

## **In What Activities Should a Biker Ministry Participate, Support, or Sponsor?**

The biker community loves to gather and they have a host of events they participate in, put on or support. Depending on your area some of these go on all year round. When starting a motorcycle ministry you will be confronted on which events to attend, support, sponsor or just steer clear of. Biker events offer great opportunities for outreach if done right. Bike events are great places to meet and minister to bikers, but some aren't for new bikers and others just are better left alone.

### **Blessing of Bikes**

These events are normally done by a Christian organization and are used primarily to introduce the bikers to Christianity through a simple blessing of bike and rider. Some areas host these at dealerships in April or May depending on your area. These are must attends. They are great events to introduce your ministry to the biker community and meet bikers. You can start relationships at these events and get to know the other groups, riders, and clubs. Make it a priority to be available to offer the prayer at these events when asked.

### **Bike Nights**

A lot of business establishment (i.e. restaurants and bars) host a weekly or monthly event called Bike Night. These are geared to get bikers together in a non-threatening way to fellowship and get to know one another. They bring together the weekend rider as well as the hard core biker. Be aware that most have a lure of alcohol, 50/50 drawings, and door prizes.

As an opportunity for outreach, these events help you get to know large numbers of bikers from all walks of life. They are a way of introducing your ministries and give you the opportunity to discover ways to minister to the bikers from your area. Each member should conduct themselves in a manner that reflects the beliefs and mission of the ministry.

The 50/50 drawings consist of buying tickets with the intent to win door prizes and the final drawing if half of the money from ticket sales. This is a form of gambling, although the other half typically goes to a charity. The purchasing of tickets by members of a motorcycle ministry should be discussed and a group policy should be taken. By no means should any ministry affiliated with the Nazarene Church do anything that gives people an opportunity to question our beliefs or goes against our core beliefs.

### **Charity Runs**

Every area has a wealth of charity rides. These are normally hosted by a group, dealership, or particular charity. These events offer good opportunities to mingle with the biker community and support what they feel strongly about. They raise money for an individual or an organization, and represent bikers in a positive light. Consider attending as many of these as possible. There are numerous types of charity rides:

- *Entrance Fee Rides.* These events require each rider to pay a price to ride in the group. This money is donated to a charity directly. Some rides offer a t-shirt or other memento for riding, but the bulk of the money goes directly to the charity of choice.

- *Toy Runs.* These rides require each rider to bring a toy as an entrance fee. The toys are collected and given to a charity of choice. A cash donation may be collected, but these intend to provide toys for underprivileged children.
- *Poker Runs.* These rides require the rider to purchase a “hand” and ride a particular route. At predestined stops the rider draws a card and annotates that card on his or her sheet. At the end of the ride the rider with the highest poker hand wins the pot. The pot is normally half or a predetermined portion of the money collected for hands and the rest goes toward a charity.

### **In What Activities Should a Biker Ministry Participate, Support, or Sponsor?**

Every opportunity to minister to bikers should be discussed and those deemed appropriate should be attended. Not all members of a ministry should attend every event. Proper planning and careful consideration will result in effective ministry.

The rides your ministry participates in and to what degree is something the group should discuss. It is highly suggested that if a ministry represents a local church, the pastoral staff and possibly the church board should be informed and consulted. Under no circumstances should a ministry do anything that will reflect negatively on the church or the denomination. Prayerful consideration should be reached before any ride is attended.

### **Words of Advice**

If you have never been to any of the types of events described, do not attend one until you know what takes place. Ask around and get details, then pray before a decision is made to attend or not. If you have spiritual mature members, send them first to scout out the events. Let them determine if those events should be attended by all members.

Finally, know your members and what they can and can't do. Part of ministry is being where bikers are and being salt and light. Many Christians cringe at the thought of going into these areas. Most people don't have a clue what goes on at a motorcycle event because they are afraid and they fear what others will say if they attend. Always seek the support and prayer of your church. The results will be a blessing. Motorcycle events and runs can be good fellowship and excellent opportunities for witnessing just by being who you are in Christ. Do as Christ commanded, “Go”!