations to other Branches and Twigs and you have an event in your diary.

I had not experienced a Regional Day before, and soon discovered that this was so much more than simply meeting with other CMA members and supporters, old and new. How can I put a full day into a few words? How can I share with you exactly what God was laying on our hearts in just a few lines? How can I encourage you to have your own Regional Away Day and view it as a blessing and not a burden?



Well, here are a few reflections on the day with some "words of wisdom" thrown in for good measure:-

1) In CMA we find our strength in one another; in friends and fellowship. It's good to meet together and share our good and not so good experiences and stories. (Didn't Jesus do the same with twelve men, small in number but big in vision and heart).

2) If we don't meet regularly, or we continue to expect the burden to be carried by the few, should we be surprised if we become more distant with one another, not recognising our own strengths and weaknesses and where we need to change or to help each other?

3) If we continue, year on year, to approach things in the same way and do things the same way, should we be surprised if we find that the results are the same?

4) When we share our successes and our failures in reaching out for the Kingdom of God, we begin to understand that we are not working on our own; we are not the only ones who've found ourselves ill-prepared and ill-equipped. We often say "we won't do that again", but we should learn from our mistakes and we need to be bold and try again.

5) If what we do is God-led, and by our faithfulness we find ourselves sharing with only one person in a damp car park on a wet afternoon when everyone has gone home, we should rejoice because that one person was why we were there. If we can grow in ourselves, in our own faith and understanding, what we do in Jesus is never wasted.

6) Everyone has a role, whether they ride a bike or not; we need those who pray, those who are the ones who run ahead, those who are the ones who hold the fort, those who are the ones in the backroom, quietly doing their bit. (Are all teachers? are all evangelists? are all helpers?). Identify the

talents and abilities in your Branch / Twig and play to them in all your activities.

7) Think big, act small; reach out to your locality, what's going on on your own doorstep? Who can you sponsor? What other secular groups have meetings that you can go to? Are you visible for God, not afraid to share who and what you represent (Seek God's discernment to get the timing right). Make the relationships, form the connections, respond to the invitations; grow, learn and follow the Spirit's lead.

8) Has God given you a person or a bike club or an event to pray into? Do it and see what doors may open to you. God wants you to ask and He will provide.



9) Share your equipment, finances, experiences, blessings, even outreaches with other Branches (we are our own best resource.). Wash the feet of someone in another Branch/Twig and see what blessings you can bring (humble yourself that others may be exalted).

10) Challenge your Branch/Twig members and supporters. What have you achieved for the youth? What do you have a burden to do? What biking events/clubs are the toughest to access in your area? Pray for opportunity to make a connection. As a branch, are you open and welcoming to the sports biker, the "one percenter", women, the moped rider? Those who don't have a bike?

11) Is there a skills gap or geographical distance issue or resource shortfall or resistance to or in your outreach that you have identified? Pray that God will provide an answer; ask and it will be given unto you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened unto you.

In conclusion, I commend regular Regional Days to you as a must for every area. Let's fellowship, drink tea, eat cake and most importantly share our vision, our hopes and burdens, along with our needs, with others. Let's put God at the centre and pray so that our efforts are channelled and directed where God would have us go, to do His will, not ours.

God would rather we speak to one biker who will listen and receive an anointing and revelation of God, than to a 100 who politely listen and walk away. Let's begin to measure ourselves by the standards set by Jesus, and not by earthly standards.

Thank You to CMA

Phil Parker : CMA South Lancs

At the NABD rally (Astle Park, Cheshire, 11th – 13th May) Sid O'Neill, chairman of North Cheshire branch, was called over to the main tent by one of the NABD executives. He was thinking "Have we upset someone? Am I in for a telling off?" Imagine his surprise and delight to be presented with an award to CMA for long standing service to the NABD.

There were no other CMA guys around to take a picture of the presentation, so a few of us posed outside the Holy Joe's with the award.. Sid would be the first to say that this represents recognition of the many years of service by CMA members and branches on the bike rally scene; so well done to you all!!! Keep up the good work.



Sid O'Neill (North Cheshire) adds : We would like to thank everyone else from all the other branches around the country who have helped us man this event over the years.

