

SILAS MINISTRIES (a Ministry of ECHM, Inc.)

The Prayer Beacon

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We are continuing to help missionaries, orphans and lepers in the following countries:

INDIA: (Santhosh Desabtula)

Orphans: Both the younger children and the older ones who can go to Bible school.

Bible Schools: Also for other 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 Machuria)

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.

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Lepers in India are especially in need, and there is a shortage of food in Malawi.

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

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Recently, through offerings many of you made to the Prayer Beacon, we were able to purchase a scooter for Pastor Headson Makinza in Malawi. Below is a picture of him with the new bike. Thank you, all!



IN SUMMARY

By Lin Jacobson

You most likely heard, as I did, in relation to the first news that came out of the Las Vegas incident; it was said by someone that many people had covered their loved ones with their own bodies and lost their lives. This is terrible! You can't help but say that a person who does this must certainly have the greatest desire to protect, and a great love for the person they are protecting. The announcer then continued by referring to the Gospel of John and saying that these people were fulfilling the Scripture by laying down their lives for the one they loved. I wondered as I listened to this. Actually John 15:13 says this. **"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."**

Whatever the motivation might have been I cannot say, but it causes me to wonder. I asked myself the question of what I would have done if faced with the same circumstances. I celebrated my 84th birthday this past summer, but I seriously doubt that I would have had the courage to do the same thing. It makes me feel ashamed and angry all at the same time. When I reflect on what I have learned in my 20 plus years of school and 50 plus years of experience in the ministry, I have to admit that except for the love of Christ being real in me, I could not have done anything like this.

Let me take this opportunity to reflect on where I am at the present time in my experience of this understanding of what I might call Christian courage.

After man's fall into sin, it can be said that man, who is a spiritual being, is spiritually dead, even though he is still alive. Since he is alive but dead, the soul takes over and directs the body. We could outline it this way. Man can be looked at as being made up of three parts: body, soul and spirit.

Body – Physical

Soul – **Mind** – rational, he can think, separate ideas. **Will** – he can imagine what is right and wrong.

Emotions – he has feelings, often this determines his decisions.

Spirit – Spiritual being, created in the image of God.

-Spirit is not able to give directions to the soul, spiritually dead.

The Bible gives a clear understanding of man's situation apart from the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He is spiritually dead.

Ephesians 2:5 "…even when we were dead in trespasses…"

Colossians 2:13 "...and you being dead in your trespasses..."

I Timothy 5:6 "But she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives..."

James 2:26 "...for as the body without the spirit is dead..."

Thus, we may be alive but dead as far as the Bible is concerned.

This is why Jesus says in **John 3:7** "**You must be born again.**" The spirit must be born again in order that He might carry out the intentions of God which is to control the entire person, body, soul and spirit. It may be said that the whole JOHN story of being born again makes no sense unless we interpret it as above. Someone once said that Nicodemus was wanting to comprehend first, then he felt that he could believe. Jesus first said to Nicodemus, you must believe first, however, then you will comprehend what I am talking about.

John 3:6 states "That which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

This can be seen in other places of Scripture such as **I Corinthians 2:11-14** "For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of a man which is in him. Even so, no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words that man's wisdom teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God for they are foolishness to him, nor can he know them because they are spiritually discerned."

If the soul has taken over the place of the spirit (this is what I believe), man is able to make his own decisions about what is right and wrong, and usually his feelings will direct his actions. Although faith in God does play a part

in this decision-making process, and faith does effect feelings, it is a far cry from what God intended for man. Perhaps this is what Jesus was referring to when He said, "You must be born again." When the spirit, which is alive because of Jesus taking over, a man will usually come to a different conclusion. Man is alive because of Jesus and he needs to listen to the directions of the Holy Spirit and act accordingly.

In the first three chapters of Genesis, it says 18 times, "God said." In the New Testament, Jesus speaks to men repeatedly. And really, God still speaks to men today. But it is necessary that men have faith to believe that God speaks. As it says in **Romans 5:1-2** "Therefore, having been justified by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in the hope of the glory of God."

This is simply a summary statement of what I believe. I might say that I only wish that I would have had this understanding when I finished seminary. Life would have been so much simpler.

I don't know what was going through the minds of people that night in Las Vegas. I only know that this is what I believe now. And I hope that I would have protected someone if I would have had the chance.

LOVE, LOVE, AND LOVE AGAIN

By Julie Osuch

John 13:13 "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

This scripture at one time or another has most of us scratching our heads to see if we, indeed, can follow this commandment. It is somewhat easier to love our families and close friends when times are good but what about the situation when our neighbors'

need our help. Are we still willing to give a helping hand when times are difficult?

Over the last weeks and months, we have been hearing and watching the devastating floods hitting our lands and country. Usually, there are many people who will donate money and goods to help, but what I have been watching are the friends and neighbors in the storm-tossed areas helping each other. They were not waiting until help arrived, but they were becoming the help. It reminded me of the early days of our country. If our family and friends did not help, we were left to our own devices. I have heard many around me discussing how huge brotherly love was during these diasaters.

I Corinthians 13:1 "I speak in different languages of people or even angels. But if I do not have love, I am only a noisy bell or a crashing cymbal."

It goes on to say that "LOVE never ends. There are gifts of prophecy but they will be ended. There are gifts of speaking in different languages, but those gifts will stop. There is the gift of knowledge, but it will come to an end. The reason is that our knowledge and our ability to prophesy are not perfect. But when perfection comes, the things that are not perfect will end. Now we see dim reflection, as if we were looking into a mirror, but then I will know fully, as God has known me. So these three things continue forever: faith, hope, and love.

John 13:35 "By this will all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."
