

Braman Foundation of Charities REVIVE MAGAZINE

The Magazine of The Braman Foundation of Charities
including Biblical Studies and Discipleship

July / August 2024

GROWING IN
**Holiness, Sanctification,
& Righteousness**



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Reflections

We are 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.



Favorite Scripture & Prayers

Braman Foundation of Charities has collected and discovered Promises and Commands from our Lord through scripture for decades. Additionally, we know there are prayers that have been written throughout the bible to give us both guidance and comfort. This collection, when reflected on will give deep direction, comfort, and joy.



Understanding the Holy Spirit

Growing in understanding of the Holy Spirit is so important in one's faith because the Holy Spirit is your constant companion. Thanks to God through Christ the Holy Spirit has been given to us for various reasons. This body of work has been written to support this fact. One's faith must continue to grow in order to better serve the Lord in all our endeavors.



An Understanding of Devotion, Confession, Self Reflection & Repentance

This short essay is to help the believer with tools to bring him or her into a deeper relationship with Christ. Simply, to the point, and to testify in truth and the word of God. Progress into a relationship with Christ that is the single most important relationship in your life. He will never leave you, nor forsake you.

All donations are a tax write off as BFC is a 501c3 public charity.

“Be part of a Christ centered movement to Love Our Neighbor”

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BFC Editorial



To All Faithful Readers:

Greetings to you from our offices in Poughkeepsie, NY.

May Christ continue to bless you, protect you, and open and close doors for you.

Many times in our lives we move through a difficult season only to realize that God is in control and is manifesting throughout our days. It's always a learning lesson to know that God is in control and we are not? The Poughkeepsie Compound is complete on the interior and exterior grounds.

This project began August 1st 2022 and is finally complete. The final project is the original fence protecting the front of the property. The Poughkeepsie Historical Committee has given its blessing to paint it. So this fence will be painted in and complete in two weeks.

In the meantime, the community meetings continue to grow and are ongoing. Several of our clients have had strokes and are in the Grand Nursing Home in Poughkeepsie. So our Tuesday and Thursday night programs are temporarily in the Grand and we have several of Grand clients attending.

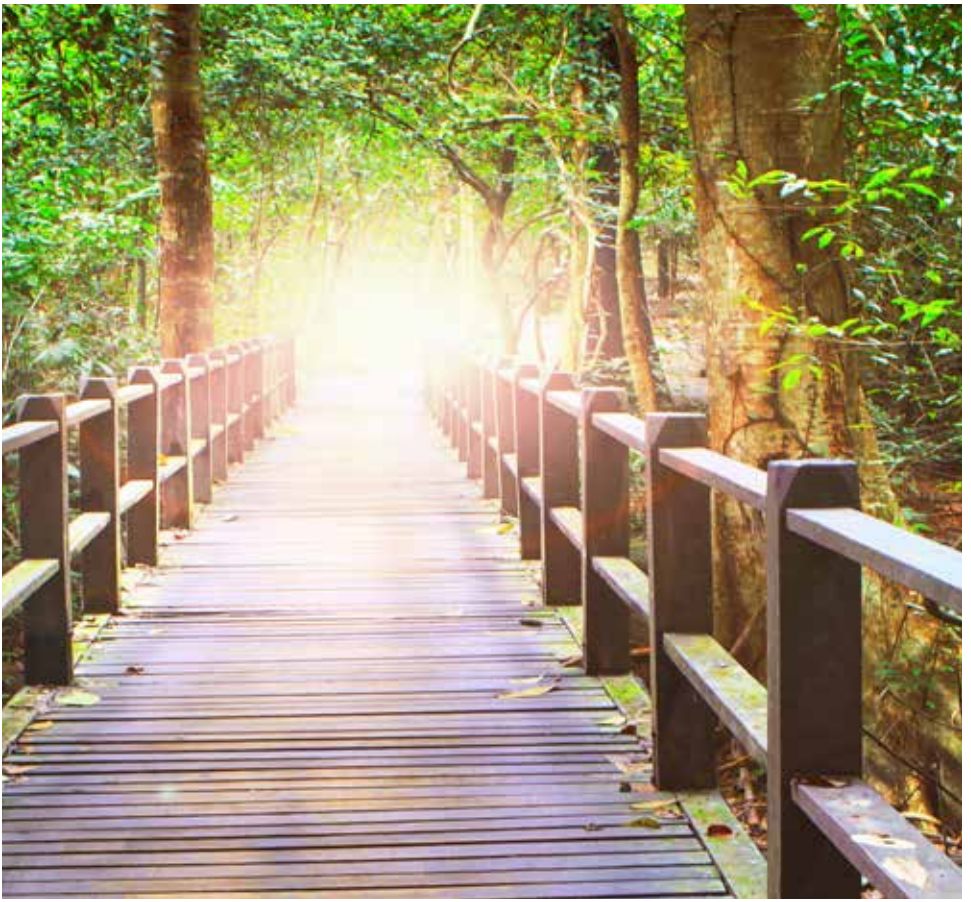
In Africa, BFC celebrates its 4th year regarding The Elderly Care Program in Migori, Kenya! We have added another group from the State of Odisha, India. Travel will ensue once Fudia Braman is settled here in Poughkeepsie. It appears her immigration will come through in August.

The BFC Behind the Walls has begun in Freetown and we will be working with pastor Abuela in August to solidify that Corrections Program.

The RWB Sermons project continues as Sandra has just complete sermon #246 Of 378. As you may recall Sandra Torrant is digitizing the sermons so we can offer a Complete Works of RWB Sermons. His life works.

We are so grateful for your support, your prayers, and financial backing. We look forward to continued service to you, our mission partners and all of God's People that He has set before us. Pray for us as we move forward.

Always in Christ and His Love,
BFC



The 2024 Scripture:

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies , His mercies never come to an end; they are new ever morning great is your faithfulness. The Lord is my portion says my soul, therefore I will hope in Him.”

Lamentations 3:22-24

BFC Revive Magazine

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BFC, Inc.

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Francis Crandall

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Community Meetings



Prayer & Meditation

Every Sunday, 7pm

Meditation, correctly practiced is the simple process of removing attention from conditions and circumstances which, when recognized and overly identified with fragment and cloud our perceptions. Meditation simply is concentration on an object of contemplation. We meditate in Christ which we know is the absolute realm of perfection.

Meditation is not difficult. We meditate to commune in Christ. This Christ communion is an ideal state in which we can naturally unfold in. Learn to use this as your most meaningful time to experience God and in time you will walk continuously in God's presence.

Practice, pray, but do not struggle, learn to be calm and grace will provide. You deserve and need to be refreshed daily. Love.



Healing & Restoration

Every Monday, 7:00pm

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.

