

#### July 2024 Volume 24, Issue 07

#### Independence Day Testimony

By the time you read this, America will have celebrated its Independence Day. Many Americans celebrated by having cook-outs, watching fireworks, or just relaxing. I do not know if you have ever read the entire Declaration of Independence (I hadn't) but if not, please take time to read it. You can use this link Declaration of Independence: A Transcription | National Archives.

Another Independence Day we as Christ Followers should celebrate is the day that we turned our lives over to Jesus by accepting Him as our Lord and Savior. I do not recall the exact date of my "first" Independence Day, though many of you can recall yours. I know mine was around April 5, 1973 as I have a Bible with that date in it. I was almost eleven years old. I call it my "first" because I am not completely certain that I fully understood what it meant to accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior and I didn't always follow His path.

I followed Christian values throughout my teen years but I fell away during by twenties and early thirties. I was certainly not living the life God wanted me to live. In my mid-thirties, I came to the realization that the way I was living my life and managing my life was not aligned with God's plan for me.

I don't recall having any "aha moments" but as evidenced below, more of a slow transition.

I recall praying multiple time to God (usually because I was drunk) to get me out of the life I was living and make me a better man. God answered those prayers by giving me the opportunity to attend LeTourneau University, a Christian based University, for my business degree. This brought me closer to God but I still wasn't "there" yet, i.e., still doing things weren't fully aligned with God's plan.

While attending LeTourneau, I got on my knees at least two times after coming home from a club drunk and told God that I knew my life wasn't right and to bring me a godly woman to help me turn my life around. A few weeks before graduating from LeTourneau, one of my fellow students, Jennifer, told me of a lady she worked with that I should meet. That lady is my darling, Yvonne. Yvonne came by my office one day to meet me (I was smitten (2)) and the rest is history (God answered my prayers). Side note: After our first date, I sent flowers to Yvonne and Jennifer at the same office. You should have seen the look on the florist's face. She even said, "are you sure you want to do that?"

Yvonne and I went out a few times then Yvonne told me something that changed my life forever. She told me that if we were going to date, I must attend church with her. I already had the feeling that I needed to get back in church so this was God providing me the path back to Him. Because of God and Yvonne, I was baptized again on April 20, 2003 (Easter Sunday) at First Baptist Church, Whitehouse, TX. I consider this as my Independence Day as it set me free from the life that I was leading and put me on God's path forever.

Independence Day Testimonies are personal but if you would like to share yours with the chapter, please send it to Michelle Clark and she can include it future newsletters.

It's All About Jesus

Bill Smith Chapter President

## **ABCs of Praise**

Have you ever had those days where your heart is just full of hurt or anger or something ugly and you just can't find the words to pray to God for what you need? Going through this list is a great reminder of who God is to me and also a few suggestions to praise God for Who He is.

A – Awesome, Almighty, Alpha & Omega, Author, Advocate, All in All, Adonai (Lord) Anchor, Amazing, Abba

- B Bread of Life, Beautiful, Bright Morning Star, Bridegroom
- C Conqueror, Counselor, Comforter, Creator, Chief Cornerstone, Caring, Compassionate
- D Defender, Deliverer, Divine

E – Everlasting, Exalted, Eternal, Excellent El Shaddai (the All Sufficient One), Elohim (Powerful God)

