## JANUARY 2025



# Conroe Messengers #362 Changing the world, one heart at a time.



# Time to Refocus by Larry Watrous, President

2025 a new year, new challenges, new opportunities.

#### Time to Refocus. Back to the basics.

What is CMA? The CMA handbook states, "CMA is not a Christian club or riding group designed to segregate Christians from the influences of the world, but rather it is a ministry designed to thrust you into the adventure of spreading the light of Jesus into dark places."

The **Doctrinal Statement** of the Christian Motorcyclists Association is: "The Christian Motorcyclists Association is interdenominational and evangelistic in nature." We believe in:

- The Bible as the inspired and infallible Word of God
- One God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- The virgin birth and deity of Christ, His explicit atoning death, bodily resurrection, and ascension
- Salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ
- The sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit who enables a believer to live holy
- The second coming of Jesus Christ

**Vision:** Changing the world, one heart at a time!

We will accomplish our vision through:

- Evangelistic outreach primarily, but not exclusively, to the motorcycling community
- Run for the Son, where we will partner with ministries with world-reaching potential
- Equipping our members in ministry training that aligns itself with Biblical truths
- A servant's attitude to the world and our members (i.e. Here if you need us)
- Quality products that aid in evangelistic outreach
- An efficient Support Center team

**Mission:** To inspire our leaders and members to be the most organized, advanced, equipped, financially stable organization, full of integrity in the motorcycling industry and the Kingdom of God. Take a few minutes and review the

CMA handbook. It's a new year.



Ride Safe Friends! Larry Watrous, President, Conroe Messengers 362

# **Calendar Wiz**

#### ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE BIKES & CHILI COOK OFF

01/04/2025 at 12 PM <u>The Woodlands Harley-Davidson</u> 25545 I-45 N. The Woodlands, Tx

#### MESSENGERS BIBLE STUDY & POTLUCK DINNER

01/07/2025 at 6:00 pm Johnson's Home <u>7027 Casita Dr. Magnolia, TX</u>

**ESTELLE UNIT MINISTRY** (Team 1) 01/12/2025 @ 4 PM - 6 PM

#### MESSENGERS MEETING

01/14/2025 Eat 6 / Meet 7 pm <u>McKENZIE'S BBQ</u> <u>1501 N Frazier St., Conroe</u>

#### SEASONS OF REFRESHING

02/21-22/2025 Parkway Church <u>4802 John Stockbauer,</u> <u>Victoria, Texas</u>



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12/2024



## SOR 2025 - Are You Ready?

We give thanks for God's faithfulness in sustaining the ministry of CMA for 50 years! We return to our motivation: the soon coming return of Jesus. Christ will soon return, and we, his followers, must be ready, preparing ourselves and those around us in the motorcycling community for his glorious return.

This year's Seasons of Refreshing will be a refocusing on our motivation for ministry. By carefully examining Jesus' parable of the wedding attendants, we will explore how CMA can continue to "make ourselves ready" for our Savior's return.

CMA South East Texas Seasons of Refreshing is **February 21 - 22, 2025 at Parkway Church**, <u>4802</u> John Stockbauer, Victoria, Texas

**Registration Form:** 

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Door

<u>https://www.cmasetx.com/SOR%202025%20Registra</u> <u>tion.pdf</u> **FEE:** \$10, Non-CMA: Free

> The Southeast Texas Christian Motorcyclists Association

> > presents the

Harley Davidson of The Woodlands

Come get some free Chili and join in on the fun.

Get your bike blessed for the ride ahead in 2025!

on till 2:00pm

-45 North

ds. TX 77380

mmna



# Monthly Bible Study

Start the year out right by making it a priority to attend Bible Study! Chapter Bible Study is on the first Tuesday of the month! This study is open to all who wish to attend. We start with a Potluck dinner together and then dive into the word

# **DATE & TIME:** 01/07/2025

6:00 pm

**LOCATION:** Johnson's Home <u>7027 Casita Dr.</u> <u>Magnolia, TX</u> He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." Mark 16:15

# Blessing of the Bikes & Chili Cook-Off!

Get those pots out and let the blessings begin! January 4th is our annual Blessing of the Bikes and Chili Cookoff at The Woodlands Harley-Davidson! Can your chili kick the socks off the competition?

