

Braman Foundation of Charities REVIVE MAGAZINE

The Magazine of The Braman Foundation of Charities

Vol. 6 Issue 3

December 2021



Merry Christmas

The BFC Editorial

Greetings to you during this lovely Christmas season. This time of year, more than any other, is filled with a great energy in the atmosphere to Love and to be joyous. Just think of the opportunity to sow into another life. Remember the harvest is plentiful but the laborers few. It does so much good to forget one's self and to think of others always. Be like Christ! All are made in His image, so Love as He Loved, heal as He healed and be a friend.

In this issue we feature, for the first time, the Sermons of Richard W. Braman, founder of the Braman Foundation of Charities.

Briefly, Richard was born in 1928, a 7th generation dairy farmer in the Schoharie Valley Region of Upstate NY. Although there are old memorabilia of Bibles from the Braman Family, Richard really did not attend church in his early years. It was his marriage to the born again woman of his dreams, Gladys Braman, that the Holy Spirit used and finally in 1951 as the result of a "Billy Graham Crusade" Richard became born again.

Called into ministry, Richard studied through the United Methodist Home Study Course and in 1956 became an ordained minister in the UMC. He served in several churches in New York, Ohio and Illinois.

Richard Braman, wrote over 378 sermons which are currently being digitized for presentation and future generations to use.

So we introduce to you the Sermons of Richard W. Braman! In this issue you will dig and discover some traditional meanings of Christmas and some deeper meanings of Christmas.

Spend time this season in inner contemplation about how you might serve the Lord and His people to a greater extent in 2022. Be of good cheer and know that you are blessed, protected and loved.

So, at BFC we wish for you, your family and friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year!

Faithfully yours, BFC

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Annual Scripture

Philippians 3:13-14

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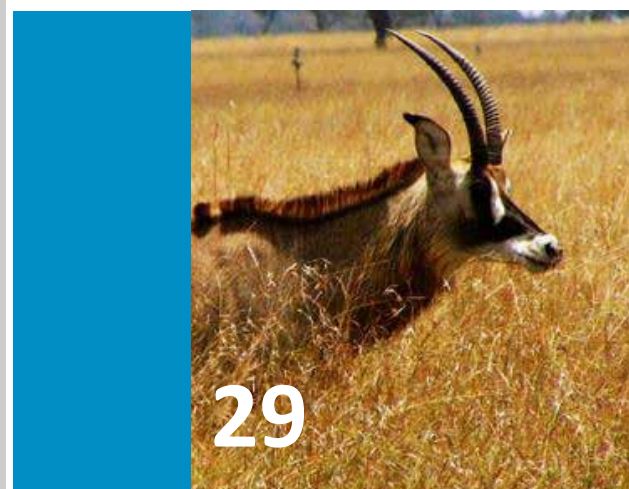
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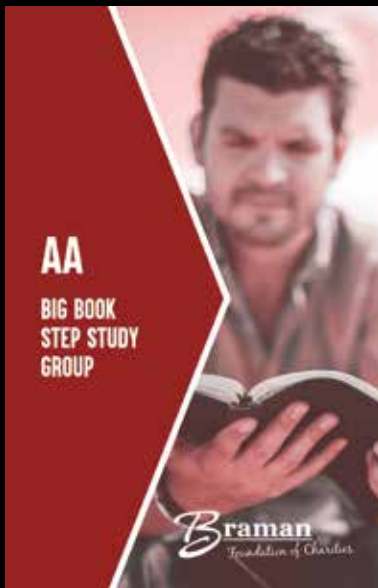
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Queensbury Facility

All construction on the property has been completed! Praise God!







Weekly Meetings at Queensbury Facility

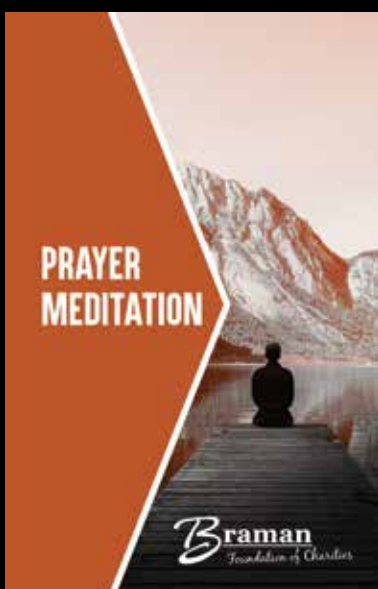
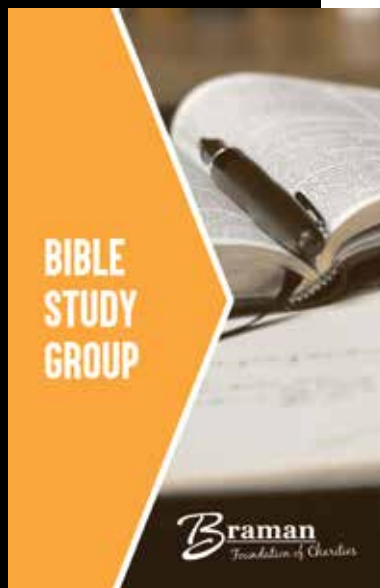
Discipleship

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

A disciple is a follower of Jesus. He has committed to Christ, to walking Christ's way, to living Christ life and to sharing Christ's love, suffering, and truth with others.

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

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



Worship Service

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

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

Bible Study

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

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

Healing & Restoration

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

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

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

AA Meetings

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

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

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

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

Schenectady Community Center

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

Please pray for God's will!



