

Braman Foundation of Charities REVIVE MAGAZINE

The Magazine of The Braman Foundation of Charities

Vol. 5 Issue 2

May 2020



“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”
Galatians 6:9

The BFC Editorial

Greetings to you my friends in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We know that throughout the world we are struggling with the pandemic COVID-19 virus. And so, we at BFC also struggle. Yet we realize that we serve a loving God that shelters us under His wings, continues to provide His grace and His mercy as well as forgives us.

We encourage all of you to stay safe, and grow in your devotion to the one that is your true sustained, Jesus Christ. Instead of focusing on the difficulty spend more time in your surrendered heart to Jesus. His arms are opened wide. He loves, now and will forever.

If you are a new follower of Christ or you have decided to commit your life to Christ then recite Romans chapter 10 verse 9, take heart and surrender:

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

If you do not have a bible, be sure to get one so you can begin to grow in your relationship with Christ. Additionally, it will do you well to gather weekly with other fellow disciples that have been saved. Find a church.

In the meantime, let us know at BFC any prayer requests you might have. Visit us at www.bramanfoundation.org. Now you may also write to us at BFC, PO Box 4743, Queensbury, NY 12804. On the BFC website there is a prayer request button you may click on to send us your prayer requests. We would love to pray for you.

Remember as God's child you are divinely protected and covered by the shed blood of Christ. Christ has gone to the cross for all human kind and as such He yearns for all to come to Him. The Victory that you have, in Jesus, is now your life. Friend you have secured your place with Christ in heaven. Now learn to overcome the here and now and grow in Christ.

Friends, as you know BFC has three platforms: Missions, Community, Corrections and Prisons. In this issue we are pleased to announce our new offices and our first women's facility in Queensbury, NY. This completes our platform for Community Programs. We also continue to grow with COGIC (Church of God in Christ) as we sow into those churches with Operation Blessing Bag. In Missions we have completed the recent NAFI conference in India, our Pastoral conference in Uganda and our latest Kenya program, the Elderly Feeding Program. We thank our sister Eve's father Somo Otieno who is helping with the coordination of this in Kenya. The Asapalli School in India continues to grow and its third floor is currently under construction. We are looking forward to all the work the Lord has opened doors for us in both India and Africa.

Later this year we are planning trips to Khartoum, Sudan and Kigali, Rwanda. It is our hope to spread the good news in these new areas for BFC. In Corrections, discussions have begun as we are hoping the Lord will open doors into the Bedford Hills Women's Facility. It is our hope that we are able to bring in the Behind the Walls Program there and be able to utilize its Life Line Program to bridge women into the two year BFC Women's Facility. Please pray for BFC. The BFC literature platforms continue to grow as we introduce Favorite Scriptures & Prayers. Pray as BFC continues to press into God's will to produce other literary works.

In this issue we have three written articles from two of BFC's staff and Board Member. We thank God for Charmaine Long. Charmaine serves as a Board Member of BFC and as its Operations Manager. Without her service BFC would not be able to move forward as it continues to do. The Lord has blessed BFC greatly and Charmaine is so appreciated. For the first time, Charmaine has provided an article for your benefit. Thank you so much Charmaine!

Finally, we seek your prayers and your continued financial support as we continue to press into the Lord, seek His will, and fulfill our Mission, "To love thy neighbor".

God bless you and enjoy this issue.

Always in Christ's Service.

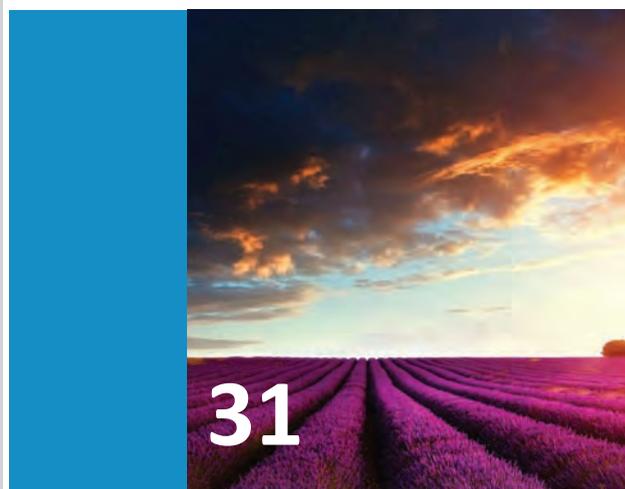
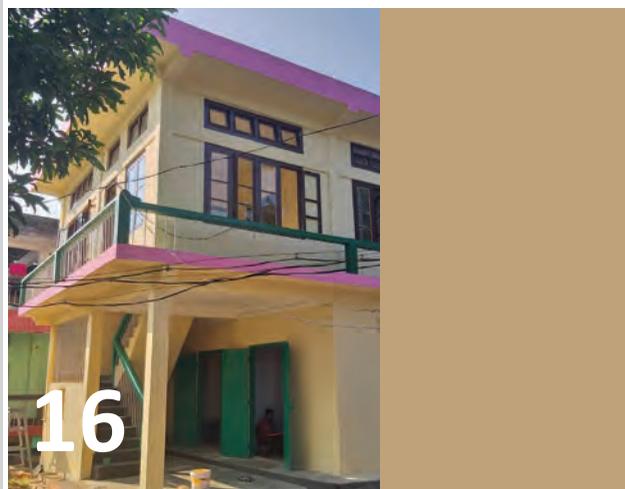
BFC

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NAFI January Conference

Asia Pacific Alliance Churches put on the event to talk about Deeper Life & Missions. The conference took place in Mahemdabad, India at the Alliance Training Center January 27-30, 2020.

Speakers Rev. Jon Mitchell, Executive Director, College of Prayer International and Rev. Aman Gupta, Board Member C&MA Australia lead the conference.

For it is His heart to bring us back to Him, back to the living water of abundance in the source of life itself.

Let us pray for revival,
spiritual breakthrough
& deeper passion
for missions.

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.”

-Ezekiel 36:26



Uganda February Conference

Pastors were in attendance for our BFC Pastoral Conference where they covered 2 Timothy. The conference was held at the Enro Hotel in Mityana, Uganda on February 24-27 and lead by Jacques Masiko.

Jacques, gave an overview on the 2 Timothy and introduced 8 Dig/Discovery tools they use in expository preaching. The three days of training covered the following core principles:

- Asking good questions
- Staying on line
- Text and framework
- Genre
- Traveling instructions
- Structure of the passage
- Main idea and intended response
- Biblical Theology

Based on the feedback, questions and testimonies from the participants, at the end of each session and at the end of the conference, we all felt encouraged as there were signs of transformation and determination to change the ways they were teaching and preaching God's word in their churches. They also expressed determination to continue with future training so that they can cover the remaining 6 trainings.

