

Join us this year as we look at the exciting things God has done in people's lives over 35 years of ministry.



1975-2010 35 years of Ministry

By **JOHNNY**Upton

JOHNNY FIRST HEARD OF CMA IN AUGUST OF 1977, HE AND HIS FIFTEEN YEAR OLD SON ATTENDED A MOTORCYCLE RUN IN LUBBOCK, TEXAS. THEY MET DAVE AND LINDA SHERROD WHO INTRODUCED THEM TO THE CHRISTIAN MOTORCYCLISTS ASSOCIATION. JOHNNY AND SANDRA SUBMITTED THEIR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION THAT SEPTEMBER.

In 1975, Johnny became interested in "touring" on motorcycles but at that time Sandra didn't share his interest. When the opportunity arose to ride to Eureka Springs, Arkansas for the 1978 National Rally he signed up. Sandra wasn't convinced she could ride that far but because it was a Christian event and they would be going to Eureka Springs, she decided to give it a try. The rest is history, so to speak.

CMA events were small and intimate in the early years and of course included camper trailers. Comfortable, well equipped motorcycles were not available at that time. Motorcycle travel and camping was a little more primitive in the 1970's. Their first event at Hatfield was one of the initial Changing of the Colors Rallies. At that time

CMA's headquarters consisted of a small wooden framed building. The camp area was small and primitive. Large tree trunks had been cut and put in place for those attending to sit on.

Some of Johnny and Sandra's favorite memories include the early years, Herb Shreve, Tom Pitman, the rallies, and good times they had with their families. Johnny and Sandra were at the rally in Talhequah, Oklahoma when Greg Heinritz showed up on his Moto Guzzi with the paintings of scantily clad women. Greg accepted Christ at this rally and took a spray can and covered the pictures with black paint.

Johnny remembers Herbie and Diane Shreve coming on staff. He always marveled at how they could pack all of their kids and travel across this great country on motorcycles. Another fond memory was being members of the Fishermen, the seventh chartered chapter, meeting new friends, traveling to local rallies, and becoming part of the motorcycling community.

They have made many, many friends over the years from all areas of the country. CMA has given them direction in their walk with Christ. It has provided them a means to serve in a ministry that is exciting, fun, fulfilling, and making a difference.

They have seen lost bikers come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior as a result of CMA members ministering to them in various ways. Many are now members of CMA. They believe the growth of CMA is directly related to CMA's desire to put God first and follow His guidance.

CMA has progressed throughout the years in different areas. Membership numbers are well into six digits. The original campground has grown. The Support Center has gotten larger and more sophisticated. Iron Mountain is a wonderful facility and praise God CMA has been able to acquire this property and make all improvements debt free.

CMA's membership is the most loving, diverse, giving, and commit-

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