

Braman Foundation of Charities REVIVE MAGAZINE

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The Magazine of The Braman Foundation of Charities

Vol. 4 Issue 2

June 2019



The BFC Editorial

Greeting Friends!

God bless you as we seek out ways to serve the Lord throughout the BFC works!

We have had a very steady progress in Mission Work from December 2018 - April 2019 in South Sudan, Kenya and Uganda. The Lord continues to bless the work forward through the Strategic Alliance of CEF and LRI. Pastoral teachings and Sunday School teachers training continue to progress. Let us celebrate Christ!

Thank God for the opportunity to serve throughout the NYS Corrections Department. We have begun work with Behind The Walls, a Christ centered program of Addiction Recovery. We are continuing that work at Hale Creek in Johnstown, NY. Our program has a start date of September 5, 2019. Pray for the Lord not only to open doors to other facilities, but to protect His people as we move forward.

As we reveal our author in this issue, we are featuring the 14th Century Author, Thomas à Kempis. Throughout the BFC teachings we have incorporated His teachings of Interiorization or Christ.

Be blessed as you explore the 2nd most widely read book in the world next to the Bible. It is evident how much Christ is revealed through His writings. Throughout the rest of 2019, The Imitation will be featured.

We love you, thank you and need you as BFC continues to Labor unto the Lord. Always, faith without works is dead! No faith - God Bless You

BFC June 2019

Meet Thomas à Kempis

Thomas À Kempis, original name Thomas Hemerken, (born 1379/80, Kempen, near Düsseldorf, Rhineland [Germany]—died Aug. 8, 1471, Agnietenberg, near Zwolle, Bishopric of Utrecht [now in the Netherlands]), Christian theologian, the probable author of *Imitatio Christi* (*Imitation of Christ*), a devotional book that, with the exception of the Bible, has been considered the most influential work in Christian literature.

Although the authorship is in dispute, he probably wrote the *Imitation*. Remarkable for its simple language and style, it emphasizes the spiritual rather than the materialistic life, affirms the rewards of being Christ-centred, and supports Communion as a means to strengthen faith. His writings offer possibly the best representation of the *devotio moderna* (a religious movement created by Gerhard Groote, founder of the Brethren of the Common Life) that made religion intelligible and practicable for the “modern” attitude arising in the Netherlands at the end of the 14th century. Thomas stresses asceticism rather than mysticism, and moderate—not extreme—austerity.

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Introduction of The Imitation of Christ

by: Thomas à Kempis

The Imitation of Christ (Latin: *De Imitatione Christi*) by Thomas à Kempis is a Christian devotional book. It was first composed in Latin ca. 1418–1427. It is a handbook for spiritual life arising from the *Devotio Moderna* movement, of which Kempis was a member.

The Imitation is perhaps the most widely read Christian devotional work next to the Bible, and is regarded as a devotional and religious classic. Its popularity was immediate, and it was printed 745 times before 1650. Apart from the Bible, no book had been translated into more languages than the Imitation of Christ at the time.

The text is divided into four books, which provide detailed spiritual instructions: "Helpful Counsels of the Spiritual Life", "Directives for the Interior Life", "On Interior Consolation" and "On the Blessed Sacrament".

The approach taken in the Imitation is characterized by its emphasis on the interior life and withdrawal from the world, as opposed to an active imitation of Christ by other friars. The book places a high level of emphasis on the devotion to the Eucharist as key element of spiritual life.

The ideal of the imitation of Christ has been an important element of Christian theology, ethics and spirituality. References to this concept and its practice are found in the earliest Christian documents, such as the Pauline Epistles.

Saint Augustine viewed the imitation of Christ as the fundamental purpose of Christian life, and as a remedy for the imitation of the sins of Adam. Saint Francis of Assisi believed in the physical as well as the spiritual imitation of Christ, and advocated a path of poverty and preaching like Jesus who was poor at birth in the manger and died naked on the cross. The theme of imitation of Christ existed in all phases of Byzantine theology, and in the 14th century book *Life in Christ* Nicholas Cabasilas viewed "living one's own personal life" in Christ as the fundamental Christian virtue.

Against this backdrop, the *Devotio Moderna* movement was started by Geert Groote who was highly dissatisfied

with the state of the Church and what he perceived as the gradual loss of monastic traditions and the lack of moral values among the clergy. The initial focus of *Devotio Moderna* was the rediscovery of genuine pious practices and conversion and re-conversion of the lukewarm clergy. The Imitation was written within the *Devotio Moderna* community, as it was flourishing in Northern Europe, but grew far beyond that movement which came to an end with the Protestant Reformation.

Teachings

The Imitation of Christ is divided into four books which provide detailed spiritual instructions.

Book One

Chap. 1 from *The Imitation of Christ*, Chapman & Hall (1878)

Book One of *The Imitation* is titled "Helpful Counsels of the Spiritual Life." The Imitation derives its title from the first chapter of Book I, "The Imitation of Christ and contempt for the vanities of the world" (Latin: "*De Imitatione Christi et contemptu omnium vanitatum mundi*"). The Imitation is sometimes referred to as *Following of the Christ*, which comes from the opening words of the first chapter—"Whoever follows Me will not walk into darkness." Book One deals with the withdrawal of the outward life—so far as positive duty allows and emphasizes an interior life by renouncing all that is vain and illusory, resisting temptations and distractions of life, giving up the pride of learning and to be humble, forsaking the disputations of theologians and patiently enduring the world's contempt and contradiction.