Spring Harvest Minehead, 2012

Duncan Irwin : CMA Devon and Cornwall

You never know when or where you will see the white cross on someone's back. Case in point, Spring Harvest at Minehead, Easter 2012

meet old friends and for others, new friendships were forged; it proved that meetings don't always have to be planned months in advance. It may not be clear in the photo, but we had lunch in the centre of the main

thoroughfare which generated passing interest among those not used to seeing a group of waistcoat-wearing bikers in such surroundings. We avoided putting the world to rights, but did catch up on what was happening in our respective branches around the country and where our ministry was making a real difference. So often branches beaver away in our own areas but it's invaluable to meet face to

face in an informal manner and find out what other people are doing. It was an excellent opportunity to exchange thoughts and ideas on all sorts of CMA-related topics.



Spring Harvest is to be thoroughly recommended; we're looking forward to seeing people there next year, and, for those of us who forgot to take our waistcoats (even those of us who travelled in four wheels), we know what to do next time.



The CMA did not have a formal presence at the event but we knew a few CMA members would be there, so when we saw the white cross clad waist coats around the site, we hastily got a notice in the daily newsletter and a lunchtime get together was the perfect occasion to meet members from branches around the country. For some of us, it was to



National Chairman and the 2012 - 2013 Executive



Mike Fitton
National Chairman



Elaine Williams
National Secretary



Rob Urand
National Treasurer



Jason Bee



Ian Cameron



Tony Yalden

Photo will be in the next edition (ed.)



Debbie Clapham



Sid O'Neill

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

My Moto Guzzi

Andy Howes : CMA Bedford

My name is Andy and this is a Moto Guzzi V35 TT enduro from 1985. As far as I can make out, only about 1,500 were made and maybe only for the Italian and German markets. It has an interesting sticker on the front - "Camel Trophy 88 Sulawesi". Was it, or its previous owner, in Borneo in 1988? Interesting Eh!

I have been a Christian since I was seventeen and am very glad that local friends were keen to involve me in their church youth group. That is when I turned to Jesus as my Saviour. My friends and I sometimes reflect on those times and are very glad that we received support and guidance in those early years of being Christians, we needed it!

Having been involved with the CMA for my second year now, I find it fun and exciting with a supportive and friendly bunch both locally at Bedford Branch and further afield. Hello, Alan and Liz and all your Gloucester members who I met at Hoggin' the Bridge.

Since riding with the white cross on my jacket, I have found it amazing how much fewer tail-gating motorists you get whilst journeying; have you had similar experiences?

Ride well and be blessed



Fight The Good Fight

Werner Oder : CMA Hampshire And Dorset

Not for the feint-hearted !

Many years ago, I went through a personal identity crisis. Though I knew Jesus, was born again and filled with the Holy Spirit, I did not know who I was destined to be. The past, which marked me out to be a failure, had left an indelible mark on my soul, which, over the years developed into a stronghold - in my mind. That is where strongholds are - in the mind:

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ, 2 Corinthians 10: v 4 & 5 (NIV)

These strongholds are a way of thinking that is contrary to the Word of God, which tells us that in Christ, we are more than conquerors (Romans 8). Clearly, one cannot make the transition from failure to conqueror by outwardly pretending to be a conqueror, when the inwardly ingrained bastion of failure, guilt, shame and fear still dominates the soul. To take down this stronghold, the mind needs to be renewed:

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is... Romans.12:2 (NIV)

When I started to renew my mind with the Word of God, the truth of the Scriptures took down the stronghold of guilt, failure and fear in the mind, replacing it with the strength, power and courage to become a conqueror.

We have been destined to be overcomers, conquering heroes who are called to fight. The trouble is that many Christians don't know where the battle is. Many think the battle is with some invisible, imaginary stronghold in the sky, or some demon they 'feel' is lurking behind someone's curtains. There may be, but the initial battle is not with the

devils 'out there' but the devils 'in here', the devils of the sinful nature, the flesh - 'sexual immorality, impurity (e.g. masturbation) debauchery (e.g. excessive eating), idolatry, witchcraft (e.g. rebelling against authority), hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissension, factions (e.g. start my own chapter/club/branch), envy, drunkenness (excessive drinking), orgies...' Galatians 5: 19 - 21 (NIV) (examples the author's - ed)

Like it or not, 90% of the problems you and I are facing in this world are not caused by an infernal enemy, but the internal enemy - read the word F.L.E.S.H backwards and you have SELF! 90% of all the problems in the world are caused - by us, our SELF.

