

*B*raman *Foundation of Charities*  
REVIVE MAGAZINE

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

March / April 2024



# BFC *Featured Corner*

## Overcoming Self

Throughout our cultures, we are called to be strong, to promote self, to “standout” and be proud. This is contrary to our lives in Christ. We as disciples of Jesus, are called to renounce self, and the attributes there of.

However, these inner tenacities cannot be renounced through our own effort. It is only through God’s grace that we can renounce our self. Grace can only be given through our confession and repenting of self, our nature in sin. Through this process, grace is forever given to the one that confesses, and the manifestation of our true inner nature acted on. We must learn that our nature of self-manifests: hostility, jealousy, anger, selfish ambition, divisions, envy and dissension. This is not our “New-Self” in Christ.

Our nature in Christ is: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Many of us will surely agree that we are manifesting both our true nature and our nature in self. Ask “Am I manifesting more of my nature in Christ or my self-nature, my old nature? Learn to put on your new nature in Christ. Renounce yourself or old nature through repetition and consistency.

Surrender and “empty out” your inner self nature and allow your new nature to rule your inner self. Therefore, you will be a new creation in Christ:

Born a new.

*Praise the lord,*  
BFC

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# *BFC Editorial*

Dear Friends,

We welcome you into the Lenten / Easter season. In our issue we have added some writings from Charles Spurgeon that shows why Roman Catholics take offense from his sermons.

Regardless, in this season of Lent you are encouraged to deepen your devotions with the Lord. Grow in Holy listening and seek deeper forgiveness, and grow in true spiritual victory.

In a world so filled, seemingly with constant news, the fast pace of social media platforms, and such violence world wide, we encourage you to retreat and grow in silence.

In this issue we will continue to show you the Lord's work through our continued efforts in our mission works.

In our community programs we continue to grow with the Holy Comforter Church in Poughkeepsie, NY. The rectory is completed and we have been working on the interior of the church. We seek your prayers and continued financial support.

The ministry of the Holy Comforter is growing as we implement our evangelism plans with Operation Blessing Bag.

The RWB sermons continue to be digitized as Sandra Torrant has just completed number 239. This project includes 338 sermons and some additional writings from Richard W. Braman.

And so we thank you so much for your continued prayers. As you enter this Easter season may the Lord deeply bless you and may you grow in a deeper understanding of what the love of Christ is in your life and loved ones lives.

Happy Easter  
Faithfully Yours,  
BFC



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ORTHODOX CHURCH

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**Discipleship | Tuesday 7pm**  
**Bible Study | Thursday 7pm**



## 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

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*BFC Revive Magazine*

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# To Believe in Easter (Easter Sunrise Service)

*“The Lord is risen indeed”*

- Luke 24:34

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 unflinchingly 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 musty 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 dry 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.



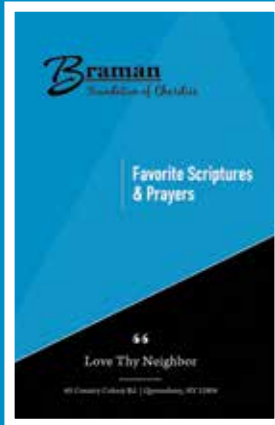
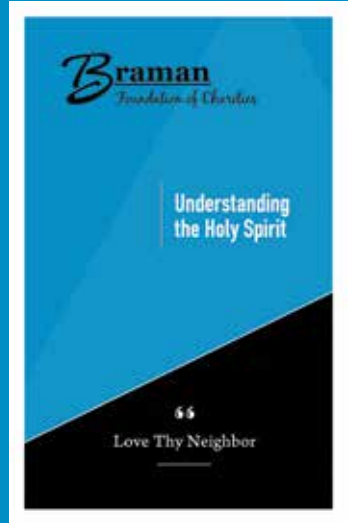
## Available Now

### Understanding the Holy Spirit

Spend time in memorizing the scriptures, go as they come to you, or circumstance warrant, you can simply “come back” to them, go to speak in your mind. Enjoy this work and pass it on! Mainly grow in your understanding and commitment to practice the presence of the Holy Spirit.

### Available Now:

These pieces have been registered with the Library of Congress.



