

# Bikers Give Preacher a Helping Hand

Rev. Johnny Moore is a man with a mission – and it involves a bicycle. Several bikes, in fact.

Like most preachers, he takes up a collection. But his doesn't involve passing a plate. Instead, he collects things he can recycle.

His goal is to build a church in Schulenburg by selling the recycled goods – stuff he often hauls by bicycle.

It was the bike use that got the attention of a Houston company participating in this year's BP MS-150. And now that attention has got him a brand new motorized bike and trailer.

The Motorized Bicycle Company of Houston has donated one of its Bike Bug front wheel drive bicycle engines to Rev. Moore and honored him as Bike Bug Brother of the Year 2011.

The Bike Bug engine is mounted on a Worksman Industrial Tricycle that pulls a 2-foot by 6-foot bicycle-wheel trailer.

During the MS-150, four Bike Bug equipped bicyclers made a stop in Columbus, where they learned about Rev. Moore constructing a church by collecting recyclable materials with a bicycle and wagon.

They learned Rev. Moore collects the materials and hauls them to his facility. At the Church of the Heart construction site, the preacher and parishioners sort and stack the various items.



The Church of the Heart's motorized Bike Bug and trailer makes its maiden appearance at Houston's Art Car Parade – hauling bottled water to give away – before it was delivered to Church of the Heart in Schulenburg for Rev. Johnny Moore, the 2011 Bike Bug Brother of the Year.

People in Schulenburg then shop at Moore's outdoor facility and buy the various items.

The proceeds will fund the church construction.

After completing the 150 mile Houston to Austin MS-150 run, several of the Bike Buggers drove through Schulenburg on their way home to find Rev. Moore.

"They were immediately greeted with great smiles and handshakes from Rev. Moore and several of his parishioners," says Mike Schneider of MBC.

"They were shown the facility, and told of the construction ambitions and adventures involved."

Rev. Moore has three bicycles parked in front of his facility and tells this story about each:

- A bike with a mule-drawn plow ("The Lord says you have to Sow").

- A bike with a boat with fishing poles ("The Lord says you are to be a fisher of men").

- A bike with the wagon ("The Lord will provide").

The Bike Buggers thought maybe they could provide something, too.

Moore told them about his collections – hauling refrigerators, cast iron bath tubs and other items weighting up to 200 pounds on his bicycle wagon.

Schneider described Moore as "straining hard, pumping a bicycle and wagon loaded to the gills, late at night in his service to the Lord."

The company showed Moore one of its adult tricycles outfitted with a Bike Bug engine and told him about the recent MS-150 trip and how the unit handled the hills.

"Rev. Moore said he had been praying for some help from the lord in building the church and he figured that four angels had just been sent to show him the tricycle with the engine."

When Rev. Moore asked how much the tricycle and engine would cost, the company told him they figured that would be their contribution to building a church in Schulenburg,

"Preacher Moore took out his handkerchief and cried some – wiped the tears and then gave Thanks. There were a lot of smiles and laughter after that among the people there," Sch-

neider said.

The company decided this was a project where its Bike Bug 1.2 horse power engine could really be of service. The Worksman Tricycle (model ADB-3CB) was selected because of its industrial strength, hauling capacity and "history of lasting as long as rocks," Schneider said.

Several trailer designs were considered and the final one incorporated a bolted steel frame, with 3/8" plywood board as a bed, 15mm steel axles and four 24-inch heavy duty bicycle wheels, tires and tubes.

"One of the key items in building the trailer was to use commonly found items from the local hardware store."

The company's engineering staff figures the unit should support 300-pound payloads, travel at about 20 miles per hour and achieve 150 miles per gallon.

"Since the Bike Bug ... is street legal without license, tags, inspection, or insurance in Texas, it is hoped that this substantial cost savings plus great gas mileage and low maintenance cost will help Church of the Heart be funded sooner than using a costly truck or car," Schneider said.

The Motorized Bicycle Company is also equipping the unit with head light, bell, mirrors, taillight and flashing safety wheel lights.

"It is hoped the good citizens will give room on the roadways to Rev. Johnny and his cause when he is encountered on the road."

Every year the Motorized Bicycle Co. selects a Bike Bug Brother of the Year. Rev. John Moore is being honored as Bike Bug Brother of 2011.

He is featured on the company website ([www.motorized-bicyclecompany.com](http://www.motorized-bicyclecompany.com)) and Bike Bug's website ([www.bikebug.net](http://www.bikebug.net)) with photos and video of his inaugural ride on the streets of Schulenburg.



Motorized Bicycle Co. of Houston outfitted this tricycle and wagon for 2011's Bike Bug Brother of the Year.