- F Faithful, Forgiving, Father, Fortress, Friend
- G Good, Gracious, Giving, Glorious, Gate, Generous, Great
- H Holy, Helper, Hope, High and Lifted Up, Holy One, High Priest, Head of the Church, Healer
- I Immortal, I AM, Indescribable, Immanuel, Infinite, Immutable
- J Just, Jesus, Jealous, Judge, Joy, Jehovah Jireh (our Provider), Jehovah Nissi (our Banner)
- K King of Kings, Kind
- L Lord, Love, Life, Lamb of God, Light of the World, Living Water, Lion of Judah
- M Mighty, Merciful, Magnificent, Majestic, Messiah, Master, Mediator, Marvelous
- N Name above all Names, Never fails
- O Omniscient, Omnipotent, Omnipresent, One true God
- P Prince of Peace, Perfect, Patient, Powerful, Precious, Praiseworthy
- Q Quintessential
- R Redeemer, Refuge, Rock, Resurrection and the Life, Ruler, Restorer, Rescuer, Righteous
- S Savior, Sovereign, Strong Tower, Stronghold, Shepherd, Shield, Sustainer, Sufficient
- T True, Trustworthy, Teacher, Truth, Triune God
- U Understanding, Unchanging
- V Victor, Victorious, The Vine
- W Wonderful, Worthy, Wise, The Way
- X Extraordinary
- Y Yahweh
- Z Zealous

Yvonne Smith, Highway Disciples V-P

#### You are never too small for God to use, only too big

#### Question:

Can you do miracles? Why not? Aren't you good enough? Holy enough? Biblically learned enough? Why could the disciples do miracles, and I can't? Maybe you aren't humble enough to be used by God yet? The disciples were completely dependent on God to do miracles. So was Jesus as being fully man. He humbled himself and gave up His supernatural abilities and relied on God just (if not even much more so) than the disciples did. He is ALWAYS our perfect example of how to live.

Scripture tells us that God's Spirit was on this man from the day the prophet Samuel saw him coming down the road. God had called Saul, and he was using him, but something in Saul was emerging quickly: an arrogant pride. Saul would not confess or admit his sin. Instead, he blamed others to justify his actions. He was more concerned with keeping up appearances than with what God thought of him.

Beloved, the difference between David and Saul was pride. Think about it. King David, who ruled Israel after Saul, sinned as grievously as Saul did. David even killed another woman's husband to cover up his sin, but he quickly repented before God. When Nathan the prophet pointed out David's dreadful act to him, he didn't justify it. Rather, he immediately cried out, "God, don't take your Holy Spirit from me! All I want is to please you. I know I have failed you but please forgive me. Cleanse my heart." (See 2 Samuel 12:13 and Psalm 51.)

When Saul was caught in sin, however, he grabbed hold of Samuel's skirt and cried, "Don't take my kingdom from me. Please stand with me so I won't look bad in front of my people." (Read 1 Samuel 15:22-35.) Saul was more interested in what the people thought about him than in having grieved the Holy Spirit.

Beloved, it is pride and a haughty, immovable spirit that brings us down. A broken heart, a contrite spirit, captures the heart of the Lord. It does not matter what you have been through or how you have failed God. If you run to him and weep it all out after you have failed, he will stand with you. He always stands with those who have a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

We all fail the Lord; no one in his church is perfect. Yet every time we are unfaithful to him, he remains faithful to us.

Gary Wilkerson June 17, 2024 Judges 7:1 tells us that Gideon and his 32,000 men were about to go to war with the Midianites who had well over 100,000 soldiers. Those are not good odds.

God said to Gideon and his men, "If any of you are weary or distraught or discouraged or fearful or timid, I want you to go home" (see Judges 7:3).

We see that 22,000 left and 10,000 remained, and the Lord said to Gideon, "The people are still too many. Take them down to the water, and I will test them for you there, and anyone of whom I say to you, 'This one shall go with you,' shall go with you, and anyone of whom I say to you, 'This one shall not go with you,' shall not go" (Judges 7:4, ESV).

At that point, God reduced Gideon's army to 300 against 100,000!

"And Gideon came to the Jordan and crossed over, he and the 300 men who were with him, exhausted yet pursuing" (*Judges 8:4*). Late at night with only 300 soldiers left, Gideon went to the camp of the Midianites and overheard two Midianite soldiers talking. One soldier said to the other, "'Behold, I dreamed a dream, and behold, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the camp of Midian and came to the tent and struck it so that it fell and turned it upside down, so that the tent lay flat.' And his comrade answered, 'This is no other than the sword of Gideon...'" (*Judges 7:13-14*).

