

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

Ask Akhi...

Dear Akhi,

Do you ever go swimming? We could not survive the summers without regular trips to the pool or the lake.

-- All wet.

Dear All Wet,

Thank you for thinking about me and my comfort in the summer months. Unfortunately, our winter months are no cooler.

Yes, I get wet too. I go to the river. Do you swim in the river where you live? I have been told by some world travelers that your Cleveland river has caught fire. Twice! Could this be so? Indeed, were our river to be so violent, I believe we would pay attention, listen carefully to what she says, and be certain never to give her cause to manifest her anger like that again.

Until recently, when I went to the river, I did two things there. I returned the coins you gave me to the One who gives me everything I need. And I bathed there. It is a ritual that, I believe, satisfies both me and the One who sustains me. Praise be Allah.

I have seen the children play there. Mostly, their playfulness is tolerated. But yesterday, I was distracted at first, then attracted to their joy, their freedom, their obvious gratitude for the refreshment the river provided. I smiled broadly. Two of the children saw me and decided I had not only approved of their activities, but was wanting to join in. So they made their way toward me and soon the lot of us were splashing to our hearts content.

I tried not to notice the looks from the other adults. Then, finally, I stood, turned to them, and smiled broadly again. Some of them could not resist. The splashing went on for hours. Now, Akhi goes to the river for three reasons.

Spotlight On: Mick Wooley (new board member)



Involvement with Beacon Street: Member of the BS Board of Directors
Occupation: social worker, currently quality improvement coordinator for Parmadale.

Birthday: March 7.

Home: Bay Village, Ohio

Family: wife, Maggie; sons, Matt, 26, and Ben 24, and daughter, Angela, 21.

Last great book I read: All God's Children, by Fox Butterfield.

Last great movie I saw: "The Bridge on the River Kwai."

Hobbies: Reading, bicycling, and "mildly competitive" rowing.

Best thing about working with Beacon Street: the people.

Looking for ways to spice up your programming this fall?

Let Beacon Street help. We'll bring our unique blend of story, drama and song to:

- Kick off the school year with a special assembly;
- Add a unique component to Sunday worship;
- Start the teachers off right with a day of recollection;
- Provide workshops in using the performing arts in ministry;
- Liven up a Sacramental preparation class or retreat;
- Bring families together in an intergenerational evening;

Call us at 440-338-4904 for more information.