



Silas Ministries (a Ministry of ECHM, Inc.)

The Prayer Beacon

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SUBSCRIPTION

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ROLLAND & HEIDI BAKER

The Bakers are missionaries in Pemba, Mozambique, Africa. Plans were changed so that they are now planning on being here in March or April, 2015. ***

BILL JOHNSON

Pastor Bill will not be able to come to Omaha in 2014. His schedule is already full. We are trying to decide if we want to invite him for 2015. Pray. ***

WE WISH YOU A
MERRY
CHRISTMAS
AND
ALL THE JOYS OF
THE
NEW YEAR!

SILAS MINISTRIES

We are continuing to help support missionaries in the following countries:

INDIA: (Santhosh Desabattula)

Orphans, both the younger children, and the older ones who can go on to Bible school.

Bible Schools, also for other students from the villages.

Lepers, help with food, shelter and medicine. Some are being healed.

KENYA: (Francis Macharia)

Orphans in Nakuru
Christian school in Nairobi

MALAWI: (Headson Makazinga)

Food because of the drought and flood not many crops were planted.

Bibles in their language
Bicycles for transportation for the pastors.

We have sent about sixty five

hundred dollars to these three countries so far this year. This is a drop in the bucket compared to their needs. Lepers in India are especially in need (because of the cast system there), and there is a shortage of food in Malawi. Your year end gifts will help. Thank you in advance for your help.

Please remember these brothers and sisters in Christ & their families in your prayers. ***

OUR WEBSITE IS USEABLE AGAIN

Thanks to those who made this possible. You can make donations to the Silas Ministries, if you wish, by using your credit card. Just type in: www.silasministries.com and click on donate. **We are using Pay Pal for all donations.** ***

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of Silas Min. will be held at our home on Saturday, January 18, at 1 pm. ***

HARRISON OKENE

Have you heard what happened to this guy? He lived at the bottom of the ocean for three days after surviving a tug boat accident. Apparently he found an air pocket in the downed boat, stayed there and was discovered three days later by divers. He called on the name of God for help and for three days he tried to recite the passages of the Bible that he remembered.

I think this qualifies as a miracle and certainly makes the book of Jonah much more believable. He

was swallowed by a fish and lived for three days in its belly, then being vomited by that creature unto the shore. "Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights... So the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah unto dry land." Jonah 1:17 & 2:10.

If we could once forget about all the reasons why he could not survive and simply believe that God can do it, it would be easier for us to receive the truth of this book. God is merciful! ***

DEVOTIONS

Charles Spurgeon has written the following devotional entitled simply

"MORNING"

"I will; be thou clean."
Mark 1:41

"Primeval darkness heard the Almighty fiat, "light be," and straightway light was, and the word of the Lord Jesus is equal in majesty to that ancient word of power. Redemption like Creation has its word of might. Jesus speaks and it is done. Leprosy yielded to no human remedies, but it fled at once at the Lord's "I will." The disease exhibited no hopeful signs or tokens of recovery, nature contributed nothing to its own healing, but the unaided word effected the entire work on the spot and for ever. The sinner is in a plight more miserable than the leper; let him imitate his example and go to Jesus, "beseeching him and kneeling down to him." Let him exercise what little faith he has, even though it should go no further than "Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean"; and there need be no doubt as to the result of the application. Jesus heals all who come, and casts out none. In reading the narrative in which our morning's text occurs, it is

worthy of devout notice that Jesus touched the leper. This unclean person had broken through the regulations of the ceremonial law and pressed into the house, but Jesus so far from chiding him broke through the law himself in order to meet him. He made an interchange with the leper, for while he cleansed him, he contracted by that touch a Levitical defilement. Even so Jesus Christ was made sin for us, although in himself he knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. O that poor sinners would go to Jesus, believing in the power of his blessed substitutionary work, and they would soon learn the power of his gracious touch. That hand which multiplied the loaves, which saved sinking Peter, which upholds afflicted saints, which crowns believers, that same hand will touch every seeking sinner, and in a moment make him clean. The love of Jesus is the source of salvation. He loves, he looks, he touches us, WE LIVE."

"Jesus Christ was made sin for us." What does this mean? It seems to me that Jesus Christ was made every vile and rotten sin committed by mankind. He took on those sins willingly for the entire world. Sure, He said, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me..." But then He added, "nevertheless, not My will but Yours be done." Luke 22:42. I John 2:2b, says that He did this, not only for us who know Him, but also for the whole world. This is the gospel, the good news, that God loves us. Every pervert and pedophile, every drunkard and cocaine addict, every baby killer and cancerous tumor, ulcer and all infectious diseases known to mankind, every spiritual malady mankind suffers, performance

orientation, every form of idolatry, the readers of tea leaves and horoscopes, all of these sins, sickness and spiritual depravity and whatever else mankind was guilty of, all of these are included in the phrase Jesus Christ was made sin for us. God placed upon Jesus all of His judgment against us, past, present and future. These things come upon us because the devil is real and he does it. And WE allow it. He attacks Christians worst of all. God loves us! There are those who believe that everyone who becomes a Christian must live a perfect life even if that is not possible. But we trust Jesus. Romans 3:10, "As it is written, there is none righteous, no not one." We are all deserving of separation from God. But He loves us! He forgives the repentant. We follow a new leader, Jesus Christ! Jesus became guilty of all of these sins and more, so we can be set free. Although innocent, He died for every single one of us. His suffering under the load of sin is by far greater than any sin which men and women have committed or ever will commit. John 3:16a, "For God so loved the world that He gave..."

Do you share gifts at Christmas time? Do you ever think of why? It is obvious. God gave to us the greatest gift of all time – His only begotten Son. In a small way our gift giving is to remind each other of this. It is disgusting when commercialism takes over as it has in many cases today. Many do not even know that we are celebrating Jesus Christ's birth and what His life, death and resurrection has accomplished for us. But in spite of this we continue to say and celebrate that God loves us and forgiveness and hope are real! Amen! ***