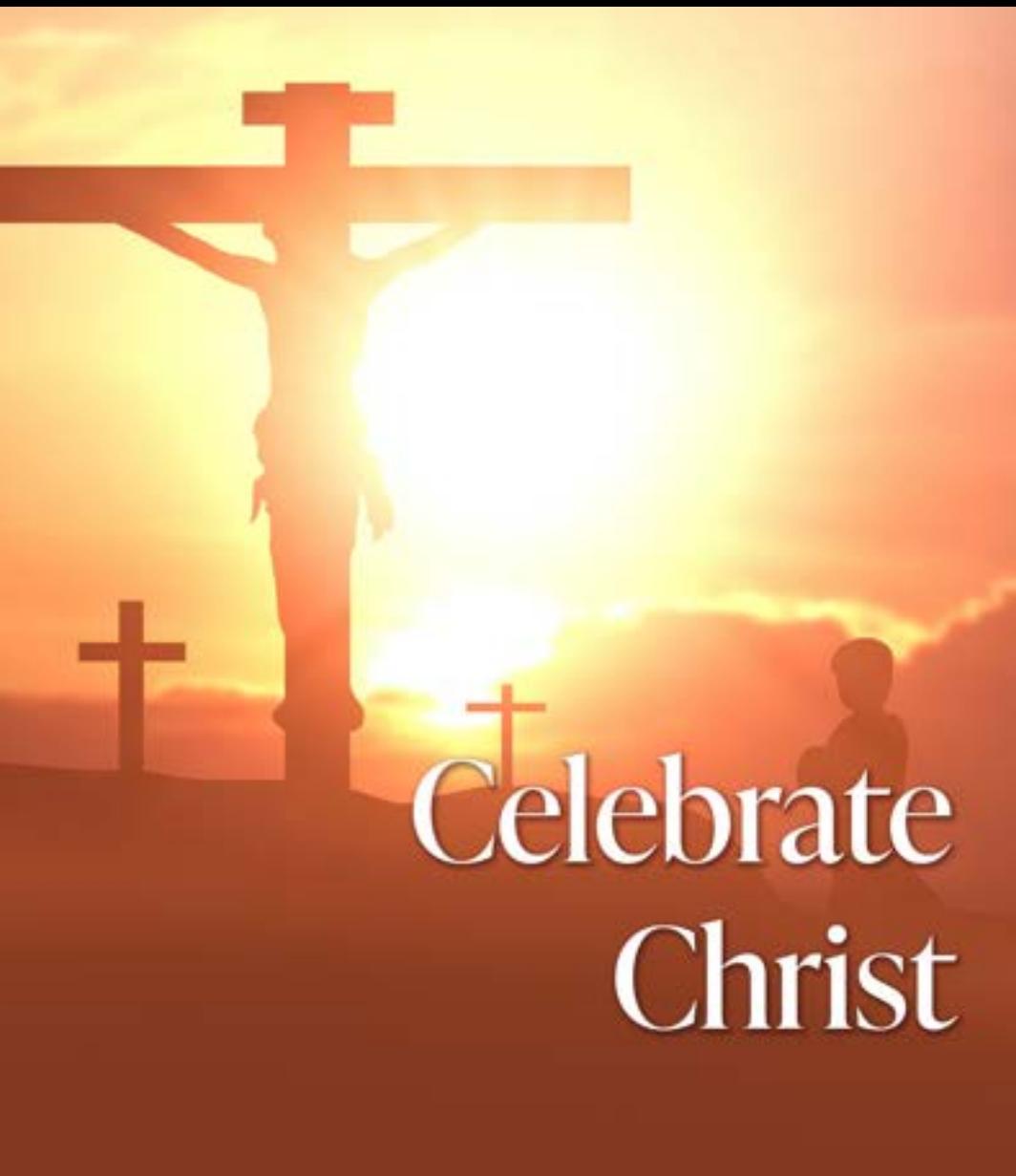


Braman Foundation of Charities REVIVE MAGAZINE

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

June/July 2023



Celebrate Christ

Braman Foundation of Charities Books Now Available

For a \$25 donation, you can receive one of the following books.

To donate online visit bramanfoundation.org, or mail a check to Braman Foundation of Charities, PO Box 4743, Queensbury, NY 12804. Please identify which book you would like to receive.



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

Dear Friends,

God bless you and welcome to our new Revive edition. It is such a glorious time in the church to be a witness to Christ's resurrection and to live in these days. We thank God for his providence, protection, and provision. May the resurrected Christ with you deepen your commitment to follow him and only Him.

This is the first issue in which we will combine all of the BFC news that Revive has usually featured, plus we are including our Discipleship Magazine with RWB Sermons and our Biblical Studies! We continue to feature short articles from Charles Spurgeon and A.B. Simpson.

BFC sadly features saying goodbye to the Queensbury Facility in this issue. Financial constraints have caused BFC to limit its services, therefore the Queensbury Facility was sold on April 13th, 2023.

BFC mission work continues and we especially ask that you pray for our Brothers and Sisters in Sudan and South Sudan. Government officials have caused uprisings that have left our embassies empty as well as restricted travel. So please pray for Sudan and South Sudan.

We are featuring for the first time through the BFC's community regarding the work of the Holy Comforter in Poughkeepsie, NY. Since August 1st, 2022, reconstruction has been ongoing. We began worship in it's church in February 2023 and the Rectory is occupied. Work is beginning on the Community Centers.

Finally, we just are so grateful for the continuation of the BFC ministry. Always keeping in mind that we are here to glorify God and God alone.

Be ever blessed as you progress through your sanctification. Continue to depend on the Lord. Rejoice in the Lord always! Amen!

In Divine Love & Peace
BFC



HOLY COMFORTER
ORTHODOX CHURCH

Join us for

Discipleship | Tuesday 7pm
Bible Study | Thursday 7pm

The 2023 Scripture:

“Lord, I thank you that no weapon formed against me shall prosper and every tongue that accuses you in judgment will be condemned. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord and their vindication is from me, declares the Lord.”

Isaiah 54:17

BFC Revive Magazine

Writers
BFC, Inc.

Editors
Francis Crandall

Art & Design
Tori Ranken

We know Christ Rose from the Dead (Easter)

“Now is Christ risen from the dead.”

