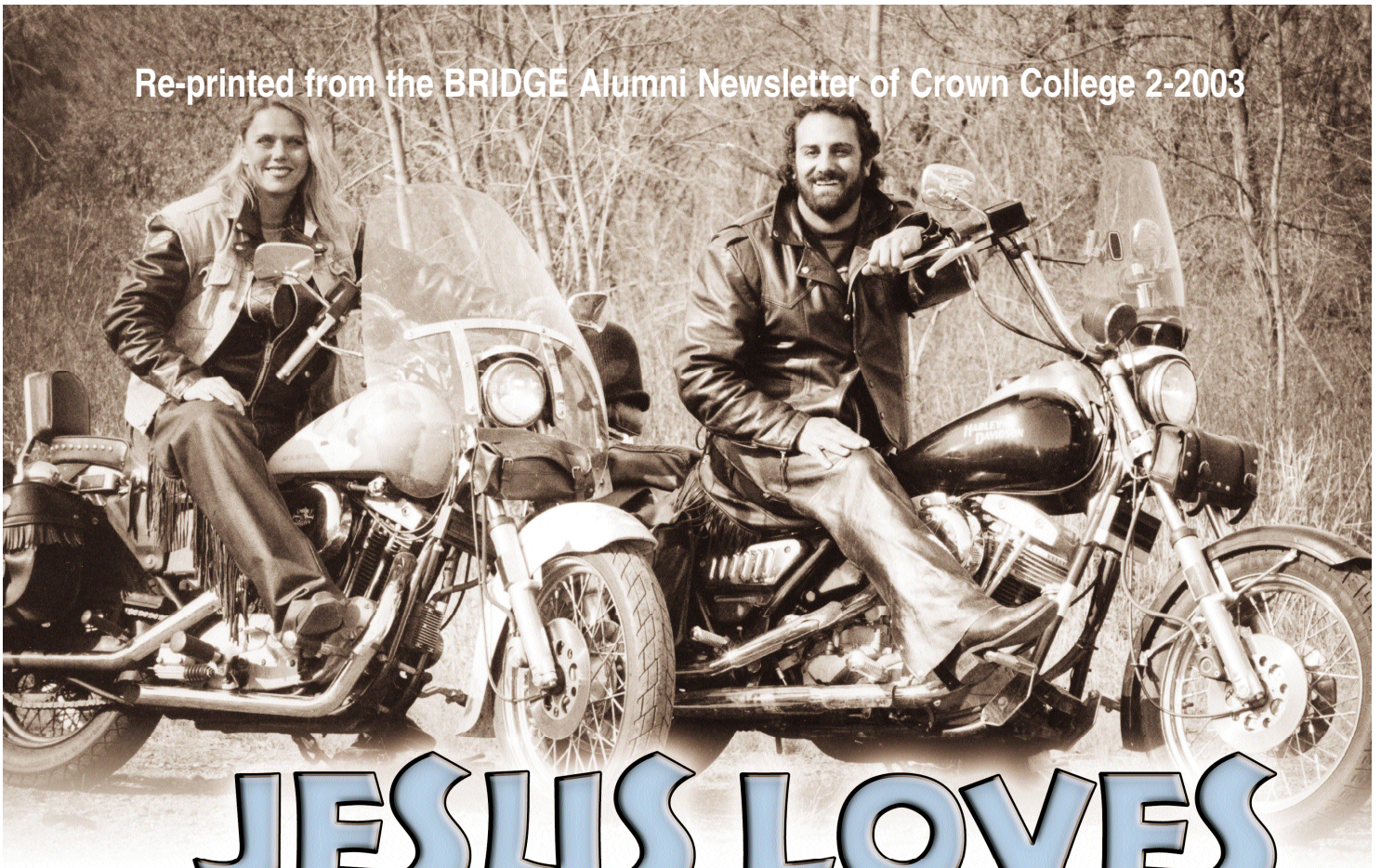


Re-printed from the BRIDGE Alumni Newsletter of Crown College 2-2003



# JESUS LOVES BIKERS TOO

by  
*Michael G. Bushilla*

**"How much for the wash?"**

**"It's free."**

**"What do you mean it's free, what's the catch? You want a donation or something?"**

**"No. There's no catch. This is how we choose to show the love of Jesus Christ to people in a way they might understand."**

**To my surprise the biker dismounted his Harley and pulled me aside. The lines on his face seemed to point to a life lived in pain. With a broken and sincere spirit he asked if I would pray for his daughter; she had started stripping and he was really concerned for her. I put my arm around the man and began to pray.**

The beginning of this story and many others, began eight years ago when my wife Paula and I made a trip to Sturgis, South Dakota for the annual biker rally. An estimated 500,000 to 750,000 bikers converge on that small town each year. As bikers, we thought it might be a fun experience, but we really didn't know what to expect. Almost immediately upon arriving in Sturgis I felt out of place and disillusioned. This wasn't the place for me, and I decided that I would never go back.

