Updated (May 21)
Living Water Bicycle Tour Itinerary
June 15-20

Day One - Sunday June 15th
Prayer for the group during the worship service which begins at 10:00 a.m. After the service, the team will enjoy a light meal provided by the church.

During lunch we will all get acquainted, register for the trip and give our sponsorship money if collected. Checks can be written to "Kalamazoo Free Methodist Church" and "Living Water bike tour" in the memo line please. In addition, we should all make payment of the expenses for our trip which includes fuel costs for our logistics team providing transport of our gear, food, etc. Also, payment for groceries and goodies provided along the way. (We have furnished sound estimates at the end of this document.) We should exchange cell phone numbers for our trip.

Then we will travel to the Kal-Haven trail head on 10th street in Kalamazoo and leave at 1:00 p.m. for our 34 mile ride. There will be some one-day riders with us on this leg of our journey.
Everyone will be responsible for their own meal that evening in South Haven. After the group eats together, we will pedal the additional 6-7 miles to the Van Buren State park. The daily pass to ride the Kal-Haven trail is $3 per rider or the family pass is $7.

Total ride for day #1 is approx. 40 miles.

<u>You must make your own reservations at the Van Buren State park right away</u>. The contact information is Van Buren State Park 269-637-2788 or www.midnrreservations.com. We should complete the ride in less than four hours, eat dinner in town *at your own expense* and arrive at the State Park by 7 pm.

Day Two - Monday the 16th. – 7:30 a.m. rise and shine! Safety meeting, prayer and devotions at 8:00 a.m. during breakfast. We pack our lunches and cold drinks for the road and hit the road by 9:00 a.m.

Today we ride from Van Buren State Park in South Haven, MI to Yogi Bear campground in Grand Haven, Michigan. Total ride for Day #2 is almost exactly 55 miles.

Our route that day is:
Leave Van Buren State Park head north to South Haven on Reuggles Road and return to trail head.

North Shore Drive to Blue Star 1.8 miles
A2 to Glen, MI 8.8 miles
To 70th to Westside county park 12 miles (We'll break here)
To 124th to Blue Star (N) 13.7 miles
Blue Star (N) to Burger King 21.5 miles
64th (N) to 160th to Southshore Drive around Holland 30 miles.
Southshore drive to Van Raalte (becomes 9th) 33.5 miles
9th Street to River 34.5 miles.
River Ave to Lakewood (L) 35.6 miles
Lakewood to Lakeshore (N) 40 miles.
Lakeshore to Lake Michigan Drive (east) 52 miles.
Lake MI drive to US 31 south to Agnew 55 miles
This is the Jelly Stone Park location.

Reservations can be made at 616-842-9395. This campground has a pool and laundry available. The cost for water and electric site for tenters is $40 per night but we get 10% off as a group. Just mention that you are with the "bike trip people". You must make your own reservations at this campground!

Day Three – Tuesday the 17th.

7:30 a.m. rise and shine! Prayer and devotions at 8:00 a.m. during breakfast. We pack our lunches and cold drinks for the road and hit the road by 9:00 a.m.

Today our ride is from the Yogi Bear campground in Grand Haven to Holiday Camping Resort in New Era. Our ride today is almost exactly 63 miles.

We will eat dinner at Country Dairy in New Era. This is a family owned organic dairy with delicious deli sandwiches and soups to enjoy. Yes, they have ice cream as well. Each person is responsible

for the cost of their meals that night. After dinner, we will mount our bikes and finish the 3.5 miles to our Holiday Camping Resort. You need to reserve your site by calling 231-861-5220. I believe the rates for tents are $10 per night per person. They have showers and a pool.

