

Braman Foundation of Charities REVIVE MAGAZINE

The Magazine of The Braman Foundation of Charities

Vol. 6 Issue 3

May 2022



Easter

The BFC Editorial

Greetings to you during the Easter Season of our beloved Jesus Christ. Perhaps now more than ever do we seek the presence of our Savior. Press in and pray for the people of this world to come to Thee. Let us be witness to a world wide revival that spreads throughout all our lands. Pray for all your neighbors and above all LOVE! He is seeking you to grow in His Love.

At this time Christ knows it's difficult, but turn your eyes and thoughts to the One Most High Jesus! He is, was, and shall always be!

Happy Easter! Happy Easter! Happy Easter! This is His season!

In our Easter season issue we will feature some of the RWB Sermons preached throughout the years celebrating Christ's Resurrection. Additionally, we are going to begin a series featuring some of the more known pastors from our past. In this issue we will feature John Wesley. As you know the Holy Spirit's great awakening spread throughout the Americas causing the presence of God to grow throughout United Methodist Church.

PLEASE pray for the Lord's work through BFC. Our weekly meetings continue to be a beacon of hope as BFC offers many classes from Discipleship to Bible Study with our communion service on Thursday nights. Our woman's facility has openings for women and so we wait as the Lord brings more souls.

Our work in Africa continues to grow and unfold to glorify God. In India we are very hopeful that the COVID restrictions are now lifted and we will grow at Asapalli and the Alliance Church of India.

Our prison work, that was moving forward, has hit a snag with COVID restrictions recently lifted. With that said the state has approved BFC as a "transitional service provider". We were moving into full swing and then COVID hit us hard at the end of 2021. But we continue to wait on the Lord. Soon we will be in the Bedford Women's Facility.

So celebrate the Risen Christ and know that He reigns on high, the alpha, the omega, the beginning, and the end.

Happy Easter and God Bless You!
Faithfully yours, BFC

"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

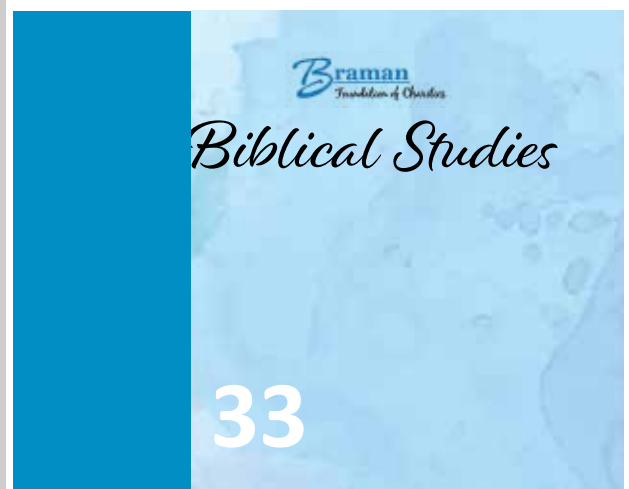
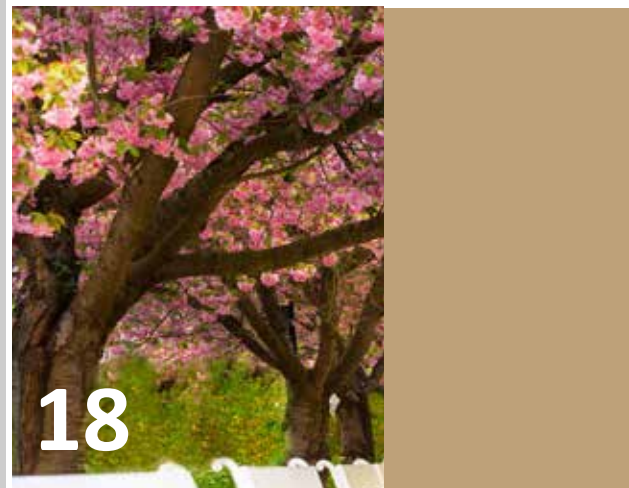
BFC Annual Scripture For 2022

Isaiah 40:31

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AVAILABLE NOW

An Understanding of Devotion, Confession, Self Reflection & Repentance

The church is struggling to teach our people how to confess, repent, self-reflect and become devoted to Christ in submission.

We are great at getting others saved, but just fail miserably with working with others in discipleship. It is important to note that Christ has commanded in Matthew 28.

This short essay is to help the believer with tools to bring the believer into a deeper relationship with Christ. Press into a relationship with Christ that is the single most important relationship in your life. He will never leave you nor forsake you.

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

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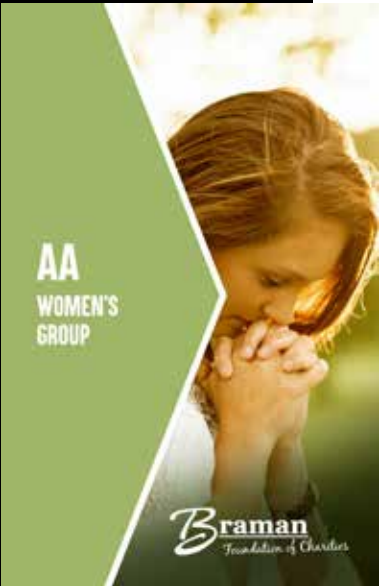
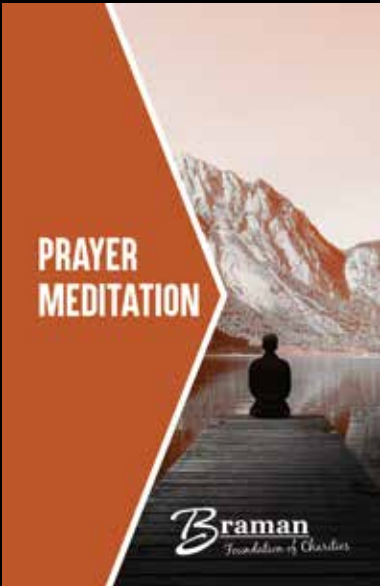
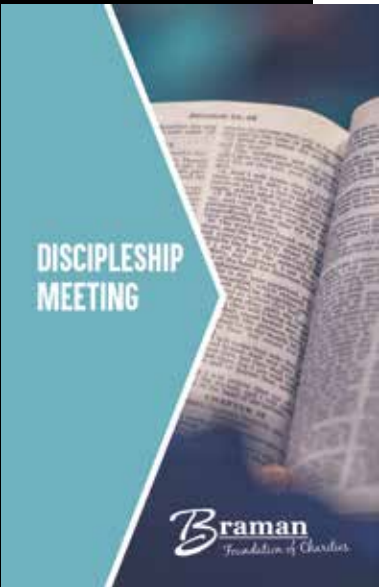
Weekly Meetings at Queensbury Facility

Prayer Circle Every Monday, 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Join us for a world wide prayer circle 7 pm Monday nights, where East meets West and we pray with one another. Our prayer circle happens on Facebook, visit the Braman Foundation page and join the live!

