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"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33

As I am writing this, Hurricane Irma is making landfall in Florida. Texas is still recovering from Hurricane Harvey and Montana; Oregon and California are battling wildfires. Please join us in praying for those affected by these disasters and for those who are helping with recovery and clean-up. It seems our country pulls together during times like this but shouldn't it be that way all the time? Let's pray that our nation can come together as 'one nation under God' and get rid of the hatred and violence.

Larry, Darryl Fox and I left for Sturgis, SD on Friday evening, August 4th. We were thankful for cooler, dry weather when we left. We put leather jackets and chaps on when we stopped for gas south of Oklahoma City, OK. As we were doing that, we talked about the time a few years ago, that temperatures were in the upper 80's in that same area late in the night. Once we got north of Wichita, KS we could see lightning ahead of us. We stopped at a rest area where the CMA has coffee and snacks. There was a man there from Oklahoma working on a 1980 Harley. We spent some time there trying to help him get back on the road. We got into some heavy rain and about 6AM Saturday decided to pull into a Walmart in Concordia, KS and set one camper up and wait out the storm. When we checked the radar, Concordia was under a flash flood warning. By 8AM, the worst was past that area so we got back on the road. We rode in more rain that morning but by early afternoon it cleared up. Then it rained again after we got into South Dakota. I saw a beautiful rainbow as we were coming into Rapid City but with all the rain that day, my iPad was packed away so I didn't get a picture of it. We got into Sturgis about 7PM Saturday evening. We had ridden 1,275 miles and we were tired and I think even more tired of riding in the rain!

This year we stayed in Sturgis at Bob and Sharon Roush's home. They are members of His Laboring Few Ministry and during the rally they move out and let other ministry members stay at the house. They serve free breakfast every morning in the front yard for anyone that stops in. We had a Bible study every morning before everyone left to go their separate ways and minister. We enjoyed staying there and hope to stay again next year. We had met several members before but we got to know them better throughout the week. And an added blessing, the house is just two blocks from Main Street so we could walk downtown and didn't have to fight the traffic or find a parking place.

Sunday morning, we went to One Eyed Jack's Saloon on Main Street for the Hellfighter's service. Darryl and Larry rode to Rapid City and picked up our blind friend, Bart and he came to the service with us. After the service, we walked down to Music For The Soul which is Don and Rhea Overbey's ministry. That afternoon, we went to the commissioning ceremony at the Hellfighter's Mission At The Cross. They asked everyone to gather on the parking lot and join hands and pray. Those who could kneel, knelt. Several ministries were represented there and they asked a spokesperson from each ministry to share a few words about their ministry. That evening, we took Bart to eat at the Golden Corral in Rapid City. He is a picky eater and this place has a variety of food. Larry takes him through the line, tells him what they have and he tells Larry what he wants on his plate. Bart didn't get much riding in this year. He fell on

Sunday and hurt his back so riding was out of the picture. He rides behind Darryl and he had to leave Wednesday to visit his family in Wisconsin.

Monday, our friends Jim and Alberta stopped by after breakfast. They live in Sturgis and we have been friends on Facebook for a couple years. It was good to finally meet them in person. Alberta is taking treatments for cancer. Pastor Frank from HLF Ministry is also taking cancer treatments and prayed with Alberta. Alberta's cancer doctor is Muslim. Alberta told him 'you take care of the doctoring and I'll do the praying'. We like her attitude! We also had a chance to lay hands on and pray with a young lady helping Don and Rhea with their ministry. She had twisted her ankle and it was very swollen. Darryl is an RN and he looked at her ankle and said it wasn't broken. Within two days, the swelling was gone and she was walking on it.

Tuesday evening, we went to Rapid City so I could participate in the flag ceremony with some other Motor Maids before the Flat Track Races. There were nine Motor Maids that took part. On Wednesday, we met John and Becky Ogden for lunch. John was with Larry on August 3, 1998 when Larry was saved. It's hard to believe that was nineteen years ago! Wednesday evening, we walked down to Main Street. We spent a long time sitting on a bench talking to a man named Roger from Sioux Falls, SD. A couple evenings before that, we talked to some men from St. Louis and discovered we had mutual friends.

We've got an old friend, Tommy T. that we normally see in Sturgis and Daytona but we hadn't seen him in a couple years. Given the lifestyle Tommy lives, we wondered if he was still alive. Thursday morning, we were walking around in Sturgis and found a vendor Tommy had worked for in the past. We asked about him and the man said Tommy is right over there and pointed him out. I don't think we would have recognized him. He had shaved, cut his hair short and lost a lot of weight. Tommy told us he had two strokes and almost died. He quit using drugs and alcohol and said he was amazed at the friends who helped him after he got sick. We were thankful to find him and kept trying to impress on him that God had His hand on him or he wouldn't still be here. Our friend Chuck from Canada stopped to see us Friday morning. Friday afternoon we went to the nursing home with Rich and Jennie Hardesty from JC & Us Ministry and their friend Richard. I played the piano and everyone sang some hymns. Larry introduced everyone and Jennie and her puppet Randy had the residents laughing. Rich and Jennie had hats for the men and hats or scarves for the ladies. The residents gave us coloring sheets they had colored for us. We spent some time talking to them after the service. It is always a blessing to be able to go to the nursing home and share the love of Jesus with those folks.

Larry and I left for the trip home on Saturday morning. After looking at the weather, we decided to take a different route home in hopes to avoid the rain. We rode east across South Dakota and dropped down into Iowa and Missouri. We were successful until about 1AM Sunday morning around Neosho, MO. Larry probably would have kept going but I told him I thought it would be safer to stop and ride the rest of the way in the morning. We rode through some heavy rain in northwest Arkansas but God was watching over us. And I am thankful for Larry's riding skills because sometimes people out on the road do crazy things like the woman in Lockesburg, AR who pulled out right in front of us Sunday afternoon.

I'm sure I probably left out some things that I wanted to share but hopefully I hit the highlights of our trip. Thanks to our friend John in Florida who sent us 800 pair of cross penny earrings for the trip. We're planning to attend Bikes, Blues & BBQ later this month and a Motor Maids Field Meet on Petit Jean Mountain. We appreciate your prayers and financial support.

Love & Peace,

Larry & Kathy