Community Programs

Braman Institute of Higher Learning

The last of BFC to complete its work. The Braman Institute of Higher Learning will be a facility in which an individual can reside for two years. A strict “monastic” type of environment allows BFC to be “all in” with these types. An individual that qualifies for BIHL could be a parolee from Behind The Walls or just a homeless person ready to commit to change. Whatever the case, BIHL runs a complete recovery center, Christ focused, military style facility. BIHL will work all aspects of its client’s life to help bring them back to society through its Christ centered programs. BIHL may be ready by the 2nd or 3rd of quarter 2020.



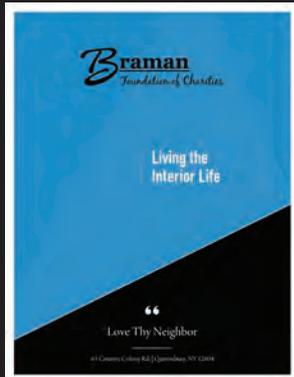
“Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself”



Woman’s Shelter

The Braman Foundation has recently secured the new Women’s Facility. This new facility will be the home of the BFC offices as well as some of our other programs including the Braman Institute of Higher Learning and Homeland Natural Products.

BIHL Curriculum



Living the Interior Life

BFC programs will also be utilized to work with women's issues stemming from abortion, depression, substance abuse, and domestic violence. The program, Living the Interior Life will be used. Other programs will be announced as we move forward in serving together.

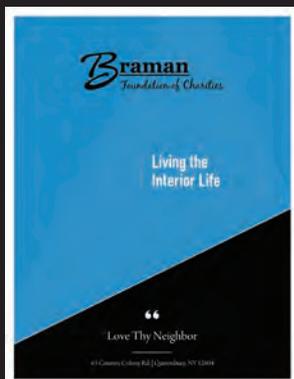
What is Discipleship?

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



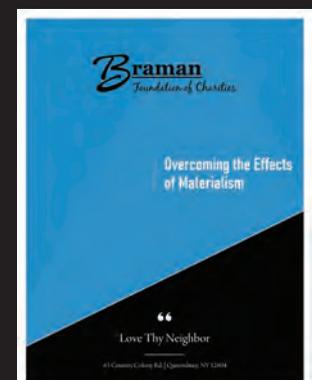
Healing & Restoration

Millions of us suffer needlessly from addiction and depression. The reasons for this are many. In this program we emphasize the 12 Step Method of Recovery, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, and Meditation techniques to overcome difficulties. We also rely on God's grace to help you be lifted from your dilemma.



Overcoming the Effects of Materialism

In this program we look how materialism in America has effected our lives, our finances, and how it has separated us from God. We explore the effects of pride. The idea of Covenanting our Neighbor and several other debilitating consequences of materialism in America.



Optimism, Healing, and Recovery

In light of these challenging times of the Covid-19 virus.

by Charmaine Long

When we look at these three words; Optimism, Healing, and Recovery we each may have a different reference of them. However, during this time of day to day uncertainty we are given an opportunity to look at many words and see them through a different lens. We may be able to see things from the perspectives of others in a way which was not previously possible.

Optimism:

For instance, what does optimism look like to you? Webster's dictionary states; 1: a doctrine that this world is the best possible world; 2: an inclination to put the most favorable construction upon actions and events or to anticipate the best possible outcome.

Applying this definition to the most recent coronavirus scare may be challenging. Now is the time to lean into our spiritual perception. The practice of Matthew 6:22 is a good daily practice but also a good verse to rest in when we have difficulty seeing past the negative outlook and fear producing news. Matthew 6:22 – "the eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But, if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness". Darkness can be a heavy weight that we carry around with us. The weight will show itself in how we walk, hang our head, share our outlook with others and make decisions.

We know how this makes us feel but do we associate how this might feel from the perspective of a homeless person? What would the lack of faith-driven optimism look like if I am living in poverty? It might look very similar to your own feelings when you are going through times of uncertainty.

Even better, to take it a step further, Galatians 6:2 "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ". As we often experience some of the best in people and the very worst of people in times of tribulation – we are guided by the word of the Lord to understand that times of tribulation is not an exercise to be self-centered. Who among you would invite a person in need into your home to share whatever little you may have? Or would

you send them somewhere else to receive kindness and love? We must remember that our actions towards others is truly our actions towards the Lord as if He, himself just knocked upon your door! Might it be easy for us to remember Luke 11:28, But, He said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!!"

Recovery

Webster's definition: the process of combating a disorder (such as alcoholism) or a real or perceived problem; the act, process, or an instance of recovery.

Many of us think of "recovery" as gaining back something we once had whether it be health, finances, or an object once lost. We would probably see recovery as a process, or an action needed to be taken to obtain a previous state of being. But, could we possibly see it as a place? What would recovery look like if you were IN it? Again, the corona virus has changed our normal, daily life as we once knew it. We know this current state is something we need to recover from! Where do we begin? What steps do we take first? How long will it take? Will I need help from others to get through this? These are just a few questions that might come to mind. How would not having answers to these questions and the uncertainty make you feel? What resources do you have to turn to? You may feel too proud to say you need help or embarrassed to ask.

Again, stretch yourself to see recovery through a different lens. You will find there are many similarities. What if you are trying to recover from an addiction or possibly faulty reasoning/logic as when dealing with anorexia. Surely this appears different. But is it? Are there similar steps to recovery of financial loss versus recovery from drugs? Are you able to take the concerns of recovery from the repercussions of the corona virus and apply it to the day to day uncertainty of recovery from addiction? Are there times when you might see the footsteps of the path cross over one another? If so, how does this change you in a profound way lasting beyond recovery?

We might ask ourselves: do we want to recover back to our original state or a better or different one? Yes, with our faith in the Lord we can hope and pray for recovery and know it will come. But what if you were not able to feel certain about your recovery outcome? Your days are filled with continuous fight and uncertainty. You would begin to have days of being tired and torn down. Malachi 3:11; "I will rebuke the devourer for you, so it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the Lord of hosts". We are to bear fruit, fruit for the Lord. Others need to benefit from our fruit, the fruit of our faith. With the new lens of what recovery looks like for others we can better share our faith with true compassion and love.

Healing

Websters definition of healing:

- 1) to make free from injury or disease: to make sound or whole
- 2) a. to cause (an undesirable condition) to be overcome
b. to patch up or correct (a breach or division)
- 3) to restore to original purity or integrity

There are many types of healing. Imagine as you heal from a cut. It takes time, the appropriate environment, and maybe something to protect it from the germs. Everyone will heal differently. Some will heal to the point where you can no longer even see where the cut was. For others, a slight scar or discoloration may be left behind and serve as a reminder of what happened to result in this scar. We may heal from a physical illness, psychological illness, or an emotional one. May some of us have some healing to do as we fight the effects (isolation, distancing, depression etc.) of the Covid-19 virus? Will we heal back to our original state or will there be a slight scar? Can we heal to be better than we previously were, or will we just look for our previous state of stability?