We explore these 12 steps realizing that addiction can be described as a mental obsession coupled with physical cravings for a substance, as the individual is in a highly confused state in that he or she is completely egocentric, lost to their higher self or true nature. He or she is rendered powerless and, unless a process is intervened, may begin to progress through the three stages of addiction to lead a highly agitated, emotionally stressful life, possibly ending in a premature death, imprisonment or institutionalization.

Hardly the life of success that one might dream, but miserable nonetheless.

Community Meetings



Discipleship

Every Tuesday, 7pm

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, disciples are those who have been called by Jesus - called us to share our lives both with him and with one another in love and it is by this love that we shall be known to be his disciples.

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 meditation, 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.



Bible Study

Every Thursday, 7:00pm

Joining a small group is the best way to experience the incredible community here in Poughkeepsie. Whether you're single, married, young, or not-as-young, we've got a group for you. Typically, our groups meet once a week in the leader's home, and focus on spending time together discussing that Sunday's sermon. Small groups provide spaces to explore your faith, make connections, and grow closer to God. We're just missing one thing: YOU!

For more information, contact:
info@bramanfoundation.org or 845-471-2286

Community Meetings

The Community Meetings continue to grow with BFC.

We have moved Tuesday Nite Discipleship & Thursday Nite Bible Study to the Grand nursing Center in Poughkeepsie, temporarily.

We did this because 4 of our attendees have had strokes and are recovering at the Grand. This has opened the door for several others to attend. Additionally, seen pictured below we have been able to work within the Dutchess Care Assisted Living facility and several are attending the BFC Community Meetings.

We are grateful that the Lord has opened the door at these two facilities so we can minister to them.



Braman
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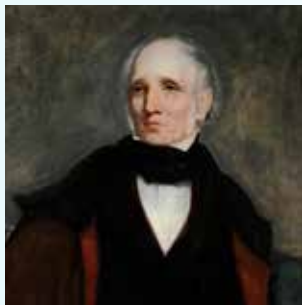
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BFC
Featured Corner



William Wordsworth
1770-1850

William Wordsworth rose to fame in the 18th century for his radical and direct approach to poetry. Casting aside outdated literary tropes, he wrote poems that reflected everyday speech, becoming one of the first modern poets to connect to readers in their own language.

Drawing inspiration from his life in the beautiful Lake District, his poems perfectly capture the healing powers of the natural world and provide an unrivalled antidote to the busy lives of our era. Here, we've picked William Wordsworth rose to fame in the 18th century for his one of our favorite William Wordsworth poems, from 'I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud' to 'The World is Too Much With Us'.

I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud

By William Wordsworth

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed-and gazed-but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

What Do We Really Need?

“And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Jesus Christ.”

- Philippians 4:19

What do we really need in life? Do we need a new house, a new car, new clothes, more than enough food to eat? Or is there are more to our needs than material things? Perhaps we will be able to answer these questions by the time we finish our discussion this morning.

We are constantly bombarded with attempts to create in our minds an image of what we really need. Not long ago, Edwin W. Ebel, marketing director of General Foods, made a speech in which he mentioned advertising's impact on the average urban American household. He suggested we take a look at John and Mary who live in the New York area. On a typical day John and Mary would read newspapers which contained 510 display ads. John would catch a bus to the railroad station on which there would be 23 ads seeking to catch his eye. In the railroadcar he would see 41 advertising cards and along the way he would view 40 posters. Walking through Grand Central terminal to catch the subway there would be 63 more posters and on the subway 49 cards. When John and Mary turned on the radio for short periods during the day they would hear 53 commercials either spoken or sung. While Mary managed to look through two magazines, she would be confronted by 447 more ads. If the children looked at two comic books, they would see 50

ads. Turning on the television in the evening the family would be exposed to 64 commercials. All together in a 15-hour day the family was bombarded by a total of 1340 advertisements.

I would expect that we here in the country would be exposed to somewhat less advertising, but the point is all of us are constantly bombarded by advertising of material items, items to make our living easier and supposedly happier. All this tremendous emphasis upon material needs tends to make us forget that our greatest needs are not material at all. We have spiritual needs which must be met if we are to live a good life you will notice that there is very little advertising to fill our spiritual needs.

99% of all advertising is concerned with material needs. This is where we American people are wrong. We desperately need to advertise our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and what he can do for our spiritual needs. That's what is wrong with us so called Christians, we are very lax in our witnessing and even though we are Christian we constantly need to be reminded of our spiritual growth. We need to remember what Jesus said in Matthew 4:4; "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." Ultimately, we must turn to God

as the resource for our needs.

This was what the Apostle Paul saw as he wrote from a jail cell to the church he had started in Philippi. At the close of his letter he said, "My God will supply all that you need from his glorious resources in Jesus Christ." These are strange words of assurance to come out of a jail cell where the simplest of physical needs are usually not adequately provided for. Possibly it takes the deprivation of a jail cell to get a perspective on what ones needs really are. I know it is difficult for us to see and understand what our real needs are when materially we have everything we need, in fact most of us have much more than we really need. It becomes difficult when everything seems to be going OK in our lives without the seeming presence of God in our lives. Why do we need to turn to God? Why do we need to support a church? Why do we need to believe in Jesus Christ? Why do we have to go through all that junk when we are happy and have everything we need without it?

These are very good questions that deserve an answer. At this point I would like to say that perhaps you seem happy but actually unless you have God with you, you aren't happy, and you will find this out when a tragedy happens in your life. You will have nothing at all to rely on. Life will have no meaning and purpose and you will start wondering what life is all about. If you haven't had this experience yet, you will have, for we all come to the time when we need something more than food and drink to rely on. Most of us have not really been deprived of anything and so perhaps we cannot understand Paul's position. But we do

have needs that perhaps are not so plain and visible as our physical needs.

Undoubtedly the greatest need of men both in Paul's day and in ours is for a real purpose in life. Of course, we need food, clothing, and shelter to keep our physical bodies alive, but why bother unless there is a purpose to living? God, our Creator, has set this hunger for purpose and meaning in our hearts. It is Christ who supplies the answer for which we search. In Christ we see that man is made for love. It is love which lies at the center of Jesus is life. It is love which makes his life shine down through the darkness of the centuries. Here in Jesus, we see life with a purpose - life with a tremendous meaning.

During a prison riot some years ago a group of local citizens appealed to the prisoners to lay down their weapons and release their hostages.

Suddenly, the leader, an unusually vicious criminal, said with tears, "I've done a lot of bad things-evil things. My only wish is that sometimes I might do a good thing; like giving my eyes so that a blind child might see, or my body so that men could understand disease better. Isn't there some way I could do something good?" In the end God always makes sure that some good comes out of every situation. I really and truly believe this.

Our purpose here upon earth is to become loving and to express this love in all our relations with others. It is this hunger for doing something meaningful, good, and loving that must be satisfied if we are to truly live.

Without the satisfaction of this need in our lives we do not fulfill our true humanity.

