



Silas Ministries (a Ministry of ECHM, Inc.)

The Prayer Beacon

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SUBSCRIPTION

The Prayer Beacon is the newsletter of **Silas Ministries** and is sent free of charge to anyone who would like to receive a copy. If you would like to send a donation to **Silas Ministries** please see our website by typing in www.silasministries.com and click on **DONATION**. Or if you do not have a computer please make your check payable to:

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____ Add to PB, email address:

ROLLAND & HEIDI BAKER

The Bakers are missionaries in Pemba, Mozambique, Africa. They are planning on being here September 19-21, 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. ***

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**. **He will speak at 7 pm at Liberty Christian Center, 56th & L St., Omaha. The public is invited.**

Tickets are now on sale for \$5.00 each (plus a free will offering at the event) They can be purchased at: **LIBERTY CHRISTIAN CENTER**

402-733-8897 or

COMMUNITY OF GRACE

402-763-9255 or

SILAS MINISTRIES

402-339-1643 or **402-981-0988**

See flier on page 4 ***

OUR WEBSITE IS USEABLE AGAIN

Thanks to those who made this possible. You can make donations to the Silas Ministries, 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." ***

SANTHOSH DESABATULLA FROM INDIA

Santhosh will be Omaha and will be staying with us from August 26 – 29th. He comes to the states each year and we want to continue to support his ministry to the children, women who are widows and lepers in India. ***

THANKS **TO ISAAC AKRE** **FOR SHARING THE** **FOLLOWING**

Isaac just graduated from high school at Millard North. He was a quarterback for their football team. He is a shirt-tail relation of Muriel's. I think it is something like this. Isaac's grandfather was James who lived at Hawley, MN. He had a brother named Raymond who was Muriel's uncle, through marriage. See what I mean by shirt-tail. Anyway, it is kind of interesting that Isaac and his parents (who are wonderful Christians) and we both ended up in Omaha.

We have watched him play football on TV, and I guess you know Muriel's interest in the game. Following is his testimony which he wrote and shared with guests at his graduation party.

Why Jesus?

I want you to know why I chose to follow Jesus and live a life that is not very well accepted, especially in high school, when instead I could have really "lived it up" these past four years. The reason that I would constantly read my bible at school (along with at home), even though I know it is not the popular and socially acceptable thing to do. Why I didn't go to parties and hook up with girls and drink and smoke. Why I never enjoyed going to school dances to dance and grind along with everyone else. The reason that I risked being the weird religious kid that always invited you to bible study or church or something like that. The reason that I am the way that I am today and was throughout high school is all because one day Jesus revealed himself to me and I was never the same.

I remember it very distinctly. It was freshman year and it was the second night of my church's fall retreat. Rewind a little bit, and I can give you a little background. I grew up in a Christian home, learning all the bible stories, praying before dinner, going to church on Sundays, etc.

Through middle school I was a pretty decent kid who didn't swear too much, dabbled a little bit in pornography (but hey mostly every kid does that right?), was kind to everyone, went to bible study, did my school work, and so on. On the outside it seemed like my parents had done a pretty good job! I was a Christian, at least I claimed to be, and I followed Jesus. Let me take back that last statement. I was caught in between following Jesus, and living for myself and for the pleasures of this world. I grew up knowing what I should do, but now that I was becoming my own self and had my own life, my actions didn't always reflect that. But I never did anything too bad. I hadn't murdered anyone, done drugs, or had sex with anyone or anything like that.

Entering high school I told myself that I wanted to follow Jesus, and I meant it. But I could feel myself slowly but steadily slipping away from God. Sure I read my bible and went to church, but I was living in constant sin. I was still looking at pornography, and my freshman year I went to the homecoming dance. I told myself going in that I would not dance and grind like everyone else. Tough chance! A while into the dance I caved, and went to join the fun. Like I said before, I could feel myself slipping farther and farther from God, and my life began to look a lot more different. My conscience was dirty. So with that in mind, let's go back to that night at my church's fall retreat.

Though I remember the preacher who was speaking that night (Thank you for speaking that night Brad Mock), I couldn't tell you what the sermon was about or anything that he said. The thing that I do remember though is that the sin in my heart weighed extremely heavy on me. See before this night I knew that I was sinning, but it was only a matter of breaking certain rules that I was supposed to follow as a Christian. But that night something changed. While listening to that sermon I began to see my sin very

differently. I saw not only that I had sinned, but that I was sinning against a perfect, holy, righteous, loving and merciful God who gave me every breath and heartbeat that I had. It was no longer just breaking rules, but sinning against God! To make matters worse, this was the very God who could at any moment decide that my time here on earth was done. The God who had given me all my talents, my eyes, my mouth, etc. Everything about me was given to me and made by Him. I saw that the only thing that is good in this world is Him, and that he had only wanted to bless me and have a relationship with me, but that I was spitting on His face with my sin. I was disgusted with myself because of the way I was living, even though to the bystander, I was not a bad kid. I realized that wickedness of my sin and how much it grieved God's heart when I sinned.

So there I am sitting there, realizing how much I don't deserve God's love, blessing, and a relationship with him, how much I deserve his wrath and anger, when through a series of circumstances, God showed me that He loved me still. I was so truly sorry for my sin, and my self-righteousness, and gladly offered myself then to live for Him, just as He came as Jesus to live and die for me. As the band was playing I sat there weeping, with the cry of my heart being, "Why oh God would you love me? Why would you care for me when I have sinned so greatly against you?"