One biker trying to save his marriage told us, "90% of all the problems we are having are caused by myself." That man has understood that, to change the



world, you have to change yourself. What needs to be changed are the strongholds in the mind; inferiority, lack of self-respect, sense of failure, feelings of being a loser are strongholds in the mind that will determine how we feel and, ultimately, determine our behaviour. That is why so many Christian bikers try to copy the 'bad man' image, pretending to look like mean swaggering outlaw bikers in order to 'be somebody'.



Added to this are the veiled hints of being ex this & ex that, from secret military units, to illegal patch club riders who can drink like fish, eat like pigs and swear like troopers, all the while wearing the cross telling the whole world, 'I am a Christian'. The sad thing is that this sort of behaviour makes the witness of CMA difficult, as too many bikers are confused by this sort of thing. Seems like the non-Christian biker world has a better understanding of what a Christian is than do the Christians in the biker scene. We need to get this sorted, rather - we need to get sorted.

The way to victory is to face up to the fact that the stronghold of our sinful nature is situated in our mind and the mind cannot be converted, it must be renewed. It is only as, and when, we renew our mind with the word of God that we can tackle our sinful nature. This thing cannot be fixed by others, it's our nature - we need to fix it ourselves. How can we fix these internal problems that have caused the problems in the world? We have to put these inner devils to death. Kill them.

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly sinful nature...taken off your old self with its practices. Colossians 3: 5 - 9 (NIV)

You always wanted to be a killer. Here is your chance; have a ball, go and kill that stuff inside you. Once you get stuck into this killing frenzy you will discover that you are fighting the good fight of faith. Be warned though, it is going to be one hell of a battle. Literally. Trying to put the old man down, you'll be surprised how strong he is (he had years and years of experience in keeping you in bondage). He ain't no push over; he's not going down easy. And it's not going to be shadow boxing; it's a fight of life or death. Win - you live, lose - you die.

The good news is that you are not required to fight on your own. There is a hero at your side. One who defeated and conquered the very forces you are facing. He is providing you with all the power and the fire necessary to defeat the enemy and take down the stronghold:

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness . . . 2.Peter 1:3 (NIV)

So that

In all these things we more than conquerors through Him who loved us. Romans 8:37 (NIV)

To become an overcomer who conquers the world, you have to conquer yourself. When we take down the stronghold of pretension, we become real and ready to be whom God wants us to be. To change the world, you first need to change yourself. To get others sorted, we need to get ourselves sorted first. When you do, you will find that you no longer have an identity problem, you no longer need to pretend to be a secret hero. You become a person of integrity, who has dealt with his inner issues and who has overcome them. You become yourself, at last!

You walk in the new confidence of an inner peace that the world cannot give you. You no longer walk around like a dog with its tail between its legs, but

with your head held high in the knowledge of a conqueror who has fought the good fight of faith and has prevailed. When you kill those habits that are killing you, the porn that is destroying your marriage, the fags that are ruining your health, sanctification aside, you feel like a million dollar man. You know then that you are walking in your destiny. You are done with low living, you are walking on a new level.

Make no mistake about it, you are destined to belong to this rare breed of gladiators whom the Bible calls conquerors. It is these conquerors, who have overcome the stronghold of fear in their mind, who have what it takes to go into all the world and proclaim the good news. Overcomers are the kind of Christians the devil has warned you about, because they take the fight to the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.' Ephesians 6:12 (NIV)

This is the identity God wants you to have

If the request is wrong, God says, "No."

If the timing is wrong, God says, "Slow."

If you are wrong, God says, "Grow."

But if the request is right, the timing is right and you are right, God says, "GO!"

Bill Hybels

God created the world out of nothing, and, as long as we are nothing, He can make something out of us.

Martin Luther

God has no problems, only plans.

Corrie Ten Boom



Hampshire and Dorset Branch of CMA (South coast) + friends.



Werner has asked for this to be added : Since statistics tell us that over 50% of the men in church struggle with porn, it might be helpful to some readers to have access to this prayer by an ex porn star to free men from porn

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2tvTSraNBdA>

Testimonies

The following are testimonies from Marie and Nigel Seymour, two of Suffolk Branch's newest supporters which we share here to encourage others.