Our route that day is:

Lake Michigan Drive west to Lake Shore Drive North 3 miles.
Lake Shore becomes Sheldon in Grand Haven.
Sheldon become N. 5th street to Jackson Rd. (R)
Jackson to N. Beach Blvd (cross the draw bridge)
Take bike ramp down to Ferrysburg Park 7 miles
From Ferrysburg Park to 104 (3rd street) under 31 overpass.
This becomes 174th street North or Grand Haven Rd.
To Root Beer stand 14 miles.
131 Bus ½ mile to Getty Road 14.7 miles
Getty to US 31 business (L) 19.4 miles
US 31 business to 120 Whitehall Rd. 19.8 miles
120 Whitehall Rd. to White Lake road (L) 31 miles
(take the jog thru Whitehall across bridge)
White Lake Rd. to Zeller (N) 32.6
Zeller becomes Mears to White Lk bike trail 33.3 miles
Mears to Colby (Nice park ½ mile) 33.8
Get on Montague trail here to US 20 to New Era to Country Dairy 38 miles.
Country Dairy west on 20th to Holiday Camping Resort 41.5 miles.

Day Four – Wednesday the 18th.

We have a shorter ride today so we will have a leisurely time in the morning before we leave. Recommended departure time is 10-10:30 a.m.

Today our ride is from New Era heading east on M-20 to the White Cloud area. We are staying at a wonderful place called “The Shack” in Jugville, MI just west of White Cloud. This is a recovery day. We ride only 31 miles and enjoy a comfortable bed on day four. Everyone is responsible for reserving their rooms that night by contacting “The Shack” directly at 231-924-6683. My recommendation is to pay a little more for the “hot tub room” which is

only $90 per night. These rooms are spacious and beautiful. That evening we will enjoy complimentary banana splits at the lodge. The next morning, they will provide a modest complimentary breakfast as well.

Our route this day is:
Leave Holiday Campground on 20 east.
Road side park is 7 miles away.
Hesperia intersection is 19.1 miles
Road side park is 25.7 miles
Baldwin Ave. heading south is 26.1
12th Street heading east is 28.6 miles.
The Shack is 31.1 miles

Day Five – Thursday the 18th
7:30 a.m. rise and shine! Prayer and devotions at 8:00 a.m. during breakfast provided by "The Shack" in their dining hall. We pack our lunches and cold drinks for the road and hit the road by 9:00 a.m.

Our route this day is:
We leave the shack and travel east to White Cloud.
We cross over M-37 which is 5.8 miles.
We proceed east to Mecosta line which is 17.9 miles and head north.
We turn east on 8 mile which is 19 miles.
We break at Brower Park and gas station at 131 22.1 miles
Just past 131 is the white pine trail at 24.5 miles.
We take this trail about 35 miles to the campground.
We get off at Belmont and turn east (L).
At the Post Office we turn on Belshire and head south ¼ mile to Rogue River Road. We take a left on Verta which dead ends at the campground.
Total mile is estimated at approx. 65 miles.

Our destination is Grand Rogue campgrounds at 6400 West River Drive which is located on the banks of the Grand River. They are situated one mile from the bike trail we will have been on the second half of the day. You need to make your reservations with them at 616-361-1053. The home number for Tom is 616-942-1071. Please mention again that you are with that Bike group from Kalamazoo.

They have laundry and a manmade lake. I recommend the rustic wilderness site for just $19 for tents. Full hookup is only $33. This is our last night together, we finish the ride on Friday.

Day Six –Friday the 19th
7:30 a.m. rise and shine! Prayer and devotions at 8:00 a.m. during breakfast. We pack our lunches and cold drinks for the road and hit the road by 9:00 a.m.

Here is a list of places where reservations need to be made ASAP:
Day **One** – Van Buren State Park. 269-637-2788 or on line at midnrreservastions.com. (Our RV is reserved at lot #66.)
Day **Two** – Jelly Stone campgrounds in Grand Haven. Vicki at 616-842-9395 tell them you are with the "bike trip people". Tent sites are $40 per night with water and electric minus 10%.
Day **Three** – Reservations made, please plan to reimburse Pastor Bruce. Tent sites are $10 per person.
Day **Four** – "The Shack" in Jugville just west of White Cloud. Cost is $70 - $120 per night. 231-924-6683
Day **Five** – Grand Rogue Campground. Tom at 616-942-1071/616-361-1053. Tent Cost $19-$33 per site.