#### CONTESTANT ENTRY RULES:

- Chili Set Up from 10:30 AM 11:30 AM
- Entry Fee: \$25 per entry benefiting Run for the Son.
- Contestants must provide spoons, bowls/cups, table if possible
- Contestants are to provide their own condiments associated with serving their Chili. (Fritos, cheese, onions, etc. what ever makes it Wow!)
- Judging begins at Noon.

#### **BLESSINGS OF THE BIKES:**

Bike blessings begin at 1 PM - 2 PM following the awards. However, we need people who will be available at any time during the event to bless.

#### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

We need volunteers to coordinate with the Chapter to help with registration, give-aways, over-see the cookoff, assist with set up (Tables, sound, et), and being available to bless bikes & bikers!

This will be a great time to invite anyone wanting more info on CMA or to have a bike blessed!

Bike blessings are an opportunity to share Jesus and present a salvation challenge!



# Caribbean Jerk Chicken by Hairy Bikers

Serves 4-6P

Prep time.: 15 minutes, plus marinating Cooking time: 25 minutes

Calories: 333 per serving

- 12 boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- lime wedges, to serve
- flaked sea salt

• freshly ground black pepper Marinade

- 6 spring onions, trimmed and roughly chopped
- 20g chunk of fresh root ginger, peeled and roughly chopped
- 4 garlic cloves, peeled and halved
- 2 3 scotch bonnet chillies, stalks removed
- 1 tbsp fresh thyme leaves (or 1 tsp dried thyme)
- 1 tsp ground allspice
- 1/2 tsp ground nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 3 tbsp dark brown sugar
- 2 tbsp fresh lime juice
- 1 & 1/2 tbsp dark soy sauce

- 1.To make the marinade, put all the ingredients in a food processor and blitz to make a thick purée. You'll need to remove the lid and push the mixture down a couple of times with a rubber spatula until you get the right consistency.
- 2.Put the chicken on a board and trim off as much fat as you can with good kitchen scissors. Slash each thigh a couple of times with a a sharp knife, put them all in a bowl and season with a little salt and lots of freshly ground black pepper. Tip the jerk marinade on top and mix well, then cover and chill for at least 2 hours or overnight.
- 3.Preheat the oven to 220C/Fan 200C/Gas7 and line a large baking tray with baking parchment. Place the chicken on the tray, shaking off any excess marinade as you go and shaping the pieces back into neat thighs if they opened out during marinating.
- 4.Bake the chicken for 25 minutes or until it is all thoroughly cooked, deep golden brown and charred in places. Serve hot or cold with lime wedges for squeezing and a large mixed salad. You could also serve small portions of rice if you like.



## VP Corner: Introducing New Vice President by Rod Booher

Rod Booher accepted Jesus into his life as a five-year old boy growing up in Michigan. His father was killed in an automobile accident when he was 11 and subsequently, his mother moved her five children to a small town in western Canada. Rod owned a mopad at age of 13 and then at age of 15 his first motorcycle, a Honda Super Hawk 305. With that motorcycle, Rod worked on a farm during the summer months and on weekends on a small local farm where he first spotted Joy. Later when at college while studying business and he started to dated Joy. They were married in 1975. Although working full time, Rod went to University and completed his degree in 1978 and subsequently obtained his CPA, CA professional destination. Rod worked in a CPA firm from 1976 and then moved to the oil and gas industry in 1984 for the remainder of his career.

