

*B*raman *Foundation of Charities*  
REVIVE MAGAZINE

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

May / June 2024

THE OMNIPRESENCE  
OF GOD

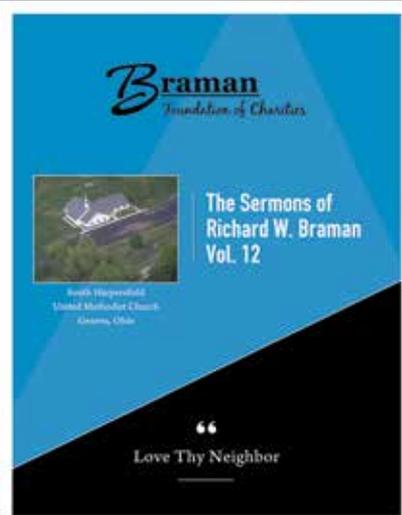


# The Sermons of Richard W. Braman

## NOW FEATURING VOL. 12

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

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



### About Sandra

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

Volumes 1-12 of the Richard W. Braman Sermons are available to be downloaded from our website, [bramanfoundation.com](http://bramanfoundation.com). You may receive a printed hard copy of any volume by calling 845-471-2286 or emailing [info@bramanfoundation.org](mailto:info@bramanfoundation.org).

**Braman**  
Foundation of Charities

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

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# *BFC Editorial*



Continued blessings to you, your family members, and fellow church members. Here in the northeast we are moving quickly into the spring time season. All over, flowers are beginning to bloom, the birds are heard chirping in the early morning dawn, and the sweet scent of the blooming magnolia trees begin to fade.

This issue of Revive brings study from the BFC editorial staff on God's omnipresence, as well as Charles Spurgeon and A.B. Simpson. We continue to explore the RWB Sermons and have three writings to support God's omnipresence.

Make no mistakes, regardless of the news, how difficult circumstances may be, God is, was, and shall always be in control. Pray! Pray! Pray!

All of our mission partners are very active in God's work. Throughout this issue you will read about the Lord's work in their respective ministries.

Here in Poughkeepsie we have added two more community meetings, so the house here is very busy. We are also very excited for Fudia's immigration to Poughkeepsie, her new home. Fudia is a great addition to the staff, a powerful prayer partner, and full of good news. So pray for her speedy immigration process.

May God bless you and keep you, your family, and church family protected and loved. Even though in the natural world circumstances may seem dire, know that God's field of omnipresence extends fully in this realm and as such we are protected.

Enjoy this issue and again - thank you for your prayer support and financial support, as well as continued encouragement.

Always in divine friendship,  
BFC



Join us for

Prayer & Meditation | Sunday 7pm

Recovery | Monday 7pm

Discipleship | Tuesday 7pm

Bible Study | Thursday 7pm

The 2024 Scripture:

*“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies , His mercies never come to an end; they are new ever morning great is your faithfulness. The Lord is my portion says my soul, therefore I will hope in Him.”*

Lamentations 3:22-24

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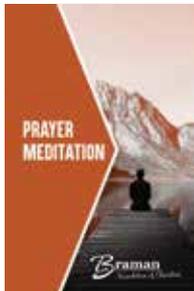
*BFC Revive Magazine*

**Writers**  
BFC, Inc.

**Editors**  
Francis Crandall

**Art & Design**  
Tori Ranken

# Community Meetings



## Prayer & Meditation

Every Sunday, 7pm

Meditation, correctly practiced is the simple process of removing attention from conditions and circumstances which, when recognized and overly identified with fragment and cloud our perceptions. Meditation simply is concentration on an object of contemplation. We meditate in Christ which we know is the absolute realm of perfection.

Meditation is not difficult. We meditate to commune in Christ. This Christ communion is an ideal state in which we can naturally unfold in. Learn to use this as your most meaningful time to experience God and in time you will walk continuously in God's presence.

Practice, pray, but do not struggle, learn to be calm and grace will provide. You deserve and need to be refreshed daily. Love.



## Healing & Restoration

Every Monday, 7:00pm

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.

We explore these 12 steps realizing that addiction can be described as a mental obsession coupled with physical cravings for a substance, as the individual is in a highly confused state in that he or she is completely egocentric, lost to their higher self or true nature. He or she is rendered powerless and, unless a process is intervened, may begin to progress through the three stages of addiction to lead a highly agitated, emotionally stressful life, possibly ending in a premature death, imprisonment or institutionalization.

Hardly the life of success that one might dream, but miserable nonetheless.

# Community Meetings

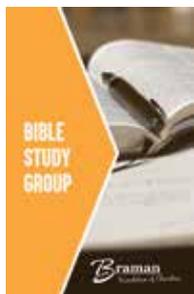


## Discipleship

Every Tuesday, 7pm

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 meditation, 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.