Discipleship Every Tuesday, 6:30pm - 8:00pm

In the BFC Defined Discipleship Training literature, we examine the state of the church in America today. We spend time with the teachings of the great writings of: A.W Tozer, Thomas A Kempis, & A.B Simpson. There is time spent on the effects of Christ centered mediation, its scriptures and the significance of purifying the ego. We discuss regeneration, salvation, daily repentance and coming into a closer relationship with our creator. Finally we speak on a lifetime of devotion to God and Christ. Recommit your life as a Christ follower and continue your journey.



Worship Service

Every Thursday, 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Starting in September 2021, our worship service is a time to meet to praise, worship, pray to God and receive a teaching (sermon) based on the Bible along with a weekly communion.

Bible Study

Every Friday, 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Joining a small group is the best way to experience the incredible community here at BFC.

Healing & Restoration

Every Saturday, 10:00am - 11:00am

As a brief history, we will explore the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. Founded in June, 1935 the A.A. Program has helped millions recover from alcoholism. The essence and the backbone of the Program is the 12 Step Method. As the individual applies these 12 steps in their life, there is a profound change leading to a spiritual awakening that delivers them from the bondage of not only the substance, but the root causes of the addictive problem: self centered, ego centered thinking and behavior. All the steps are grounded in scripture.

Healing & Restoration not only uses the 12 steps in a Christ centered format, it teaches CBT, meditation and has a focus on the body with nutrition and exercise.

AA Meetings

Big Book Step Study Every Saturday, 7:00pm - 8:00pm
12 Step Women's Group Every Wednesday, 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

The purpose of this meeting is to help alcoholics fully recover by the studying, discussing, and practicing of the twelve steps as they are laid out in the Big Book.

It has been our hard-learned experience that other methods did not work with us. Some of us have tried other methods and our results were disastrous, until we looked at the basic and simple approach the Big Book offers.

BRAMAN FOUNDATION OF CHARITIES

WORLD WIDE PRAYER CIRCLE

Monday Nights 7:00PM - 8:00PM



LOCATED IN

MUSTARD SEED CHAPEL

AT BFC QUEENSBURY FACILITY

Sign Up to Join with Google Meets!

Email Moses Yongo For Your Invite: myongo82@gmail.com

“The Difference Easter Makes”

by Richard W. Braman

Text is taken from Colossians 3:1-2. “If you are then risen with Christ, reach out for the highest gift of Heaven, where your master reigns in power. Give your heart to heavenly things not to passing things of earth.”

The churches all over the land, I imagine, are back to normal.

The world around us looks just about the same now as it did before Easter. Nothing seems to be changed or to be any different than it was before Easter. So quickly and completely have the church and the world return to normal that a person might very naturally asked the question, what difference did Easter make? Did it make any difference at all? To be sure, it was a spot of brightness and beauty in a dark world. I suppose, we can all say that it gave a temporary lift to a great many people. But did Easter make any real difference to the life of the church or the world? Did it come and go without any trace of its passing? Or are there, if we look closely enough, signs of its movement across the waters of life?

First let us see, if we can, what difference the first Easter made, what difference the resurrection of Jesus made to those who were the closest to him. And of course, the first thing we have to say is that it didn't make any difference at all to the world. Not, at least, as far as we can see. Pilate was still the governor of Judea after Easter as he was before, Caiaphas was still the high priest, the Scribes and Pharisees still held the reins of religious life, the road to Jericho, I daresay, was still unsafe for travel; the tax collectors still bled the people when they could; and the money changers still sat at their tables in the porch of the temple. Rome still rules with an intelligent but iron rod; Jerusalem still fretted and chafed under that rule; and the people, if they ever knew at all what happened I'm good Friday and Easter, soon forgot it.

But after we have said that, we have to go on and say that the first Easter made a tremendous difference in the lives of a few people, for it made them realize that what had looked to them like failure was not failure. It made them feel, as well as understand, that the things that seem to die on Good Friday, things like forgiveness and confidence, trust and love, we're more alive than ever; in fact, they were the only thing in life worth living for instead of thinking that all that Jesus had stood for had been denied on Good Friday, they came to see that it had been, in a strange and victorious way, affirmed. It

made them realize in a way, which is almost impossible to describe—but you can sense it, I think—it made them realize that love (and you know what I mean by love— Christian love – creative sympathetic, forgiving, understanding care), love for neighbor, for friend, and even for enemy, was not a lost cause but a way of life.

“The Resurrection is the new factor which alters everything that relates to God. Something happened, so tremendous and vital that it changed not only the character of the movement and the man— but with them the whole history of the world.”

It's left a handful of people who would rather die than deny Christ, because they were sure that death could neither destroy or defeat him. And in a way in which it is almost impossible to conceive, his life was in them! His spirit and his way of living somehow got inside them, and they began to live for the things that he lived for, and what happened to them in the process didn't matter to them anymore than it had to him. They were ready for anything, believing that those things were alive and vital, at the very heart of life; and no matter what the world thought or said, or did, they would go on, regardless, because they knew that nothing could separate them from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

In T.R. Glover's chapter on “The Christian Church in the Roman Empire” (The Jesus of History), he reminds us of the difference that the resurrection of Jesus made in the early centuries. First, Christians lived a great deal better than their pagan neighbors. They astonished people by their truth, their honesty, their cleanness, and there was a new brightness and gaiety about them. Second, Christians had a new fortitude in the face of death. Third, Christians out thought the pagan world. Dr. Glover put this in the succinct sentence which has often been quoted, “Christians outlived the pagan, out-died him, and out-thought him.”

In other words we can say this: the resurrection of Jesus did not reform the world; it raised up a few people who were willing to live the Christian life in spite of anything the world might do to them.

Now, this is the kind of difference that we have a right to expect Easter to make. And I am prepared to say that we can see signs of it in the world today. They are not always clearly marked; they are anonymous, often. They are not always in places where you would expect to find them; they are not always done by the people that you would expect to be agents of the resurrection.

We think of them raised to a new level of life, who, for example, believe in and act on the principle of the dignity of the press, and stand by that principle, regardless of what the world thinks or says or does, and in spite of the

fact that they lose money in doing so.

A man on the West Coast was murdered by a 14-year-old girl. The terrible deed was surrounded by every conceivable kind of sensational publicity, and the deed as well as the incidents surrounding it, were amply reported by all the newspapers. There's nothing wrong with that. Indeed, the purpose of the press is to print the news, good and bad. Shortly after the murder some letters were found that had passed between the murdered man and the girl's mother, and they were released to the oppressed by an anonymous donor. They added nothing to the information that the public needed to know; they did nothing but to minister to the people's morbid curiosity and thirst for sensationalism. They were sordid and trivial. An investigation proved that those letters were published by every major paper in the Country except "The New York Times" and "The Christian Science Monitor."

Now the "Christian Science Monitor" is admittedly a Christian journal: "The Times" is not. But I say that in both cases the people who are responsible for the decision not to publish the letters were people who had been raised to a new level of life on which they believed in and acted on the principles of the dignity of the press.