Kempis stresses the importance of solitude and silence, "how undisturbed a conscience we would have if we never went searching after ephemeral joys nor concerned ourselves with affairs of the world..." Kempis writes that the "World and all its allurements pass away" and following sensual desires leads to a "dissipated conscience" and a "distracted heart".(Chap.20) Kempis writes that one should meditate on death and "live as becomes a pilgrim and a stranger on earth...for this earth of ours is no lasting city."(Chap.23) On the Day of Judgement, Kempis writes that a good and pure conscience will give more joy than all the philosophy one has ever learned, fervent prayer will bring more happiness than a "multi-course banquet", the silence will be more "exhilarating" than long tales, holy deeds will be of greater value than nice-sounding words.(Chap.24)

Kempis writes one must remain faithful and fervent to God, and keep good hope of attaining victory and salvation, but avoid overconfidence. Kempis gives the example of an anxious man who, oscillating between fear and hope

and with grief went to the altar and said: "Oh, if only I knew that I shall persevere to the end." Immediately he heard the divine answer, "What if you knew this? What would you do? Do now what you would do then, and you will be very safe." After this the man gave himself to God's will, and his anxiety and fear of future disappeared.(Chap 25)

Book Two

Book Two of The Imitation is "Directives for the Interior Life." The book continues the theme of Book One, and contains instructions concerning "inward peace, purity of heart, a good conscience—for moderating our longings and desires, for patience, for submission to the will of God, for the love of Jesus, for enduring the loss of comfort, and for taking up the Cross." Kempis writes that if we have a clear conscience God will defend us, and whomever God chooses to help no man's malice can harm. Kempis writes that when a man humbles himself, "God protects and defends him...God favors the humble man...and after he has been brought low raises him up to glory."(Chap.2) Kempis stresses the importance of a good conscience—"The man whose conscience is pure easily finds peace and contentment ... Men only see your face, but it is God who sees your heart. Men judge according to external deeds, but only God can weigh the motives behind them."(Chap. 6) Kempis writes we must place our faith in Jesus rather than in men and "...Do not trust nor lean on a reed that is shaken ...All flesh is grass, and all its glory shall fade like the flower in the field."(Chap.7) Kempis writes that false sense of freedom and overconfidence are obstacles for spiritual life. Kempis writes that "Grace will always be given to the truly grateful, and what is given to the humble is taken away from the proud."(Chap.10)

Kempis writes that we must not attribute any good to ourselves but attribute everything to God. Kempis asks us to be grateful for "every little gift" and we will be worthy to receive greater ones, to consider the least gift as great and the most common as something special. Kempis writes that if we consider the dignity of the giver, no gift will seem unimportant or small.(Chap.10) The last chapter "The Royal Road of the Cross", Kempis writes that if we carry the cross willingly, it will lead us to our desired goal,

but on the other hand if we carry our cross grudgingly, then we turn it into a heavy burden and if we should throw off one cross, we will surely find another, which is perhaps heavier. Kempis writes that by ourselves we cannot bear the cross, but if we put our trust in the Lord, He will send us strength from heaven.(Chap. 12)

Book Three

The 1505 edition, Museum Catharijneconvent, Utrecht, the Netherlands.

Book Three, entitled "On Interior Consolation", is the longest among the four books. This book is in the form of a dialogue between Jesus and the disciples.

Jesus says that very few turn to God and spirituality, since they are more eager to listen to the world and desires of their flesh than to God. Jesus says that the world promises things that are passing and of little value, which are served with great enthusiasm; While He promises things that are most excellent and eternal and men's hearts remain indifferent.(Chap.3) Jesus says that the "man who trusts in Me I never send away empty. When I make a promise I keep it, and I fulfill whatever I have pledged—if only you remain faithful...unto the end."(Chap.3)

Jesus says that Spiritual progress and perfection consists in offering oneself to the divine will and not seeking oneself in "anything either small or great, in time or in eternity."(Chap.25) Jesus says not be anxious about the future—"Do not let your heart be troubled and do not be afraid." Jesus advises the disciple that all is not lost when the result is not as planned, when one thinks

he is farthest from Jesus, it is then that Jesus is nearest, when one thinks that all is lost, it is then that victory is close at hand. Jesus says not to react to a difficulty as if there were no hope of being freed from it.(Chap.30)

Joseph Tylanda summarizes the central theme of the third book with the teaching in Chapter 56, "My son, to the degree that you can leave yourself behind, to that degree will you be able to enter into Me. Just as desiring nothing outside you produces internal peace within you, so the internal renunciation of yourself unites you to God." Jesus gives his important teaching, "Follow Me...I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Without the Way, there is no



Whoever follows Me will not walk into darkness.

going; without the Truth, there is no knowing; without Life, there is no living. I am the Way you are to follow; I am the Truth you are to believe; I am the Life you are to hope for."(Chap. 56)

Book Four

Book Four of *The Imitation*, "On the Blessed Sacrament", is also in the form of a dialogue between Jesus and the disciple. Kempis writes that in this Sacrament spiritual grace is conferred, the soul's strength is replenished, and the recipient's mind is fortified and strength is given to the body debilitated by sin. (Chap.1)

Jesus says that the sooner one resigns wholeheartedly to God, and no longer seeks anything according to one's own will or pleasure, but totally places all in God's hands, the sooner will one be united with God and be at peace. Jesus continues, "Nothing will make you happier or please you as much as being obedient to the divine will."(Chap.15) Jesus also delivers his "changeless teaching"—"Unless you renounce all that you have, you cannot be my disciple."(Chap.8)

To receive the Sacrament, Jesus says "make clean the mansions of your heart. Shut out the whole world and all its sinful din and sit as a solitary sparrow on a housetop and, in the bitterness of your soul, meditate on your transgressions." (Chap.12)[56][57] Jesus says that there is no offering more worthy, no satisfaction greater, for the washing away of sins than to offer oneself purely and completely to God at the time the Body of Christ is offered in the Mass and Communion.(Chap. 7)

Influence

Hungarian edition, 1891, Nagyvárad

The *Imitation of Christ* is regarded as the most important devotional work in Catholic Christianity and is the most widely read devotional work next to the Bible. Apart from the Bible no book has been translated into more languages than the *Imitation of Christ*.

