



BIKE HOPE LOVE

RIDE A BIKE - GIVE HOPE - SPREAD LOVE

Article by Richard Crispin.

The roots of Bike Hope Love began in 1987 as a small group of US Methodist cyclists called Pedalling Parsons that shared a passion for cycling, community and helping their vulnerable neighbours.

They had the idea that instead of just riding for fun and fitness, they could ride with a purpose. The vision of that founding group resulted in a decades-long movement that has pedalled over 18,000 miles and has raised over \$900,000 for mission projects in the United States and around the world.

Today- these former “Pedalling Parsons” are not just clergy but are made up of both pastors and laypeople. Some ride bikes and others are part of the support team that keeps the riders on the road, gets them to their destinations, refreshes and feeds them on the tour and helps them when they break down, get lost, or get hurt. Bike Hope Love riders are husband and wife, father and son, father and daughter, mother and son teams; they are retirees; they are youth; and they range in age from 9 to 83. This community of cyclists don't mind riding in the rain or sleeping on church floors. They love God, meeting new friends, and the adventure for the sake of serving God and others.

In 1995 I met the President of Pedalling Parsons, Revd Don Richards, when he came to our church in Purbrook, Portsmouth, on the Methodist Minister's exchange programme and we went cycling together. In 1998, Don asked me to arrange a UK tour for the Pedalling Parsons. I planned a route from Bristol to Aberdeen, a total of 586 mile which we completed in 8 days. We slept on church floors, and sometimes in church members homes. The churches fed us and we offered them an opportunity to hear about the Mission and share time with us. There were 6 US participants and 3

Brits, ably supported by a crew of 2 with a van and minibus. No-one wanted to ride home again 😊

In 2001, I was invited to Ohio to take part in the annual autumn tour and rode a 400 mile circular tour of northern Ohio. The bike tours raise money for mission projects. Some of these are for US Projects and others are for International Missions, often in Africa.

The 2020 autumn tour is a new venture for the Pedalling Parsons who have now become Bike Hope Love.

Home Town Collective Ride. August 1 - 31, 2020

The Mission:

Seed Money for New Church Ministries

Money raised from the tour will be used to provide grants to local East Ohio United Methodist congregations, *(and any other church with a participating rider – so this includes Christchurch and Wimborne Methodist Circuit)* to invest in strategic partnerships with community churches, schools, businesses and other organizations. Anyone interested in receiving one of these grants should contact Rev. Don Richards, President of Bike Hope Love. for review from the board of directors. Contact details for Don are available from Richard Crispin.

Background

COVID 19 has forced Bike Hope Love (Formerly known as “The Pedalling Parsons”) to begin a new chapter: The Virtual Tour. We felt the most responsible thing to do amid this pandemic was to replace our group rides with a safer version which will not put participants or churches at as high of risk of getting or spreading COVID 19.

Time Frame: The tour will take place from August 1 –31.

Distance: 240 Miles. The goal is to ride 3 days a week on rides with an average distance of 20 miles or 60 miles per week.

Location: Each rider will ride in the location and routes of her or his choice.

Devotions: Devotions will via Zoom every Monday at 9:00 A.M. (2PM UK Time)

Riding Partner: We encourage participants to invite a friend or two to ride with them while following COVID 19 precautions.

The Contest (optional): We will have a fun contest. Registered participants will be split into 2 or 3 teams. The winning team will get to be the guests of honour at a steak fry hosted by the other teams at a future date when it is safe for large group gatherings again. *(Not sure how this will work for me if my team win. Perhaps I’ll get another trip to Ohio or they may just post me a steak).*

Attend Zoom Devotions (Live or view later) -20 Points per week

Ride 20+ miles -10 Points per day (Max of 40 points per week)

Ride with a friend –10 Points per day (Max 40 points per week)

Stop at a restaurant and post picture of your meal on our Facebook page (Can be carry out)

Ride a new route -10 Points

Post a picture of your ride on our Facebook page -10 Points

Tell someone about Bike Hope Love and ask them to donate to the project -10 Points

Raise > \$500 for the project -50 Points

Raise > \$1,000 for the project –100 Points

Appeal: If anyone would like to ride with me, which will help boost my points total and my team's chances of winning the contest, please contact me via my email: richardcrispin@yahoo.co.uk Minimum distance will be 20 miles.

If anyone is willing to support the mission financially, please visit www.bikehopelove.org where full details of the ride and mission project can be found. Donations can be made by clicking on this link: [square link](#) or copy and paste this link into your Internet Browser:

<https://checkout.square.site/pay/a10a9b16e4bc47b18b9a74d667f64548>

Any contributions will be gratefully received.

If you're on Facebook you can visit the Bike Hope Love Facebook page and see my posts on the Community page for my ride details and pictures.

Thank you for your support.