

Braman Foundation of Charities REVIVE MAGAZINE

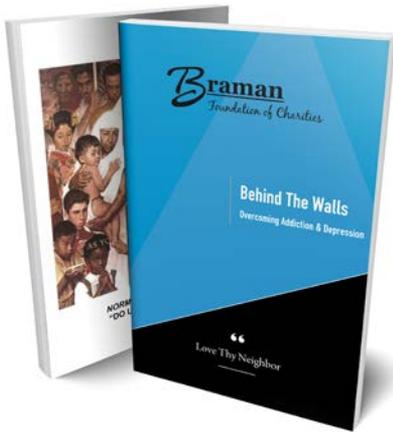
The Magazine of The Braman Foundation of Charities
including Biblical Studies and Discipleship

November / December 2024



CORRECTIONS & PRISON MINISTRY

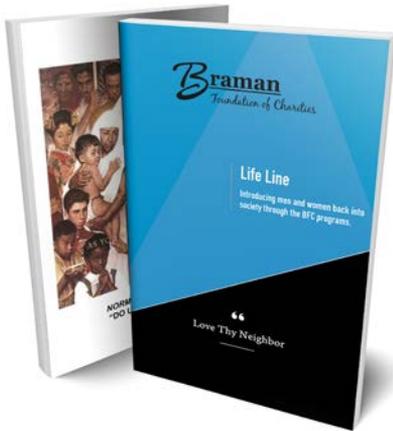
*Is your church or organization interested in prison ministry?
Let BFC help in training, organizing, and implementing.*



Behind the Walls

Includes Training and Life Line Literature

Learn a devotional program that you can bring into your local correction facility to help inmates come to Christ and strengthen their walk in Christ. 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 unfortunately comes out of some families.



Lifeline

Includes Matchcard for 15 Inmates and Personal Training

This program, when instituted, will enable any individual being released from a facility the opportunity to be united with a home church and a contact person in their home area. In addition, we will offer a mentoring program. Learn how to bridge inmates from the facility to your church.

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BFC Editorial

To All Faithful Readers:

We welcome you to the November/December Issue of Revive Magazine. The Fall colors are all but gone here in the North East as we are to experience another mild winter. We are grateful the God for the experience of Fall, its scents, its vibrant colors and themes. We hope you were able to experience the foliage.

The Braman Foundation continues to move forward in its service of its Mission Partners. BFC has added another Orphanage in Sierra Leone. In this issue we introduce you to St. George Foundation. We are very grateful that Fudia Braman was able to help us meet and organize that connection. On September 26, 2024, we were able to tour the facility and begin a mutual collaboration.

In addition, Fudia has been able to successfully move here to Poughkeepsie, NY. She moves forward with here life here in Poughkeepsie. Please pray as she intricates and gets organized into the American Culture.

May your life be filled with gratitude and peace as you enter these last two months of 2024. It is vital to grow in the Lord, grow in prayer with our families and celebrate the risen Christ in our Thanksgiving and Christmas Seasons.

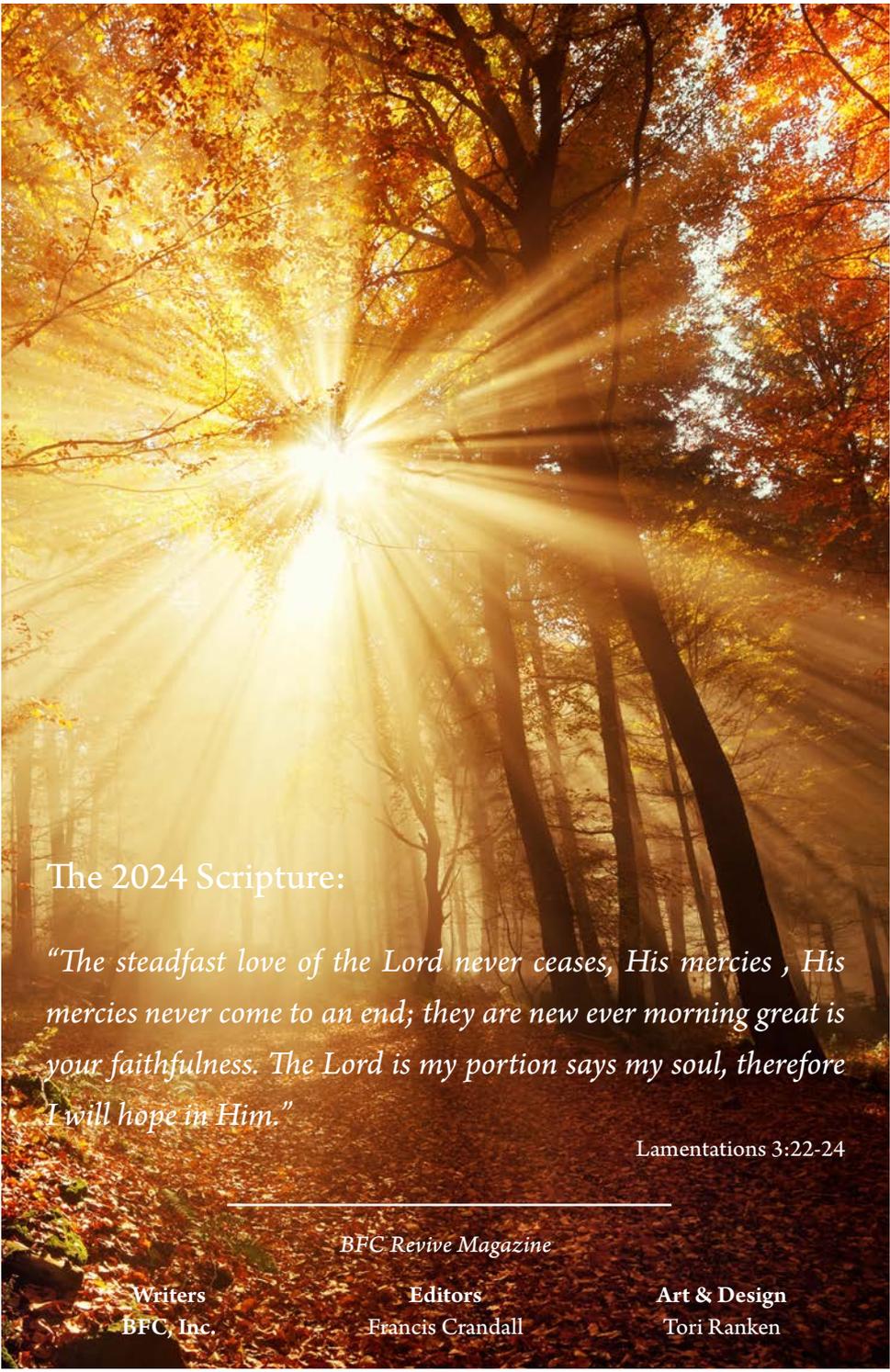
Especially here in the United States we pray for unification in our country. Remember the United States Government in your prayers and its role on the world stage.

May the Lord Bless you and keep you and your families as you pray and celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Thank you and God bless you for your continued prayers and financial support as BFC continues with its mandate to serve and “ Love our Neighbors”.

Be ever blessed!!!

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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Community Meetings



Prayer & Meditation

Every Sunday, 7pm

We are using the BFC reflections book to open the session. We meditate for 20 minutes, then read from Thomas A Kempis' book "The Imitation of Christ". Then we meditate for another 15 minutes and close. We are averaging 5 people on Sunday nights.



