

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

# Ask Akhi...



Dear Akhi,

I get more than a dozen catalogs delivered to my door every day. All I have to do is pick up the phone to shop. Do you shop?

--'Tis the Season

Dear 'Tis,

Smiles, coins, and pieces of bread are delivered to me daily. All of my needs are provided. I need no catalogs. Allah be praised. I do not shop. But I go!

Ever since I was a boy, nearly every day of the week, I have gone to the street market where people gather before the sun rises. They come to get what they need for the day. Rugs are rolled out and jewelry, carvings, woven goods, leather products, fruits and vegetables of all kinds are on display. Chickens and goats, too. It is glorious. Allah provides so well.

There is a kind man there who has known me all my life. His eyes are dark; he can no longer see me. But he knows my voice and gladly gives me a deliciously sweet date every time I visit. All these vendors know their products and produce. They have made them, grown them, harvested them. To know the vendor is to trust the product.

Recently, a new market opened. Everyone entering the city at my gate will pass by this market before they get to the street market. The new market is indoors. They have installed lights and rows of shelves as tall as Akhi. They have every kind of item found in the other market, and the prices are lower. But there is one difference.

There is no vendor sitting near these items on the shelves. Akhi does not know who made these things. Akhi has been told that some items are made by women and children who are not paid well for their services. So every day, Akhi goes to the new market and asks the owner about the origin of his goods. He has no answer for me; he just gives me some bread or a coin.

Some day, the man will tell me. No? Yes? It is good to know where things come from.

'Tis the reason,  
Akhi

## Spotlight On: Ron Renick

*Guitarist and  
Beacon Street friend*



***Involvement with Beacon Street:*** played guitar on Barb's recording, "A Little Bit of Change"; was part of the November concert, and will play during the Winter Dinner, February 10.

***Occupations:*** guitarist; choir director, St. Joseph Parish in Amherst; guitar and music theory teacher at Lorain Community College.

***Birthday:*** Nov. 27

***City where you live:*** Lorain

***Family:*** single

***Your favorite book:*** The Continual Burnt Offering, a book of daily devotions by H.A. Ironside.

***Your favorite movie:*** Several versions of "A Christmas Carol" (he says his favorite, believe it or not, is the Mr. Magoo version).

***Hobbies:*** Golf, cycling and running. He's run five marathons including Boston.

***Best thing about working with Beacon Street:*** "Being in the center of the spirituality of it. To be able to be involved in a ministry that's really active in proclaiming the Word."

***Favorite Scripture:*** 1 Corinthians 2:9-10. "What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him,' this God has revealed to us through the Spirit."