## Bible Study

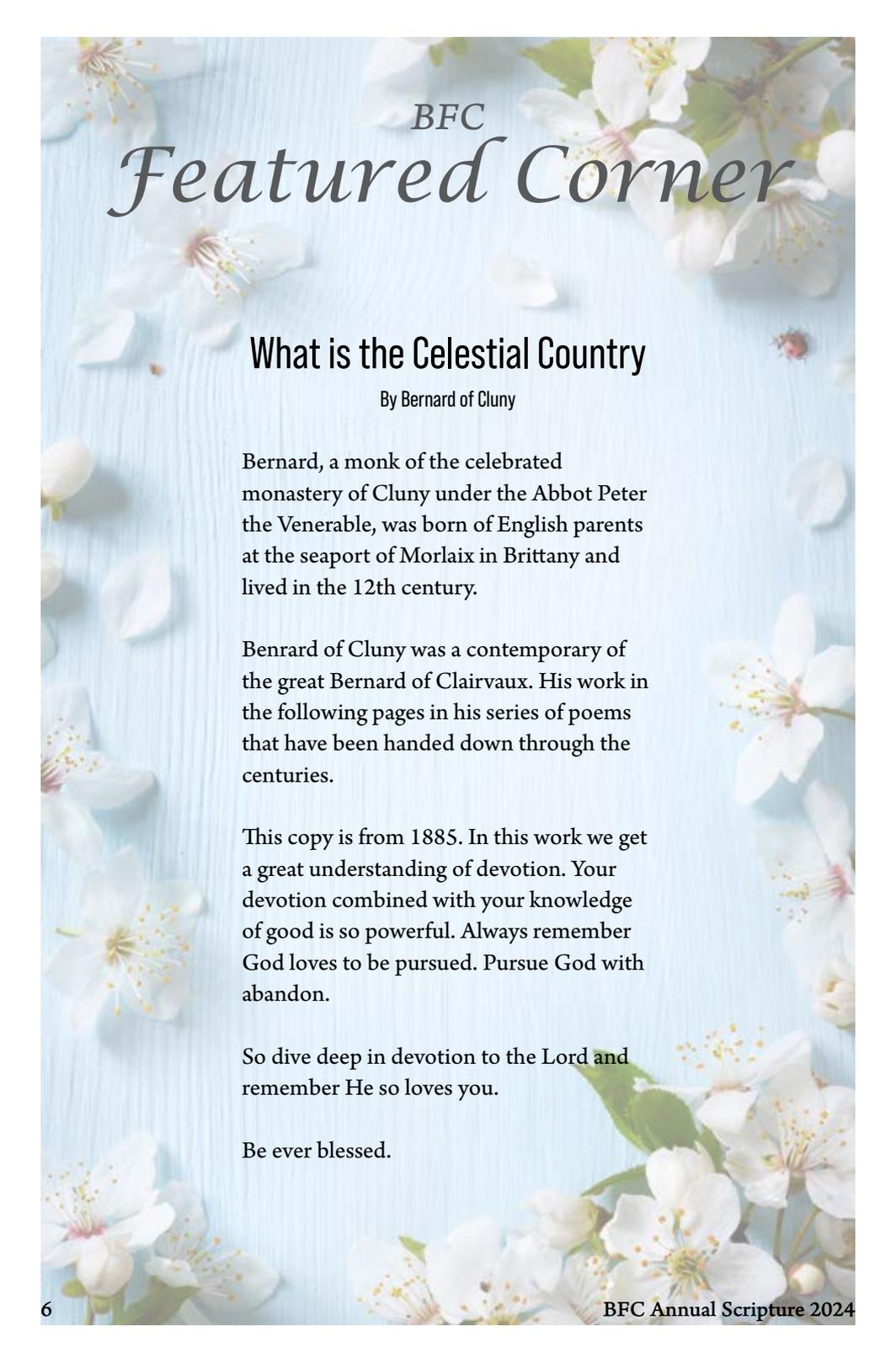
Every Thursday, 7:00pm

Joining a small group is the best way to experience the incredible community here in Poughkeepsie. Whether you're single, married, young, or not-as-young, we've got a group for you. Typically, our groups meet once a week in the leader's home, and focus on spending time together discussing that Sunday's sermon. Small groups provide spaces to explore your faith, make connections, and grow closer to God. We're just missing one thing: YOU!

### *Location:*

Offices of the Braman Foundation  
18 Davies Place  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

For more information, contact:  
[info@bramanfoundation.org](mailto:info@bramanfoundation.org) or 845-471-2286



BFC  
*Featured Corner*

## What is the Celestial Country

By Bernard of Cluny

Bernard, a monk of the celebrated monastery of Cluny under the Abbot Peter the Venerable, was born of English parents at the seaport of Morlaix in Brittany and lived in the 12th century.

Benrard of Cluny was a contemporary of the great Bernard of Clairvaux. His work in the following pages in his series of poems that have been handed down through the centuries.

This copy is from 1885. In this work we get a great understanding of devotion. Your devotion combined with your knowledge of good is so powerful. Always remember God loves to be pursued. Pursue God with abandon.

So dive deep in devotion to the Lord and remember He so loves you.

Be ever blessed.

THE  
CELESTIAL  
COUNTRY.

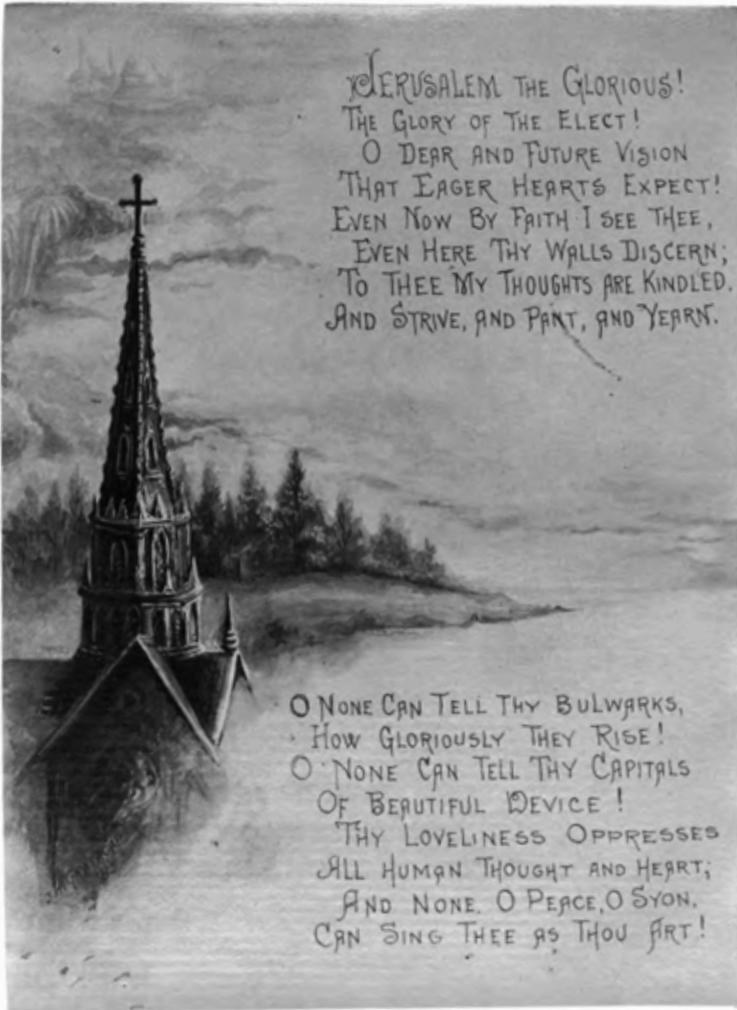
By  
BERNARD of Chartres.