What he heard brought such an encouragement to the soul of Gideon that he began to believe that he could win this battle. What is his response? "As soon as Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, he worshiped" (*Judges 7:15*).

Gideon began to worship! God's goal in bringing us to a place of victory in the midst of our struggle, in the midst of our pain, is to cause us to exalt and worship Jesus Christ. God is not after just the victory in your life, helping you in your finances, helping you find a job, helping with your marriage. He will help you with all those things, of course, but what God really wants is a people who worship him.

Gary Wilkerson

June 28, 2024

In John 4, we see Jesus and his disciples walking near some grain fields. He pointed to the fields and said, "Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together" (John 4:35-36, ESV).

The disciples were perplexed. They saw that the plants were only half grown and thought, "Anyone with common sense can see these fields are nowhere near ready for harvest." However, Jesus was talking about the harvest of souls for God's kingdom.

The lesson of the harvest has a broader meaning for our lives. Jesus is telling us, "You don't have to wait four months to overcome your sin or have a burning passion for me. I have made all those things available to you right now. It is impossible to you in your own strength and ability, but I am expediting all things, and there can be no excuses among those who follow me."

I have a question for every student or young working person reading this. Do you say to yourself, "I'll wait until I graduate before I stop drinking"? Maybe you say, "I'll wait until I'm older to stop sleeping around and settle down in marriage." Or "I just want to taste a little more of the world before I give my all to Jesus."

Jesus's lesson of the harvest fields declares to all who would follow him, "Now is the time." This lesson of the harvest addresses every human excuse. There is no waiting in God's kingdom. If you wait four months, the harvest will pass you by. Don't let any excuse sidetrack you. In Christ's kingdom, today is the day. Now is his time for his calling on you to be fulfilled.

I offer you a challenge. Write down your excuse on a piece of paper and read it for the last time. Crumple that paper, toss it into the trash and say, "I'm leaving that excuse behind me. I have no more excuses. Jesus says his harvest in my life is ripe right now." In conclusion:

What are you waiting for? Submit to God's authority now. Release yourself to be what Jesus created you to be. Worship Him with your mind, your body, your soul and find fulfillment and eternal joy!

Blessings,

Jack (JT) Clark Chaplin, Highway Disciples

#### **Riding in the Heat**

Well summer is here in south Texas. Your body has automatic "thermostats" to protect the core organs from heat stress, including sweating, vasodilation, increase in heart rate and reduction of blood pressure. If these tactics are not able to keep your core temperature within the redline, the body gives you obvious warnings such as heat cramps. If that doesn't catch your attention, it can get more serious, including heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

**Sweating:** The body has sweat glands to keep the skin damp. The evaporating sweat sucks heat from the skin, and transfers it to the air. Of course sweat is primarily water, so it's critical to keep replenishing the supply. That's one reason why we need to drink about a pint of water every hour during hot, dry conditions. One problem for motorcyclists is that at highway speed, the sweat glands may not keep up with the evaporation. Or, if the sweating uses up too much water, your body temperature regulating system goes on the fritz, like a dry battery.

**Vasodilatation:** To help cool down the core, blood vessels enlarge to circulate more blood (and therefore body heat) towards the skin. If ambient air temperature is lower than body temperature, excess heat can be absorbed by the air. But if the air gets hotter than the skin, the increased blood flow simply soaks up more heat from the air and pumps it back to the core.

**Heat Cramps:** Muscle cramps caused by heat usually affect the legs and lower abdomen first, then the arms. Heat cramps are a symptom that the body's electrolytes are running low. It's not smart to ignore muscle cramps. Find some shade and take a break. Sip water or an "exercise" drink. Exert firm pressure or massage the cramped muscles to relieve the spasms.