In 1979, Rod bought a Goldwing GL 1000 and spent summers traveling with Joy throughout the western states and provinces (AB, BC, WA, OR, CA, AZ, NV, NM, UT, CO, WY, ID, MO) and in 1986 they made a run over to NYC. Their family arrived and focus was on raising their sons, thus motorcycling days were over, however Rod continued to ride on two wheels, bicycling. In 1998, Rod bicycled from Seattle to Washington DC with the American Lung Association "Big Ride".

In 2004 Rod (with family) was transferred from Calgary to Aberdeen, Scotland, and worked there for seven years, then was transferred to Pittsburgh in 2012 and in the following year was relocated to the Woodlands Texas. Retirement was just over three years ago which resulted in Rod purchasing a Goldwing GL1800 and joining CMA Conroe Messengers. Rod has enjoyed serving with CMA at Lone Star Motorcycle Rally, Moto GP in Austin, and various local events. He's thankful for the Messengers and opportunities to serve the Lord with them. He is looking forward to 2025 and what God will be doing.



## Well Wielded Words by Chaz Johnson, Chaplain

At this time of the year when we will find ourselves with friends or family we don't always agree with on things. This article just reminds us that our words can build up or tear down. Let's all work on patience and controlling our tongue.

\*At mealtime a parent may comfortably give their toddler a spoon, but never a knife. Eventually the child's place setting will include one, but not until there is the maturity and self-control to safely employ its use. Perhaps this restrictive image is one we should recall when we consider God's warning that "rash words are like thrusts of a sword" (Pr.12:18). Sadly, we often prove to be more like toddlers than responsible children when we fail to exercise the needed maturity and self-control to wield our words constructively (Eph.4:29).

A cautious respect for the power of words is something frequently encouraged in Scripture. "How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire" we are told in James 3, when advised concerning the serious damage our words can cause (v.5). What huge ships, like the entire course of our lives, can be quickly redirected by such a small rudder (v.4). So let us be reminded of the high cost of immature outbursts and childish rants, and echo the prayer of David: "Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips! Do not let my heart incline to any evil" (Ps.141:3–4).

Let us heed the instruction of James 1:19 and "be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger." And let us always remember that when we have cut and injured with our words, our words can also bring healing—begin by making it right with the Lord, as Hosea 14:2 tells us: "Take with you words and return to the Lord; say to him, 'Take away all iniquity." And then, of course, let's make it right with each other, as we sincerely apologize, seek forgiveness, and genuinely reaffirm our love for one another. As the exhortation of James on the power of words concludes: "a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace" (3:18).

\* From Mike Fabarez at Focal Point ministries

Happy New Year from my family to yours! Chaz Johnson, Chaplain

# Prayer Requests & Praise

Jimmy M - recovering from skin cancer and limiting sun exposure.

Russell - prayer for healing for his back and heel.

Don - Praise that his sister accepted Jesus as Lord & Savior!

Judy - for healing of an injured foot and is in a boot & safe travels.

The Kretin Family - each member is dealing with significant heath issues and need prayer.

Judy & Theresa - father Coys' health.

Theresa - friends Charlotte and Bonnie have cancer, James has health concerns.

Larry - Praise that shoulder surgery recovery is going well, continue to pray for healing.

Phil - hospice is being sought. Son is seeking kidney donor and his daughter might be a match.

Gary & Paula - Niece, Carly struggline with emotional issues. Cousin, Mark dealing with cancer.

Prayer for the USA & President Elect.

Those struggling financially.

1/2025





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# Flying Disaster by Larry, The Safety Guy

Years ago, the company I was working for, Ansul fire protection, gave me a company car. It was a big Pontiac. I was going down one of the Houston freeways following several vehicles including a 10-wheel dump truck. As I was going down the road something got caught between the dual rear tires of the dump truck in front of me. This item was launched skyward. I didn't know what it was, but it looked heavy. I slowed the car down and watch this thing fall from the sky. I didn't stop quick enough. The lump dropped from the sky, went through the hood of the car into the ground. Investigation revealed that it was a large shock absorber that had come off the dump truck. The truck had driven over its dislodged shock absorber, the shock absorber had gotten caught between the dual tires at the back of the truck and was launched skyward as it came out from behind the truck.