-1-

JERUSALEM THE GOLDEN,  
WITH MILK AND HONEY BLEST,  
BENEATH THY CONTEMPLATION  
SINK HEART AND VOICE OPPRESSED:  
I KNOW NOT, O I KNOW NOT  
WHAT SOCIAL JOYS ARE THERE;  
WHAT RADIANCY OF GLORY,  
WHAT LIGHT BEYOND COMPARE.





JERUSALEM THE GLORIOUS!  
THE GLORY OF THE ELECT!  
O DEAR AND FUTURE VISION  
THAT EAGER HEARTS EXPECT!  
EVEN NOW BY FAITH I SEE THEE,  
EVEN HERE THY WALLS DISCERN;  
TO THEE MY THOUGHTS ARE KINDLED,  
AND STRIVE, AND PANT, AND YEARN.

O NONE CAN TELL THY BULWARKS,  
HOW GLORIOUSLY THEY RISE!  
O NONE CAN TELL THY CAPITALS  
OF BEAUTIFUL DEVICE!  
THY LOVELINESS OPPRESSES  
ALL HUMAN THOUGHT AND HEART;  
AND NONE, O PEACE, O SYON,  
CAN SING THEE AS THOU ART!

# The God of All Circumstances

*“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”*

*- Psalm 46:1*

These past few weeks we have been talking about God. Two weeks ago, we discussed “God is the God of All Places”, and what a great discovery it is for us when we finally come to realize this. Last week we talked about “God is the God of All Time.” “From everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.” Today we are discussing “God of All Circumstances”.

First of all – What are circumstances? The best definition is in the word ‘circumstance’ itself – it is a standing-around thing. Circumstances are facts that bear upon other facts or conditions.

As we read from our scripture reading this morning, “As Jesus passed by, he saw a man who was blind from his birth.” His blindness was pure circumstances. Think of a circumstance as something given, not chosen, like the color of a man’s face. These are outstanding examples of persons whose lives were influenced by adverse circumstances. Helen Keller, blind, deaf, and dumb, comes to mind. We think of Milton’s blindness, Beethoven’s deafness. Some men profit by good circumstances. Things work out in their favor and to their advantage.

The ‘web of circumstance’ is an old metaphor. One young man is “caught” in the draft, sent to Vietnam and loses his life in the war. His younger brother by a circumstance of date of birth has a long and useful career.

The web is very complex. One man’s sin may become another man’s adverse circumstance: one man’s fine example may become another man’s most “happy” circumstance.

There was once a little boy in the East side of New York City name Johnny P. His father was an Italian. That was a circumstance. Johnny had no choice in the matter. His mother’s maiden name was Kelly – Irish. That, too, was a circumstance. When Johnny was very small his mother died of tuberculosis. Another circumstance. Left, day in and day out, in charge of a girl in a nearby flat, Johnny became sick. One day he was found by a church worker, who watched the situation for some time and decided that if Johnny wasn’t take to the country he would die. She had a friend in a suburban town, the pastor of a church. She called him on the phone and explained the situation and asked, “Do you have anyone in your congregation who would take Johnny for a month?” “I’ll call you back,” was the reply. Arrangements were made for Johnny to be take into the home of the vice-president of the railroad company with lines leading out of New York.

Later Johnny was adopted by this man and his wife. He is now the heir of a large fortune. Johnny never had a choice in any of these matters – a pure web of circumstances.

I’m sure all of us know of several

circumstances. Some perhaps that did not have nearly as happy endings as this one. However, they were circumstances over which the persons effected didn't have any or very little control.

Secondly – Let us discuss the handling of circumstances. What to do “under the circumstances” is most important and one area of our lives where many of us fail to do the right thing.

First of all – a lot of people indulge in self-pity under bad circumstances. How easily all of us fall into this condition where we feel sorry for ourselves.

Here is a person who might have done this. She never had a chance. Her father was a criminal and her mother was a drunkard. Her sisters were prostitutes. She had to take care of a sister's child born out of wedlock. She was taken out of school when she was a little girl. Her story might be continued along these lines. It is hard to understand why she never indulged in self-pity. She worked, she stuck to her kin, she gave her foster-daughter a college education, and advanced herself into a position in an eastern college.

Just think of what might have happened if she had met her circumstance with self-pity.

Certainly, it's tough to come home from a war with a handicap and find it difficult to fit into a job, and find no place to live; but playing with the doldrums is the most weakening experience that one can have.

It results in an ever-deepening bitterness. Perhaps it is difficult not to feel sorry for ourselves when things go bad and wrong but it most certainly is not the right thing to do.

Secondly, some people rebel against circumstances. Rebellion is a lot better than self-pity. There are some things that we ought to rebel against; some things we ought to fight. Many of us have too great a fear of 'sticking' our neck out." We rebel against many trivial things and let the things that really matter go right on by. We do not want to be left standing alone either. Someone points out that "men's first great struggle for progress was a fight with wild beasts of prey, wolves, tigers, and lions."

There is sometimes no greater evidence of faith than rebellion. There is also rebellion that is futile and wrong. Suppose George Washington Carver had spent all his energies in rebellion against the fact that he had a black face. He would not have had time to devote to his great work had he spent his time rebelling.

Thirdly, some people become cynical when they face circumstances. Don't be cynical. "A cynic is just a man who found out when he was about 10 that there wasn't any Santa class, and he is still upset."

Fourthly, some people try to escape the circumstances. In this they may have minor success. No orgy of drink, pleasure, or self-assertion will remove them, they are there.

We know many people today that try to ignore the circumstances around them and hope they will go away but they don't leave and in most cases the circumstances get worse instead of better unless we try to do something about them.

Fifthly, some people are stoics. They grin and bear it.

Some feel they cannot do anything about the circumstances, so they try to make the

best of the situation.

There is another way of facing and handling circumstances.

See if you can find God in the circumstance.

Study the seven miracles in John's Gospel, ranging from the almost trivial circumstance of a wedding feast running out of wine and including the serious circumstance of a man born blind. Note how Jesus entered into the circumstances as indicating how God can be found in the web of every circumstance.

Abundant illustration is found in the miracle of John's Gospel. They give examples of circumstances of embarrassment, danger, hunger, despair, sickness and death.