Building



Building



Furniture Plant



Community Garden

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

The Elderly Care Program

Missions: Kenya

We have had a great meeting with the elders on October 1-3, 2021. Pray as we travel back December 2nd to visit, pray and love each other.





Nairobi Missions: Africa

Pray for BFC as we continue to meet with the The Pentecostal Evangelistic Fellowship of Africa (PEFA) Church of Kenya.





South Sudan

Missions: Africa

In August we met with our church members in Juba to present the BFC Program *Discipleship*. In addition, we are proud to welcome, Tina Marial, to our South Sudan team. Tina will be acting as a liaison along side Elijah.



“Real New Years Resolutions”

by Richard W. Braman

Today's text is from Phil. 3:13-14. "I do not consider that I have made it my own; but one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and striving forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

It is exhilarating to meet a man who knows his own mind, who is capable of making decisions, and has the moral stamina to put them into action. Such a man not only plots his course for the future, but also launches himself on it with a mighty resolve. The Apostle Paul was this kind of a man. "One thing I do." He was nothing if not decisive. Indecision is the sworn enemy of true performances. Those of us who work for someone else knows that if you can not make decisions, management does not want you. Of course, good judgment has to be made in making all decisions. The boss doesn't want to know every little detail, that's what he pays you for.

And so it is with making New Year's resolutions, for there are those who treat this subject as one fitted for wisecracks and jokers. The old saying is that New Year's resolutions are made to be broken. Generally the scornor is himself lacking in the powers of decision. He has never learned how to mobilize the constructive forces of his own life. He dissipates his energies, scatters his resources, and executes nothing. He cannot hold to one course long enough to bring it to success. He has never been able to say, "one thing I do."

To make a thoughtful and sincere resolution for the New Year is in itself evidence of capacity and courage.

Among older persons only the young in heart talk and plan for the future. Such a man was Paul. He was already a prisoner when his epistle was written.

Thirty years of ravel, hardship, labor and suffering in the service of Christ lay behind. He knew that as the prisoner of the Emperor Nero the end could not be far off. Yet from his prison cell in Rome he writes, in effect, "this one thing I do, forgetting the past with it achievements and its failures, old, worn, and broken as I am, but with the light of unquestionable hope in me, I press forward like an athlete in a race, straining with all my energies toward the goal where the victor's prize waits me, the upward call of God in Christ Jesus and my Master's "well done." This is what Jesus Christ in our lives can do for us.

We will not know defeat for he guides and directs us in victory. He gives us strength, courage and faith when we most need it.

For our first resolution this morning we might well begin with the past.

Let us therefore resolve to remember of the past only that which is useful for the future. The close of the old year is an excellent time at which to take a spiritual inventory of our losses and our gains.

Not one can possible be at peace with himself in the new year if his conscience is continually presenting him with unsettled accounts from the old.

The awareness of unforgiving sin has a blighting, dulling, paralyzing effect on the individual. It prevents him from living at his best. Paul had hateful memories that might well have continued to rankle in his breast and to torture him even after he had made his surrender on the road to Damascus. But their power over him was broken because he had sought and found God's forgiveness.

There are some men who, had they killed a lion and a bear as David did, would have lived on the reputation of it to the end, and been insufferable. But David said, "the Lord who delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and the Lord who delivered me out of the paw of the bear, will give me victory over this Goliath!" And the memory of the almighty made him strong. Forget past triumphs if they make you proud.

Remember them if they make you strong. Forget past failures when the trumpet calls. Remember them when you are prone to boast. Have you no Red Sea crossed? Have you no lion slain? Have you no token of the love of God in the year that is driving to its close? Bind that upon your heart? Set it as a frontlet upon your brow! There is a moral power in remembrance when we remember the bounty of God.

It is dangerous to try to forget the past if sin lies in it unconfessed and unforgiven. But when we have turned the past over to God and left it in his hands, we are emancipated (freed). The ball and chain has been struck off our ankle. We are free. This is the promise of God.

"It is easy for a man to get stuck in his own yesterdays."

There are right and wrong uses on our part. In Deut. 8:2 we read "thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God lead thee." and Paul says, "Forgetting those thing which are behind." Paul wasn't contradicting Moses. For all apparent contrasts, Moses and Paul are in true harmony. They are forging out a doctrine of the past and it takes prophet and apostle to do that. The

one turns round and looking down the past, he cries remember! The other turns his head and cries forget! There are some things then, that I must remember, and there are some other things that I must forget.

Let us then one by one say: "this one thing I resolve to do..." I shall forget the past, save for those memories that may minister to my soul's upward progress.

Secondly, as the old year slowly draws to a close, let us resolve to cultivate a character that rises about resentment and unforgiveness. Some people treasure the memory of the past hurts and offenses as a miser hoards gold – the wrongs that have been done to them, the conflicts with other personalities, the annoyances and troubles of life.

As a result these unhealthy memories becomes despotic and dominant, destroying the peace and happiness of their victim. Self-pity and wounded self esteem causes human character to shrivel and wither. Our grievances against our fellowman towers like mountains and beside them we stand poor, dwarfed, blighted personalities.

It must be terrible to constantly have on one's mind the feeling of resentment, the feeling of wanting to get even with someone for something he has done to you, for all of thoughts and time can be taken up in such activities; activities that are useless, activities that will benefit no one including ourselves. If we cannot forgive others for something they have done to us, then God cannot forgive us. Thirdly, Let us resolve to keep our finest friendships intact and to strengthen the ties that bind us to them we love.

