Scroll of the SAINTS

(Reprint) Biker Thanksgiving Dinner Edition – 2026. This issue: Jesus is King!

A newsletter of the IRON SAINTS

The IRON SAINTS are an official chapter of the **Christian Motorcyclists Association** in Ann Arbor MI (#1017)



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CHAPTER RENEWAL

It amazes me to see Jesus at work in our chapter. First of all, I would like to thank our officers for serving in the chapter leadership in 2026. We will be conducting our chapter elections for 2027 officers during our November meeting being held on the 14th. We are sadden by the departure of Chaplain Brian "Ironman" Perkins from the chaplain officer position. God is calling him on a different path. He will still be a member of the Iron Saints, just not as noticeable as he was as chaplain. So we are electing a new chaplain, road captain, and treasurer, and we will see who receives the opportunity to be vice president. Liz Waliga will continue as secretary, and I will continue as president, since there were no challenges to the positions. We are saddened by the departure from this life of Iron Saints members Katherine Mulder and Maurice Morrison. But we are joyful that they are now in the presence of Jesus. We welcome several "new" members to the chapter; Elke Lesser, her son Mark Spencer, Russell and Janet Sims, and Joe Fabean. And there are people currently in-training and plan to become CMA Iron Saints chapter members in 2027. I am also looking forward to seeing how God will use each and every one of us in the chapter, and what new ministry avenues we might be taking in 2027. - Joe 'Slo Mo' Waliga



Dean Johnston
U.S. Navy Veteran
Former member Iron Saints, CMA
Went to be with the Lord in 2023

Please enjoy this devotional (from the Internet) and Be Faithful – Dean

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. - 2 Timothy 2:2. Do you know many people who are living with the next generation in mind? Probably not. Most of us have more than we can handle today without worrying about those who come after us. It would seem that Moses could have been caught in the same trap with all he had to do, but he wasn't. For years, he had been investing his life in a young man named Joshua. After Moses knew that he would not enter the Promised Land, and new leadership would be needed, we find him on his knees before God, asking God to make it clear who should take his place. When Moses prayed, God pointed to Joshua as the new leader of the people. Joshua had already proven himself a man of courage in his battle with Amalek; he was a man of humility, having spent many years as Moses' servant; and he was a man of faith, one of two men who had brought back a good report from spying out the Promised Land. Joshua was described as a man "in whom is the spirit." It has been said that "success without a successor is failure." In the midst of your present Christian endeavors, are you training someone to continue that ministry? That's what parenting is all about. And by the way, our children are one of our greatest opportunities for developing disciples of Christ for future years. You and I have a great responsibility to pray for the succeeding generations of leaders for the work of Christ, that His work might flourish and advance long after we are in our graves. It all depends on which generation you're living for.
Prayer - Lord, I pray for the young people in our Sunday school classes and youth programs. May we teach, nurture, and love them into leadership positions for Your kingdom. Amen.

To Ponder: Who is the next-generation person you could invest your life in?

COMING TO KNOW THE LORD

(an article by Slo-Mo from 2015)

You may have not seen this on the news or in the newspaper (or on facebook). ..

A biker was saved recently.
He was baptized and became born again.

Back in 2009, this biker would have cared less about Christ. But it was around that time that this biker, along with other bikers he associated with, came into contact with some members of the Christian Motorcyclists Association (CMA). And the CMA members, in faith in Christ, boldly but calmly lived out their lives amongst these bikers. One night, this biker said, "you know, every time I see you (CMAers), I know there is something bigger than me that I don't see, but I see in you." He was told, "in (Christ's) time, you might see what we see." He finally saw what most CMAers see, and accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior in the latter part of this year.