It might be said that you can never tabulate all the circumstances until you include the fact that God is there.

First of all, God has power to direct. Insight is given because God is. Moral direction is given because God has a purpose.

Secondly, God has power to support. He supports as a bridge supports a train going over a stream. God is one against whom a man can lean and lean hard. There are times when by leaning upon God one endures the impossible. For with God all things are possible. With God we have power to do things that formally we thought were impossible. How much better this is than self-pity, rebellion, cynicism, or escapism.

Thirdly, God has power to save. He says this from bad circumstances by opening up reserves of power in us. We overcome all habits of inferiority. We receive the stimulus of love and by that we save ourselves receive the saving power of God

in your life and let him direct your every move, thought, indeed.

We have said that God has power to direct, support, and save us regardless of the circumstance. God also has the power to nurture us. In every circumstance, regardless of how bad or good a man can grow. Jesus is metaphor of the vine as recorded in the Gospel of John. Chapter 15 tells us that Christ can come into our lives like the surge of the sap in the vine bringing growth and fruit. When God is in the circumstance, no matter how adverse it may seem to be, there is to be found the possibility of growth into finer manhood.

Faith in God gave confident stability to Jesus even in the most distressing of circumstances. When the storm raged on the Sea of Galilee, the disciples panicked, but Jesus slept peacefully. The terrified disciples awakened him and exclaimed, "We are perishing!" Jesus asked, "Where is your faith? Where is your faith in many of the circumstances of life you must face. We have to have faith in someone higher than men in order to survive. Faith in God is the only thing that will help us endure and come out of these circumstances better and more faithful persons than when we went in.

Throughout time and many people have endured many handicaps, and become better person because of their faith in God.

The biographer of Alice James, sister of the famous William and Henry James, paid her this compliment, "She never excepted the horizon of invalidism." Though an invalid, her handicap never penetrated her soul, it never invaded her mind, she held herself erect.

What matters most is how we carry our handicaps, what we do with them. I talked

of Helen Keller earlier.

Here are some words of Helen Keller which ought to hearken and encourage us. If anyone ever was handicapped, it was this remarkable woman, who at the age of 18 months contracted a fever which left her both deaf and sightless. Said Helen Keller: "I thank God for my handicaps. For through them I have found myself, my work, and my God."

If we read the 12th chapter of II Corinthians, we will find a man who agrees with these words of Helen Keller. Paul speaks concerning his handicap, "Lest t I'd be proud and puffed up, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh."

Paul knew how to handle his handicap, his circumstance. First of all, instead of letting his handicap defeat him, Paul let it throw him squarely on God for health and strength. Paul got his strength straight from God because he had none himself. He says again, "Therefore I would rather glory in my infirmities that the power of Christ may rest upon me." He also says, "I can do all things through Christ who empowers me".

Secondly, Paul's circumstance gave him a rare and beautiful compassion for others who know the meaning of defeat and suffering. In the sixth chapter of Galatians, he is speaking to the board of Deacons of the Galatian church. He does so in these words: "Brethren, if a man of your congregation is taken in a sin or trespass, you who are spiritual, restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Look to yourselves, lest you be too tempted." He then added these words, "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Thirdly, Paul's infirmity in handicap caused him to lay his all on the altar of Christ. A

life that could have turned inward in self-pity and self-approval is turned upward in a consecration of service and love for the master which the very ages have never equaled.

Again and again, he must have said to himself as well as to others: "It doesn't matter how long a man lives, it matters only how much a man lives."

Truly this is the one great example we have to help us bear our burdens, our handicaps, our circumstances.

Isn't thus much better than being soaked in self-pity, or rebellion, or cynicism or escapism?

God may open up reserves of power and influence in others to aid us. Many a man has been carried through the hard spots by the inspiration and reinforcement which came from a friend.

God may use his own power. There are moments when he speaks to us directly and says, "It is I. Be not afraid." Truly God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

## Available Now

### An Understanding of Devotion, Confession, Self-Reflection & Repentance

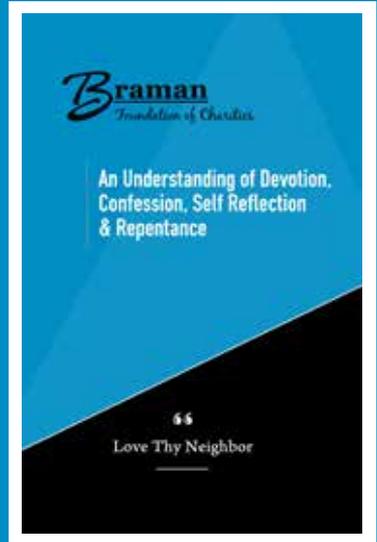
The church is struggling to teach our people how to confess, repent, self-reflect and become devoted to Christ in submission.

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.

#### Available Now:

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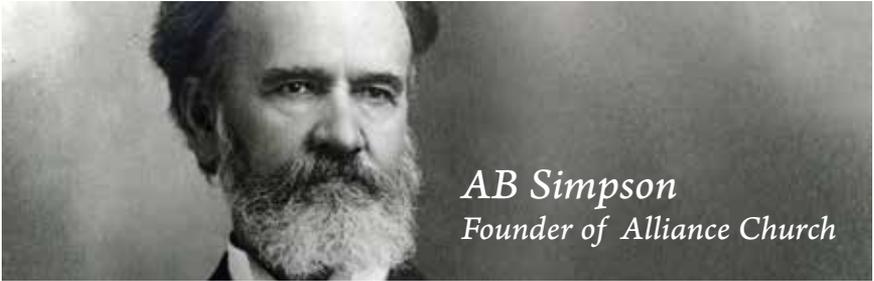
“Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

- Matt 6:33

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# *A Daily Devotional*



*"...All things are possible to him that believeth"*  
(Mark 9:23).

Why should God make all things dependent upon our faith? The pre-eminent reason why God requires faith, is that faith is the only way through which God Himself can have absolute room to work, for faith is that simple attitude by which man ceases from his own works and enters into the work of God. It is the difference between the human and divine, the natural and the supernatural.