T.H. Huxley, the English biologist, once said, "The sense of uselessness is the severest shock that any organism can sustain." I know it is true that we all need to feel needed and useful. Once we find a real purpose for life and living, we will fulfill many of our other needs in life.

Another basic need of man is power to accomplish. The sense of purpose must be geared to action. Paul felt this urgent need before he came to know Jesus Christ. Describing his condition, Paul wrote the church at Rome: "I often find that I have the will to do good, but not the power.

That is, I do not accomplish the good I set out to do, and the evil I do not really want to do, honestly I find I am always doing."

Paul knew what was good but lacked the power of accomplishment. I think this is true with most of us. We know what it is good and right but somehow is easier to do the opposite. We lack the power of actually doing what is right and good. John Stuart Mill, in describing the results of the stern education he had received from his father, said, if I had a rutter, but no sail."

Many of us have a good guide. We know what we should do but we just don't seem to have the power to keep going the right way. We need something more than high ideals and good intentions. We need the power to do. And this is something that Paul knew God could supply his friends at Philippi from the glorious resources in Jesus Christ. Paul

knew that the resurrected and living Christ could dwell within men in such a way that they were empowered to fulfill their purpose in life.

The latter part of Paul's letter to the Philippians is a thank you note, expressing appreciation to the church for having sent one of their members some distance to him with gifts. Notice, however, that the thing for which Paul was deeply appreciative was not the physical gifts, but the love and thoughtfulness behind the gifts. His friends cared about him.

Friendship is a spiritual thing-it meets a need which cannot be filled by the accumulating of nationally advertised brand products. This loving concern was a gift which had come to Paul and the church at Philippi because of God's gift to them of Jesus Christ. It was because of their common loyalty to Christ that they shared this deep concern for one another. It is the gift that Christ can bring to life that fulfill our deepest needs.

Third, man has need to endure. There seems to be a built in us an instinct to preserve our physical bodies. Great studies are being made these days to increase our physical endurance. But what of our spirits? They, too, must endure. In Matthew 10:22; Jesus said, "He who endures to the end will be saved." The power to endure comes from the great resources of God. It comes from close and loving associations with Christ who endured the cross rather than forsake his Father's will.

I doubt if any of us will really have this much power to endure as Christ did,

but we certainly need more than most of us exhibit. I believe that Christ can give us this power if we accept him into our lives. What do we really need? Well, there are lots of things we think we need. The pressures are constantly upon us to accumulate more and more material possessions.

But there are others needs in our lives which are much more fundamental.

They are definitely needs of the spirit. We need a consuming purpose in life. We need the power to accomplish that purpose. We need the ability to endure to the end in abiding by that purpose. Paul said to the Philippians, "I know how to be abound and I know how to abound." Different as are the conditions of excessive wealth and bitter poverty, the mastery of both is a matter of learning one lesson, that of the dominance of the inner life. If we give preeminence to the things of the spirit, wealth will not debilitate us, nor poverty degrade us.

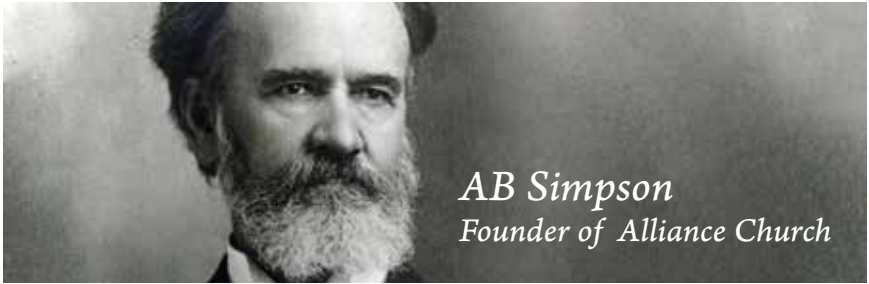
Externals cannot ruin the soul of him who lives the life of the spirit. The God whose strength is around our weakness will help us overcome the temptations both of adversity and of prosperity.

Paul's life is evidence that it is possible to know how to abase and how to abound. Sometimes these needs of the spirit are lost from consciousness in the roar of the advertising hucksters hawking their wares. But in our hearts, we know that these needs are desperately important. They must be met. Without some kind of resource to meet these needs, life falls apart.

Jesus Christ is the resource we need.

This is what Christians know and this is what we believe. Paul truly says, "My God will supply all that you need from his glorious resources in Christ Jesus.

A Daily Devotional



Statement on Sanctification

The Meaning of Sanctification

The basic idea underlying biblical sanctification is separation, and this separation is first and foremost to the Lord. While the separation is from sin, impurity and all that is unholy, primarily it is a separation to the person, life and characteristics of God in Christ. Dr. A. B. Simpson stated that being sanctified means possessing the thoughts of Christ, the desires of Christ, the will of Christ, the faith of Christ, the purity of Christ, the love of Christ, the unselfishness of Christ, the single aim of Christ, the humility of Christ, the submission of Christ, the meekness of Christ, the zeal of Christ and the works of Christ manifest in our mortal flesh so that we shall say, "I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me."

Christ and Sanctification

The New Testament declares Jesus Christ to be the believer's sanctifier. This teaching derives from four interconnected events: Christ's life, death, resurrection, and ascension.

The Son of God condescended to take on human nature so that "both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family" (Hebrews 2: 11). As a human person subject to temptation and sin, Jesus became the first person to live a totally holy life (2 Corinthians 5:21). Then, His perfect life was offered up to God in death as a perfect sacrifice (Hebrews 2:17, 18; 9:13, 14, 28). Christ not only died, He rose again to restore humanity to fullness of life (John 10:10). Finally, He ascended to the Father where He is "Head over everything for the Church, which is his body, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way" (Ephesians 1:22-23).



Biblical Studies

Matthew 6:33

But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.

John 14:15

If you love me you will keep my commandments.

Acts 2:42-47

And they will continually devote themselves to the apostles teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.



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BFC Commentary

Devotion

Matthew 6:33

“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.”

Upon the opening of your eyes, say Lord thank you! Say Lord thank you for this day! For today is the day the Lord has made.

When you study chapter 6 of the book of Matthew you understand that Jesus has given the solution for anxiety. In verse 34 He tells us that today’s troubles are sufficient for today. Therefore learn to live in this day. In fact, the organization AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) designed its slogan, “one day at a time,” from verse 34 Chapter 6 in the book of Matthew. Yet in verse 33 Jesus is strongly suggesting that we seek first the kingdom of God and His righteous then all these desires of the heart will be added.

Perhaps, God is amused, at his children. How often do we pray for gifts of God instead of Him. Seek first His kingdom, Luke 17:21 tells us that the kingdom is inside of us. That we are made in His image. That each of us has within the deep knowledge that we are in His likeness. And so how do we go within? How do you grow in your devotion to Christ or in Christ? Let us explore some opening prayers you can memorize and utilize in your morning or evening devotions.

