

BEE Informed **April 1, 2015**

Our Mission: To help the Church fulfill the Great Commission by providing biblical training that results in the multiplication of leading servants, with priority given to countries with limited access to training.

Remembering Glen Riddle

by Al Bridges

". . . And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!' " "Yes," says the Spirit, "so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them." Rev. 14:13 NASB

On March 10th, I had just arrived at my office and was sitting down for a meeting when our HR director interrupted me. She had just received a call from Chiang Mai, Thailand. Fellow co-workers, Glen and Joy Riddle, had been in a horrendous motorcycle accident. Glen died on the way to the hospital. Joy was still alive, but unconscious and severely injured.

I was stunned. Perhaps there was some kind of mistake. The reality of this news came quickly as I was handed the name and phone number of a woman named Grace Erickson, who was at the hospital in Chiang Mai with Joy. Grace filled in some of the questions whirling around in our minds. She confirmed that Glen Riddle was indeed, dead. Joy was in critical condition. Their three sons had been contacted and were making plans to come. In a blur, I too made immediate plans to fly to Thailand, to assist Glen's family in whatever way possible. The next morning my wife, Linda, and I were on our way. We had the privilege to serve the Riddle family for the next twelve days.

Death comes unexpectedly for some. In the blinking of an eye, all changes. Our brother and coworker is with the Lord, while Joy, after three operations and two weeks in the hospital, is in her home in Chiang Mai. Joy

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Facilitators needed

We are currently looking for individuals or couples who are interested in facilitating BEE World courses overseas. If interested in exploring this opportunity to serve, please contact Dana Retting in Human Resources by email to dretting@beeworld.org

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*And the things which you
have heard from me in the
presence of many*

sustained a head injury, a broken arm, a broken elbow, five cracked ribs and a dislocated shoulder. She needs time to heal on a number of planes. She needs now the continued prayers and encouragement of God's people.

The Body of Christ in action

On March 24th, there was a memorial for Glenden Paul Riddle at the Chiang Mai Community Church in Chiang Mai, Thailand. During these days of pain, sorrow, and stress, I have witnessed the Body of Christ in action—here in the US, in Chiang Mai, and around the world, on behalf of our brother Glen and his family. It was a great blessing to all who were present. The Chiang Mai Community Church and her people have been and continue to be a huge blessing, helping the family to take care of the many details of an American's death on foreign soil. They continue to be a support to Joy by providing care, prayers, and encouragement, along with her son, Douglas and his wife, Sima, who also live in Chiang Mai.

Please pray for the Riddle family. They have a lot of things to work through and decisions to make. Their oldest son, A.D., is married to Katherine. They have two sons, Ethan and Arthur, and live in the Chicago area. Andy, the second oldest son, is single and lives in Albuquerque. Douglas, the youngest, is married to Sima and lives in Chiang Mai.

witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. (2 Tim 2:2)

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A Tribute to a Fellow Soldier in Christ

We have lost a brother, a friend, a colleague and a mentor. His sudden death has brought sadness and shock to our entire staff, his family, supporters and friends, and all of his students. But we grieve not as the heathen do -- instead we rejoice that Glen has been received into heaven, and one day we shall all see him again. We sorrow that we have to wait till then.

Most of his friends knew him as Glen. Some of his students called him "G. Paul". Glen was an energetic, committed follower of Christ since his early

adulthood. He was ready to go anywhere for Christ, and *did* go places where most of us would not volunteer to go. His enthusiasm for communicating Christ and the Holy Scriptures left an indelible mark on everyone he touched. I want to share with you a few comments from our staff who had the privilege of traveling and teaching with Glen.

He didn't mind doing things the hard way

Sam Riney remembers a time when he and Glen were teaching in Pokhara, Nepal. The sessions ended, and he and his interpreter needed to get back to Kathmandu, so that Glen could leave the country the next morning. They could not fly, so they decided to take a bus. Loving adventure, Glen did not mind that the bus route was on a curvy mountain road, and that the drivers are known to



be somewhat reckless. (I made the bus trip once, and decided I would never do it again.) However, Glen was determined to get to Kathmandu. The bus was full, and since there were no more seats available, Glen and his interpreter rode 'Nepali-style', on the roof of the bus all the way to Kathmandu -- a six-hour journey. I would have been terrified, but Glen loved it.