Change is difficult, but when change is forced upon us it has a very different feeling. Loss of what we thought we had control over can have a far-reaching impact. Anxiety, fear, and confusion may keep us from adapting to the current set of circumstances and render us blind to ways of coping and a logical approach to the situation. Can you imagine feeling this way every day? Slightly alter the lens you are looking through and add to your situation poverty, homelessness, or doing battle with an addiction. You have had years (not weeks/months) of this as your daily norm. You would like to heal but you cannot remember what a healed life looks like or if you ever had one at all. Going back to a “normal life” is not really a viable option so you are faced with charging forward into uncharted territory. Maybe it is safer to just survive where you are currently in a life where there is a perceived sense of control. What would it be like to live in a “Tyranny of the Moment” state every day?

If you have faith and trust in the Lord this picture may look very different. Such as proverbs 3:5-6, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your path straight.” As you lean into the Lord more and more during times of tribulation, what if you were to bring others along with you? At this time, like no other, you can see through someone else’s lens. With this lens you can reach out to others with renewed compassion and comprehension for them. Take their hand and help them see through your lens. The lens that is filled with Christ, faith and trust in the Lord. Psalm 118:8, “It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust humans.”

What better time to hear Psalm 27:13, “I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.” Could you be the “goodness of the Lord”? Can you show someone how to cry out to God, to run from evil, put God first in their life, and to rest in God’s love?

It is time to steep ourselves in God’s reality. In our faith of the Lord and savior we know we must have eyes to see, ears to listen and a heart for love. If we are consumed with our desires of this life and preoccupied with GETTING we will not be able to respond to God’s giving. People who do not know God and His character will fuss over what clothes to wear, fussing about their looks and what is on the table at mealtime. Those who know God and how He works shall steep themselves in God – Reality, God-initiative, and God’s provisions. You will find all your everyday humanly needs met. Remember, this may present differently than you might expect, but it will be exactly what you need and possibly even better than you could have imagined.

What opportunities is God presenting to you during this time? How do you fulfill Matthew 22: 37-39, “thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all your heart and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like the unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.” Surely this is a time to bless others as we also care for ourselves.

About Charmaine

Charmaine has spent the past several years working with individuals in poverty through the Open-Door Mission & Shelter in Glens Falls NY and through other organizations with those of addictions and in recovery. She is currently Operations Manager for the Braman Foundation of Charities and a member of the Missions Team and Christian Sober Living House Team of Pine Knolls Alliance Church in So. Glens Falls NY.





Operation Blessing Bag

Many of us struggle with addiction, homelessness, and mental health related issues. This is a small gift to help you understand that we love you and God loves you.

You can have a conversation with a less fortunate brother or sister. This bag is a reusable and weather resistant backpack. It contains various items including toiletries, protein bars, and a Christian Bible with some great scriptures that are pertinent regarding the recipient's difficulty.

These bags are available to you through the Braman Foundation at no charge.

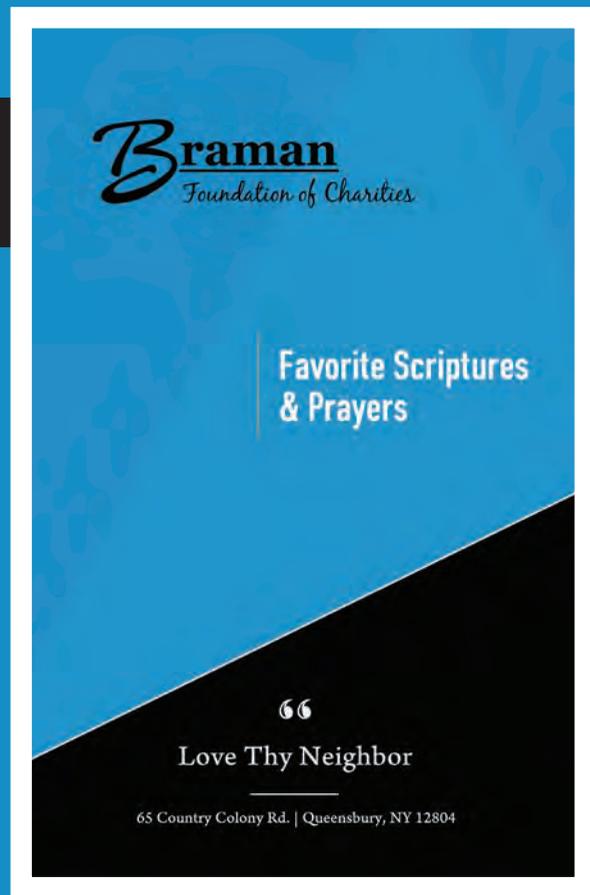
We are now offering COGIC Blessing Bags. Seven more churches have come on board with the program.



Now Available!

BFC 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.

We have given space so that you may journal your thoughts, prayers, and related scriptures for your edification. May this collected works help you in your sanctification in Christ.



Interested in ordering your copy of Favorite Scriptures & Prayers?

These are available to purchase on our website, bramanfoundation.org. You may also send a check for \$25 to:

The Braman Foundation, PO Box 4743, Queensbury, NY 12804

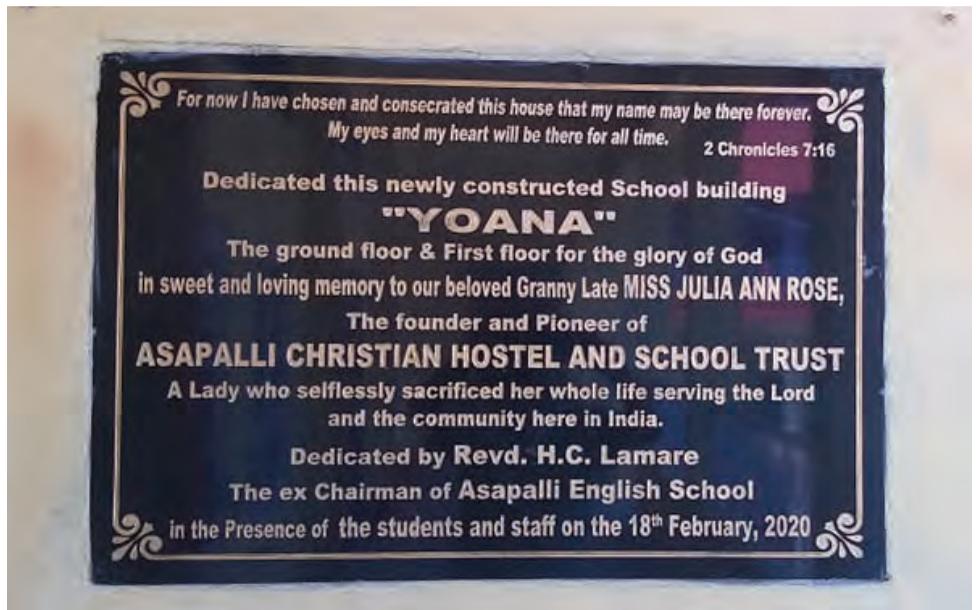


Asapalli School Building Update

Asapalli, A Village of Hope, located in the beautiful state of Assam, India is pleased to announce its progress with one of its largest construction projects ever, its third school building.

