

## A Growing Concern

Hello all, it has been a while since I have had time to sit and write anything for my brother Preacher. It was really great that Preach, Lorie, Dj and Tammy came all the way down to Georgia just for our wedding. I hope to see them again real soon; either here in the sunny south or maybe it's our turn to head to Wisconsin.

Like I stated earlier I have been pretty busy as of late with work and trying to get a business going at the same time. Which brings me to the subject of the title of this article.

Here in Georgia and other states, there is a growing group of kids some as young as 10 years old getting real sick and causing serious damage by tattooing and piercing themselves. They are getting together and having what is called a tattoo party or a "jab". Basically they take a guitar string and dip it into a printer cartridge and start jabbing the ink in their skin. And they do this on each other sharing the guitar string, not to mention the printer ink they use contains some pretty nasty chemicals, some of which are highly toxic. They use no sterilization, and a couple of kids interviewed told the reporter, "Hey its sterile, I licked it." " I ain't got no diseases anyway". I have seen the pictures of the results of these "tattoo parties" and they aren't pretty. The best-case scenario is they just end up with an ugly, bad tattoo that can be easily fixed by a professional tattoo artist. More often than not though they end up with serious infections and gaping sores that will not heal. Not to mention the risk of serious diseases they have exposed themselves and their friends to, such as HIV, HEPATITIS, and few others.

Talk to your kids about these "tattoo and piercing parties" let them know what can happen to them, some of these diseases going around from dirty needles are fatal and all the doctor can do is make their dying only slightly less painful. It's a grim thought I know but it's your child's life that is at stake.

I have just begun the long journey in becoming a professional Tattoo artist, and there is a lot to learn. And after all the study I have put in and the financial investments I have made for classes and certifications I have attained in blood-borne pathogens, sterilization, cross contamination, I still can't and will not call myself a professional yet. There is still much to learn as a tattoo machine (its not called a gun) can cause some serious damage if used incorrectly. I have lost count of the Grapefruits, smoked hams, and tattoo practice skins I have went through practicing machine control. One of my friends who has owned an award winning studio for 10 years tells me "when you can tattoo a ripe peach without tearing it up you are ready for skin." Although there are no traditional apprenticeships here ( which I would really prefer), I do have a relationship

with a few shop owners who have been helping me along the way with guidance, tips, harsh criticism, and words of encouragement where needed.

I only use a needle once, even in practice sessions, pre sterilized, professionally made needles are less than 2 dollars each, cheap insurance if you ask me. I even auto-clave everything even in practice, I want sterilization to become second nature and automatic like any good tattoo artist should, clean is the key. Your life depends on it! Giz (student of tattooing)

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As you all have figured out by now, we here at Free Riders Press try to reach all the different aspects of riding. We now have one of the final links to fulfilling my goal of being a well rounded rag. The brotherhood is made up of many kinds of people. So without further ado, I'd like to introduce Gracie. Enjoy!!!

### Gracie's Corner

Learning to Do Life from a Christian Perspective...

The following begins a series of articles called "Within the Struggle". I pray that this journey helps you ponder the things of your heart & life and leads you to the awaiting places of healing and restoration in Him. If you have any comments or questions, please e-mail me at [jesusislord@yahoo.com](mailto:jesusislord@yahoo.com) and as always - RIDE FREE!

#### Within the Struggle: The Struggle

By Gracie (By The Grace of God M/M, Illinois)

How do we come to realize that we need help? We usually endure a lot of pain. Pain is not meant to hurt us, but to call our attention to the fact that something is wrong. It is a gift. A gift of warning. Our ignoring the warning, will typically bring more pain into our lives until we are sick and tired, of being sick and tired. Whether we struggle with drugs, alcohol, smoking, overeating, raging, abuse or any number of other issues or compulsive addictive behaviors, we must all reach our bottom. And pain will usually drive us there. The sooner we recognize where we are, the quicker we become engaged in the struggle to get out from where ever we find ourselves. We all need to have that moment when we "come to"...

Luke 15:14- 18 "About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. He persuaded a local farmer to hire him to feed his pigs. The boy became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything. "When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired men have food enough to spare, and here I am, dying of hunger! I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you..."

The first point of engagement in the struggle is to find out why we are where we are. It could be as simple or as complicated as each of our lives have been. No matter what, we need to look in the mirror & ask why? Discovering the whys & wherefores of how we got to this place, may in the end prove insignificant, but none the less, it is a huge part of the process! We need to see those things that drove us into our own personal prisons, addictions and bondage's. Somewhere along the way, we each decided that something made it acceptable to be in those pig sty's. Maybe it is familiarity and we became comfortable with the uncomfortable or maybe staying there is easier than coming out from there. But we MUST come out from where ever there is.

2 Corinthians 6:16-18 "And what union can there be between God's temple and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God said: "I will live in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they will be my people. Therefore, come out from them and separate yourselves from them, says the Lord. Don't touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you. And I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty..."

Part 2 in October issue

## Lakeview's 1st Annual "9-11" Poker Run

To support the Muskego  
Volunteer Fire Department

September 11, 2004

Poker run registration 11:00-1:00pm  
\$12.00 per person or \$20.00 a couple  
\$5.00/poker hand- maximum 3 hands  
100% payout, Poker hands check in  
5:00-6:00pm  
Winners drawn 7:00pm

Registration at Lakeview  
W171 S7260 Lannon Dr.  
(262) 679-9535  
Poker Run & Party ends at  
Lakeview