
Preacher's Byline

Category : Preacher Bylines



Revealing the Grace of God through the message of the 2nd thief.

Welcome to 2nd Thief Ministries! We appreciate you visiting and are pleased you could join us. We invite you to take a few moments from your busy life to get a cup of coffee (or green tea) sit back, relax and enjoy time well spent reflecting with us on the goodness of the Lord. And remember, "time well spent adds up to a life well spent."

Volume III, Section 5.3

The last two months have been busy here at the Ministry; we had the opportunity to conduct several outreaches in the Northern Virginia area and even one down in Colonial Heights, VA. The Colonial Heights outreach was special for two reasons. Not only did we get to share the Good News with youth groups from two churches, but the newest members of the 2nd Thief Team joined us. Scott and Terri Wells answered the call of our Heavenly Father to the Ministry. Both bring with them a love for the Lord that is evident to all. Scott is a gifted musician with a heart for worship and counseling. Terri is a gifted teacher with a special place in her heart for children. They both passionately desire to glorify their Heavenly Father with their individual giftings and be led of His Spirit.

I need to mention one more thing regarding the Colonial Heights outreach. Three families traveled to the event. On the way down we all met in Bealeton, VA which was a mutually convenient location. While there we all enjoyed a picnic together and combined two of the families into one van. I still got to ride my Harley all the way there and back. We then had conducted the outreach at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Colonial Heights. The attendees there were so gracious to us and we even got an invite to provide another program at a larger youth rally in July.

Before heading back we drove to a beautiful local park and had another picnic. I need to mention at this point that all three families brought our children with us. We had a great time "breaking bread" together, talking and watching the children play. When we arrived back at Bealeton we ended the day by celebrating at the local Dairy Queen. All-in-all it was an anointed day of Koinonia fellowship with the sweet presence of our Heavenly Father discerned by all. Truly we all lived the life God intended for us and we knew it.



The Riders also participated in a fundraising effort at the Franconia Fire Department in Fairfax County, VA. The Desert Knights Motorcycle Club hosted the event and it was a great success. Money was raised for families staying at the Fisher House who are visiting their wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Facility. We set up our booth and enjoyed sharing the Good News with all the many people who visited with us. The Riders are looking forward to participating in more events of this type over the summer. So be sure to check in with our events section of the website.

The 2nd Thief Team conducted a program about the love and grace of God at the AWANA's meeting at the Warrenton Bible Fellowship. It is always exciting for us here to be given the privilege of sharing about our Heavenly Father's great love for us all. The team was very creative with the "Object Lesson" that was presented during the program. Basically they made it clear through the use of several props that Jesus paid the cost for our sin.

Rolling Thunder is coming up Memorial Day Weekend and several Riders have expressed an interest in participating. For further details click the following link:

<http://www.rollingthundermotorcyclery.com/>.



The Riders are still praying about setting up a booth at Freedom Fest 2007 Snowshoe, West Virginia. We will definitely be riding to the Rally. Freedom Fest runs from 7/11/07 until 7/15/07. There are lots of great roads to be ridden and places of interest in that area of WV. So come ride with us and help us "Declare the Good News...on Two Wheels." What better way to thank Him for providing such a great motorcycle rally. For further details click on the following link:

<http://www.snowshoefreedomfest.com/>.

We also are in the formative stages of partnering in a ride for Alexis, a 12 year old girl battling cancer. She has a love for motorcycles and the Riders have heard our Heavenly Father clearly and we will serve and pray as He enables, please pray for her. July 28th is the target date, but be sure to check back

in with us as the details of the event are not confirmed. What we believe at this point that the event will more than likely occur somewhere in Western Henrico County, VA. Those of us departing from Northern VA will ride down Rt. 522 most of the way.

This time of year there are numerous "Calls-for Service" for the Ministry, particularly for the Riders, and it is incumbent upon us to pray and be led by God's Spirit on which events He wants us to participate in and/or attend. We love our Heavenly Father and enjoy the sport of motorcycling. The Riders have brought the two together and it is affectionately known as "Riding with Purpose." This is truly why we ride...to share the love and grace that He has demonstrated to us all through Jesus, fellowshiping with one another and riding the finest motorcycle roads in the Country.