That is my story. That is why I take my bible everywhere, why I didn't want to go to parties and drink, hook up with girls, brag about accomplishments, and ultimately live for myself. I saw that Jesus is the most worthy of all of my time, my affections, my future, hopes, and dreams. I saw that Jesus is the only thing that can satisfy the deep thirst in my soul. Any number of friends, state championship, starting spot on the varsity team, popularity, you name it, will never be enough to satisfy my longing for God. I have had all those things! I

have won state championships, I got the starting spot, and have had friends and success and everything. But when I had it I knew and came to find that it doesn't actually truly satisfy. Those things left an emptiness and had left me asking for more. Jesus is the only thing that I have found to satisfy, and I don't say that out of head knowledge, but out of experience.

What I want to leave you with is this: God wants to have a relationship with you; He is a person, not a set of rules, and He made you so that He could know you and love you, for you to know him and love him. The problem is that your sin has separated you, just as if I had lied to you, our relationship would not be on good terms, you would be upset with me. Therefore, change your mind about your sin. See that it is sin against him, and that it is wrong. Then, put your trust and faith in Jesus as your only source of forgiveness from Him. Jesus took your punishment so that you don't have to, but you must turn from your sin and choose that forgiveness. Accept the forgiveness that He holds out to you, and then offer your whole life, thoughts, words, and deeds, to Him, the only one who is worthy of it all.

Thank you for reading, I hope that my testimony is a blessing and I pray that God reveals himself to you. Bless you and thanks for coming to my party. ***

THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL, OR BEING SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH

I think Isaac is right on. All sin is against God. It may include people too, but it is primarily against God. Which is what makes it all the worse when we recall that He has given us everything. Sin is like poking a stick in the eye of God, but here is the strange thing – He loves us still and is still willing to forgive us.

That is precisely why the law of God says and why it was given, the 10 commandments, that we might become convinced that we are sinners and thus believe the gospel. Romans 3:10 says “As it written: ‘there is none righteous, no not one.’” And it simply goes on from there. We never hear of the law saying anything good about us. It is as though the law of God is always looking for a way to condemn us.

That is why the gospel is such good news – when we repent God forgives. That is why Romans 1:16 says, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation, for the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

The power of God to salvation - how does this happen? In Romans 4:8 we read, “Blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin.” Then in verse 11 it says, “...that he (Abraham) might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also.” They are uncircumcised which means they have not kept the law. Still righteousness is given to them. How can this be? There is a word which we need to examine. That word is imputed. What it means is, to charge, or to attribute righteousness vicariously; ascribe as derived from another.

We see this again in verses 23-25. “Now it was not written for his sake (Abraham) alone that it was imputed to him, but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up our Lord Jesus from the dead, who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.” There is only one person who that could be, Jesus Christ.

We see this again in II Corin. 5:19, “That is, that God was in Christ reconciled the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.”

Little wonder that I Timothy 1:9-11 says, “Knowing this: the law is not made for a righteous person, but

for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for man slayers, for fornicators, for sodomites for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine, according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust.”

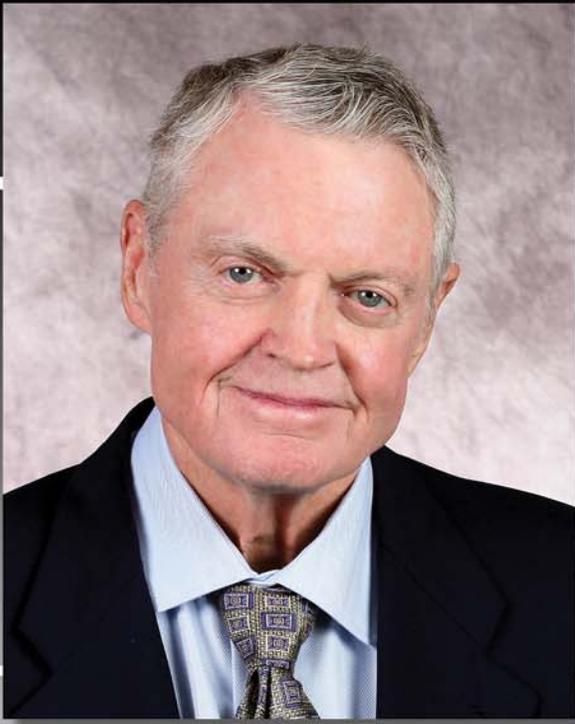
If we are free from the law then should we just continue sinning? This question is asked and answered in Romans 6:1-2, “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?” When we became Christians we died to our sinful nature. But we have to grow up. Ephesians 4:14-15 and 17 puts it this way. “That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ...”

“This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind.”

It is in the mind of man where the problem exists. The spirit alone, under the direction of the Holy Spirit is made perfect in Christ, and wants us to grow into Christ likeness.

Romans 12:2 says, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly that he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.”

Thus we can see how righteousness and holiness comes through believing the good news of the gospel. Thus righteousness and holiness comes through faith because of grace. ***



Tom Osborne

Former University of Nebraska Athletic
Director and Coaching Legend

September 20th, 2013
7 pm

at Liberty Christian Center,
5616 L. St. Omaha

Hosted by Silas Ministries

Silas Ministries is proud to host Hall of Fame Coach Tom Osborne for our upcoming event in September. Tom was head coach of the Nebraska Cornhuskers Football team from 1973-1997 winning three national championships. He served as the Athletic Director for the Cornhuskers from 2007-2012. He also served in the U.S. Congress from 2000-2006. He and his wife, Nancy, continue to 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.

Silas Ministries invites you to join us for this September 20th event, you won't want to miss it. Silas is a non-profit organization which is involved in mission work overseas as well as locally. The main target of focus is helping churches in India, Kenya and Malawi to care for children and lepers. See John 15:16-17.

Tickets: \$5.00 per person, plus a free will offering will be received. See below as to where to purchase.

For Tickets Contact:

Community of Grace: 402-763-9255

Liberty Christian Center: 402-733-8897

Silas Ministries: 402-339-1643, 402-981-0988

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