The reason therefore why faith is so mighty, and indeed omnipotent, is that it makes way for the omnipotence of God! Therefore the two sentences are exactly parallel – "With God all things are possible" (Mark 10:27), and "All things are possible to him that believeth." The very same power is possessed by God and by him that believeth.

Faith, surrendering its own insufficiency, links itself with the all-sufficiency of God, and goes forth exclaiming, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Phil. 4:13), while approving heaven echoes back "All things are possible to him that believeth."

# Biblical Studies

## *Jeremiah 23:23-24*

"Am I only a God nearby," declares the Lord, "and not a God far away? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them?" declares the Lord. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares the Lord.

## *1 Kings 8:27*

But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built!

## *Psalms 139:7-8*

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.



**Braman**  
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PO Box 5148  
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(845) 471-2286

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# BFC Commentary

## *The Omnipresence of God*

### **Jeremiah 23:23-24**

*“Am I only a God nearby,” declares the Lord, “and not a God far away? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them?” declares the Lord. “Do not I fill heaven and earth?” declares the Lord.*

God’s reality extends to this earthly realm. To believe or think that God only exists in this realm we refer to heaven is an illusion or at worst delusional. Both an illusion and delusion are closely related. The essence of this is that your mistake and misperception exists only in your mind. The fact that God, this realm of existence in which we believe to be prophet, does in fact exist here, and in the heavenly realms. You only need to improve your knowing, your knowledge of this truth.

Many of us view the current news cycle and form opinions and beliefs that we are in the end times, and for many, walk in fear. God is here and shall always be here and everywhere. In fact, you are made in His image and are wonderfully made. Grow in this truth.

### **1 Kings 8:27**

*But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built!*

God is Omnipresent, God is everywhere. God is the maker of heaven and earth as well as hell. Indeed through your identification with what you perceive in nature, you struggle in misperception. In other words, just because you perceive in the natural, what you believe to be a reality is not always so.

In fact, many of us suffer from small minded, ego driven, conscious minds. What we perceive in the news outlook we tend to believe as truth as if God does not exist in this realm.

One of the greatest illusions is the idea that God does not exist in the public school system and “Satan” had taken over many schools. This really fortunately is not true. For you cannot remove God from schools or any other area as God is omnipresent. He is all in all. Always will be, shall be, and is.

### **Psalm 139:7-8**

*Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.*

Can you hide from God? We must understand that God sees all, knows all, and is always available. Whether this side or the other, God exists. All that is necessary is your knowing of this truth. But, how through surrender, through aging, and through growing in relationship with God. Spend time in silence and get to know the Lord. This is the best and most effective process of increasing your knowledge.

I assume you are a member of a religious community, attend a weekly bible study, and are active in your church, synagogue, or temple.

Always remember no matter who you are, God is. You are now and have always been made in His image. Again, all that is present is for you to grow in this reality.

Be ever mindful that God is, was, and shall always be.

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# Inspire

A Monthly E-Commerce Newsletter  
by Braman Foundation of Charities

&

The  
Mid Week Message

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The screenshot shows the content of the Inspire newsletter. At the top, it features the Braman Foundation of Charities logo and the word 'Inspire' in a cursive font. Below this, there is a section titled 'BFC Thanksgiving Greetings' with a sub-heading 'Thanksgiving'. The text discusses the grace of Jesus Christ and the importance of giving. There is an image of a Thanksgiving meal. Below this, there are two columns of text. The left column is titled 'Thankful' and discusses the Lord's grace and the importance of being thankful. The right column is titled 'Thankfulness Leads to Witnessing Psalm 9:1' and discusses how thankfulness leads to witnessing. At the bottom, there is a section titled 'An Inspirational Quotation' with a quote from Lamentations 3:22-24. The newsletter footer includes navigation links for Home, About BFC, Prayer Requests, Literature, and Registration, along with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, and YouTube.

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies , His mercies never come to an end; they are new ever morning great is your faithfulness. The Lord is my portion says my soul, therefore I will hope in Him.”

Lamentations 3:22-24

*Notable / Quotable*  
***The Imitation of Christ***



“THE kingdom of God is within you,” says the Lord.

Turn, then, to God with all your heart. Forsake this wretched world and your soul shall find rest. Learn to despise external things, to devote yourself to those that are within, and you will see the kingdom of God come unto you, that kingdom which is peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, gifts not given to the impious.

Christ will come to you offering His consolation, if you prepare a fit dwelling for Him in your heart, whose beauty and glory, wherein He takes delight, are all from within. His visits with the inward man are frequent. His communion sweet and full of consolation, His peace great, and His intimacy wonderful indeed.

Therefore, faithful soul, prepare your heart for this Bridegroom that He may come and dwell within you; He Himself says: “If any one love Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and

We will come to him, and will make Our abode with him.”

Given place, then, to Christ, but deny entrance to all others, for when you have Christ you are rich and He is sufficient for you. He will provide for you. He will supply your every want, so that you need not trust in frail changeable men. Christ remains forever, standing firmly with us to the end.

Do not place much confidence in weak and mortal man, helpful and friendly though he be; and do not grieve too much if he sometimes opposes and contradicts you. Those who are with us today be against us tomorrow, and vice versa, for men change with the wind. Place all your trust in God; let Him your love. He will answer for you; He will do what is best for you.

You have here no lasting home. You are a stranger and a pilgrim wherever you may be, and you shall have no rest until you are wholly united in God.

Why do you look about here when this is not the place of your repose? Dwell rather upon heaven and give but a passing glance to all earthly things. They all pass away, and you together with them. Take care, then, that you do not cling to them lest you be entrapped and perish. Fix your mind on the Most High, and pray unceasingly to Christ.

When Christ was in the world, He was despised by men; in the hour of need He was forsaken by acquaintances and left by friends to the depth of scorn. He was willing to suffer and to be despised; do you dare to complain of anything? He had enemies and defamers; do you want everyone to be your friend, your benefactor? How can your patience be rewarded if no adversities test it? How can you be a friend of Christ if you are not willing to suffer any hardship? Suffer with Christ and for Christ if you wish to reign with Him.

Had you but once entered into perfect communion with Jesus or tasted a little of His ardent love, you would care nothing at all for your own comfort or discomfort but would rejoice in the reproach you suffer; for love of Him makes a man despise himself.

