



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

## *The Prayer Beacon*

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#### **Corrections/Additions to mailing:**

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

The Bakers are missionaries in Pemba, Mozambique, Africa. We invited them for 2015. However, we have just received word that they will not be coming. Their daughter is pregnant and Heidi wants to be home to welcome their first grandchild. \*\*\*

### **ANDREW WOMMACK**

We have received word from Charis Bible College that Andrew Wommack is not available to come

to Omaha right now. He is busy with the second new building at the college. Please remember him and the college in your prayers. \*\*\*

### **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, and there is a shortage of food in Malawi.

Please remember these brothers and sisters in Christ & their families in your prayers. Thank you in advance for your help. \*\*\*

### **BE AT PEACE**

The world certainly seems to in turmoil. But I believe that the call of the Holy Spirit is to be at peace. Let me explain what I mean.

John 14:27 says, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world

gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." Generally speaking peace is the absence of conflict, the absence of stress and strife. However, this understanding of peace makes peace deficient simply by creating a vacuum – the absence of something. Therefore, this is not true peace. True peace makes no room for conflict or hostility to erupt.

This later kind of peace is the peace of Jesus. How so? Consider this. Jesus accomplished peace for us through surrender; surrender to the hostile ones, the very ones who wanted to destroy Him. However, in surrendering to them He gained victory over them – through His resurrection. Because of His winning victory over them He occupies. In other words, He becomes PEACE. This is why He is called the "Prince of Peace." There is no vacuum in His peace. Peace that is rather His very own presence. He is the peace that passes all human understanding.

Now notice that according to this verse Jesus gives us both kinds of peace. I know that this is a little bit of a stretch for some. You have to let your imagination of faith lead you. First of all He says, "Peace I leave with you." This is the kind of peace that is just the absence of conflict. There should be no more conflict since He has defeated the hostile ones. But the hostile ones have not accepted this defeat. However, He then says "My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as

the world gives.” He is talking about another kind of peace. His peace. Not the world’s peace. This is the peace that belongs to Him. It is the peace which He has accomplished for us – PEACE BETWEEN US AND GOD! It is His very own presence.

All too often, both in the world and in the church, we have peace that is simply the absence of conflict. And because of a lack of understanding we are deceived into thinking that this is sufficient. Really, it is not. But after all if it is a gift from Jesus it certainly should be. Right? But what Jesus wants us to have is not only this, but also the peace of His presence. As Isaiah 26:3 says, “You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You because he trusts in You. Trust in the Lord forever.”

I believe that peace which is only the absence of conflict becomes the peace of the evil, wicked and hostile ones. They use it to deceive people. Consider Isaiah 48:22. “‘There is no peace’ says the Lord, ‘for the wicked.’” The wicked, according to Isaiah 58:7-8 “...rush into sin; they are swift to shed innocent blood. Their thoughts are evil thoughts; ruin and destruction mark their ways. The way of peace they do not know; there is no justice in their paths. They have turned them into crooked roads; no one who walks with them will know peace.”

This is the kind of peace that can last only for a very short time because it is only the absence of quarreling and strife. In this kind of a vacuum, hostility will break out again at any minute. The evil one and his followers just simply suck wickedness into the situation.

I believe that the Prophet Jeremiah speaks of the same kind of situation, in 6:14 he says, “They dress the wound of My people as though it were not serious. ‘Peace, peace,’ they say when there is no peace.” The same thought is repeated in 8:11. Without the presence of the “Prince of Peace” there can be no real peace in the

world.

As far as I am concerned this is the only kind of peace that the world has to give, the peace that comes from Jesus but it has been subverted by the world and therefore it deceives many. In reality it is not peace at all. This is why Jesus says, “I do not give as the world gives.” It is a deceptive peace lulling people into quiet and calm which can never last. We have seen ample evidence in the last 100 years and more.

What the world does have to give is tribulation. Jesus makes this clear in John 16:33. “I have said this to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer. I have overcome the world.” There you have it. Through surrender He won victory. The main reason is that the god of this world, the world of the humanist and atheist, cannot have true peace because they refuse to surrender to the “Prince of Peace.”

Now notice something else in relation to these two kinds of peace. This first kind, the peace that is simply the absence of conflict, which Jesus leaves with us, is passive. It is there. Take it if you want it. But it will never satisfy.

But His peace, the peace in which He Himself is the “Prince of Peace,” this peace is dynamic. This is the kind of peace which He gives to us through FAITH. Peace between God, us and others. It has direction and purpose. This is the kind of peace He wants His people to have, the peace of His presence.

In what areas of life does He want us to have the peace of His presence? For what purpose does He want to give it to us? I believe that it is to be at peace:

with God,  
with ourselves,  
with our spouse,  
with our neighbor,  
with our boss,  
with our fellow employees,  
with our church,  
with other church members  
and with our pastor or priest.

Romans 12:18 says, “If it is possible, so far as it depends upon you, live at peace with everyone.” This is not just the absence of conflict, but rather a healthy relationship of koinonia with everyone through Jesus Christ the “Prince of Peace.” Koinonia is a Christ centered relationship.

I believe that two things are necessary after you have received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord in order to have peace with God, for this peace to be accomplished in us and in our relationships:

1. Learning to develop the attitude of a servant. Being willing to give of ourselves to help others.
2. Learning to affirm other people. Everyone needs an at-a-boy or an at-a-girl from time to time.

Finally Jesus says, “Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” A troubled heart is a “tribulating” heart, a heart that is giving tribute to the wrong god. This is a heart that is filled with anxiety. Why? Mostly because there can be no assurance of care or love from a false god. All false gods do is take and leave a person bankrupt. Jesus promises that if we have faith in Him, He Himself will come and reside within us in the power of His Holy Spirit. We can have the “Prince of Peace” and the power of His presence with us continually. We can be free from a troubled heart.

And as for fear, fear has to do with punishment. Fear of punishment usually has to do with the result of unresolved guilt. Let your guilt lead you to Jesus for forgiveness. Exchange the fear of guilt for forgiveness. Jesus wants you to do this. Gradually your fear will disappear. The Bible also says that perfect love casts out fear. Because as we receive His perfect love we know that He does forgive us. Once we know that He forgives us we can also forgive ourselves.

So let us do ourselves a favor: Accept the Peace of His Presence, Don’t be deceived by the world, and Let the Peace of His Presence help you to relax in His perfect love. \*\*\*