



By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

Mark, Renae and Kyle Bottom of Imperial recently spent four days on bicycles to benefit local and world hunger projects. They were part of about 170 people participating in the Nebraska United Methodist Bike (NUMB) Ride for Hunger.

The group started in Norfolk June 23, traveling to Oakland, Laurel, Creighton and back to Norfolk on June 26, for a total of 238 miles.

Mark Bottom said a typical day started at 5 a.m, when the group packed their tents, cots and sleeping gear on a big truck.

Breakfast was at 6 a.m., followed by the ride to the next town. They usually arrived between noon and 2 p.m.

Then, they'd set up their tents, eat and maybe swim. At 6 p.m. they'd meet at the local Methodist Church for a meal, talent show and meeting.

"We had a couple rainy days, some rolling hill days and hot days," Mark said. "It was a rewarding and good experience. We all made it back safe and sound and no worse for the wear."

The Bottoms were supported by individual donations from First Imperial United Methodist Church, of which they are members.

This year the group of riders raised a total of over \$52,000 for the food projects.

The Bottoms were joined on the ride by his brother Wayne Bottom of Denver, niece Mindy Bottom of Iowa and family friends John and Lori Hafnor of Ft. Collins, Colo.

Mark said he was told the tentative NUMB 2015 route might include Imperial.