A man who is a lover of Jesus and of truth, a truly interior man who is free from uncontrolled affections, can turn to God at will and rise above himself to enjoy spiritual peace.

He who tastes life as it really is, not as men say or think it is, is indeed wise with the wisdom of God rather than of men.

He who learns to live the interior life and to take little account of outward things, does not seek special places or times to perform devout exercises. A spiritual man quickly recollects himself because he has never wasted his attention upon externals. No outside work, no business that cannot wait stands in his way. He adjusts himself to things as they happen. He whose disposition is well ordered cares noting about the strange, perverse behavior of others, for a man is upset and distracted only in proportion as he engrosses himself in externals.

If all were well with you, therefore, and if you were purified from all sin, everything would tend to your good and be to your profit. But because you are as yet neither entirely dead to self nor free from all earthly affection, there is much that often displeases and disturbs you. Nothing so mars and defiles the heart of man as impure attachment to created things. But if you refuse external consolation, you will be able to contemplate heavenly things and often to experience interior joy.

# The God of All Time

*“From everlasting to everlasting thou art God.”*

*-Psalms 90:2*

We waste a lot of time asking the wrong questions. Some questions are these: How can I make a success of myself? How can I get along with other people? How can I get rid of my superiority complex? How can I achieve happiness? These are really little questions in contrast to the big questions, questions about God and your relationship to him, about the nature of man and the meaning of life.

G.K. Chesterton had a theory about looking for a place for room and board. When the land-lady answers your ring, you should not ask about the quality of her food and bed linens. You should look her squarely in the eye and say, “Madam, what is your total view of the universe?” Silly? Not at all. We waste a lot of time asking the wrong questions.

Today we ask the big question. What is God’s relationship to time? With the hope that many little questions will be answered or disappear. God and time – the theologians use the phrase “the eternal God” and lift him right out of time – outside the limitations of time and space. Nevertheless, you and I are children of time. Time is enmeshed in God’s eternity somehow or other and God has relation to it.

And so, this morning I wish to make five simple statements concerning God in his relationship to time.

First of all – God is the God of all true

beginnings.

God is the God of all his own beginnings. How marvelous, majestic, awe-inspiring, when pondered, are the words with which the Bible begins: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

John’s Gospel opens with an echo of the great statement in Genesis. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” As the book of Revelation, and the Bible itself, draws to a close, we read, “I am the alpha – the beginning, – – the first” (Revelation 22:13).

God is the God of all our beginnings. They are very many.

The conception of a child is beginning. When God is related to this beginning it becomes a very holy act.

The Psalmist words become eloquent as read from Psalm 139, verse 15-16; “My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfected; and in the book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.”

How many beginnings have we in life which are related to God’s will and purpose?

Marriage is one of the most important ones. The boy and girl choose a mate which they intend to live the rest of their earthly lives, at least this is the intent of holy matrimony. They start their lives together. A whole new beginning.

The choice of a vocation is also an important beginning. The kind of job or work we intend to perform the rest of our working days. Important because we have to be happy working at what we choose, otherwise we make ourselves miserable and everyone else around us. It's important to get the right beginning in life.

It makes for a happy life to multiply beginnings in relationship to God. Each morning is a fresh beginning; by meditation and prayer we can make God the God of that beginning. Birthdays, Monday mornings, the first day of the year, and the month bring opportunity to relate a beginning to God.

Many people seem to dread Monday mornings and the start of another week, but try starting it with God, in fact, each day with God, and see what a difference it makes in your life and your whole attitude.

A high school teacher confessed that Monday morning was to him a great psychological event. By the previous Friday his mistakes and inefficiencies and frustrations had piled up until the burden of them was almost unendurable, but on Monday morning a fresh start was possible. The slate is clean again. He had a new zeal and enthusiasm for the task.

There is a day when you begin to live the Christian life. And what a day this is. It may come upon you gradually, but one day you will know it has come. With another person it is a great decision. Another may feel a deep emotion and God is especially the God of that beginning, expect him to serve your life in the second birth as wonderfully as he served it in your first.

We speak of the second birth as Jesus referred to it as, "You must be born again or you cannot enter the kingdom of God." We must be reborn again to become true Christians and what a wonderful experience this is to start again with God besides you.

Secondly – God is the God of all happy continuances.

Time is not all beginning; it is also continuous plea. How often we make a good start but feel and its continuance.

God is the God of his own continuance. How God's being rest within himself is a deep question that no man can answer. How wonderful is God's continuance of the universe under law! No less wonderful his dealings with men through the centuries under grace. James said that with God there is no variableness nor shadow that is cast by turning.

God is the God of our continuances. In the background of his continuance, consider your own affairs as in the fore-ground. There are hours of beginnings like conception and birth, but after that the years of continuous. What kind of continuance? How many people mererly exist? Their lives continue in the realm of circumstance, but God is a person, a loving person, a person who created them for life and fellowship with him. In him they live and move and have their being. That they do not know.

Marriage. A true beginning made in God. A happy continuance is in him. Vocation! A good start with higher deals, but what about its continuance?

Life with its multiple beginnings should have multiple continuances- all these beginnings in our lives should rest in God. God is the one that can assure us a good continuance of all beginnings in our lives.

Thirdly – our God is a God of all mobile transitions.

God is the God of his own transitions. Continuance and change are not opposites. "Jesus Christ, the same, yesterday, today, and tomorrow." But he does not still walk in the flesh in Galilee. He is here, but not in the flesh.

A river gives us the figure of God's transitions. It is very permanent, but ever-changing.

From of old, a river has been the metaphor of fleeting change. The stream is never the same for two consecutive minutes. The water is constantly moving. Attempt to stop the current in order to examine it, and the river itself is completely altered. You have a reservoir or a lake, not a flowing stream. This makes a river so apt a simile of religious experience. For what is our sense of God but a sense of fleeting impressions, of emotions that rise and subside in waves, of moments of confidence alternating with moments of skepticism, of intense enthusiasm changing to placid indifference, of the broad experiences of heart which reflect the sunny skies and narrow, pent-in currents that take their dark course with power.

God is the God of all noble changes.

God is the God of our transitions. A man grows. A man moves on. He changes from childhood to youth, from youth to maturity, from maturity to old age, from this life to the life beyond. There is a continual flux in the personal religious experience. God is the God of all noble change.