Speaking of motorcycles and riding, the following are excerpts of an email sent by LeaAnn Fritsch to family members explaining her newfound joy of riding. LeaAnn serves with great enthusiasm with 2nd Thief as an Outreach Program Manager. I asked for her permission to include them in this Byline in an effort to reveal the heart of just one of the Team called to this Ministry. The reality is that everyone serving here is passionate about their relationship with our Heavenly Father, all are gifted by Him in different and special ways, know they are called here to 2nd Thief Ministries to glorify Him, seek only to be led of His Spirit, and do so joyfully, diligently and heartily to the blessings of all. I think LeaAnn's email sums it up pretty well:

"We have reached a place of realization that many people will not understand, but, like all other aspects of our life, we are prepared to give an account... The motorcycles are a tool for us—a banner of sorts. The Lord has called us to partner with a ministry called 2nd Thief. Please look at the web site (2ndThief.org) to gain a better appreciation—Tim did the sites. It is an outreach ministry to declare the good news of Jesus through the story of the 2nd thief on the cross. In this life, we are either the 1st or the 2nd thief. The message is so easy and palatable. We are being given the privilege to reach out in the prisons, the community, and the world in a way we have never experienced before. The 2nd Thief Riders are an extension of the ministry. The riders plan trips and events to create an environment to share the truth of Jesus.

...Tim is the music worship leader and Director of Outreach for 2nd Thief. We have felt God's Spirit tugging our hearts in a direction of outreach, but we didn't know the approach. Now we do.

As for the motorcycles, we never planned it, but our hearts and minds were changed. We took the riders/safety course to see what it was about and get a feel for it. We were content to drive the equipment van behind the riders. The Lord led us in a different direction. I prayed my way through the entire riding course (we both did). I wanted to be in His will. By the end, I was in shock. I ended up enjoying every minute of it, and I was pretty good at it. I knew it was "out of character" and I rejoiced at the way He worked.

Now, as a motorcycle owner, I continue to pray that it is ALL about the Father's business. We pray before we get on, while we ride, and when we get off. There is no denying the danger. The bottom line is that my life belongs to the Father. He knows how many days I have here. He has called us to this ministry, and it is our honor to jump in...full throttle, as it were!

Tim and I are still learning to ride. We take all precautions and we continue to remember that the bikes are our tool to reach out and our chance to "fly the colors" of the ministry so people will ask "what's 2nd thief?" and open the door for the truth. We haven't broadcast our motorcycle situation to everyone because we want this to remain "about our father's business". The cool part is that we enjoy it. I have always been afraid of outreach. Now I have passion in me. We both do ... We have surely felt a redirection of passion. Pray that we do God's will. This is the largest leap of faith and obedience we have ever taken.

I hope this helps you understand a bit. I ask for your prayers that we would walk and RIDE in the fullness of His spirit...Love from LA"

2nd Thief Ministries is blessed to have people like LeaAnn serving here. She is a "living epistle read of men" that is spoken of in God's Word. That is what we have found here at 2nd Thief, we just live the life He has given us and are "prepared to give an account of the hope within us." This has led to kiononia fellowship among the Ministry Team that is everything we all ever hoped for in our Walk of Grace with our Heavenly Father. Each of us encourages the others to allow the fullness of Christ to live through us. That truly is what it is all about, Christ in us, living a life "hid with Christ."

Over the course of the next several "Preacher's Bylines" it is my desire to share from His Word regarding living the life He intended for us. Basically we will take a closer look at four major components involved in our Walk of Grace. We are saved by His Grace alone, each of us is uniquely gifted by Him, we need to allow the fullness of His Spirit to work through us and finally be aware of Spiritual Warfare.

"May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God." Ephesians 3:19 NLT

Godspeed.

Preacher