Discipleship

Every Tuesday, 7pm

Moved to the Grand Nursing Home in Poughkeepsie in May of this year. Several attendees have had strokes and were relocated to the Grand Nursing Home. This really continues to grow and many members are attending church with BFC also. We continue to review the workbook "BFC Discipleship".



Community Meetings



New Vehicle Donated by Michael Patierno:

A Gift That Drives Community Connections

The BFC is thrilled to announce the generous donation of a new vehicle from Michael Patierno. This remarkable gift will make a lasting impact by helping us reach more people in our community. With the addition of this vehicle, BFC will be able to provide expanded transportation services for community gatherings, church events, and Sunday services.

Michael's contribution will enable us to offer rides to individuals who may not have access to reliable transportation, ensuring that everyone who wants to participate in our events can do so. This vehicle will also make it easier for us to bring new friends to our community meetings, helping to foster stronger connections and bring us closer together.

We are deeply grateful to Michael for his kindness and support. His gift embodies the spirit of generosity and commitment to community that makes BFC such a special place. Thank you, Michael, for helping us drive our mission forward!

For more information, contact:

info@bramanfoundation.org or 845-471-2286

Those Pilgrims

“Therefore you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him” - Deuteronomy 8:6

The text is chosen from Ephesians 5:20; “Always and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.” Three hundred and forty-seven years ago a sturdy little ship, the Mayflower, came in sight of land. The men and women on that ship were the rock from which America was hewn. They were not yet ancestors, Pilgrim fathers and mothers, but men and women like ourselves. They were ordinary human beings. Have you ever wondered what made them great?

First of all - to begin with, these were men and women with a compelling vision. William Warren Sweet, Dean of American Church Histories, has said that “religion was responsible for the founding of more colonies than any other single factor.” Why so?

These people who came to New England were rigorous Protestants who believed in biblical Christianity. They believed in baptism and the Holy Communion but laid special stress on preaching. Their vision of the ideal life was best lived in simplicity. They believed that a man gained salvation, not by meritorious works of his own, but only by faith in Jesus Christ. They felt bound to protect against the prevailing low standards of morality. They rejected ritualistic ways of worship and complicated forms of church government.

These were Puritans, the left wing of the Protestant Reformation, and for their views they endured persecution. They were only few in numbers, yet James I considered them dangerous to the realm and vowed to “hurry them out of the land.” Some met in secret, in houses and cottages, worshipping God at

the risk of their lives. Others were forced to flee England and found asylum in Holland. But then, as the clouds of war began to lower, and as Spain and Holland armed, they decided, “this is not Zion.” So, they turned their faces to the new world, envisioning the realization of their hopes, a new nation under God.

These are not the kind of people that came to America to establish a new government with freedom to worship God as they chose.

Second, these men and women lived with a competent faith in God. Theirs was a faith that seemed able to endure anything and to embrace everything.

You can see their faith in the kind of society they built. The central institution of their Commonwealth was the church. These early pilgrims sought to bring their entire life into a cohesive form under God. Social affairs, political debates and government, intellectual adventure, and cultured life - all were brought into the churches and developed there. Was it because they had no other buildings? Not at all, it was because they saw all life as lived under God and his providential care. They did not think of themselves as founding the USA. Not one of their numbers could possibly have imagined the future that was to be. Yet in the most literal sense of the word, they thought of themselves as forming one nation under God.

If there is one thing that can be said about this country, it is this: it was founded through faith in God. The answer to the dialectical materialism of the Communist ideology lies all about us. They say that the

only creative forces in human history are those of economic determinism. One glance at the early history of our people shows the theory to be false. The primary force which led to the founding of New England was not economic; it was a humble, obedient faith in God.

But one more basic color is needed to paint this canvas: the pilgrims lived with consummate courage. Think not that they fled Holland not knowing whither they tended. It was not so. The decision to go to America was made only after much prayer and discussion. Certainly these people knew that life in the new world was not going to be easy. They also knew that they would not they would need all the faith in God that they could muster. None of us truly would be anxious to go to the land that was virtually unexplored and inhabited.

In New England they faced the dangers they had anticipated, and others dreamed of. There were savages who might bring life-giving corn one day and piercing arrows the next. There were wolves in the region, great, gray, gunning creatures whose howls turned the blood to ice. These dangers tested their courage, but their greatest enemy proved to be the winter. They began to die. Starvation stopped them. At one point, the daily ration was reduced to five small grains of corn per person. Diseases ravaged them, especially the scurvy and the sickness of the cold- till only seven were left who could walk. All through the dread winter they died, first one and then another, now a woman, now a little child, now a man, and they laid their loved ones away.

There is a poem that illustrates that winter entitled, "Write It on Iron":
 "Write it on iron. Write it on iron and New England rock,
 the story of those four months when they built the town,
 for they built it with the dying and the dead.
 They built it upon the bones of fourteen women- who had come for life, not death.
 They built it upon the bones of their friends

they knew."

Of all the pilgrims acts of courage the most vivid is this. When the warm breeze is blue, and the sailors hoisted the sails to take the Mayflower back to England, every last one of them was still determined to stay in New England. After all they had endured, they refused to surrender. Can your imagination see them that day down by the shore? As the sails filled and the ship sailed from Plymouth, the pilgrims watched, weeping till her mast dipped forever beyond the horizon. Would you say that took care courage? Certainly more courage than most of us have today.

There is another poem entitled, "Five Kernels of Corn":

Twas the year of the famine
 in Plymouth of old,
 The ice and the snow from the
 thatched roofs had rolled.
 Through the warm purple skies
 steered the geese over the seas,
 And the woodpeckers tapped
 in the clocks of the trees;
 The boughs on the slopes
 to the south winds lay bare,
 And dreaming of summer the buds
 swelled in the air,
 The pale Pilgrims welcomed each
 reddening morn;
 There were left for rations
 but Five Kernels of corn.
 Five Kernels of corn!
 Five Kernels of corn!
 But two Bradford of feast
 were Five Kernels of Corn!"

When the cold spring broke, they looked into the faces of those who were left and they remembered God's promise to Abraham and to them, "I will make of thee a great nation."

So, the spring began in 1621. A friendly Indian by the name of Squanto showed the settlers how to plant corn and how to use fish as fertilizer. They plowed and planted. The wheat and the peas they brought with them failed to germinate, but the Indian corn

produced an excellent crop. Without that, they would all have perished. They hunted and fished and prepared their buildings and firewood against the returning winter. When fall came, and it was clear that they would have enough food, Governor Bradford had the happy inspiration of writing the Indians to share in a festival of prayer and gratitude. And that was how "Thanksgiving Day" was born. As O. Henry says, it is "the one day that is purely American."

Thanksgiving is a holiday that commemorates no hero, celebrates no battlefield, no lobby is behind it, no group, or sect or party. Christmas cannot dim it, nor July 4th steal its glory. And all Americans love it with a quiet intense affection that is reserved for no other day of the year.

What makes Thanksgiving different? What makes it beloved? What makes it real?

Perhaps the answer is simple: Thanksgiving is an affirmation. It is our hearts testimony to a deeply held conviction- the conviction that these things we call free and decent and American did not just happen to us. We did not get them because we were wiser, or more clever, or even luckier.

This conviction is the same as many beliefs and experiences, the belief in the dignity of every human being. They believe in a real right and wrong. The belief in decency and honesty and integrity. The belief in responsibility, under God, to our fellow man, wherever he may be.

For them beliefs, and the American way of life, Thanksgiving Day is our joyous affirmation to a kind of Providence for his blessings and guidance.