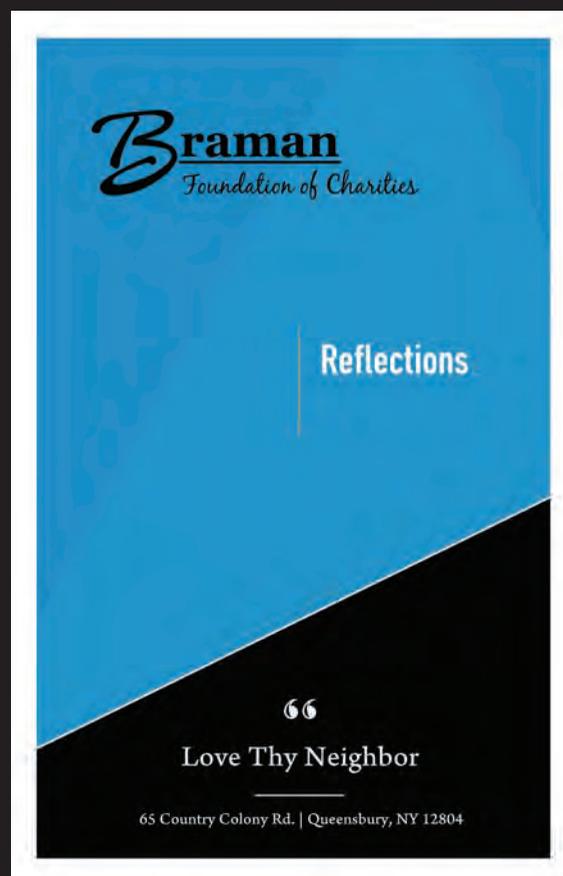
Tremendous progress has been made to the new school building. Currently, construction has started on the third floor of the school building. The first two floors are almost complete and recently had a dedication ceremony to honor the memory of Julia Rose, Asapalli's founder and pioneer.

Charles Rymbai, Asapalli School Superintendent, and George Gideon, Asapalli Director, thank God, his provision, all of you that have prayed and financially supported Asapalli. This building will help educate another 750 students from the local region of Fulertal, Assam. God bless you!



Now Available!

BFC is 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.



365 days in a year. Use Reflections to help start your day:

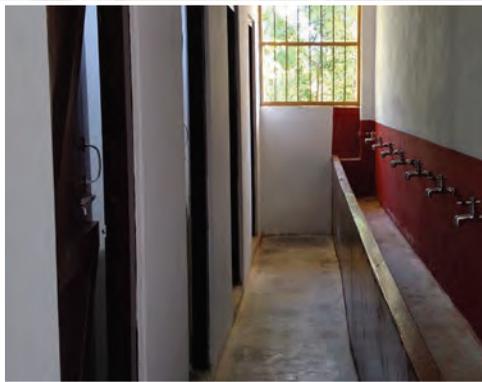
“Seek ye first the Kingdom of God”
- Matt 6:33

In Addition, we offer pics of our 2017 and 2018 mission trips.

Interested in ordering your copy of Reflections?

These are available to purchase on our website, bramanfoundation.org. You may also send a check for \$25 to:

The Braman Foundation, PO Box 4743, Queensbury, NY 12804



Asapalli Girls Dorm Project

Prayerfully consider how you can support the Mission of Asapalli. The goal for the new dorm project will help the children with improved hygiene, privacy and cleanliness.

Braman
Foundation of Charities

PO Box 4743
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(518) 636-5930

info@bramanfoundation.org
bramanfoundation.org

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

monthly _____ one time _____ \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Credit Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



Mission Travel Program

Welcome to the BFC Mission Travel Program bringing friends and church members to India and Africa. In addition, this program will help organize travel to USA from India and Africa. The initiative facilitates change to the modern church goes heart and mind. Additionally it fulfills Christ commandments in Matthew 28: "Go therefore and make discipleship of all nations..."

Also through the BFC Mission Travel Program we can use its platform to bring the directors and pastors from some missions we support to travel to the US and share their work in our supporting churches. This program continues to develop God's Glory. Let us pray!

Looking to participate and work with children in the orphanage and school?

You may travel or retreat to Asapalli and stay in the BFC Bungelow or to Kenya and stay at the Village Resort. Find out more information and details on the Braman Foundation website.

Covid-19, while may have slowed travel, we will endure and carry out the Lord's work! "Be strong and courageous. Be not afraid or discouraged" Joshua 1:9.

**UPDATES AND INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON
BRAMANFOUNDATION.ORG**

Braman
Foundation of Charities

African Retreat

Ruma National Park

Hope, Healing and Forgiveness — after grief

by Eve Otieno

I got into the ‘matatu’ (public transportation vehicle that is smaller than a bus but bigger than a standard car or van) set myself on a seat by a window, hoping that the 25-minute ride to the city would not turn out to be one hour as it sometimes did. Traffic in Nairobi is as unpredictable as it can get.

I pulled out my cellphone from my handbag, to catch up on any recent incidents on the news or social media. There were more than five missed calls from my sister. This did not make sense as I had left my house less than fifteen minutes earlier to walk the less than one-mile journey to the bus station. I called her immediately, but I couldn’t make out what she was trying to say amidst her crying uncontrollably. Instinctively, I got out of the matatu very quickly, as I struggled in panic to hear what she was trying to say. After a few minutes, I was able to hear the words; ‘come back home’, ‘and dead’.

I walked very fast, and my heart beat even faster as my mind and ears tried to decipher her incoherent statements, and figure out who had died, whoever it was, must have been very close, because I had never heard my sister cry with so much pain. Finally, I was able to make out what she had been trying to say, “mama had died” I cannot describe what I did from the point that I heard those dreadful words. All I remember is crying without care. To date I don’t know how I made it back to my house.