Marie Seymour's Testimony

I'm Marie, and I've just become a supporter of CMA. This is my story. It's very hard to share with you all but I'll do my best. When I was very young, my mother re-married; a new father-figure came into my life, and this man started abusing me from the age of six. This obviously had a profound effect on me: I grew up never trusting men, or anyone for that matter. I've been in and out of abusive relationships all my life both mentally and physically. The only good thing that came out of all the grief was my wonderful son, Jason, and he will be 22 in May.

When I was a young child, my mother told me the story about Santa Claus and how it was just a story to control children and get them to be good. I grew up thinking it must be the same with the stories about God and the Devil; they were intended to control you. So I became an atheist and chose not to believe anything or anyone. All this led to depression and I've been on antidepressants most of my life. I've never known real peace and no amount of counseling or therapy ever helped me. I felt so alone in this violent, crazy world.

Then my Nigel came into my life. We have been to hell and back. I've tried to kill myself and self-harmed all the time. But he stuck with me trying to understand what I'd been through and he helped all he could to get me better. Nigel is a wonderful, kind man and I love him very much, more than he could ever know.

Then last year life took a bad turn again. A man who I started to trust did a really bad thing to me. It had a devastating effect on me and my husband. I really trusted I was safe and will never understand why he did what he did to me. I ended back on



medication again and just wanted to end my life (for three days I was confused and felt used) then, out of the blue, something fantastic happened to me and it is very hard to explain. It was as if a candle had been lit inside of me and I had this glow inside and felt a presence beside me all the time, talking to me and holding me. I took myself off all the medication at once and even though it was a struggle for a few months, I started to feel strong and happiness filled my heart. All the depression left me and I felt love instead of hate. All those years of bitterness, darkness and hatred just disappeared and all the negative thoughts turned to positive ones and for the first time in my life there was a new hope.

I've always been a biker and have had an assortment of bikes over the years. I started on a Yamaha RS100 then went to a 250 single. I've had three Fazers, two Harley Sportsters, a Drag Star, a Kawasaki Eliminator, two Kawasaki 450LTDs and now I've got a lovely brand new Triumph Street Triple.

Every year, I go to the Copdock Bike Show, but last year was extra special because I found an amazing stand – the CMA (Christian Motorcyclists Association). I felt I needed to talk; they were so friendly and handed me a Biker's Bible and some information about what they do and invited me and

Nigel along to their CMA meetings and a wonderful church. It was amazing; we were welcomed with open arms. It was wonderful to feel loved and a feeling of belonging. We have been regulars at church ever since and Nigel and I were both baptized on Easter Sunday. We've joined a Bible study group and a Christianity Explored course. I've started to open my heart and let God and Jesus into my soul. I now have laughter instead of tears and wanted to be baptized to show I'm a believer in our Saviour and have had all my sins and pain washed away forever and just want to say a BIG thank you to all the CMA members for opening the door to this wonderful new life with Jesus Christ and the Father I never knew I had. AMEN

Parish Notice

"We are pleased to note that there has been a change of mind by the Housing Department regarding a name for the new housing complex for the elderly.

"St Peter's Close" did not seem appropriate."

The Bible contains the vitamins for healthy lives.

Teacher : Name two pronouns
Student : Who? Me?

Nigel Seymour's Testimony

Hello everyone. Well, I haven't really got much to say, but basically I've always had some sort of belief in God. When I was young I went to church. I was even confirmed, but as I grew up, then got married and had a family, this all stopped as I got too busy with life and time rolled past. Church and faith faded into the background. I guess I was just lazy for not making the effort.

Well that's all different now and this is why I was baptized, to re-affirm my faith and commitment to God. To be baptized along with Marie. So, from here on life will be better and busy with our new found friends at the CMA and a wonderful church and God in our lives.

Amen



Peace

In the midst of turmoil
Peace arrived
Prayers answered -
Jesus -
Peace inside -
Where knots of anguish were untied,
Melted away the doubts
Which nibbled and pinched my faith -
That shrank into a tightness
In a corner of my mind.

Yet peace unlocked the door
And opened up in love
Once more,
A faith-filled, lightened life.



(Gilly Kenney)

Try to fix the mistake, not
the blame

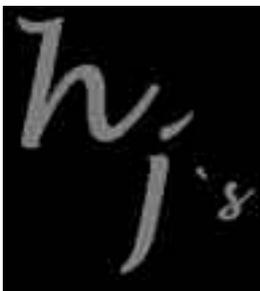
Triumph is just **UMPH**
added to **TRY**

We are swimming in information and
starving for wisdom.