Tomorrow as we sit, we are families enjoying the day with plenty to eat, let us actually take time in quiet to remember everything we have to be thankful for. Let us truly give thanks to him who does provide for us. Let us also remember that many thousands of people would be glad to eat the scraps that

we throw away from our tables. Let us not forget them these people by prayer and by our help through our missionary efforts.

Truly we do have much to be thankful for. "Always and for everything give thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father."

Elderly Care Program

Missions: Kenya

Jomo reports that the Elders are all healthy and excited about the upcoming BFC visit.

Jomo is especially hoping to expand this work as additional elders are seeking services of the program. He continues to seek more volunteers as the work grows.

Very grateful for the opportunity to serve and wishes everyone and their families Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas.



Mityana Community Pentecostal Ministries

Missions: Uganda

The Mityana Community Pentecostal Ministries of Uganda is run by Pastor John Kamuleguya. Pastor John oversees the ministry and the Nalugazi Orphanage. They are requesting funds to build for the 45 churches within the ministry. Pastor John is also requesting donations for the 25 children of the orphanage that need their school fees covered and funds for food provisions. May God bless you and thank you for your support.





BFC *Featured Corner*

Thanksgiving Table Prayer

Kay Hoffman

We thank You, Lord, for harvest gifts
Bestowed upon us here;
We're thankful too for blessings sent
Each day throughout the year.

We're thankful for the Pilgrims
Who braved the perilous sea
That all may worship here today
In this land of the free.

For shelter warm and family ties,
For loved ones far and near;

We're thankful for each little child,
So special and so dear.

For daily bread in ample share
We lift our thanks to Thee;
Oh, may we share with those in need
Wherever they may be.

We're thankful for this food prepared,
Each loved one gathered here.

We're thankful for Your presence Lord;
You seem so very near.

Notable / Quotable
The Covenant Prayer
by John Wesley

I am no longer my own, but Thine.
Put me to what thou wilt.
Rank me to whom thou wilt.
Put me in doing. Put me in suffering.
Let me be employed by Thee or laid aside by Thee.
Let me be full or let me be empty.
Let me have all things.
Let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, oh glorious and blessed
God, Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit,
thou art mine and I, Thine.
So be it.
And this covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven.

Amen

visit bramanfoundation.org for more essays & quotes

Grateful Giving

“What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits towards me?”

- Psalms 116:12

It is said that an earnest man, taking seriously the popular idea that he always should think positively, found himself put to the test one evening in his prayers. It had been one of those days! Any lesser man would have given in to complain on the spot. But after some searching, he came up with a positive prayer of one sentence, “Oh Lord, I thank thee that not every day is as bad as this.” In every situation we can find something to be thankful for. The instinct to be thankful is a sound one. If you’re looking for a single test of our spiritual health, you probably will find it here. Thankfulness is the mark of a healthy mind and a trusting heart it’s the most fruitful relation to God. The more we know of God, the more thankful we become. More thankful we become, the more we know of God.

It is only natural then that the Bible should sound the note of thankfulness again and again. It tells me men found the grounds for gratitude even in the most difficult circumstances of life. It is to one of those expressions that we turn to today for our thought on this Stewardship Sunday. Scholars tell us that most Psalms were written for use on specific occasions. They cover the full round of human experience so that a man could find the Psalms to fit the mood of the moment or the need of the day. The 116 th Psalm is one, which was written for such a specific time. After recovering from an illness, when the worshiper had to return to the congregation, this song was to be his expression of thankfulness. So the Psalmist recalls how he had called upon God and God had heard his prayer. He confesses that his life was in danger, and God and his grace had saved him. Then counting these blessings, he comes to a question which is in evitable in

the hour of Thanksgiving. For the Psalmist cries, “What should I render unto the Lord for all his benefits towards me?” That’s the real question in any thanksgiving. I am well in the bounds of experience when I say that the moment you ask that question is one of the most important in your life. It is an important hour because it leads to some of life’s greatest experiences. To ask, “What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits towards me?” First of all, it is an hour of real awakening. We see something fully which we had seen only partially “all his benefits towards me”, said the Psalmist. Undoubtedly he had seen some of them before. It wasn’t that he had never known moments of thanksgiving or passing times of gratitude. But somehow in this hour all these benefits join together to bring him a new sense of God’s presence.

By the very nature of human experiences we know that some of us will truly come to such an awakening during this season. One are the most common and most important expressions a pastor hears is the gratitude of the person who has passed through crises and had his eyes opened by it. An illness is passed, or a separation is ended or a crisis has been resolved by decision. How often this brings a new note of thankfulness in the lives of those who have passed through. “How thankful I am,” says someone. Or, “How much I have taken for granted. God help me to be more grateful.” The benefits have been there all the time, but the experience was an hour of awakening. These benefits are known and cherished. In every situation, some good will come out of it. We can trust God for that.

Awakening comes in many ways. For

Brother Lawrence, the saint of the kitchen to practiced the presence of God, it began one day when he looked out the window and saw a branch which had been dead for weeks coming to life with the approach of spring. It reminded him of God's power to bring new life. For Dr. Bernardo of England, it came when a red-headed boy knocked at his door having heard that he took in boys from the street. And when Dr. Bernardo had to tell the lad there was no place for him, his conscious and compassion were like fire within him. He saw how many benefits he had, and knew he must use them for the boys.

You see, once the moment of awakening has come, you have crossed a great divide. You are like a man who sees after he has been blind. You have discovered springs in the desert. Life has extended into a holy new place.

Let us look again at the Psalmist words. These words not only reflect an hour of real awakening, but in the second place, an hour of sincere offering. "What shall I render unto the Lord?" asked the grateful man. Giving in gratitude is one of the deepest and most enduring motives in any life. It isn't the act of giving which makes for spirited growth. The reason why we give or why we want to give makes for real spiritual growth. There are many ways in which we give. There is duty-giving, as all of us know. Then there is investment-giving in which we give a little in the hope of receiving much more later. But this kind, which is in the word of the Psalmist is thanks-giving. It is born of gratitude. You give because you must. Your heart is overflowing.

But how do you render anything unto God? How can you give to him, who already has all? How can we give to God whom we have not seen? Here the Bible has a constant and clear answer. Whenever we want to render something to God in return, it is as though he says to us, "pass it on to others of my children." Jesus reflected it exactly once when three times he asked Peter, "Do you

love me?" And when the answer was yes, Jesus said, "Feed my sheep." It is passing along the blessing, which is our way of rendering unto God our thanksgiving.

When the Mayo brothers made a magnificent gift to the University of Minnesota for graduate medical study and research, the gift was accompanied by a letter from Dr. William J Mayo, in which he said, "Our father recognize certain definite social obligations. He believed that any man who had better opportunities than others, greater strength of mind, body or character, owed something to those who had not been so provided; that is the important thing in life is not to accomplish for oneself alone, but for each to carry his share of collective responsibility." Surely this is what Christ wants us as Christians to do. We pass along our blessings as Christian stewards. Christian stewardship is the practice of systematic and proportionate giving of time, abilities and material blessings, based on the conviction that these are a trust from God to be used in his service for the benefits of all mankind.