It had been a bright and dusty October Tuesday morning, apart from the day being my birthday, I had woken up to my usual routine. As I walked the more than half a mile road to the bus stop, my mind could not help to wonder what ‘surprise’ my colleagues had for me at the office for my birthday. It was a culture in our department, (and almost all other departments) to have a ‘surprise’ for a colleague’s birthday. I had also convinced myself not to call my mama until later in the day when I had settled down at work.

From the time I had woken up to the time I received the dreadful phone call from my sister, life had been my normal. But here I was, or here we were, my family and I, faced with the most dreadful thing in our life, death had struck the core of our family, there had been no signs, there had been no warning; where do people start from when such an unfortunate incident happens? I felt helpless, hopeless and very vulnerable. Death had sure hit home.

The previous day, a Monday, I had spoken to mama three times, and the last time was at 8:45pm. She had been preparing dinner (Yes, dinner is served as late as 10.00pm Kenya) and we chatted and laughed. I tried to recall any clues or hints that she might have given during the conversation, but I couldn’t scrounge even a tiny bit.

This very painful time was characterized by calling or texting people who I needed to inform, crying, answering (or not) phone calls that were streaming in, talking to people who had rushed to be with us as soon as they had heard the news.

My mind was like a maze; trying to come to terms with the tragedy, the why’s and how’s and hopes against odds that it was just a dream. Psalms 116:15 Precious in the eyes of God is the death for His saints’ was the verse that crept into my mind and lingered there every so often, even though I kept hoping against hope that this was just a bad nightmare, and would soon wake up to reality.

Then it hit me, and gradually, that mama was alive, that her soul was alive, somewhere. She was a born-again Christian, and I began the emotional battle of where her soul had transitioned to. I had lost very close relatives before, people I loved, but I had never been bothered by where their precious souls had gone to. But this, had hit home. The it began disturbing me; and for the for the first time, eternal life became a reality to me. As a Christian, I had always believed there was eternal life, after death, but it had never been so real. What if mama had committed a sin before she died, and her soul had gone to hell? Yes, she was a born-again Christian, but my grief of her loss was driven by so much love that I couldn’t help to imagine where she was. I cried as I desperately hoped that God had received her soul. I so longed for some confirmation from God. This is something I struggled with for a very long time. I later got to talk with the people who had spent her last moments with her. What had she been saying? Had she prayed the previous night

before going to bed? What words did she use when she prayed? Out of selfish and stubborn frustration, I told God, "I will not move on until you show or tell me where mama is."

Back to reality as we were faced with planning for a funeral that we had not been prepared for, My OCD in being a perfect planner kicked in, and I felt that I had to step up and start on the burial arrangements. My dad lived in a small town one and a half hours away, and my mum had lived in the village 7 hours away. They had always juggled their time between two homes. We quickly organized a small virtual family meeting and agreed on the immediate action plans.

One of my sisters, my brother and I, were supposed to travel to the village the following morning. Of all the days to pick to leave us, she had chosen the one I was most broke, I did not have sufficient funds to have my car serviced for a long trip and also other travel essentials. But that was a small problem as I worked in a bank and all I needed to do was to fill an online loan application form, make a few phone calls to fast track it and I would have money credited to my account by evening. But God has a way of taking care of situations when we are in need. My uncle who owns a motor vehicle repair shop, came and took the car, and had it serviced, he also offered to drive us to the village.

By evening, I realized, that it was not God's will that I (we) borrow money, because we saw Him provide, much more than we needed. Family and friends who came that day gave us abundantly and by Wednesday morning, we had more than enough money to fuel the car, and to help us start the funeral plans.

Two days later, I faced my worst fears; before this time, I had never stepped inside of a morgue, I always kept my distance and waited outside. I had never touched a dead body. Here I was, at the morgue, the attendant pulled out my mother's dead body, she looked like she was sleeping. I uncovered her, and fell on her bare chest and wept painfully, as I rested my head on her chest, which had already hardened, my tears flowing freely from my heart to hers. I had never felt so drawn to my mama as I did on that day. The grief was overwhelming, but the bond of love was stronger. As I lay on her, I regretted why I had not loved her as much as she had loved me, why I had been disrespectful to her when I was a teenager, why I had felt embarrassed whenever she had proudly introduced me to her friends and relatives as her oldest

daughter; yet she would beam with pride when people said we looked alike. If only she would wake up and introduce me to the whole world. Why I had sometimes been mad at her and refused to talk to her for days. I also appreciated the great relationship we had shared, I am the first daughter; and there's a saying in my tribe, that 'a girl is her mother's age mate' I felt proud of the very many things we had done together as 'age mates', the places and people we had visited together, the stories we had shared, the laughter, the jokes, the invaluable life lessons she had taught me, the strict discipline she had instilled, her love for God, which had been her trademark and which she passed on to everyone who crossed her path, the values and virtues she had held so dear, and that she had applied over the years to bring us up, she had been my teacher, and also critic, the prayers she had always offered for her family, the very many times she had been very proud of me, even just for tiny milestones, being my number one cheerleader.

Leaving the morgue, I sighed with gratitude, and was grateful to God, for finding us all worthy of mama, and giving her to us, her nine children, to care for, she sure outdid herself, she was an original. This was the fortieth year of my parents' marriage. Being one of their oldest children, I had watched my family grow together through many challenges, good times, happy and sad moments together and as individuals, but not the reality of funeral arrangements for a close loved one. We wanted to give her as befitting a sendoff as she deserved, and as we could possibly give. We had our plan, but God had a much different but grander one. He took off all the financial pressure from us, as each day we saw the hand of God's provision. We were humbled as we saw family and friends come through. We had people picking up different bills, we had people bringing food in abundance, some offered to pay for different services. I remember a friend of my brother came and told us that his one-acre farm of kale was ours to harvest until the burial day. Some offered to cater for the casket, the morgue bill, some the transportation. It was just amazing how we barely thought of something and someone or a group picked it up. By the time we are burying three weeks later, my family had barely spent from our pockets, in fact we had extra cash after.

I was reminded how my mama had the gift of giving. She always gave, even when she barely had enough for herself, and when she couldn't help, she always reached out to us, to help her help people. When it came to be giving, she never applied logic. She didn't care, if all she had left

was her beautiful smile of satisfaction. It then dawned on me, that at death, she was reaping all the sowing she had done when alive, and sure enough, she reaped a hundred-fold. We gave her a beautiful send off.

However, there are people, friends and relatives who we had expected support from, but never offered any. This hurt as I knew deep down that had it had been the other way and they had been in my shoes; I/we would have come through in a big, big way. There are individuals or families, who we had invested a lot in, throughout the years, but took off at our hour of need. This bothered us, as some of those I had considered close friends, never showed up, did not send text messages or call us or even attempt to reach out.