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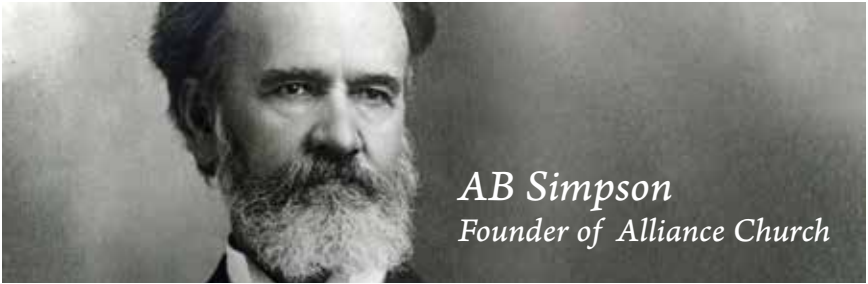
“Seek ye first the Kingdom of God”  
- Matt 6:33

### Interested in ordering a copy?

These are available to purchase on our website, visit [www.bramanfoundation.org](http://www.bramanfoundation.org). You may also send a check for \$25 and your mailing information to:

The Braman Foundation, PO Box 5148, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602

# *A Daily Devotional*



*AB Simpson  
Founder of Alliance Church*

## *“Breathing Out and Breathing In”*

Jesus, Breathe Thy Spirit on me,  
Teach me how to breathe Thee in,  
Help me pour into Thy bosom  
All my life of self and sin.

I am breathing out my own life,  
That I may be filled with Thine;  
Letting go my strength and  
weakness,  
Breathing in Thy life divine.

Breathing out my sinful nature,  
Thou hast borne it all for me;  
Breathing in Thy cleansing  
fullness,  
Finding all my life in Thee.

I am breathing out my sorrow,  
On Thy kind and gentle breast;  
Breathing in Thy joy and comfort,  
Breathing in Thy peace and rest.

I am breathing out my longings,  
In Thy list'ning loving ear,  
I am breathing in Thy answers,  
Stilling every doubt and fear.

I am breathing every moment,  
Drawing all my life from Thee;  
Breath by breath I live upon Thee,  
Blessed Spirit, breathe in me.

# Biblical Studies

## God Protects the Lowly

### 1 Corinthians 1:27

“God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised, God has chosen, the things that are not that He may nullify the things that are, that no man should boast before God.



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

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# BFC Commentary

## God Protects the Lowly

### 1 Corinthians 1:27

*“God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised, God has chosen, the things that are not that He may nullify the things that are, that no man should boast before God.”*

God uses those people and situations to make his point. That no man can boast that before God look what I did. It is the broken that He moved: Saul that became Paul, King David the weakest of his siblings, Moses an orphan and all were murders. Yet God used them mightily. The same is today.

You can not decide to move God in a direction for God can not be mocked. Remember we are the God of Abraham, Issac and Jacob. This creation is His, God is in control. We are here today and gone tomorrow. We are mere puppets on the string of God’s Creation. Yield to what the Holy Spirit is seeking through you. We know we are to love God, love our neighbors and to love ourselves for this is His great commandment.

In our modern era we spend a lot of energy trying to satisfy what the world may call success. Yet the Lord is calling to renounce the world, grow in helping and loving your neighbor.

Be at peace where the Lord has stationed you in life. Back off on striving to be more, to have more and satisfy your ego driven

instincts.

And yes, you are given free will, yet look at the life of Christ and how even to the death on the cross He was obedient. And at the same time Christ is calling us to be more like him.

What are you afraid of, and why do you not want to get your hands dirty. The Lord needs you to reach out to others. Give unto others as you would have them give unto you.

As you begin your Lenten Season and move into Easter try to allow the Holy Spirit to reveal a way in which you can overcome yourself and thus be a conduit through which the spirit may move.

Its OK to be lowly and not measure up to the worldly standards. Christ told the truth and they crucified Him. Be ever blessed this easter season.

Happy Easter,  
BFC Writers

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# Inspire

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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 is the Braman Foundation of Charities logo with the word 'Inspire' in a script font. Below the logo is the text 'A Monthly E-Commerce Newsletter by Braman Foundation of Charities'. The main content is titled 'BFC Thanksgiving Greetings' and includes a quote from 2 Corinthians 9:9: 'For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich.' This is followed by a paragraph reflecting on the meaning of Thanksgiving and the Lord's sacrifice. Below this are two columns of text. The left column is titled 'Thankful:' and includes a quote from Psalm 9:10: 'I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart, I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.' It also includes a quote from 1 Thessalonians 5:18: 'Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Jesus Christ our Lord.' The right column is titled 'Thankfulness Leads to Witnessing Psalm 9:10:' and includes a quote from Philippians 4:6-7: 'Do not be anxious about anything, but in every anxiety, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Jesus Christ.' At the bottom of the newsletter is an 'Inspirational Quotation' from Lamentations 3:22: 'And whatever you do, whether in word or in deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.' The footer of the newsletter includes navigation links: 'Home | About BFC | Prayer Requests | Literature | Registration' and 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*  
*St. Francis of Assisi Prayer*



Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,  
Grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled as to console;  
To be understood, as to understand;  
To be loved, as to love;  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

Amen.