Today is stewardship Sunday in our church. Whether we think so or not it takes money to keep this church operating. There is only one place this money can come from—You, the members of this church. Perhaps we need to remind ourselves why it is important to keep the church operating and alive in Fultonham. We all know that it is becoming more and more difficult for small rural churches to remain open. Most small churches cannot afford a full time pastor and few pastors are willing to share their time and few larger churches are willing to have their pastors share their time. The youth group dwindles and finally disappears altogether. The maintenance and upkeep is beyond financial reach. Some people want to belong to a church that has more members, that is active, that is growing, instead of one that is standing still or falling behind. Most people today do not mind traveling a few miles to attend church.

But considering this church in the community I feel we need to take a look at what we have. For a small church, this is kept up better than most. There are enough people here to keep the church operating. You have some of the best and finest facilities any church could have. People belong to this church that have the God given talents and abilities for leadership, for teaching, for music, etc. There is no doubt in my mind that this church can stay alive and active in this community. We need to remember that stewards of God, which all of us as Christians are supposed to be, give more than money to support the work of God. They give of themselves, their time, their talents; they dedicate their lives to advancing God's kingdom and that's exactly what is needed in this church.

I wonder how many people would make the effort to go to Middleburg or Breakabeen if this church were not here. I dare say that less than 50% would not go to church at all. But more important, how many of our children would attend Sunday school? Very few I'm sure. Let us remember the faith of the people who were responsible for the existence of this church in the beginning. They had nothing to start with except faith and trust in God. It seems to me, we should have enough faith and trust in God to keep it going. Your help is needed financially and otherwise. You are members; you made the pledges and vows when you became members of this church. Renew those vows now.

Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be." If your treasure is in acquiring material possessions your heart will be there also. We all need to stop and do a little thinking and praying for if we do, we will know that everything we have comes from God. Once you remember this you will want to give to God's work because of your gratitude to him. I have said this before and I am going to say it again because I know and believe that this is by far the first and foremost important parts of being a Christian. If a person, any person, has truly accepted Jesus Christ into his heart as

his personal Lord and Savior, there will be no hesitation on his part for he will give his all in money, time, talents to God's work. And that's what is needed in every church, people who have dedicated their lives to Jesus Christ.

God also loves a cheerful giver. The cheerfulness with which we give to advance God's kingdom is a good measure of the spiritual life within us. If we just like to give, it is a danger sign flashing its signal across the path of life. It shall send us to our knees in renewed searching for that which is most significant, most worthwhile and most closely intended to God's plan for our highest fulfillment and greatest satisfaction. Getting back to the church budget, it is a plan the church hopes to carry out next year. I know that we all plan ahead and this is what the church board has attempted to do with God's help and with yours. If not enough financial initiative is received next year some of the plans will have to be laid aside. It's always good to know how much you can plan on for the coming year and the only way is for the members to pledge a given amount, whether it be weekly, monthly or annually.

Perhaps many of you hesitate to make a pledge for fear that you will be unable to keep it. Many of us however do not hesitate when we go out and buy a car on credit. We actually pledge to pay a certain amount each month and we also know if we fail to make two payments our car will be taken away. If you cannot keep your pledge to the church, you will not lose your membership, God will certainly forgive you if you have done the best you could. In making your pledge you need to consider the blessings God has given you and you should be willing to give back a small part of what he is giving you.

And so before you decide how much to give to the church (this is between you and God, no one can decide for you) ask yourself this question, "What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits towards me?"

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Inspire

A Monthly E-Commerce Newsletter
by Braman Foundation of Charities

&

— The —
Mid Week Message

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Inspire A Monthly E-Commerce Newsletter
by Braman Foundation of Charities

BFC Thanksgiving Greetings

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

It is 2 Corinthians 8:9 where we think about what our definition of the word rich is. Surely our Lord did not not give His life so we might be rich in material blessings or even rich in safety or security. The Lord our God did not live a rich life of safety and security as He continuously placed himself in harms way to do the work of His heavenly Father. Jesus was thankful for the little, knowing that His true riches would be with His Father in heaven. If you count your riches by who and how many love you it will still fall short of the riches from our heavenly Father. As Jesus traveled and spoke the word of Christ he was hated and feared.
Thankful to the Lord for His sacrifice

Thankful:
Thankful the Lord does not give us what we deserve! He does however give us everything we need. When we live in the knowledge of need we acknowledge all the Lord has given us and we are **Thankful**

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

Thanksgiving Leads to Witnessing
Psalm 9:1
I will give thanks to you Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. When you cultivate a spirit of thankfulness, it will spill over into your relationships. When others see you credit God for His love in difficult situations/circumstances, they will begin to wonder why?
You need not even speak the words of praise and thanksgiving - you need only to be an example of Christ at work in your life. To be a living example of kindness, love, and forgiveness as a Christ like life.

Philippians 4:6-7
Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with **thanksgiving** presents your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Jesus Christ.

An Inspirational Quotation

"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"
Colossians 3:17

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“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

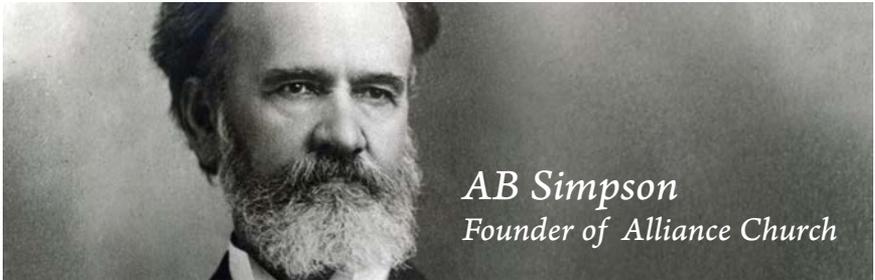
South Sudan

Missions: Africa

Juba is now calm, especially despite the non-payment of salaries to workers for a maximum period of eleven months, otherwise people are patient, but the truth is that the non-payment of salaries created a disaster, so you find that all things have stopped. Perhaps it helps to deliver God's message because everyone has returned to searching for God Almighty. Perhaps it is the only hope for material needs. Also, a large number of children have been expelled from schools because their parents are unable to pay their tuition fees. We in the church in Lulugo are facing a big problem with the church building, which is close to collapsing because of the impact of the heavy rains. Finally, the church in the country lost an important person, Bishop Paul Chol Deng, Bishop of the Anglican Church in South Sudan.



A Daily Devotional



"Himself"

Once it was the blessing, Now it is the Lord;
Once it was the feeling, Now it is His Word.
Once His gifts I wanted, Now the Giver own;
Once I sought for healing, Now Himself alone.

Once 'twas painful trying, Now 'tis perfect trust;
Once a half salvation, Now the uttermost.
Once 'twas ceaseless holding, Now He holds me fast;
Once 'twas constant drifting, Now my anchor's cast.

Once 'twas busy planning, Now 'tis trustful prayer;
Once 'twas anxious caring, Now He has the care.
Once 'twas what I wanted, Now what Jesus says;
Once 'twas constant asking, Now 'tis ceaseless praise.

Once it was my working, His it hence shall be;
Once I tried to use Him, Now He uses me.
Once the power I wanted, Now the Mighty One;
Once for self I labored, Now for Him alone.

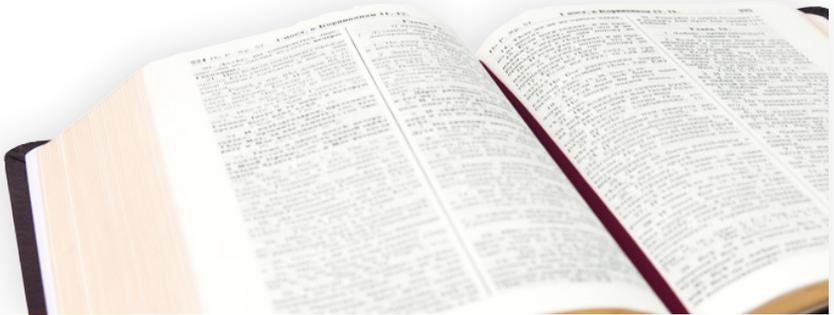
Once I hoped in Jesus, Now I know He's mine;
Once my lamps were dying, Now they brightly shine.
Once for death I waited, Now His coming hail;
And my hopes are anchored, Safe within the veil.



