By Terri Lang

Nearly 30 bikers from Fuller Center Bike Adventure departed from Strasburg at 8:30 a.m. on Tues., July 3, on their way to South Dakota, and then continuing on through August 11, with their final destination being Portland, Maine.

The Fuller Center does have a training plan for the bikers that they recommend. "And there are others, who just play it out, and it seems to work both ways," she added.

The bikers also work hard at fundraising, finding sponsors who will support the Fuller Center’s mission. Their goal as a group is to raise $400,000, and McClain said they have already raised $300,000.

"They each have a fundraising goal, and they have really done well this year," McClain said.

These bikes are not only for a training plan for the bikers but also for a trip like this. "The Fuller Center Bicycle Adventure has helped hundreds of people have some of the most meaningful experiences of their lives. They come to ride bikes and change lives by building houses along the way, but they leave finding themselves the ones truly changed and with friendships built for life."

This group of bikers worked on a housing project in Kellogg, Idaho, and their next one will be in Waukegan, Illinois.

In a typical ride week, they ride about 75 miles per day. They normally will spend their nights at a local church. "The churches often provide us with a meal for supper," McClain said.

Of the 28 bikers who participated on this adventure tour, some of them, segment riders, join for just a rod of it for two weeks. "About 20 of them did the whole way, and then we also have a support team of four who ride in vehicles," she said.

Prior to departing for their day, the bikers share a personal faith story and a time for prayer. Laverne Nakai of Arizona said part of the prayer in Navajo language.

"The best parts of these tours is seeing the country, meeting people in the small communities and having the opportunity to serve and live out our mission," Ciment said.

The participants get to know each other very well throughout their two months together, and they learn how to support each other. "We support each other as we ride. We spend 24 hours together—riding, visiting, eating, sleeping and sharing our mission in churches and communities," McClain said.

By John Baumgartner at the Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Strasburg. The group was very impressed with the informative tour.

The bikers enjoyed and appreciated the guided tour by Jennifer Keller (sitting on far left) and Brian Grove (sitting on far right) at the Welk Homestead State Historic Site. Strasburg Mayor Ray Nieuwsma and his wife, Chris, (left side on photo) joined the bikers. The group thanked the Strasburg State Bank for sponsoring the tour.
The Fuller Center Bike Adventure crew of four rode with the bikers, providing support, food, water, medical supplies and other travel needs.

The Strasburg Public School and bus driver Brian Grove provided a bus to take the bikers on tours during their stay in Strasburg.

Many of the bikers stopped to take a photo along the highway, mostly of the Lawrence Welk Birthplace sign.

The Strasburg Senior Center provided their facility to the bikers on Monday evening.