RWB Sermons

# We know Christ Rose from the Dead (Easter)

*“Now is Christ risen from the dead.”*

-I Cor.15:20

The New Testament is a book of singing triumph, telling of a victory over life's worst; of a victory which hanged 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

Lamentations 3:22-24

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 1Timothy 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 our 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. Sueg, 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 and 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.



HOLY COMFORTER  
ORTHODOX CHURCH

## Operation Blessing Bag

Blessing Bags are a way to come to the aide of those in need and using this time to evangelize with people in their community; come along side them, and bring them to the Lord.

**DONATE TODAY!**  
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# 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: Pray as we meet with Dutchess County Jail in Poughkeepsie, NY.

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



# The Holy Comforter

February marks one full year that the Holy Comforter is offering its services in the Church Building. This construction started in the rectory on August 1st 2022 and now continues in the church. Despite all the challenges we lean on the Lord for our direction. Ministerial Services have continued and are growing as we work through the construction process.

We thank God for our new organ that was installed in early December. We are blessed to have our Music Director/Organist, Erik M. Erik is able to play a wide range from Traditional Church Hymns to Classical Mozart, Bach, and Tchaikovsky. We have also finished laying the new flooring of the church.

Please continue to remember to lift us up in your prayers as we move through the construction phase.

We are also launching our Evangelism programs to get the word out into the community that we are open for the salvation of all. We will be offering “ Hot Dog Days “ in our local park. We have ordered a Tent and we are hopeful that we can get out in community and share the Love of Christ. Additionally, we are getting to know our local business and asking if we can place signage regarding The Holy Comforter. We continue on with Operation Blessing Bag as well.

“Our Community Meetings are thriving as we come together to forge new friendships within our community and share our spiritual journey with the Lord. May we continue to be guided by His presence and form new connections and friendships within our community.





HOLY COMFORTER  
ORTHODOX CHURCH

845-471-2286 | [holycomforterny.org](http://holycomforterny.org)

## Join us at the Holy Comforter Church for Worship

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.



The Rectory provides

Guest rooms for missionaries.



### Discipleship Study

TUESDAY | 7PM

### Bible Study

THURSDAY | 7PM

13 Davies Place, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

# Wipe Our Tears Orphans

## Missions: Sierra Leone

BFC's latest mission support is in Sierra Leone. We thank Fudia Braman for her generosity in working with BFC to bring this to fruition. Wipe Our Tears Orphans supports 20 orphans and 7 widows. BFC supports this work through financial support as well as their ministries, as they are using the BFC curriculums. Paste Joe Korma is their leader and we are grateful that the Lord has brought them to BFC.



# Elderly Care Program

## Missions: Kenya

The BFC Elderly Care Program continues to serve the elderly in the Rigori region of Kenya. Jomo Otieno and his team tirelessly are serving 9 elders and orphans, 6 days a week.

All meals are made through the generosity of Mama Sara, Jomo's Wife. Please pray for the team as they continue to seek more elders to support.





# Asapalli

## Missions: India

### A Letter From Charles Rymbai:

Greetings to you in the matchless name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I trust you and your family are doing well by His Grace. I thank the Lord for all the churches, individuals, friends and well-wishers in the US for constantly remembering Asapalli Ministry in your prayers. I believe it is through everyone prayer support, during those challenging time we had with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India regarding the FCRA Registration; God was faithful.

He stood with Asapalli Mission knowing that it still has much to do for the extension of His Kingdom here in India. Besides all odds and challenges we faced throughout the year I am grateful that we were able to accomplish important development initiatives. For the academic session 2022-2023, I am indeed thankful to God and all of you for your prayer support that enabled us to attain our FCRA registration, I am also glad to briefly share with you some of the activities conducted and the accomplishments for the session 2022 - 2023.

### Activity Reports from Charles Rymbai:

The new session started from 3rd April, 2023 and classes have been going on in full swing along with other co-curricular activities. At present, the school has a total strength of 1036 students from Nursery to Class XII with 46 teaching and non-teaching staff. Additionally, there are 40 employees supporting the hostel management.

