

Black Sheep

Happy Birthday America!

July 2015

About This Newsletter

Welcome! If you would like to receive this free monthly newsletter by email, simply let us know by contacting our office: Vicki@BlackSheepHDFC.org. ☆

Windshields and Mirrors

Marty Edwards (International Pres. BSHDFC)

I'm not sure who said it first, but it goes like this: "If you focus on your past instead of your present, you won't ever have a future."

We've all made mistakes. We are all "sinners." The best of us have SOMETHING in our past that we're not proud of. But let's keep the horse in front of the cart: We are not sinners because we have sinned. Not sure about that? Observe carefully as one toddler steals a rattle away from another toddler and then cracks him on the noggin with it! I rest my case.

People say, "But I'm a good person! I've never robbed a bank!" I've never killed anyone!" The problem, you see, is not WHAT WE HAVE DONE so much as WHO WE ARE DEEP DOWN INSIDE. Sin (lying, cheating, stealing, etc.) is merely a symptom of what's on the inside.

*"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
(Romans 3:23)*

*"There is no one righteous, not even one"
(Romans 3:10)*

What can I do about my sin...my past? Absolutely nothing! The Good News (as we call it) is that God has already done something about our sin. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross as a SACRIFICE for us, to pay for our sin. Christians are not necessarily "good people." We are sinners who (a) have been forgiven of our sin nature and (b) now seek to live our lives according to the Bible (God's Word.)



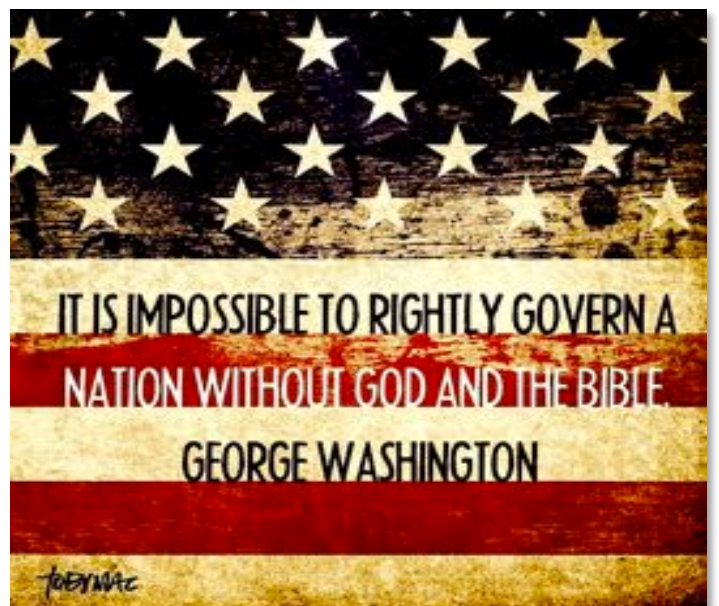
Here's the problem: God forgives us much easier than we forgive ourselves. God says to the sinners, both great and small,

*"Come now, let us settle the matter," says the LORD.
"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as
white as snow; though they are red as crimson,
they shall be like wool." (Isaiah 1:18)*

*"While we were STILL sinners,
Christ died for us..."(Romans 5:8)*

One day my pastor told me the difference between a windshield and a rearview mirror. We are to **FOCUS** on the windshield (and what lies beyond it) but we are to only **GLANCE** at our rearview mirrors. In other words, "If you focus on your past instead of your present, you won't ever have a future."

God has forgiven us! It's an opportunity waiting to be picked up. It's an act of faith, trusting that God will do what He said He would do. We at BSHDFC encourage you to join us in this forgiveness and start walking in the life God has always wanted for you. ☆



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- ⊙ = Adopted by a Chapter ■ = Reg Directors

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We
don't
so
much
ask:
GOD
BLESS
AMERICA
as we do
pray:
GOD
MAKE
US
GRATEFUL
FOR
WHAT
YOU
HAVE
ALREADY
DONE.
Then,
God
BLESS
America,
again.

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**2015 Southern California Downed HOG Event
Sunday, July 12th. San Juan Capistrano**

Bruce "Skippy" Grant



It is the story that is told time and time again in chapels, halls and inner circles of Black Sheep. The characters may be different but the plot and ending are the same. Each memory remains unique, poignant, deeply touching and cuts to the core why we are here and what God has in store for us.