True friends are not a luxury in life; they are indispensable.

A friend tried and true is one who constantly challenges us to rise into something noble and better than we have yet attained and whose example inspires us to greater effort.

Friendship must be reciprocal. It cannot be all one way for friendship is a two way street. It ought to be on a mutual give and take basis. Each should contribute to the other. True friendship means complete relaxation and a frank exchange of ideas without fear of misunderstanding. In this happy relationship one can be one's natural self, for as it has been truly said: "A friend is one who knows all about us and loves us just the same."

Some of us have friends that we cannot afford. As long as we go out of our way to help them, to furnish them with something to eat, to furnish transportation for them, they are our friends but as soon as something happens to stop some of this we do not see them anymore.

A friend is a person we should be able to talk with, a person who understands our problems, a person who is not afraid to tell us what our faults are, to offer advice. A person who constructively criticizes our lives and offer suggestions for its improvement. A friend isn't someone who goes along with everything we say and do. A friend isn't someone who cuddles us constantly, who tries to smooth over our rough spots.

Friendship is one of God's richest gifts to a lonesome world. We should always cherish it.

Fourth, let us resolve to keep ever before us the highest possible goal.

That was true of Paul: "One thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

These words are not a mere echo that comes to us across "dim tracts of time." They are true for our own day and generation. Faith in God as Christ has revealed him can make us undefeatable. Professor Rufus Jones states the issue in understandable words. "Let a person's inner being be fortified with faith in God and all his creative powers are quickened, his marching strength is heightened and his grip on everyday things is immensely increased. It is as though he has tapped a hidden reservoir of power."

Thorwaldsen, the great Danish sculptor, feeling one day his freshness of conception decaying, said to a friend: "My power is on the decline." Asked what he meant, he pointed...(text not available for translation).

About all of us have goals and plans for our lives. We are always trying to better ourselves so that we can provide more material security for our families. Of course some people try to raise their standards merely for social prestige, for recognition. I don't see anything wrong with each person trying to better himself but how about our spiritual lives?

Are you trying to better your spiritual life? For what good is all the material possessions, all the money we can possibly make if God is not with us? We certainly cannot take it with us when we die but when Christ is within our hearts the money we make can certainly be a blessing if used to help build God's kingdom on this earth. If you haven't included God in your plans and goals, you had better evaluate them and include him.

"My God shall supply all your needs", says Paul. We are not alone. We can face the New Year with confidence and courage when we face it with God. This year make some real New Year's resolutions that will be meaningful for your life.

A Letter from Charles Rymbai

Missions: Asapalli, India

Greetings to you all in the matchless name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I thank you for your love and support you have always rendered towards the ministry of Asapalli. I trust you and your families are doing good by His grace. I think the Lord for His goodness upon us all during this difficult time that the whole world has witnessed the second wave of COVID-19. No doubt we have lost many of our love and dear ones during this time but God is faithful He still upholds us knowing that we still have much to do for His kingdom. I and my wife were infected by this virus for almost a month we were inside our homes. We did struggle, it was a challenging time we had to go through but our God is faithful, He stood beside us during those difficult times. Beside all odds we thank God that we are able to accomplish some of the important pending development projects for the welfare of the students and staffs. I am glad to give you briefly the update for the work completed.

1. The second floor school building with 04 class rooms is completed, to be dedicated soon sometime during December 2021 which will be then ready for the students to use.
2. The staff's quarter which was left incomplete during the 2019-2020 is now completed. The 04 families can accommodate in the building, to be dedicated sometime in the 2nd week of December 2021.
3. The FCRA related matter that I share with you back in the month of March 2021 is also finally approved by the government of India Ministry of Home Affairs. It's quite a challenging task to get it done because the current Government is working hard to stop most of the Mission activities in India thinking that the missions are converting the Hindus to Christianity. We thank God that we are now able to operate the bank account smoothly.
4. The permission for opening grade XI-XII at Asapalli English School has been received recently from the Education Department Government of Assam. It is our dream for the past several years to provide this opportunity to many of the students coming from poor and backward classes to get higher education. We thank God for answering our needed prayer point. This year 17 students were admitted to grade XI in Arts stream.
5. We thank God for providing Asapalli English School, a well qualified, experienced and God-fearing lady to take charge as the Principal for the School. It is our long standing prayer point for this position. With her joining we have a high expectation for more progress in the students' performance.

Thanking you.

Yours' Sincerely.



“Three Dimensions of Christmas”

by Richard W. Braman

Text is taken from Luke 2:10, “Be not afraid; for behold I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people.”

About 30 years ago Gerald Stanley Lee wrote some words about Christmas, which are always in order. His plea was to keep Christmas at its original size. Here was the original size of Christmas.

“Behold I bring you tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people: it was for all people”. It was Christmas unlimited. Mr. Lee put it in this arresting way; “Why should Christmas, that stern, imperious moment in the world when with a child’s cry and a women’s smile, God turned the world over, and began in a minute a new human race—why should Christmas be tucked away in men’s minds as a feebly pretty country sentiment, a women’s holiday, a baby’s frolic, the sublimest event on earth thrust playfully in the bottom of a stocking.”

