

What to expect while ministering at bike rallies

By Joe Drake, State Elder, Tennessee

Ministry at bike rallies is not for everyone. In some cases, it's not a place to take your wife and in my opinion, never take children. Through our relationships with the clubs, we are invited to the rallies. In most cases, are asked to do church services and to just be available to talk to folks. We don't walk around with Bibles or post signs that say: "Repent or go to Hell!"



Biker ministry and rally events are great opportunities to talk and fellowship with bikers of all types. People tend to treat rallies as a place to hide out and let their hair down for a couple days. Regardless of the setting and situation, it is crucial that you maintain your Christian witness. Those around are watching to see how a Christian responds to challenges. Make God proud by your attitude and behavior.

You have all types at rallies, from 1% clubs who usually have an area roped off and stay to themselves, to weekend warriors who just want to cut loose. Most rallies have little or no police presence at their events. The larger rallies around the US (i.e. Sturgis, Daytona, Myrtle Beach) do have a good police presence. You have to stay aware of what's going on around you at all times. The combination of alcohol and drugs tend to make guys feel 10 feet tall and women tend to lose their inhibitions. Remember Who you are representing.



What do we do to prepare to go to a rally? First, prepare in prayer and have a group pray as we are at the event. Second, get with the rally coordinators and ask some questions:

- Do you have an area we can set up that will not have us looking at wet t-shirt contests, strippers, and or things we don't need to be around?
- Is it okay for us to give out free water and coffee? (You don't want to offend the food vendors at the event; they are there to make money.)
- Can we do a bike blessing?
- Can we and where can we hold a church service?
- How can we serve you and the biker community? (This may be as simple as just picking up trash or helping at the gate or information area.)

We never stay all night at a rally. Things get wild and crazy after the sun goes down. We may leave water, a pot of coffee, and some cookies for people. Its sounds kind of cheesy, but folks will come by, make a cup of coffee, get some water, eat cookies, and talk. We also leave chairs under the tent and leave tracks and some small pocket Bibles on the tables. They do get picked up and we give them away if they ask for them. Note: Never try to hand them out; just let them asked for them.



We have found that some clubs members will come by, hang out, and even use our tent just to get away from the craziness. As the relationship grows some clubs have been known to watch out for our tent and belongings. It's all about respect: we have shown them respect and have earned their trust. In return they protect us at the events even to a point of setting us up across from their compound so they can make sure we are not disrespected or are in any danger.

It's all about building relationships and living our lives out in front of a lost and hurting world. Let Jesus do what He does. We are called to be His hands and feet.

For additional information contact [Joe Drake](#) or go to [Bikers For Christ](#).