We think also of those who raise their voices in opposition to the moral and social irresponsibility of such industries as the moving pictures and television. It is a kind of resurrection faith that does and dares, regardless of anything that happens to them in the process. One of the things that concern us in our modern culture is the crime and violence which is made pictorially available by our moving pictures, and then passed on to larger audiences by television. When John Crosby, who earns his living by writing reviews of television performances, spoke about this matter in a very direct way in his column, he did it by mentioning a specific program. He went on to condemn, in no uncertain terms, the irresponsibility of any industry, either in the moving pictures business or in television, that allows this sort of thing to go on uninterrupted, night after night, day after day, no matter how well it pays.

I don't know anything at all about the religious commitments of John Crosby and those who backed up his statements. All I am saying is that whatever they say formally about religion, they have been raised to a level of life on which they are willing to stand for things that are true and good and beautiful in spite of everything that the world can say, or do, or think about it. This implies a kind of resurrection faith of do and care, regardless of anything that happens to them in the process.

It is a stirring resurrection life when persons are willing to stand for things that are true, and are willing to stand by

them through thick and thin, through death and shame and every other thing that the world can do to you.

We find that same thing, of course, in the church. Many people all over the world go right on living for these things, in spite of all the disappointments that beset them, because they believe that in Christ that which is good and true and beautiful is alive and that it claims them, no matter what happens to them. Even though they may be defeated in their efforts they go straight on.

Here is what a well-known minister of one of our large churches in the country says, "for the past few years I have been working very hard to get the church and the Federal Government to do something about excessive drinking and alcoholism. This has resulted in my being appointed head of the Federal Government commission on alcoholism. The disappointments of this job have really been something, both in the church and in government." Here is a man who, in spite of all the disappointments that come, nevertheless goes right on standing for the things that he believes in, because he believes that Christ rose from the dead. And, though I am sure that in his eyes he often seems to stand idle, we can see strides he has made towards his goal.

I would like to make this church a kind of resurrection center. It may happen in many different ways.

You see, you and I are the Resurrection! And if Easter is to make any difference in the world at all, it will be because it made a difference in you and me, raised us to a new level of life on which we are able to ally ourselves with the things that we know to be right and good, and then go out and stand for those things, and let those things speak to us, and live in us, regardless of the shame and the discomfort, and the inconvenience that may come to us as a result of it. I know that I haven't answered the question that I begin with, what difference has Easter made in our world and our church? But I know that the resurrection of Christ did make a difference, and that it can make a difference in you and me, and that is what I work and hope and pray for in this church and in the world.

Schenectady Community Center

Pray as BFC negotiates on this property for the neighborhood in the area of State Street and Brandwine. Let us pray that God will supply all our needs to fulfill His command to Love They Neighbor.

Please pray for God's will!



Building



Building



Furniture Plant



Community Garden

This property will allow BFC to form "The Schenectady Community Center" of BFC in a neighborhood that BFC could impact positively.

Sign up now!

Receive our monthly Inspire email as well as a weekly update email. Visit our website and submit your email to get started.

Inspire

A Monthly E-Commerce Newsletter
by Braman Foundation of Charities

“And whatever you do in words and deeds do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks and a grateful heart to God”

Colossians 6:17

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The screenshot shows the top portion of the 'Inspire' newsletter. At the top is the Braman Foundation of Charities logo and the word 'Inspire' in a large, blue, cursive font. Below this is the text 'A Monthly E-Commerce Newsletter by Braman Foundation of Charities'. The main content area is titled 'BFC Thanksgiving Greetings' and features a 'Thanksgiving' section with a quote from 2 Corinthians 8:9. To the right of the text is a small image of a Thanksgiving card that says 'BE FULL OF BOUNTY THANKSGIVING - SUBSCRIBE TO THE LORD WITH GRATEFUL PRaise'. Below the main text are two columns of text: 'Thankful:' and 'Thankfulness Leads to Witnessing Psalm 9:1'. At the bottom of the newsletter screenshot is a blue banner with the text 'An Inspirational Quotation' and a quote from Colossians 3:17: "And whatever you do, whether in word or in deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him". Below the banner are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, and YouTube, and a 'Visit Our Website' button.

Queensbury Facility







Kenya

Missions: Africa

BFC Sponsored the first ever Gospel Lighthouse. This will be an annual event taking place in Nairobi.





South Sudan

Missions: Africa

BFC has started using CEF Training in South Sudan based on our efforts from the December Conference in South Sudan. As the result of the conference at the Nile Beach Hotel in South Juba, BFC is announcing that it is representing “The Light of Christ Bible Church”. The Light of Christ is an indigenous church started among the Darfurian people of Sudan. The Light of Christ Church is represented not only in South Sudan, but in Chad, Egypt, Uganda and Kenya.



South Sudan Liaisons

Tina Marial and
Elijah Riak Chol





Asapalli Missions: India

Congratulations to Asapalli's Grade 10 graduates!

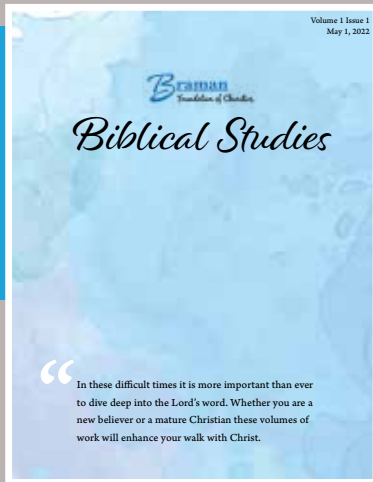
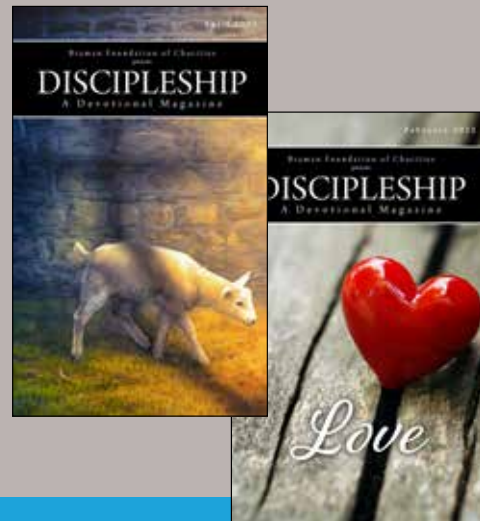


The BFC Messaging

Revive Magazine



Discipleship Magazine



NEW BFC Biblical Studies

This is a bi-monthly study produced through the power of the Holy Spirit for you. At BFC we firmly believe in studying the Lord's word. Therefore BFC will offer a topic to be studied in its resources.

BFC Weekly Email



Available Books



BFC Monthly Newsletter

BFC Thanksgiving Greetings

Thanksgiving
2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich.

It is 2 Corinthians 8:9 where we think about what our definition of the word rich is. Surely our Lord did not not

Gratitude:
Gratitude is an act of faith - especially in the midst of life's challenges. Thank the Lord regardless of our circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:18
God's love is there always, even when we cannot feel it and He promises never to leave us. As we seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Mathew 6: 31-33.

Philippians 4:6-7

rich life of safety and security as He is heavenly Father. Jesus was with His Father in heaven... still fall short of the riches from our... he was hated and feared.

