Wandering Wheels Newsletter, September 1978

Wandering Wheels

Follow this and additional works at: https://pillars.taylor.edu/wanderingwheels-newsletter

Recommended Citation
https://pillars.taylor.edu/wanderingwheels-newsletter/45

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Ringenberg Archives & Special Collections at Pillars at Taylor University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Wandering Wheels Newsletter by an authorized administrator of Pillars at Taylor University. For more information, please contact pillars@taylor.edu.
That's the name we gave this year's pre-summer school bike tour. It was quite successful. The riders did the normal academic things and had an opportunity to grow in and share Christ. By the way, Indiana is a great place to explore. We met many Christian brothers and sisters. Academically, everyone received an "A+" (not really)!

On the heels of the pre-summer school trip we launched our eighteenth coast-to-coast bicycle trip. Every major trip is tops, but the '78 tour, San Diego to Virginia Beach, was one of our best. I have remarked to several people that being with the team was like walking with a gentle giant. Their witness was felt across the nation.

We met a cashier in Barstow, California, who was working at one of those exotic tourist traps. She remarked how different this group was from the many that visit. I asked, "How?" She said, "They are polite, not boisterous, just kinda gentle." Wow! Isn't that just what we are told to be like in the New Testament? All summer long they had this effect on people. What a joy to be
a part of such a ministry! THANKS for your PRAYERS! It was a safe trip and a deeply profitable one.

Oh, by the way, we had one rider, Rev. Reg Alford, celebrate his 51st birthday while on the trip! There were eight over thirty years of age who rode this summer. Some of you "old timers" need to knock off the dust and re-enlist!

There is one other item regarding the coast-to-coast trip that I want to share with you. We wound up the trip by riding into Portsmouth, Virginia, and appearing on the "700 Club" television show. It was taped and is scheduled to be released for viewing on October 17. If you are able to get the "700 Club" in your area, we suggest you contact the Traffic Section of the television station that carries the show and ask when Program #290-8 will be aired in your area. You can do this sometime after the first of October but before the 17th of October. In some areas there is as much as five weeks' delay in the program being televised. This is the only way for you to find out exactly when you can expect to see the Wandering Wheels' 1978 Coast-to-Coast Team on television this fall.

Bob Davenport and Pat Robertson of "700 Club"

You are well aware that most of our trips are co-ed. In the past the mountain trip was the last all-male stronghold. This summer, however, even that went the way of co-ed. The gals did a great job. We crossed ten mountain passes, all of them right at 11,000 feet.

A beautiful story came out of the mountain trip. A 37-year-old rode with us. He was, by his own admission, a bit out of shape. While climbing the first mountain pass, Wolf Creek at 10,850' elevation, he confided in me that he had been smoking since he was fourteen. Needless to say, the high altitude, age, tobacco and homesickness, all did him in. God has His special ways of sending messages through people. Our 37-year-old was one of those people. Another troubled rider was a 14-year-old. In fact, he was telephoning home often while crossing the first mountain pass and pleading to be brought back home. I spoke with his mom and she felt it was terribly important that her son finish the trip. What a tug of war. Our older friend took the 14-year-old under his wing and provided enough good
courage through his own struggle that the younger boy decided to gut it out. You will never know how happy the boy's mom was when he told her he was going to make it. What a privilege to "hold hands" with parents as they strive to raise their kids and lift Christ up to their children.

Back to the story.....our 37-year-old finally decided his physical condition was serious enough that he had better quit. The morning he made his announcement there wasn't a dry eye in the group. He spoke of a renewal with God, of a new sense of love for his wife and his decision to stop smoking. Another of our riders, a recent divorcee, was also affected by the 37-year-old's witness. It seemed to renew interest on the divorcee's part to re-establish relations with his former wife. I never cease to be amazed that our best teachers are SENT to us, as was our 37-year-old. Praise the Lord! We call it "serendipity".

Possums III and IV did their usual good job this summer. The last bus run of the summer was considered by the staff to be one of the best they have ever experienced. There were many non-churched and indifferent kids who kept the staff up all hours of the night wanting more information regarding salvation.
Carla Koontz leaving Wheels!!!...

...only for a semester. She is going to Moody Bible Institute for special courses in Jewish history and studies of Israel. Those of you in Chicago keep on the lookout for a brown 19?? Chevy with Hebrew license plates!

Bus/Walking tour of Israel...

...much the same as last year. Enough rough to make it tough. Enough ease to make it please. The dates are January 4-27, 1979, and the price is $985. If you are interested, or have friends who are, let us know. There's a possibility openings may exist.

baby BOOM ...with former staff, and those still on staff, contributing to the cause!

Steve and Kari Manganello - a boy named Vincent
John and Debbi Bonham - a girl named Amber
Dick and Marsha Becker - a boy named Christopher

These, along with Steve and Kari's first, Tony, make for four babies in about one-and-a-half years!

Bruce Bendt to wed...

...many of you remember him. He was known to many as "Thermo-King" (he seldom wore a shirt). Well, he has found a sweet gal to warm his heart. The wedding date is November 4. In case you would like to send him congratulations, his address is 230 Danube, #107, Tampa, FL 33606. Sorry, girls, but you will have
to go looking elsewhere. We still have five or six around here who are prime candidates!

Dan Boyd + one new camera + many hours of work = (hopefully) one new Wheels' film!

The last film produced by Julian Gromer was filmed in 1973. Mr. Gromer's films have had such an impact that we hope to keep the momentum going with this new one.

Bob Hunter Wheels' vet "67"...

...Bob's wife, Lorie, has asked Wheels' people for prayer regarding her husband's bout with cancer. She made a beautiful statement in saying that Bob is an optimist and a real man of faith. These two qualities, along with prayer, should go a long way in pulling off a miracle! Pray for Bob and Lorie!

Closing Story [००] The 1977 coast-to-coast team met, en route, a young man riding from New Jersey to California. He had his bike all loaded down with provisions and the likes for a solo tour. On his way through Yellowstone he met Believers who were instrumental in leading him to believe in Christ as personal Lord and Saviour. A few days later he bumped into the '77 WW gang. We invited him to ride with us. It was real encouraging to participate in this young Believer's growing faith. He said "goodbye" three days down the road. We wished him well and that was it...or so we thought. What a thrill it was this September to have Jeff, the Jersey boy, come into the Wheels' office. It took me a while to remember where we had met. He announced to us he had enrolled at old T.U.! God has wonderful ways of encouraging us in the faith, doesn't He?

Your help keeps us going. This is true! Wandering Wheels, because of you, provides a vibrant witness that can only happen because you realize the specialness of what we do. Thanks for continuing to support us!

Warmest Christian regards,

Bob Davenport, Director