

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

Ask Akhi...



Dear Akhi,

Many Muslims were recently in Cleveland. Thousands prayed in unison in a downtown park. We have never seen such a manifestation of your faith in our city. Can you help me understand how you pray?

Sincerely,
Learning how to pray

Dear LHTP,

Several times every day I bow in prayer. Believe me, that is more often than I stop to eat or quench my thirst! That kind of routine keeps me mindful of Allah, wherever Allah is, whatever Allah is doing or not doing. Indeed, I bow to Allah so often, I sometimes expect to see Allah's face when I sit up! And sometimes I do. I see a glimpse of the Gracious, the Merciful, in the acts of those who live gracefully and bestow mercy.

At night, when Akhi sits alone, Akhi is awed by the stars in the sky. I cannot count them, they are so many. Nor can I see them all. They seem the smallest of lights, but I am told they are greater than the earth upon which Akhi sits. And you know, if Akhi were to approach any one of these stars, Akhi would be able to see nothing else! Akhi would be blinded by the light of one star. And yet, my friend, Allah is greater than all the stars!

Allah is the light of the earth and skies. It is not for us to pray to see the face of Allah but to live in the light that comes from Allah. When we pray to Allah, we are bathed in the light that shows us the path we must follow.

So Akhi prays to be mindful of God, always. On my knees. On my feet. And when I beg. Now, what can you teach Akhi about the way you pray? Eh?

Blessings,
Akhi

Feel free to send your letters to the sage from Damascus c/o the Beacon Street office

The Video is in hand!

We are pleased to announce the production of "When did we see you?" -- a video geared for audiences, middle school and older, gathered to explore the roots of their Christian identity.

We will be publishing a special edition of *The Beacon* next month that will provide the background behind the story, tell you about key people in the project, about the evolution of the story, and even a little bit about the production and editing involved. The challenge of capturing the story with a live audience was rewarding and the final product is something we are proud of. We also think it will be a valuable resource for Christian organizations nationwide.

If you can't wait for the next issue, you can see for yourself by ordering the video from Beacon Street for \$35 which includes tax, shipping, and handling. If you would like to see the five-color, 16-page study guide, send us a self addressed stamped #10 envelope and we'll get one right out to you. (A #10 is a standard business envelope, 4 1/8" x 9 3/8". It must have 60¢ postage and your return address.) You will be amazed.

Barb Ballenger

is coming to town in September

Good news for those who miss the clarifying voice of Beacon Street's former troubadour. [Troubadour?] The Cleveland Diocesan Council on Global Solidarity is hosting a celebration of Global Wisdom entitled: "Let's Pray the Borders Down."

Join Barb and other colleagues in the cause at Gesu Parish McCauley Hall, 2470 Miramar Blvd in University Heights on Saturday, September 18 from 6:30 to 8:30pm.

Donation: \$5 - children under 5 come free. Enjoy a dessert buffet, browse the "shop with a conscience" tables, and celebrate global partnerships.

For more information contact Rocky Ortiz at jrortiz@dioceseofcleveland.org or call 440.245.5043 . See you there!!