Fourthly - God is the God of all high culminations.

He is the God of his own culminations: creation, incarnation, redemption, victory.

He is the God of our culminations. Any culmination of our own character is by the work he begins and continues in us. We do not expect too much of our own attainments. The culmination in achievement is by his

presence and help. Otherwise in the bright light of success a man shrivels.

When a man's life culminates in high sacrifice, it is by the grace of God.

Fifthly - and last; God is the God of all good endings. Now the chord of our thought becomes tangled. The chord of time and is entangled in eternity. Endings become beginnings and continuances and transitions and culminations. We need only to repeat the words from Revelation 22:13; "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End." There is a little poem by Florence Dietrich entitled "Holding the Faith."

So shall I hold my faith that God is good,  
That there's no permanence in things  
infernial, And they today shall pass, as well  
they should, And only truth and love shall  
live eternal."

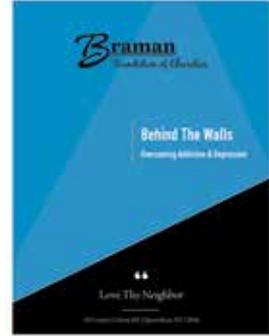
Our God is a God of all times. He is an everything we do, everything we are. He is with us from the beginning through all of life into the eternal. When we come to realize this in our lives then we will actually be living our lives to the fullest. Let God into your life. Let him become the center of your activities and see and feel the difference he makes in your life. If every man, woman, and child could do this at this very moment what a different world this world would be to live in. Let us hope and pray that eventually this will happen and let us work and strive to make this a reality.

# BFC Corrections / Prison Behind the Walls Program

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

## 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.



## Updates from Sierra Leone Prison Ministry

*From Pastor Joe Koroma:*

These were the pictures of the prison ministry.

Our letter has been approved and granted to preach and share the word of God to the inmate every wednesday at 8:00am. We are also asked to cover the entire northern region with this vision. The inmates and the prison officers together with the chaplains has know about the BFC and they were happy about that. Now the inmate were reading those books and the following Wednesday they will explain all what they have learnt.



# Wipe Our Tears Orphans

## Missions: Sierra Leone

Pictures below show Pastor Joe Koroma continues to work with the orphans and widows of Sierra Leone. Please pray for his team as they struggle to live and grow in the Lord.



# The God of All Places

*“He is not far from every one of us.”*

*-Acts 17:27*

Where is God? When little children, yes even big children ask the question they should be given a correct answer. Their elders, we adults should be able to answer the question. Quite often important questions like this go unanswered because we adults don't know ourselves. We dismiss it as foolishness or just plain ignore it. There are at least three great discoveries that give us the whereabouts of God.

First of all, missionaries who go to primitive tribes and investigate closely their religious beliefs and practices, with no exception perhaps, learned that the tribes have a fundamental belief in a maker or creator – God.

In some instances he is known as a Father – God. This guy may never or seldom be one worshiped. The religious rights of the tribe are developed out of the belief in spirits, the fear of spirits, and the practice of magic. The great God is a long way off. He can be ignored. “It is a great discovery to find that God is nearby.”

The Christian message sometimes receives quick acceptance by inanimate peoples. The gospel brings God down from the skies, as a loving father. God is near. God is loving. God is kind. God is stronger than any evil spirit. God drives fear out of man's life. The coming of Jesus makes this graphic and understandable. It is no wonder that

primitive tribes are comparatively easily reached by wise missionaries.

“Where have you been all this time?” asked an elderly woman in India when told the message of the risen Christ. “You say it is nearly two thousand years since Jesus, of whom you speak, died for sinful people! Why have I never heard before this wonderful story? Look at me! I am now an old woman. All my life I have said the prescribed prayers. I have given alms. I have gone to holy shrines. My body is dried up and became as dust with fasting. And now I am told that all this is useless, and that Jesus died to take away my sins. I say again, “where have you been?”

How often we are like primitives in this respect. The unseen is considered as far away, up in the sky somewhere. “It is a great discovery when we learn that God is near by.”

Secondly – It was an idea held in early Old Testament times that God was in certain places.

Abraham built alters in the places where he pitched his tent and these alters because Beth-els, House of God. The story of Jacob tells of his finding God at a certain place. Moses' experience associated God with the place where a bush burned down in the desert, with the top of a mountain, with a place above the ark.

Later God is found in the temple which Solomon built.

In II Kings 5:17, we read of Naaman's request to be given two mules burdens of earth that he might take it back to Syria. Only upon that earth from the land of Israel, God's earth, would he be able to offer burnt offering and sacrifice into Israel's God. The adjoining earth of Syria belonged unto Syria's Rummon.

The idea that God was found in certain places suggests the idea that he was not to be found in other places.

Abraham would not expect his God of Bethel to be found in the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

The idea prevailed to the extent that when Benhadad, the Syrian, was defeated in battle his servant claimed that it was a God of the hills. When they should fight in the plain, the outcome would be different. 1 Kings 20:23 reads, "The servants of the king of Syria said to him, "Their gods are gods of the hills, and so they were stronger than we; but let us fight against them in the plain, and surely we should be stronger than they." In the 137th Psalm we read of the bitterness of the Jewish captives of Babylon. "How shall we sing the Lord song in a strange land?" And so each person believed that his God was only in certain places. I hope we believe God is everywhere and always with us.

We most definitely need to remember we arrive at different places at different times. Let us not forget when we are on the mountain, that had it not been for God's help in the valley we should never have reached the heights. This certainly is true of all life. Regardless of what our position may be, we can thank God.

"It is a great discovery to find that God is in all places." In certain places, yes; take not God's presence from Bethel where I am accustomed to find him. I must still find him in my secret place in the hills, but I must

know that he is also to be found in the valley. He is in the gardens, in city streets, in the cornfield, in school.

He is in the great out-of-doors, at Yosemite, at the Grand Canyon, at Crater Lake, Lake George, along the Schoharie river. He is to be found in homes, in little rooms, where only one person dwells, in churches, chapels, and cathedrals. And let us remember that no one person or one particular group has the inside track with God. Everyone has an equal opportunity to come to know God.