J. John

Everyone has the power to
make somebody happy -
Some by entering a room,
Some by quietly leaving it

CMA is supported by the following organisations



Ask And You Shall Receive

Anna Rodgers : CMA Suffolk

One morning last August, I was travelling to stay for a few days with a friend who had recently moved away to Northampton.

(This was the same Dutch friend I'd had the adventure with in 2010 on the ferry, returning from a visit in Holland and which was the subject of a piece published in this magazine in 2011) - How He uses our relationship for His Work!

On the station platform at Stowmarket, looking for somewhere to sit, I glanced to the left, to see somebody sitting on one bench; I looked to the right and there was also a person sitting on the bench there. I went to move to the left but 'that quiet voice' I have come to recognise instantly was prompting me to go the bench on the right. This I did in expectancy.

Sitting down, I saw she was a young chinese lady; "a student?" I wondered as I started a conversation with her. I discovered she was, indeed, a student returning to her university having spent a few days visiting her boyfriend. Asking about her family back home, she told me how she missed them and had not been able to afford to go home for Christmas since she had come to England ten months before. I empathised with that.

Suddenly she turned to look at me searchingly; she said "You're so different, I never met anyone like you before! All the time I've been in England, no one has asked about me like this.... you make me feel so special and.... warm and tingly inside"

I smiled knowingly and for the first time ever, responded "Well, that's Jesus, He is in me - that's what you're seeing and feeling - Jesus." It felt so appropriate saying it like that.

Immediately, she smiled, nodding her head in understanding.. "Ah, so you're a Christian?" "Yes,.". I said smiling back, knowing then how the Father wanted this young lady to know His Way and of His Love.

I told her of how Jesus had changed my life and told her of the Christian Union for students at all the Uni's; she said

she would make enquiries on her return.

My train arrived, we hugged and she was still smiling broadly as we waved to each other through the train window as the train left.

As always, when been used by the Father like this with the opportunity to witness His Way - I prayed for this young lady, so open to Him, and for her future, that she would know Him as her personal Saviour.

I continued praying for all those amazing witness conversations I could remember, one by one, whilst on those train journeys of the last six years when travelling to and from London meeting Andrew, and also for those I could not recall. I prayed for the people I'd met and for their walk with Him and a spurring on for their adventures

I prayed for all the bikers I'd met, some on the trains, the Biker Bibles I'd given them or other resources of His Word or just the words He spoke from my mouth... I prayed for each one I could recall, and for those I could not recall.

I asked the Father's blessing on each and every one He had sent across my path, that He would continue working in their lives and that they would have turned to Him and, for those that hadn't, that He would put a prompting on their heart to do so and for Him to send a Christian to help them on their journey.

I ended this fervent prayer by thanking Him and wondering if any had... and how nice it would be to hear some had progressed this way. More for them than for me, knowing how one's life is changed and the adventure one has when submitting to His path and guidance. I said "It would be so nice to hear of one having turned to you, Father."

That evening, some twelve hours later, Bob from N Wales rang me. I had an immediate expectancy that there was a connection to my prayer. Bob asked me if I remembered Andrew and I stopping at a B&B in Wales, in April 2009 after the CMA AGM weekend and the night before arriving at his place. Yes, I did remember it. He asked if I remembered a biker, Terry, staying at



the B&B. I remembered that, too.

Bob specifically asked if I remembered Andrew and I speaking with Terry and giving him a Bikers Bible. "Yes, I remember Terry and that time very well." I said. (Terry was in my prayer of that morning.)

Bob continued, "Well, after your meeting with him, Terry came to the Lord. He joined the CMA and he is standing right beside me. He's been trying to find you to thank you!"

It turned out they were at an event in the Midlands where Bob and son Robert had gone to that evening. Robert had got talking with Terry and asked how he came to the Lord and to join the CMA. Terry told him, describing us and the white sportsbike (Hayabusa), and that he'd been trying to find us since. Robert knew immediately that it was us, and said that Terry should come and speak with Bob, who then rang me - and the rest is history!

Terry was overcome with emotion, it was clear how much Jesus has impacted Terry's life. But that's his testimony. Andrew and I made a special detour two weeks later, on our way up to Scotland, to call in and meet with Terry and his young wife and little girl. We heard how their lives have been changed from that 'normal' conversation over breakfast and outside next to the bikes, discussing bikes with love and obedience in its very being.