Biblical Studies

John 14:26

But the helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, He will teach you all the things and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.



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BFC Commentary

God Dwells in you.

1 Corinthians 5:16

“Do you know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

As a child of God, you too, are made in His image. The Holy Spirit dwells in you. When you became “born again” you turned toward the light of Christ. From that process the Holy Spirit had become in you. Therefore, the Holy Spirit dwells in you.

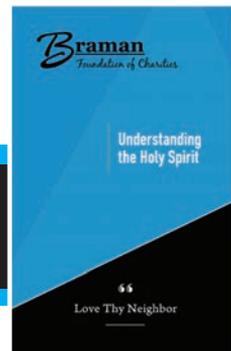
Now, if God dwells in you as you then you must understand the awesomeness of this truth! You are a temple of the living God. His Spirit is in you. You too can do works that are truly miraculous. He tells you go to John 14:12, you read this and you believe.

So now you know the truth and you will be forever changed. You must continue to press in and overcome your self. Always have on the mind of Christ, which is the Holy Spirit of love. His mind is the light of the world, and so too, yours. He dwells in you, so that you may overcome. Grow in your practice of His presence, be emerged in His spirit. This is your progressive sanctification.

Sanctification comes when you first begin your journey home from being born again. In the beginning we call this, “initial sanctification.” You are disciplined and counseled into the truth. You grow in the reality of His living and breathing world. The initial sanctification will begin with a dark cloud, yet soon you will move into your progressive sanctification.

Here, with progressive sanctification you are daily pressing into the Lord. You are daily confessing before the Lord. You are asking Him to purify your heart knowing that it is His grace that allows this work to occur. Yet, it requires your unending devotion. Like Paul, you prefer to be in heaven rejoicing, living your eternal life with Christ, but while here, you live in this world, but are not of this world. His protection overwhelms you as you glorify Christ in all you do, say and think. Purity of heart.

This Biblical Studies is an excerpt from
An Understanding of The Holy Spirit.



Braman Foundation of Charities Books Now Available

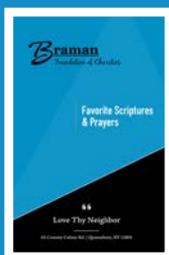
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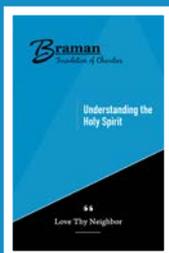
Reflections

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.



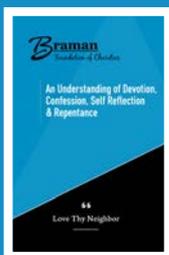
Favorite Scripture & Prayers

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.

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The Sermons of Richard W. Braman

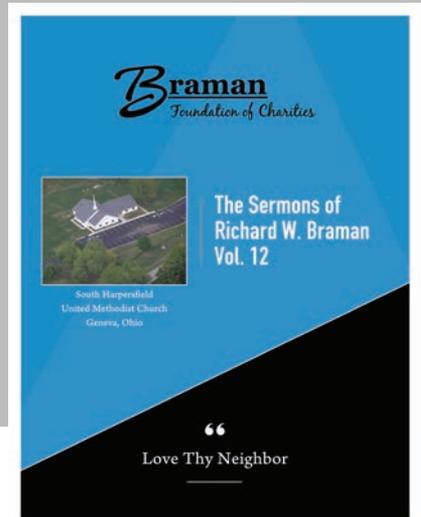
NOW FEATURING VOL. 12

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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That Christmas and This Christmas

Text from Luke 2:13-14; “And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased.” The Christmas when Jesus was born - about A. D.1; this twentieth century Christmas - 1977 - how different they are and still, how similar they are. We will try to stress similar points in the two Christmases by asking four questions of that time and of this.

First, what was the universe doing in A.D.1? The sun was rising and setting. The moon was waxing and waning. The planets were turning in their courses. The stars were shining, visible by night, invisible by day. The waters were running toward the sea. The canyons were deepening. The trees were blossoming and bearing fruit, each after its own kind. The grass was sprouting after rain. The wild beasts were gathering at night at the water pools. The creature called man was spreading upon the face of the earth. What is the universe in 1977? I would say it is doing approximately the same as A.D. 1.

Second, - what was the nation doing in a D1? What was Caesar, “the August, the Sublime, the Royal, the Regal,” doing in Rome.? What was Herod, who appropriated the title of “Great”, doing in Jerusalem?

Luke gives the answer: Caesar was taxing the people. Death and taxes are known as the inevitables. What difference did it make if a young carpenter named Joseph had to go without a new tool? What difference did it make if Mary had to put off buying the coveted garment for her expected baby? What difference did it make if they had to make the long journey to Bethlehem, with

Mary great with child? Taxes must be paid! Caesar’s roads, armies, palaces, court, must be supported.

“And of all that Augustus Caesar did with the taxes of the whole world, there remains nothing but crumbling and half burned ruins.

And what was Caesar’s underling doing? Committing terrible atrocities. Herod was engaged in Operation Slaughter. And all the things that Herod did - the building of the temple, the construction of cities, the creation of palaces, the taking to himself of the name. “Great” - it seems that nothing remains. Herod grew old. His last days were embittered. The word. “Great” is ironic - Herod belongs to a line which includes Nero, Tamerlane, Hitler, Mussolini. What was the nation doing? Taxing and slaughtering.

Suppose we could look back from A.D. 3954 to this Christmas, as we look back from 1977 to that Christmas, what might we observe? The nation was taxing. All of us can vouch for that. Taxes keep going higher and higher because we as a people are demanding more and more services, because there is corruption in government which we have and are allowing. The nation was using taxes in preparation for what might be called Operation Killer. It is strange, isn’t it? That Christmas actually means peace, peace to all people everywhere. And still the many billions of dollars are tax dollars that are spent each and every year on defense preparedness. We seem to talk out of both sides of our mouths at the same time. We say we want peace and still we prepare for war. Perhaps we need to be prepared. I cannot answer that question, but there certainly

are a good many places that money could be used to do much more good. If truly the spirit and true meaning of Christmas could enter each and everyone's heart, there would be peace and happiness in our world. I do not believe there will be peace until this happens. Getting back to our comparison of the two Christmases, the nation is doing about the same today as in A.D.1; taxing the people and preparing for war. Or perhaps we should say building up our defenses.

Third, what were the people doing in A.D.1? Their shekels were going into Caesar's coffers; at least some of their sons were going into Caesar's armies.

But the people, what were they doing? Luke suggests an answer. He writes: "And there were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night." The shepherds were tending their flocks. The farmers were tilling their fields. The carpenters like Joseph, were building houses. Artesians were making furniture. Merchants were buying and selling grain, clothing, rugs, jewelry. The people, the great masses, were working. How can they pay taxes if they don't work?

Then too, the people were worshipping. Some were worshipping Jehovah. Some were worshipping Diana. Augustus Caesar was demanding that the people worship him, and many obliged, Others worshipped the sun.