I had forgotten about this incident until a couple of months ago when I was on the Indian on Highway 45 going south. In front of me was a 10-wheel dump truck. Out from behind the back of the truck came something big, about the size of a football, that was launched skyward from between the dual tires. Remembering my experience with the Pontiac, I pulled the Indian onto the side of the road and waited for the item to fall from the sky. It turned out to be a large chunk of hard mud. Had that thing hit me or the bike, there would have been some serious damage.

When we're out riding, we must be aware of our surroundings. If there is a large vehicle in front of us with dual rear wheels, we need to be cognizant of what could come out from behind it. The other important observation is things that pick-up trucks may straddle in the road. These objects laying in the road can cause us to have an accident. Leaving sufficient distance between you and the vehicle in front of you is important. This distance allows you to compensate for things that may be laying in the road or things that may be falling from the sky from dual rear wheels.



## CMA SCR Challenges

Three Challenges each with the goal to get to know new people in the South Central Region by attending Seasons of Refreshing and State Rallies! When completing the Challenges and providing the correct documentation, you'll earn a unique Patch to show off what you've accomplished! And what do you have to do to earn this patch?

The Challenges are all similar--they just differ in magnitude.

For all of them, you must attend Seasons and our local State rally. You must take your picture with State leadership at each event, and you must take a picture of your name on the registration form.

After that, the 3N1 includes 2 additional state rallies, the 5N1 includes 4 additional state rallies, and the 8N1 includes ALL of the state rallies in the South Central Region.

Forms for each challenge is uploaded in <u>Files on the</u> <u>Messengers Facebook Page</u>. If you have questions, please call Jeff Miller at (785)737-3930 or email 3N1scr@gmail.com.



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Happy New Year! by Catherine Johnson, Secretary Here is one good devotional from Greg Laurie!

"One of my favorite verses in all of Scripture is Jeremiah 29:11. I quote it so often that some people might think I'm slightly obsessed with it. It says, "I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope" (NKJV).

I like that verse so much that I had those words inscribed on the back of a watch that I gave my son Christopher for his twenty-first birthday. Years later, Christopher went to be with the Lord after a tragic accident.

After he died, I was given a little plastic bag that contained his belongings. In it were his wallet, his keys, and his watch. I took the watch out, held it in my hand, flipped it over, and saw the inscription. "I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." And I thought, Where's the future for Christopher? Where's the future for me?

I had to remind myself that it's not all about our life on earth. Our ultimate future is in Heaven. That's where it all comes together. As Christians, we're in a win-win situation. Paul wrote in Philippians 1:21, "For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better" (NLT).

Paul knew that whether we're alive here on this Earth or in Heaven with Christ, God's love for us is certain. Paul wrote, "I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow" (Romans 8:38 NLT). We can be thankful for whatever tomorrow may bring because we know we are loved by our Creator. "Nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord" (verse 39 NLT).

Knowing that we don't need to worry about our future because we are loved by God gives us the perspective we need to face the trials and adversity of this life. In 2 Corinthians 4:17, Paul wrote, "For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!" (NLT). Instead of focusing on the troubles we see right now, we can look forward to what we can't see yet. The troubles we see now will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever.

Let's give thanks today that we don't have to be filled with fear, worry, and anxiety about what the future holds. We can be of good courage and good cheer because God is with us and our future with Him is certain.

Pray that this new year gives us all multiple opportunities to share Jesus with everyone we are in contact with.



#### Discerning God's Will by Joy Booher, Treasurer

1/2025

God wants His children to obey Him and make right decisions, so He accepts full responsibility for guiding us. In fact, He promises, "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go." (Psalm 32:8) However, our lifetime isn't mapped out in an instruction manual to read in its entirety the day we are saved. Following God's will is a daily process of trusting Him and His plans for us.

