

RIDING WITH FOG

by Ed Reynolds



About ten years ago I needed a very inexpensive means of transportation both to and from work. I sold my pickup truck and started looking around. At the time Gas prices were close to \$3.50 per gallon. I started looking around at my alternatives. Everything that got good gas mileage was way too expensive. It got me thinking about my younger days (1960's & 1970's) riding around on my Kawasaki 250 getting 50 mpg's when gas was .45-.50 (cents) a gallon. Yes that's right 50 cents per gallon, I guess I'm showing my age here a bit. Boy what great memories I had of riding all over town with my 16 year old girlfriend, who now happens to be my #* year old wife.

After thinking real hard I decided for the manly approach to asking my wife. I decided to wait until she left for Women's Retreat and then my son, little Eddy and I took off for the motorcycle store. I picked out a beauty. It was a little more powerful than my old 250 and allot more expensive. After a little haggling I got the price I wanted and before I knew it they were handing me the keys. I stopped for a moment to think, what have I done, what will Lynne think when she sees what I have done? Oh well, "life happens"! I'll only be in the dog house for a month or so.

When she returned and saw my new purchase, she wasn't shocked at all. She actually liked it. I started buying all the gear. You know helmets, glasses (cool looking "Annold Terminator" glasses) saddle bags, windshield, backrest, and more and more and more.



I rode it to work everyday. 10-20 miles a day total. That just wasn't enough. I was really liking this, I wanted more. Several guys in the church had motorcycles and we were all friends. We started getting together for rides. Sometimes taking our wives with. They also became close friends. Men are lousy at planning stuff. If we happen to be together at church we might say, "hey... lets go for a ride" and then take off for TGI Fridays for coffee and desert. But once the wives were involved we actually started organizing. We had a ride that the girls planned, they called a "Progressive Dinner" we started at 11am at church, went to seven different houses for a different part of the meal. We drove 100

miles that day, ate enough food for a week, and didn't arrive home until 10:30 pm. And on top of that we had fun! We decided to make our group a "Small Group" since we were all Christian men and women who are very active in our church. We have devotions and pray for each other. We also pray in restaurants or wherever we need to bow our heads. Think about it for a second. Seven to Twelve men, wearing our leather jackets, vests, chaps, and biker boots. We sit down in the Restaurant, order our food, laugh and talk having a good time. When our food arrives we tease each other about what they are eating, and then silence. We all bow our heads and one of us will say a prayer asking God to protect us, lets us be a good witness to others, and bless our food. I can imagine the stares we must get. But I love that part. We were not what they expected. "Bikers praying, wow, Mom and Dad look at that!" It makes you feel special. We realize we are a Christian witness the minute we arrive. We must be aware that our actions speak for ourselves and our God. We are ready for the challenge. Look out world.... Glendale Christian FOG (Friends of God) are out there.

Every year around September some of the guys will ride from the church parking lot all the way to Cookson, Oklahoma. In Cookson we stay at a Christian children's home (orphanage) and help with various building projects. We stay in a bunkhouse and eat cafeteria style with all the kids. We also plan a yearly visit to Ronald McDonald House and serve dinner to the families who arrive for cancer treatment. One year we even formed a men's choir and sung at assisted living centers. We lost our Choir director and shut that down. We've been together for 9 or 10 years now and still meet every other Tuesday night at a members house for Fellowship, Dinner, and Bible Study. Sometimes we just ride to a local Restaurant and let somebody else do the cooking. We encourage men with motorcycles to join, but motorcycle ownership is not a pre-requisite for joining our group.

If you ride a motorcycle and want to be part of this group just show up at church some Sunday and ask anyone to direct you to a FOG member, we would be glad to make room for more.

See you on the road,
Ed Reynolds (Elder)