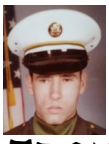
To ponder the question I have to ask myself is this, am I doing ALL that God has called me to do in CMA? Have I made adjustments in my life to let go of the old (not only the old from when I was first saved, but also the old as of yesterday), and take on the new from the living Jesus Christ? As I am CONTINUALLY renewed by his strength and purpose (Isaiah 40:31, 2 Corinthians 4:16), SOMETIMES, we will reap (John 4:38).
The CMAers involved with this biker tell me A LOT of seed had to be thrown in order for this biker to come to Christ, and not just by CMAers, but by people WILLING to be used by God. And this biker lived his life in a way that many who are of Christ's church of today would not reach out to him, because they were AFRAID to. Do we live in fear, or do we live in faith? (Psalm 91, 2 Timothy 1:7, Luke 10:19, Matthew 28:18-19). It has taken me a while in my life to really live by faith. But as I trust the Lord DAILY, I give up more of myself, and I turn more over to Jesus, and I stand where He calls me to stand, whether that is at a dirt track with a motocross event, contribute funds to a worthy cause at a motorcycle group event, eat birthday cake at a motorcycle-clubhouse, witnessing to youth strapping rubber bands around a watermelon at a CMA State Rally, or at a bonfire, blues festival, or Angels Night Patrol in run-down neighborhoods in the inner-city of Detroit, I have determined and have allowed myself to be prepared on a DAILY basis to GO! I have seen a few motorcyclists come to know the Lord that did not know Him when I first met them, and I am seeing more lives that Jesus is working on as I continue faithfully in my calling in outreach work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, through the Christian Motorcyclists Association. - Joe 'Slo Mo' Waliga

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Upcoming Chapter Meeting:
January 23rd, 2027
at Aubree's Pizzeria and Grill
2122 Whittaker Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48197
Meeting starts at 10:30am.

For more information, see:
https://bit.ly/ironsaintscma

(Meeting is open to the public)



Troy Veska, U.S. Army Veteran
Member of the Iron Saints, CMA

Transformed by the Lord

On January 15, 1995, I awoke in a Waynesville, Missouri jail cell. I had no idea how I had got there or what I had done. All I remembered was that a group of Military Police I was supervising had arrived at Ft. Leonard Wood the day prior to backfill their depleted forces, and we had gone out for dinner and ended up at several bars throughout the night. Sometime during that night, I drank so much alcohol that I blacked out like I had done so many times before. I was told by a police officer that I had refused to leave the last bar at closing time (the soldiers I was with had returned to the barracks much earlier) , and I had demanded another drink. The bartender had to physically push me out of the bar and lock the door behind me. At that point, I apparently punched out a large window, proceeded back into the bar and got into a fight with the bartender. After it was all said and done, I ended up striking him with a bottle and breaking his jaw. I waited for the police to arrive and taunted them as they tried to arrest me. It took 4 officers to subdue me.

The next day I was moved to the county jail. As I sat in a holding room where fingerprints were taken, I could see people entering and exiting the jail through a door that was opened and closed with a buzzer someone was operating from inside. As a sheriff deputy was taking my fingerprints, he was telling me about what he heard had occurred the night before and about how bad my situation was. He told me it was too bad I threw my life away like that. I felt so overwhelmed, scared and alone. I decided at that point, I had nothing to lose, my life was over and that I had no other choice... I waited until someone was getting buzzed in , and I darted past the Deputy and through the door to the outside just as the person wanting to enter pulled the door to the outside open. I heard people yelling to stop behind me, but I just kept running.

I took police on a nearly two-hour chase through Waynesville and into the Missouri Ozarks. A helicopter was deployed along with tracking dogs, city police, deputies, and state police. I could hear the dogs closing in as I scaled cliffs and ran through woods outside the city. Eventually I came into a clearing and ran face to face into a young state police officer who had been tracking me. He had his pistol drawn and told me to stop or he would shoot. I told him to do what he had to do, that I didn't care if I lived anymore, and I turned and walked away. A second later, instead of being shot, the officer had holstered his weapon and tackled me to the ground. He told me that today wasn't the day for me to die.

I was shackled and escorted back to the jail. I was stripped of my clothing down to my underwear and placed in solitary confinement. I was arraigned the next day on 7 felony charges to include aggravated assault, resisting arrest, and escape. My bail was set at $180, 000. I sat in that jail cell for 2 days contemplating suicide. On the third day, someone walking by my cell opened my food tray door and put something through into my cell. I heard him say "You could use this". I picked up a book off the ground. It was a copy of the Holy Bible. I never did find out who gave it to me, but that was the beginning of a new life for me. I read that Bible nonstop, day and night. I was so thirsty for more once I started reading the Word. I didn't know what it all meant or how I was supposed to pray for a relationship with Jesus, but I knew at that point I wasn't going to kill myself, that I would take responsibility for my actions, alcohol would never have control over my life again, and no matter what it entailed, I was going to pursue a relationship with Jesus.