The book was admired by the following individuals: Saint Thomas More, Chancellor of England and renowned humanist who was executed by King Henry VIII of England; Saint Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus; and twentieth century American Catholic author and monk, Thomas Merton. It also has been admired by many others, both Catholic and Protestant. The Jesuits give it an official place among their "exercises".

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, listed *The Imitation* among the works that influenced him at his conversion. General Gordon carried it with him to

the battlefield.

José Rizal, the Philippine polymath and national hero, reportedly read the book whilst incarcerated within Fort Santiago in Intramuros, Manila, shortly before the Spanish colonial government executed him by firing squad for sedition on 30 December 1896.

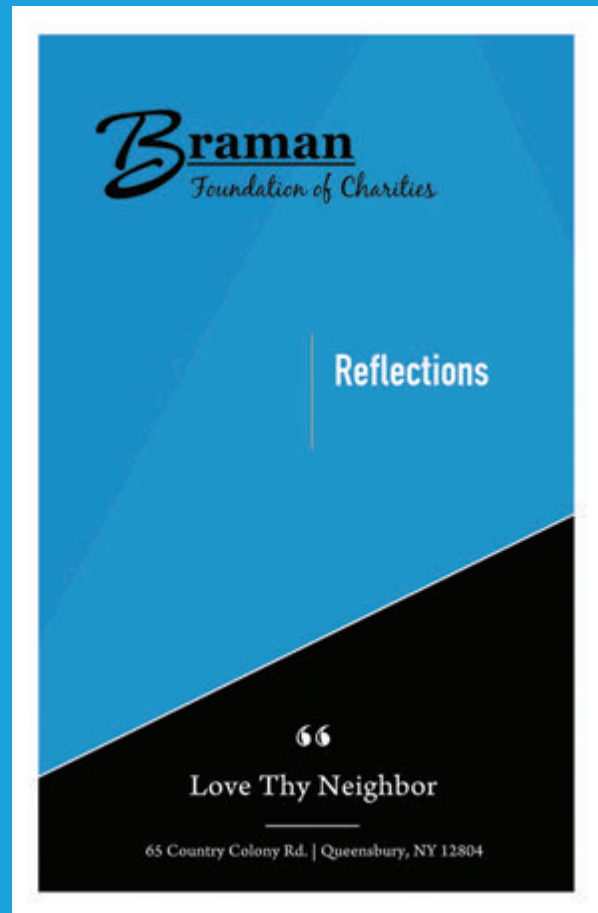
Swami Vivekananda, the 19th-century Hindu philosopher and founder of Vedanta Society, drew a number of parallels between the teachings of the *Imitation* and the *Bhagavad Gita*. Vivekananda wrote a preface and a translation of the *Imitation* in 1899. Vivekananda would always carry a copy of the *Bhagavad Gita* and the *Imitation*. Spiritual writer Eknath Easwaran compared the teachings of the *Imitation* with the Upanishads.

The *Imitation of Christ* was an early influence on the spirituality of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, who used it in her prayer life, distilled its message and used it in her own writings which then influenced Catholic spirituality as a whole. Thérèse was so attached to the book and read it so many times that she could quote passages from it from memory in her teens.

Theologian Shailer Mathews wrote that the *Imitation* presents an accurate description of the Christ of the Gospels, and gives an unbiased reading of the words of Jesus. He also wrote "For centuries men have found in it inspiration to sacrifice and humility, and to severest self-examination...He who has never come under its influence has missed something that would have made him more humble and more ambitious for purity of life."

Spanish crypto-Muslim writer known as the Young Man of Arévalo included adaptations of many passages from the *Imitation* in his Islamic devotional work *Summary of the Account and Spiritual Exercise*. He replaced specific Christian contexts and features with Islamic ones, while keeping the spiritual and moral meaning intact. The adaptation of Christian devotional literature in his Islamic work was likely the result of his being obligated to attend missionary sermons (after forced conversions of Muslims in Spain), and a lack of access to actual Islamic literature.

BFC is pleased to offer to you a “Daily Reflection” for every day of the year. It is vital to use a strong, spiritual based, Christ centered reading to help start your devotion or to end your devotion.



365 days in a year. Use Reflections to help start your day:

“Seek ye first the Kingdom of God”
- Matt 6:33

In Addition, we offer pics of our 2017 and 2018 mission trips.



Stewardship

As believers we know and understand that God has given us provision in which we must “steward” while here on earth. Much often, stewardship is associated with money. And, of course, we are to be good stewards over the resources that God has given us. Our bodies, so too, are not our own, but a vessel in which the Holy Spirit dwells. Therefore, we must be vigilant to eat well, exercise and take care of our body. As well there is much that God gives us in which we are to steward over.

The Braman Foundation continues to be blessed financially and through their finances, its missions of works of the Lord are able to be carried out.

In April, the Lord has revealed two areas in which BFC was steward on: Homeland Orphanage & School and serving in the COGIC Church in Schenectady NY. Both are currently “cast out” of BFC.

Through a series of investigations it has been revealed that Homeland Orphanage & School is NOT an orphanage. That in fact, Homeland is a “for profit school”, in addition

it has no Christian workers on its staff. BFC has discovered that the owner of Homeland has lied and manipulated BFC through the years.

Secondly, since July of 2017 we have steward at the COGIC Schenectady Church. We have sown into this ministry growth only to reveal that there is “no fruit” coming from this work.

As stewards over the many blessings God gives BFC it is vital that “fruit” must be produced, just as Christ prunes and cast off the “dead branches”. BFC has discontinued all relationships with both Homeland Orphanage & School and the COGIC at Schenectady. It is imperative that resources are not wasted through this work.

We have repented and sought forgiveness but will no longer waste resources on either project.

