

*Akhi, the beggar sage, sits at the city gates, instructing all in the dance of life.*

Ask

Akhi...



Dear Akhi,

Do you decorate for Christmas? Do you string lights or trim a tree? Do you and the others at the gate arrange a gift exchange? Just wanted to know.  
—Lost in the Season.

Dear L.I.T.S.,

I am amused. You have brought laughter to Akhi. And for this I am grateful.

No, I do not trim a tree, string lights, or trouble myself with decorations such as these, I have only a rug, a bowl, and the clothes on my back.

But, I can see others coming and going with much haste these days, such haste that many of them no longer stop to leave their coins much less share a thought or a kind word. Indeed, some of those who sit with me at the gate have taken to ringing little bells to remind the passersby that the poor are still here. Can you imagine?

Isn't it strange that the season for Christmas, which celebrates the greatest gift of all, finds so many with so little? Do you find it so? Are there more poor this year than last? Allah has spoken many times about this; there are too many rich to have so many poor. Praise be Allah!

But L.I.T.S., Akhi is happy to tell you that we at the gate do have a gift exchange! Not during this season, but everyday we exchange kind words and glances, and share the coins and rice you give to us. You may not have noticed as you walk by, because when we are busy sharing our simple gifts, our hands are too busy to ring bells.

Peace. ☺

## Spotlight On: Mary Lavin

New Board Vice President



**Occupation:** Director of human resources at New Life Choices in Lifecare, Elyria, OH.

**Relationship to Beacon Street:** long-time friend, board member and current board vice-president.

**Birthday:** July 5, 1965.

**Home:** born and raised on the "East Side" and now live in Westlake.

**Family:** parents, Mary and Jim, brothers, Jim and Sean.

**Favorite Movies:** *The Big Chill* and *The Sound of Music*.

**Favorite Book:** *The Precious Present*, by Spencer Johnson.

**Hobbies:** music (piano, guitar and voice lessons, too), white water rafting, country line dancing and friends.

**Best thing about working with BS :** The monthly meetings with the staff and the board.

**Best part of my job:** The people I work with and the life experiences shared.

**Motto:** "Yesterday is history; tomorrow is mystery; today's a gift. That's why we call it the present."

*Has your address changed? Do you know someone who'd like to be on our mailing list? Let us know by giving us a call at (216)252-5650; or write us at:  
Beacon Street Performing Arts in Ministry,  
3570 Rocky River Drive, Cleveland OH 44111.*