

The History of Motorcyclists For Jesus Ministries Inc.



Preamble

Up until 2006, no one had given much thought to MJM's history. LifeTime member Shirley Lemaster suggested to the MJM Board that MJM should have a Historian, someone to maintain a historical record of MJM. Many members have no idea of how or where MJM first got started. She even submitted the name of someone for the job. At the 2007 Spring Kick-Off Board Meeting in West Harrison, Indiana under the direction of Phil Guica and board members Bob Dillon, Vernon Hawkins, Mark Tronerud, and Fred McClincy, the possibility of creating an MJM History Record was discussed. They asked the new Membership Secretary Karl Wardlaw if he would be interested in working as the first MJM Historian. After some discussion about how in depth the MJM history would be, Fred McClincy made the motion to table the idea until Karl checked into how much historical information could be located and obtained. At the November 2007 Board Meeting held in Sugar Creek, Ohio, the board, under the direction of Phil Guica and board members Bob Dillon, Vern Hawkins, Wes Miller, Mark Tronerud and Fred McClincy, agreed to the idea of having an MJM Historian. They contacted Karl who was on his way to an AMA Sanction Meeting and asked him if he would be the first MJM Historian. Karl agreed to be the historian for one year.

The first draft for the historical record for Motorcyclists for Jesus Ministries Inc. was completed in February 2008, 19 years to the month after MJM was founded. After completion, the draft copy was submitted to Joan Philpott, Ron & Shirley Elliott and Hubert & Jean Gregory the remaining five founding members, to verify the accuracy of how the ministry was founded. After their review, verification and changes, the MJM Historical Record was submitted to the Board Chairman Phil Guica in March 2008 for board review and approval. The board reviewed the historical record and suggested a few verbiage changes be made. The history of Motorcyclists For Jesus Ministries Inc. is maintained for the benefit of current, future members and any interested parties.

Resources

MJM's history has been broken down into various topics, each topic covering the entire history of that topic. For example, when reading about the history of the Voice Newsletter on page-5, it starts with the first March 1989 issue and gives the Voice History inclusive through the present time. Topics are set up in this manner so the complete history of each topic can be seen in its entirety. Topics are listed in chronological order as much as possible. Many things took place about the same time during the first few years. It's hard to determine which topic preceded the other.

All the information compiled in this historical record was obtained from:

- a) MJM's Founding Members & Letters they wrote and/or received.
Personal Experiences and Knowledge of the Events,
- b) Minutes from MJM Board Meetings & Original Board Documents,
- c) MJM Voice Newsletter Archives.

We thank MJM Founder Joan Philpott who graciously supplied many of the original items found in this Historical Record. Her help was invaluable in the verification of the founding years of Motorcyclist for Jesus Ministries.

This History Document was first approved on **March 2009** by the MJM Board of Directors.
Board Chairman.. **Vernon Hawkins**

About the Author,

Karl Wardlaw has been riding motorcycles for almost 50 years. He met his wife Kerma when he was discharged from the Army in 1966. They got married in 1969, God blessed them with two children: A daughter Kristina and a son Kyle, both of them are active in their own churches. Karl and Kerma have a well-rounded background in motorcycling. They were first active in a secular motorcycle club and have been involved in Christian Motorcycling for the past 25 years. Karl first served as Vice President of the Glory Bound Riders in Eaton, Ohio, which was a Chartered Chapter of the Christian Motorcycle Association. In March 1989, they joined Motorcyclists For Jesus as Charter Members. They have served in the administration of MJM in many areas since they joined. In July of 1989, Karl was appointed as one of the 12 original MJM Road Representatives. One year later, he was appointed the MJM Road Rep Administrator. He held that office for 11 years, retired from that position in October 2001, and then became a Road Rep in July 2004. In 1997, he became an MJM Board member, and served as board chairman in 2000-2001. They became LifeTime MJM Members in 2001. After retiring from the board in 2001, he served as the Voice Editor for one year. At the 2002 Spring Kick-Off, they were awarded the coveted "Missionary of the Year Award" the highest award a MJM Member can receive. It is proudly hanging in their livingroom for everyone to see. In 2004, he became the Dayton Believers TEAM president and still retains that position. When Founder Jean Gregory retired as the MJM Membership Secretary in 2006, Karl stepped in and filled that position for one year. In 2007, the MJM Board ask Karl if he would be the first MJM Historian. He agreed and compiled this Record of MJM's History.