

Miles for Missions Founders Glen & Betty Martin ride to Alaska and back on a tractor to raise money for missions. Here's their story....

Glen Martin said, "When you talk about serving the Lord... when you get into the crux of it, I'll tell you what, you have to hang on because you're in for a ride. It's hard too, but it's exciting. The rewards are great."



Glen and his wife, Betty, were in for a ride - an estimated 15,000 mile ride on a 1950 Model A John Deere tractor. They left their home in Dalton, Ohio, June 5th [1998] for Alaska. The return trip to bring them back to Dalton was in late October [1998].

This all began when Glen sought the Lord for eighteen months for a large sum of money to fund getting the gospel to groups of people who have never heard. After the long months of prayer, God said Glen was to raise the money and he already had all he needed to do it. Glen was baffled.

Then the Lord reminded him of the gift of a tractor in the fall of 1997. "But how can I raise the money with a tractor?" asked Glen. "Ride it - to Alaska and back. Ask for pledges."

Glen struggled with that. Then he finally said "yes" to God. Later, he shared the idea with a local John Deere dealer at their first meeting. The dealer and his wife had ridden a John Deere to Florida. "Don't give up your dream," he encouraged.

The pastor and the other elders at Lighthouse Christian Fellowship (now Gateway Fellowship) must be told. As he prayed about it, Glen became convinced that this was what God wanted him to do. The pastor and elders concurred with their brother elder.

From there, the idea mushroomed. There were many more suggestions including a book to be taken from the journals of Glen's wife Betty. People could follow the trip on the World Wide Web. Both Glen and Betty were overwhelmed. This simple tractor ride to raise funds had gone far beyond Glen's vision of it. All this was much more than they had bargained for.

As Glen shared with the Lighthouse congregation the following Sunday, he noted that his desire to share the gospel began with an encounter with God at age six.

"It was like a very bright light shone in my bedroom and the Lord spoke to me. I literally looked around for angels. I didn't see angels, but I sure felt their presence." Even after 60 years, Glen's voice choked with emotion as he spoke about that event. God called Glen to go for Him. Glen knew it would be something special, but not exactly what.

He began to pray for God's burden for the lost and God gave it to him. That changed Glen's heart. "Don't pray that unless you're serious about it," stated Glen, "because God will do it in you. The burden never leaves me, day or night."

One day he was at a Kidron, Ohio, home on business with the man of the house. When that was completed, an Oriental lady who was visiting in the home stepped forward. "Young man, I have a word for you." "I didn't have any idea what that meant at the time," said Glen. "That was well before I learned about the Holy Spirit and the terms that describe His work."

She continued, "There'll be a day when you'll go all over the world taking the gospel. You'll take the gospel to kings and queens."

It was about 25 years later, after one of Glen's trips to Haiti, he thought about that incident again. He'd gone to the office of the vice president to ask for a donation of land to build some churches.

After clearing with all the secretaries, he sat across the desk from the vice president. During the conversation, they became friends. The next trip to Haiti, Glen brought white French language Bibles for some of the officials. Much later, the word about kings and queens came to mind.

The vision of Miles for Missions continues on as the Lord directs in new ways to reach those in the world that have never heard the gospel.