There is a danger that the very loveliness of Christmas as a home festival may imprison it within the home, and thus men may forget that it is a world festival, celebrating the truth that God so loved the world—all of it—“that he gave his only begotten son.” Christmas ought to be a time for widening the walls of the home, of letting love stream out into the wider world. Christmas must be pulled out of the stocking and carried to the dispossessed, the defrauded, to the whole globe, as well as America.

“Christmas has and in-reach
To lift the soul of me,
A search of deepening joy
Like that of tidal sea.”

When the ocean tide rises, the pools in the sand are filled with water, the shoreline receives, the occurrence of the tidal rivers are turned back to flood their estuaries, the marshes and the flats become mirror lakes. So, too, is the surge of Christmas as it deepens in the souls of men.

As the ocean tide rises by an influence that comes from faraway, so the tide of joy that rises comes from long ago. Long before the angels above Bethlehem’s plain, Israel poets and prophets felt the tide rising. You remember what the prophet Isaiah says in 9:6, “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called

“Wonderful Counselor”, “Mighty God”, “Everlasting Father”, “Prince of Peace.”

The tide was in flow when the shepherd’s return to their midnight vigil after kneeling at the manger. And ever since, Christmas brings deepening joy to the lives of men everywhere. This surely is not surface joy; it is deep and deepening joy that we speak.

It is joy that is deepened by mystery and wonder. For we know that God moves in mysterious ways, his wonders to behold.

It is joy that quickens the memories of men, and the gladness of childhood becomes the treasure of their souls. Jesus said we need the faith of a child. Faith that can never be shaken. A trust that is everlasting. The birth of Jesus Christ, which stands for peace to all mankind, brings us great joy.

It is joy that causes men to ponder the ways of God, as Mary in her joy at bringing a man-child into the world pondered the meaning of it all. It certainly is good for us to ponder, for us to ask questions concerning to Christ and seeking the answers. God did have a reason and the answer to it can be revealed in our own lives.

The in-reach of the tide is unto the heart of man. It rises above barriers. It flows around obstacles. It is the joy of salvation that cleanses the heart and redeems it from evil. Thus it comes about that gratitude and peace flow into the inner recesses of the heart.

The in-reach of Christmas sets free the high desires and hopes and energies of men as boats that are stranded on muddy flats are lifted by the incoming tide.

We read in John 1:11-12, “He came into his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, and believe in his name, he gave power to become children of God.” The in-reach of Christmas is that God will make us his children, he will guide and direct our lives, he will give us comfort, he will save us, if, we believe. God has all kinds of power available for us, waiting for us, if we really believe.

Galatians 2:20 reads, “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

Paul is truly stating what happens to your life once you really and truly accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. You become a new creature in Christ. You are different and everything you do and say is in his name and to his glory. So the in-reach of Christmas is deep.

The joy of Christmas reaches deep within us and lifts us to new heights, to new ambitions, to new goals, that otherwise we could never achieve.

The first dimension of Christmas is in-reach.
Christmas has an up-reach
To touch the heart of God,
A burst of greening springtime,
Rejoicing from the sod.

On a Christmas Sunday morning ten thousand choirs across the land are singing "Hallelujah." Hundreds of thousands of voices are singing, "Joy to the World! The Lord is come." All through the week carols are in the air. Pageantry repeats the Nativity scene. Good will rises in the hearts of men. Human relationships become more brotherly. No matter how low the outdoor thermometer, there are sunshine and warmth everywhere. This is a burst of springtime. It is a quickening of grassroots. It is rejoicing from the sod "when the tender grass springeth out of the earth through clear shining after rain."

This is the up-reach of Christmas. This is Christmas in that dimension in which we think of God. God is our Father, said Jesus; then surely it must be that the Father heart of God rejoices in the joy of his children. The Father heart is not hard, but tender. It is not stone-like, but sensitive like a heart of flesh.

The up-reach of Christmas is our rejoicing in the salvation of Christ. For surely Jesus Christ is our Savior. He was born, lived, died and rose again so that our sins could be forgiven for all time.

The up-reach of Christmas is the gratitude to God that rises from our hearts. For certainly we are thankful and gracious to God for the birth of our Lord and Savior.

The up-reach of Christmas is the love of God and man it releases. For surely Christ, is the prince of peace. Because of God's love for us, Christ was born into the world.

The up-reach of Christmas is the sincere prayer that ascends to God.

The up-reach of Christmas is the hope of a better day that is quickened in human hearts. If we truly take Christ into our hearts, if we become Christians and believe in the Gospel we have the promise of eternal life with God, our Father. Christians believe that there is life beyond this earthly one and this is what we have to look forward to. If there isn't a life in the here after and if we believed death is the end, then our lives have no meaning.

The up-reach of Christmas is our pledge of loyalty and allegiance to Christ. We claim to be Christians

and if we really are than we do pledge allegiance to Christ's Kingdom. We promise to witness to others of Christ's teaching everywhere and we know if this happens peace will finally come to this world of ours because each one of us will have this peace within ourselves.

Christ is a gift from God—that is God's down reach: my life may be a gift to God— that is my up-reach.

A second dimension of Christmas is an up-reach.
Christmas has an out-reach
To bless my every brother,
From me good-will from God-His presence in Another.

Much of the out-reach of Christmas may not be understood by those who come under its influence. Christmas goes out to the ends of the earth. It may even be misunderstood. Nevertheless it brings blessing, if only as a harbinger of a day when the tide shall rise to a higher level.

This is one world. Christmas kept in one place is Christmas Everywhere. Christmas In one heart is Christmas kept in all hearts. All are tied up in the bundle of life together. Christmas blesses every brother.