On January 25th, I sat in the corner of my cell, still in solitary confinement, trying to figure out how everything was going to play out in my life. Was I going to prison for a really long time? Was my relationship over with my wife, daughter and step-son.? When was the Army going to throw me out? My worries were overwhelming my thoughts. At that moment I felt a hand on my shoulder.





Sitting next to me was who I knew for sure to be Jesus! He told me to quit worrying. He said to just believe in Him and to have faith in Him, and everything would work out just as God has planned. Then He was gone. I sat for a moment in awe, and then I got on my knees and gave my life over to Jesus that day! From that moment I witnessed miracle after miracle on my behalf. After being removed from solitary confinement to general population, I started attending a Bible Study group held at the jail weekly. One of the men who facilitated the group had taken an interest in my case and me. He wanted to know when I got bailed out if I wanted to attend his church with him. I explained that I was actually stationed in Arizona, and my bail was not going to be reduced because I was considered a flight risk with my escape charge and because I had nothing holding me to Missouri. I also told him that I thought the Army would discharge me soon because of my pending charges and because I couldn't return to my duty station. He said he knew someone who might be able to help me out. He contacted a friend from his church and explained my situation to him. That man, Captain David Lowe was the Officer in charge of the JAG on Ft. Leonard Wood, a lawyer and a devout Christian. He went to bat for me, a complete stranger tied only by our relationship with Jesus. He and my father convinced my commanding officer at Ft. Huachuca to not pursue discharging me from the Army if Captain Lowe could figure out a way to get me temporarily stationed at Ft. Leonard Wood. Captain Lowe convinced the Commanding Officer of the post to allow me to be stationed there while I awaited trial, and have me assigned to the JAG office! After I was reassigned to Fort Leonard Wood, which took an act of the state Congress, and 93 days in the Pulaski County jail, my bail was dropped to $1500, and I was released in Captain Lowe's care. I attended church with him and his family, I saw firsthand what a man strong in his faith looked like and how a family centered around Jesus lived with and loved each other. That time was so valuable to me. In June of that year, I was offered a plea bargain of 10 years in prison for the assault charge and the other charges were to be dropped. Kim, David's wife was also a lawyer in Waynesville, and she was a friend with the prosecuting attorney. She, along with David, my father, and of course God, convicted the prosecuting attorney to eventually accept a plea to escape and assault with time served in the County jail and 5 years probation!

In July of 1995, I went back to Arizona. I served another year and a half in the Army and was honorably discharged. I completed a year of probation and was released. My marriage didn't survive, but I met the most amazing woman, Annette in 1999, and we have been happily married for 17 years! I found a job after returning to Michigan in 1997 working with adults with special needs and have been there ever since! God is amazing and faithful just as Jesus told me in a jail cell 27 years ago! - Troy Veshka



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Akron Freedom Fest

(an article by Liz Waliga from 2023)

Over Labor Day weekend, while our CMA state rally was going on, we set up a CMA booth in the nearby town of Akron for the 19th Annual Freedom Fest. Our chapter organized volunteers and were assisted by members from Lord's Legion chapter (Adrian), Resurrection Riders chapter (East Detroit), and Crossroad Riders chapter (Holland). We were the second booth in from the corner and enjoyed getting acquainted with the vendors on either side. Friday night we had the opportunity to pray with two different vendors and the Spirit of God really moved in the situation. On Saturday the event hosted a bike show. Quite a few bikes entered, but my favorite was a custom Detroit Lions bike with the logo painted on the gas tank and "Lions" on the back fender. Another distinctive addition to this custom job was the backrest that was designed with two long-barrel pistols facing up along the middle. One of a kind! It was a great weekend sharing Christ, meeting new people, and enjoying handing out CMA "goodies"-- Bibles, rags, compact mirrors, emery boards, bracelets...plus handmade angels. What a blessing!

Liz Waliga, Secretary