### Program Activities of the Organization -

#### 1. Observation of Important Days:

International Women's Day Sports Event was conducted by the Office of the Sub Divisional Officer SDO (Civil) on 4th and 5th April. 17 students participated and won prizes in all the categories.

Science and Technology Day was observed on 11th May, 2023.

Art Competition was conducted for the observation of World Environment Day on 6th June 2023.

Meri Maati Mera Desh was observed on 14th August, 2023 by planting 20-25 tree saplings in the locality by the NCC (National Cadet Corps) Cadets.

#### 2. Events and Meetings:

Parent-Teacher Meet for the students of Nursery to Class XII was conducted in the month of April and May 2023 through six separate sessions

Farewell Program for the students of Class X and Class XII was conducted in the month of April 2023.



Observed Good Friday & Easter Sunday: The Asapalli dwellers students, staff and families join together in observing and celebrating Good Friday and Easter Sunday 2023 followed by an Easter Feast together.

Dedication of School Building in Memory of Redmills Baptist Church USA by Rev. Lalhuoplien Hmar, Chairman of the Board of Trustees in the presence of the Board Members and MC Members, students and staffs of both the school and hostel on 31st July 2023, followed by the Thanksgiving Feast for all the participants in the program.

Freshers Meet was conducted for Class XI on 19th August 2023. Shri Lakshyajeet Gogoi, Assistant Commissioner, Lakhipur Sub-Division was the Chief Guest.

Visitation and Meeting at the Office of the Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi in the month of April, July and September 2023 to pursue the matter related to FCRA registration.

Annual Sports Week and Social Week was conducted from 20th to 25th November 2023.

Bible Class & Sunday School Examination: Asapalli Christian Hostel conducted its Annual Bible Class & Sunday School Examination 2023 where more than 200 hundred students of 10 different classes participated and the performances were outstanding, in which several students were awarded with prizes for their outstanding performances.

Annual Board Meeting was held on 9th December 2023. All board members participated in the meeting.

Vacation Bible School was organized from 12th to 16th December 2023. In which more than 200 students took part and a team of 7 members from the Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) led the whole event.

Both unit tests and the half yearly exam has been conducted according to the School and Board Calendar.

### 3. Training, Orientation, Seminar and Awareness Programs:

Orientation Program was conducted for the teachers of Primary and Senior Secondary in the month of April – May 2023

Teachers Training Program on National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 was conducted by Dr. Aparna Bhattacharjee, Principal, Teachers Training College, Silchar on 29th April 2023

Life Skills Seminar for students of Class IX to XII was conducted by Mrs. Sharon Dennis, Master in Psychology on 4th May 2023

Awareness Program on G-20 Summit was conducted on 18th May 2023 by NCC Cadets

Orientation and Training Program to the NCC Cadets was organized on 25th May 2023. The resource person was Col. Amod Chandna, CO, 3rd Assam Bn NCC.

Participation in Seminars related to FCRA, Income Tax and GST at Hyderabad organized by CIM (Christian Institute of Management) and at Kolkata organized by NCD (Navjivan Centre for Development) in the month of May and August 2023.

## Success Stories / Achievements / Development

1. Boring well for water supply to the hostel is completed in the month of April 2023.
2. Received the permission from the Assam Higher Secondary Education Council to start Higher Secondary Education at Asapalli English Senior Secondary School on the 26th April 2023. Received Final Registration from the Director of Secondary Education Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Govt. of Assam on 30th May 2023.
3. School Building construction for the extension of classrooms of class XI & XII (Arts Stream), Student Library Room and Girls' Common Room was completed on 30th July 2023
4. Received grant from the Northeastern Council in collaboration with the Khasi Jaintia Development Council and Barak Valley Khasi Jaintia Welfare Organization for the extension and beautification of the existing playground. The work started from July to November 2023.
5. The retaining wall below the old girls' hostel at the side of the School Devotional Hall is completed on August 2023.
6. Concrete pillar on the Upper Elnathan Boys' Hostel was completed in the month of August 2023
7. The 2nd Year NCC Cadets attended the Combined Annual Training Camp (CATC) at Masimpur Cantonment from 1st to 10th September 2023. They participated and won the following activities:
  - a) Tug of War
  - b) Football
  - c) Drill
  - d) Drawing Competition
  - e) Firing
 This was the first CATC attended by the school's NCC Cadets.
8. Construction of retaining wall near the playground and the pond with drainage provision was completed in the month of November 2023.
9. The first batch of Higher Secondary students cleared the Final Exam 2023 successfully. A total number of 16 students appeared for the exam.
10. Addition of a bigger library for high school and higher secondary students
11. Total number of students enrolled in the HS 1st year was 71 (Arts- 42 & Science- 27) & HS 2nd year was 52 (Arts- 40 & Science- 12)
12. Appointment of new teaching staff and upgradation of existing teachers for the HS section.
13. Addition of NCC for boys under 3rd Assam Battalion NCC, Silchar (50 vacancies)
14. Total enrollment of students in the academic session (Nursery – Class XII) were 1036 students
15. Two cadets from the NCC, namely Samuel Laldinsang and Elkana Hmar were selected to attend the Trekking Camp at Shillong from 6th to 17th Dec, 2023.

