The Dash Board

- 15 vans are currently providing transportation for missionaries.
- 49 missionary families are scheduled to use vehicles over the next few years.
- 25 vehicles donated, 18 sold, 3 kept, 4 are in the process of being sold!
- 15 vans drove a total of 91,100 miles in the 1st quarter of 2009.

Desiring God’s Direction by Mark Reighard

The Righteous Rides Board of Directors met recently to review the events of 2008 and to approve the budget and plans for 2009. Though we are a relatively small ministry, the Board is committed to ensuring that Righteous Rides operates and grows in a way that is healthy and responsible. In keeping with this commitment, there were several key decisions the Board wanted to share with everyone.

First of all, it is clear from the feedback we have received from numerous missionaries, that Righteous Rides is filling a definite (and many times - desperate) need. This need is also continuously re-confirmed as we daily turn missionaries away because we don’t have enough vehicles. Because this need so dramatically exceeds our vehicle resources, it was decided that Righteous Rides would put greater emphasis on fundraising in 2009. One way we have decided to do that is to begin an awareness campaign on the radio. Recently we began this campaign on Bott Christian radio in St. Louis and the surrounding area. Advertisements are being aired this spring to solicit used vehicle donations. Pray that these advertisements will be fruitful. We will also be seeking to present the ministry more often at area churches. We have begun an organized effort on this and ask that you would pray with us that God would provide numerous opportunities.

Secondly, we are quickly adding miles to the existing fleet which is booked completely through mid 2010; some are already booked into 2012. We are often asked by people...

“The Board is confident that these are the roads God is leading us down. Pray for Board, that God will help us map out the best course for Righteous Rides to serve God’s servants and... accelerate the gospel”.

The Filling Station

Praises:

- We’ve seen God’s protection of missionary families on the road!
- Generous donors.
  - Thank you!
- One new van was added to the Righteous Rides fleet in February 09’.
- Volunteers that help in various ways.

Prayer Requests:

- God’s wisdom and guidance for the team as the ministry continues to grow.
- Safe travel for missionaries.
- Minimal and low cost maintenance.
- Opportunities to present the ministry of Righteous Rides in various churches.

Spring is in the air yet many missions minded churches are in the process of plugging in speakers for their Fall Missions Conference. As a support ministry to missionaries, we would love to have the opportunity to share with your church the practicality of providing transportation to missionaries home on furlough.

In 2008 we had the opportunity to share at the Fall Missions Conference at Hope Bible Church. We were given the privilege of kicking off their Missions Conference in the morning worship service. After the tangible aspects of Righteous Rides were shared, the congregation was challenged from God’s Word to use their talents and abilities to serve the Lord.

For information on having Righteous Rides as a part of your Missions Conference or other event contact Renee at info@righteousrides.org for scheduling arrangements.
"Oh yes, We Have Volunteers!"  
by Karen Reighard

Richard and Jennifer were busily preparing to head back to Moldova on March 17th. They were on a tight schedule as most missionaries are, packing bags, double checking their itinerary, and saying last goodbyes to family and friends. Included in this busy schedule was the task of getting their Righteous Rides van from Columbia, SC back to St. Louis. Richard decided to contact us asking for a little help.

"You wouldn't have any volunteers that want to make a trip to Columbia, SC would you?"

Oh yes, we have volunteers! Righteous Rides has been blessed by many supporters offering to drop off or pick up vehicles. The ministry continues to build its network of volunteers to help with these activities.

On March 5th we sent an e-mail to several volunteers asking if anyone was willing to go to SC and drive a van back to St. Louis. Three volunteers offered their services within two hours after the e-mail was sent!

With more than enough volunteers willing to pick up the van, Richard was notified. He sent back the following e-mail:

"WOW! Praise the Lord for your willingness to serve in this manner. This will take a huge time commitment off our shoulders during this incredibly busy time of transitioning back to the mission field. Let us know if this will work out. If this does work, it will be a miracle as far as we are concerned. Righteous Rides continues to minister in ways that go far beyond normal expectations of us and many others that we share these amazing stories with."

When our volunteer arrived to pick up the van Richard was already on his way back to Moldova. The night before our volunteer arrived Richard sent him an e-mail stating he wished he could meet him face to face. His desire was to be able to tell him personally a huge blessing this was to his family, especially during their crazy transition back to the field. He ended the e-mail with thanks to all for ministering to them in such a profound way during their home ministry assignment.

We want to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers who give so generously of their time. We certainly can’t accelerate the Gospel without your help and support! If you would like to volunteer for vehicle delivery or have a desire to host a missionary family overnight, please contact us at info@righteousrides.org. We would be delighted to add your name to the list.

A recent note of thanks from a missionary applicant:

"We are deeply grateful for your generous and practical service to missionaries. Thanks be to God."

The encouraging words we receive from vehicle users and potential vehicle users fuel RR in the endeavor to provide the best transportation possible!