Witnessing
...ness Leads to Witnessing
... Thanks to you Lord, with all my... full of all your wonderful deeds... cultivate a spirit of thankfulness, it... into your relationships. When... others see you credit God for His love in difficult situations/circumstances, they will begin to wonder why?
You need not even speak the words of praise and thanksgiving - you need only to be an example of Christ at work in your life. To be a living example of kindness, love, and forgiveness as a Christ like life.





Spring

ELIZA COOK

Welcome, all hail to thee!
Welcome, young Spring!
Thy sun-ray is bright
on the butterfly's wing.
Beauty shines forth
in the blossom-robed trees;
perfume floats by
on the soft southern breeze.

Time Enough

EILEEN SPINELLI

Uncapping her pen,
the poet begins
to write a poem of spring.

How to describe
the breeze that sways
the backyard swing?

How to capture the sky?
A sail of blue?
For grass and trees,
some greening phrase anew?

Outside, the children dance
in lemony sun.
The poet caps her pen
to join the fun,

Twirling barefoot
to the song of birds.
Later, there'll be
time enough for words.

“The Easter Victory”

by Richard W. Braman

I have chosen my text from I Corinthians 15:57. “Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Easter stands for victory. It stands for several kinds of victory.

In the first place, it stands for the victory of life over death. Nothing escapes death. Death, we are tempted to say, has the last word.

And yet we know that that is not true. It is life and not death that has to last word. We all know that science cannot start life. But have you ever stopped to think that it is equally impossible for the scientist, or anyone else to bring life to an end? You might, as an experiment, take an acre of ground and say to yourself, “in this acre I will defeat life.” First you would have to chop down every tree and cut off every living thing that grew there. Then you would have to pull out all the roots and burn them. Then you might plow the field and harrow it. If you have been reading Roman history recently you might even conceive of the idea of sowing that acre with salt. And if you were of an engineering turn of mind you might even consider covering the acre with a thick slab of concrete. When you have finished your work you might dust off your hands and say, “I have defeated life in that acre of land.”

But of course you would be wrong. You might defeat life for a year or two in this way. But you could not do it indefinitely— For you cannot defeat life. It, and not death has the last word.

Everything that we know about life seems to indicate that God intends it to have the last word. Easter, then, is first and foremost a celebration of the victory of life over death.

Easter also stands for the victory of goodness over evil.

It is no exaggeration to say that in the story of the crucifixion Jesus appears as goodness personified. When he was betrayed he continued to love, when he was denied he continued to be loyal, and when he was crucified he continued to be forgiving. If you want to see the real dimensions of goodness, look at Jesus.

Similarly, if you want to see the dimensions of evil, look at the forces that put Jesus to death. Here are the dimensions of evil— the kind of evil that gets the upper hand in churches that cease to put God’s purpose ahead of their own, the kind of evil that begins to work in governments that cease to speak for the people they govern.

And today if you want to see the dimensions of evil look around you. Increased crime rates, increased divorce rates, increased numbers of unwed mothers, increased consumption of alcoholic beverages, increased racial tension, increased tension of another war.

But there is also evidence of goodness in our world. Look for number of men and women who are making sacrifices serving our Lord through missionary efforts in foreign countries where the Word of God has not even been heard. Evangelist who are touring the world bringing the Word of God to millions of people, thousands of new churches being built, evidence that people are seeking to worship their Lord.

But the message of the story is that even these kinds of evil I have mentioned do not have the last word. Goodness does have and will have the last word. For, even though the church and the state combined to put Jesus to death, God restored him to life.

Easter stands also for the victory of hope over fear.

It is probably safe to say that the oldest hope of the human race is that life may continue beyond death. Some of the most primitive burials that have been uncovered bear pathetic evidence of this hope, for often in the grave one finds a few handfuls of cracked corn to serve as food for the journey into the next world.

High cultures as well as primitive cultures have cherish this same hope: witness the pyramids of Egypt, the hope of life beyond death is universal. But let us face the fact that the hope is always mixed with fear. And the resurrection marks the victory of that hope over that fear. Let me illustrate this by recalling a great discovery.

Columbus, as we are all know discovered a new world. But he did more than that. He dispelled an ancient fear. This was the fear that if you sailed far enough on the ocean you would come to the place where the world sloped downhill or dropped off. There your ship would slide down to be destroyed by monsters. When Columbus sailed to America he laid that fear to rest once and for all. Why? Because he had gone beyond the horizon and came back.

On the first Easter day this threefold victory was

communicated to the disciples. It was necessary not only that Christ should rise again, but also that the disciples should know that he is risen; necessary moreover that they should share in the triumph of the Resurrection, in the sense of sharing its triumphant faith. The communication to the disciples was both of the fact and of the faith. The words, "he saw and believed" record the victory of faith in the heart of the disciple; a victory which is Christ's victory, communicated now to man.

Because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and because we are Christians and believe in Him and his teachings, our fear of death should be ended for death has truly lost its sting and is the beginning of an entirely new life with our Lord. There should be no doubts in our minds that life is eternal and everlasting and we can thank God for that.

We truly have something to rejoice in this Easter season for without the resurrection of our lives would be purposeless and meaningless.

This, then, is what the resurrection stands for— The victory of life over death, of goodness over evil, of hope over fear. Thanks be to God who has given us this victory, through our Lord, Jesus Christ.



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Surrender

"I and my father are one"

John 10:30

The Covenant Prayer

JOHN WESLEY

I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt,

Rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me in doing. Put me in suffering.

Let me be employed by thee or
laid aside by thee.

Let me be full or let me be empty.

Let me have all things.

Let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things to
thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, oh glorious and
blessed God, Father, Son, and the
Holy Spirit, thou art mine
and I thine.

So be it. And this covenant
which I have made
on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.

Amen.



Worship Service

Thursday 7pm-8pm

Our worship service is a time to meet to praise, worship, pray to God and receive a teaching (sermon) based on the Bible along with a weekly communion.

Email info@bramanfoundation.org for more information.

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Grow in your Daily Walk

*All of us grow in deeper understanding with Christ
as we grow in solutions with Jesus.*

*Daily Reflections helps you grow in reflections
with a daily theme for each day.*

*Grow in understanding. Be quiet and see a
deeper relationship with Christ.*

*“Behold, I knock at your door, open
up and come sit with me.”*

Christ is asking you to be still and know I am God.



bramanfoundation.org



John Wesley

1703 —1791

John Wesley's mother did not leave any aspect of her children's education to chance. In all, nineteen children were born to Susanna Wesley and her husband Samuel, an Anglican pastor in the remote parish of Epworth in Lincolnshire, England. Each of the nine who survived past infancy began lessons with their mother at the age of five. John Wesley, born 1703, was expected, like the rest of his siblings, to learn the alphabet on his first day of lessons and, within a year or two, to know the New Testament by heart. One night each week, his mother questioned him on spiritual matters. Little time available for play.

John entered Oxford at the age of sixteen, and his life there was as disciplined as at home. His diary from his Oxford days includes reminders to "Employ all spare hours in religion" and "Avoid curiosity and all useless employments and knowledge."