Prayer for Guidance

From the wisdom and knowledge of scripture, we can make improved decisions and become better people as we navigate the complexity of the world.

A. For Guidance

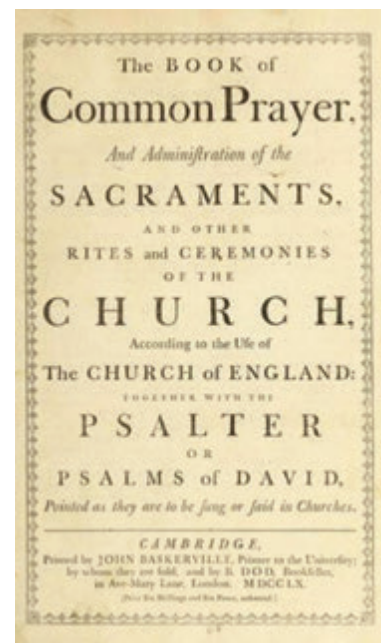
Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with thy most gracious favor, and further us with *thy* continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify *thy* holy Name, and finally, by *thy* mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

B. For Guidance

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light *riseth* up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what *thou wouldst* have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in *thy* light we may see light, and in *thy* straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Colossians 3:23-24

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.





Mission Conference Update

February 2019 | Kenya

CEF Bible Training and Seminars

Announcement:

BFC has started using CEF Training and completed a 2 Timothy bible study during our Pastoral Conference in February.

Jacques Masiko is leading us during these conferences and training seminars.

Strategic Alliance:





Mission Conference Update

March 2019 | South Sudan

CEF Training in Juba, South Sudan

Announcement:

BFC has started using CEF Training in South Sudan based on our efforts from the December Conference in South Sudan.

Jacques Masiko and his team are working on the curriculum for the Bible Institute which also came from our December meeting.

Strategic Alliance:





Mission Conference Update

April 2019 | Kenya

CEF Bible Training and Seminars

Announcement:

We are continuing our Bible training and seminars and are working with the PEFA church to set up Sunday Schools and assisting in Sunday School training.

We will begin to hold VBS in the future.

Strategic Alliance:



COMING SOON!

New Essays Book

The following essay is one of many that will be featured in this new piece of literature created by the Braman Foundation.

Temple of God

Revelation 3: 12-13 “He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of God, and he will not go out from it anymore, and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from God, and my new name.”

1 Corinthians 3:16 “Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

1 Corinthians 6:19 “or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, who you have from God and that you are not your own?”

2 Corinthians 6:16 “or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God, just as God said.”

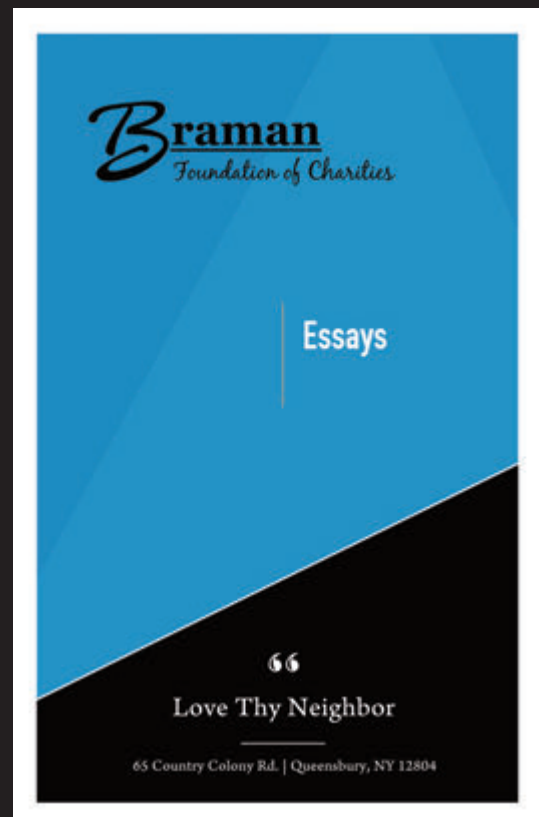
My friend, do you not have the realization that you are the temple of the Living God? The kingdom of God is in you. Christ is a perfect incarnation of God that comes to redeem the world because of sin. Yet, you incarnate through desire. You have come here through salvation, yet you know it not. You have become lost in this incarnation in several ways. You mistakenly identify as a male, or as a female. You claim to be of a certain race, or creed. You have conformed to a material world as real, unending. You believe you are from a lineage of a family with continued sin, shortcomings, and difficulty.

Although all you believe to be true above, those facts are not who you are in God.

God is writing through John in Revelation that you shall not incarnate here as you have overcome self. Why do you come here to earth? Ask the Holy Spirit this question. Do not allow our self to generate an answer through reason and the intellect. Learn to listen to the still small voice and overcome self.

Do you not understand that you are a pillar in which God dwells? Yet you continue to identify with a realm that is ever-changing. You must learn to go within and overcome. Then you will grasp that your only desire is God and God alone! Do not succumb to the deluded beliefs in the current church in which many beliefs are very shallow.

Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, and knock and He will open the door. Yet you receive not because you do not ask. And therefore, you lack understanding of the truth of why you are here.



Of Gratitude of the Grace of God

by: Thomas à Kempis

WHY seekest thou repose, since thou art born to labor?

Dispose thyself to patience, rather than to consolations; and to carrying the cross, rather than to gladness.

For who is there amongst those of the world that would not willingly receive comfort and spiritual joy, if he could obtain it at all times?

Spiritual consolations, indeed, exceed all the delights of the world and pleasures of the flesh.

For all worldly delights are either vain or impure; but spiritual delights alone are delightful and honorable, as they spring from virtue, and are infused by God into pure minds.

But these Divine consolations no man can always enjoy when he will, because the time of temptation is not long absent.

