

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

Ask Akhi...



Dear Akhi,

Do you think there should be post-season playoffs to determine the national champion for college football?

Go Wolverines!

A fan

Dear Fan,

Just when Akhi thinks he knows something about football, a dear friend tells me football in your schools is quite different from football in these parts. I see our children fashioning a round ball from river reeds and bits of cloth. They kick it as they run, careful not to touch it with their hands.

I am told your football is shaped much like a date, but bigger. And you are permitted to throw, catch, kick, and even dash the ball to the ground at either end of the field. Yours is a different sport, so Akhi does not know what to tell you about posts and playoffs. But in one way, all sport is the same.

At national games, only a certain number of players are allowed on the field while the ball is in play. Each team has the same number of players. It is fair that way. No? Every team member has an eye on the goal, and every player must be willing to sacrifice himself to defend against the advance of his opponent.

If this is so, can you imagine any player on the field who is not willing to bring all his strength, his speed, and his skill to the test? Of course not. So the battle is intense. At the end of the game, no matter what the score, each player is content to know he played his best.

And Akhi is smiling now. Because all of this talk is about sport, a game. How can this possibly be as important as caring for Allah's children, or his universe? If we lose the children or lose our home, what else will matter? There will be no post-season.

So Akhi suggests we all get in the game, whenever and wherever we can. We must do all we can with what we have, in the time we have, and in the place we are. Then we will all be champions. I learned that from a young man, wise beyond his years.

Oh, and Akhi has a question for you! Where do you want the Wolverines to go?

May Allah bless you with peace, on and off the field.

Akhi

Feel free to send your letters to Akhi c/o Beacon Street's Office.

Christmas 2006

Dear friends of Beacon Street,

When I stand before several dozen junior high students at the beginning of a five or six-hour retreat, I introduce myself with these words: "Hello. My name is Bob. I'll be your server today." It draws a smile. "Do you know what that means?" I ask. "Yeah," says a smiling fellow, "You don't want us in the kitchen." That draws a smile from me. I proceed to tell them I am there to prepare them for Confirmation or leadership opportunities in the community or at their school. "And it's all about service," I continue. "The Gospel is all about service."

My Sunday preacher said the same thing on the Feast of Christ the King. The power in Jesus' reign is not for lording *over*, but in being *for* others. The poor, the underserved, the misjudged, the widow, the children, the sick, and even the sinner were the focus of Jesus' compassion, understanding, and forgiveness. And as we approach the Christmas season and the end of the year, all of you have already received stacks and stacks of requests in the mail from organizations whose mission it is to do the same, to carry on the ministry of Jesus. And here comes Beacon Street, too.

Our mission is *to proclaim the Gospel using the performing arts*. And no matter what story comes into play or how messy the hands-on activity gets, I try to keep the focus on service of others, those nearby or on the far end of our retail supply chain. Kids need to be reminded that their decisions make a difference. There is power in their will to make a difference in the world around them. There is power in being for others.

Donations to Beacon Street are tax-deductible. But more importantly, every gift goes to announcing the reign of God in a memorable, sometimes even entertaining manner. And these days your kindness goes more and more to families in parishes that sponsor Generations of Faith and GIFT programs where all age levels convene for a meal and a couple hours of fruitful dialogue, craft, and prayer. Beacon Street has played a part in this kind of innovative programming in a dozen parishes this past year.

Your generosity will ink our newsletter and drive our mission. We'd be lost without our donors. Thank you for your consideration.

On behalf of our staff and board, I wish you all the best of our Advent anticipation, our Christmas celebration, and a New Year resolve.

Much peace,

Bob Kloos, artistic director
for Pam Kestner, office manager and the Board of Directors

A remittance envelope has been enclosed for your convenience. You can also use it to order tapes, CD's, or our video. You can even use it to reserve your place at our Have A Heart fundraiser.