-I Cor.15:20

Text is chosen from I Cor.15:20; “Now is Christ risen from the dead.” As is recorded in Luke 24:10,11; “Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary, the mother of Jesus, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles; but these words seemed to them as idle-talk, and they did not believe them.”

These women were telling the eleven apostles of Jesus’ resurrection and it seemed to them nonsense. Just how that could be I don’t understand. How could they have followed him through a period of (2) or (3) years, become intimate with him as Leader and Master, heard him teach and preach and engage in casual conversation, seen him doing good and observed- even afar off – his death upon the cross- and then believe that his life was ended? Apparently, they did not fully understand what Jesus had been teaching them over the years of his ministry.

The New Testament is a book of singing triumph, telling of a victory over life’s worst; of a victory which changed forever our understanding of life and God, and of what we can become at God’s hands.

See the transformation that came in these eleven disillusioned, beaten men - the disciples. They came to realize that the Jesus whom they had lived with, and whom they had loved, still loved. His body had been broken. His dead body had been sealed in a tomb. But that was not the end! The

Spirit which had used the body to reveal God’s purpose still lived; it was still real to them; it still companioned with them. In that realization, these men went out to live for him with far more power after Jesus’ death than when they had simply known him in the flesh. And the Christian faith empowered by the resurrection experience, was on its way down the centuries.

The resurrection of Jesus is not just an incident in the life of a man to be accepted by others as true or false. It is an event in context which includes the creation of man, the sweep of history, the redemption and salvation of man, victory won over evil and death. It is a revelation of God’s purpose and will. It is an exhibition of God’s righteousness and justice. It is a disclosure of God’s love and a manifestation of his power.

It is a profound thing, which was written by of all people, George Bernard Shaw, in a letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury: “I rate a man or a church, not by the reasons they give for things, but by the things for which they give reasons.” Our faith is not in the reasons we give for things but in the experiences for which we impelled to give reasons. The experience of Easter comes first. The finding of reasons for it comes afterward. The experience is the response to the tremendous affirmation that Christ has brought life and immortality to light.

Yes, many of us say, "We know that Christ rose from the dead," in the same spirit. As was Paul's, when he said this, as recorded in 1 Timothy 1:12: "I know whom I have believed, and I am assured that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me." We no longer need proof of the resurrection. We no longer need explanations. We know that Christ is risen and now alive, because we encounter him, not as we encounter George Washington and Abraham Lincoln as characters in a book, but as a living power in our lives.

Nor is our statement, "We know that Christ rose from the dead," pure dogmatism. We have our doubts.

We accuse ourselves of credulity and wishful thinking. We question our convictions and all the time we go on living in the knowledge and power of the resurrection. Not to believe, not to be convinced, not to know, would deny too much. Life would lose its luster. And so, we say in faith, with conviction and with knowledge based upon the living Christ in the experiences of men - "Now is Christ risen from the dead."

Perhaps we cannot really prove it to others that Christ is not dead, that he is risen, but as Christians, and if we have really come to know him, we know that he has risen and that he is alive. We know what the resurrection means to us personally, because we have felt its power in our own lives. We have faith and we believe in Jesus' resurrection.

Call it what you will, this faith, this conviction, this knowledge has many results in our thinking and living. Here are some of them. First of all, we believe in the triumph of goodness. By this we also mean the triumph of love, of truth, of justice; for these are good. They are bound together.

Let one fall and they fall together. When Jesus rose from the dead there were myriads

of other victories implicit in the event. Our own victories over sin and death were there.

How could one expect to win by goodness and love, if he could not win, if his life ended with his burial in a garden tomb? Surely this was not the end of his life, but the very beginning. Even though Jesus was put to death by wrong thinking and acting people, and even though he died a terrible death, God make sure that in the end goodness and love always win out and prevail.

Goodness really does prevail, and in the end is the victor over evil and wrongdoing.

Secondly, we believe that life has meaning. Life is more than existence and extinction. Life and death are not enough. There is what Laredo Taft called, "the hint of eternity" in every human life. Jesus' resurrection is to that hint of eternity what the springtime sun is to the seed or bud in the garden. It grows, it expands, it flowers. Beyond life and death is eternal life. The hint grows into assurance.

Surely Jesus' resurrection guarantees to us Christians eternal life with God our Father. Without his resurrection, this life of ours would be meaningless and purposeless. But now we have new hope, new assurances, and a new life to look forward to.

By that assurance our daily acts are no longer futile. Paul's great chapter on the resurrection. (I Corinthians 15), climaxes in the words, "You know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." Every word and every act become significant.

By that assurance the relationships of life are not eternally severed. From II Timothy 1:10 we read, "by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light," we are assured of eternal life.

The church today needs to recapture the

faith of that first generation of Christian disciples. This faith transformed a desolate and broken group into a fearless band of missionaries, changed a Jewish Sabbath into a Lord's Day, transmuted a close-bound faith into a worldwide mission, and set faces alight with the inner assurance that Christ was alive in the heart of the believer.

We have assurance that imperfection shall move into perfection, incompleteness into completion. We find this life too short, something more must be given. Whether measured by time or some other standard of measurement, this something must be assured.

By Jesus' resurrection, we have discovered that this earthly life is short. Compared with our promise of everlasting eternal life, we discover that we need to make this earthly life really count for something. We suddenly realize that we are not perfect, that we are sinners in the sight of God. However, God will forgive us if we really are sorry and ask him for forgiveness. What a wonderful feeling to know that God loves us regardless of what our sins are. True, he is disappointed and wants us to become better persons, but he is still willing to give us another chance if we really repent and try to live a better life. And thirdly, we believe in the power of the resurrection. The power of the resurrection is a phrase from Paul's writings as recorded in Philippians 3:10, "that I may know him and the power of his resurrection."

