



Silas Ministries (a Ministry of ECHM, Inc.)

The Prayer Beacon

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ROLLAND & HEIDI BAKER

The Bakers are missionaries in Pemba, Mozambique, Africa.

The board of Silas Min. felt that we should invite the Bakers to Omaha. This has been done and they are planning to be here in 2014.***

BILL JOHNSON

We are praying that Pastor Bill will be able to come to Omaha in 2014. We have invited him and we

are told that they will make a decision on this in September of 2013. Please join with us in prayer that Bill Johnson and the Bakers could be here together.***

MEL TARI

Mel Tari, a native of Indonesia but presently living in CA, says that he would like to come to Omaha if the dates Baker and Johnson can come fit his schedule. I said that I would let him know as soon as they decide.

He is presently a member of the board of Iris Ministries. This is the ministry of Rolland & Heide Baker.

Mel Tari is the author of "Like a Mighty Wind." I remember reading it and being awestruck by his ministry. Please be in prayer about the decision concerning dates and their ministry.***

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.

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

TOM OSBORNE TO SPEAK AT FUND RAISER

Tom Osborne has agreed to speak at a fund raiser for Silas Min. on **September 20th**. Hall of Fame football coach Tom Osborne is the former coach of the Nebraska Huskers, served in the US Congress, and is the former Director of the Athletic Dept. at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

In the 25 seasons with Osborne at the helm, the Huskers mounted a 255-49-3 record – the sixth-most wins in major college history.

He and his wife, Nancy, also pour their time and support into the TeamMates Mentoring Program which they founded in 1991. TeamMates provides encouragement to school-aged youth to help them graduate from high school and pursue a post-secondary education.

We are excited about this and hope to have more details in the next issue of the Beacon. I can share this with you to date; **he will speak at 7 pm at Liberty Worship Center, 56th & L St., Omaha. The public is invited.*****

OUR WEBSITE IS USEABLE AGAIN

Thanks to those who made this possible, both in planning and financially and especially to Rod who made it a reality. We hope you will take time to check it out. You can also make donations to the ministry, 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.

Brad Hoefs is a fellow pastor and personal friend of mine. He has written a book entitled "Fresh Hope." Please click on FreshHopeBook.com on our website on the page OUR MINISTRIES, under Healing, to view it. It deals with emotional and mental illness and how to deal with it in prayer and recovery. Remember, "mercy triumphs over judgment." ***

CELEBRATE WITH US 50 YEARS IN MINISTRY, JUNE 30

It will be 50 years ago June 30 since I was ordained at Faith Lutheran Church. The time has gone by just too quickly. As I look back there are many things I should have done differently and many things I would gladly do over again. Hind sight is usually 100 percent. One thing I know for sure is that the Holy Spirit is concerned about everything we do, in detail, if I (we) would just learn, always, to listen to Him and obey.

There are many things I am thankful for and not in the least of which is that God called me into the ministry. It took at least 12 years for that to be realized, through many crooks and turns, but I am thankful that His mercy covered me all the way.

I am thankful for my wife, Muriel, and for the three children He gave to us to raise. We are thankful for the grand children and great grand children. Sometimes they grow in the Christian faith because of our example, sometimes in spite of it. Again, forgiveness is

one of the keys. And we have to remind ourselves that "mercy triumphs over judgment."

And we are thankful (Muriel joins me in all of this) for the five congregations we have served, (Six if you count my helping out at Community of Grace.)

There have always been challenges to this ministry, but they have always been overshadowed by the victories that follow. Jesus said, "on this rock I will build My church." Matt. 16:18. The rock was Peter's confession, but it is God's church and He builds it. God is so faithful. Like we say, "**God is good, all the time!**"

A celebration is planned for Sunday, June 30th at Community of Grace in Elkhorn. If you wish to send greetings they should be sent % our daughter, Diane Braun, 6707 N 106th Street, Omaha, NE 68122. Please remember us in your prayers. ***

GLEANINGS FOR THE HUNGRY

This is a ministry of YOUTH WITH A MISSION and is headquartered in Sultana, CA. They have permission from farmers and others to glean fields and orchards and through the process they make trail mix, dried fruit and soup. This in turn is shipped to third world and other countries where YWAM teams are ministering. The ministry can be contacted at: info@gleanings.org or type in their website which is www.gleanings.org You can also contact them at: Gleanings, PO Box 309, Sultana, CA 93666.

This ministry is a good example of what happens when the Holy Spirit guides us to make use of things that seem so simple and still can help multitudes. ***

AMERICA HEADING TOWARD DISASTER

By John Kittleson, 520 Wilson St., Unit 4, Postville, Iowa.