This blessing is our good will. Good will is an out growing contagious thing. It is like yeast, which has marvelous power to increase. Good will, too, is like a tide that rises. We tied good will into our gift packages to those who are near us; we send the good will to those farther away; we burden our prayers with good will for all. We actually become agents of good will. We certainly must always continue to be good will agents.

The out-reach of Christmas is the out reach of God's love. God so loved the world that he gave his son. Most certainly the out-reach of Christmas is that as recorded in the Gospel of John 3:16; "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." "Whosoever" is the outreach word. It doesn't matter who we are or where we are, if we believe in Jesus Christ and accept him as Lord and Savior, we have the promise of eternal life.

God's presence in Another—it is the out-reach of the living Christ, God with us, Emanuel. "The word became flesh and dwelt among us."

Because Christmas is intended for the whole wide world it has an essential sadness, represented by the disturbing contract between what the world is and what it might be if the love and light of Christmas were lived continuously.

It is against the background of the stained and soiled life of the world that the light and love of Christmas

can be seen in its glory and power. For despite the corrosion of time and this soiling of human circumstance, in spite of inhumanity and ill will, in the face of all efforts to obliterate any lasting image of amity, friendliness and good will, there is a message and a Messenger, which cannot be hid or taken away. Christmas is the glad announcement that Christ has come into a darkened world.

A third dimension of Christmas is out-reach.

These are the three dimensions of Christmas, in-reach, up-reach, and out-reach. They give these dimensions to our Christmas joy. Let the true spirit of Christmas come into your heart and may it last all year long.

*Christmas has and in-reach
To lift the soul of me,
A search of deepening joy
Like that of tial sea*



Worship Service

Thursday 7pm-8pm

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

Email info@bramanfoundation.org for more information.

Braman
Foundation of Charities

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Grow in your Daily Walk

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

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

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

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

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



bramanfoundation.org

The Christmas Spirit

Luke 2:10

“

I bring you glad tidings.

A Christmas spirit should be a spirit of humility. Beside that beautiful object lesson of the manger, the cradle and the lowly little baby, what Christian heart can ever wish to be proud?

It is a spirit of joy. It is right that these should be glad tidings for the angel announced, Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

It is a spirit of love. It should be the joy that comes from giving joy to others. The central fact of Christmas is the Christ who loved us and came to live among us and die for us. He or she has no right to share its joys who is living for himself or herself alone.

Love is always sacrificial, and so the Christmas spirit will call us to a glad and full surrender, first to God and then to the joyful sacrifice of what we call our own for His glory and the good of others.

The Christmas spirit is a spirit of worship. It finds the Magi at His feet with their gold and frankincense and myrrh. Let it find us there, too.

The Christmas spirit is the spirit of missions. Its glad tidings are for all people.

- written by A.B. Simpson, Days of Heaven on Earth

Days of Heave on Earth, as the title read in the original 1897 edition is somewhat different. In response to repeated requests for a daily Christmas, Simpson himself prepared this book, selecting appropriate passages from various of his books, pamphlets and sermons.



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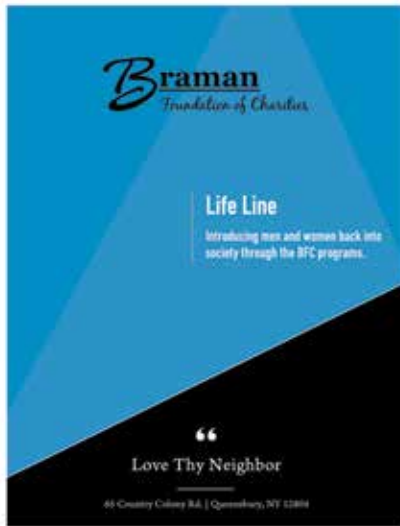
Fudia Designs is unifying African design in a western world style that are ideal for use during the summer season and warmer weather. Fudia's apparel include African bracelets, necklaces, hand fans, hand bags, waist bands, slippers, beach hats, fascinators, frames, neckties, bow ties, and earrings. All products are manufactured with 100% African fabrics.

COMING SOON

HOMELANDNATURALPRODUCTS.COM

BFC Corrections / Prison Behind the Walls Program

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

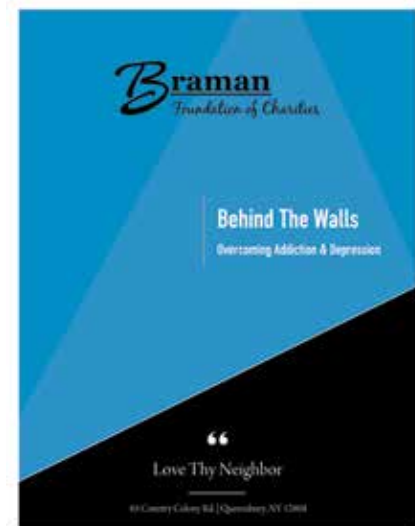


Life Line

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

Behind the Walls

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



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





BFC Corrections / Prison

BFC is now a Transitional Service Provider!

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

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



Bedford Hills (BTW)

Pathway to Queensbury

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



Taconic Facility (Life Line)

Pathway to Woman's Facility

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

“Christianity is a Christmas Faith”

by Richard W. Braman

Text chosen from 1 John 1:5; “This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is Light and in him is no darkness at all.”

