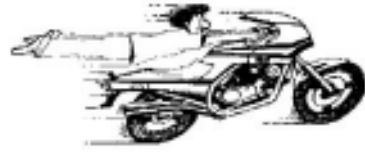


WHAT'S ON?

9th to 11th February: Celtic Warlocks Delveen Rally at Delveen Sport Grounds, they have plenty of great prizes like sleeping bags, tents and bike shop stuff! **Roscoe departing Saturday 8am.**



11th February: We combine with a Ulysses branch for another navigational ride, **has been cancelled.**

25th february: BBQ starting at 4pm at Roscoe's house. Everything supplied RSVP to Roscoe as soon as possible. BYO Drinks or Coffee will be available.

11th March: Social ride through the Brisbane valley hinterland, stopping for coffe along the way and lunch at a cafe or counter meal at a pub. Taking in Mt Nebo, Samford, Mt Mee, Caboolture and home via the gateway bridge. **Invite a friend, Depart Roscoe's at 10am. Lunch at Samford.**

24-25th March: CMA Halfway meet Maryborough check with Roscoe for more details if wanted.

5th to 8th April: Back to Bathurst races, an annual event now occurs in memory of the old Easter weekend Bathurst bike races from the 80's Roscoe has more info if you want it. Heaps of HQ Racing and bike racing.

14th April Willowbank Stall: CMA are manning a stall at the willowbank races, if anyone is interested in going and helping out contact Roscoe. Would be a great opportunity to take the family to the Drag races and also be a witness and a help to another group.

Bikers 4 Christ Finances

Incoming

Donations \$150

Starting Balance: \$490.07

Outgoing

Postage and Stationary \$35

Final Balance: \$605.07

Bikers 4 Christ Bank Account

Heritage Building Society BSB: 638080 – Account: 00 9012338
Name of - Bikers 4 Christ

BIKERS 4 CHRIST

CHRISTIAN MOTORCYCLISTS FELLOWSHIP

Po Box 120 ~ Kingston ~ QLD ~ 4114

Ephesians 4:1-6 One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism

Editor ~ Roscoe Crouch 0412 490 115 ~ b4christ@bikers4christ.org

GOODNEWS LETTER

Freely you have received, freely give Matthew 10:8

www.bikers4christ.org February 2007

Vanity!?

Ecclesiastes - Matthew Henry Commentary

The name of this book signifies “**The Preacher.**” *The wisdom of God here preaches to us, speaking by Solomon, who it is evident was the author. At the close of his life, being made sensible of his sin and folly, he recorded here his experience for the benefit of others, as the book of his repentance; and he pronounced all earthly good to be “vanity and vexation of spirit.” It convinces us of the vanity of the world, and that it cannot make us happy; of the vileness of sin, and its certain tendency to make us miserable. It shows that no created good can satisfy the soul, and that happiness is to be found in God alone; and this doctrine must, under the blessed Spirit's teaching, lead the heart to Christ Jesus.*

I was talking to a friend of mine a couple of weeks ago about different things and how some people do one thing and believe one thing and others see those matters totally different. I turned and asked another friend of mine what they thought, before we knew it we were talking about **Ecclesiastes** and how Solomon even though he was the world's greatest ever seen or known person of wisdom, he still made this statement “**Ecc 1:2-3 Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity. What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun? What does vanity mean?**” Websters Dictionary says this:

Emptiness; want of substance to satisfy desire; uncertainty; inanity Fruitless desire or endeavor. Trifling labor that produces no good. Emptiness; untruth Empty pleasure; vain pursuit; idle show; unsubstantial enjoyment Ostentation; arrogance. Inflation of mind upon slight grounds; empty pride, inspired by an overweening conceit of one's personal attainments or decorations. Fools cannot be cured of their vanity.

Vanity is the food of fools.

Solomon in all his wisdom, wealth, earthly possessions, wives, travels, his governing, his ideals, everything about him and his life he considered it all vanity or if you would like me to put it in todays language a waste of time! The Bible is the word of God and infallible, I didn't say it, The Bible did! Read in particular and take note of **Ecc 2v11**. Solomon goes on in **chapter 2** to mention only one thing that is good read **verse 24 and also Ch3v11-13**. I especially like **Chapter 7v1**, I have always thought this way in my Christian walk, to have a good name is better than “to be right”.