16. Release of the First Edition of the school magazine on 26th November 2023
17. Attained the FCRA Registration on 7th December 2023

## Future Plans

1. WIFI/Internet facilities for the school campus
2. Installation of an audio-visual room for technology-based teaching
3. Establishment of separate labs for Physics and Biology subjects
4. Addition of new books according to different categories in the School Library
5. Addition of infrastructure for sports such as Basketball court, Table Tennis court for older students and playground equipment for pre-primary and primary students
6. Enrollment of NCC for girls when vacancies are provided by the NCC Directorate
7. Addition of Commerce stream to provide opportunities for the under-served children
8. Provision for canteen facilities with fresh and hygienic meal in the school campus
9. Installment of CCTV camera in the new section of the school building
10. A proper set up of Smart Boards for each classroom in the secondary section to aid the teachers in accordance with the guidelines set by NEP 2020
11. Construction of a bigger auditorium for assembly and school functions
12. School bus facilities for the students belonging to the interior villages

**Braman**  
Foundation of Charities

PO Box 5148  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12602  
(845) 471-2286

info@bramanfoundation.org  
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# Vacation Bible School December 2023

MISSIONS



## SCHOOL MAGAZINE CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS



**Dear Students,**  
We are excited to announce that Asapalli English School (Senior Secondary) is currently accepting submissions for our upcoming school magazine! If you want to showcase your creativity and talent, read the following guidelines.

### Content

All submitted pieces and content must be original, copying of other's work from online or offline sources will be immediately rejected.

### Eligibility

All students and alumni of Asapalli English School (Senior Secondary) are invited and eligible to submit their work.

### Topic

Your submissions can be any topic and genre. Feel free to express your ideas through your chosen medium while following the official guidelines of the school.

### Language

All submissions may be submitted in English, Hindi, Bengali, Marathi, Urdu, and Khmer. We encourage you to seek feedback and proofread your work before submission.



### Formot

- Word limit: For articles, short stories, opinion pieces: 500 words max.
- Poetry: Subnet: 4 maximum, 27-2 poems.
- Artwork: Submit original copies of your artwork to your class teacher.

### Submission Procedure

Submit your work to your respective class teacher with the subject line: "Magazine Submission - [Your Name] - [Grade/Class]" in an envelope.

### Submission Date

Submit all pieces and content by **19th August, 2023.**

### The Editorial Committee

School Magazine  
Asapalli English School  
(Senior Secondary)

Date: 06th June, 2023

If you would like more updates from the school, request a copy of the Asapalli School Magazine. BFC will happily accommodate your request.



PO Box 5148  
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# 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.