**Heat Exhaustion:** Heat exhaustion occurs as the body continues to shunt blood away from the brain and muscles. Symptoms of heat exhaustion include:

- Headaches, dizziness, nausea, momentary fainting
- Cramps
- Tiredness, weakness
- Profuse sweating
- Pale, clammy skin
- Approximately normal body temperature

**Heat Stroke:** If you experience heat exhaustion and just try to "tough out" the heat without getting cooled down and rehydrated, the body thermostats will begin to fail. Your core temperature continues to rise (may go as high as 106 or 107 degrees F.), sweating stops, the heart beats even faster, and you may pass out. If you are coherent enough to recognize the symptoms, immediately get medical aid while you are still mobile. Watch your riding buddies for any of the following heat stroke symptoms.

- Victim incoherent, staring vacantly, blanking out, or unresponsive
- Skin hot, red, dry (no perspiration)
- Rapid pulse
- Body temperature elevated

Yes, heat stroke is life threatening. It's a medical emergency. Don't be bashful about calling 911 for assistance.

People from cooler climates often react to hot weather by removing clothing. That helps cool the skin--providing air temperature is less than the body temperature. Heat transfers from a hot object to a cold object. Pick up an ice cube, and it feels cold. What's happening is that the ice is rapidly absorbing heat from your skin. Even if the air is 89F, the air will absorb heat from your skin (assuming your body is around 98F). Now, consider what happens when you curl your fingers around a hot cup of coffee. Your skin rapidly absorbs heat from the cup, because the cup is hotter than your hand. The same thing occurs when the air temperature is hotter than your body temperature. You may think your body is hot at 98 F, but it's "cold" compared to air at 105 F. If you expose your skin to air that's hotter than you are, your body just soaks up more heat. The lesson here is that if the air temperature is in the 80s or lower 90s, it helps to open up the jacket vents, or wear a mesh jacket. But once air temperature climbs above 99 F (or slightly lower temps in high humidity, like we have) the best way to keep from getting cooked is to keep your insulation on, and the vents closed.

The number one fight against the heat is WATER; drinking it and wearing it. We will get to "wearing" it in a minute. In hot weather drink lots of water, to replenish your electrolytes and refill your sweat glands. We're talking at least a pint per hour. Exercise drinks containing "electrolytes" (salts) are acceptable, unless you have high blood pressure. And flavored drinks may be very high in sugar, too. Carbonated soft drinks are better than nothing, although it would be best to get the water without large doses of salt, sugar and chemicals (I know I need to follow my own advice on this one).

What do I mean by "wearing water". There are several ways to help keep your core temperature down by "wearing water." Wet your bandana with ice water before putting it on under your helmet. There are several towel-like objects that are specifically made to wet and wear around the neck. There are also cooling vests. Some you soak in ice water wring out and wear next to your skin. Other vests have pockets for ice/gel packs that can keep your core cool for hours.

Keep an extra eye on your fellow riders this summer for signs of heat related problems. We can ride in the heat with the proper precautions, just like those up north can ride in the cold.

In Christ,

Dirk "Rocketman" Smith



### **CMA PATCH** Triangle Shape Father, Son & Holy Spirit

Praying Hands The way God would have CMA grow

Cross The message and statement of faith (1 Corinthians 2:2)

Bible God's direction for CMA

Blue Color The way of the cross leads home (to heaven)

Yellow Color The crowns and rewards that will be for the faithful Christians

Red Color The blood that makes everything It encloses effective

The basic purpose of a CMA Chapter is to support the National CMA effort of sharing and showing the love of Jesus Christ to motorcyclists, and supporting the overall ministry of CMA.

 In this, there is a three-fold purpose:
▶ Provide and encourage members to be active in testimony and Christian witnessing to all motorcyclists.
▶ Provide a Christian fellowship ridegroup.

# **Ministry of CMA**

#### Vision: Changing the world, one heart at a time.

#### We will accomplish our vision through:

- Evangelistic outreach primarily, but not exclusively, to the Motorcycling community.
- Run for the Son, where we will partner with ministries with world Reaching potential.
- Equipping our members in ministry training that aligns itself with Biblical truths.
- A servant's attitude to the world and to our members (i.e. Here if youneed us).
- Quality products that aid in evangelistic outreach.
- An effective Work Center support team.

