



Gary Wadding

GOD'S HIGHWAY



Month after month the readers of magazines open the pages and expect to find exciting new articles that will open their eyes to wonders from around the motorcycling world. Writers strain their brains as they try to fill that tall order. They want to please the generous editor too because he pays them huge sums of money to make him look good. (Scott, this is your big chance to come through for us.) How do we make each month a masterpiece? Obviously we don't, even though we try. A title that catches your attention is a good start, but then what? Here are some things I consider when it comes to writing this column for you.

First, where have I been lately, what have I done and who have I done it with? It's really impossible to write about interesting people and happenings if you sit at home and wait for life to jump out of a closet and grab you. Life happens, but we have to go out and grab for it for ourselves. Consider classic writers like Ernest Hemingway or Jack London. They lived the lives they wrote about, and it came across in their books. Some books are full of accurate information, but the power isn't there. It's just facts with no fire. The same is true for magazine articles.

Secondly, I consider which ideas will appeal to the readers of that particular magazine. For example, occasionally I find myself in an area where a TV is showing some of the programs where people argue and fight in a court setting, or some other similar format. That kind of mess drives me nuts, and as a result, my writing will probably not make it into their corner of the world. The political shows do the same for me, so I won't try that direction for the column either. A writer needs to consider who he/she is writing for, and think about what they would like to listen to. (I would never end the sentence with a preposition if this were written for English majors.)

Thirdly, I pray about it and ask God to bring something to my mind that He would like. After all, I am writing an article that is supposed to reflect His point of view, not mine. This often brings out a memory of something that took place on a recent ride, or it might center on a major happening at the time of the publication. For example, this would be a great time to include a story from Daytona Bike Week (next week as of this writing). As I wrote these words the light came on in my mind and I knew what I would write about. (whoops, another preposition ending)

Daytona attracts a wide variety of people with different interests. One group of ladies walks the streets for immoral purposes, prostitutes. Some people see them as toys to be used for their personal pleasure before throwing them away. Some see them

as scum and vermin who should be locked away from society. One young lady was befriended by some CMA members for no other reason than to show her God's love. They bought her a meal of real food; at a restaurant, not a bar. Someone bought her a pair of tennis shoes when they saw how badly her "fashion" shoes were killing her feet. They didn't try to overwhelm her or condemn her, just befriend her. This made such an impact in her life that this beautiful young lady soon left that occupation. In her new life she looked for some CMA members to help her walk out her new choices. She earned her backpatch and later returned to the scene of her earlier life to join the CMAers who spent their Daytona Bike Week looking for others to help and encourage. While some were more suited to talk with bikers, she looked for young women who needed what she had found, Christ, the life changer.

A few years later this lady found a good man in CMA and they were married. At this time they are living in a Muslim nation working undercover. They work at jobs putting them in close personal contact with everyday people. As friendships are made, their obvious love and concern make it possible for them to communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ in the same way that it was shown to this dear lady. In a nation where ethnic hatred abounds, this changed woman is able to tell about the love that changed her. No wall can ever keep out that kind of message.

In eternity this lady and her husband will be seen as heroes and giants more than many TV celebrities and big names. And how did their story begin? It started in Daytona Bike Week, walking down the crowded, hectic, cold, wet streets. Look at people differently and see if you can see them the way God sees them. Look at yourself the same way. Take God's High Way as you travel to Daytona and anywhere else this year. You might meet a hero or a giant unawares.

