

Ask Akhi

Akhi, the beggar-sage of Damascus, sits in the market square gathering coins and wisdom and instructing all in the dance of life.



Oh yes, it is a holy day. Indeed, every day is a holy day if you are following your path. Akhi knows that many of you designate Sunday as your holy day. I hope it suits you well.

Just today, a Christian fellow passed me by and told me: "I gave at the church." Akhi had not heard that one for some time!

But the man spoke the truth. You see, just after he addressed me a paper fell from his pocket. It was printed on both sides with messages from his holy place. Akhi looked carefully at all of the messages. There are many meetings at this man's holy place! Akhi wonders

if there may be too much confusion there. But Akhi can find solace in the busiest of all places, the city gate where traffic comes and goes all day long. So perhaps this man's path leads him to meetings.

But the most intriguing message of all was a plea for trousers. Yes, the message asked for people to bring trousers to the church for those who had none! Akhi would notice such people. No? Oh yes! Sitting at the gate—I could not miss them.

But the message was asking people to bring extra trousers, warm trousers for the winter for those in need. That is a noble message, is it not? After all, how many trousers can a man wear at once? Indeed, if everyone were to give away just one extra pair of trousers, there would be great cause for dancing. So Akhi passes on a message that came from the man's holy place—offer to another a pair of dancing trousers and make every day a holy day. Peace.

O Seeker of Wisdom, send your questions to "Ask Akhi" c/o Beacon Street 3570 Rocky River Drive Cleveland OH 44111

WHO ARTED?

by Maria Livers

It started out like many other Beacon Street programs--icebreakers, introductions, a story or two-- but somewhere, somehow, a connection was made that few people who were there will ever forget.

We had the pleasure of presenting at St. Mary's, Lorain, on Friday, July 31 as part of a week-long celebration of the installation of long-time BS friend Fr. Dan Divis as pastor. The group that met us was made up of a cross-section of wonderful people from the St. Mary's family--some faces that we'd seen before and some that were new to us. The BS staff members included Fr. Geri Tol--a good friend of Bob's, who occasionally lends his wisdom to our programs--Kim, Steve, Jean, and myself.

As I mentioned, the program was going along as planned, when we began "Take a Step", a song about St. Peter's attempt to walk on water. During this song we often try to re-create the storm on the Sea of Galilee (and encourage participation) with spray bottles and just a little bit of water. Well, people were singing and having fun, getting a little wet, when suddenly, I noticed a commotion. A lady I'd never seen before was chasing poor old Fr. Geri Tol with a squirt bottle. She was laughing with delight as she drenched the poor man, chasing him from one side of the room to the other. "Look at Kay!" her friends shouted as the room burst into laughter.

Well, it took a while before Kay relinquished the water bottle, and longer still before everyone could recover from the sight. Kay's friends told us later that she'd been through some tough things in recent months, and had been a little more "reserved" during that time as a result. The Beacon Street program at St. Mary's, it seemed, came at a time when Kay was ready to "get back into the action" again. I, for one, and I believe the rest of the staff agrees, am glad we could be a part of that moment. Thanks, Kay!

Epilogue: Rumor has it that Kay received a water bottle in the mail shortly after the Beacon Street event at St. Mary's, so keep your eyes open if you decide to travel through Lorain!

The Beacon Street Beacon is published quarterly (though we're even later than usual this time) by Beacon Street Performing Arts in Ministry. Performing Staff: Jean Hulseman, Maria Livers, and Artistic Director Bob Kloos. Associate Staff: Erika Bodnar, Kim Manning, and Steve Rico. Board of Directors: President Kathy Sull, Vice-President Benoy Joseph, Treasurer/Secretary Thom Foster, Joyce Conway, Ken Jordan, Stan Kozak, Rev. Fred Krause, OFM CAP, and Vic Pergola. Office Manager and Newsletter Editor: Jim Pipik. *The Beacon* is printed very nicely by the folks at Orange Blossom Press, 1935 W. 25th Street Cleveland OH 44113 781-8655. If you are not on our mailing list and would like to be, or if you know someone who would enjoy receiving *The Beacon*, please let us know. Or if you have any comments, questions, or suggestions, we want to hear them. Write us at BEACON STREET 3570 Rocky River Drive, Cleveland, Ohio 44111, or call us at (216) 252-5650.