Wesley's training prepared him for Oxford but did not prepare him for a trip to the colony of Georgia in 1735. Wesley traveled to Georgia at the invitation of a family friend, James Oglethorpe. Oglethorpe opened the settlement of Georgia to released debtors, poor British families, and persecuted Protestants. He invited John Wesley and his brother Charles to serve as missionaries. In Georgia, John Wesley found himself with a congregation with no interest in serving God. In addition, he had doubts about his own spiritual course. On the trip across the Atlantic during a fierce storm, while other passengers wept in fear of shipwreck, a group of Moravian's quietly sang hymns. Wesley was impressed by their unshakable faith. In comparison, he found his own faith lacking.

Wesley returned to England, where he lived in a great spiritual crisis, until, while speaking to a Moravian, he experienced a conversion. Faith alone, Wesley realized, was the key to salvation. Without true faith, the rituals and discipline he had perfected throughout his young life were mere empty repetitions. Until his death in 1791, Wesley devoted his days to spreading his new message of salvation through faith. His Methodism taught that true salvation is open to all believers, and that faith intact, man can endure any hardship.

“Some Meanings of the Cross”

by Richard W. Braman

Text is chosen from Luke 22: 15; “And he said to them, I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover meal with you before I suffer.”

It has been said that any attempt on the preacher’s part to define the Cross is like, “trying to wrap a package with a piece of paper that is too small.” For the love of God is broader, than the measure of man’s mind. But though we can only imperfectly unfold the meaning of the Cross, we must unfold such meaning as we find and believe. Because we do not know all truth, it does not follow that we do not know any truth. We do see through a glass darkly, but we do see something. “Now I know in part,” wrote Paul, but he did know, even though not everything.

What then are some meanings we find in the Cross? The first meaning of the Cross is that God takes sin seriously. Sometimes people ask, “why can’t we just forgive sin and let it go at that?” If forgiveness is as cheap and easy as some people think it should be then sinning would not be very serious. But Christians have always seen in the Cross the awfulness of sin and its terrible cost to God. The Cross reminds us that forgiveness and reconciliation with God has nothing in common with moral laxity or indifference to evil. The religious word for wickedness is sin, and for us Christians sin is disarming with the purpose of God revealed in Christ. All of us have the common habit of passing on our opinion about other people or let’s just say plain gossiping. We believe gossip to be a sin.

What is Calvary but the result of an accumulation of such opinions, rumors carried to Jerusalem, judgments formed without investigation, impressions taken at second-hand and let harden into prejudices so that a subsequent first-hand impression is discolored and distorted. This actually brought Christ to his Cross, the same as pure and plain gossip can harm any one of us. Here today we have racial prejudices - the feeling of so-called Christians that Jews are inherently their social inferior whom in various ways they may ostracize, or the feeling of white folk that are a race to be permanently kept in a subordinate position as our servants. This is just another example of what drove Christ to his Cross. So, you see there are all kinds of evil and sin around us. Temptation is great for us.

All the sins that surround us today are the same sins that Christ died on the Cross for us.

A second meaning of the Cross is its power to shake our lives to their roots and move us to repentance. On the Cross we see a God not angry at us for our sin and disobedience but sorry for us and taking upon himself its consequences. “God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself.” “With his stripes we are healed. He came in his own love to suffer, counting on this sacrifice to move us to come to him in penitence and love. The moment we are willing to call ourselves sinners and see God suffering for us, our despair turns to tenderness. The goodness of the Cross and what it reveals about God melts our hearts of stone: “God be merciful to me a sinner.”

Surely the first step towards becoming a Christian is the realization that we are sinners, that we need to repent and ask God for forgiveness. I believe the Cross shows us the way and the how and why of it. We can be saved and have eternal life with God our Father if we repent of our sins and ask for forgiveness.

The third meaning of the Cross is that good can come out of evil. The Cross is a strange paradox: one side of it is evil; evil men doing to death the world’s best man; on the other side, it is the divine love laying down his love as atonement for the very sin displayed in the crucifixion. Out of the evil of the Cross has nevertheless come the redemption we sing about.

And as God the Father used the evil of the Cross for redemption from sins bringing good out of bad, so by his grace can we. How often men have faced the worst and turned it into the best - spiritual gain, moral growth. The evil of the people involved led to Christ’s death on the Cross but by his death and his resurrection we are assured of everlasting and eternal life with God, our Father (the best good ever). Throughout our lives many things happen to us that we consider evil at the time but generally in the end some good will come of it. Perhaps we feel that the death of a loved one is one of the most evil blows that can happen to a person. But perhaps by this incident in your life you and your family are drawn closer to God. Perhaps you really come to know Christ as your personal Lord and savior. This certainly is a good.

I wonder if we have ever stopped to think about (perhaps the greatest act of evil ever committed) the death and crucifixion of Christ; if it had never taken place, that we could not have been forgiven for our sins. We would not have the promise of everlasting an eternal life with our Father. Certainly, the greatest act of evil produced the greatest results of good. This is where Christ can help us by giving us the faith and courage and strength to endure the evil forces in the world and come out of it better off than when we started.

A fourth meaning of the Cross is a sign of perfect

obedience. With far deeper truth than the Psalmist, Jesus could say: "I delight to do thy will, O God." In the Garden of Gethsemane, he said, "not my will, but thine be done." Christ did not want to go to his death and the Cross, but he knew it was God's will and thus being God's Son, he obeyed. Being Christian now is something more than a comfortable affair of going to church and trying to be mildly decent. The church is more than a cult to make us happy, with peace of mind and all that sort of thing. The church has to be more than a social organization. The church has to have Jesus Christ as its head and Christ has to be in the hearts of its members. It isn't easy to be a Christian but with Christ's help and guidance we certainly can do it. At least we should try. We'll never know whether we can or not if we do not try. Until we learn that discipleship is a costly affair, calling us to perfect obedience to God's will; in all areas of life - business, politics, race relations, the home, the school, our leisure time - we will not be "the salt of the earth" nor "the light of the world." But this is what, as followers of Christ, we are meant to be.

Tonight, as we partake of The Lord's Supper, let us remember the supreme sacrifices our Lord made so our sins could be forgiven. Let us come to his table with humble hearts, with enriched spirits, and a feeling of honor and majesty to be able to dine with our Lord.

A young child was once sent up into the balcony of a large church while the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was being celebrated below she was too far away to hear any words; but the sight of the congregation, absorbed in the act of worship - of her parents, lost in some reality greater than themselves - the slow reverent movements of the officiating minister, and the Elders as they moved quietly from pew to pew, the whiteness of the "fair linen cloth" on the communion table, and above all the silence, made a lasting impression on the young mind. Dimly and perhaps consciously, she was already aware that God was here, acting and living in this "brief grave and still sacrament." The quality of this silence at the Lord's table is like no other silence; It is a living stillness palpitating with healthy life. Let us be still this night so we can hear and feel the presence of our Lord.

