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'I can do all things through Him who gives me strength'. Philippians 4:13

I'm running late getting this newsletter out and would ask for your prayers as I explain the delay. The day before we left for bike week in Sturgis, SD I had a biopsy on my left breast. The day after our return from Sturgis I was told that I had triple negative breast cancer. Not at all the report we had been praying for, but we are trusting God to see us through. And I say, 'us' because this affects both Larry and I. I started treatment at UAMS in Little Rock on September 19th and would ask you to agree with us in prayer that I won't have any side effects during treatment and for a complete healing in Jesus name! As our old friend Rollie liked to say when he faced an illness 'God's got my back' and we know God certainly does.

I mentioned in the July newsletter that we spent 5 days in Montgomery, AL at the Motor Maids 78th Convention. Our first evening there we met Alison from Waco, TX. This was her first time at convention and she asked if she could sit with us. She was raised in a Christian home and lost her husband four years ago. He had two bikes and she loved to ride so she decided to buy a trike. We gave her a cross penny and earrings and visited with her for a long time. There was a lot of historical places to see within walking distance of our hotel so we took advantage of that. We made friends with the young lady that was working at the Hank Williams Museum. We gave her a cross penny and earrings and she gave us a copy of the book 'The Story of Hank & Audrey Williams' written by their daughter. We also met a Dotty Bridgford and her husband. Dotty is a Golden Life Member of Motor Maids and they both knew Larry's parents. We also got to visit with our friends Donna and Don from Nebraska. We met them last year at convention in Peoria. Donna is still taking cancer treatments but was in good spirits and looked great. It was a good week and we are thankful for God's protection as we traveled.

Larry, Darryl Fox and I left on Friday evening, August 3rd for Sturgis, SD. It seemed strange to be riding in a vehicle instead of on the bikes after all these years of riding to Sturgis. Larry and Darryl took turns driving and we got to Sturgis late Saturday afternoon. We stayed with our friends Don and Rhea Overbey who have Music For The Soul stage set up at their house on Main Street. They live in Kansas and have a renter in this house who usually moves out during bike week. This year, their renter Tracy was just finishing up with cancer treatment so she was there and we enjoyed meeting her and ministering to her. Sunday morning, we went to the service the Hellfighter's had at One Eyed Jack's Saloon. Our friend Alberta met us there. We met Alberta and her husband Jim last year. Alberta is a cancer survivor. Jim recently had a heart attack and was having problems with some of his heart medication and wasn't able to come to the service. Sunday afternoon, we went to the commissioning service at the Hellfighter's Mission At the Cross. It is always a blessing to see all the ministries come together to fellowship and prayer together as the rally week starts.

Monday, Larry and Darryl spent the day helping Rich Vreeland and his crew at the Free Oil Change. They set up next to the Free Bike Wash and do oil changes on bikes for anyone that brings in their bike, oil and filter. I worked on sending out around 40 postcards to inmates and helped Rhea and Ambrea with food preparation. There is always sandwich stuff for lunch, but the evening meal involves more work, especially when you aren't sure how many people you may feed but God provides and there was always plenty of good food.

We had breakfast with our brothers and sisters from His Laboring Few Ministries almost every morning. They were set up just a few blocks from where we stayed. Tuesday morning, we were there when they baptized Rose and Edgar, a young Hispanic couple. They baptized them in a metal watering trough in the yard and the water was cold, but the young couple didn't seem to mind at all. Ambrea who helps Don and Rhea was also baptized there during the rally. We went to Rapid City Tuesday to pick up our blind friend, Craig or Bart as we call him. He had back surgery recently, so we picked him up in a vehicle and took him back to Music For The Soul to spend the afternoon. He was disappointed that he didn't get to ride on a bike this year but finally agreed that it was probably for the best. Our brother Ponch fixed some awesome tacos for supper that night and Bart loves tacos so maybe that made up for it! On Wednesday, we parked the bikes on Main Street. We had cross pennies, earrings, patriotic cross pins, tracts and Bibles sitting by the bikes. The old bikes draw a lot of people and sometimes if we are sitting close by, we ask if they know what year the bike is just to strike up a conversation. We also had lunch with John Ogden on Wednesday. Twenty years ago on August 3, 1998 that Larry gave his life to the Lord sitting in John Ogden's pop-up camper at Vanocker Campground just outside Sturgis. Thursday we decided to try to find our old friend Tommy T. and we found him. He has had a few more health problems but he looked good and was in good spirits. He also told us that he is going to church every Sunday. We know that going to church doesn't make you a Christian but for someone like Tommy, this is definitely a step in the right direction.

On Friday afternoon we made our annual visit to the Sturgis Regional Senior Care. I looked back through old newsletters and found that our first visit here was in 2007. These people are such a blessing and are always excited to see us. We start by introducing ourselves and telling where we are from. I played the piano and we sang some of their favorite hymns. Rich and Jenny from JC and Us Ministries had little biker bears for each resident. Jenny and her puppet Randy gave a devotional. Our brother Ponch loves to talk about Jesus so Larry asked him to share something with the group. He gave his testimony and talked about Romans 10:8-10. After the service, we usually walk around and talk to the residents. I talked to a lady named Franca who was originally from Italy. She talked about her late husband and how she missed him. She said she hadn't planned to come to the service but she was glad she changed her mind because we lifted her spirits. And that is why we go, to let them know they haven't been forgotten and to encourage them. Friday evening, we had the chance to talk to a young lady working at a vendor who was celebrating 26 days clean. And I will admit the ride home in an air-conditioned truck when it was in the upper 90's when we left Sturgis was a blessing!

We also had the opportunity to set up the old bikes and cross pennies, earrings, etc. at Cruise Night in Hope in August. We worked at the Hot Springs Rally on Saturday September 8th and had the chance to spend some time with Jeff Ford, a young man we met in prison almost twenty years ago. We had lost contact with Jeff until a few months ago but we're going to do our best to stay connected this time. He has told people that we are more of a mom and dad to him than his parents were.

Larry is doing his best to keep his regular prison schedule and take me to doctor appointments. We may slow down for a little while, but this ministry will keep moving forward and sharing the Gospel in the prisons and at motorcycle rallies. Don't forget about our sock campaign for Christmas Behind Bars. To date, we have collected one hundred thirteen pair of socks and eighteen bars of soap. If you want to make a donation to buy socks, just be sure to put that on the check or money order. We are thankful for all of you and your faithful support and prayers.

Blessings,

Larry & Kathy