There is an incident tucked away in the second chapter of Luke’s Gospel that we commonly overlook at Christmas. The destined child of God’s giving has come. The caravan of adoration— the shepherds and Wiseman, the great and humble of the earth— has gone its way. There comes a day when the parents of Jesus take him to the temple at Jerusalem for consecration. As they stand at the altar before the priest, an elderly saint prophet of God, Samuel by name, who had been awaiting the “consolation of Israel,” joins them there. Dramatically he takes the child in his arms, looks up to heaven, and makes that sublime utterance known as the “Nunc dimittis” as we read in Luke 2:29-32. There is a majestic sweep in the words as they are spoken:

“Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation!”

For this is not just an ordinary child that he holds in his arms at the altar; there is something portentous about this life. “This Child”, cried the aged saint, “should be for the rise and falling of many in Israel!” This little life is to constitute a watershed in human history, is to get a new date to time, and a new dimension to the human soul. Man will either receive this child unto the salvation of their souls or reject it at their peril. One thing is certain— they cannot ultimately be indifferent to it.

Let us set down a few of the ramifications of the Christmas fact.

First of all, we note that Christmas is preeminently an event, a startling happening within history, the actual advent of the life and love and light of God into a world of sin and pain and woe and death. Its sublime significance is contained in the word ‘Emmanuel’ which means, “God with us.” For God surely is with us in Jesus Christ.

How uniquely the Eternal made his entry into time, the heavenly into the realm of the human. Someone has said that when God wanted to give us music, he didn’t hand us a book on technicalities. Rather he wrapped a song in feathers, set it on a bough and bade it sing! So, at that first Christmas, God wrapped his glory up in the

tender loveliness of a little child, and offered himself to the humanity that so needed him.

Would it be irreverent to suggest that there is a “method in God’s madness”, in the revealing of himself? All other avenues of appeal seemed closed. The adult world had proved cross and cool and cold. One door remained open! A little child—pray who could refuse that? Through what a lowly door the Savior bestrides our humanity and comes upon the stage of history! There was a mother who had adopted six or seven children. Every now and then the social worker would stand at her door with still another child for adoption. That’s social worker was very wise, “Just hold the baby in your arms for a moment”, she would urge, which, when it was done, secured still another child for a loving home and a loving mother.

Perhaps God figured the world could not possibly reject the baby Jesus. The elderly Simeon, the child clasped in his arms, is aware that the Word has become flesh that the Divine has entered into history. He, therefore, exclaims with prophetic insight, “mine eyes have seen thy salvation.” We know this for we read in the Gospel of John 1:14, “and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.”

Simeon and Anna did not even live into the angry dawn of their world’s new day. The first faint glow of it was all they caught; but they were willing to leave it at that, and die as men have died from time immemorial with no other certainty then this bear edge of a vision. “Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace.” There was only a hint of God, a nod, a glance— but they got it; because they knew as Jesus knew on Calvary, what God was like: that he would always be alive; Breaking through in quiet corners that he would always be standing most surely in the very center of things most desolate.

And how much more advantage we have today then did the people at the first Christmas. We can read of the experiences of others all down through history. Our Bible, the word of God, gives us these experiences. We know that God did truly give to us his Son, as our Lord and Savior. He came to save the world. We can be saved if we believe. We do have something to look forward to, eternal and everlasting life with our father in heaven. This is one of the advantages of being a Christian.

But if we look deeper still into the heart of Christmas, you see not only an unveiling of himself on the part of God, but what is more, a measuring rod, a word and spiritual barometer for what we call our civilization. This is a cosmic child, and is for the rising and falling of humanity! It smites our so-called progress in the arts, science, and religion on the cheek. It inserts a live demarcation between what is false and true, evil

and good, in our makeshift human progress. Christmas is a child–Potentate, set on the throne, meeting our judgment upon the sons of the earth.

How our almighty the child is! It is fitting that we should freely face the sterner aspect of the Christian message, lest the tinsel skewer the reality. As Christians, our task is the basic one at helping to shape the kind of world in which our children may safely live and grow and know happiness. We indulge no sentimentality when we say, “We must make the world safe for the children.”

You may say, “I am only one person; what can I do alone” if everyone felt this way, certainly, nothing would be done to make the world a better place in which to live. Each individual needs to start with his own life. He needs to make sure he is living his life according to God’s will for his life. He needs to set a good example for his children, for his family, for his friends, for his associates, for everyone he comes in contact with. He then can go out to proclaim the right kind of lives and how they should be lived.

Jesus Christ has taught and is teaching us each day what kind of lives to live. God’s word gives us direction and guidance. Prayer with our Lord, helps us to live our lives according to his will. Certainly building more weapons of war is not going to make the world a better and safer place in which to live. Perhaps we do have to keep our defenses up but this is only a temporary answer and not a permanent solution. The answer I believe it’s for each one of us to find that peace, goodwill, happiness and joy which Jesus Christ brings. This– I believe will make the world a safer and better place for us and our children to live. We need to accept Christ into our lives as a personal Lord and Savior and we will find that peace which the Christmas message proclaims to all mankind.

Once we find this piece, we can and we will want to share it with others until the world truly becomes the kingdom of God. This and only this will provide us with a safer world for us and for our children. We are concerned about security in the future. This is the only real security we can know. The Child is not only our judge, but also our best hope. This broken battered world of ours can be rebuilt about a manger crib! Regardless of what our particular nationality, or color, or creed maybe, the fact remains that all of us love our children. And there is also help for our riddled humanity in that fact. There is a power in the tiny fingers of one of Christ’s ‘little ones’, that can reorder our distraught world according to “the patterns revealed in the Mount”. The aged Simeon is aware of the fact that the Child is cosmic. It is for the rise and falling of nations.