Additional Costs:
Fuel Costs
We want to split the fuel costs for our traveling vehicle which is pulling an RV. I estimate the total cost for fuel to be around $150-175 which will be evenly split by the total number of people we have on our full week trip. They are carrying our gear and preparing a number of our meals for us.
Note: *For our KalHaven trail riders, we suggest a donation of $5 for fuel costs to bring bike and rider back to the trailhead at the end of the day.*

Food Costs
In addition to fuel costs, each member of the bike team will pay their share of food expenses which will be estimated and split evenly among the size of the group. At this point in time, we are estimating $7.50-$10 per day per person.

#4 Breakfasts will be provided. These are simple toast and cereal and juice type meals. (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.)

#5 Lunches will be provided. These are power drinks or waters, sandwiches and nutritional and energy laden snacks. If you have a favorite "power bar" or "power drink" feel free to furnish your own to supplement these snacks. (Monday – Friday)

#4 Dinners will be provided. (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.)

Note: *We will provide bottled waters each day. We suggest you purchase your favorite high energy snacks for each day of your trip.*

<u>On the road meals</u>

These meals will come out of your own pocket.

We will eat at the *Vineyard* restaurant (Italian) in South Haven on Sunday Day One.

We will eat at *Country Dairy* in New Era on Tuesday Day Three.

If we drive by a burger joint you are free to eat what you want in addition to the meals already provided.

<u>Total estimated costs per couple:</u> (Assumes 10 people in the group)

Fuel $30
Groceries $75 - $100
Restaurants $40
Lodging $175-$200 Camping and One night hotel
Total = $320 - $370 plus eating out.

Miscellaneous Items

We are very concerned about your safety and recognize that some of our route will be off road on state and county maintained bike trails but some of our route is on county roads. We recommend that every rider wear a good quality safety vest or bike jersey. Equipment stores are a good source to purchase the three-color safety vests. Bike shops have more expensive high color jersey's at two to three times the expense.

In addition, everyone should keep at least one spare tire and two tubes for their bicycle. A flat tire is very likely at some point in the trip and the walk pushing a bicycle is considerable. If you have a tire

pump that is mountable on your bike, you should bring it. Water bottles, fanny packs, bicycle gear bags are all good ideas. Of course, a bicycle helmet is a “no-brainer”. We will have access to cell phone and a vehicle in case of something catastrophic with a bicycle.

Next Steps – How to take part in this special project

Please keep in mind that the purpose of this event is primarily a fund-raiser for KFM’s world impact project. We love to ride our bikes and will have plenty of fun but that is secondary to our goal of providing fresh drinking wells for the thirsty villages of Malawi.

1. Register for the Ride

If you are planning on participating with us we need you to register your attendance in this event. You can do so by sending an email to BRhodesKFM@aol.com. Furnish me your name and the names of those in your party if you are with a group. Upon your arrival, at either KFM on Sunday morning or the trailhead at 1:00 p.m., you will be asked to sign a waiver keeping our church from any legal harm in case of an accident.
When you register, please let me know if you are participating in the one day KalHaven Trail ride or the entire week event or any portion thereof. This is important so that we have adequate food and supplies for our participants.

2. Reserve your campsites according to previous instructions above.

3. Begin identifying sponsors for your ride.
   Pray
   Create a list of possible sponsors.
   Send a letter of make a phone call. (A sample is provided here.)
   Mail or email or make your phone contact.

4. Collect the funds in advance if possible.
   Be prepared to turn in your sponsorship money on Day One.
   However, people can directly mail in their support directly to the church at this address;
   Kalamazoo Free Methodist Church

931 West Maple Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
There is a paypal option on our website if they prefer.
However, be sure that all checks have “bike trip” in the memo line.

5. If sponsorship funds come in after the event, please mail these in to the above address at the church asap.

Thank you for partnering with us in this great cause! We look forward to riding with you and fellowshipping together.