There you have what the people were doing in the first Christmas – paying taxes, working, worshipping. The Jews still worship Jehovah. Multitudes still worship the goddess of pleasure and lust. Men receive his acclaim. The state is exalted. Men bow down to gods of their own contrivance and manufacture. Today everything is measured materially and even though we think we do not, many of us have placed the greatest importance on the acquisition of material things.

But now! A tremendous point of difference!

Myriads worship the Babe that was born on that first Christmas. This Christmas, he is the joy of the world, and the hope of the world. In fact, the only hope the world has is Jesus Christ. "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light." Jesus, said, "I am the light of the world." We need never walk in darkness with Christ at our side. Many millions of Christians have found this light that came at Christmas time, A.D.1. Have you seen this light?

Fourth, what was God doing in A.D.1? He was sustaining the universe. Since that first Christmas, the sun has risen over 22,000 times. It has never failed to rise. The moon has waxed great and illuminated the earth by its fall-reflected loveliness about 24,000 times. We know its movements and its modes. There have been 1977 spring times with flower, and as many summers of fruitage. The water is not erratic, it still runs towards the sea. All is in order. God is sustaining the universe now as then. What was God doing? God was overruling the nations. In the face of what nations, kings, parliaments, presidents do, what does God do? Much of what he does is beyond our knowledge. We do not presume to know his way with the nations. But he does enter on into history. Is it too much to say that God overrules? God is overruling the nations!

When Speaking of the Constitution of the United States, which has recently been framed, and expressing his disapproval of many provisions in the document, Benjamin Franklin said: "I can hardly conceive a transaction of such momentous importance to the welfare of millions now existing and to exist in the posterity of a great nation should now be suffered to pass without being in some degree influenced Why? So guided and governed by that omnipotent, omnipresent, and beneficent Ruler, in whom all inferior spirits live and move and have their being." Franklin was affirming his faith in the overruling of God and historic event.

At the first Christmas, God made a Caesar's

degree the occasion to follow out his own plans.

In A.D.1 he seems to overrule by ignoring Augustus Caesar and Herod the Great. God's Son is born in the litter of a stable, not in the glitter of the palace. Herod's City is passed by in favor of the village of Bethlehem. God ignores the proud, but let's the proud make the circumstances.

Pharaoh reduces the family of Jacob to virtual slavery; God uses the occasion to the make them a great people.

Again, in the Exodus story, the Jews are carried away into a foreign land; they returned to Jerusalem, and by that experience in captivity they are given a great spiritual experience and endowment.

Let Caesar the Augustus decree that each man must be taxed in his own city. That means that Joseph and Mary must go to Bethlehem. This offers the occasion to fulfill the prophecy of Micah. Christ is born in Bethlehem. What is God doing in the face of what the people are doing? He is fathering his people. He is doing this by sustaining the universe. He is doing this by overruling the nations. He is doing this through the wonderful birth - keeping a promise, exalting the common people, giving a Savior, shepherding their souls, revealing himself, giving eternal life, giving all the right and privilege and power to become sons of God. What was God doing on that first Christmas? He was keeping a promise written out by ancient prophets on parchment. He was keeping a promise written out on living tissue in the hearts of the people.

He was exalting men of low degree. He was placing a halo above the head of Mary motherhood, above the heads of shepherds, common folk. As Doctor Jewett wrote: "the very birth hour of Christianity irradiated the humble doings of humble people.

God was revealing to the world what he

himself, was like that the child grown to manhood would say, "He that hath seen me have seen the Father." He was kindling a light in a dark World.

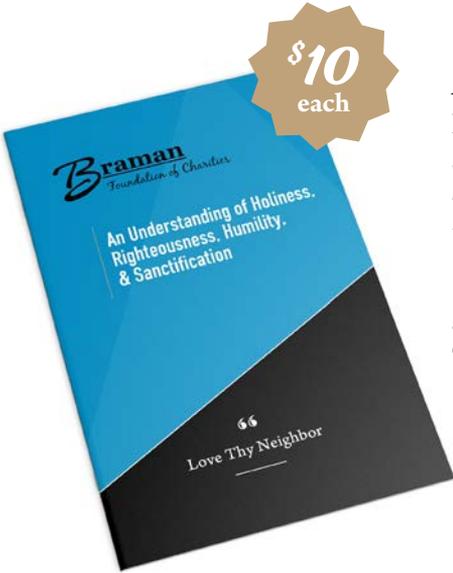
He was saving a dying world.

What is God doing now? Sustaining the universe, overruling the nations; fathering his children. In a little book by Charles L Wallis and Charles L Allen, "When Christmas Came to Bethlehem," they quote Will Durant's "The Story of Philosophy." Durant writes of another kind of deity: "Aristotle's God never does anything. He has no desires, no will, no purpose. He is actively so pure that he never acts. He is absolutely perfect. Therefore, he cannot desire anything. His sole employment is the contemplation of himself. Poor Aristotelian God. He is a do-nothing King. The King reigns but does not rule. "But it is not so with the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

What should we be doing this Christmas? We should be exercising faith in his sustaining. We should be putting our hope in his overruling. We should be responding to his fathering in love toward God and in love toward our fellowmen. Christmas truly is a time for accepting Jesus Christ into our lives, a time for letting his peace come into our hearts and letting it spread to all people everywhere. I would like to conclude by reading a poem entitled "Christmas".

Christmas is wonder in an
infant's clear eyes;
Source of the thoughts
in the mind of the wise.
Christmas is gladness, true mirth,
and real joy,
Songs in the air at the birth of the Boy.
Christmas is goodwill
in the heart of a friend,
Promise of peace
to the world's farthest end.
Christmas is love, in your heart and in mine,
Kindled by Jesus our Savior divine.
Christmas is giving; God's gift to the earth,
Giving Himself in a Babe's humble birth.

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Ministry in the State of Odisha

Missions: India

Words from Umakanta Guru
"Respected Brother,

Loving greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

So glad to receive your mail and concern for the lost souls for my people in the State of Odisha, India. We are also so much grateful to you for upholding us and the ministry in your continuous prayer.



We have been serving the Lord faithfully and reaching the people with the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ among the idol worshippers by going door to door, distributing literature in the villages, towns, interior places, among the tribal groups of people in the top of the hills along with personal evangelism and also we working among the lepers, who are staying in a big numbers, almost every places of the State. In spite of opposition, there are many open door for us to share the gospel and also there are many number of people, who are seeking the truth and willing to know the living God.

Therefore, we humbly request you to kindly pray for the ministry among whom we are sharing the love of God and India needs of your valuable prayer and support for the salvation of my people of the State. In the same time, we are also need of your encouragement in the ministry.

I have enclosed few photographs, as I have recently visited some fields and meet some of new genuine seekers along with our believers."



Asapalli VBS

Missions: India

Theme: God's Warrior

This year's Asapalli Vacation Bible School, held from October 8-12, welcomed 177 students for four days of faith-filled learning and fellowship. We rejoice that seven students chose to give their lives to Christ, a powerful testament to the impact of this year's VBS.

Highlights included daily Bible lessons, worship, and student-led testimonies that moved all in attendance. We thank God for a successful VBS and are grateful to everyone who helped make this event possible.