Coming home from the trip, however, God placed a huge burden on my heart to reach those bikers. He confirmed that desire through a sermon tape from our church with guest speaker, Steve Sjogren. Sjogren is the author of *"A Conspiracy of Kindness"* and spoke on how to share the love of Jesus in practical ways such as having a free car wash or wrapping Christmas presents at a local mall. Then and there the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart and conveyed to me that next year I was to go back to Sturgis and start a ministry. I began to pray about how to find contacts in Sturgis to set up a free bike wash.

The task proved harder than what I had first anticipated. In a town where money is the primary motivator during the rally, lot spaces are scarce and very expensive. But when God sends you into the harvest field, He always makes a way. Soon after I arrived I was introduced to a



Christian gentleman who owned a whole city block in downtown Sturgis. He offered a parking lot to me—at no cost—and God's ministry began to take shape.

Our plan was straight forward. Everyone who stopped by would get his or her bike washed (and prayed over.) And before they left, they received a Bible bookmark along with a tract explaining why we do what we do. The tract draws a parallel between God's gift of salvation and the free bike wash. There is absolutely no cost and no money is taken; the gift is offered in love. You cannot earn it or buy it. It's that simple.

For the past seven years, God has used us to minister to a disenfranchised group of people. We wash approximately 1,000 bikes every year—praying over each one. God has set us in the middle of one of the largest biker parties in the United States, maybe even the world, and we've met people from nearly all fifty states as well as several different countries. Bikers remember us, and some come back year after year to talk and share a piece of their lives. It's not often that we are fortunate enough to witness the Lord's harvest, so when we do it's pretty special.

Two summers ago, a man came by the wash and told me this story: "On my way home I couldn't stop thinking about what you did for me at Sturgis. But then as time went on, I just forgot about it. Three months later as I was cleaning off my dresser, I came across the small booklet you gave me. I sat on my bed and read the booklet for the first time. Later as I was on my way to work, a soft voice spoke to me and I knew it was God. He was so clear. I immediately stopped my truck, got out, raised my hands and surrendered my life to Jesus. I just wanted you to know. Thanks Man!"

One of the most memorable experiences involved an outlaw biker and his passenger. The man and woman parked their bike next to the "JESUS LOVES BIKERS TOO" sign. Gang colors and the paint job on the bike—a skull and cross bones along with the message "see you in hell, suckers"—made it quickly evident that the man was a veteran member of the Hell's Angels motorcycle gang. While they walked over to our refreshment tent, where we offer beverages and shade to those who stop by, my team and I gathered around the bike and began to pray, hoping that we would have an opportunity to share the love of Jesus with them. As we finished washing the bike, the two came over and asked if we would pray over their motorcycle for safety.



Just twelve hours earlier he and another member of the Hells Angel's were riding out of Montana when his riding partner hit an SUV truck head-on and was instantly killed. So shaken by their brush with death, the two wanted a prayer for safety. As I began the prayer for safety, I felt the Lord was telling me that these people were ready to accept Him into their hearts. I explained the plan of salvation to the couple and they bowed their heads—right there in broad daylight, on one of the busiest streets in town, wearing full Hells Angel's colors—and both received Christ into their hearts.

Although there are many other stories to tell, we've come to realize that our ministry is predominately one of sowing seeds that God will use in the future. God has continued to grow the ministry. Three years ago, a Wesleyan church in Sturgis offered their building and parking lot to us for the bike wash. They could easily get \$10,000 for the week renting it to a vendor, but the pastor wants to have an outreach for the bikers during the rally rather than profit financially.

The church we attend has made this ministry an official outreach of their congregation. Last year there were three different churches represented on the bike washing team. If you would like more information on how you can be a part of this ministry, contact us by e-mail at: [freebikewash@sturgis.com](mailto:freebikewash@sturgis.com) or call Michael toll free at 1-888-211-6106, or locally 651-459-4363.

If you are in Sturgis the first week of August, stop by and see us at the Wesleyan Church. "And keep on sowing your seeds, for you never know which ones will grow—perhaps all will."

*Ecclesiastes 11:6*

*The team this year really needs your prayers! We will be leaving on this year's mission trip Aug 1, 2003-Aug. 9, 2003. Please pray for us during those days. Paula, Michael's wife will be having a prayer meeting during the rally, call her if you are interested in joining them for prayer. @ 651-459-4363.*

*Also if you are being lead to support this trip financially make your check out to Woodland Hills Church and in the memo state Sturgis Mission Trip. Thank you!*

*Michael Bushilla (shown in the photo on the opposite page with his wife Paula) attended the College from 1978-1981. He is owner of MGB Printing Services, Inc. in Cottage Grove, Minn., and resides there with Paula and their son, Alex. They are Covenant Partners at Woodland Hills Church in St. Paul, Minn. His daughter Venetia and son-in-law Marc Johnson also attended Crown College*