



TAKING HIS TURN carrying a white cross made of plastic pipe, Austin Hendrickson, 15, Oberlin, strode down U.S. 36 from Crossroads Express last Wednesday morning. He is the son of Scott and Patricia Hendrickson of Oberlin. — Herald staff photos by Stephanie DeCamp

Teens cross state for fund raiser

By **STEPHANIE DeCAMP**
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There was a time when motorcycle clubs abounded, but not one that appeared to have Christ as the center of its organization.

The Christian Motorcycle Alliance changed all that. And last Tuesday, a group from the group's youth ministry offshoot from Hutchinson, called Front Line, came through Oberlin to take a rest from a fundraising walk. Sponsor Scott Eikleberry, the 39-year-old leader of the troupe, said the closest chapter is in Stockton.

Inspired by another group that walked in Arkansas, the nine kids who came through Oberlin are walking from the western border of Kansas to the center of the state. They were hauling a white cross made out of plastic pipe, rolling on wheels down U.S. 36. Their goal

is to meet another group walking from the eastern border somewhere between Mankato and Belleville.

They take the burden of the cross in turns, their numbers broken up into three groups, with each one taking a 10-mile stretch over about four hours.

They do this to raise money for the alliance's "Run for the Son" campaign, which sponsors four ministry projects.

"So this youth group in Alabama did a fund raiser where they carried a cross to the top of a mountain in Arkansas," Eikleberry said. "Our groups in Kansas heard about that, and said 'Hey, I bet we can do it better!'"

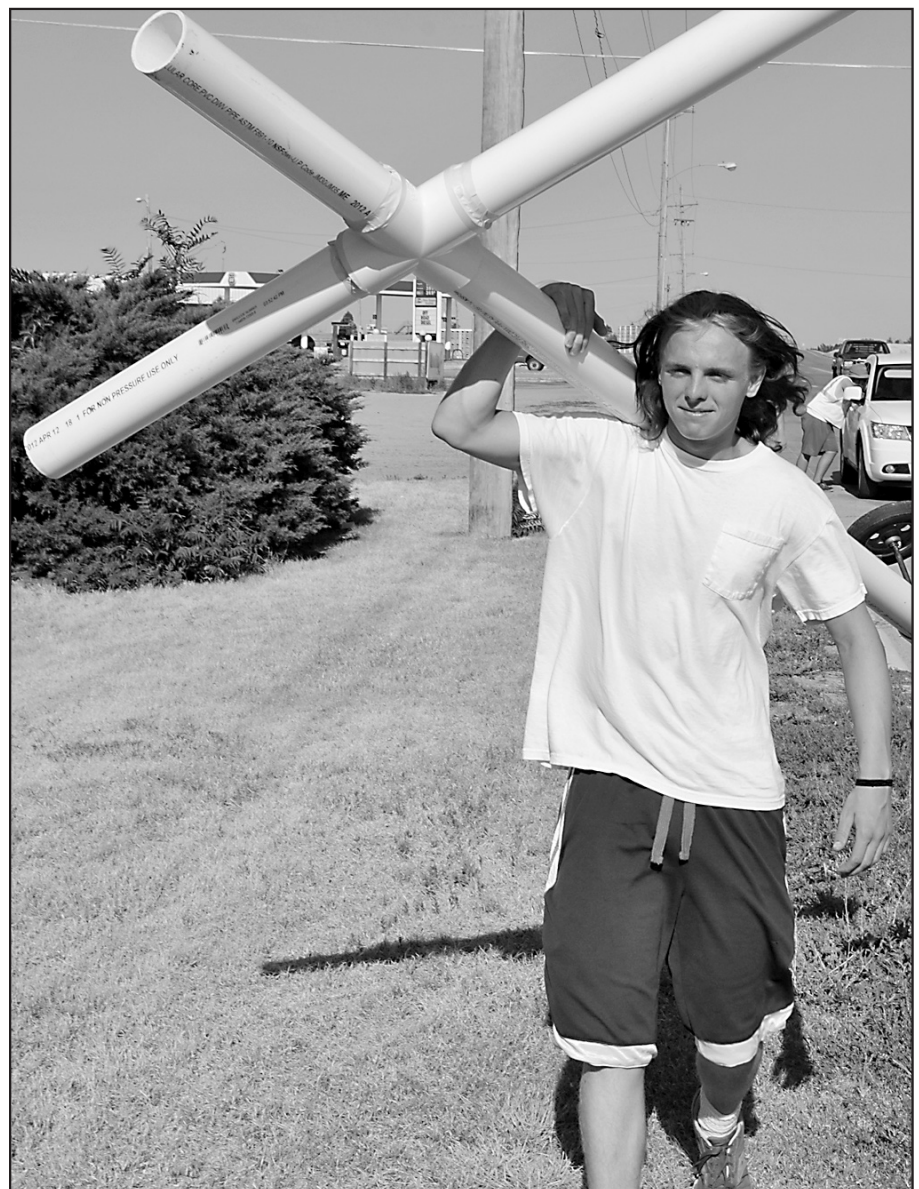
"Some members joked about it, like 'Yeah? You're going to take the short way, huh? From Nebraska to Oklahoma ...', and these kids said no, they'd take it the long way. It's

been planned for almost a year, and between the east and west teams, we've raised almost five grand."

People have opened their doors, hearts and wallets for the group along the way, Eikleberry said, donating gas money, food and places to sleep.

Scott and Patricia Hendrickson of Oberlin, he said, had almost 20 people stay over at their house the night before. Because the group has been able to save on food and hotels, they've been able to raise that much more, he said.

Run for the Son supports transportation for missionaries in third-world countries, he said, smuggling Bibles into closed countries, making scripture-oriented products for motorcycle rallies and sending money to the Jesus Film Project, which travels to isolated villages to show a film of the life of Jesus.



JEREMIAH HAYDEN, 16, (above) showed another way to carry the cross, made of plastic pipe, down the highway. Before taking off, Scott Eikleberry of Hutchinson (below) put the cross together for Austin Hendrickson of Oberlin.

