Planning and Conducting a Biker Sunday

Motorcycle ministry is very exciting and unique. One important aspect of this ministry is finding ways to get bikers involved and make them feel comfortable about coming to church. Once there, they will listen to the gospel, but you must first get them there. Let's talk about Biker Sunday's.

Biker Sunday

Biker Sunday is a day devoted toward inviting the local biker community to church. The event presents a service geared towards bikers and introduces them to the gospel. This is a very intentional event and one that is designed specifically for the bikers in mind.

A Biker Sunday's is a great way to introduce bikers to the gospel and to your church. If done properly, these events can provide the opportunity for many to know the Lord, some for the first time in their lives, while others it may be a re-commitment. A Biker Sunday can be an effective evangelistic tool which will open your church to a powerful new type of outreach.

Some questions you may have might include:

1. Who comes to a Biker Sunday?

That depends on you and your church. You can be intentional and invite a certain class of biker or a certain type of group, or you can just openly invite the entire biker community within you area. A secret of success is to advertise well, think big, and expect bikers to show up. Remember that bikers are drawn to gatherings where other bikers are. Bikers are attracted to other bikers and bikes.

2. What can we expect?

Expect big things when doing a Biker Sunday. Not only numbers of bikers or bikes, but expect changes in the biker community and your congregation. If done properly, a Biker Sunday can change lives and influence the Kingdom.

Expect that some things will go wrong. At first, expect a small crowd and be okay with that. Expect some in the congregation to stay home. Expect some strange looking people to show up. Expect the noise level to go up in the parking lot and in the congregation. Plan lively music that will get people out of their seats, tapping their toes, and involved in the worship experience.

3. How can we put one on?

The best way to get the feel of a Biker Sunday is to experience one. A Biker Sunday takes a lot of advanced planning. So before you just jump into a Biker Sunday, send someone from your church to witness one. Another way to experience a biker Sunday is to contact churches that have a Biker Sunday and request a DVD, tape, picture, a write-up of their event. Following are some ministries that have an active, annual Biker Sunday:

Uncaged Ministries, Powerline Nazarene

Driven By The Spirit Motorcycle Ministry, Midland Valley First Church of the Nazarene

Full Armor Motorcycle Ministry, Shepherd Church of the Nazarene

Full Circle Ministry, Trinity Church of the Nazarene

- 4. What types of things should we plan?
 - *Music*. The type of music that bikers will be receptive to. The music that you play at a Biker Sunday is important. If the target audience is the unchurched or the local biker community, then songs from the hymnal won't work well. You will want uplifting, more contemporary music. Live bands or special Christian artists work well, but cost money. Seek the advice and recommendations from other churches that have held a successful Biker Sunday.
 - *Food.* Meals are always a good idea and ensure that the bikers will linger longer. Include the congregation and allow the bikers and church members to mingle.
 - *A Ride*. A ride after the service and lunch is a good idea. Bikers like to congregate, and they like to ride. It is recommended you have a planned ride with an escort. This takes some planning and organization, but is a very good ending touch to the day. For details on how to organize a ride see the document: "Planning a Charity Ride".
 - *Guest Speaker*. You may want to have a guest speaker for your Biker Sunday. The guest speaker should be a biker and know how to proclaim the message in a simple and easy to understand manner
 - *Expenses.* Cost is dependent on the type of activities, meal (or not), and guest speaker. The focus should not be on the cost, but the desired outcome of the event. A Biker Sunday is meant to introduce people to Christ and cost should not be a major issue.

Goal of a Biker Sunday

The goal of any Biker Sunday should be the same as any intentional outreach activity of your church: reach people for Christ, introduce people to the love of Christ, and start a relationship with people and the church. With this in mind a Biker Sunday will be pleasing to the Lord and a positive approach to the great commission.

Finally, use the experience of those that have gone before you. The Nazarene Motorcycle Fellowship (NMF) wants to assist you in developing an outreach ministry. NMF includes people who have been instrumental in the organization of successful motorcycle ministries within the denomination, as well as those who have been on both sides of the biker community. We have resources available to help you as you research this new approach to evangelism and discipleship.

Visit the <u>Nazarene Motorcycle Fellowship</u> web site for resources and contact information to those who can assist in your endeavor. With patience, prayer, and a desire to go into your community, biker ministry can be one of the most rewarding ministries within your church. It will change more than the lives of the bikers you reach; it will change the lives of your entire congregation.