My friend that I was talking with at the time quoted a few things from Ecc that I had not heard and it caught my attention so it caused me to read and study it. **Chapter 8** starts to be a little bit positive but in the end stops with vanity again, **verse 2** caught my attention, the only thing that Solomon says all the way through Ecclesiastes is to seek God and Obey Him! This is the only thing he says without stating it is vanity. **Chapter 9** starts to look up as well, with enjoy all things, food, drink, be merry and enjoy the wife of your youth, but then it finishes with, “This too is vanity”! Solomon even goes to the extent of stating that wherever a tree falls there it will be **Ecc 11v3** now that was really deep and spiritual wasn't it? I have heard some say that Solomon was “Mad” at the time of writing Ecclesiastes and he had lost his mind. I doubt that very much, because he finishes the book with a very profound and only thing that he does not say is vanity and that can be found in chapter **12v13**.

Every month I get good reports how people have been touched by what was written, and yet who can remember what was written in the July Newsletter 2006? I may criticise what was written, but that too is vanity, a waste of time because I have faults, we all have faults, maybe this is why Jesus says judge not, because we see things from a different perspective! I read the newsletter every month at least 6 times - every month! Why do I write what I do, what is my total intention and the end result I have in mind? Some may take things personally or with a grain of salt, but when I reread what I wrote and when I see the positive and the uplifting I take no notice of it really, it is the stuff I don't like that gets me asking God, “why did I write that, what was I trying to say, what was I thinking at the time”. Guess what; God always answers me, he shows me where I may have a dirty attitude, or I may need an adjustment in my life, how many other people are like this? My intention is to get you the reader seeking God on stuff you do like and stuff you don't and find out more about yourself and God.

Solomon said, the only thing that is not vanity is to seek God and Obey him! What is he really saying here? I could be all super spiritual and say many things, I could quote scripture, I could quote preachers, I could give you my ideal thought and you may not agree with it. God has shown me in September last year, that proverbs tells us a fool is known by his many words or they bring him unstuck, **Prov 14v6; Prov 18v7; Prov 29v20 Prov 29v11** and also there is much sin in someone who speaks much and does not refrain his lips as in **Prov 10v19**.

After talking to my friend we watched a teaching DVD by John Bevere titled “*knowing God intimately*”. John on the very first dvd quoted **Phillipians 2v3** and **1Thess 5v13**. I like to think that other people are worth more than me. Someone stated recently I had some issues, don't we all? Yeah we can see each others faults, but rarely do we see our own, unfortunately I see many of mine, I try and adjust my thinking, but it gets me down at times. I think this is why Jesus said Judge not least you be judged. I have been judged a lot lately, do I care? No! we all have faults and sin and the Bible tells us that we are to hate sin in **Romans 12v9**.

I want to change, but like Paul in **Rom Chap 7** I struggle! Who doesn't struggle with Sin? Jesus talks about how we should feel about sin and I doubt many of us do, think seriously, what is sin? Simple, it is disobedience to God, in whatever area, too many people look at sin as Adultery, Murder, Hatred, when even if God asks us to pray for someone and we don't, that too is sin read **James 4v17**. It is only by grace that we are saved! Something I realise is that a person who gets saved does not change overnight! But come a few years down there the track there must be a change visually seen if they have been walking with God, if they have not changed, I doubt they are even saved.

DALBY TRIP

Today was the day a little town about 84ks west of Toowoomba experienced their first “Church Raid” At 7:30am some 5 bikes and a HD Quadracycle met at the local, (dare I say it, sigh) McDonald's on the western side of town. Led by the new coordinator for CMA on the Darling Downs, Heather, we had the usual tea and coffee and some even ventured to try the local offerings.

7:45am saw all on the road headed west in what was not very inviting weather, but we had prayed for a safe fine trip and we were not let down. About 5ks from Dalby we were met by our escort and observing the rules we arrived at the local Presbyterian Community Church. To say we stopped every movement in the car park was an understatement. Talk about stares as we very professionally filed in and parked with perfection, this was not the time to drop your bike.

We secured our stuff and were greeted by one of the church members, a beautiful elderly lady with a smile a mile wide. As we entered the church stares increased but no one seemed to object to our leather vests, jeans and helmets. What a great service and music, it was so great to see well behaved children and polite youth. This little church was busting at the seams, not sure how many were there but it's a long time since I have attended a service with such a cross section of ages. It was standing room only.