We also had heard of some very nasty things said about my mother, my family as a whole or as individuals. These were said by close relatives. We heard some of these from third parties, and some were told to us directly. This hurt so much as we were mourning and hurting. We did not need any salt added to our wounded hearts. There were also some cruel actions from people that literally pierced our hearts. It was difficult to separate the pain from grief and the hurt from such people.

After the burial, usually the world moves on, and life gets to normal, but not for the affected. I had to get back and catch up with the normal life, but also suffer silently in grief. I learnt a coping mechanism, whereby on the outside, I pulled a strong front, wore a smiley mask, but I was bleeding inside. I had thought the pain would lessen, and the grief would disappear after the burial, but it became worse. I found myself breaking down anywhere, anytime, and rushing to find a place to hide and cry my heart out if I was in public. I could not control myself. I was becoming miserable every day. I lost my appetite and I began to lose weight drastically.

Before my mama's death, God's role in my life or rather my relationship with God had been on my terms, I was his child and it was his responsibility to provide for my needs and protect me. I was a Christian, who walked the faith to the best of my ability. But after this loss, I had purposed to have a more intentional relationship with Christ, knowing that life is fragile and even I could die anytime; my worry was being caught off guard, with my lamp out of oil. However, given my emotional and mental fragility, I was not able to have a healthy relationship with God, my prayer life started to die, slowly, a sentence or two, or sometimes none at all, sufficed it for me for the

day. I did not read the word the of God. No matter how hard I tried, my faith was becoming weak each new day. I was wallowing in grief, hopelessness, pain, fear, unforgiveness and bitterness. My small sister moved out of my house because I was too miserable. I was also on a revenge mission, and God, being a just God, was definitely on my side. I had a blacklist of the people I wanted God to send His wrath on, remember the friends and relatives who had hurt us? They were all on the list which was very specific, with the names and the offenses these people had committed. This list was neatly folded and kept in a corner somewhere at the very center of my mind, where I could reach it anytime, review it and wait to cross out whoever God had dealt with on my behalf. These people were as guilty as I had declared them to be, and it was just a matter of time before God showed up and embarrassed my enemies. Didn't they all deserve what awaited them?

I was also still struggling with uncertainty of where my mama was, and the scripture was not being helpful at all. Was she in heaven, nursing her three babies who had died when they were infants? Or was she burning in hell? I wanted specific answers from God as we had agreed that He would give me this answer, I just couldn't understand why He was taking His sweet time. Hadn't He spoken to Moses face to face? Or sent His angels to people like Abraham, Jacob and His prophets? As time went on, it began dawning on me that He was not showing up, not on my terms and my way. I began to bargain, and negotiated for just a clue, which I was willing to settle for. Surely, I was not asking for too much.

I also battled with the fear of losing my only remaining parent, my dad. I did not think he would make it out of this loss.

Whenever I received a phone call from a family member, I panicked, as I always expected the worst news. If I missed a call, I would not be at peace until I spoke to my dad, a sister or a bother, and was reassured that everyone was ok. That is how it had been with my mama. She had been going about her chores when she collapsed.

Then there was the self-appointed role I took up of playing mama to the rest of my siblings, especially the younger ones; I wanted to take off all their burdens and carry it; they did not need to struggle, I was very capable of handling all their issues, including always worrying if everyone was ok. They did not deserve to go through all pain and grief, I could shoulder it all. Everyone deserved to be happy but me.

Pressure at work did not make things any better for me. Ours was a fast-paced environment, where deadlines were beaten, targets met, new goals set and met, and the circle began all over again.

Here I was, desperate for an intimate relationship with my Lord, but I never realized that I had drawn so far away from Him. I felt disappointed in God, He had not carried out his task on the things we had agreed on. My most wanted enemies were still at large, God had not directly assured me or given a clue that mama was resting on Abraham's bosom, (not even on Jacob's). Grief, pain, fear, resentment, unforgiveness, hopelessness and not to mention selfishness, had clouded my once very happy normal life. Nine months later, I was a wreck on the inside, but living a perfectly normal life on the outside. And when a friend mentioned counseling, I was taken aback, the same friends who had previously heralded me for being strong.

This was a wakeup call, I took a good inventory of my life, and realized, that I needed to step on the break peddle, and slow things down. But I did not know how to and did not even know how to ask or cry for help.

Then I began the prodigal son journey back to Him, and this is never an easy journey; it's never a homecoming hero one. The mental speeches one makes on the journey home, I began seeking all these answers from the bible, and surrendering everything. I cried out for him to heal me. My healing began with me forgiving people, one at a time, praying for them, asking God to help me forgive those I was struggling to. Then I surrendered to Him, my worries, my fears, my disappointments, my pain. I surrendered and trusted Him that He would take

care of my family, my dad. I realized that inasmuch a lot of things had taken a completely different direction in my life, the only constant was the love of God. Romans 38-39 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (KJV) Look at me now it has been a little over four years now. Looking back, I am full of gratitude. I am grateful to God for wrapping His loving arms around my family, and walking with us through the storm, am grateful to God having provided at our hour of need, grateful for gift of loving friends, family and even good Samaritans who stood by us, grateful for His provision during that time. He has renewed my hope in this life, and in life eternal.

Having treaded that tragic path, I am more empathetic towards people who are grieving; I no longer write a casual RIP message or Facebook comment, nor lie that 'you're in my prayers.' I take time to hug, love, pray with and for and be there for those who are grieving. I offer as much support as I possibly can give. Because I know how every little one of these deeds counts and mean a lot at this time.

Most importantly, my hope in Christ has been renewed, I am living life knowing that this physical is only important because we are in it now, but very temporal, as there is a much more important one beyond this life, where some of our loved ones have already transitioned to. Everything I do now is in preparation for the eternal life. With my Lord, where I know I will meet mama and give her that big hug.



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Prayer Requests

May Prayer Points

Please pray for us...

Adding Rwanda, Africa conference

Adding Khartoum, Sudan conference

Woman's Facility and Braman Institute of Higher Learning

Pray for the teachers that are reviewing and learning curriculum for BIHL.

Pray for Rev. Thornhill to accept Behind The Walls into the Bedford Hills Woman's Facility.

BFC is seeking a volunteer to be Minister of Corrections. Contact the BFC office at info@bramanfoundation.org

Pray that God provides provision as BFC, through its "Community Programs" expands Operation Blessing Bag

By requesting prayer, others have committed to pray with you, and God has already heard your prayer. When submitting a prayer please only use first names, DO NOT give last names or other identifying information.

Submitting your request is easy!