Resurrection Prayer

John Wesley

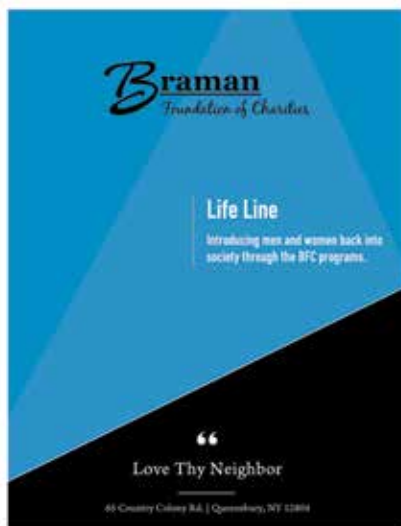
O God
You have glorified
our victorious Savior
with a visible, triumphant
resurrection from the dead,
and ascension into heaven,
where He sits at Your right hand;

Grant, we beg You,
that His triumphs and glories
may ever shine in our eyes,
to make us more clearly see
through His sufferings,
and more courageously endure our
own;

being assured by His example,
that is we endeavor
to live and die like Him,
for the advancement of your love
in ourselves and others,
You will raise our bodies again,
and confirming them to His glorious
body,
call us above the clouds,
and give us possession
of Your everlasting kingdom.

BFC Corrections / Prison Behind the Walls Program

“... I was in prison and you came to visit me.”
Matthew 25:36

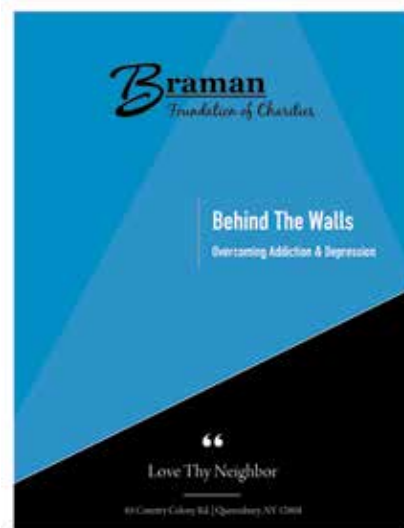


Life Line

An inmate's most vulnerable time, whether they know this or not, is when they are released from incarceration. Months and years, depending on one's sentencing of forced incarceration, are now dissolved. An individual is now "FREE", or at least they may think they are free; however, New York state statistics show that out of approximately every 100 inmates that are released, 78 come back into the prison system in some form. What can be done for the individual who wishes to change? The individual must truly have a change of heart. We can extend our hand and help with that change of heart.

Behind the Walls

In 1985, Braman began to witness his recovery from addiction in the New York State Correctional Facilities. Braman has presented programs since that time in many facilities including: Greenhaven, Fishkill, Downstate, Summit, and several local and county jails. It is a thorough program using the 12 step method of recovery, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Meditation techniques as well as a program for dealing with violent behavior. In addition, our program helps to provide clarification concerning the negative learned behavior that is unfortunately associated with some families.



These are trifold materials that are used in the program of Behind the Walls.





BFC Corrections / Prison

BFC is now a Transitional Service Provider!

In this process, a representative of BFC will engage with a group of woman inmates that can then make a decision to be supported and moved into a BFC facility.

BFC will be able to present to the women the opportunity to come to the Queensbury Facility.

COVID has continued to setback BFC going into Bedford Hills. We are waiting on the Lord!



Bedford Hills (BTW)

Pathway to Queensbury

Bedford Hills Correctional Facility for Women is a prison in Bedford Hills, New York, is the largest women's prison in New York state and has hosted many infamous prisoners. The prison previously opened under the name Westfield State Farm in 1901.



Taconic Facility (Life Line)

Pathway to Woman's Facility

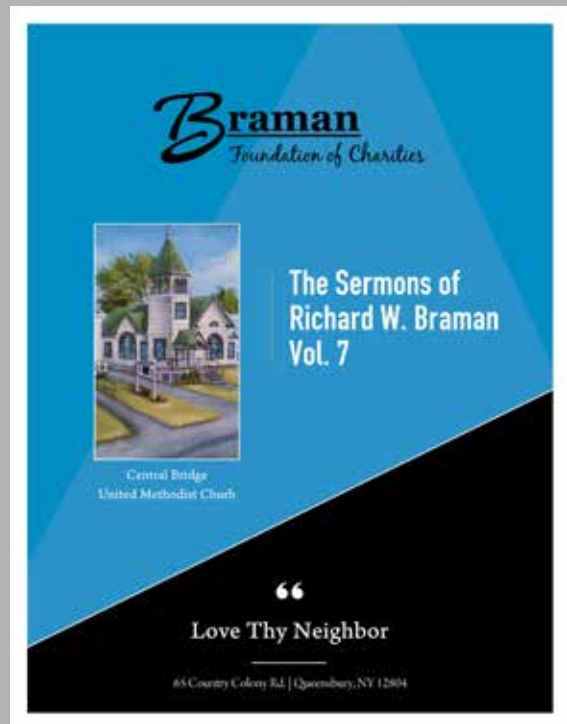
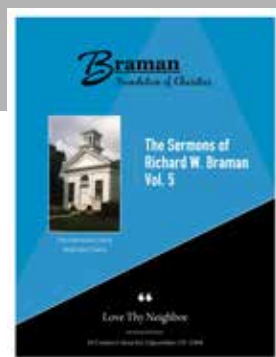
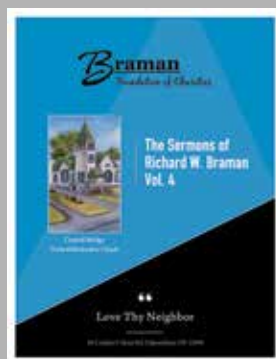
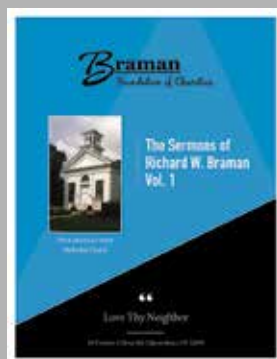
Taconic Correctional Facility is located in Bedford Hills New York, part of Westchester County. It is a medium security prison that houses females.

The Sermons of Richard W. Braman

Soon to be featuring Vol. 7

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. These can be read on our website.

Shout out to the BFC team for helping put this new book of sermons together.



We celebrate the work of Sandra Tarrant, a BFC Board Member whose labor in transcribing the RWB Sermons is invaluable — God Bless Sandra.

About Sandra

Sandra Tarrant is a member of the Kirk of Kildaire, a Presbyterian Church, USA, in Cary, NC, where she serves in its Stephen Ministry—a lay care-giving ministry that supplements pastoral care. She is a past elder and educator in the Reformed Church of America. As a lifelong Christian, she is always looking for ways to serve Christ and his kingdom.