2. But what very much opposes these heavenly visits is a false liberty of mind, and a great confidence in one's self.

God doth well in giving the grace of consolation, but man doth ill in not returning it all to God with thanksgiving.

And this is the reason why the gifts of grace cannot flow in us, because we are ungrateful to the Giver, nor do we return all to the fountain-head.

For grace will be always given to him that duly returns thanks; and what is wont to be given to the humble, will be taken away from the proud.

3. I would not have any such consolation as robbeth me of compunction; nor do I wish to have such contemplation as leadeth to pride.

For all that is high is not holy; nor is every pleasant thing good; nor every desire pure; nor is everything that is dear to us pleasing to God.

I willingly accept of that grace which always maketh me more humble and fearful, and more ready to renounce myself.

He that hath been taught by the gift of grace, and instructed by the chastisement of its withdrawal, will not dare to attribute anything of good to himself, but will rather acknowledge himself to be poor and naked.

Give to God what is His, and ascribe to thyself what is thine-----that is, give thanks to God for His grace; but as to thyself, be sensible that nothing is to be attributed to thee but sin, and the punishment sin deserveth.

4. Put thyself always in the lowest place, and the highest shall be given thee; for the highest standeth not without the lowest.

The Saints that are the highest in the sight of God are the least in their own eyes; and the more glorious they are, the more humble are they in themselves.

Full of truth and heavenly glory, they are not covetous of vain glory.

Being grounded and established in God, they can by no means be proud.

And they who attribute to God whatsoever good they have received, seek not glory from one another, but that glory which is from God alone; and they desire above all things that God may be praised in themselves, and in all the Saints, and to this they are always tending.

5. Be grateful, then, for the least, and thou shalt be worthy to receive greater things.

Let the least be to thee as something very great, and the most contemptible as a special favor.

If thou considerest the dignity of the Giver, no gift will seem little or too mean for thee. For that is not little which is given by the most high God.

Yea, though He give punishment and stripes, it ought to be acceptable; for whatever He suffereth to befall us, He always doth it for our salvation.

He that desireth to retain the grace of God, let him be thankful for grace when it is given, and patient when it is withdrawn.

Let him pray, that it may return; let him be cautious and humble, lest he lose it.



Mission Conference Update May 2019 | India



Announcement:

BFC & Asapalli are now Strategic Alliance AWF members. Both BFC & Asapalli will be used to help organize the C&MA Synods throughout India. Right now there are approximately 50 C&MA churches throughout India. The Strategic Alliance that BFC has with LRI & CEF will be used along with Asapalli's Children Programs.

The plan is to develop CEF and LRI in C&MA churches of India. Our first meeting was held during this trip.



**Leadership
RESOURCES**



THE ALLIANCE



Asapalli Christian Hostel

PLATINUM JUBILEE



NOVEMBER 26, 2019
1941-2019

“Your faithfulness endures
through all generations”
Psalms: 119:90

- Chief Guest
- Praise Worship Band
- Lifetime Achievement Award
- Alumni Testimony
- Special Choir

Of the Small Number of the Lovers of the Cross of Jesus

by: Thomas à Kempis

JESUS hath now many lovers of His heavenly kingdom, but few bearers of His Cross.

He hath many that are desirous of consolation, but few of tribulation.

He finds many companions of His table, but few of His abstinence.

All desire to rejoice with Him, but few are willing to endure anything for His sake.

Many follow Jesus to the breaking of bread, but few to the drinking of the chalice of His Passion.

Many reverence His miracles, but few follow the ignominy of His Cross.

Many love Jesus as long as they meet with no adversity; many praise Him and bless Him as long as they receive some consolations from Him.

But if Jesus hide Himself, and leave them for a little while, they either murmur or fall into excessive dejection.

2. But they that love Jesus for Jesus' sake, and not for the sake of some consolation of their own, bless Him no less in tribulation and anguish of heart than in the greatest consolation.

And if He should never give them consolation, yet would they always praise Him, and always give Him thanks.

3. Oh, how much is the pure love of Jesus able to do, when it is not mixed with any self-interest or self-love!

Are not all they to be called mercenaries who are ever seeking consolations!

Do not they prove themselves to be rather lovers of

themselves than of Christ, who are always thinking of their own advantage and gain?

Where shall we find a man that is willing to serve God disinterestedly?

4. Seldom do we find anyone so spiritual as to be stripped of all things.

For who shall be able to find the man that is truly poor in spirit, and divested of attachment to all created things? "His voice is (as of things that are brought) from afar, and from the remotest coasts."

If a man give his whole substance, still it is nothing.

And if he do great penance, it is but little.

And if he attain to all knowledge, he is far off still.

And if he have great virtue and very fervent devotion, there is still much wanting to him, namely, the one thing which is supremely necessary for him.

What is that? That having left all things else, he leave also himself, and wholly go out of himself, and retain nothing of self-love.

And when he shall have done all things which he knows he ought to do, let him think that he has done nothing.

5. Let him not make great account of that which may appear much to be esteemed; but let him in truth acknowledge himself to be an unprofitable servant; as the Truth Himself has said: "When ye shall have done all things that have been commanded you, say: 'We are unprofitable servants'."

Then may he be truly poor in spirit, and may say with the Psalmist: "I am alone and poor."

Yet is there no one richer than such a man, none more powerful, none more free; who knoweth how to leave himself and all things, and to put himself in the very lowest place.



