



GOD'S HIGHWAY

Gary Wadding

Are you a rider? It seems natural that the vast majority of readers of US Rider News are probably motorcycle riders. However, we are a very large group of very different types of riders. (1) Some ride as commuters, saving money in these days of rising gasoline prices. My first bike was simply a way to ride to work. (2) Other readers/riders enjoy traveling and seeing the sights of the world up close and personal, not from inside a cage of glass and steel. The touring class of motorcyclists has provided us with a great many epic narratives like Scott's interesting story in the June issue. My first "really long" trip covered a whopping 150 miles, and showed me that the seat on your bike might not allow you to truly enjoy touring. (3) As you personally peruse the pages of this practically perfect publication (I'm out of P's), you will see articles about another very exciting part of motorcycling – racing. I've never been a racer (except in my mind), but I've been close to those folks and count many of them as friends. Speed is exciting to me whether it be road racing, motocross or drag racing. Off road racers see their brand of speed as being purer, most resembling horse and rider flying across the western plains. Road racers see their events as the greatest since they hit speeds up to 140 mph on the straight parts while sliding both tires sideways through the curvy parts. Drag racers admit that they only go straight with no turns, but riding one wheel up to 230 mph in 6 seconds has its own brand of excitement too.

Allow me to show you another kind of motorcyclist. The photo here shows Jeng, a member of the Shawn mountain tribe, an evangelist in the areas between Thailand and Burma. Jeng was raised as a Buddhist but found his religion was unable to change his inner life and forgive his sins. He called on Christ and found freedom and peace that was beyond his own doing. Jesus literally changed his life, and he dedicated himself to serving the Lord as an evangelist. Jeng went everywhere on foot and was gone from home for long periods of time. As part of CMA's Run For The Son fundraiser for evangelism, we seek out such men in third world nations and provide them with small dirt bikes to help spread the gospel. I was honored to lead a CMA mission team into his part of the world. I went with Jeng to a local bike shop where a Honda 125 Wave was chosen. Our CMA team presented the bike to him officially and prayed for him and his work using the bike. He was so overcome that he cried in public, a terrible thing to do in his culture. People actually stopped in the street and stared at him, uncertain about what could make a man do such a thing.

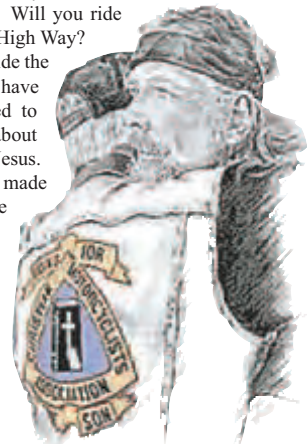
Jeng wasn't a motorcyclist in order to observe the beauty of nature as a tourist. He was doing more than simply commuting from home to a job. He certainly wasn't setting any speed records with the little 125cc machine. He saw the motorcycle as an amazing gift from God, to be used for the glory of God, bringing the salvation message of Jesus to the forgotten tribal people of Southeast Asia. He rode the



bike on terrible dirt roads in very dangerous areas where the persecution against Christians was great. He treated the bike with as much respect as if an angel had delivered it down from a cloud. Sadly, within one year Jeng was beaten to death. His wife is now a widow and his two beautiful little children are orphans. I passed the word around discreetly here and there, and some money was raised to help the family make it through their difficult transition.

There is nothing improper about us riding our big beautiful motorcycles here in America for commuting purposes, for the enjoyment of touring or even for racing pleasure. But along with the personal enjoyment of our ride, consider whether you and I have a responsibility to the Lord who has so abundantly blessed us in this country. Remember the fact that one day your life of blessings and enjoyment will end, even if you live to be one hundred. On that day will you have taken the time to consider what Jeng died to tell others? He died to tell his people what Jesus Christ said, "I am the way, the truth and the life, and nobody comes to the Father except through Me." Will you ride one day with Jeng on God's Highway?

Your decision today will decide the question. I am honored to have known Jeng. I am honored to write in US Rider News about the blessing of salvation in Jesus. Receive the blessing that made Jeng a motorcyclist. Receive Christ today.



WHY DO YOU RIDE?