It was very kindly explained to the congregation that one of their members was seeking membership of the CMA and we were there to “Check them out”. Much laughter followed. After the service we spent time answering a multitude of questions and sat kids on the bikes to let them dream of the open road, not to mention their dads longing looks and far away eyes. There were a few local riders who joined us just after we arrived and I counted about 13 bikes in the car park.

Well our raid completed we headed down town for lunch, yep McDonald's AGAIN! Some of the church followed us down and we enjoyed more conversation and met up with a couple of B4C members who live in the district. Lunch over we were led via the scenic route back to Toowoomba, along the way some riders left us as they neared their homes.

We arrived at a small town called Goombungee, only thing open to get a drink was the



local pub. A half hour later saw 5 bikes headed for Toowoomba and home. Roscoe and I headed to Don's place to pick up Roscoes son and then with Ray on the back Roscoe headed to Brisbane and home.

We covered some 260ks for the day without any mishaps; Roscoe added another 260ks to his trip living in Brisbane. Today was the first of a number of “Raids” planned for the year and the next one is in a very small town midway between Brisbane and Toowoomba. Hope they are ready. What a fantastic way to spend a Sunday with the Lord. Interesting stats for the start of the day, 5 bikes contained 2 Ulysses riders, 1 Southern Cross Assoc rider, 3 CMA riders, 2 Chariots of Light riders and 6 B4C riders. It's great to think different association members can support other associations.

This Coming Year

Well the year has started off really well, with a couple of spare of the moment rides and seeing some new faces we haven't seen for a while. A few of us went for a ride on a stinking hot Saturday morning and we headed down to Cleveland point where we found a new cafe come restaurant and bar right on the waters edge. We sampled their Iced coffees and checked out their menu for a return date, it all seemed good for the price and the view was worth a million dollars let alone the nice cool sea breezes. We heard a rumbling in the distance and saw one of those new Hyosung Korean Bikes, I think it is the 650 Buel look alike, so we all wandered over to check it out. A very different looking bike but they seem a bit too cheap to me.

Highway has placed in this newsletter about our trip to Dalby which was great fun, don't like the idea of riding on those narrow roads very much out there. A great day was had by all. Then later on in the month we had my dads memorial and last ride and spreading of ashes, thanks to all the guys that came along and supported me on the day, it was amazing just how much opportunity we all had talking to my family as they were quite taken by how many came and you didn't even know my Dad, thanks especially to TJ for taking my brother on your Halrey, this may be an open door for you my friend.

It has been a mind blowing month to say the least, I am amazed at just how small this world really is, I have bumped into so many riders from 20 years ago lately that it is a bit hard to get my mind around it. It has been especially great to catch up with some of the old guys from the days of parking in Albert St in the city, as well as bumping into people we either helped or rode with us back in the 80's. We have a couple of BBQ's up and coming in the next couple of months try and get along to them and catch up on the latest direction of Bikers 4 Christ. We will be doing more day rides with other groups and more fellowship and spare of the moment rides. Home church is starting again this month, I will be ringing those who have shown interest and letting them know of place and time.

Just a reminder to keep in contact with those in clubs we have met over the last few years at rallies etc and build upon those relationships. Keep Viv in your prayers from the Z owners club as he has cancer, he is coping ok. This year try practising hospitality and inviting someone over for dinner or a BBQ or just a ride, there is so much we can do and places to go and just enjoy life without any hassle, and at the same time share together build each other up in God. The contact list has gone out to those who requested it.

Come winter time, we will have a Bike service day where I will bring all my tools and you can bring your break fluids, oils filters etc etc and get your bike serviced. We will not be doing major work just a service, so if you plan on one in the near future and can hang off until about May or June when it is cooler do so, just start buying what you need now. Also if you have an empty oil bottle bring it as well to put your old oil into. I will be supplying lubricant for cables etc, and we can all pitch in and help and learn a few things about our own bikes, most people pay for a service on their bikes when it is real easy to do it yourself, I always have done, but get a tune-up at the shop. Saves hundreds of dollars.

For Sale

Wayne Blackburne in Mackay has for sale a **883 Custom Sportser** for sale. It has 56,000 K's it is a 2004 model and in good condition, offers anywhere around the \$9,000 mark will be considered. **Tel Wayne on 0427645221.**

Bikers 4 Christ / Freedom Road?

