

GENE GLASSMAN



Eugene H. Glassman, of Johnson City, NY, left this Earth on February 15, 2009, after a lengthy and courageous battle with congestive heart failure. He was born on October 29, 1924, in Seattle, Washington, the second of his parents' three children. A graduate of Seattle Pacific College (BA), Dallas Theological Seminary (ThM), Northwestern University (MA, Linguistics), Wheaton College, Illinois, (MA) with additional post graduate studies in Arabic and Greek at Fuller Seminary (Pasadena, CA).

Gene and his wife, Jane, spent 42 years as missionaries in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Thailand, Hong Kong, and finally in Nepal. Much of his time, while overseas, was spent in language work directing language schools, writing numerous language books for Urdu, Dari and Farsi. The culmination of his work was a new common-language Urdu New Testament in manuscript form (which he wrote entirely by hand in Persian script), useful for minority-language Bible translation projects in Pakistan. A vision of medieval monks hand writing Bibles comes to mind. Gene was also the driving force behind the founding of Murree Christian School in 1956, for missionary and other children in Murree, Pakistan.

It seemed that wherever they went, political upheaval followed. On their initial arrival in Bombay in 1947, they boarded a train heading to the Punjab city of Lahore. Over night the new nation of Pakistan was formed and the border closed behind them commencing weeks of regional chaos. Their exit from Afghanistan came after the revolution deposing the King in the mid-1970s. Then they left Iran with little more than what they could carry in a couple of suitcases after the fall of the Shah at the time of the Islamic revolution. Thankfully, the rest of their lives had a little more stability and much less drama finally depositing them in Johnson City to enjoy their final years in retirement.

Gene is survived by his wife Jane (Johnson City, NY), three sons and a daughter—Jim (in Princeton Junction, NJ), Steve (Parker, CO), Dan (Bemus Point, NY) and Ruth Kravitz (Keeseville, NY); a sister, Anne Holland (Portland, OR), brother Jim (Austin, TX), 16 grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Gene's body was offered for scientific research to the SUNY Health Science Center (College of Medicine, Central New York Body Donor Program, Syracuse) with body organs available for donation when and if needed. A memorial service in Gene's honor will be held at the United Methodist Homes – Hilltop Campus at a date to be determined.

A hymn which meant much to Gene during his early months as a Christian was Fanny Crosby's "Saved by Grace." The words which grabbed that 14-year-old were: "Someday the silver cord will break, And I no more as now shall sing; But O, the joy when I shall wake Within the Palace of the King. And I shall see Him face to face. And tell the story—Saved by Grace." On February 15, 2009, that "Someday" did arrive, the "silver cord") did break—as a result of congestive heart failure—and Gene at last saw the One Who had loved him and Whom he had for so many years loved in return.

For anyone wishing to communicate with Jane, feel free to e-mail messages care of Dan at danlg@msn.com. She may also be reached at 607-729-5359 (cell—303-489-7947). Her mailing address is 725 Lee Circle, Apt. D-17, Johnson City, NY 13790.

Please include your current contact information as well as e-mail address if you have one.