1. You may call our Prayer Line at 518-636-5930
2. Email your prayer request to pray@bramanfoundation.org
3. Submit your prayer request online at bramanfoundation.org/prayer-line



Volunteers Needed

The Braman Foundation of Charities is in need of volunteers for several of their current programs and missions. To volunteer or for more information, please contact info@bramanfoundation.org.

“So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.” Galatians 6:10

African Liaison

Coordination of the following:

- All mission trips to South Sudan, The Sudan, Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda
- Working w/ all African Prayer partners, pastors and conference centers.
- Handling Conferences w/ CEF and LRI
- Processing prayer Requests
- Setting Up Zoom BFC Meetings w/ BFC people in Kenya
- Updating African BFC News for revive magazine
- Will be required to attend weekly BFC staff meetings w/ a desk at the BFC Office in Queensbury, NY

Corrections Minister

BFC is in need of a volunteer to implement and organize its “ Behind the Walls “ Program throughout the NYS Correctional system.

Implement and coordinate the Lifeline Corrections Program

Will be required to attend at least 1 BFC staff meeting per month.

Woman’s Ministry

As BFC grows in its Woman’s Ministry, BFC will increasingly need more woman:

- Prayer partners
- Bible study leaders
- Program teachers and facilitators
- Worship leaders
- Counselors



SAFETY MASKS
Suggested donation:

\$45 50 pcs./box

Features

1. Disposable protective mask, more reliable when going out.
2. 3D cutting design, effectively isolate pollution.
3. Three layers of filtering, light and breathable, blocking transmission.
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5. Fit to the face, moderate size ears.
6. Ergonomic design, multi-pleated design, strong fit.

HAND SANITIZER

Suggested donation:

4 oz. \$5.25 8 oz. \$10.00

Instant Hand Sanitizer

Our hand sanitizer helps to reduce germs and bacteria on the skin. Soap is not nearly as effective (especially when used improperly), and it can only be used when water is available. More abrasive varieties of soap can also damage the skin unless used in combination with a moisturizer. This hand sanitizer you can use anytime and place without water or towels.



For more information

CONTACT

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charmaine@bramanfoundation.org

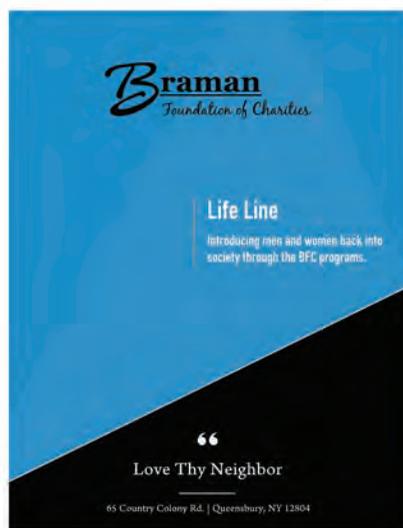
Peter Braman
peter@bramanfoundation.org

Any revenue generated is used to support the continued mission of the organization. All of the staff at BFC are volunteers.

Phone: (518) 636-5930

bramanfoundation.org

BFC Corrections / Prison Behind the Walls Program

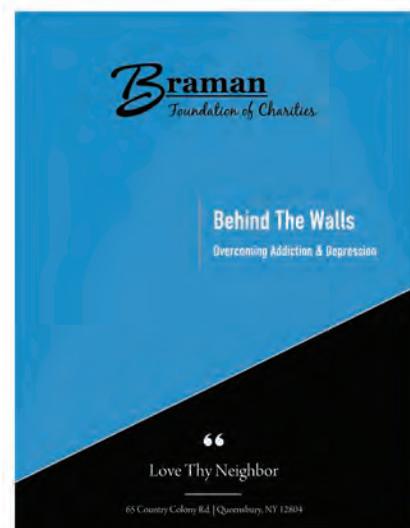


Life Line

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!

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 unfortunately comes out of some families.



Hearing the Voice of God Amidst the Chaos

by Eve Otieno

There is so much being put out on social media and the news; and it can drive one crazy trying to sieve out what the truth is. As of today, everything is very uncertain as we do not know when this madness will stop. I have had to cut down drastically on both the news and social media to not more than 30mins a day (Well, my phone froze a couple of weeks ago so this helps with reducing time on social media, otherwise am not sure I'd have stuck to the thirty minutes.

This is a very appropriate time for people to wonder and ask where is God. There are those who are sure it's God's judgement, and different groups are calling for corporate prayer and fasting. In Ecclesiastes 1:9, we are told that those things which have been, are the same that shall be, and whatever's been done is that which shall be done, as there is nothing new under the sun (paraphrased).

I am reminded of a few events in the past, biblical days, that shook and changed the history of the children of Israel, As many as they are listed in the bible, nothing happened that took God by surprise; but the good and bad, the battles, the victories, the judgments, even the centuries of bondage in Egypt, had been foretold by God to Abraham. Whatever his children went through God was always there and gave them His word.

When the Israelites had just left Egypt after almost a half a century of bondage. All they had known was their life in Egypt and stories of their country of origin. When they got to the shores of the red sea, they were confronted with an endless water body in front of them, and Pharaoh's army behind them and suddenly the promise of freedom that they had barely tasted, seemed to be unrealizing right in their eyes. From the look of things, they only had three options, to be drowned into the red sea, be killed by Pharaoh's army or be captured and taken back to Egypt and they seemed ok with the latter. But amidst the panic, the chaos, the complaints, the uncertainty, confusion, Moses said unto them "Fear ye not, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will show you today; for the Egyptians whom you have today, you shall see them no more forever. The Lord shall fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.

As they continued to journey through the wilderness, and because of their constant complaints, God sent fiery serpents to bite them, killing many of them. They go to Moses, and cry and repent. (numbers 21:5-7) In verse 8, The Lord told Moses to make a fiery serpent, set it on a pole so that whoever was bitten would look on it and be healed.

Let us fast forward, to when Jeremiah, when Israel is in Captivity in Babylon and their future is not certain, God sends Jeremiah, to take to them a message of hope. 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, "Plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and future.

So, as we are faced with this pandemic, it's important, first all to be still, find peace in His presence, not allowing ourselves to be entangled in this messy web, fix our eyes on Jesus as we listen to His whispers of hope from His word. As He promises Jeremiah, Jer. 33:6,9. Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal to them the abundance of peace and truth (Truth from His word, and not the media) And it shall be to me a name of Joy and an honor, before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them; and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it.

Remember saint, that we have the perfect love of Christ in us that casts out all fear. (4:18) Also, His Holy Spirit that is within us is of power, love and a sound mind, but not fear. (1st Timothy 1:7).

