

This was written by Danny McCain and presented at the Jos, Nigeria memorial service for Steve Beacham, a missionary/ cross-culture kid who was raised in Nigeria and then spent much of his adult life teaching, mentoring and caring for missionary and other cross-culture kids at Hillcrest School in Jos, Nigeria. He passed away at the untimely age of 50. His wife, Beaj, has since returned to Hillcrest School to resume the ministry she shared there with Steve.

The Judgment Scene of Steve Beacham: A Personalized Paraphrase of Matthew 25:31-40

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

The King will call Steve Beacham who is standing on his right and say: “Come, you who are blessed by my Father, take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For, when I was an illiterate child, you started a school, taught me to read and gave me an education; when I was a young pastor, you trained me; when I could not understand the meaning of the Bible, you translated it into my own local language; when I was suffering from malaria, you gave me an injection; when I was in need of encouragement and direction, you wrote a book for me; when I was vulnerable to HIV/AIDS, you prevented me from becoming infected; when I was living in the street with nothing to eat and nowhere to go, you fed me and gave me a home; when I lived in a village that had no water, you came and dug a well for me; when I was a lost pagan, you showed me the Jesus film and convinced me to repent.”

Then Steve looked confused and said, “Lord, I know you know all things but I think there has been a mistake. Though I was a school teacher, when did I start a school and teach children to read? I do not remember training any pastor or writing a book or giving an injection to someone suffering from malaria. Exactly which local language was it that I translated the Bible into? Surely, you know that I was not directly involved in HIV/AIDS work and I don’t remember removing too many children from the street. Please do not

be annoyed, but could you be more precise about which village it was where I dug the well? I always enjoyed telling people about Christ but exactly where was the place that I showed the Jesus film and caused a pagan to repent? Lord, I am grateful for your kind words and appreciate the complements, but I have no memory of these things. I was just a coach in a high school. Surely you have confused me with some other missionary.”

Then the King will reply: “I tell you the truth, whenever you loved and taught and cared for the children of those who did those things, you were an essential part of their ministries. In fact, without your help in teaching and nurturing all those missionary children, few if any of these ministries would have been possible. So whatever you did to one of the least of these missionary kids, you helped their parents do all these good works for me.”

By Rev. Dr. Danny McCain, International Institute for Christian Studies, Overland Park, Kansas, USA, and the University of Jos in Jos, Nigeria on 24 April 2005 at Memorial Service for Steve Beacham in Jos, Nigeria