Of course, the power of the resurrection includes that of which we have spoken; it is power to triumph over evil; it is the power to give life meaning, but it is more. It is the power which comes to men through the presence of the living Christ in their midst. By his presence, all the small powers we possess are enlarged. A man's capacities for living, thinking, loving, and giving are marvelously increased. Courage, patience, and endurance become qualities of the personality. By the power of the

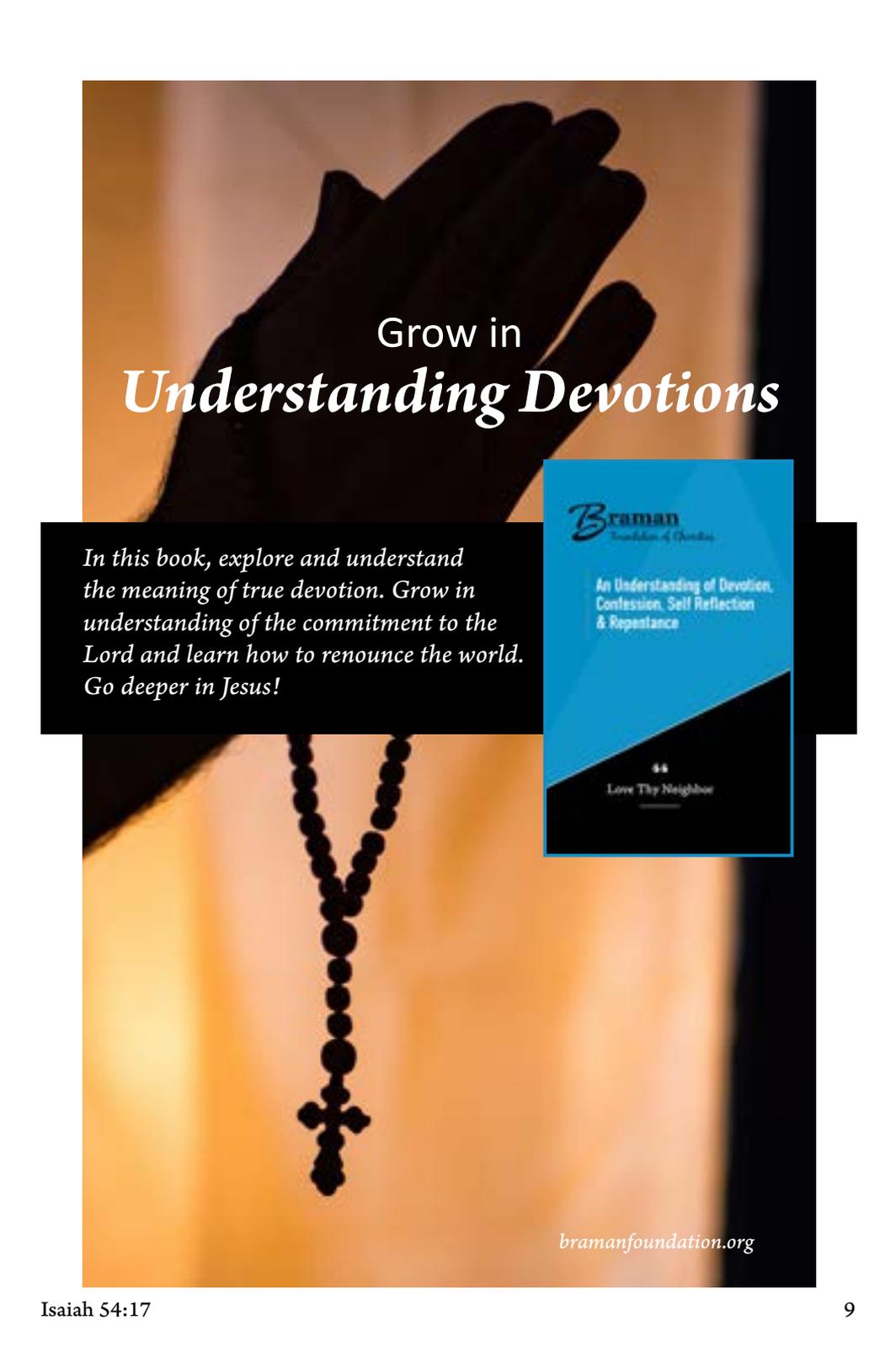
resurrection. A man can say, "thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Because of the power of the resurrection, Easter doesn't recede and fall away, but it is an everyday experience.

Paul writes that Christ was seen of him also. Now it could not have been that Paul saw Christ in the same way that his disciples saw him. He knew Christ as a power in his life. We may not see Christ as did the disciples, nor as Paul saw him on the Damascus Road, but in all sincerity, we can testify to his presence and power in our daily lives; not only on one day of the year, but on every day of the year. We truly do live in the power of the resurrection.

Carl F. Sleg, had this to say in an article in "The Upper Room": "As we were leaving the church one Easter Sunday evening, our small son asked, 'Daddy, what happened after Easter?' Having heard the news of the New Testament, 'He is risen,' he wanted to know what happened next. After all, to bring the curtain down with the trumpets blowing would be like ending a story just when it becomes interesting.

On this Easter day, what is our response to the day? So Jesus Christ is risen, what does it mean to you personally? Don't let it end there. Don't let Easter be a time of new clothing, and Easter eggs and the Easter Bunny. These things are alright, but they are only surface shows with no meaning and purpose. Now that you know Christ has risen and why, attach its meaning to your own life and make your response that of all Christians. It truly should be a response of joy, a response of confidence, a response of hope, a response of commitment. Dedicate your life to Jesus Christ and you will be amazed at the results.

A background image showing a hand in prayer with a rosary. The hand is raised with fingers together and thumb extended, holding a string of dark beads that ends in a cross. The background is a warm, blurred orange and yellow light.

Grow in *Understanding Devotions*

In this book, explore and understand the meaning of true devotion. Grow in understanding of the commitment to the Lord and learn how to renounce the world. Go deeper in Jesus!