One thing we should never lose at such a time is hope. Against all the odds that may be presented to us, we should cling to hope, first we should never lose hope because God is right in the middle of the chaos. When caught up in the storm in the middle of the sea with Jesus, the disciples panicked, but still called on Him. The fact that He was in the boat did not keep away the storm, a take here is that no matter how close we walk with the Lord, there will be storms, and better still is the assurance that he will calm the storm, even this, He will calm.

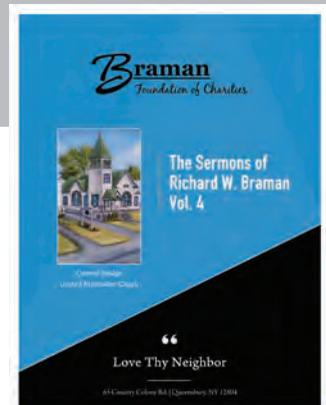
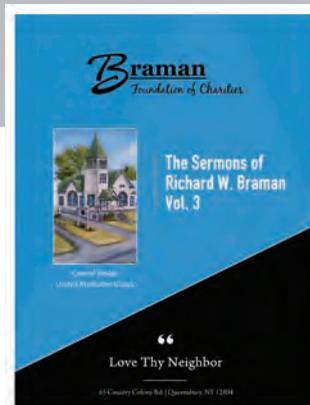
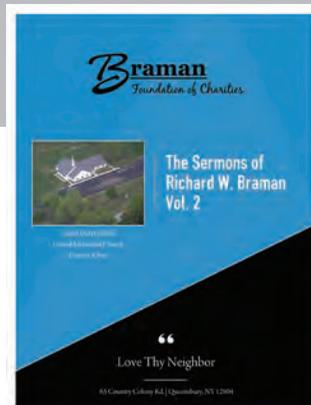
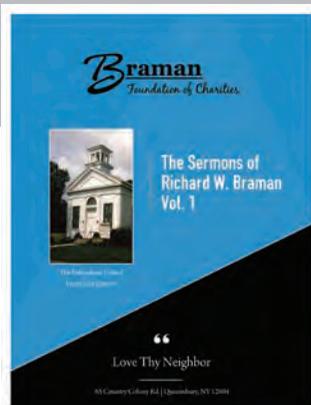
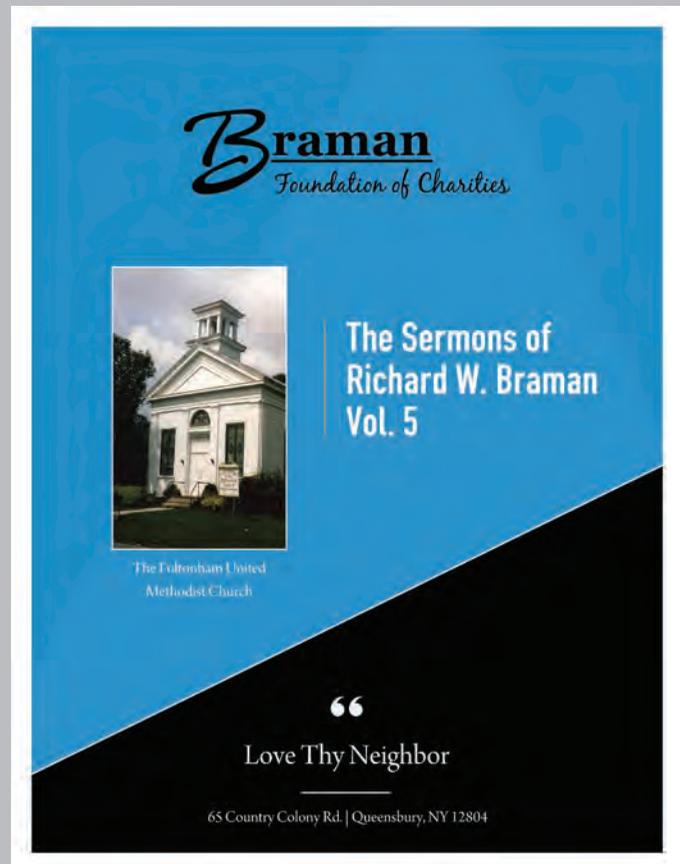
How are we going to pick up the pieces and continue with our lives? How are we going to repair the damages? The time lost, job lost, missed appointments, accrued bills? Relying on the promises of His word like Nehemiah and Ezra did. They did not allow themselves to lose sight of God and His divine promises. After spending almost their entire lifetime in captivity, they were motivated to go back and build their city, and their walls respectively and nothing would stop them. No matter what is happening, let's hold on to Jesus, even if just a piece of Him, like the woman with the issue of blood, let us strive to reach and touch, at least the hem of His garment.

The Sermons of Richard W. Braman

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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.



“Anything to bring me to separation, to death, for a life of full fellowship with God and Christ.”

Come and cast this self-life and flesh-life at the feet of Jesus. Then trust Him. Do not worry yourselves with trying to understand all about it, but come in the living faith that Christ will come into you with the power of His death and the power of His life; and then the Holy Spirit will bring the whole Christ crucified and risen and living in glory--into your heart.

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“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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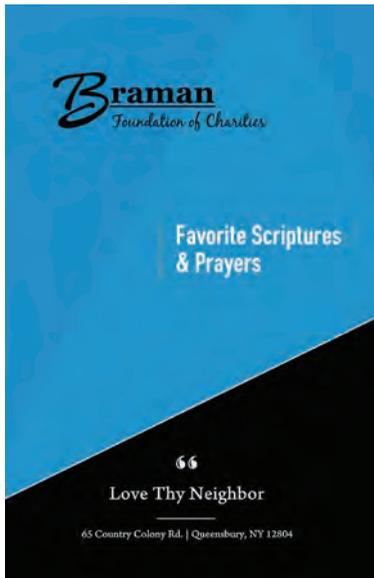
Our move to our new facility has allowed us to start another division of Braman Foundation of Charities. Coming in 2020, we will begin our work with Braman Furniture.

Our new facility has a wood manufacturing shop on the property. Soon we will have small table manufacturing under way to help support the ministry!



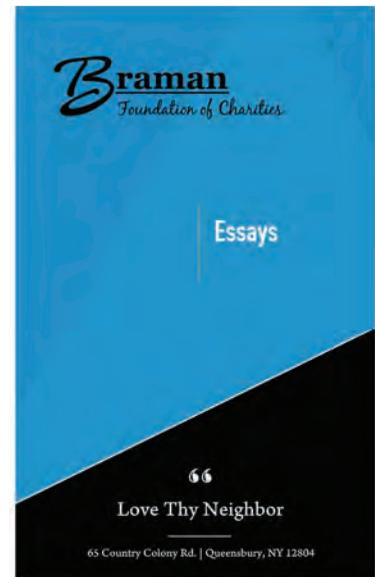
Praise the Lord!

2020 Book Releases



BFC 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.

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