Spend time alone with the Lord. Set up a spot, a “prayer closet”, a space in your home where you can go daily to spend time with the Lord. No mobile phones, no T.V., no pets, no distractions, no excuses. Go there daily and make

this the # 1 appointment of the day. Here are some Devotions suggested opening, closing and prayers of Surrender:

Open My Heart

Lord, open wide the bud of my devotion, and release its fragrance, That it may spread from my soul to the souls of all others every reminding me of thy sweet, sweet fragrance. Oh, Lord teach me to know and feel that you are the power behind all wealth, and the value within all things. Finding Thee first I will find everything else in Thee

Thy Light

May Thy Light and Thy love shine forever on the sanctuary of my devotions. And May I be able to awaken Thy Love in all hearts.

Prayer of Surrender

God, I offer thee all of me!! Lord, take away my difficulties that victory over them, may be evidence of Thy Love and thy way of Life. May I do Thy will always.

Helping in Overcome Character Flaw

My, Creator, I am now willing that you should have all of me, good and bad. Please remove from me every single defect of character that stands in thy way my usefulness to you and my fellows. Grant me strength as I go out from here to do thy always.

My friend, try to memorize and really believe in these prayers as thy will change your life.

Prayer of Surrender

Almighty and eternal God, so draw my heart to Thee, so guide my mind and so fill my imagination so control my will, that I may be wholly yours utterly dedicated unto you, and then use me I pray Thee, as Thou will and always to Thy glory and the welfare of thy

people, through our Lord and Savior Jesus I pray Amen.

John 14:15

"If you love me you will keep my commandments"

Friend, do you Love me, asked, Jesus? If so feed my sheep and again Christ will ask do you love me or then be with my people. Who are His people?

The mis-fits, widowed, orphaned and the needy, the poor. He advocates for them, the orphans, the widows.

Love is always the answer. Love is the command also.

Love is His command, and so do you Love those in which God the only way? Love is always your heart in your mind and you will always know Love.

A Love that consumes all your being is within. You can find this as you, go inside of you, regardless of what is in your way to Love others. In other words, Christ has asked you to keep His command to Love.

What is blocking the Love buried deep in your heart to Love: Unforgiveness, Self-centeredness, strongholds of sin? Seek and you will find, knock and the door will open, and ask and you will receive. Talk to Christ and in His still small voice you will hear.

If you Love Me keep my command. How does that look in your life? What do you do to Love? What is your Love language? Ask the Lord and His Spirit will reveal this to you. But you must learn to listen. Grow in your devotion to the Lord. Grow in your Holy listening. The Lord is seeking to be in relationship with you. Amen!! Learn to love your solitude.

Acts 2:42-47

"And they will continually devote themselves to

the apostles teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer"

Here Luke, the writer of Acts, is writing about devotion. The 1st century church sets a perfect example on devoting prayer and communion. How often are you practicing communion?

My friend, make the effort, break away from the world and "dive deep in Christ."

The apostles are teaching most likely on Jesus. Jesus spent so much time studying the words of Moses and the great masters. Do you devote your time to the bible more or less? If less, how are you growing in your time with the Lord. What is it, of this world, that is distracting you? Have you put "idols", in front of the word of God. Why are you not zealous about his word? Why do you allow your emotions to "come in between" you and the Lord? Even to the extent you allow your wife, your husband and your children in between you and the Christ? Seek ye first the kingdom of God!

Is your life like Christ? Or do you still insist on running the show? Allow those around you to grow in their sanctification. In other words, stop playing God. Allow God to be God. Remember the Lord is a gentleman. He will allow you to be wrong as well as those around you.

Fellowshipping with one another in one accord. Friend are you with other believers that challenge you to go deeper in your faith? Faith defined as the substance of things hoped in the evidence of the unseen. This way you grow in zealotness for the kingdom instead of standing still rooted in the "things" of this world. God help you if you are backsliding. Friend. go deeper. enrich your life through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. The Lord is with you, in you, sustaining your spirit. Go in fellowship with believers. Lean on them. Use these relationships to put your guard down and relax. Spend more time with believers than non-believers, but always be ready

to share the word with non-believers. This act of fellowship, the zealotness to spend more time alone, in prayer and in weekly or daily communion contribute to the breaking of strongholds and the ability to claim victory over “the things” of this world. Stay close, be in silence and experience the joy of the Lord. He is with you, in the scent of the fresh dew in the morning and the fresh cut rose. He is the nearest of the near and the dearest of the dear. Therefore, grow in your practice of your devotion and Love of Christ.

Invoking the Presence of God: Opening Prayers and Devotion

Devotion #1:

Open wide the bud of my Devotion, Oh Lord, release its fragrance that it may spread from my soul to the souls of others ever reminding us of Thy sweet sweet aroma.

Devotion#2

May thy Light and thy Love shine forever on the sanctuary of my devotion and may I be able to awaken thy Love in all hearts.

Devotion#3

Teach me to know and feel that you are the power behind all wealth and the value within all things. Finding, Thee first I will find everything else in thee.

This Biblical Studies is an excerpt
from An Understanding of Devotion.



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Inspire

A Monthly E-Commerce Newsletter
by Braman Foundation of Charities

&

— The —
Mid Week Message

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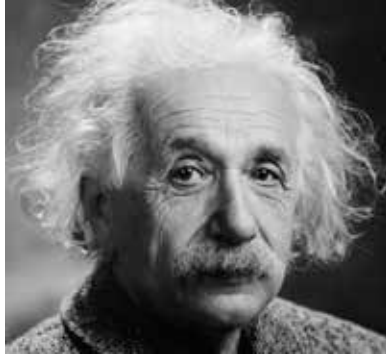


The screenshot shows the content of the Inspire newsletter. At the top, it features the Braman Foundation of Charities logo and the word 'Inspire' in a large, blue, cursive font. Below this, there is a section titled 'BFC Thanksgiving Greetings' with a sub-heading 'Thanksgiving'. The text discusses the grace of Jesus Christ and the importance of giving. There are two images: one of a turkey and another of a 'THANKSGIVING' sign. Below the main text, there are sections for 'Thankful', 'Gratitude', and 'Thankfulness Leads to Witnessing Psalm 9:1'. The 'Thankful' section includes a quote from 1 Thessalonians 5:18. The 'Gratitude' section includes a quote from Matthew 6:25-33. The 'Thankfulness Leads to Witnessing' section includes a quote from Philippians 4:6-7. At the bottom, there is an 'Inspirational Quotation' from Lamentations 3:22-24. The newsletter footer includes navigation links for Home, About BFC, Prayer Requests, Literature, and Registration, along with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, and YouTube.

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies , His mercies never come to an end; they are new ever morning great is your faithfulness. The Lord is my portion says my soul, therefore I will hope in Him.”

Lamentations 3:22-24

Notable / Quotable
Quote from Einstein



Human beings are part of a whole called by us the "universe," a part limited in time and space.