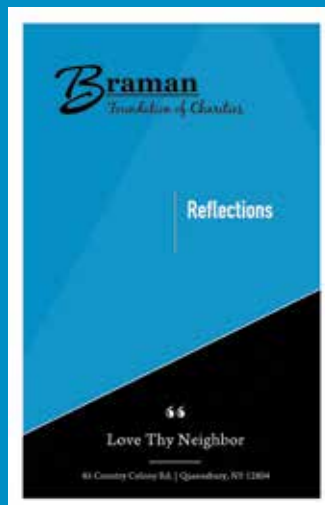
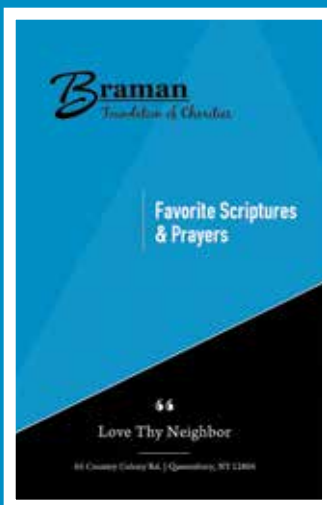
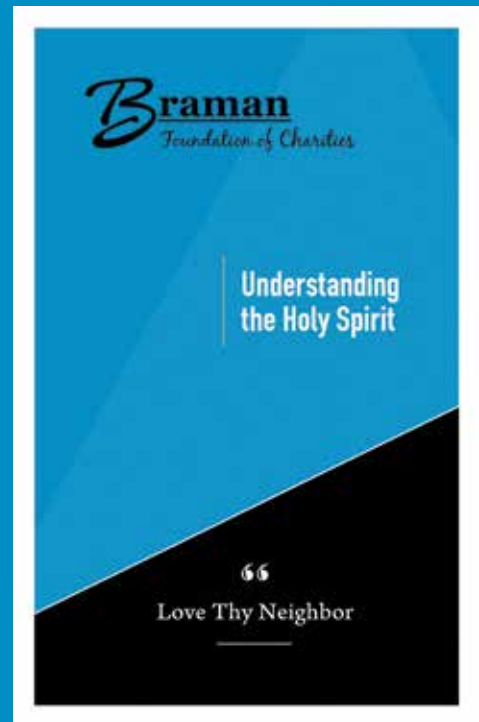
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- Matt 6:33

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“The Resurrection Gospel”

by Richard W. Braman

Text is chosen from 1 Peter 1:3; “Bless it be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

When we open the New Testament, we are reading what has been written by men who knew what they were talking about. There rings through the New Testament a confident authentic “I know.” His confident, “I know” can be heard in the words of Jesus. This same certainty sounds through the writings of the Apostle Paul. The first epistle of Peter vividly illustrates the truth. Behind it lies the assurance of a man who had lived with Jesus and witnessed the events of his life and death. He knew what he was talking about and his own transformed life corroborated what he said.

First of all, there is one thing perfectly clear about the Christian Gospel - it is the message of the Resurrection. That message is the heart of the Gospel. The Resurrection is not an appendage to the Gospel, it is its essence. It is not an afterthought; it is the main theme. Without the resurrection there would be no purpose to living or to our lives. The main theme and whole objective of Jesus Christ is the Resurrection.

A saintly Indian Bishop Azanib of Dornakal was once asked, “If you were in a village where they had never heard of Christ, what would you preach about?” Unhesitant, he replied, “the Resurrection.” The heart of the Gospel is in these words, “He is Risen.” Some of the Hebrew responses in the “Jewish Union Prayer Book”, used week by week in temple worship by our Jewish friends, are arranged phonetically in English, so that worshipers who do not understand Hebrew can speak or sing the words with correct Hebrew pronunciation. Thus, while they use the words, they do not understand what they’re actually saying. I have often thought that in the great Easter hymns and readings, many of us are in a similar position of using the words without really understanding what we are saying. Until we know what the Resurrection actually means in the Christian faith and for us personally, we will miss the greatest assurance that God has given us.

Second, the challenge of scientific discovery has been met by a scientific study of the documents, the history, the cultural background of the Bible; and as a result of

that inquiry the fact of the Resurrection is established. The form, the nature of it, remains a mystery, but the fact is beyond doubt. It is this fact which lifted his followers out of despair and transformed them into courageous messengers of the gospel who were prepared to die rather than deny what they had seen and known. It was this experience which converted Saint Paul. It was the fact which the authorities in Jerusalem could not deny; they would certainly have done so if they had been able. It was this fact that brought the Christian Church into being. It is this fact that can change our lives and give our living meaning and purpose. But this fact, however, is no isolated peek in the panorama of history. It is not just a luminous bubble on the ocean of time. It is not one flash in the darkness of existence which has made the darkness even deeper. This is the fact that gives meaning to history, and to life. The Resurrection means that our world, our lives, are in the hands of God.

Put it another way: it means that we understand our world, our lives, only when we acknowledge that we are subject to God’s will and purpose. If in the end we succeed in destroying ourselves, that will not be proof that God does not exist, or if he exists, he doesn’t care. It is the consequences of our proud and vain attempts to do without him or ignore him. God raised Christ from the dead. In that fact is our hope. In denying it or ignoring it, we bring ourselves to judgment and condemnation.

Henry Sloane Coffin said that every man needs two things: a home and a horizon. This is a true picture of our basic needs and reveals a rare understanding of our fundamental nature. And if perchance our lives are with either one of them, our souls are impoverished. We need a home. Within our little homes here on earth, we need more and more awareness of the Eternal Home. We need a horizon along with the home. What is a horizon? Is it not another word for hope? A road without a horizon is a hopeless thing, a deadend alley. A day without a horizon is a day without hope, a meaningless, time bound thing. A life without a horizon is no longer a life, it is no more than mere existence. That is the glory of earth for one who believes. God has given us a home and a horizon.

Sometimes in the advertising columns of the newspapers are seen notices inserted by lawyers, inviting certain persons to inquire at the lawyer’s office, “when they will hear something to their advantage.” I have often wondered whether such announcements meet with response. How many inheritances are there unclaimed? It is sad to think that there are people struggling along in poverty because they have not learned that a fortune is theirs for the asking. So, this day returns with its good news - there is no need to go stumbling on in our own strength, hoping against hope, striving yet defeated again and again by evil. Here is certainty, assurance,

victory, an inheritance which can be ours for the asking. Yes, Jesus Christ is just waiting for us to ask him for the guidance and direction we need in our lives. All we have to do is to ask.

Fourth, the Resurrection means that evil has been defeated. In that perpetual conflict which goes on in the arena of history between good and evil, righteousness and unrighteousness, truth and falsehood, we have seen that the last word is with God. In every great contest there comes a turning point, where one contestant or another comes the assurance of victory. The contest may continue, its end may not be in sight, but its issue is settled. That's what the Resurrection means. The issue is settled - the last word is not with evil, with darkness, with death. The last word is with God. The Cross would have been the end but then Easter came, and Christ arose from the dead and conquered death. Many times, in our lives it looks as though evil has the upper hand and that it does not pay to be good, to be trustworthy and true but then we remember what happened to our Lord and we realized that evil and falsehood will never win.

Fifth, the significance of the Resurrection lies, too, in its message that the power which raised Christ from the dead is available here and now. We may live in the power of the Resurrection. Here and now, it is remaking men and women, giving new purpose, power and point to their lives. When the apostles preached the Resurrection, they could point to evidence in their own lives. The same is true now. It is in fact happening. Wherever there is a Christian community there are to be found men and women living in that power; there are to be found men in women whose lives are being transformed by it.

