



Locked Down For The Lord Prison Ministry, Inc.
Larry & Kathy Medford
P.O. Box 1900, Hope, AR 71802
(870) 777-7528
Email: biker4christ@cablelynx.com
Website: www.lockeddown4thelord.com

July 2017

Blessings to you in Jesus name! I'll begin the newsletter with an update on Larry. The blood clot in his leg is still there and he will be taking blood thinners for a couple more months. Our doctor said clots in the calf of the leg don't usually move to other areas of the body so that is a blessing. He saw his urologist in late June for a urinary tract infection. He ordered a CT scan on his left kidney and got a good report; no stones or fragments there praise God! We are so thankful first of all to God for His healing touch and for all the prayers on Larry's behalf. There is power in prayer. Larry has returned to his regular schedule at the Ouachita River Unit in Malvern, AR. The last few weeks he has been at the unit two days a week.

I mentioned in our May newsletter that we had taken a team to the Delta Regional Unit in Dermott, AR the first weekend in June. It was a good weekend and we were blessed to have several men with us who had served time in the Arkansas prison system. We visited in the barracks and spent most of Saturday out on the yard. Larry rode his old Harley down the hallway early Saturday morning to make sure the men were awake! We didn't do as many bike games as we had planned on but many of the men seemed to enjoy having someone to talk to and just looking at the bikes. Friday evening Bro. Terrell Polite brought the message. Terrell came to the prison with us for the first time when he was in his early twenties. We asked him to share something then and he did although he was very nervous. Now he is married, has three sweet children, has written some books and preaches whenever he has the opportunity. He told the men that prison is not their last stop and that they need to focus on renewing their minds. Saturday evening Danny Knick brought a message about the Kingdom of God. He led the men through a lot of Scripture and encouraged them to look up the verses and study them. Sunday morning, Bro. Paul Shelton brought the message out of Leviticus 25.

Friday evening, Randy Phillips who spent 14 years in prison told the men how he found God when he was 'in the hole' which is an isolation cell. He said when he was looking around the cell, he saw crosses everywhere where the concrete blocks met. He pointed out those same crosses on the wall in the room we were having service in. Clyde Hawkins spent 12 years in prison; most of them at the Delta Unit. We met Clyde the first time we were at the unit and have stayed in touch over the years. He told the men those were the best 12 years of his life because before prison, he couldn't see the bars that had him bound. He encouraged the men to make Jesus the center of their lives. Clyde decided during the weekend that he wanted to become a Certified Religious Assistant at the unit and we know he will be a big blessing to those men. David Shockey also served time in the ADC and shared with the men on Saturday night. David's wife Toni is the chaplain at the unit. Gary Wise, also an ex-offender, shared with the men on Saturday night. Gary told the men about going to get his driver's license when he got out of prison and how he realized that because of his relationship with God, he was not the same man in the photo on his old driver's license. Some of the men knew Randy, Clyde, David and Gary. It is encouraging for them to hear the testimonies of men like this who have served their time and are living productive lives now. And we know that is only because they have made Jesus the Lord of their lives.

On Saturday June 17, we rode to Prescott, AR for the Swampriders Annual party at their clubhouse. We enjoyed the fellowship with a lot of friends we don't see other than at this rally.

We left for the Motor Maids Convention in East Peoria, IL on Saturday morning, July 8. We took a little extra time at gas stops and had the opportunity to hand out cross pennies and earrings at a couple stops. We made it to my sisters in Ellis Grove, IL about 7PM that evening. It was a blessing for us that convention was in Illinois and gave us a chance to visit with family on our way to and from convention. We left my sister's house on Monday morning and got to our hotel about 12:30. As we were getting out of the elevator, Larry gave one of the Motor Maids a cross penny. She had a story to share with us. Her husband and daughter had both died recently. She was checking out at a store, feeling discouraged and looked down and saw a cross penny on the counter. She knew then that she was not alone. Larry gave another couple pennies and earrings. They had been having trouble with their bike and had misplaced some personal things but after getting the pennies and earrings, the bike was fine and they found the missing items. The patriotic cross pins were also a popular item in the breakfast area during our stay at convention.

We were looking at old photo albums from past conventions and found Larry's mom, Norma Medford in photos from 1968 and 1970. Norma was a life member of Motor Maids. The Motor Maids had a photographer there and Larry struck up a conversation with him and his daughter. He asked if Larry wanted to buy any photos and he told him no but he would like to have copies of the photos of his mom. He offered to take pictures of them and email them to us and we were thankful for that. The next day, he gave Larry an envelope with copies of both photos. He told Larry he had made quite an impression on his daughter and he wanted to give us the copies.

Wednesday afternoon, we met Donna who has been a Motor Maid for fifty years. She received her Golden Life award at the convention Thursday night. She has a lot of records from past conventions and someone suggested Larry talk to her to see if she knew his mom Norma Medford. She didn't remember Norma but we spent a long time talking to her. She is taking cancer treatments and was disappointed her doctor told her she couldn't ride to convention from her home in Nebraska. Donna believes that God is going to see her through her health problems and we told her we would be praying for her. She introduced us to her husband Don and we invited them to eat supper with us along with another couple, Darryl and Doris. The next morning at our meeting, I gave Donna two patriotic cross pins and she started to tear up. She pulled out a picture of her twenty-four-year-old grandson in his military uniform. He was killed in May. God puts people in our path for a reason and we are so thankful that we met Donna and Don. Larry also had the opportunity to visit Teen Challenge while we were in East Peoria. Friends of ours have a son who is there going through the program and the staff let Larry talk to him. Later that day, they thanked Larry for the visit and said he had made an impact on this young man. While I was in a meeting, Larry also felt led to stop at a small motorcycle shop and discovered the owner and his wife were believers. We got back home late Friday evening, round trip was 1,572 miles. We were thankful for the Lord's protection from some strong storms on our way home Friday. For several miles, the sky ahead of us was black and we saw a lot of lightning but we kept riding and later, the sky cleared.

We plan to leave for bike week in Sturgis, SD on Friday evening August 4. It seems like we just got home and we are leaving again! We plan to be gone one week and look forward to the opportunities the Lord has for us in route to South Dakota and after we arrive. Our friend Craig or Bart as we call him is already looking forward to bike week. Darryl Fox is going with us and we know Bart is ready to get on the bike with Darryl and ride somewhere. Larry and I stayed with Bart two years ago, and it really opened our eyes to how lonely it must be to be blind and live alone and rely on others for help. I think we are all guilty of forgetting just how blessed we are. We appreciate your continued prayers and financial support more than you know.

Blessings & Peace,

Larry & Kathy