He loved to teach the Word of God

Steve Strauss recalls a time at our BEE Conference in the Philippines in 2009, when some of our staff gathered at a hotel in Manila for one night before taking a bus on the three-hour trip to the conference center. When it was announced that our buses would be an hour late, Glen said, "Perfect, just enough time for a Bible study!" He quickly wrangled an empty meeting room in the hotel, and about a dozen of us joined in. He wrote out a passage reference from 1Timothy, and began asking questions about how we understood the passage. His questions soon exposed that among us, we had several different interpretations. Glen enthusiastically proposed we look at a few key Greek words in the passage. Since his specialty was Greek and Hebrew, he quickly gave us some background on those key words, and how that same word is used in other scriptures. For many of us, new light dawned on that particular passage. Sadly, our buses arrived before we could finish.

Glen was just Glen

Elaine, who worked with Glen, says the following:

Glen was one of my favorite facilitators, passing through from about 2004 to 2014. I'd brace myself when I heard he was coming ... always energetic, on the go, just being Glen. Yes, that's the most distinctive thing about Glen, he was always just being Glen. No complicated agenda or pretense, just himself. On one occasion, we were talking about "paradise." Maybe we were talking broadly, like what would be the most enjoyable thing to you? My thoughts went to "living in a beautiful place," etc. Glen commented that, for him, paradise would be "being locked up all summer with 20 Chinese Greek students, studying together, eating together, and living together." I'll never forget Glen's answer.

He loved to study and teach Greek and Hebrew

Jody Dillow reminisces with the following comments:

Glen accompanied me on his first BEE World trip. We journeyed together on a 747 to Bangkok and then on to Rangoon. I remember well sitting next to him and watching him reading his Greek New Testament like it was English. Later I learned of his love for languages and his hobby of collecting over 600 Greek grammars. He told me he had read every one of them.

He loved the Lord Jesus Christ

Jody also recollects:

We all remember him for his love of the biblical languages, but what I remember most was his love for and willingness to sacrifice for the Lord Jesus Christ. He was willing to hike over mountains in Nepal for several days in order to bring biblical training to thirsty Nepalese in remote villages. He was willing to spend several months at a time away from home and in less than ideal living conditions to fulfill the vision God gave him to raise up biblical scholars for the house church movement. He and Joy were willing to leave their home country and move to Thailand to invest the rest of their lives in equipping the next generation of leaders for the churches in Asia.

Glen could say with the apostle Paul: *"For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day-and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing."* (2 Timothy 4:6-8, NIV84)

He is now standing in the presence of the King he so faithfully served and is being honored for a life well lived.

Them Old Cotton Fields Back Home

by Glen Riddle

Editors' note: Glen was a frequent contributor to BEE Informed. This is a story that he wrote last year but only recently submitted for publication. We had planned to publish it in this April issue before learning of his death on March 10.

I was raised in one of the biggest cotton producing places in the world: the south plains of Texas. That meant summers spent hoeing weeds in cotton fields 12-14 hours a day. The toughest weeds to cut down were the tumbleweeds 3-4 feet in diameter, and the "careless weeds" which grew to six feet tall. In my later years of high school those long hours were spent on a tractor planting or cultivating rows as much as a mile long.



Three years ago I was in an Asian country and met a man who was totally committed to his ministry. He had a house in a walled-in area that could accommodate a small church gathering; he also had a small garden. I tried to disguise my shock when he proudly showed me his biggest vegetable plant. It was a CARELESS WEED about five feet tall. I thought of how often I had been paid to cut those demons down to a burning destiny in the hot sun without water to sustain them.

Right now I am in another country almost exactly halfway around the world from that little Texas hometown. Once again I am meeting with a group who have meetings in a building with a small walled courtyard containing a garden. At lunchtime on the first day, I was observing four of the biggest vegetable plants; you guessed it, they were careless weeds about seven feet tall. I asked the students what they did with them. They proudly showed me the big leaves they used for delicious greens on the dinner table.