Love - the willingness to share Him with everyone when the opportunities show themselves; just being oneself and leaving the rest to Him to work through you.

So.... ASK and YOU SHALL RECEIVE and ALWAYS in a unique, special and humbling way!

News From The National Secretary

Elaine Williams : CMA West Midlands



As I am sure most of you are aware, since the AGM I have taken on the role of National Secretary. Ted Russell is no longer on the National Executive and I am sure you would all join with me in thanking him for the excellent work that he did in his role on the Executive and as National Secretary.

CMA UK AGM – 28 April 2012

The CMA UK AGM 2012 was hosted by the West Midlands Branch on 28 April 2012 at Woodgreen Evangelical Church, Worcester, the home church of Peter and Debbie Clapham

Lunch was provided by the West Midlands branch and I am sure everyone would like to join with me in thanking all those who gave their time in preparing the food and, of course, doing the shopping beforehand. After lunch, the AGM commenced with a time of worship and prayer, led by a group from the church.

After the formalities (e.g. agreeing the minutes of 2011's AGM and appointing tellers and a secretary for the meeting), Mike Fitton gave his report which covered a number of points, including the following :

1. The work of the CMA; he wanted to encourage us – the CMA has given away 53,000 Biker Bibles since they went to print and there is a need to sponsor the bibles.
2. The Ride to the Wall to the National Memorial Arboretum will be on Saturday, 6th October. The CMA now has bibles on display in the chapel.
3. Mike expressed his gratitude to the Executive and encouraged members and supporters to pray for them, in particular choosing one member to pray for each day, along with that member's family.

Rob Urand presented the accounts for the year. All other reports had been circulated for members to read prior to the meeting.

Following this, it was time to elect people for the four vacant positions on the Executive. The four people who were proposed were asked to speak about themselves and their reasons for wanting to serve. All four were elected –

Jason Bee, Bob Hughes-Burton, Elaine Williams and Tony Yalden. Both Jason and Tony had already served on the Executive and were standing again.

After a short coffee break, the meeting re-convened to discuss and vote on a member's proposal.

Colin Pownall then shared his vision for the CMA UK Biker Church. We heard that between 50 and 123 people attend the services. Twenty people have given their lives to Christ – Praise God. If you haven't already visited the Biker Church, then I would encourage you to do so - services are on the 1st and 3rd Sundays in the month and a bible study is held each Tuesday.

A few other points were covered before Mike summed up the day's discussions and the meeting was closed in prayer.

If you have not yet attended an AGM, I would encourage you to come next year – the 2013 AGM will be hosted by the East Midlands Branch. We will let you know the date and location as soon as details have been finalised.

National Administrator

The role of National Administrator has been re-introduced to split the workload.

Bob Hudson from East Midlands Branch is managing the PO and email boxes.

Sid O'Neill is taking calls to the National Telephone Enquiry Line.

Everyone's Assistance Please

I have only been in the role a short time, but have noted that some contact details are not being kept up to date. When I have sent emails, I am getting several undelivered messages so, if you are a member or supporter with email and have not yet received any from me, please let me have your contact details. We want to keep you all updated with everything that is going on.

It would also be much appreciated if branch officials' contact details are also up to date. If there are any changes to official positions following Branch AGMs, can Branch Secretaries please notify me of any changes within seven days?

All this would make maintaining the contact lists much easier. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

About Me

I joined the CMA West Midlands Branch just before I got married to Dexter in September 2008. We now live in Walsall having moved from Sutton Coldfield last year to be nearer to the church we attend.

In 2001, I qualified as a solicitor and work for a bank, managing a team dealing with estate administration (probate) work.

What's in a name?

I recently received an email headed "What's in a name?" No, it was not a quiz question. It was about my name, and I have also been asked the same question by others. As you may know, my email address contains the surname "Gibson". My email account was created before I met and married Dexter Williams and has not been changed.

Finally – last but not least

Thank you for your support and prayers. Please continue to pray for the Executive. The dates of meetings are on the CMA website.



Some people have just enough religion to make them uncomfortable

John Wesley

Old And Green

via Sarge : CMA Sussex : Riders For Christ

Older people do not know how to be green - that is what the younger generation think! If you're of a "certain age" and meet somebody who considers you to be a selfish old person who needs a lesson in conservation, then this may be for you!