We experience ourselves, our thoughts and feelings, as something separated from the rest - a kind of optical delusion of consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circles of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty.

Albert Einstein

This is God's World

“by faith we understand that the world was created by the word of God.”

-Hebrews 11:3,

This sermon is not intended to be an argument. It is an affirmation, a celebration, if you please.

The text takes us back to the first sentence of the Bible, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” Some men do not believe this; they refuse to believe what they cannot see with their eyes. They might be called men of fact in contrast to men of faith; the men of faith may also be men of fact. But all honor to men of honest doubt.

When we went to school how easily we believed that $2+2 = 4$. In algebra we were taught that both sides of the equation are equal. We were taught the law of gravity and we believed. Perhaps we had some doubts until we finally understood what the teacher was teaching, but we believed and we still believe. And yet when God created the heavens and the Earth, we doubt it. As we get older and have gained some experience through years of living, we realize we have faith and believe something even though it can't be proven scientifically. Do you have faith, to believe is a wonderful thing for if we do not, I'm afraid our lives will be miserable.

There are other persons who cannot see that this is God's world, because they are

troubled, if not obsessed, by the shadows that darken the world. Many use the argument, if there really is a God and if he is as powerful as we say he is, why does he continue to let people kill each other in wars?

The world as we know it is a mixture of good and evil. There are ugly scars which the hand of man in his hate and lovelessness has made; there are also famines, earthquakes, hurricanes, that strew the earth with sorrows. What is behind it all? The truth is that we have to choose a point of view, or we may choose to doubt. It is a choice to say I don't know. It is an act of faith to make a choice that enables us to believe that the God we know in Jesus Christ created all things by the word of his power.

There are bad things as well as good ones that will come our way throughout our lifetimes. We have to be able to make the best out of every situation.

“Isn't it too bad that Jerry Allen has polio?” Remarked Mrs. Badcock at the dinner table.

“It is too bad,” said Uncle George, “but he'll be able to transmute his misfortune into character.”

“What do you mean by that? Transmute? I don’t get it,” said Jimmy.

“Well”, replied his uncle, “Transmute means to change one thing into another. I knew two boys who got polio at the same time, one of them, and I’m not blaming him, said, “what’s the use?” and, in a kind of despair refused to follow the instructions given by the doctor.

Of course, he ended up a hopeless cripple, crippled both in body and in spirit. I remember how Harry, the other boy, used to do his exercises hour after hour with his hands in water, determined to pull through and bring something fine out of his affliction. He is today somewhat crippled in body but as a college professor of mathematics, his teaching and his character have a fine influence on his students. He was able to transmute his affliction into character. Do you get what I mean Jimmy?”

“I think I do,” said Jimmy. “Can you give another example?”

“There’s a boy that you know doing that very thing – Lloyd Grimes.”

“He used to play in the Little League.”

“Yes, and recently he had to have his leg amputated; but you just watch Lloyd. He has a great spirit. The other day he said to me,” “When I get my artificial leg, I’m going to have them put it on the wrong way and then they won’t know whether I’m coming or going!”

You can’t get that boy, and he’ll bring out something good from his misfortune.”

Mary-Jo had not spoken during the conversation between Jimmy and Uncle

George, but she was deeply interested. At the close of the meal she said, “Let’s talk again about transmuting things.” To have this kind of spirit and faith even after tragedy has hit us is a marvelous thing. But who are we, a little individual person, to doubt there is a God for regardless of how bad off we think we are there is always someone in a worse condition.

Regardless of how bad off we think we are, there are always many, many blessings we can thank God for. Again, the kind of attitude and spirit we have toward anything in life, will either make it good or bad. This attitude and spirit is up to us.

First, this is God’s world because he created it. Sometimes and in some places, this is easy to believe. Perhaps you or I awoke this morning with our body’s vitality renewed and looked out on a lovely garden and to adjoining houses where live good friends and neighbors, and all in all this was a good world.

But suddenly we could have a disturbing thought. Across town or across the tracks lives a man who awoke with depleted energies. He looked out on an area lettered with trash and garbage; his neighbors were as hopeless as himself. All in all, he is not finding this a good world. Sometimes in some places it is difficult to believe that this is God’s world.

It seems difficult for some men to imagine God creating a universe in which beauty, compassion, and love are important factors, but it is infinitely more difficult and, in fact, completely impossible to conceive of any way by which electrons, protons, atoms, and molecules could have come into existence in the first place, or, if having done so, could associate themselves in the forms and structures necessary to produce life. If one could conceive of the

possibility of this happening, without the direction of God, certainly by the mathematical law of probabilities, it would not yet have happened, and would not happen for billions of years to come.

But if one should say that in some unknown way all this has happened, he still could not explain how atoms, in a godless universe, could explain patience, kindness, goodwill, forgiveness, and love.

Browning's illustration of the chessboard may help us. You can say that the foundation of the board is black with white squares up on it. Or you can say that the foundation is white and the black squares are imposed upon it. Let the black represents evil and the white good. If the foundation of the world is black, evil or meaningless, the goodness and love that are found in it cannot be explained. But if the foundation is goodness and wisdom, the presence of evil and suffering can find a meaning. They can be overcome and turned to good.

Think of this world and it might have not been. Where did it come from? Why? We are not asking a scientific question now and, if I try to tell in the language of science how everything got started, I would leave you still unsatisfied because, even if I could prove my theory to be true, your question would go deeper than my answer. It asked that what was the process by which being came to be, but what is the purpose? Not how it was created, but why was it created? Who created it? Because that is the way which both poetry and religion finally ask it. Who? We know the answer because as Christians we truly believe what we read in God's word; God created the Earth.

Secondly, this is God's world because he rules it. God is sovereign.

By faith we believe that there is order in the world. All we have to do is look at the four seasons of the year to see there is order. The world may often appear chaotic but the scientists know that there is order running through it; loss of life for all creative things which we break at our peril.

By faith we believe that the beauty of the world discloses is God's creative and sovereign power. God has power to shape the world into a design of beauty.

The beauty of flowers, trees, mountains, and the lakes surround us constantly reminding us that indeed God has created every living thing.

By faith we believe that God can and does enter into history, as he most marvelously did through Jesus Christ.

By faith we understand that God overcomes evil and out of it brings an issue of good.

Think of the cross when Jesus hung on it surrounded by a howling mob of blind and callous enemies. What is the reality in that picture? Is it not a picture of the sovereignty of love? Evil is overcome. Death has lost its victory. Indeed, God does rule.

By faith we know and believe there is a more beautiful and a more full life beyond this earthly one. We have the promise of everlasting and eternal life with God our Father. The proof we need as Christians is in the resurrection of Christ himself.