#### **CMA Ministry Partners:**

CMA partners with three other ministries to spread the Gospel throughout the world.

Jesus Film Missionary Ventures Open Doors

#### Mission:

To inspire our leaders and members to be the most organized, advanced, equipped, financially stable organization, full of integrity in the motorcycling industry and the Kingdom of God.

#### **Doctrinal Statement:**

The Christian Motorcyclists Association is interdenominational and evangelistic in nature. We believe in:

- The Bible as the inspired and infallible Word of God.
- One God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- The virgin birth and deity of Christ, His explicit atoning death, Bodily resurrection and ascension.
- Salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ.
- The sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit who enables a believer to Live holy.
- The second coming of Jesus Christ.

#### Katy CMA – Highway Disciples – Chapter June 2024 Meeting notes

Date: 6-1-24, time: 9:00 to 10:30 AM CT

- I. Welcome Bill Smith
- II. Chaplain's opening prayer conducted by JT Clark.
- III. Pledges to American and Christian flag conducted by Bill Smith.
- IV. Intro-Visitors Yvonne Smith.
  - a. No Visitors.
  - b. Discussed 3:16 Track Day Both Yvonne and Bill Smith went and gave update on event attended, blessed 5 bikes.
- V. Chaplain JT Clark
  - a. Pray for the offering.
  - b. Message: "Just A Thought" focus upon The Lord and not get distracted by trials.
- VI. Secretary Alvin
  - a. Took meeting notes.
  - b. Remind people to sign in.
- VII. Road Captain Dirk Smith
  - a. Recap of the ride to Anderson, TX last month.
  - Description of the second secon
  - c. Ride today adjusted to small local ride due to rain this early afternoon.
  - d. Proposed summer months do rides on alternate Saturday for morning rides from breakfast to noon; evening rides more to be discussed.
  - e. Chapter Ride is 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday at 745 am KSU at Buckee's
    - i. July 13<sup>th</sup>
    - ii. August 10<sup>th</sup>
    - iii. September == no chapter ride afterwards.

#### VIII. RFS -- David

- a. Rosemary and Amy will be the joint RFS coordinators.
- b. New RFS season started
- c. Over \$17,000 raised by chapter for 2024 season.
- d. Spirit night doing well. Need more suggested restaurants and still need June settlement for Spirit Night JT working this.
- IX. Treasurer Jeremiah M.
  - a. Storage shed rent—thanks for those donating these funds.
    - i. June JT & Michelle

# CMA Highway Disciples Chapter Officers



Bill Smith President



Yvonne Smith Vice President



Dirk Smith Road Captain



Jack Clark Chaplain



Alvin Keen Secretary



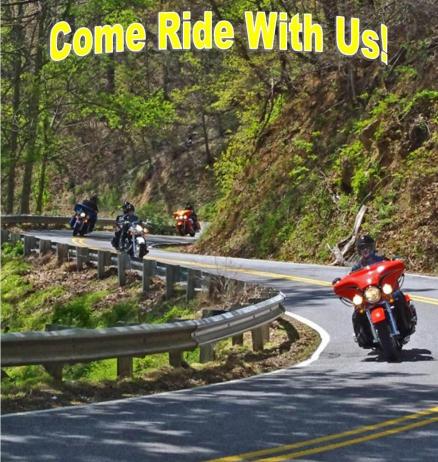
Jeremiah Mutzbauer Treasurer



The CMA Highway Disciples meets at Rudy's BBQ in Katy, TX 21799 Katy Freeway Katy, TX 77450

We meet on the first Saturday monthly

Breakfast 8:30am Meeting starts @ 9:00am





For more info about our chapter go to: http://cmascr4.org/ TXS/ HIGHWAYDISCIPLES

For the [remarkable, undeserved] grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to reject ungodliness and worldly (immoral) desires, and to live sensible, upright, and godly lives [lives with a purpose that reflect spiritual maturity] in this present age," -<u>Titus 2:11-12</u>

