



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

## *The Prayer Beacon*

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### **SILAS MINISTRIES**

We are continuing to help support missionaries, orphans and lepers 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. \*\*\*

### **CHANGES IN SILAS MINISTRIES**

First of all I should mention my health since last September. I have been pretty much incapacitated for almost four months. A cyst on one of my kidneys ruptured and there were complications. After three weeks in the hospital I was transferred to Brookstone Village, a nursing home and rehabilitation center. I finally returned home on January 8<sup>th</sup> but had to face another two months of therapy at home from Visiting Nurses Assoc. I get around now with a walker, but it's a slow process.

I want to thank everyone for their prayers and letters of encouragement. There are too many to mention here but I do want to say a special thank you to Muriel and the family. Muriel and the kids kept a vigil at my side in the hospital and took care of everything at home. She is a very special person and I thank God for her. I

also want to mention the doctors and nurses, who were especially kind; and John Kittleson and Francis & Hannah Macharia who were here to pray for me. John made a special trip over from his home in northeastern Iowa, and the Macharias were in the states but they still had to adjust their schedule to make the trip. Thanks again.

After receiving prayer from so many, I knew in my spirit, that I would be healed. But in my body was another question. It is finally coming around to agree with the spirit after much Scripture reading and meditation. Hebrews 4:12-19 and 11:6.

I was able to send out the reports on giving for 2014 in January of 2015, but the annual meeting had to be postponed until in March. We did have a good turn out for the meeting but some changes were made. The following was decided by the board:

1. They accepted my resignation as president because of my health and elected John Osuch as president, for one year, electing me as vice-president. (see page 2 for a photograph) The reason for one year was to give him sometime to see if he wants to be president.
2. Muriel will continue as treasurer so it should not effect your personal giving to our ministry.
3. Julie Osuch, John's wife, will continue as secretary and will also become the editor with the next issue of the Prayer Beacon. I will continue to help out with the

publishing and may include articles from time to time.

4. We still need someone to take over the Prayer Calendar as I will not be publishing it anymore. Anyone interested should contact John.

5. Everything else will continue as usual. Obviously John may wish to make some changes in the ministry and I will support him in that. There will be some changes in the make up of the board but we will continue to help the ministry in India, Kenya and Malawi. \*\*\*

## **John and Julie Osuch**

Taken about two weeks ago.



John has been a member of the board of directors of Silas Min. for the last four years. He also was with me on my last trip to Kenya and Malawi. Julie is serving her second year as secretary of the board. They are both very dynamic Christians and we say a hearty welcome to them in the name of the Lord.

I think we can truly say that we have seen the poorest of the poor in Malawi. John's heart has really gone out to them. Bishop Headson is doing a wonderful job at being their pastor, but he has to walk to visit people in his church because they do not have cars. Not even a bicycle at this point. John helped Headson's assistant pastors to get bibles as they did not have any when we were there. Now they are short of food and shelter because of a flood. They also do not have flowing wells and have to walk two or three miles to get water, carrying it in buckets. Pray for them and

help if you can.

John & Julie also have a ministry to the local nursing homes visiting and sharing with the residents. He is retired but still works part-time for his own business, CPM Services, Inc., which is repairing & providing new epoxy and urethane floors in industrial buildings.

In 2013 I went with John to a Men's Retreat in Colorado to hear Andrew Wommack and also a conference with Heidi Baker. Both times provided the opportunity for us to enjoy fellowship and discuss the ministry.

Please pray for John & Julie as they provide ongoing plans for Silas Ministries. \*\*\*

## **ACTS 15:22-41**

“Then it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, namely, Judas who was also named Barsabas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren, they wrote this letter by them: ‘The apostles, the elders, and the brethren, To the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: Greetings. Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, “You must be circumcised and keep the law”—to whom we gave no such commandment—it seemed good to us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who will also report the same things by word of mouth. For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.’ So when they were sent off, they came to Antioch; and when they had gathered the

multitude together, they delivered the letter. When they had read it, they rejoiced over its encouragement. Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets also, exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words. And after they had stayed there for a time, they were sent back with greetings from the brethren to the apostles. However, it seemed good to Silas to remain there. Paul and Barnabas also remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also. Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, ‘Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they are doing.’ Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark. But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work. Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus; but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God. And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.”

Why do I quote this lengthy passage of Scripture now? Because this was one of the passages I looked at when we decided on the name Silas for this ministry. And now it seemed to me that it was worth repeating. There are three reasons for picking Silas. They are:

1. Silas was a lay person. He was not one of the twelve. He is simply referred as a “leading man;”

2. He was known as a man of the Spirit and had the gift of prophecy.

3. He is called to go along with the other ministers, especially Paul, strengthening the churches.

Silas Min. has been doing this for twenty-five years. Sometimes we have struggled as Paul and Barnabas did, but we thank the Triune God for blessing us, and also every one of you, through it all. \*\*\*