The architect has a blueprint before he undertakes the construction. The goal lies before him before he allows the first spade to break ground. And this blueprint of God, which is Jesus Christ and the kingdom of God, we are included, every one of us. As God has a blueprint for the

whole world, so he also has a blueprint for our life as part of the great plan. It is so sad when we go through life and do not find or know what God's plan for us is. For indeed, it is a waste of a human's life never to really no God and what our relationship to him is and should be.

Thirdly, this is God's world because he guides it towards its destiny.

In faith we accept God's purposes. It is true we seek to understand them. We try to make them our own. Many times, things happen in our lives, that we cannot see any logical reason for, in fact many times we wish some of those things would not have happened but they did and as Christians we believe that all things eventually will turn out for the best. We have faith in God that they will and they do. We find ourselves in a certain situation of evil, of disorder or ugliness, and we seek a change.

Psalms 139, verses 17 and 18 read, "How precious to me are thy thoughts, O God! How vast is this sum of them! If I would count them, they are more than the sand. When I awake, I am still with thee." How can we understand this world without considering the thoughts of God? The thoughts of God which make it possible for us to live in this world are innumerable: the thought which governs the expansion and contraction of water in its forms; steam, water, ice; the thought of cohesion; the thought of family, the overlapping of the generations; the thought of sex. How precious are God's thoughts.

We do not believe that God made this world to be a battlefield, nor did he create the atom that it might be used to destroy what we are told he saw to be good. Man, himself usually creates and is responsible for the evil that exist in our world. But regardless of the evil man has created, if

the background of the world which God is created as good and we believe it is, good will finally prevail. The world must finally fulfill the purposes of God, he guards it toward that end. The world can only be run in one way and that is God's way.

Tennyson was sensitive to the hills of the world but he saw them in the light of hope. The world might look as if some lesser God had made it but had not power to shape it to a destiny of beauty. One day, however, the high God would enter it and make it beautiful.

Truly as Christians we know and believe this is God's world. He is creator, ruler, professor. In faith we pledge him our allegiance how much let us always strive towards making this world a better place in which to live.

Updates from Sierra Leone Prison Ministry

These were the pictures of the prison ministry.

Our letter has been approved and granted to preach and share the word of God to the inmate every Wednesday at 8:00am. We are also asked to cover the entire northern region with this vision. The inmates and the prison officers together with the chaplains has know about the BFC and they were happy about that. Now the inmate were reading those books and the following Wednesday they will explain all what they have learned.



BFC Corrections / Prison Behind the Walls Program

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

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.

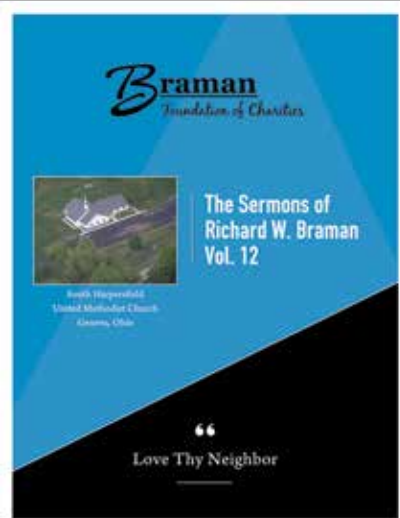


The Sermons of Richard W. Braman

NOW FEATURING VOL. 12

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.



About Sandra

Sandra Torrant 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.

Volumes 1-12 of the Richard W. Braman Sermons are available to be downloaded from our website, bramanfoundation.com. You may receive a printed hard copy of any volume by calling 845-471-2286 or emailing info@bramanfoundation.org.

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Becoming a New Man

“And he that sat upon the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.”

-Revelation 21:5

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.”

-II Cor. 5:17

There is a tremendous yearning in the hearts of men for something new. All of us seem to like to have things change probably because change generally brings forth something new. With some of us it is a deep unrest of soul which we feel but do not understand.

Many of us are bored by the daily grind. There are noble souls who long for a new earth of righteousness and peace.

In search for newness the old immorality is called the “new morality”; a new theology receives an old atheism; fads and fancies flourish in the arts; in manners, and in religion; there is much tinkering with the church.

It's nice to have things change and have things new but we certainly cannot change the purpose and objective of the church which is to win souls to Jesus Christ. Perhaps our approach to soul winning can be different and even new, however the results had better be the same as long as we associate ourselves with the church and Jesus Christ.

But all these new things and changes are not evil, though some of it is, as when a man seeks a new morality only as a sanction for his immorality. Without the desire and search for the new, decadence and atrophy may set in. Yet many of our attempts to achieve the new are futile. Programs and policies for renewal become futile and fail. What then shall we do?

Our text may help us to answer the question.

“Behold, I make all things new.”

These are the words which John heard from the throne of God. John was writing a track for hard times when men were yearning for something new. He writes, “All things new.” We wonder what he meant by “all things.” We want everything to have the quality of newness, life itself, manners, customs, art, technology (which manufacturers for war) religion, the church, the despoiled countryside, the polluted rivers, the deteriorating cities, the inefficient and often corrupt governments. Perhaps we need a new culture, a new civilization. John's vision carries the suggestions, “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth.” (Revelation: 21:1)

But I wonder if we think we had a new culture, a new civilization, if we started over with everything new, that things would really be better and really be different? If we think so, I'm afraid we are wrong because unless you and I change, unless you and I become new creatures, things will end up just about the way they are now. So therefore, I believe just changing things around us is only part of the answer.

“Behold, I make all things new.” According to John this is God speaking from his throne. This speaks of the sovereignty of God. This speaks of the creativity of God. God can take

old things and make out of them new things. That is the redemptive power of God.

Can hold on to God? Can we, in the midst of our yearning, of our feeling that this is an earth passing away, a civilization going to pieces, still affirm God is ruler, God is creator, God is Redeemer?

Then we can look for a new earth! Most certainly if we can hold on to God, I believe it means that we are to our changed persons and because of our change eventually there will be a new earth because of our influence and our guidance and direction.

John's vision gives us further encouragement. He saw the new earth in the form of a new city. It is a new Jerusalem he sees. There was an old Jerusalem, he sees a new Jerusalem. "The new city is still Jerusalem." The men who lived in the old city shall live in the new city.

By the vision of John, God is not going to smooth things to pieces. The earth is not to be dealt with after the manner of Noah's time. Read the hopeful words of John, "And I heard a great voice out of heaven, saying, "Behold the Tabernacle of God is with me, with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God." Continue reading if you will and see John's vision of the new city, the new world. This is to be a glad new world, entirely different from the present world we live in. And naturally why shouldn't it be for heaven is perfect because God has made it that way and besides, I'm sure that man will not make the same mistake twice and besides these people in this world are made real Christians once in this world.

Now let us turn aside from John and let Paul guide our thoughts for a few moments.

Paul says, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, all things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

Please note an element of agreement between John and Paul - "All things are become new." They may have differed in the scope of their "off things"; we give the idea even wider scope than

did they.

