



Chaplain Russ and Judy Cockrum

US Missionaries/Motorcycle Chaplains

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
U.S. MISSIONS



Our current ride. Chaplain Russ restored this 1974 BMW and added the sidecar.

Remember us? We know its been awhile. We could blame deaths in the family, personal health problems and critical family issues, but the fact is, "life happens." You have been faithful in your support, so we beg your forgiveness for our lack of communication. We promise to make every effort to keep you informed in the future.

One important lesson we learned riding motorcycles across the U.S. for the past 15 years, "Gettin' old ain't for sissies." We always wondered what God would have in store as we reached an age when 6,000 mile motorcycle trips would no longer be physically possible. Guess what? God had that figured out.

We are still involved with bikers and motorcyclists, but more off the bikes than on. Many riders we met in the motorcycling community struggled with alcohol and drug addiction, mental health problems, such as PTSD, depression and anxiety, as well as relationship and financial issues. We've built relationships with many military veterans and homeless folks along the way.

You probably know our testimony of alcoholism and addiction and God's miracle of deliverance. Recently

Chaplain Russ began experiencing PTSD symptoms related to his time of military service. Romans 8:28 promises, "All things will work for the good for those who love the Lord." We have seen this in action in our ministry focus. Because of our past addiction struggles we are able to empathize with those who face these issues. We now facilitate Christ centered 12 step meetings. Our "Higher Power" has a name. Jesus Christ is our Savior, healer and deliverer. His grace is sufficient for the addict and the alcoholic. Some of the same people we ministered to as bikers are now in our drug and alcohol programs.

Because he has received mental health care from the VA, this experience qualifies him to be a VA Peer Support Specialist. After a year of training Chaplain Russ now volunteers at the VA Hospital in the Mental Health Inpatient Unit. Even the VA sees spirituality as a big part of recovery. When a veteran asks Russ how he overcame addiction and is now dealing with PTSD related problems he is permitted to share his own spiritual journey. (Translation? "I can talk about Jesus all I want.")

Judy's ministry to women in the biker culture prepared her for her current passion. She recently received training to facilitate "Getting Ahead" workshops with "Bridges out of Poverty." She's reaching single moms and families that are struggling to move from instability to self-sufficiency. She has an open door to share God's love and grace with individual's society may have written off. Judy also is Chaplain at a domestic abuse shelter.

Are we still Chaplain/Missionaries to bikers? YES! God has allowed us to expand the scope of our ministry. Thank you so much for partnering with us. We look forward to many more years being one of the missions outreaches of your church.