We learn God's will by reading His word. There we find rules and commands that will lead to our success and principles for daily application. The Bible doesn't detail every possible situation we might face, but its principles equip us to make decisions about any and every circumstance we encounter. Studying God's Word and praying is the only way to confirm that our decisions line up with His will. These sacred writings can give us the wisdom we need in order to be fully capable and equipped for the work God wants us to accomplish (2 Timothy 3:15, 17).

Our heavenly Father is actively guiding every incident of our life and stitching the seemingly unrelated pieces together to create a beautiful tapestry. As believers, we can listen and pray every day to be sensitive to His ways and discern His will.

In his 1939 Christmas Eve broadcast King George VI quoted a poem by Minnie Louise Haskins given to him by his 13-year old daughter, Princess Elizabeth, in order to encourage his people at the start of World War II. It is also inscribed on a panel to the right of the gates of King George's memorial. "I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year,

'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown. And he replied, "Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be better than light, and safer than a known way." He finished by saying, "May that Almighty Hand guide and uphold us all."



## **Celebrations!**

**Birthdays:** Linda Carraway - 1/14 Larry Watrous - 1/17 Paula Teel - 1/27



#### Anniversaries:

Rob Jasinski - 1/16 Amy & Steve Burke - 1/28 Tim & Cindy Delahunt - 1/31



## Run for the Son Mini-Story of Impact: Pastor Verson of Blantyre, Malawi, Africa

In the south central region of Malawi, you'll find a town called Blantyre which is the second largest city in Malawi, Africa with a vast cultural diversity. This is the area that Pastor Verson ministers in. In Blantyre, Pastor Verson received a motorcycle. He was very excited and overcome with emotion about being blessed with a motorcycle.

The next day, Verson met with the CMA mission team and said he and his family stayed up all night looking at the bike! The could not believe this amazing blessing! This motorcycle will help him visit members who live faraway and to make hospital visits!

Verson stayed with the team while traveling to south Malawi. Verson and one of our team members, Don Kentch, rode in a pick up along the dusty roads. They shared their personal testimonies with each other. This is Verson's story as told by Don: Verson testified how he came to know God. He was living life as a thief. One day, Verson and his friends planned to steal from a construction site, however, God began to deal with him. Instead, Verson stayed home, in his room for 5 days as God revealed himself to him. He states he heard Angels singing. On the 6th day, he visited his friend and learned he had the same experience with God that Verson had. It was that day that Verson gave his life to Christ. Soon afterwards, he met Pastor Moses who helped him learn more about God. Ever since, he has been serving others and sharing about Gods forgiveness and love!

Versons testimony reminds us that it doesn't matter what your past is! God is ready with open arms to accept you as a member of His family. You have a unique, personal testimony that can help others come to know Christ as well! God has a plan!







#### Run For the Son Recognition Recognition and certificates given to those who have been top supporters of Run For the Son. Well done Steve Burke, Frank Stanley, Kim & Don Eustes, Larry Watrou, and Vernon Osborn.



#### Where Are My Skills? Part 3 by James "Russell" Rhodes, Road Captain

Hello from your friendly Road Captain. As we enter the new year, here are the last "WHERE ARE MY SKILLS AT?" tips and tricks from the April 2021 Motorcycle Tourer. Check out prior Messenger newsletters for the first 14 tips!

**15. Fitness Matters.** Without going off-piste here, fitness is a cornerstone of life. And when it comes to riding, having good physical health usually correlates with having good mental health, too. And it also improves your ability to stave off fatigue – which means you can ride for longer before you get tired. From a physical standpoint, having decent strength through resistance training gives you better bike control. Additionally, it could stop you from dropping it and will certainly help with picking your bike up even if you do drop it.

16. Don't Ride When You're Mad. I don't need to tell you the symptoms of getting mad. How many times have you snapped at an innocent family member or partner for no other reason than you're pissed off? And I guess that most of the time, you didn't mean to - it was uncontrollable. So you can see how this can be detrimental on a bike. Acceleration becomes aggressive. Braking becomes hard and uneven. You may take risks due to a lack of patience. Or you might act aggressively towards other road users for otherwise minor infractions. But riding mad increases your chances of having an accident. That heavy throttle or heavy braking on wet roads could cause you to lose control. And those rash decisions made through a lack of patience could cause you to make a terrible misjudgment.