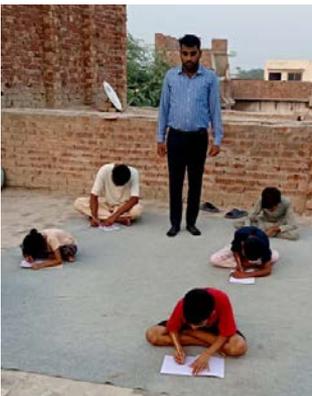


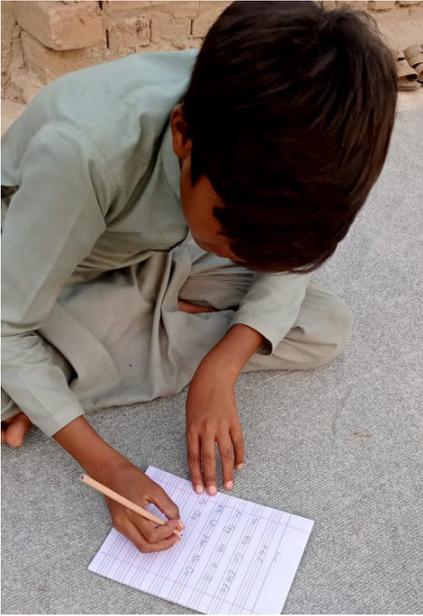
Jesus Christ Church & Ministries

Missions: Pakistan

Words from Pastor Haaron

“Lord Jesus Christ my dear brother Peter I wish you peace and I am perfectly well thank you Lord. I hope you are also well. God keep you in His shelter and protection and my prayers will always be with you. And thanks be to God the ministry is going very well and I am sharing the pictures with you. Peter brother, these pictures that I have sent you are the children we educate and give books to.”





St. George Foundation

Missions: Sierra Leone

Commemoration of Children International Days

St George Foundation Commemorate on the 11th October 2024, we join the world in celebrating the International Day for the Girl Child with a theme Girl Vision for the Future. This day reminds us of the power, resilience and potential of every young girl, especially those in vulnerable circumstances. At St George Foundation, we believe in nurturing the dreams and empowering children in our shelter by protecting them from all forms of abuses and ensure they have a brighter and more equitable future.

As part of this year celebration, St George Foundation took the children to family kingdom a renown playing centre for children to have a very good playing time and interact with other children from other communities in commemorating the day. T

he children were so happy and feel relaxed in celebrating the International Day of the Girl Child. The children were exposed to many games that helps build their physicality that supports to improve their mental strengths as they grow. Many other children became interested in the merry go round and the seesaw which became very much enjoyable to all.

We are so delighted to extend our health felt gratitude to Braman Foundation of Charity for their generous donation to the children in our orphanage. This support has brought smiles and hope to the children in our care by enabling them to eat good food, medication, clothing, good playing time and above all protection.

Let us remember that every girl child has a right to safety, education and opportunities to be a better person in the future. Together we can create a world where each girl can dream freely, rise against challenges and achieve their full potentials.

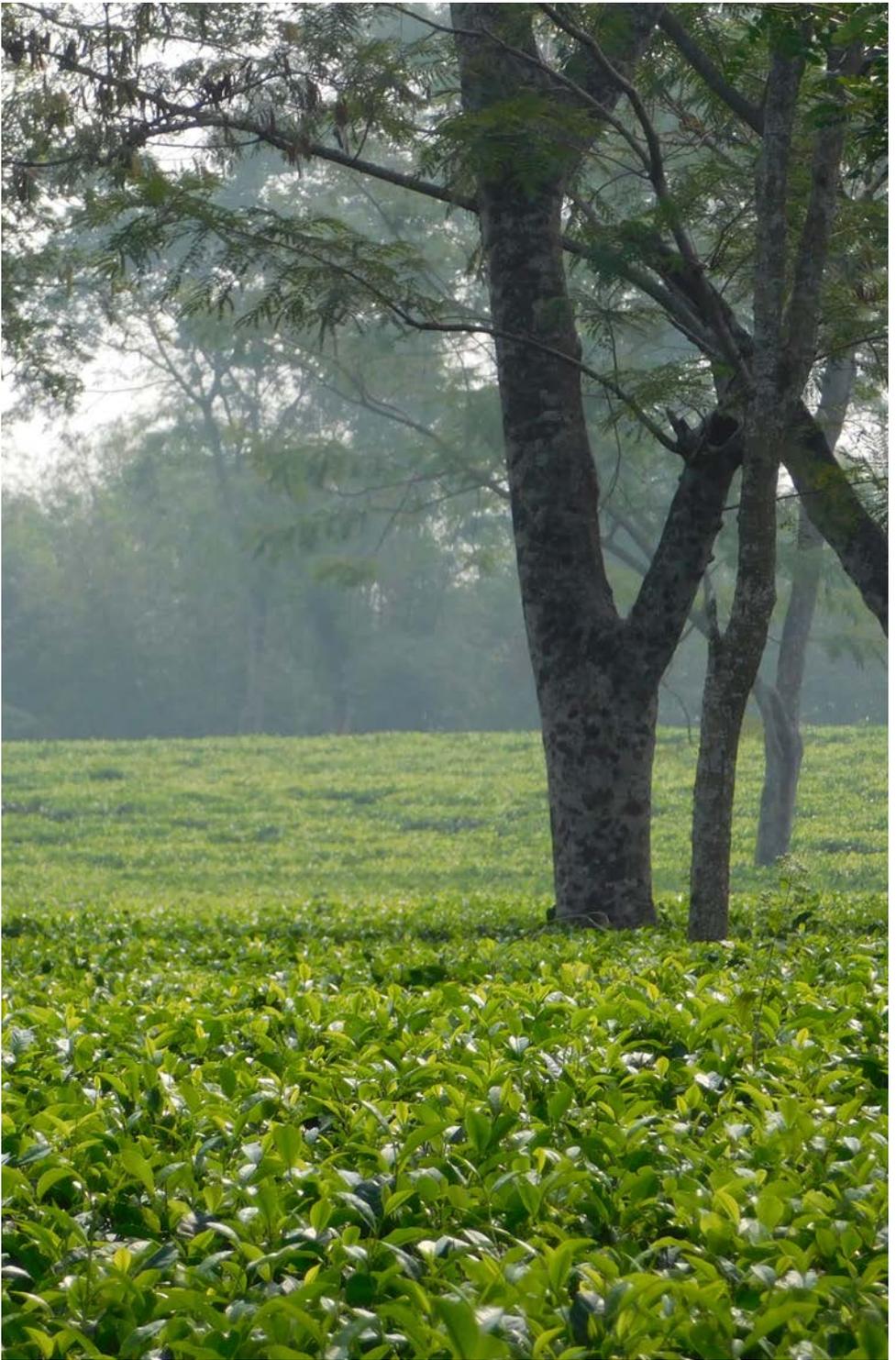
On 10th October, 2024. St George Foundation also commemorate World Sight Day focusing on the world's attention on the importance of care in young people especially children from vulnerable situations to love their eyes. Together we are creating a world where every child has eye health that is accessible, available and affordable to all.

As part of this year's world sight day, St George Foundation makes it a priority in ensuring that children not only under the importance of caring for their eyes but how to under the measures in the most complex part of their body which make the to see the world today and must take all measures to protect their eyes. Through this efforts, St George Foundation hired an optician at the orphanage to conduct eye test for all children in an effort to understand their eye sight situation and also use this platform to sensitized all of them on the importance of their



sight and the measures in understanding the role the eye played in seeing and making things happening like to make them walk, seeing beautiful places with their eyes.

St George Foundation want to extend gratitude to Braman Foundation and Charity for making this happen for the benefit of our children eye sight. This marks the new beginning of many of our children in the home who reported of an improved eye sight after the test and were provided with absolute eye medication during this period.