Asapalli Update
School Building

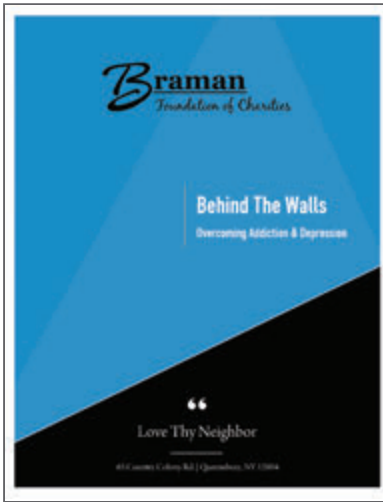






Pray for the upcoming VBS at Asapalli in July 2019

BFC Corrections



Behind The Walls: Steve Austin has been added to the corrections staff. Steve has a fundamental background in this work. The 88 page core curriculum that is approved by the NYS Corrections in Albany.

Behind The Walls has been added to the Hale Creek in Johnstown, NY Addiction programs. BFC is waiting on the “go ahead” for Department of Programs. BFC has been notified of a possible September 5, 2019 start date.

Lifeline: This program allows an inmate in the Behind The Walls program to sign up to be discipled in a men’s bible study or to find a sponsor in an AA group. BFC has several voluntary individuals throughout the state that will “step-up” to help.

BFC Request for Pre-Release Contact
Life-Line

The aftercare program is a voluntary service provided by Braman Foundation of Charities to help inmates transition to a life of freedom upon their release. This program is supervised by the BFC in consultation with the prison authorities. It is a method of reintegrating the inmate into society. This is by letter contact, time permitting, and their own release schedule. Inmate must be eligible for a contact period. You must be aware of the following:

1. YOU MUST BE SERVED NINETY-DAY DATE OF YOUR RELEASE DATE.
2. ACCIDENT PERSON WILL BECOME YOUR CONTACT PERSON. YOU MUST BE CONTACTED BY THE BFC. YOU MUST BE CONTACTED BY THE BFC. YOU MUST BE CONTACTED BY THE BFC.
3. YOU MUST BE CONTACTED BY THE BFC. YOU MUST BE CONTACTED BY THE BFC. YOU MUST BE CONTACTED BY THE BFC.
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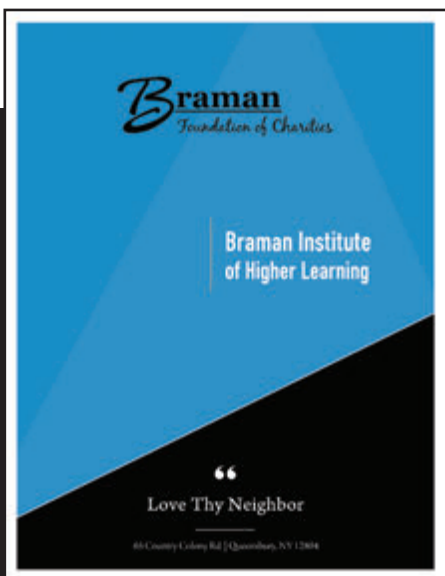
PLEASE PRINT

YOUR NAME: _____
CURRENT MAILING ADDRESS: STREET _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE: _____

PLEASE SIGN

YOUR RELEASE NUMBER: _____
YOUR RELEASE DATE: _____

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO: REV. BRADMAN
417 COUNTRY COLONY ROAD
QUEENSBURY, NY 12058
PHONE: 518-382-2871
FAX: 518-382-2872
WWW.BFC-USA.COM



Braman Institute of Higher Learning

The Braman Institute of Higher Learning will be a facility in which an individual can reside for ten years. A strict “monastic” type of environment allows BFC to be “all in” with these types. An individual that qualifies for BIHL could be a parolee from Behind The Walls or just a homeless person ready to commit to change. Whatever the case, BIHL runs a complete recovery center, Christ focused, military style facility. BIHL will work all aspects of its client’s life to help bring them back to society through its Christ centered programs. BIHL may be ready by the 2nd or 3rd of quarter 2020.

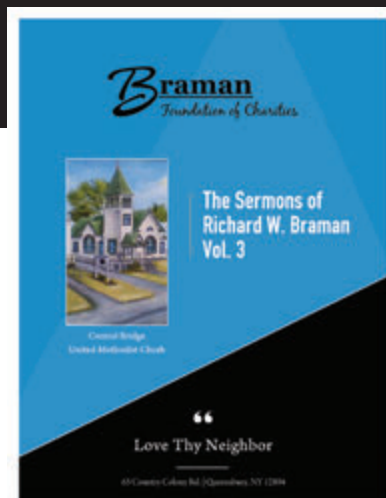
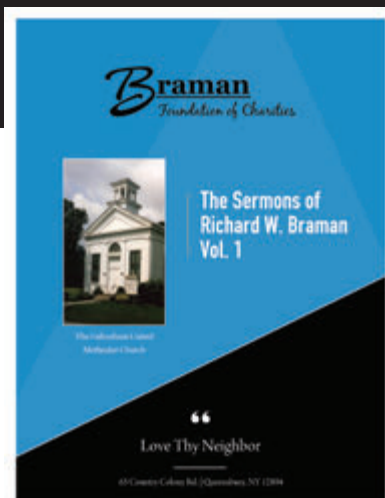
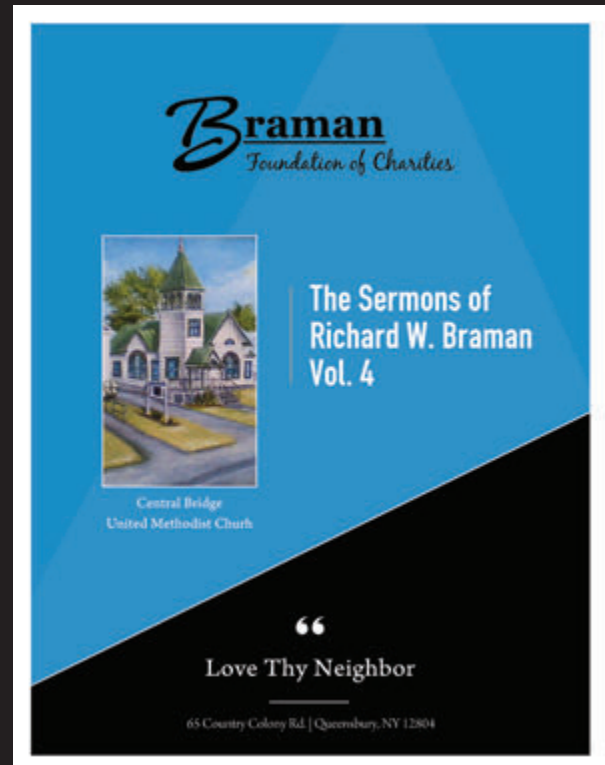
The Sermons of Richard W. Braman Now featuring Vol. 4