**17. You Can Still Have Fun On A Small Bike.** If you're a new rider, don't be sucked into the stigma that you need a big bike. Because you don't. Smaller bikes are lighter, easier, and cheaper. And their versatility means they will put a smile on your face a whole lot more than their bigger, more serious counterparts. There are plenty of A2-friendly bikes these days that are wicked fun to ride.

**18. A Good Mechanic Is Worth Their Weight In Gold.** Taking your bike to the garage isn't the same as taking your car. You have enough to contend with on the roads without having doubts about your bike. Take the time to find a good mechanic who you trust. Ask around at bike clubs. Read reviews on Google and social media. Ask people you trust who they use. Chances are, the same name will keep cropping up. And when it does, become

best friends with them. Because although expensive, a good mechanic is worth their weight in gold.

**19. Don't Scrimp On Tires.** The first time I bought a new(ish) bike, it cost me \$6,500. And because I bought it in cash, I decided to wait until my next payday before replacing the tires that I could feel were twitchy in wet conditions. What happened? Whilst waiting for my next wage, I went for a ride out in Wales. Where it began to rain. Not only was it a lengthy insurance process, but I also had to cancel my long-awaited tour as I had no bike. Good tires make a huge difference to your riding – whether on-road or off it. Do yourself a favor and get some decent tires. They make a world of difference.

**20. Learn How To Brake.** To this day, I'm surprised at how many people don't brake properly on a bike. When you're in an empty car park practicing your slow riding (above), be sure to practice your braking. You need to know how the bike will react if you brake hard in an emergency. If you find yourself in a situation where you need to brake hard, you don't have time to think about it. So cement the muscle memory to do the braking for you when you need it.

**21. Learn How To Use The Back Brake!** While on the subject of brakes, don't neglect your rear brake. At slow speeds, using the back brake makes everything so much smoother and neater. But mastering your back brake also improves slow riding and maneuvers such as u-turns, negotiating mini-roundabouts, and even hairpin bends.

**22. Sometimes It's Easier To Take The Car.** If your motorcycle is your only means of transport, then you don't really have a choice. But don't feel like you need to go everywhere on a bike just because you own one. Sometimes, going in the car is just easier. It's warm, safe, and has climate control and comfortable seats. And much of the time, going to work on your bike takes longer than going in your car. By the time you've unlocked the bike, got it out of the garage, got to work, and then got changed out of your bike gear, it would've been easier to go in the car!

**Motorcycle Riding Tips & Tricks Conclusion:** So there we have it! For new riders, this post should stand you in good stead for what you're letting yourself in for! For experienced riders, I hope it gives you something to think about also.





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## History of CMA

The original brainstorm for such an organization occurred in 1972 when Herb Shreve and his teenage son purchased their first motorcycles. It was not until 1974 when the need for a new organization began to be realized. Herb attended his first motorcycle rally and saw a massive crowd of motorcyclists who did not know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. In fact, many had never heard the Gospel message.

The realization of such a great need prompted Herb to share his vision with a couple of Christian friends. Together, they began to pray. Herb became more and more convinced that God wanted a Christian organization dedicated to reaching motorcyclists with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In the spring of 1975, he put action to his prayers. An attorney was contacted, and a nonprofit charter was applied for and approved. The waiting was over. The Christian Motorcyclists Association (CMA) was born.



<u>cmausa.org</u>

<u>Message</u> Us on Facebook! <u>@conroemessengers</u> Want to be a <u>CMA Member</u>? Want to learn more about <u>Run for the Son</u>? Want us to come to your organization? Need someone to pray with you? Let's connect! <u>Contact us</u> or drop by one of our Chapter Meetings.

