

CHRISTIAN UNITY OFFERS SHIELD OF FAITH TO WACO VICTIMS

It's Wednesday morning and the bikers with Christian insignias on their vests are in a café downing coffee. This is their weekly meeting to share news and go over applications for assistance for the victims and families of the Waco tragedies. "This one is getting ready to have their electricity shut off," says Duane. "I think we need to pay the bill". The applicants are from motorcycle groups and clubs from all over the state. Whether they were veterans, 1% club members, independent, riders, chaplains, or claimed religious or political affiliations, it didn't matter. What did matter was that they were victims who were detained, deceased or

wounded at the Confederation of Clubs meeting at Twin Peaks and they needed financial help. Many have lost their jobs for an unusual charge of 'engaging in organized crime.' The loss of health insurance coupled with paying large bonds out of their savings and strapped with monthly lawyer and leg monitor fees put their budgets into a tailspin. The situation for them has become desperate.

Decisions made, Frank hands out another \$4000 in gift cards for gasoline, groceries and other necessities. Shield of Faith, an Assembly of God Church non-profit, has volunteered to receive and disburse monies donated to assist the families. The AG also financially supports Honorbound MM, a motorcycle ministry of ordained chaplains. After a time of prayer, they leave for another day of disbursing the assistance. Honorbound Chaplain, Duane, who is also an NCOM Christian Unity Council member, meets Soldiers for Jesus MC member, Billy the Kid, halfway to San Antonio and gives him some gift cards for the families there. Frank counts out the cards to go to Preacher in Dallas. Preacher is the Chaplain for the DFW COC. Louie, The NCOM board liaison for Christian Unity and certified grief chaplain, heads to the McClennan County Jail to visit with and teach an anger management class for the detainees who haven't made bond. Then it's an overnight stay with a biker who has invited him to stay at his home each week as he travels from Conroe 160 miles away.

This is the NCOM (National Coalition of Motorcyclists) Christian Unity Motorcycle Resource Team in action. Since the founding of NCOM 30 years ago, it was recognized that there were a great number of Christian motorcycle groups and independent riders across the nation. Many of them were involved with NCOM and their local Confederation of Clubs as well as attending yearly NCOM conventions. NCOM Christian Unity was born 10 years ago out of the need to network with them in their work to better serve the motorcycle community. The MRT or Motorcycle Resource Teams were developed 5 years ago to respond to needs in the motorcycle community with certified and skilled members in areas such as chaplaincy, first aid, EMT, and vehicle transport. Requirements must be met to meet their mission statement. "The purpose of the NCOM Christian Unity Motorcycle Resource Team is to provide a unified response to the needs of the biker community within their COC area and NCOM region with effective and credible service." There are Christian Unity MRTS in 7 of the 11 Confederation of Clubs in Texas.

It's now Thursday. Louie's wife Denise updates him in the morning. "The Alabama COC sent \$4,000, someone who sells Innocent Biker t-shirts will be sending Shield of Faith their profits," she says. Denise spends hours each day making Facebook posts, making appeals to potential donors and doing what she calls 'search and rescue' to locate and speak with some of these victims. "Offering 'free money' has never been so difficult. Some of them are worried to contact us and apply because they have a non-association with bike clubs stipulation as terms of their release. Our attorney has assured us that we do not fall into that category because we are all certified chaplains in ministerial associations that have 501c3 status, she says; "We have to persuade some of them to apply for the help. Some of them have never had to ask for help before and it is humiliating to do so. Some folks don't even know we exist. Non-association with their motorcycle community has compounded the problem." This special education teacher is not getting much of a summer break.

Denise shares some of the contact info for Louie so he can make two separate stops

before he heads back to Conroe. One person he will meet up with is Drama, from nearby Mart. Sandra (Drama) Lynch is the Legislative Strike Force State Co-Director of the US Defenders; a part of NCOM. She was one of four women that was detained and released with a large leg monitor on her ankle, usually reserved for dangerous criminals like sex offenders and murderers. Because she is not allowed to speak to any of the members of the motorcycle group she belongs to, she has made phone contact with a friend of relatives. They will then go through an intermediary to get the much needed assistance to members who had also been detained. Louie gives her \$700 in gas and grocery cards, gives Drama a hug and moves on to his last stop.

When he walks into Denny's, Louie sees the mother of four little ones at the table. The mama is holding an infant no more than 4 months old. As he sits down and gives \$400 in Walmart and gas cards to her, a rosy cheeked daughter says, "Thanks Mr. Louie, now we can go to Walmart and get some food." Louie was really moved by the little girl and said, "Maybe your mom will be able to buy you a little something." The mom said, "It will have to be a real little something because we need groceries." Louie prays with the family and gives specially made Biker bibles for the husband and wife. He heads out of Denny's with tears in his eyes and an imprint on his heart. Mission accomplished for this week.

Denise Nobs
Executive Coordinator
NCOM Christian Unity
ncom.christianunity@gmail.com

218.929.7931

Bikers Welcome...

- Sleep Inn & Suites
- 4221 8th St South
- Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
- Ph 715 424 6800
- Ride and enjoy the fall colors!
- Newly remodeled

– Free hot continental breakfast, pool & hot tub

» Free Wifi