And then we have another thought: Christmas is an event in which a child becomes a signpost and a road leading

and guiding us into the Kingdom of the Life Abundant most likely it was the vivid realization of this which thrilled at the heart of Simeon. He has been on the alert, on spiritual tip toe, waiting for the “consolation of Israel.” And now that salvation has appeared, he opens wide the hospitable union of his own heart to the Child, exultantly explaining as he does so, “for mine eyes have seen the salvation.” Personal quest ends in personal discovery.

A father took his little daughter to see the famous painting, “The light of the World”. For a long while parent and child looked in reverent silence at the blessed Master, lantern in hand, knocking gently at the door which could only be opened from within. As they walked away the child asked the essential question:

“Daddy, did they open the door?” It is our willing response to God’s gracious offer of life in Christ that brings our salvation. I wonder if we would open the door? Have we let Christ in?

Halford Lancock writing in his book, “Living on Tip Toes” quotes Arthur J Gossip concerning lives “lived in expectancy”. He says, “they are the kind of folks by whom the world moves forward; who live in a qui vive of expectancy, always standing on tip toe, always sure that something big may happen at anytime. With people like that God can do anything. But you and I keep thwarting him by sheer dullness of spirit. We are listless, apathetic, blasé, bored; our hopes are small and thin. There is no audacity in our expectation.”

Christ gives meaning to our lives. We have a reason for living the best possible kind of life. We need to live our lives in expectancy, waiting for something big to happen, for it surely will if we live this way. We can never come to the point where we are satisfied with the kind of life we are living or if we do, we have missed the real meaning of life. How this Advent – Child does need to lay hold of our desperate, weary and saddened hearts! How it needs to guide our vagrant footsteps to that kingdom which is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. We often hear that Christmas is for children; but the fact remains that we adults need it the most. It were as though the Eternal Himself were saying to us, never mind your possible doubts with regard to the Nativity narratives. No words of mere man can possibly be adequate vehicles to set forth the wondrous event. There are depths in which no human mind can fully grasp. Rather consult your deep needs, look into the eyes and hearts of the little child and behold anew the glory in reality of Christmas! A man, speaking with a close friend of his, was overheard to say, “our heads maybe coldly logical, but our hearts never are!” None other than the Lord of life stands by saying, “I tell you truly, unless you turn and become like children, you will never get in the Realm of Heaven at all.

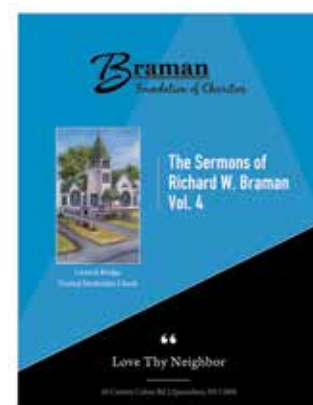
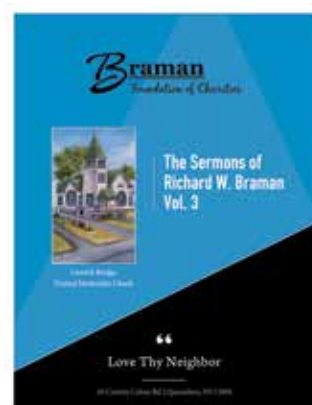
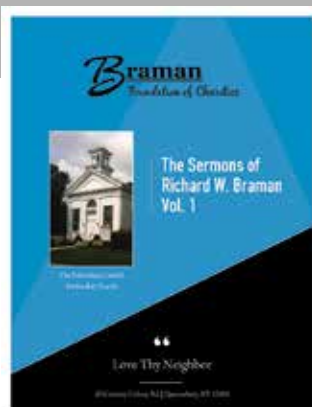
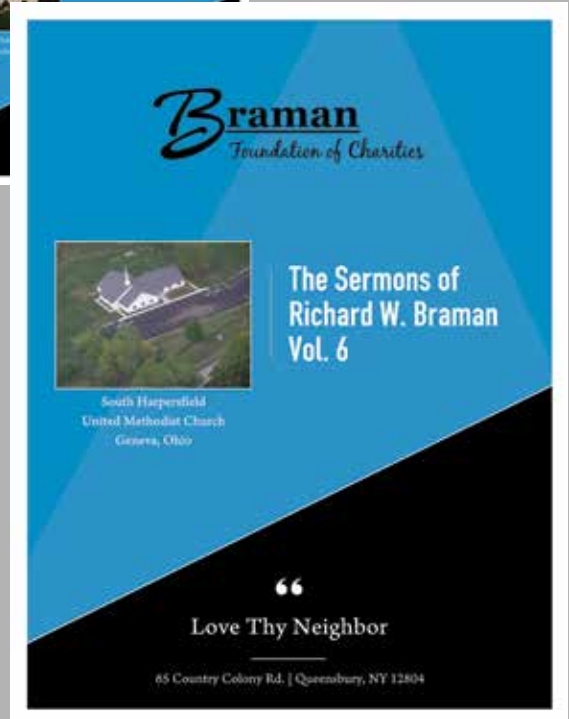
The Sermons of Richard W. Braman

Soon to be featuring Vol. 6

As you read these sermons may the Holy Spirit continue to guide your path and may the Grace of our Lord continue to bless your life and your families' lives. If you have never had the experience of realizing Jesus as your personal Savior just ask him to come in your heart and He will. These can be read on our website.