As you read these sermons may the Holy Spirit continue to guide your path and may the Grace of our Lord continue to bless your life and your families' lives. If you have never had the experience of realizing Jesus as your personal Savior just ask him to come in your heart and He will.

Shout out to Sandra!

Sandra, through a labor of Love typed RWB Sermons into Microsoft Word.

Thank you and God Bless You!



"Anything to bring me to separation, to death, for a life of full fellowship with God and Christ."

Come and cast this self-life and flesh-life at the feet of Jesus. Then trust Him. Do not worry yourselves with trying to understand all about it, but come in the living faith that Christ will come into you with the power of His death and the power of His life; and then the Holy Spirit will bring the whole Christ--Christ crucified and risen and living in glory--into your heart.

Of Avoiding Rash Judgment

by: Thomas à Kempis

TURN thine eyes back upon thyself, and see thou judge not the doings of others. In judging others a man toileth in vain; for the most part he is mistaken, and he easily sinneth; but judging and scrutinizing himself, he always laboreth with profit.

We often judge of a thing according as we have it at heart; for true judgment is easily lost through private affection.

If God were always the only object of our desire, we should not be easily disturbed at our own opinions being resisted.

2. But oftentimes there is something lying hid within, or occurring from without, that draws us along with it.

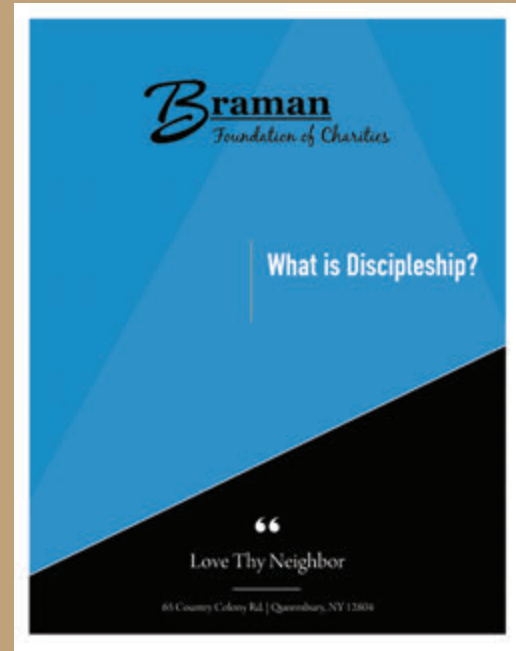
Many secretly seek themselves in what they do, and are not aware of it.

They seem also to continue in good peace, so long as things are done according to their will and judgment; but if aught happen otherwise than they desire, they are soon disturbed, and become sad.

Too often difference of feelings and opinions giveth rise to dissensions between friends and fellow-citizens, between religious and devout persons.

3. An inveterate habit is with difficulty relinquished, and no one is willingly led beyond his own views.

If thou reliest more on thine own reason or industry than on the subduing virtue of Jesus Christ, thou wilt seldom and with difficulty become an enlightened man. For God willeth us to become perfectly subject to Himself, and by the love that burneth in us to transcend all reason.



What is Discipleship?

A disciple is a follower of Jesus. He has committed to Christ, to walking Christ's way to living Christ life and to sharing Christ's love, suffering and truth with others.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20



65 Country Colony Rd.
Queensbury, NY 12804
(518) 636-5930
info@bramanenterprises.com
bramanenterprises.com

After prayerful consideration, I/we have decided to support the Braman Foundation of Charities.

monthly _____ one time _____ \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Credit Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



Coming in 2020

Kenya 7-Day Retreat

Safari in Ruma National Park

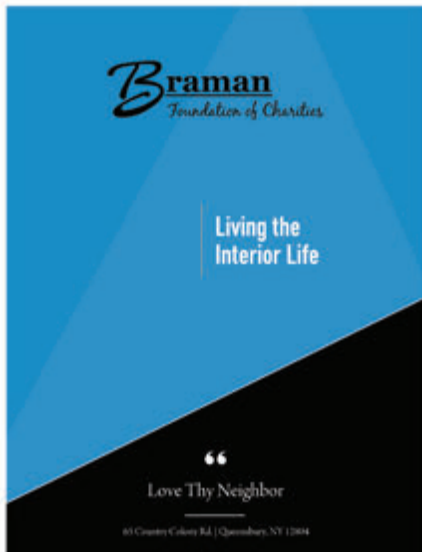
Ruma National Park Day Trip is a day tour to one of Kenya's most unusual and beautiful National Parks called Ruma. The Park is located only 30 Kilometers from Rusinga Island. Ruma National Park lies in Western Kenya, close to the shores of the Africa's largest inland lake, Lake Victoria. The Park is location in Suba District, Nyanza Province.



"We believe only in truly helping our fellow man"

Matthew 22:39

BFC Community Programs



Living the Interior Life

BFC programs will also be utilized to work with women's issues stemming from abortion, depression, substance abuse, and domestic violence. The program, Living the Interior Life will be used. Other programs will be announced as we move forward in serving together.