But here comes the crux of the matter: "men are to become new creatures." It is by this newness of life in the lives of men that there will be a renewal of "all things." It is by new men that the new Jerusalem will be built. But the new men are actually the old ones that have accepted Jesus Christ into their lives, who have been reborn.

Is it not always so? Nothing rights itself; corrupt government will continue to be a corrupt government until new men rise to the task of establishing right business in the governmental halls. The city of darkness becomes the city of light only when men of light let their lights shine. No amount of tinkering by legislation or appropriation of money will in itself establish righteousness and justice. Society needs new men and women.

Regardless of how much griping we do about our politicians in government, nothing will change unless we ourselves change, unless we are willing to devote some of our time to the party of our choice, unless we are willing to take the time and interest to vote, unless we make sure we support men we know are good and men that will stand up for the right things in life. We certainly cannot hide our light under a bushel. We have to let our light shine forth so that others can see the way, the way that leads to righteousness and good.

It is amazing how we think that good just comes automatically. Good can only come from and through Jesus Christ and we can only begin to be righteous people after we become reborn and accept Jesus Christ into our lives as our personal Lord and Savior.

As we read in the Gospel of John 3:7, "Jesus said, "You must be born again." He would never have given such a challenge had it not been a possibility. Yes, man can be changed radically and permanently from the inside out. I know this to be a fact because I have experienced it myself and because I have seen other men experience. Never let it be said that a person cannot change for with God everything is possible and nothing impossible.

“If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature.” The man who thinks he can realize newness of life by himself alone is deceiving himself. The man who undertakes to build the new Jerusalem by his own plans and in his own strength will fail. The man who thinks that the renewal of a city, a neighborhood, or a person can be done without cost will find himself utterly mistaken. All newness in him and all newness accomplished through him is by the power of Jesus Christ.

The recreative work of God is pinpointed in the service of Holy Communion. Who are invited to share in the bread broken and the wine outpoured? Those who “intend to lead a new life.” This is committed to him until who alone can make us anew. This is abandonment of self to him who alone can forgive, and in whose power alone we can “serve and please” God in newness of life.”

There is no question about it that society today, right now, needs new men and women. We have only to read the facts. Crime in this country rose at a fantastic rate 16 to 18% over 1966. You know what the moral situation is in this country. There is no need for me to keep repeating these facts. However, the trend isn't going to change for the better by just talking about it. We have to do something. We will never survive unless this trend is reversed, unless we start going back to God and remain under his guidance and direction.

Paul was right. Jesus was right when he spoke of the new birth. They have been proven right 1000 times. Livingston, a new man, opens up a dark continent. Grenfell, a new man, carried healing to the shores of Labrador. Wilberforce, a new man, rids Britain of the curse of slavery. Schweitzer, a new man, becomes the servant of Lambaréné.

Think of a single individual. Take a man. You saw him two years ago and, when you saw him, there was no light in his eye, no spring in his step, no lilt in his voice – just a blank look on his face. You said to yourself, there is a man with his future behind him; he's licked. Then you saw him yesterday. He was alive, alert, bright, full of interest, and you said to him, you're a new man!

And when you said that you didn't mean that he was another man or a different man. He had the same body, the same features, the same life history, the same personality. He wasn't another man; he was a new man. And he replied, “I am.” You said, “How?” What did you do? And he may very well have said, I didn't do anything. I had done everything I knew how for the last five years. I had turned every stone, but nothing turned up; it didn't do anything to change my life. But when I was least expecting it something happened to me, something was done to me. I fell in love. I walked into a job that I had been wanting all my life, and it put all my energy and talent to work. I saw what it was all about for the first time. I was picked up, so to speak, out of the dumps by God, and the tide came in. I am new.

This is what happens to a person when he really becomes reborn and accepts Jesus Christ. No experience is equal to this one and one that will never be forgotten. Walter Lippman said: “We ourselves were so sure that at long last a generation had arisen, keen and eager, to put this disorderly earth to right and fit to do it- we meant so well, we tried so hard, and look what we have made it. We can only muddle into muddle.

What is required is a new kind of man.” Note Paul's words. “If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature.” The good news to the world is that Christ makes new men. That is the evangel. By that evangel all things will become new.

So, we can all hope and pray for a better world, a new Jerusalem but this is not enough and soon it would be like the one we are living in. However, if we can become new persons in Christ, we will have a new world a new Jerusalem. Let us become reborn persons so that we can have the assurance of eternal life, assurance of enticing the Kingdom of heaven, and the assurance of living now in a better world.

Elderly Care Program

Missions: Kenya

Our Elderly Care Program in Migori, Kenya is 4 years old! We thank you for your generosity and prayers over these last few years, and ask you keep praying with us as we continue in this journey. Below are some pictures from our celebratory luncheon.





Alice Atieno Odegi

1931 - 2024



LIFE HISTORY

Born in the year 1931 in Gem Rombe Uriri Sub county Migori county. She was the second born among 5 of the late Joseph Odegi and Mama Magdalina Odegi. She was the sister to late three brothers. She was married to late Philip Onyango and was blessed with one child, namely the late Margret Akinyi.

GRAND CHILDREN

The late Olale, Lilian, and Lourine

GREAT GRANDS

Derrick and Mercy

CHRISTIAN LIFE

She was a member of ACK Church Rapogi and was a very active member, counseling young youths.

Alice Atieno was among the first five beneficiaries of the BFC Elderly feeding program in Uriri Migori County when it was started in June 2020, being in charge Jomo Otieno.

HEALTH AND SICKNESS

She started ailing in August 2020 but was still bearable but used to be on and off and, on several occasions, used to be admitted to the hospital.

In the month of late April, she became sick when she had gone to see her ailing sister in Kisumu. Later brought back and taken to Ombo, where she died on 25/5/24.


As we mourn the passing of Alice, we also welcome Regina Ouma to the program. Regina is 76 years old and very needy. Her husband passed 20 years ago.



Asapalli

Missions: India

I thank my God every time I remember you in all my prayer for all of you I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.



**ASAPALLI CHRISTIAN HOSTEL
& SCHOOL TRUST**
JULIA ANN ROSE'S COTTAGE
Dedication Program
The 23rd June - 2024
Time: 07:00 PM onwards
"As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15

PROGRAM

Host of the Programme	Mr. Bikesh Laxmaning
Speakers	Rev. H.C. Laxare

- 1) Opening Prayer : Mr. G. Mathew Ranganath
- 2) Welcome address : Mr. Perry Laxare
- 3) Hymn No. : Blessed assurance (72)
- 4) Short sharing about the construction : Mr. Charles Ryanthai
- 5) Short sharing Act of Dedication : Rev. H.C. Laxare
- 6) Hymn No. : All the way my Savior leads me (32)
- 7) Prayer of Thanksgiving : Mr. Maurice Barch
- 8) Vote of Thanks and announcement : Mr. G.G. Gagnevi
- 9) Closing Hymn : Great is Thy faithfulness (189)
- 10) Closing Prayer : Rev. H.C. Laxare

JULIA ANN ROSE'S COTTAGE

This House is dedicated to God on the 23rd June 2024 in loving memory of Miss Julia Ann Rose, the visionary behind Asapalli Mission, an extraordinary devout woman who dedicated her life in serving God through this Ministry. This cottage is a reminder of her presence during her retirement years until the day the Lord called her to her Eternal Home on November 24th, 1994.