## SPURGEON'S CORNER

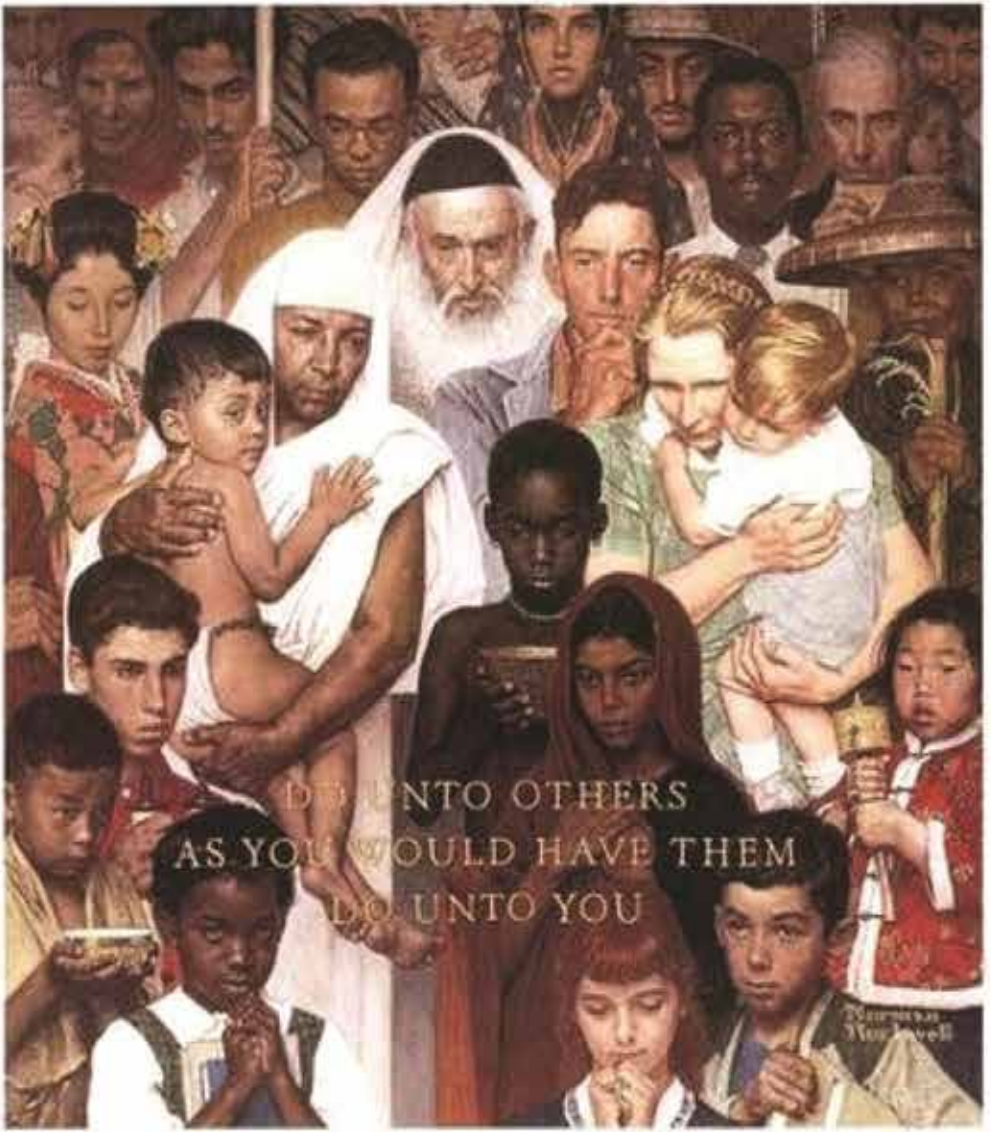
*Let no man, therefore, judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holy day, or of the new moon, or of the Sab-bath. Do not let anybody come in and tell you that it is necessary for your salvation that you should abstain from this meat or that drink, that there is a merit in fasting for 40 days in Lent, or that you cannot be saved without observing such and such a holy day. Your salvation is in Christ! Keep to that and add nothing to this one Foundation which is once and for all laid in Him!*

Colossians 2:16



For Christians, though they have long Lents, do have happy Easters! They may sometimes have forty days of fasting, but one day of such feasting as God's children have is quite enough to make them forget all this and go fasting more forty days and yet not hunger! There are some days when God's children are satisfied with fatness—and so satisfied that they have not only all that heart could wish, but their cup runs over and they can do nothing but sit down in astonishment, in a very repletion of satisfaction—content to sing and so to pour out their souls in gratitude before God! Oh, you who think that religion is a dull, dry, dreary thing, from where did you get this idea? Perhaps you have derived it from the Pharisee—it may be that you have acquired this falsehood from the hypocrite—but from the real Christian, I know that you have had very little that will lead to such a conclusion as that!

Come, then, and for your own good hang up the sackbut and take down the psaltery—put away the ashes! What if men call this season, “Lent”? We will keep no Lent, tonight—this is our Eastertide! Our Lord has risen from the dead and He is among us, and we will rejoice in Him! Come, Beloved, surely it is time that we did, for a while, at least, forget our pain, griefs and all the worries of this weary world and, for one, I must, I will, be glad and rejoice in my Lord—and I hope many of you will join with me in the happy occupation which will be helpful to yourselves.



**NORMAN ROCKWELL**  
**“DO UNTO OTHERS”**

**Braman**  
Foundation of Charities