There are many reasons our country is headed toward ultimate disaster.

1. A vast number of Americans believe that our federal government is the supplier of free financial cash and credit called welfare, subsidies, grants, loans, bailouts and unlimited pork-barrel gifts. They have bankrupted us.

This, along with the mentality of redistributing the wealth, which is the agenda of President Barack Obama and his backers. It is the same ideology of socialism and communism that ruined much of Europe and Russia. To tax the "rich" to give to the poor is to rob Peter to pay Paul. It destroys the freedom and free enterprise system that has made our country great.

2. We have turned our back on God by becoming a humanistic and immoral society. We are headed down the path that caused the Roman Empire and Russia to collapse. The Bible says, "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil."

Examples of what we used to regard as sinful, immoral and unlawful.

a. Abortion, the killing of unborn babies in their mother's wombs. Fifty-five million murdered in a holocaust of immense proportions.

b. Embracing homosexuality as a good moral lifestyle.

c. Obsession with gambling as a good economic activity. It is a form of stealing from suckers without contributing anything of economic value.

We need to repent, change, by turning back to God with a spiritual revival, or go on the junk pile of history.

God's judgment will be the outcome in His time. ***

THE DEMONS BELIEVE AND TREMBLE

James 2:19 says, "You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!" Two things we learn from this passage of Scripture:

a. Demons are real; and

b. Only the Son of God can overcome them. And they

“tremble” at the thought.

Jesus overcame demons regularly. In Luke 4:33 ff. a demon spoke through a man and said to Him, “Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One of God.”

1. We can learn a lot from what our enemies say about us.

a. Jesus had come to destroy the enemy, the devil. “Did you come to destroy us.”

b. He alone has power over the devil. He is “the Holy One.” But He uses the Word of God to overcome him. See Luke 4:1 ff. This is often what confuses people.

c. Jesus was of God, He is Divine. We can say “He has the same DNA as His Father!”

If all the people in the church believed this we would be living in a different country, even world. We say we are Christians, but we still think and act like people of the world.

I Corin.2:6-3:1, speaks about this. “However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor the rulers of this age who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

“But as it is written:

‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’

“But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the 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 which man’s wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Spirit 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. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. For ‘who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?’ But we have the mind of Christ.

“And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ.”

2. There is so much in these verses it is difficult to know where to begin. Let me try to partly outline it.

a. The apostle is speaking to those who are mature in the faith. He is talking about the mysteries of God. However, they are mysterious only to those who do not understand them.

b. And why is it that they do not understand them? Because they are natural men - people. There are three kinds of men - people – natural, spiritual and carnal. When you try to teach spiritual truths to natural men they simply do not, and will not, understand.

c. The natural man must first be converted to Jesus Christ. When he is the Holy Spirit is present to give him spiritual understanding and thus make him a spiritual man.

d. Those Christians who will not listen to the Holy Spirit are referred to as carnal, or babes in Christ. I have fit this category more than once, hopefully not any more. We all consider ourselves as being mature, but do we realize that this requires death to self-will and humbly accepting the righteousness of Christ, thereby making it our own.

Romans 12:1-2. “I beseech you, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service, And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you

may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” We make it our own by “presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice... not being conformed to the world, but by being transformed.” Follow the Holy Spirit’s direction in the word of God.

e. The Holy Spirit wants to teach the converted man about all that God has planned for him, not only for eternity, but also in this life. If he surrenders to the Holy Spirit he is a spiritual man. Surrendering to the Holy Spirit and being a spiritual man is really synonymous.

f. The spiritual man has the mind of Christ. The carnal man may have it to begin with, but if it is not exercised he will soon lose it. The Christian faith is dynamic and we either grow stronger or weaker. We will not stay the same. Having the mind of Christ means we will be able to think as Jesus did and does.

Little wonder that the demons tremble. They know His word too but it is too late for them to receive anything but punishment. This is not the case with the spiritual man who wants to praise the Lord for His righteousness given to men. Thank God, we can do just that. ***

PSALM 99:1 & 9, & 100

From the Living Bible

“JEHOVAH IS KING! Let the nations tremble! He is enthroned upon the cherubim. Let the whole earth shake...

“Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at His holy mountain in Jerusalem, for He is holy.”

“SHOUT WITH JOY before the Lord, O earth! Obey Him gladly, come before Him, singing with joy!

“Try to realize what this means – the Lord is God! He made us – we are His people, the sheep of His pasture.

“Go through His open gates with great thanksgiving; enter His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him and bless His name. For the Lord is always good. He is always loving and kind, and His faithfulness goes on and on to each succeeding generation.” ***