



# Silas Ministries (a Ministry of ECHM, Inc.)

## The Prayer Beacon

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- Remove from PB mailing
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### ROLLAND & HEIDI BAKER

We have invited the Bakers who are missionaries in Pemba, Mozambique, Africa. Plans have been changed so that they are now planning on being here in March or April, 2015. You can visit their website at: [www.irisglobal.org](http://www.irisglobal.org) or at: [stopfortheone.org](http://stopfortheone.org) Please remember this event in prayer. \*\*\*

### ANDREW WOMMACK

We have invited Andrew

Wommack for 2015 also. He said that he would consider it in the fall. He is the head of Charis Bible College in Colo. Springs, and has a very dynamic ministry. We have attended the Men's Advance, a retreat for men, held annually. They have just finished a new building which you can see on their website which is: [www.awmi.net](http://www.awmi.net) Please remember this event in your prayers also. \*\*\*

WE WISH YOU

A

BLESSED

EASTER!

"HE IS RISEN!"

AND BECAUSE

HE LIVES, WE

TOO SHALL LIVE!

### 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.

Lepers in India are especially in need (because of the cast system there), and there is a shortage of food in Malawi. Your gifts will help them a great deal.. Thank you in advance for your help.

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

### CREMATION

Pastor Rodney Lensch has written a very thought provoking article on this subject in his last newsletter. If you are interested you can get a copy by contacting him at: **Rod & Staff Ministries,**

**% Pastor Rodney Lensch, 2625 N. 100<sup>th</sup> Ave., Omaha, NE 68134.**

I think he does an excellent job of laying out the pros. and cons., since the Bible is basically quiet on the subject, although not entirely. He does have a definite conclusion. You should read the article to discover his main points. \*\*\*

## “SON OF GOD”

This movie is one of the better ones I have seen in a long time. It skips over parts of the biblical account, that's true, but it goes beyond the crucifixion to include the resurrection and ascension. At the end of the movie Jesus paraphrases Act 1:8, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you: and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and it all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Political correctness has made this just about impossible, but God is still faithful. What a difference it would make if all churches would share this as part of the Gospel. \*\*\*

## ATONEMENT

That word needs to be broken down as it is not used much today. We could say that it refers to the reconciliation between God and man by means of the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. But, what does that mean?

In the Old Testament there was an event held annually called the Day of Atonement. You can read about this in Leviticus 16. Basically it involved two goats. One was offered as a sacrifice for sins with the shedding of blood, the second one had hands lain on him confessing their sins. Then this second goat was let out into the wilderness to die. What this meant was that blood was offered for their sins and then these sins were taken away from the people and they were set free.

Now, in the New Covenant, which replaced the Old, we read Hebrews 9:11 ff. “But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come... Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your

conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”

In other words, Jesus Christ went willingly to the cross and offered His blood as a sacrifice once for all (it did not have to be repeated annually), and the cross was outside the city of Jerusalem (Golgotha) thus He takes our sins away and we are set free. “Therefore, if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.” John 8:36.

Hopefully we can see how atonement equals reconciliation. Someone has said that it should be spelled out as three words, at-one-ment. God and man are made one through Jesus Christ's love, sacrifice and victory. Will we accept it?

Now the question we need to ask is this, what is included in this atonement? Certainly redemption, forgiveness of all sin. But is that it? What about healing? What about deliverance? What about all of the other things that Christians ask for, such as wisdom, a strong faith and even the miraculous? Are these included? How should we understand this? Does atonement, or being reconciled with God, include all these other things? I think it does. Consider the following.

In Mark 2:1 ff. we read, “And again He entered Capernaum after *some* days, and it was heard that He was in the house. <sup>2</sup>Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive *them*, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. <sup>3</sup>Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four *men*. <sup>4</sup>And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying.

<sup>5</sup>When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “**Son, your sins are forgiven you.**”

<sup>6</sup>And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, <sup>7</sup>“Why does this *Man* speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

<sup>8</sup>But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, “**Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? <sup>9</sup>Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise, take up your bed and walk’? <sup>10</sup>But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins**”—He said to the paralytic, <sup>11</sup>“**I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.**”

<sup>12</sup>Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw *anything* like this!”

Jesus said, “which is easier” implying that either is. Why? Because God has done everything necessary in Christ. I Peter 2:24b, “...might live for righteousness – by whose stripes you were healed.” We might say, “how?” Colossians 1:27b, “...which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

Romans 8:9-11 makes this even more clear. <sup>9</sup>“But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. <sup>10</sup>And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”

Or again in verses 12-14, <sup>12</sup>“Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup>For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”

Christ in you. The Spirit in you. This makes it clear that for the Christian who has Christ living within him, God has totally provided for all things. All because of His mercy.

continued in the next issue