

Starting a Biker Ministry

Ministering to bikers can be very demanding and rewarding. Biker Ministry can transform the hearts and minds of not only bikers, but the congregations of churches as well. If you are thinking of starting a biker ministry, and you feel a call from God to start a biker ministry then here is some important advice.

There is a difference between ministry to weekend warrior motorcycle riders and those who are a part of the biker culture. Both need to experience the saving grace of God and both are worthy of ministry efforts from a local church. Nazarene Motorcycle Fellowship supports churches that minister to either group of motorcycle riders. However, ministry to those in the “biker culture” requires special gifts and knowledge. This article especially addresses those involved in reaching men and women who are a part of the biker culture.

This type of ministry is not for the faint of heart. It is not for the person who goes out and buys a motorcycle and after a few months thinks they can get involved in this type of ministry. Biker ministry is for those that are or have been members of the biker world, saved by grace, and have a passion for people, especially bikers and evangelism.

You should know what to expect when ministering to bikers. Bikers are a different breed of people. They think differently, they act differently, and most are not from a church or religious background. They know a phony from a mile away and they normally won't let outsiders into their lives and territories. Bikers are very passionate about the biker lifestyle. And if you aren't familiar with it, it can be quite different than anything most have ever experienced. Biker Ministry is best left to those that know the biker community, have a passion for that lifestyle, and that have come out of that lifestyle through the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Before you start a ministry, contemplate the following questions:

- Why should you start a motorcycle ministry?
- Who will lead this ministry?
- Who is the target audience? Will it be local enjoyment riders, motorcycle enthusiasts, or hard core bikers? (Note: Each requires a different approach.)*
- Is your church open to this type of ministry and the type of people this ministry may attract?

If you have a person with a passion to lead a ministry like this, then you have won part of the battle. This person will be the force behind encouraging others to participate and minister to a special breed of people. If you have a church and staff that is willing to open up the doors to this type of ministry then by all means support it and watch it grow.

After you determine the type of bikers you will minister to, create a mission statement on how to reach them. This must be an intentional ministry geared toward a specific group. A clear mission statement will help shape the ministry and keep the group focused. Some things you should consider:

- What is our goal?
- What types of groups and/or bikers do we want to reach?
- How will we accomplish this?

- Will we participate in local biker community functions, which include secular activities?
- Will the church stand behind a group of church members involved in this type of ministry?

The ministry that has a strong mission statement and is intentionally focused will be successful. A ministry that has the support of the congregation will be more likely to accomplish the stated mission, while being held accountable for the mission of the church. When ministry and church are as one, the result is a strong, effective ministry.

Expect to see members of the ministry change, as well as the complexity of the church. In order for an effective ministry to accomplish the mission, the members must be willing to accommodate the biker community. Consider the following questions:

- Is our church open to all people?
- Will we love anyone that comes to our church, no matter what?
- Will we accept behaviors that may not be in line with our beliefs? (i.e. tattoos, earrings in men, smoking)

Note: Suits and ties don't work, leather, jeans and biker gear does. Motorcycles in the parking lot mean an inviting, safe environment for other bikers. Some that are drawn to the church through this ministry may not be refined; they may have habits that must be accepted, at least while they are seeking. Case in point is smoking. If you have issues about smokers, then the biker thing may be difficult. Bikers must feel they are welcome no matter what they look like, how they dress, what they ride, or who they are. We must allow God to change them and if we require them to change before they come, we have lost the battle up front. Most bikers, especially those hard core bikers, are for the most part non-conformists. Expect the worst and love them anyway.

Finally, consider your finances. To do ministry will cost something. If intentional, ministry may mean providing material such as Bibles and tracks and hosting events geared toward welcoming bikers (i.e. Biker Sunday and Blessing of the Bikes). Consider these questions:

- How will we fund the ministry?
- What might be some expenses?
- Will we hold special events to let bikers know they are welcome?
- What events will be planned to draw bikers to the church?

The Nazarene Motorcycle Fellowship (NMF) can assist you in developing an outreach ministry. Visit the [Nazarene Motorcycle Fellowship](#) web site for resources and contact information to those who can assist in your endeavor. With patience, prayer, and a desire to go into your community, this can be one of the most rewarding ministries within your church. It will change more than the lives of the bikers you reach; it will change the lives of your entire church.

For more details on different types of biker groups see [Motorcycle Club Riding Club Education](#).