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An Understanding of Devotion,
Confession, Self Reflection
& Repentance

44
Love Thy Neighbor

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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.*

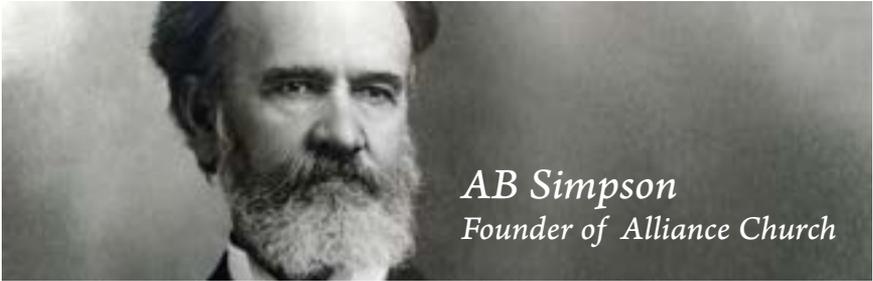
*“Behold, I knock at your door, open
up and come sit with me.”*

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



bramanfoundation.org

A Daily Devotional



This glad resurrection morning dispels from the religion of Jesus all the shadows of the sepulcher and all the morbid atmosphere of sorrow, depression and death. The Christ of true Christianity is not a bleeding, thorn-crowned Ecce Homo, but a glad and radiant face, bright as the springtide morning and radiant with immortal life. "I am he that liveth, and was dead," is His message, and "Behold! I am alive for evermore." Oh, may this day impress upon our hearts the reality of a Risen and Living Christ, until He shall be more actual to us than any other personality and we shall know what it means to be not only "reconciled to God by the death of His Son" but "much more we shall be saved by his life"!



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Biblical Studies

Christ is Risen

Matthew 28:10

And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. Then Christ said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they shall see Me."

Luke 24:30-31

And it came about that when He had reclined at the table with them, He took the bread and blessed it, and breaking it, He began giving it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight.

Luke 24:38-39

"Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and feet, that it is I Myself. Touch me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."



The question arises: why did Christ appear to His disciples? He also came to fulfill the prophecies written throughout the old testament. Jesus was carrying out His mission upon the Earth. Although many of His brothers are still waiting for the Messiah, many of us worship the Risen Lord.

Secondly, Christ established His church and taught His disciples how to carry out that message. Most of what Christ taught to His disciples was not recorded, but what we know is that as He descended into the kingdom the advocate, was sent, the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit in which we commune with and acknowledge daily. And so we believe Christ is with us through the Holy Spirit.

Now Jesus has asked us to preach this Gospel message to the ends of the earth. That Christ was born through a miracle of Divine conception in which He had no sin, Christ lived and preached forgiveness of sins and died and rose again. That those who believe will have eternal life and will reign in the kingdom with Christ. Christ sought that He came for those that were in need of a physician and that His yoke is easy and his burden light. He asked that we cast all our cares upon Him and grow in understanding.

Jesus was, and is, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords for this age. Spread the good-word. Amen.



To Believe in Easter (Easter Sunrise Service)

“The Lord is risen indeed.”

-Luke 24:34

Text is chosen from Luke 24:34; “The Lord is risen indeed.” All of us know what it is to observe Easter.

But let us think now of a matter far greater importance, namely, what it is to believe in Easter. Too many of us today celebrate things and occasion because it’s customary, and because everyone else does. Little do we realize why we are celebrating something. Sure, most of us know that Jesus Christ rose from the dead on Easter and that’s all we know about it. As Christians and so-called followers of Christ, I believe we should know what it means to believe in Easter.

In the first place, to believe in Easter is to believe in a triumphant God. Easter proclaims that God rules and reigns; that he is in the beginning and the end of all, and above all.

To believe in Easter is not only to believe in personal survival after death, it is to believe in the triumph of God in the universe itself. God, who created the heavens and earth is alive and unconquerable. His plans may be thwarted, they cannot be permanently defeated.

Unless one cares for the Father whom Jesus revealed, unless one shares his interest and likes the purpose on which his heart is set, Easter is nothing but a happy

festival. It’s victory of long ago declares so unmistakably who rules the world, and who succeeds in his world - not expedient. Pilate, not thieves, not cheaters, not persons who think they are getting away with something; for God truly does know our innermost thoughts as well as our natural actions.

To believe in Easter is to walk serenely in all circumstances of life with confidence that we are not alone, but that God is with us. It is to go into the “valley of the shadow of death and fear no evil.” It is to go forth on life missions, knowing that while we have to go, we don’t have to come back. It is to work and labor for life’s highest value - truth, beauty and goodness - freedom, justice and love, and know that we are not alone, but coworkers with God whose will is justice and whose heart is love. It is to know that “in all things we are more than conquerors.”

Easter affirms a universe into which Jesus fits, a spiritual world corresponding to his character - A universe in which plans discordant with his aims, motives offensive to his conscience, lives at variance with his love, are inevitably thwarted and fail. It gives assurance of victorious life to those who are in harmony with the purpose of his God.

To believe in Easter is to believe

unflinching in God.

Secondly, then again, to believe in Easter is to believe that Jesus of Nazareth, who lived and taught in Galilee, who shared with men a trust in God as Heavenly Father, healed the sick and transformed the sinful, was not only betrayed, tried and crucified, but is alive for evermore to bring light and life to all.

Knowledge of the living Christ comes to some one way and to some another, as the Gospels well illustrate. But whether it comes in an upper room, or at a lakeside, on a weary road, or in a restful garden, the unshakable truth is borne upon us that Christ is not dead, a mere incident in history, but a person to reckon with throughout all eternity. Truly Jesus Christ is a living Christ who lives forever.

The late Edgar DeWitt Jones tells of being in a company with a very dear kinsman standing on the sand dunes at Cape Henry. Here the waters of the Chesapeake Bay widen and deepen as they merge with the Atlantic Ocean. It was a gray, bleak day in middle autumn, the sun obscured by low-hanging clouds and a fine mist was falling. Back of them was a swamp, surrounded by a tangle of underbrush, from which the wild notes of a bird rose and fell in melancholy sadness. Off the ocean shore, a quarter of a mile distant, a bell buoy changed its warning signal at regular intervals.

Standing there on the sand dunes that somber afternoon, he saw a small schooner move proudly down the bay and turn her prow toward the misty deep. Silently they watched the little vessel until she merged with the misty distance and was lost to view. Then Dr. Jones spoke to his uncle. "What an adventure! So small a ship, so great an ocean." "No, not so much of an adventure as you think," replied the older man, "you see, the ocean is charted, there's

a navigator on board and a pilot. The strong likelihood is that the ship will reach her port, despite thick weather, storm and rough waves.

To believe in Easter is to believe in something more. It is to see not only the smallness of the vessel and the vastness of the ocean, but it is to also know the Pilot who has charted the way. Yes, God has charted our way of life, through his Son Jesus Christ. It is up to us to come to know him as our personal Lord and Savior and Jesus Christ will lead us all through life.

So, to believe in Easter is to know the power of a living Christ.