At the supermarket checkout, the young cashier suggested to the older woman that she should bring her own bags because plastic bags aren't good for the environment.

The woman apologized and explained, "We didn't have this green thing back in my earlier days."

The cashier responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation didn't care enough to save our environment for future generations."

She was right - our generation didn't have the green thing in its day.

Back then, we returned milk, drink and beer bottles. They were then sent to be washed, sterilized and refilled, so the same bottles could be used over and over again. So they really were recycled. But - we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

Grocery shops put our items in brown paper bags that we re-used for numerous things; most memorable besides household rubbish bags, was the use of brown paper bags as book covers for our school books. This was to ensure that public property, the books

provided for our use by the school, was not defaced by our scribbling. Then we were able to personalize our books. But, too bad, we didn't do the green thing back then.

We walked up stairs because we didn't have an escalator or lift in every shop and office building. We walked to the shops and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two streets away. But you are right . . . we didn't have the green thing in our day.

Back then, we washed the baby's nappies because we didn't have the throw-away kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy-gobbling machine; wind and solar power really did dry our clothes. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing. But, young lady, you are right; we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

We had one TV, or radio, in the house -- not a TV in every room. And the TV had a screen the size of a small tea-towel (remember them?), not one the size of Wales. In the kitchen, we mixed and stirred by hand, because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us. When we packed a fragile item to send in the post, we used scrunched up old newspapers to protect it, not foam or plastic bubble wrap. Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn petrol, or electricity, just to mow the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we



didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity. But, you are right; we didn't have the green thing back then.

We drank water from a tap when we were thirsty instead of buying a plastic bottle of it. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new one, and we replaced the blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole thing just because the blade became dull. But, we didn't have the green thing back then.

Back then, people took the bus and kids rode their bikes to school, or walked (!) instead of turning their parents into a 24-hour taxi service. We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles up in space just in order to find the nearest burger bar ("aren't you just lovin' it?").

Isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful old people were just because we didn't have "the green thing" back then?

And you "younger ones" - we don't like being old in the first place, so it doesn't take much to provoke us!!

Mistakes are . . .

Messages that give us feedback about life
Interruptions that should cause us to reflect and think
Signposts that direct us to the right path
Tests that push us towards greater maturity
Awakenings that keep us in the game mentally
Keys that we can use to unlock the next door of opportunity
Explorations that let us journey where we've never been before
Statements about our development and progress

John C Maxwell

Learn from the mistakes of others. You can never live long enough to make them all yourself.

Soggy Moggy

Mike Snailham : CMA Norfolk Borders

It was a sunny start when I left for the Soggy Moggy on my trusty Yamaha. My first port of call was in Thetford to meet my mate Eccles. From Eccles' establishment, we proceeded at a leisurely pace towards the Wood Green Animal Shelter in Huntingdon in preparation for the Soggy Moggy that started on Friday evening of the 9th September 2011.

After saying our hello's to the stewards and receiving our wristband identities for the weekend we proceeded to set up camp. Surprisingly, this went fairly well with the exception of the left over moisture from the tent's use at the TT

Thus the night began.....

Heavy music followed by fuelled discussions on the whys and wherefores of anything and everything.

We know why we were there however, and use the rallies we go to to witness to the others about how we ride for the Son. This is our ultimate goal and mostly we receive a warm welcome; the

common ground of motorcycling gives us a good starting block to explain to others what we stand for.

The Saturday of the Rally consisted of Fun and Games and we all had a go at Moped Mayhem. Fran, our sister in the Lord, rode exceptionally well, considering she hadn't ridden in around 25 years and I did rather well myself I feel, as did our other two team members; we won the first heat. Our crosses were on display throughout the fun and games and it didn't hinder our acceptance in the festivities. The crosses are a good way to show one's 'colours' as it were, and that having a love for the Lord is not a hindrance in this community. The evening was full of more conversation and good music from the main marquee and it gave us ample opportunity to be available to answer any questions about the cross we wear. As we read in Romans 1 verse 16, Paul was not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, and myself and my fellow C.M.A members aren't ashamed either, why would we be? God is Good.