Asapalli

Missions: India

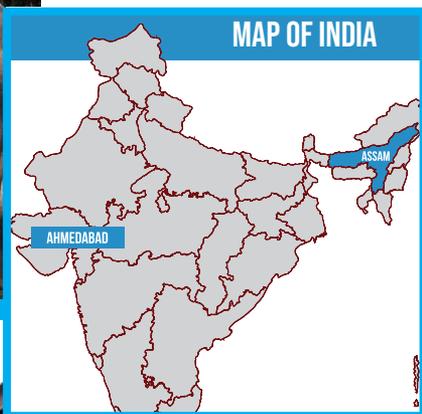


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SPURGEON'S CORNER

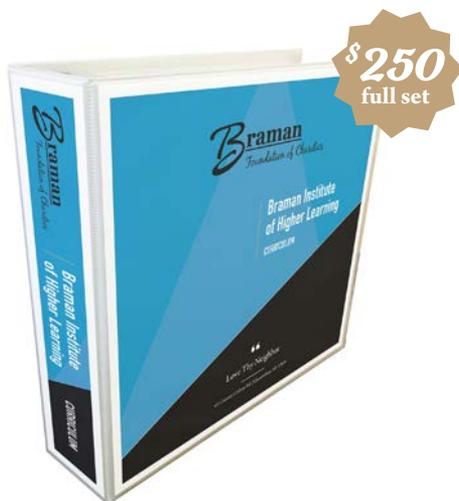
"Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness."—Psalm 65:11



Possibly objections might have been raised to a day of thanksgiving for the abundant harvest if it had been ordered or suggested by Government. Certain brethren are so exceedingly tender in their consciences upon the point of connexion between Church and State, that they would have thought it almost a reason for not being thankful at all if the Government had recommended them to celebrate a day of public thanksgiving. Although I have no love to the unscriptural union of Church and State, I should on this occasion have hailed an official request for a national recognition of the special goodness of God. However, none of us can feel any abjection arising in our minds if it be now agreed that to-day we will praise our ever-bounteous Lord, and as an assembly record our gratitude to the God of the harvest. We are probably the largest assembly of Christian people in the world, and it is well that we should set the example to the smaller Churches. Doubtless many other believers will follow in our track, and so a public thanksgiving giving will become general throughout the country. I hope to see every congregation in the land raising a special offering unto the Lord, to be devoted either to his Church, to the poor, to missions, or some other holy end. Yes, I would have every Christian offer willingly unto the Lord as a token of his gratitude to the God of providence. I had almost forgotten that to-day we have to ask your contributions for the support of two ministers of our own body, labouring in Germany; it is that it so happens, because it furnishes an object for the practical expression of the thanks which we feel to Almighty God; while as the sum required for this object will at once be raised, our beloved college will be a worthy object for friends at a distance to assist with their free-will offerings.

Lastly, would not it be well for us if the Lord would crown this year with his goodness by making us begin from this day to be more prayerful? Let our prayer meetings have more at them, and let everyone in his closet pray more for the preacher, pray more for the Church. Let us, everyone of us, give our hearts anew to Christ. What say you to-day, to renew your consecration vow? Let us say to him, "Here, Lord, I give myself away to thee once more. Thou hast bought me with thy blood, accept me over again; from this good hour I will begin a new life for a second time if thy Spirit be with me. Help me, Lord, for Jesus Christ's sake." Amen.

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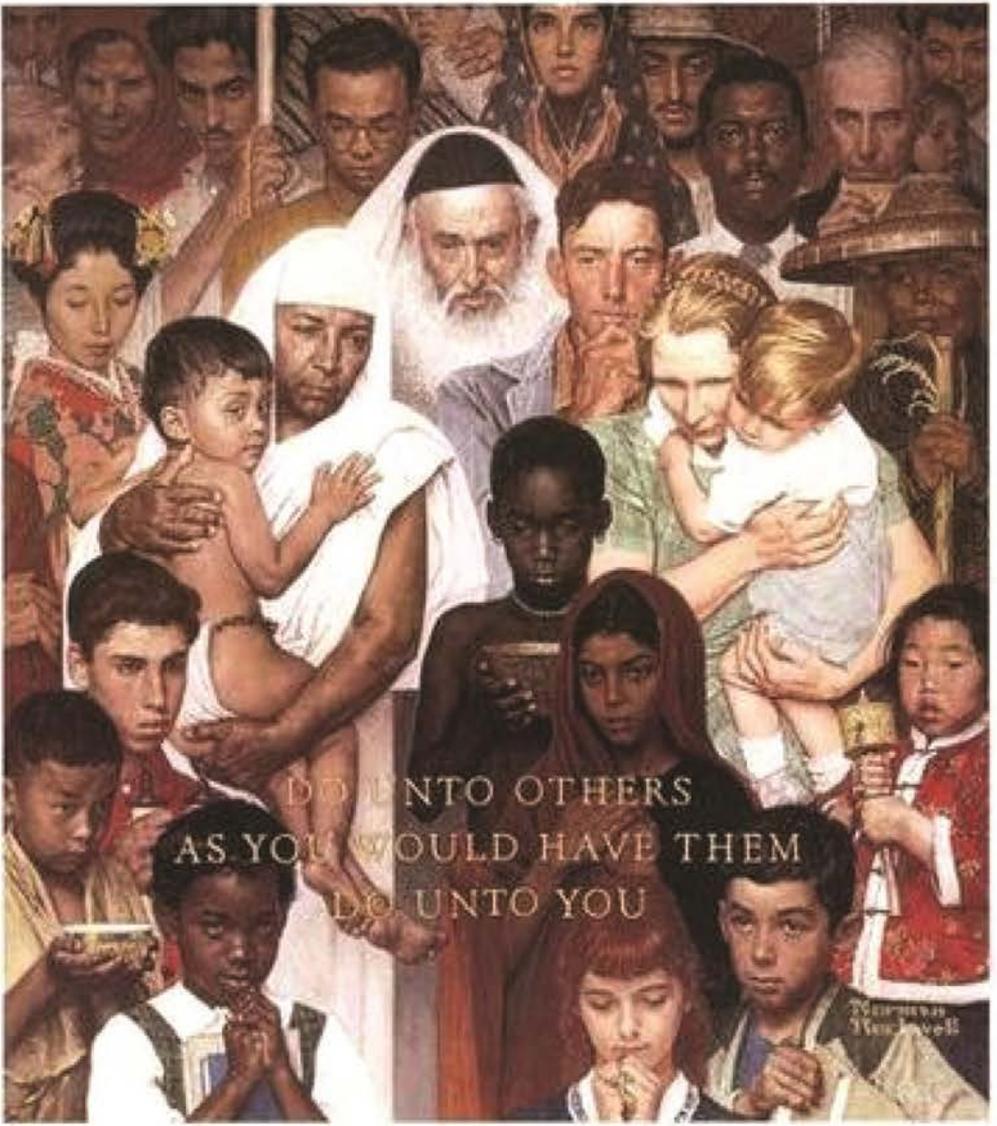


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Also, this is a program designed within Braman Foundation of Charities, leading men and women to live a life that is free from restrictive tendencies and behavior disorder due to: mental illness, addictive tendencies, generating strong holds of sin, deep rooted defeated thinking processes that have led thousands of souls to live an incarcerated lifestyle, institutionalism and deep bondage.

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NORMAN ROCKWELL
"DO UNTO OTHERS"

Braman
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