I've had many thoughts about these two incidents. One is the saying, "One man's trash is another man's treasure." I've also thought about Christ's words, when He said where our treasure is, there is our heart also. It makes me ask, "What do I really value? Do I put too much value on weeds? Do I put too little value on some things that could have great use?"

Another thing that amazes me about this place is how similar it is to my old home life. I come each year at the beginning of harvest time. The little town where we meet is packed with trucks loaded with cotton. I see workers out in the fields still picking the cotton by hand, with a long bag dragging behind them just like we did when I was young. But what amazes me most is looking at the cotton plants and the dirt. They look EXACTLY the same as those back in Texas 50 years ago. If I had a boxes of dirt from just outside Tahoka, Texas and a box from here, and I had a couple of fresh cotton plants from both places

-- you'd have to have a chemist or botanist with DNA testing equipment to tell which was which.

That makes me wonder why human beings can't get along. Sure, we are not as similar as those plants and dirt. We do have different customs, languages, skin color, and several differing body features. But are we that different? Of course you know the reason as well as I do. It is not our differences that bring on the division, fighting, and war. It is our similarities.

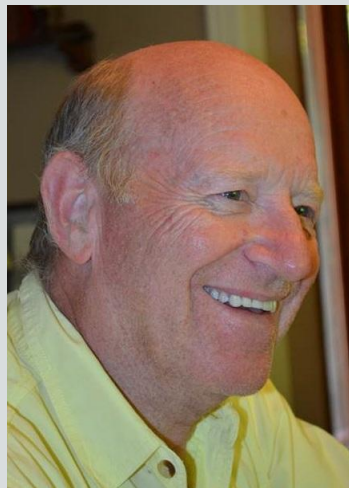
We just finished the BEE course on Romans two days ago. The letter is almost an extended commentary on Jeremiah 17:9, "The heart is deceitful and wicked above all. Who can know it?" If the human heart is the most deceitful and wicked thing in the universe, it is little wonder that it engenders all kinds of selfishness and greed and conflict!

I recently read *Romans: Deliverance from Wrath* by Zane C. Hodges. It is the most enlightening commentary I have ever read on this letter from Paul. As I helped the students work through this theological treasure, we were all reminded of our similarities. We are all sinners. We were all at one time in desperate need of some way to get justified before God. Paul has told us the only way that can happen: "However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness" (Romans 4:5).

But then we still face very similar struggles throughout life in this world and Paul tells us how those justified by faith can get victory over sin and the flesh: *"...in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (Romans 8:37-39).

Every one of us at BEE World is grateful to every one of you who, through your prayer and financial support, are a vital part of the teamwork necessary to send us out to equip leading servants who can in turn lead others into this wonderful Good News!

In Memoriam



Glen was born in Beaumont, Texas. He joined the Navy in 1966 at the age of 19 and served on the USS Independence aircraft carrier. He trusted Christ while on deployment in the Mediterranean. He attended Bob Jones University, obtaining his bachelor's and master's degrees in Bible. It was there he met Joy Lynn Anderson and married in 1971.

Glen attended Dallas Seminary from 1973 to 1979, receiving his Th.M. degree. His three sons, A.D., Andy and Douglas, were all born in Dallas. He completed a master's degree in classical languages at the University of Texas. He became a chaplain of Light and Liberty Jail Ministries in Albuquerque, serving there until 1996. He received a commission in the U.S.

Navy in 1983, serving in the Navy Reserves until 2004.

He was ordained in the Evangelical Free Church in 1991. He taught courses at Trinity Seminary and later at Albuquerque Bible College. He earned his Th.D. in 1997 at Trinity Seminary. He joined BEE World in 2000 and served in Nepal, Vietnam, Myanmar and China. He also taught courses at Chafer Theological Seminary when he was home from 2008 to 2013.

Glen, Joy, Douglas and Sima moved to Thailand beginning in December 2013. The family was just getting settled in Chiang Mai. Glen was preparing to leave for a teaching trip on March 12. He is now in the presence of His Lord.