As Rod feels led to minister to the rally scene and other avenues through Freedom Road, I believe it would be best for Bikers 4 Christ and Freedom Road to act independent of each other. It is his heart and his passion. While recent history indicates the need for Bikers 4 Christ and Freedom Road to be independent groups, this in no way effects our relationships as brothers in Christ and friends. If anyone wishes to go with Rod and be a part of Freedom Road you are more than welcome to, I would like to encourage those who are thinking of doing so to contact Rod.

Strife tried to enter in at the start of the 2007 and late last year, I was saddened at what went on and the outcomes. There has been some conflict of personalities and it does not seem to be dissolving. I apologise if anyone has heard any talk that they shouldn't have and especially to those who received a letter, telephone calls or text messages when they knew nothing of the situation and were brought into it by others. As far as I am concerned it is now History and this is the end of the matter, it will not be commented on any further.

For this reason those who feel not to be a part of "Freedom Road" have removed their "Bikers Cross" and for this reason only, including myself. Rod has a few people with him that some of you may know and I ask that no one enters into any discussions or arguments over anything. Do not even listen to any "Gossip" as it only causes strife. I am happy Rod has gone where he feels his heart is and wish him only the best! If anyone wish not to receive the newsletter just say so, or if you think it could be better, you send some articles in. If you don't want the newsletter let me know.

WHAT IS BIKERS 4 CHRIST?

Some people have difference of opinioions on what Bikers 4 Christ is all about, let me spell it out for everyone here. Firstly what it is **NOT!** It is not a club or a ministry. Some have said over time that Bikers 4 Christ is boring, that is because they don't get involved and expect everyone to follow them around. Some people are "club" orientated or thinking and expect to run like a club maybe this is why you feel this way, some are "ministry" orientated or thinking and want to have a title that tells everyone I am in a ministry, they are looking for a "Ministry". That is all fine, but it is not what we are about, if you want a ministry or a club, go find one or start one.

What Bikers 4 Christ is..... a group of guys and girls that ride, that feel comfortable together without any trappings of having to go to meetings or having to do compulsory stuff to be a part of it. Some use the name Bikers 4 Christ to help them get started in things like myself with chaplaincy or marriage celebrant but that does not make it "ministry". It is a name for who or what we are - Bikers 4 Christ, an associated name tag that we all know each other and sometimes we go for rides with each other or other activities as likeminded riders.

Bikers 4 Christ is "**Nothing**". Don't try make it something it is not.

Some things we are involved with are **NOT** Bikers 4 Christ "ministry" like the BBQ Trailers, some people just like to do that and help out. Chaplaincy, some like that and are involved as chaplains but they are a chaplain with the group they are registered with not a Bikers 4 Christ chaplain, we are not the legal chaplaincy name. The best way to expalin it is we are a network of Christian Riders, if things come along that people can be involved in, we have the avenue to be able to let everyone know what is happening, then it is total freedom of choice if you get involved or not. Oh, and it is my registered "business name" as a Marriage Celebrant too.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know, that Jesus loves you? Yeah yeah, we all know that! No we don't!! If we did we would also know that he loves everyone, as an individual, and that he gave his life for all, that if you were the only person on earth he still would have done it for you. Some times I think we take our walk with God for granted. There is a lot of preaching about different types of faith, healing, prosperity, victory, and all those good things that we all know are true. But we have left out the main thing, we have forgotten something... We need to stop and ask a question of ourselves.... Why did Jesus die on the cross really? What was the main thing he had in his mind, was it so we could live a healthy life....yes..... Was it so we could live a prosperous life..... yes..... was it so we could live in victory over the devil? Yes!

So why don't we? Honestly, can any one of you say that since you have been saved, you have never been sick, never gone without, never struggled in your life, that it really has been a bed of roses and fine and dandy? Ok, so there must be something else then, did Jesus achieve anything in particular by dying for us? Yes, He achieved one thing, the only thing that he went to the cross for - Salvation - read **John 3v16**. really, go and read it, a couple of times, think about it, if you were to die today would you be saved? If your answer is yes, well that is the only thing he has achieved in totality by going to the cross, he defeated death and the grave by rising again, for what reason? God so loved us!

Now before you get your theological stones out to stone me, yes, he did achieve the "Possibility" of health, victory and prosperity for us (which by the way is not only financial but to prosper in your soul first read **3 John 1v2**) What does the Bible call Jesus in **1Cor 15v5**? Why would the word of God call him that? Something I have always thought about, I don't know if it was a teaching I had heard or what, I think it may have been that first church I went to that Full Gospel church which was so full of the love of God it was ridiculous.