It is possible to produce evidence gleaned from all over the world to illustrate the truth. The best evidence of the truth of the Resurrection is the change that came on the disciples. Modern astronomers do not look at the stars directly. They study them in the mirrors within their telescope. We cannot see the glory of the risen Christ by direct vision. But we can see him reflected in the

spirit and the lives of the disciples. Before he rose, they were a little bunch of frightened men, heartbroken and hopeless, huddled together behind closed doors. But in a flash, as it seemed, they are not in the world, whispering to their friends the amazing news, and later on with all fear gone they are shouting the truth in the face of their enemies and in the open street.

We may have the power of Christ, here and now. The promise of the Resurrection is not only for some distant heaven. The promise of the Resurrection is here and now - that we may have the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, as our present possessions. We may be drawn by him into an ever-deeper relationship with God and an ever more satisfying relationship with one another. So that our life begins already to partake of the quality of eternity.

Beset as we are by imperfections and tensions, we may nonetheless live in the midst of this present world a kind of life that belongs to eternity. Death will merely be an incident, as we shall pass into a perfect expression of the life which God has already given us. And if perchance you who are listening are at the point where you have given up hope for your world or for yourselves, be sure of this - that he who raised Christ from the dead is not going to be baffled or defeated by your despair or its cause. He can bring you to birth again with a living hope and lead you into an inheritance which is incorruptible and passeth not away.

The promise of the New Testament is that we can increase in our knowledge and love of God here and now. We can go on from strength to strength even now. We may dare to believe with John Wesley that we can go on to perfection. The new life has now begun through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. And we live in the glorious hope that we shall go on from strength to strength in the life of perfect service in God's eternal Kingdom. This is our faith which gives hope; And it is by this hope that we live. Jesus Christ has truly risen!



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Growing in Biblical Training

All over the world, and in America we listen to pastors tell us they believe their “flocks” need deeper study of the word. Additionally, we have listen to pastors tell us that many are not spending enough time in prayer, in biblical studies, and meditation. So we have created this volume to help answer those needs.

Throughout the old testament we read about God’s people as they lack in obedience are not rewarded in kind from the Lord. And so, when we become worldly and allow worldliness to creep in our lives and in our church communities. One must remember we live in this world and are not of this world.

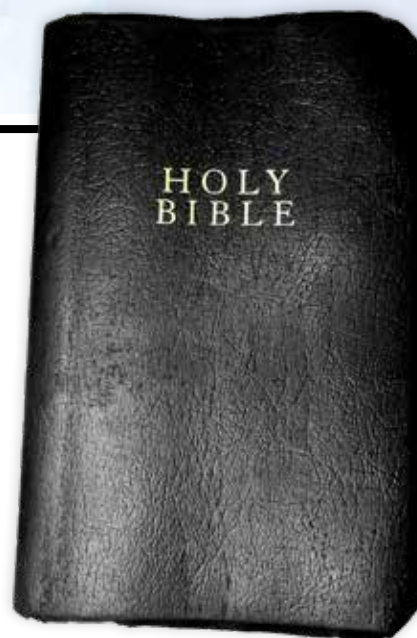
And so let us learn to grow in our devotions, to open our hearts, and be in love with Jesus. To grow in relationship with Jesus and not yearn so much for the gifts of God, but grow in Holiness.

Study His Word!

It is time to commit and recommit yourselves to His commands.

“To love the Lord with all your heart, your mind, and your soul. And to ‘Love Thy Neighbor’ as thyself. Upon these two commands rest all the laws and the Prophets.”

Jesus Christ: Matt 22:36-39



36 Years of Ministry

The Legacy and Impact of Braman Foundation

This year we celebrate 36 years of ministry and we are so thankful for God's faithful hand throughout all the years. We are also thankful for the faithfulness of Richard Braman (RWB) to answer the call into ministry.

BFC began as a corrections/prison ministry in the NYS correctional system in Summit, NY. RWB encouraged Peter Braman (PWB) to "press into" the upward calling. In fact RWB helped PWB understand the calling and so in June of 1985 PWB began to share his testimony with inmates at Summit Correctional Facility.

Several years later, in 1987 PWB felt inspired to write to Julia Rose of Asapalli, a village of Hope and thus began a deep abiding relationship with Asapalli inspired by Julia Rose, an Upstate NY Missionary that traveled to India as a missionary in 1944.

With experience in marketing, PWB thought and was inspired to promote Asapalli in the regions of Upstate NY. Asapalli today ministers to over 700 children in the northeast region of Assam, India. Through the years, Asapalli has planted over 35 churches in the region also.

With working with prisons and in India, the ministry began to take form. Soon the programs used in the prison ministry took root as Behind the Walls and in 2009 for the first time Behind the Walls was introduced as a program in Mount McGregor Correctional Facility. Today BFC is currently working with the NYS Corrective Department to become an official transitional service provided.

As the Lord opened doors the ministry began to organize its name and in 1997 The Braman

Foundation of Charity was founded as a not-for-profit, NYS corporation. In late 1999 the curriculum for Healing & Restoration was completed and in 2003 Living the Interior Life was completed. Today those two programs along with the two discipleship programs and overcoming materialism contribute to the curriculum for the Braman Institute of Higher Learning (BIHL). This is used throughout the community programs in the women's ministry in Queensbury, NY.

The BFC's third platform community program was formed and implemented in 2015. Today BFC operates a ministry that is in five countries in Africa, India, works with the NYS Correctional System, and serves in the Queensbury, NY community.





Homeland

NATURAL PRODUCTS

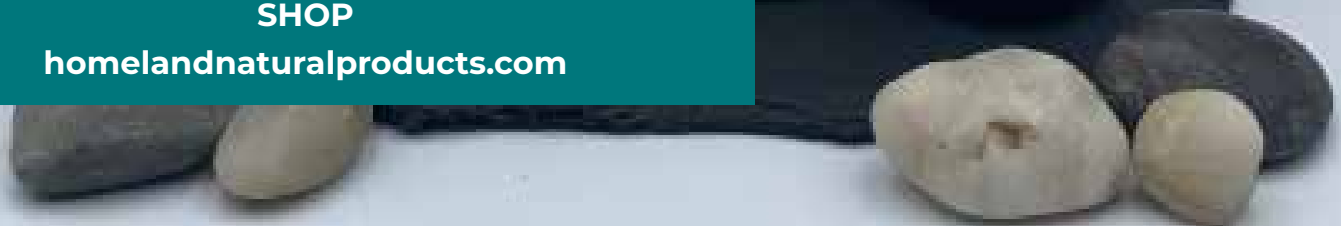
In keeping with the prominent BFC mission statement to “Love thy neighbor,” our products do just that. Our herbs, essential oils, cleansing products, and incense help in a subtle nature with your relationship with the Holy Spirit. Both herbs and essential oils help to restore you to a healthy mind and body. Incense and daily prayer can enhance your devotions and purpose driven life.

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