The world as we know it is packed with power. Kinetic energy and atomic power are being harnessed daily to speed man on his way, drive his engine and machines, send satellites around the earth, fight disease, overcome poverty and conquer time and distance. This fact of power holds within itself the possibilities and perils of modern life.

To believe in Easter is to know spiritual power. This is the power to be found in the living presence of Christ. This power expends itself in terms of moral and spiritual values; exercises itself in character and personality. In the days of Jesus' earthly ministry this power was known only in his presence. In the dawn of the first Easter, it was discovered that this power of Christ was still alive.

Paul called it, "the power of the resurrection." This is a renewing power available to every man. It affirms that no human situation, however bad is hopeless.

No alcoholic, no drug addict, goes so far that God does not care. No man ever sinks so deep in sin and selfishness that God forsakes and forgets him. No child is ever born into such poverty, wickedness, and

sin that he is beyond saving.

All we have to do is recognize our mistakes, our sins, repent of them, ask God for forgiveness and guidance and he will cleanse us and make us strong. Truly to believe in Easter is to know that there is a spiritual power that can always change and transform our lives. Thirdly - to believe in Easter is to hear not only good news about God, but also about man. Man can be saved, redeemed, reformed, born again. Man is brought to newness of life through the saving power of Jesus Christ.

Then, to, to believe in Easter is to believe in life everlasting. Just think of it, life that is from everlasting to everlasting. Do you see through the Easter message that death is not the end but just the beginning of a more full and beautiful life with our Father - God. To observe Easter is a social matter confined to the activities of a single day. To believe in Easter is to know a life that conquers death.

Here and now. The risen Lord says to everyone facing death, "let not your hearts be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my father's house are many rooms - I go and prepare a place for you - let not your hearts be troubled, Neither let them be afraid!"

Doctor Wernber von Braun, a scientist, had this to say; "Many people seem to feel that science has somehow made religious ideas untimely or old fashioned. But I think science has a real surprise for the skeptics. Science, for instance, tells us that nothing in nature, not even the tiniest particle, can disappear without a trace. Nature does not know extinction. All it knows is transformation.

Now, If God applies this fundamental principle to the most minute and insignificant parts of his universe, doesn't it make sense to assume that he applies

it also to the human soul? I think it does. And everything science has taught me - and continues to teach me - strengthens my belief in the continuity of our spiritual existence after death. Nothing disappears without a trace.

To believe in Easter is to live in a new kind of climate. Old things are passed away, behold all things become new. I know this is why God planned for the resurrection of our Lord in the Spring. What better corollary could be made that Spring, when everything in nature comes alive and Easter, when our Lord rose from the dead to go and be among the living. Truly our Lord is a loving Lord and dwells among us now and forever.

The late Bishop Francis J. McConnell says that as a boy, he was fascinated by a book in his father's library, filled with pictures of old dinosaurs and monstrous reptiles that once roamed the Earth; and that he used to wonder how they were got rid of in the end. Then, when he went to college, he found out; the climate changed; the old beast could no longer survive; And a new kind of life came upon the Earth. Yes, Easter truly is one of the greatest hours in the experience of man. Without Easter, our lives would be meaningless and purposeless, for we would have nothing to look forward to. Death would become to the victory. So let us more than observe Easter. Let us believe in Easter and not just on this day, but every day. And let us give thanks unto God for this greatest of all, great events in history.

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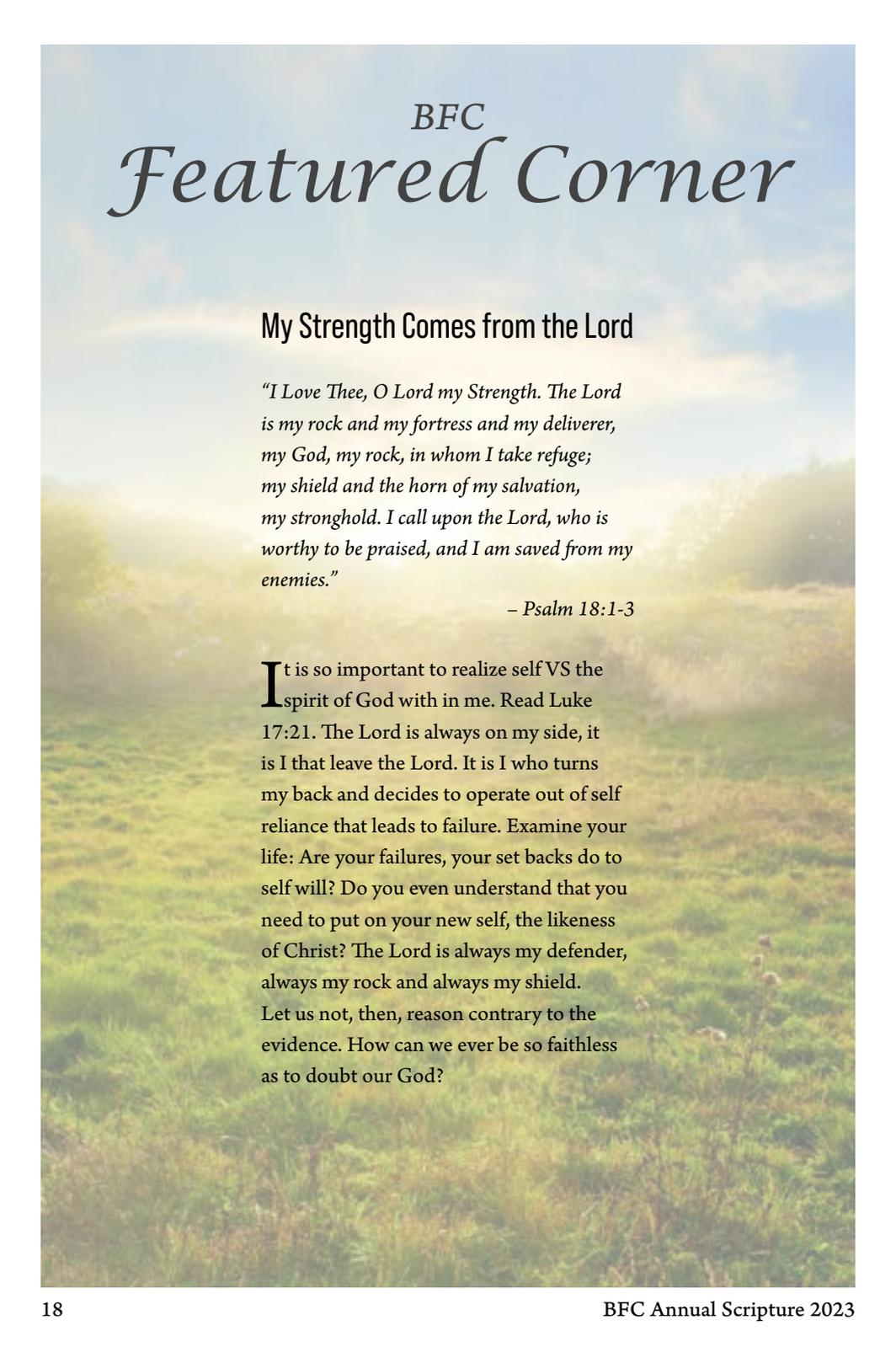
— The —
Mid Week Message