Jesus was called the second, or if you like the last Adam, (well there was a first anyway) so he must have fixed something that the first one broke? What was that?? If you read in **Genesis** you will see in **chapter 2v15 to 17** and then read **Chapter 3v6-11**. then put these scriptures together with **John 4v23; Exodus 20v2-4** along with **Matt 4v10**. What is the common thread we see here, it is to worship God, Worship the Lord, look after his garden, his creation..... we were created to fellowship with and have communion with the Lord God but unfortunately Adam and Eve stuffed up and ate of the fruit that God told them not to, they were banished from the Garden and no longer walked with God in the cool of the day. God was looking for them, he knew something was amiss, from then on, they lost fellowship with God like what they had prior to eating of the fruit.

OK, I can say here then, that Jesus came, died and rose again to give us back that intimacy with God again? If so, why is there so much emphasis on everything else but worship to God, fellowship with God? Would it be correct in stating that Satan who ripped us off is still ripping us off today by having us bicker about trivial matters, chase after things that we want, or we think is "of God". Do we really spend the amount of time with God just like Adam and Eve did or do we spend time still trying to obtain to what "we think" God would have us do? I question my walk with God every day, and I try to adjust my bad habits and learnt lifestyle to what God really wants - to fellowship with him! I rarely even use the words "I was praying" any more, instead I have a conviction of "I was talking with the Lord".

Lately I have found myself "talking to the Lord and asking, "God how do you want me to respond to this matter, do you want me in this conversation, do you appreciate what I am doing"? To say the least I have been tried over the last three months as well by having this chain of thought, I have had many things come at me from every side to try and distract me. I have been watching quite a few preachers lately on the internet preaching on this very subject and they have also shared they too experienced major distractions. But they didn't give up, they haven't given up, they spend more time now talking with the Lord, and learning to listen to his voice than anything else in their lives. Now they are reaping the benefits of it years later having a very close and personal walk with God, hearing his voice, his direction for their lives, and only now are they starting to see all those other things come into play, the health, prosperity, victory, why?

I believe it is because of what Jesus said in **Matt 6v33**, "seek first the Kingdom of God...." see **Lk 17v21** tells us a truth we need to get a hold of as well. What is the Kingdom of God? Read **Romans 14v17 and 1Cor 4v20** and have a think about it. Is it anything to do with what we do? Is it anything to do with where we go? Is it to do with who we are or what we have or what we have achieved? No, I doubt it very much. Recently, I have watched some particular people who have gotten so wrapped up in "their Ministry" that they have literally stopped preaching the gospel. I have watched it from the side lines and just tried to learn or see what was happening, I was shocked to say the least when they stopped preaching in a particular area, it was the last thing I would have expected! They proudly tell everyone of their new endeavours, but rarely does anyone hear the great preaching they once loved to do so much.

I learn a lot by watching people, not long ago, I had the opportunity to get all upset at some people who I thought were great in my eyes and they made a minor mistake, but it affected someones else's life drastically for a period of time. It was then that I realised God only wants us to worship him, not chase after things or try and become someone special in the worlds eyes or in our own eyes for that matter. The greatest thing I have noticed about these preachers talking about this subject of intimacy with God is their humility! They would have to be the most humble people I have ever met! There are two people in particular who I know who have helped me in this area, and every time we talk about this subject, tears and a quiver come to their voice, a desire beyond description emanates from them to get closer to God. They have had the opportunity to be ministers and didn't take it up, they have had many opportunities to be offended, but just sought after God in their lives, I don't see them as much as I would like, but when I do I always go away feeling encouraged, they accept me for who I am, and they are not Bikers.

These people take everything they have to God in prayer, they once made the comment "to bring someone before the feet of Jesus is all we can do. To show someone the love of God is the only thing we can be satisfied with", and they have shown it to me in a many ways. They pray for me daily, they read this newsletter, they know my faults, my inconsistencies, my attitudes and my errors. They just pray for me and they have done so for about 10 years maybe. Why? Because they know the love of God, they know Jesus died for you, for me, for everyone and that Jesus loves us! I owe them a lot to say the least.

Think about it, God loves us, he wants us to fellowship with him, not be self seeking, not be right all the time, not be chasing "things", yes he wants us to have good things, but would you believe it if I told you he wants to show you how he wants you to do it. He wants to be intimate with you, show you his love for mankind, there is a lot more to God than our theology or thoughts. Is he your Lord and Saviour, or is he just a Saviour to you? Seek him today!