"As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."
Joshua 24:15



Our most urgent prayer request is the New construction of the old school building which is under water during monsoon seasons students are unable to continue their classes on several occasions due to water logging it's a huge project the estimated cost is approximately 2.5 cores in Indian rupees will be grateful if you can raise fund for the cause I am also working hard to start the work soon the Board of Trustees have approved the project and entrusted to carry forward raise fund.



Loving a Child of Asapalli

Missions: India

It has been a longtime since BFC focused any effort on the Asapalli Children's Program. And this is too bad.

Last month a donor contacted our office, had been on the BFC and decided to begin to write to that child.

We thank God and Praise God, so we decided to renew our efforts and feature the Program in this issue.

Remember Asapalli was the first Mission work for BFC which started for BFC in 1987. Through the years much has evolved and yet Asapalli stands firm in teaching, educating the children in its region about the Lord. So we wanted to re-introduce the program to you and let you know the ways in which you may support a child of Asapalli:

1. You may financially support the child.

There several children at Asapalli that are orphaned OR their families cannot afford to buy clothing for their child. Your support goes a long ways in helping that child.

2. You may become a " pen pal " for a child.

Simply pick a child and through the BFC website email us and we will help set you up as a Pen Pal.

Either way your love. Prayers and financial support are vital for this child to grow in the love of Christ.



EMMONLANG RYMBAI

Emmonlang is a 15 year old girl living at the Christian Hostel & School. She is looking for a pen pal. Please contact BFC if you are interested in writing to this child, or looking to offer financial support.

C&MA

Missions: India

The C&MA Gujarat Synod is doing various ministry in Gujarat like Youth Retreat and Mission conference, Sunday school and VBS training for childrens of Alliance.

Recently we had pastors and leaders oneday seminar. Our churches are increase in knowledge of God. We have accepted vision and mission for Missionary works.please pray for future planning of Gujarat Synod .



NEW

Jesus Christ Church & Ministries

Missions: Pakistan

BFC continues to keep our brothers and sisters in Pakistan in our prayers. We continue to seek ways to support and uplift them.

Words from Pastor Haaron

“My dear brother Peter Lord Jesus Christ I wish you peace I hope you are well I am sending you some pictures of the children in another place in another city we went there to distribute food to the children and I ministered the word of the Lord and I had a friend with me and he also shared a testimony that he has with me and encouraged the children Christ taught how to live and we ate together with the children.”



SPURGEON'S CORNER



Sanctification is a work in us, not a work for us. It is a work in us, and there are two agents: one is the worker who works this sanctification effectually— that is the Spirit: and the other, the agent, the efficacious means by which the Spirit works this sanctification is— Jesus Christ and his most precious blood.

Interested in Prasham?

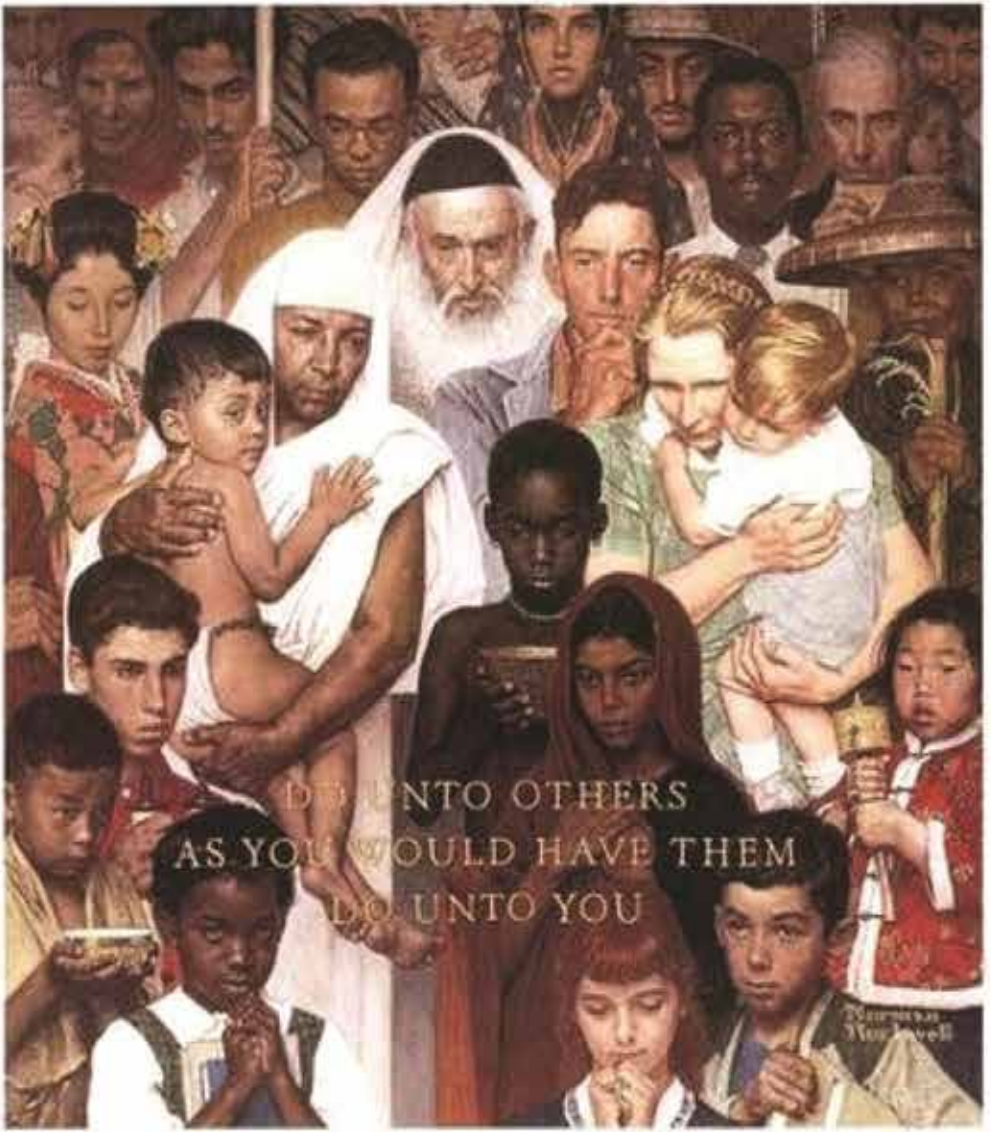
Prasham is an Indian ayurvedic herb, imported from India.

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