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“Lord, I thank you that no weapon formed against me shall prosper and every tongue that accuses you in judgment will be condemned. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord and their vindication is from me, declares the Lord.”

Isaiah 54:17



BFC
Featured Corner

My Strength Comes from the Lord

“I Love Thee, O Lord my Strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.”

– Psalm 18:1-3

It is so important to realize self VS the spirit of God with in me. Read Luke 17:21. The Lord is always on my side, it is I that leave the Lord. It is I who turns my back and decides to operate out of self reliance that leads to failure. Examine your life: Are your failures, your set backs do to self will? Do you even understand that you need to put on your new self, the likeness of Christ? The Lord is always my defender, always my rock and always my shield. Let us not, then, reason contrary to the evidence. How can we ever be so faithless as to doubt our God?

Worship Service

Call: 845-471-2286

Sunday | 10:30 am

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.



HOLY COMFORTER
ORTHODOX CHURCH

11-13 Davies Place
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

For more information email: info@bramanfoundation.org

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.



News: We are working with Green Haven in Stormville, NY.

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



The Four Gospel in Four Words

“If we live in the spirit, let us also walk in the spirit.”

-Galatians 5:25

Our text is taken from Galatians 5:25; “If we live in the spirit, let us also walk in the spirit.” To find the secret of life, which is full, rich, strong, confident, and abundant is the great quest of the 20th century. In a time that has had more crises and catastrophes than any other in the history of the modern world, people seem increasingly unable to stand up to these crises and catastrophes with courage and confidence. And so, the Christian gospel comes to us with its mighty message of hope, compact of promise and challenge: “If we live in the spirit, let us also walk in the spirit.” Life’s crises are transfigured into dangerous but thrilling opportunities when we confront them courageously in the fullness of faith.

The four Gospels present a single gospel of fullness of life through Christ, and I would like this evening to sum it up in four words. The first word is “admit.” New life begins when we admit Jesus Christ into the place of authority and control in our hearts. It begins with decision. It begins with personal dedication, the giving of ourselves to the Savior. Life begins when we accept God’s promises of salvation provided through his son, Jesus Christ.

Our lives will be changed once Christ is admitted into them. Our lives will take on new meaning and purpose and we will find ourselves looking forward to the future through new eyes, new thoughts of new deeds. Jesus Christ is just waiting for you

to admit him into your life. Don’t turn your back or close the door. Open it and feel his presence in your life.

The second word is “submit.” Submit means you must humble yourself under the mighty hand of God. It means consecration. In Bethlehem’s Church of the Nativity there is a doorway so low that no one can enter without bowing down. The Christian life is like that.

Most of us are pretty proud persons and we do not like to admit our mistakes, admit that we are wrong. But if we are to become the Christians Christ expects us to become we must humble ourselves before him admitting we are sinners, confessing our sins, and ask for forgiveness. We have to submit our lives to him as we are realizing these things and asking for his loving-kindness and forgiveness. When we finally become big enough to really and truly submit our lives to him, then we are on the road that leads to God.

Our third word is “commit.” Let us walk in the spirit. And now the inner life becomes the outer life. Conduct becomes the outward expression of inward conviction. We commit our way unto the Savior who is our Guide in our daily life as well as our Savior from sin. David Livingstone put it in these words, “Without him not one step, but with him anywhere.”

This is a hard word. “If any man will

come after me,” says our leader, Christ, “let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” This is no easy thing. Can we sacrifice our pride? Can we sacrifice our status? Can we sacrifice personal prestige among men in order to follow Christ. Let us never underestimate the difficulty of this great word “commit”. When you commit your way unto Christ it is a sacrificial matter.

Self-sacrifice is a distinctly Christianity principle, and it is that which distinguishes Christianity from every other religion in the world. No other religion is based on self-denial. “Know thyself,” said the Greek religions. “Assert thyself,” said Mohammad. “Hide thyself,” said Buddha. “Deny thyself,” said Jesus. A candle has no glory and gives no light when it is not burning. A man amounts to nothing when he saves himself. The real test of life is self-sacrifice.

It is true that becoming a Christian and committing our lives to him is not easy, especially in our modern world today, but the rewards that are obtained will far outweigh any thing that we may have to give up. We can never expect to get to something good, something worthwhile, for nothing. I might also add that when you commit your life to Christ, it is your whole life which includes every moment of everyday. You cannot be just a Sunday morning Christian. He requires your whole being.

The fourth word is “transmit,” When the love of Christ lives in our hearts then we must express it in word and purpose and in deed. A life of faith becomes a life of service. When we have experienced the riches of the love of Christ, we share because we care. We transmit the “Good News.”

This is what happen to people who really accept Christ into their lives, they must

go out and tell others of the wonderful experience and feeling. Witnessing becomes a part of their Christian living. There will be no doubts, there will be not reticence because Christ is with you showing you how and what to do.

And so, I believe that once you admit Jesus Christ into your heart you will submit yourself or humble yourself before him which in time will cause you to commit your life into his hands and eventually you will end up transmitting this “Good News” to all people everywhere. This is the message of the four (4) gospels, a message that comes directly from God through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As we partake of the elements of Holy Communion this night, let us remember the supreme sacrifice Jesus Christ made for our sakes. Let us dedicate our lives, if we haven’t already or rededicate them if we have before, to him who is our personal Lord and Savior. Let our minds turn to him so that we can feel his presence here with us this night. Being a Christian isn’t easy, but it is rewarding. Be the Christian God wants you to be and that you profess to be, not just on Sundays but every moment of everyday.