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

We celebrate the work of Sandra Tarrant, a BFC Board Member whose labor in transcribing the RWB Sermons.



About Sandra

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

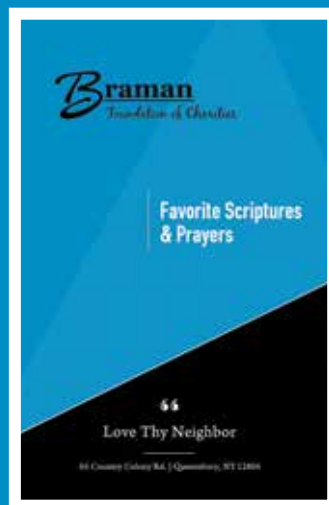
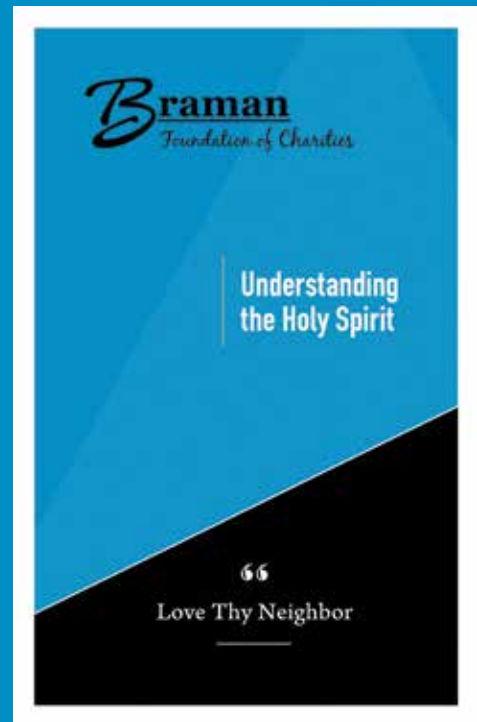
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- Matt 6:33

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Join Us

For an amazing experience in March 2022.

Details for the retreat will be available soon on bramanfoundation.org



The BFC African Retreat is complete inclusive; hotels, airfare, limo and transportation, all meals and even the core of your Visa to Kenya. BFC wants to earn your trust, so you are able to be completely free to enjoy your retreat.

We take you for your careful, and prayerful retreat. Please know that we are here to serve you.

Highlights

Archaeological Site -
Thimlich Ohinga

Traditional Luo Dance

Ruma National Park

A Vivid and Varied
Landscape

What's Included

Round-Trip Travel from
Queensbury Hotel to Nairobi

Hotel Stay at Ole Sereni

Ruma National Park
Safari

Visa, Yellow Fever Shot, Food

COMING SOON

An Understanding of Devotion, Confession, Self Reflection & Repentance

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

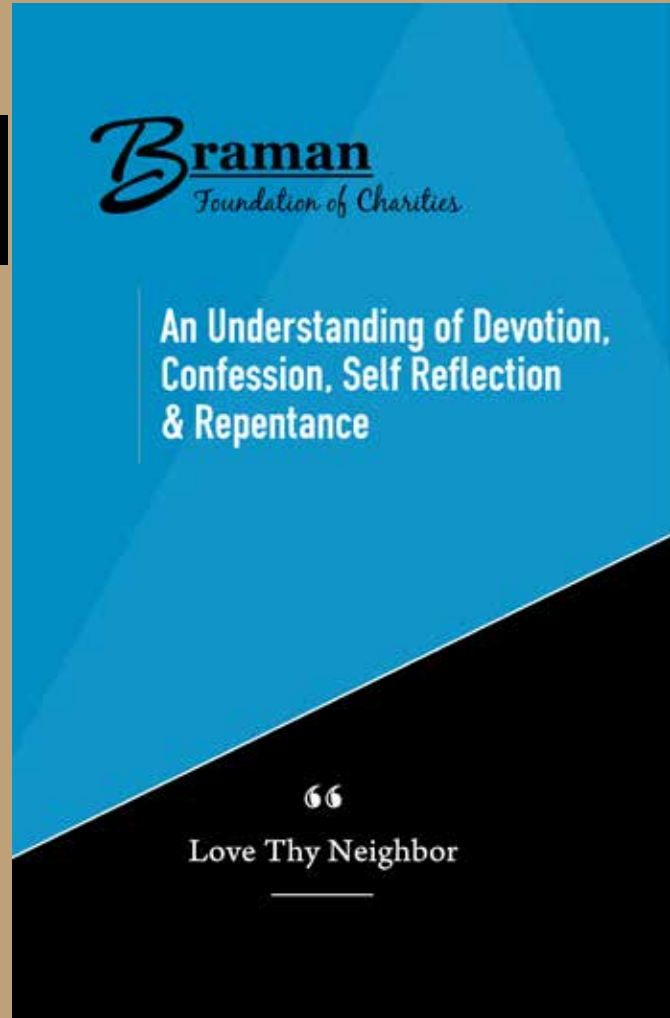
We are great at getting others saved, but just fail miserably with working with others in discipleship. It is important to note that Christ has commanded in Matthew 28.

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

“Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

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Inspire

A Monthly E-Commerce Newsletter
by Braman Foundation of Charities

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

Colossians 6:17

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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 give to you as well. **Mathew 6: 31-33.**

Thankfulness 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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