#### <u>Calendar of Events</u>

July 4	Fellowship Opportunity – CMA Highway Servants – meet in Bellville then ride to Anderson County Courthouse for a photo then to "Kenny Restaurant". Time TBD	???
July 6	Chapter Meeting @ Rudy's BBQ, Katy, Texas 8:30am breakfast / 9:00am meeting Fellowship Ride	Bill Dirk
July 9	Cycle Gear Bike Night – 24727 Katy Fwy, Katy, TX 77494Set-up 4:30, Event from 5:00-7:30ish	All
July 11	RFS Spirit Night at Fuzzy's Pizza – 613 S. Mason Road, Katy TX 77450 All Day	
July 13	Chapter Fellowship Ride @ Buccee's 27700 Katy Fwy, Katy, TX 77494 KSU 7:30am	
July 20	Highway Disciples Bike Night at Taco Cabana (24611 Katy Fwy, Katy, TX 77494) 7 pm	ALL
Aug 3	Chapter Meeting @ Rudy's BBQ, Katy, Texas 8:30am breakfast / 9:00am meeting Fellowship Ride	Bill Dirk
Aug 10	Chapter Fellowship Ride @ Buccee's 27700 Katy Fwy, Katy, TX 77494 KSU 7:30am	
Aug 13	Cycle Gear Bike Night – 24727 Katy Fwy, Katy, TX 77494Set-up 4:30, Event from 5:00-7:30ish	All
Aug 17	Highway Disciples Bike Night at Taco Cabana (24611 Katy Fwy, Katy, TX 77494) 7 pm	ALL
Sep 7	Chapter Meeting @ Rudy's BBQ, Katy, Texas 8:30am breakfast / 9:00am meeting Fellowship Ride	Bill Dirk
Sep 10	Cycle Gear Bike Night – 24727 Katy Fwy, Katy, TX 77494Set-up 4:30, Event from 5:00-7:30ish	All
Sep 14	Chapter Fellowship Ride @ Buccee's 27700 Katy Fwy, Katy, TX 77494 KSU 7:30am	
Sep 21	Highway Disciples Bike Night at Taco Cabana (24611 Katy Fwy, Katy, TX 77494) 7 pm	ALL

\*Events in "BOLD" are chapter focused events w/officer or member contact to the side\* Be sure to check your e-mail on a regular basis for new events that may not appear on the calendar and for any changes to the events listed. Please go here to sign-up/register for CMA SE Texas events <u>https://www.cmasetx.com/</u>

> Officers' Meetings –3rd Monday of Every Month (held via Teams Video) Any member can attend. Please contact an officer if there is something you want added to the agenda.

> > Other Ministry Opportunities:

Montrose Street Reach 1110 Lovett Blvd., Houston, TX 77006 <u>http://www.montrosestreetreach.org/</u> – Every Wednesday @ 6:30pm contact: Joe Williams, Martin & Kim Dale 281.682.4379 713.252.1744 **Texas Full Moon Ride** – meet for a leisurely ride down the backroads of Brazoria County. Usually ends up on Blue Water Highway and if the timing is right, you can watch the full (or nearly full) moon rise over the gulf. A restaurant is normally found along the way.

Jan-27, Feb-2024, Mar-23, Apr-20, May-25, Jun-22, Jul-20, Aug-17, Sep-14, Oct-19, Nov-16, Dec-14

\*\*\*Please let us know if you have a ministry event or opportunity that needs to be added\*\*\*

For more events that you may be interested in attending you can go to:

https://www.cyclefish.com/motorcycle\_events/TEXAS

CMA Guardian Riders Meets at Rudy's BBQ in Richmond -- Third Saturday Monthly / 8:30am Rudy's is located at 20500 Southwest Fwy. Richmond, TX 77469

CMA Highway Servants Meets at Schobels Restaurant in Columbus--Third Saturday Monthly / 8:30am Schobels is located at 2020 Milam St. Columbus, TX 78934