Queensbury Facility

We Say Goodbye

After 3 years we say a bittersweet goodbye to our Queensbury Facility. As of April 20th, BFC has sold the property and said goodbye to the women who helped care and run our facility. We thank the Pine Knolls Church for all their prayers and support regarding the Queensbury Ministry, We extend heartfelt prayers to those who have been a part of our ministry. We thank the Lord for allowing us the time we had in our Queensbury home and pray He continues to guide all those who have passed through the facility.

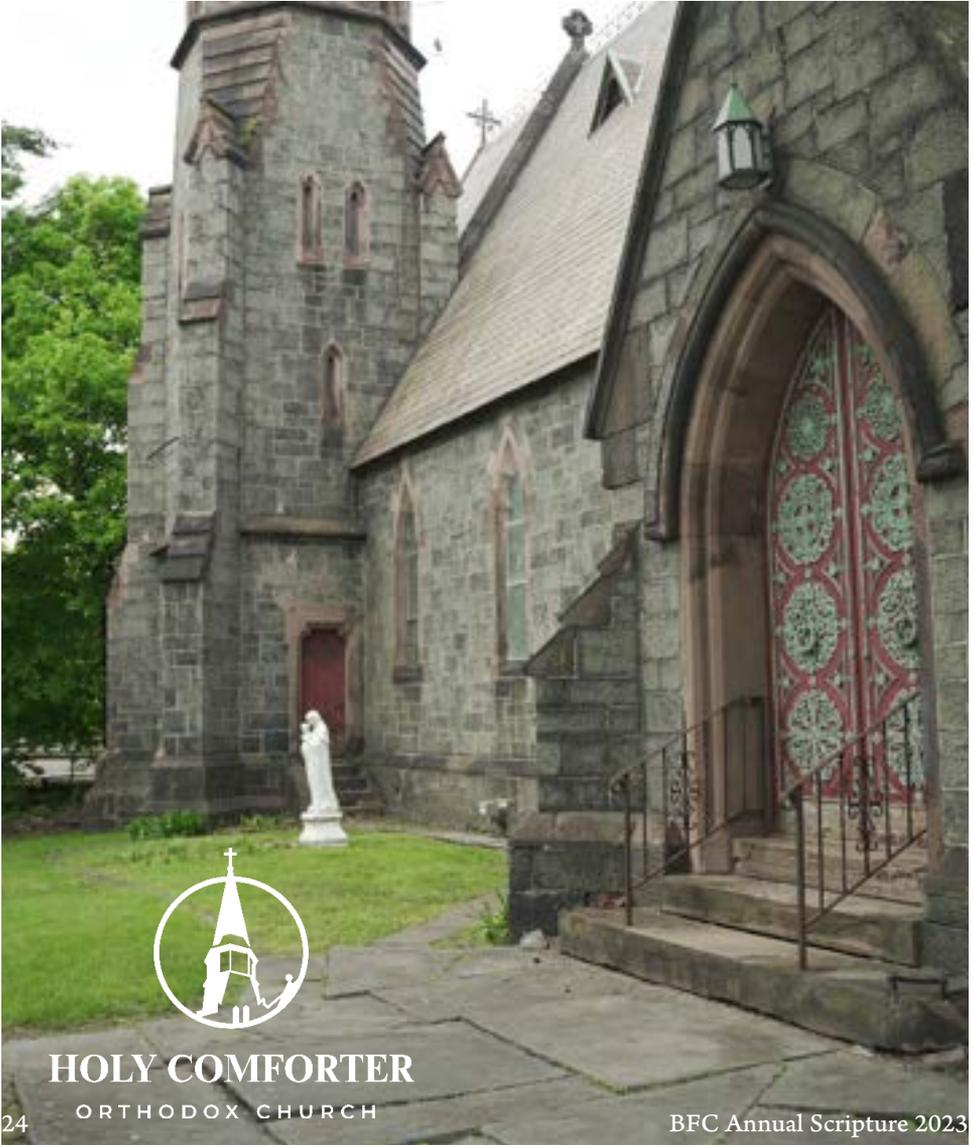
Special Shout-out!

Thank you Charmaine, Laurel, Sue, Ashley, and Patsy!

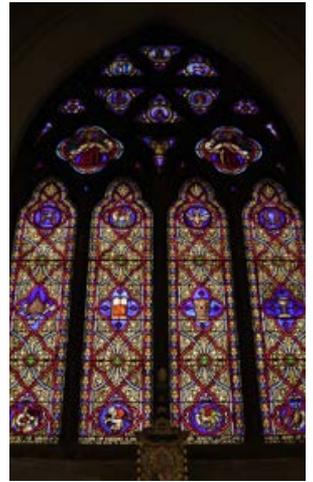


The Holy Comforter

With one chapter closed, we follow Christ into our next phase with the Holy Comforter in Poughkeepsie. We thank Him as we enter our new opportunity, and our new home, to spread His word.



HOLY COMFORTER
ORTHODOX CHURCH



The Holy Comforter

Current Services Provided

Join us at the Holy Comforter Church for

Worship

SUNDAY | 10:30 AM



The Rectory provides

Guest rooms for missionaries & church members.



Discipleship Study

TUESDAY | 7PM

Bible Study

THURSDAY | 7PM

NEW

Our Tears Orphans

Missions: Sierra Leone

MISSIONS

Say hello to Pastor Joseph Koroma and the number of children. He ministers through the Our Tears Orphans in Sierra Leone. For several years we have had our friend Fudia Sesay seek to travel to Sierra Leone. With our purpose of ministry we could justify the trip. Now we may go and are waiting on the Lord. Please pray as BFC makes a plan to travel to Sierra Leone.



Sudan & South Sudan

Missions: Africa

Sudan is currently experiencing armed conflict, civil unrest and the volatile security situation. All airports are closed to commercial flights. All overland travel is extremely hazardous.