It is the tragic story of someone close to us who lost their life, left family, and friends behind wondering why and what it is about riding a motorcycle that beckons to so many of us. It is the story of how a Ministry, Black Sheep, came to being. Learning to care for those in time of need, caring for their needs first and then sharing the loving words of Christ with them when the time was right.

I've seen scores of applications come through my email, each one carrying a story of someone hurt, someone in pain and a signature of the Brother or



Sister in Christ tending to that hurting person. They are all sad to read, but the ones that carry news of a death, are a piercing reminder of what we need to do. The thank you cards rare, but so greatly appreciated, bring back that encouragement to push forward, pay it forward and keep doing what we do best.



Loving one another, not just in words but in deeds and with truth.

The card and a picture of Eric Mapel laid on the dining room table. The card was a handwritten thank you note from Eric's widow and family graciously thanking Black Sheep for all they had done to help. It was a moment of gratitude among many tears that expressed appreciation and shed some joy into his story.

Each year we throw a party for HOG, a fund raiser intended to raise money for HOG members, friends and family. It provides Black Sheep just another way to pay respects and say "How can we help?"

We have raised close to \$60,000 dollars over these past three years, we have served over 55 HOG members, and or their family with a small stipend to help them financially and a helping hand with anything else that was needed.

This year is our 4th annual Downed HOG Poker Run. This ride is for our HOG family, we are your hosts.

We are throwing a big party for you and we would like you to attend. We are raffling off a 2015 Street Glide Special, have door prizes, 50/50, pie eating, vendors, Bike Show, Car Show and yes someone famous from days gone by in Hollywood is going to be there to greet you. Clean Slate, our beloved Eagles cover band will

be there to entertain you while you dine, dance and soak in the sun.

It's that time of year again to register for the ride, buy that bike raffle ticket and come visit us on Sunday July 12, 2015 from 11-3 in Historic Town Center Park in San Juan Capistrano. And remember ... you are the guest of honor. ☆

REPORT: Northern California Down HOG

Johnny Lujan



Another year has passed and another very successful Nor/Cal Downed HOG Biker event is over. Our chapter members were servants with a smile on their faces!

The food was awesome as usual! There were plenty of compliments from the staff on it being one of the best meals they have had at the dealership for a very long time. A special thank you to Tom Lynch and the Livermore chapter for their skills at the grill. San Jose Black Sheep hosted the best games we have had in a very long time. The consensus was the ring toss and "Butt Darts" were better than the bike games everyone is used to doing. By doing new games, more people participated and there were laughs throughout the day!

Thanks to everyone who went out of their way to bring raffle prizes. I know there were many who purchased raffle prizes with their own funds to make sure we had enough. Oakland did a great job at the raffle table and set an all time high for raffle ticket sales.

A huge thank you to the Sacramento chapter for setting up the registration tables and counting the cards on the return which always seems to be the biggest confusion of the day. Not only did you get all the waivers signed and the cards counted, but you also were able to sell additional meal tickets!

The dealership was so impressed with the event that some of them came out multiple times just to



see what was going on. They were appreciative that the Black Sheep are the only group that invites their entire dealership staff to come and eat for free during the event. They also mentioned that we are the nicest and funniest group they ever had and complimented how organized the event was and how clean we kept the dealership throughout the day.

The DJ and MC did a great job. This was the 4th event where they have partnered with us. If anyone would like his name for future events, please let me know as he really appreciates our ministry and events. ☆

MORE FUNDS RAISED FOR INJURED HOGS MEMBERS

Editor Needed for Black Sheep

We are currently looking for one or two new editors for our two monthly newsletters. One is a GENERAL newsletter to all members and friends of BSHDFC and the other is a MEMBERS ONLY newsletter.



- ✓ Must be a member of BSHDFC
- ✓ Must have own computer and skills
- ✓ Must have an artistic eye
- ✓ Must be good at spelling and grammar

If interested, please call 951-677-1407 or contact Vicki@BlackSheepHDFC.org.



HOGS aren't always pretty, but there are 2 million of them and they are our primary focus of ministry!

We shine boots, go to the hospitals, officiate weddings and funerals...just to show the love of Christ.

HOG =
Harley Owners Group

