



March 15, 2008

Dear ....

This summer, we are planning to bike across North America with the “Sea to Sea 2008 Bike Tour.” This is not just any bike tour—in fact, it will likely be the largest cross-continental tour ever. Presented by the Christian Reformed Church, the Sea to Sea tour begins June 28 in Seattle and will end August 30 in Jersey City, about 3,700 miles (6,000 kms).

Now you are probably thinking “Why would anyone in their right mind want to do such a crazy thing?” We have to admit, we asked the same question when we decided to be cyclists. Let us try to explain!

This is the opportunity of a lifetime. We are excited to see God’s country on bikes, to be part of a community of cyclists for a summer, and to participate in a great cause. The bike tour will be both challenging and rewarding. It will be a challenge to ride an average of 70 miles per day – up and down mountains and across prairies, cycling for miles through sparsely inhabited areas and dealing with all kinds of weather as well as some aches and pains. ***The reward comes in riding for a specific purpose. We, along with all the other cyclists, hope to raise awareness of the needs of the poor, to raise funds that address those needs, and encourage people to get involved in helping the poor nearby or across the world.***

We are writing you to ask for your support. We are committed to raising \$10,000 (each) for poverty reduction through Sea to Sea. The tour has people dedicated to raising corporate sponsorship to cover the costs of the tour. We are giving our time, paying our personal expenses (bikes and equipment, camping gear, travel to/from) and making personal donations. Please consider what you can do to support this effort, notify us how you can help, and make a donation with reference to our name(s). At \$8 per mile to reach our fund raising goal – how many miles can you support? If you want, send us a pre-addressed stamped postcard and we will write you from along the way!

You can also get more information by visiting the tour’s web site at [www.SeatoSea.org](http://www.SeatoSea.org). Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Eric, Mark and Larry Stehouwer

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Enclosure: Contribution form (tax deductible) or go on line to [www.SeatoSea.org](http://www.SeatoSea.org)

# Quick Facts



The largest cross-continental bike tour ever

- *206 cyclists signed up so far; 128 of whom are going the full distance. Largest known previous tour is 96 cyclists crossing Canada in 2005 (165 total cyclists involved);*
- *Registration deadline : January 31, 2008.*
- *Who Are These Cyclists?*
  - *Most of the riders are affiliated with a congregation in the Christian Reformed Church (CRC) in North America;*
  - *A wide range of cyclists...*
    - *from Portland, Oregon to Winnipeg, Manitoba to Port au Prince, Haiti;*
    - *from 18 to 76 years old;*
    - *from student, to teacher, to carpenter, to corrections officer, to minister, to retiree;*
  - *Male/Female ratio is about 2:1.*
- *Why Are They Riding?*
  - *Many have personal reasons for their participation. Collectively, they are also cycling to:*
    - *Increase awareness concerning the root causes of global poverty;*
    - *Motivate people to become involved in assisting the poor;*
    - *Raise money to fund initiatives aimed at reducing poverty.*
- *Ending the Cycle of Poverty*
  - *Tour proceeds will support new and ongoing programs that break the cycle of poverty for individuals, families and communities around the world;*
  - *Tour partners include the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee, Christian Reformed World Missions, and Partners Worldwide. Sea to Sea is also partnering with RCA Global Mission in connection with cyclists from the Reformed Church in America.*
  - *Each cyclist's fund-raising target is \$10,000 (or \$4,000 for one leg of the route).*
- *Tour Details*
  - *June 28 – August 30, 2008; 63 days total, 54 riding days;*
  - *3,750 miles (6,000 kms), daily average is 68 miles (110 kms);*
  - *Starting in Seattle, Washington, ending Jersey City, New Jersey and also traveling through part of Canada;*
  - *Twelve Celebration Rallies staged in cities along the tour route, usually on Sundays.*