What is Healing & Restoration

Millions of us suffer needlessly from addiction and depression. The reasons for this are many. In this program we emphasize the 12 Step Method of Recovery, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, and Meditation techniques to overcome difficulties. We also rely on God's grace to help you be lifted from your dilemma.



Of Works Done Out of Charity

by: Thomas à Kempis

EVIL ought not to be done for anything in the world, nor for the love of any human being; but yet for the benefit of one that is in need, a good work is sometimes freely to be left undone, or rather to be changed for what is better.

For by this means a good work is not lost, but changed into a better.

Without charity, the outward work profiteth nothing; but whatever is done out of charity, be it ever so little and contemptible, it is all made fruitful; in as much as God regardeth more out of how much love a man doth a work, than how much he doth.

2. He doth much who loveth much. He doth much who doth well what he hath to do. He doth well, who regardeth rather the common good than his own will.

Oftentimes that seemeth to be charity which is rather carnality; for natural inclination, self-will, hope of reward, study of our own interests, will seldom be absent.

3. He that hath true and perfect charity, seeketh himself in nothing, but only desireth God to be glorified in all things.

And he envieth no man, for he loveth no joy for himself alone.

Neither doth he desire to rejoice in himself, but wisheth to find his blessedness above all good things in God.

He attributeth nothing or good to any man, but referreth it all to God, from Whom, as from their fountain, all things proceed, and in Whom, as in their end, all the Saints repose in fruition.

Oh, if one had but a spark of real charity truly would he feel that all earthly things are full of vanity!

Operation Blessing Bag

Many of us struggle with addiction, homelessness, and mental health related issues. This is a small gift to help you understand that we love you and God loves you.

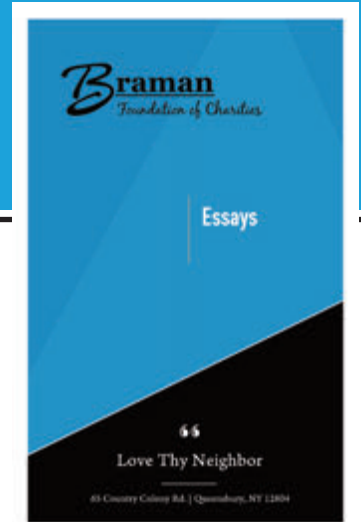
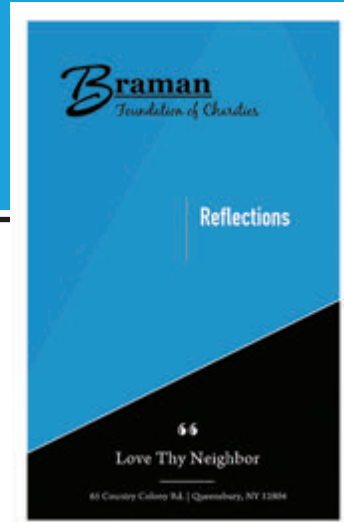
Operation Blessing Bag is part of the Community programs of the Braman Foundation. You can have a conversation with a less fortunate brother or sister. This bag is a reusable and weather resistant backpack. It contains various items including toiletries, protein bars, and a Christian Bible with some great scriptures that are pertinent regarding the recipient's difficulty. Have a conversation and if you are led, pray with them and ask them if they know Christ.



These bags are available to you through the Braman Foundation at No Charge.

bramanfoundation.org

BFC Literature



Inspire

A Monthly E-Commerce Newsletter
by Braman Foundation of Charities





New Building of Grace Alliance Church Opening June 7, 2019 in Gujarat, India

The Christian and Missionary Alliance Church is Alive and Well

Ministry of Gujarat Synod

Place of Ministry: Agavada
Population: 8000 People
Group: Bhill Tribe and Katara Tribe
Name of a Missionary : Kadu Bhai
Our Vision is to reach 8000 people through the existing Church



Maharashtra City Synod

"Look carefully how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil... understand what the will of the Lord is."
Ephesians 5:15-17





Our Alliance family celebrates Jesus—the image of the invisible God, the Lord of all Creation!

*“For in Christ, all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness.”
Colossians 2:9-10*



Sonnarpur Kolkata

The vision of cross culture is to break the cycle of oppression empower people to lead a life of dignity.

Transforming lives through sports.





*"... But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
Acts 1:8*

Alliance Church Jalgaon Maharashtra

In 1899 the Alliance work started in Maharashtra and the main office was situated at Akola.

As Jalgaon City has impacted with migrants so the same with the Church also.

Maharashtra Bible College

The purpose of the mission to Maharashtra by Maharashtra is to motivate them to reach out to the Marathi people, churches, organizations and individuals in order to actively involve and participate in the process of going, preaching, baptizing, planting, establishing, discipling and multiplying work of the church.



Asapalli - A Village of Hope

Asapalli strives to provide excellence in education, in a caring, friendly environment, where each individual, nurtured and shaped by the values of the Christian faith, providing opportunity to achieve full potential and to develop a passion for life and for learning.



CAMA Zending

Alliance missionary to Congo 1897: ‘We believe that Africa is to be evangelized through its own people; for they, of course, understand their own the best.’

C&MA Northern India

To establish Alliance House Fellowship in each village and city of North India.

The goals for C&MA in India is to plant 100, then 1,000, and then 100,000 House Fellowships in the coming eras.

“ The hearty desire of saviour, that no one die in sin
 Our mission is to share full gospel & goal is to win
 Forming house groups of saved souls is our dream
 Holy Spirit is our counselor & Holy Word is spiritual cream
 Wish you all to seek biblical spiritual DNA
 Unite & Fulfill Lord’s vision my world C&MA”



We Love Our World

Our U.S. family sends and supports hundreds of Alliance international workers who care for the sick, befriend the lonely, and introduce spiritually impoverished people to the One who releases us all from the curse of sin and the sting of death.

Currently, more than 700 U.S. Alliance workers are serving in 70 nations.



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