Sudan has been very dangerous since fighting broke out between the army and paramilitary forces on April 15, 2023. Heavy gunfire and explosions have occurred across the country, resulting in numerous casualties, including civilians. Foreigners and staff of international organizations have been targeted. Access to essential services is disrupted. Most hospitals are out of service. Access to basic necessities such as food, water, medication, and fuel is increasingly challenging. The telecommunication network is unreliable.

Sudan remains without a functioning government following a seizure of power by the military on October 25, 2021, and the resignation of the prime minister on January 2, 2022.

Frequent demonstrations are continuing to take place in various cities, particularly in Khartoum and Omdurman.



C&MA

Missions: India

Words from C&MA Summer Camp Speaker:

Dear All,

Greetings to all of you.

Praise God that we all reached safely back to our home yesterday night. I thank God for the great success of this camp.

We all experienced the presence of our Almighty God in each session. Holy spirit was moving in the hear of the children and I Praise God for the children and youth who accepted Jesus Christ and decided to follow Christ.

All Glory to God for the successful Summer Camp at Mount Abu Rajasthan.

I congratulate to Rev.Yakub and his wife , Sanjay Bhai and his children and all the Teachers and Leaders who worked whole heartedly for this camp.

Congratulations to C&MA for organizing such type of camp for the children.

In His Service,
Elvis S bariya



Asapalli

Missions: India

Asapalli is adding new classrooms and an auditorium!

BFC will sponsor the Asapalli VBS happening in December from the 14th -18th.

Charles Rymbai, the school administrative director, is in the state of Hyderabad, adding a seminar and food distribution.

A devotional hall is also under construction at Asapalli. BFC is to donate and the building is to be dedicated to BFC. Charles Rymbai is planning to tread to us for a visit.



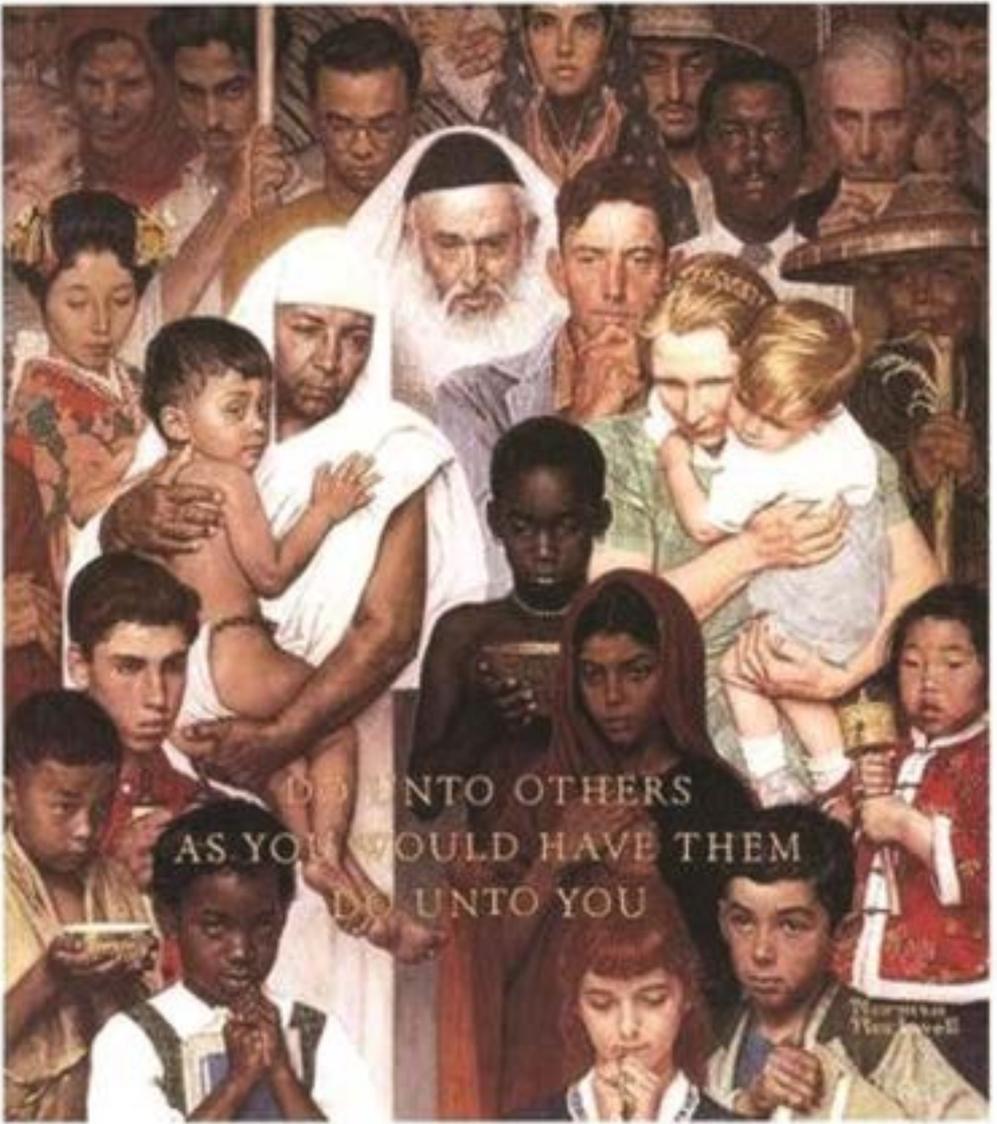
SPURGEON'S CORNER



Once more—the resurrection of Christ is operating at this present time with a quickening power on all who hear the word aright. The sun is, to the vegetable world, a great source of growth. In this month of April he goes forth with life in his beams and we see the result.

The buds are bursting, the trees are putting on their summer dress, the flowers are smiling and even the seeds which we buried in the earth are beginning to feel the vivifying warmth. They see not the Lord of day but they feel his smile. Over what an enormous territory is the returning sun continually operating! How potent are his forces when he crosses the line and lengthens the day!

Such is the risen Christ. In the grave he was like the sun in his winter solstice but he crossed the line in his resurrection. He has brought us all the hopes of spring and is bringing us the joys of summer. He is quickening many at this hour and will yet quicken myriads. This is the power with which the missionary goes forth to sow; this is the power in which the preacher at home continues to scatter the seed. The risen Christ is the great producer of harvests. By the power of his resurrection men are raised from their death in sin to eternal life.



NORMAN ROCKWELL
"DO UNTO OTHERS"

Braman
Foundation of Charities