Sunday started slowly for the CMA crew as we were suffering with our respective gripes that come from cooler camping territories, but we were still able to head for the breakfast bar for our daily fill. We got in a few more chats before bidding our like-minded friends a fond farewell, then proceeded to make our way home, happy and trusting that we had shared our love of the Saviour.

In Him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians chapter 1 verse 14 (NIV)

In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, neither angels, nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans Chapter 8 verses 37-39 (NIV)

Editor's note : Apologies to Mike and readers, but photos were not available for this article.

One-Liners via Paul Cooley : CMA Thames Valley

When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble
Broken pencils are pointless
I tried to catch some fog, but I mist
What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus
England doesn't have a kidney bank, but there is a Liverpool
I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest
I dropped out of the communism course because of lousy Marx
News item : All the toilets in the police station have been stolen; police have nothing to go on
I got a job in the bakery because I kneaded the dough
Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes
Velcro – what a rip-off!
News item : A cartoonist has been found murdered; details are sketchy
What? Venison for dinner again? Oh deer
Be nice to your dentist; he has feelings, too
I changed my I-phone's name to "Titanic"; it's synching now.
When chemists die, they Barium
Jokes about German sausages are the worst
The man who's addicted to brake fluid says that he can stop at any time
How does Moses make tea? Hebrews it
I stayed up all night to find out where the sun went; then it dawned on me
A girl said she recognised me from the vegetarian shop, but I said that I'd never met herbivore
I'm reading a book about anti-gravity; I just can't put it down
I wrote a dramatic piece about puns; it was a play on words
The told me I had type A blood, but it was a typo
I didn't like my beard at first; but then it grew on me



Touring Crete On Vintage Motorbikes

A unique experience on a 5 day trip

Tour covers:
Mountain ranges
Harbours
Beaches and coves
Unspoilt villages

A fantastic island with wonderful food
Sunny climate, diverse landscapes & fascinating culture

Includes air travel, airport transfers
 Bed and breakfast
 Bike hire, petrol
 Insurance
 Back-up vehicle
 Helmet/goggle hire

Vintage bikes include:
 1937-BSAs
 1953 BMWs
 1937 Norton's
 1973 Moto Guzzi
Just some of the vintage line

Contact Chris Smith on
Email: smith.christopher@hotmail.co.uk
Tel: 01449 740128
Mobile: 07904334506



**Join us for
Adventure time!**

Perseverance

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
 When the road you're trudging seems all up hill
 When the funds are low, and the debts are high
 And you want to smile, but you have to sigh
 When care is pressing you down a bit
 Rest if you must, but don't you quit.

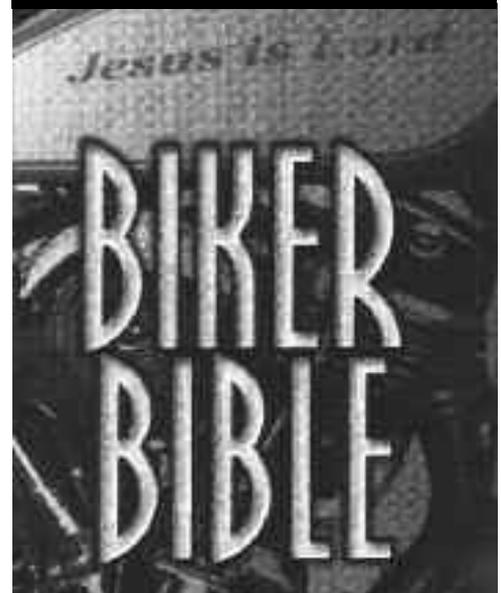
Success is failure turned inside out
 The silver tint of clouds of doubt
 And you can never tell how close you are
 It may be near, when it seems so far
 So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit
 It's when things seem worst
 That you must not quit.

Anon

Rule 1 : take one more step
Rule 2 : when you don't
 think you can take one
 more step, refer to Rule 1

*Perseverance is not a long
 race; it is many short races, one
 after the other.*

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



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

**The deadline for articles for the next edition is
16th September, 2012**



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?

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

North and West Wales
North Cheshire
North Allerton (Thirsk)
North East
North East Derbyshire
North East London
Northern Ireland
Rest of Scotland
Scottish Borders
South East London
South Lancs
South Wales
South West London
Staffordshire
Suffolk
Sussex

Thames Valley
Towcester
West Midlands
West Yorkshire

www.bike.org.uk



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



Tel: 0800 0154479

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