Most certainly God is here and now if we want him to be. However, if we cannot take time to talk with God, I doubt very much if we will feel his presence. It is really pretty much up to each of us whether we want God to be in a particular place. We most definitely want God in our homes but he isn't there automatically.

We have to want him there and we have to work on it otherwise finding God becomes difficult.

Francis Thompson found God in the great city. The great city of London troubled with God. It seemed to be the new Jerusalem. The angels hovered around Oxford; the seraphim sang their "Holy, Holy, Holy" above the mansion house and the bank; Ezekiel's life-giving river flowed from underneath Saint Paul's.

After Thompson wrote a little poem was found on his desk. In it he speaks of – Jacobs ladder pitched between heaven and Charing Cross; and of Christ walking on the water – not of Gennesaret but the Thames.

It was there the highways and byways of London that the Hound of Heaven pursued him, and the highways and byways of London became transfigured in his eyes in consequence.

It is a great discovery to find God in all places. However, this doesn't mean that God is

everywhere. That may become a dissipating, scattering concept. It may mean that God is nowhere. Nor does it mean that God is in everything. It means that God is "here". You'll find him there if you find him "here". It will definitely be a great discovery.

Though "primitive" religion generally recognizes a supreme deity who is far away, the songs and proverbs of Africa express a recognition and a desire for his all providing presence. John V. Taylor, secretary of the Church of England's Missionary Society, gives us these African proverbs: "God is in the front: he is in the back; "the the cattle shelter under the same tree with God"; "God needs no pointing out to a child"; "the ears catch the whisper of God though we do not see him"; "wherever the land graze in herds, there is God"; "God is in the great trunk and in the low branches."

A third great discovery of the whereabouts of God is given to us by the apostle Paul as we read from 1 Corinthians 3:16; "Know ye not that you are of the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you."

This satisfies human need; no longer is God far away, or to be found only in certain geographical places.

Here is a sure place where the searching soul finds God, and God finds the searching soul. Certainly others can find God in us, if he is in us. By the way we live our lives, the way we treat other people, the way we act in our every day lives, the way we respond to God's demands on us, let's other people know whether we have God within us or not.

The scientists and the cosmonauts and astronauts are busy early proving that the Universe is a Universe. The same structure and rhythms prevail throughout, demonstrating the stamp of a creator. We are discovering with awe that the Creator of all things visible and invisible is he who is adored and worshiped in the great creeds of the Christian church. To whatever planet

or star man goes in space he will learn that God's creative power is there and that the Spirit of God has not been left behind upon the Earth, but continues to abide in his own heart.

So regardless of where we go or what we do we cannot get rid of or escape God. He is always with us. The sooner we recognize this and realize this in our lives the better off we are going to be.

It's sometimes difficult for us to realize that God loves everyone, but he is in Africa, Europe, as well as the United States, that he cares for the black person, or red, or yellow as well as the white. Most certainly color, or nationality makes no difference to God.

Can other people see and feel the Spirit of God in you? Do you even know that God's spirit dwells in you?

Are you awake to his presence? Or do you think you have escaped God's presence? Many, many people have a rude awakening if they think they have escaped God's presence.

A small boy came to his pastor and asked a question, "How can God understand all the language of the people in the Earth?" The minister replied, "God speaks the language of the heart. He speaks to us in our own hearts." Then said the boy, "I can understand that." Can you understand that?

Indeed, God is nearby, he is in all places and his Spirit dwells within you. After we have made these discoveries, we will know where God is.

# Elderly Care Program

## Missions: Kenya

Our Elderly Care Program in Migori, Kenya continues to serve its members. Pray for Kenya. Roads are impassable. They are facing floods which have claimed so many lives of our people. Some of our churches of Nazarene within the lake region are flooded. Please pray for Jomo's prayer request as he is trying to expand the work.

### These are his prayer requests:

- 1 Good health for our beneficiaries of the BFC
- 2.Growth of BFC program
- 3.Praying for the volunteers to continue with the support like the riders and cooks
- 4 Praying for the BFC supporters



*Felix Omondi,  
our rider*



*One of our assistants,  
helps Mama Sarah in kitchen*



# Asapalli

## Missions: India

Thank you so much for your concern in the Asapalli ministry. We have been praying and we continue to pray for the most urgent needs of the school, and I urge the BFC members to pray with us for the construction of the school auditorium hall. The multipurpose building project process has been started, because the existing building is not fit for the future use during monsoon season. For almost a week the classes got suspended due to water logging.



## SCHOOL MAGAZINE CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS



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

### Content

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

### Eligibility

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

### Topic

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

### Language

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



### Form

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

### Submission Procedure

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

### Submission Date

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

### The Editorial Committee

School Magazine  
Asapalli English School  
(Senior Secondary)

Date: 06th June, 2023

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



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# Loving a Child of Asapalli

## Missions: India

It has been a longtime since BFC focused any effort on the Asapalli Children's Program. And this is too bad.

Last month a donor contacted our office, had been on the BFC and decided to begin to write to that child.

We thank God and Praise God, so we decided to renew our efforts and feature the Program in this issue.

Remember Asapalli was the first Mission work for BFC which started for BFC in 1987. Through the years much has evolved and yet Asapalli stands firm in teaching, educating the children in its region about the Lord. So we wanted to re-introduce the program to you and let you know the ways in which you may support a child of Asapalli:

1. You may financially support the child.

There several children at Asapalli that are orphaned OR their families cannot afford to buy clothing for their child. Your support goes a long ways in helping that child.

2. You may become a " pen pal " for a child.

Simply pick a child and through the BFC website email us and we will help set you up as a Pen Pal.

Either way your love. Prayers and financial support are vital for this child to grow in the love of Christ.



EMMONLANG RYMBAI

Emmonlang is a 15 year old girl living at the Christian Hostel & School. She is looking for a pen pal. Please contact BFC if you are interested in writing to this child, or looking to offer financial support.

# C&MA

## Missions: India

We visited 3 different war affected relief camps in Manipur and have distributed warm winter clothes and children's eatables. As well we gave a short encouragement message to those people whose houses and prosperity were lost and being burnt down in this communal war.

We have called 100 meitei Christian families from different districts of Manipur, whose houses and properties were lost and gave them warm blankets, as the winter has arrived we were at need hour for those warm clothes.

Most of them gave a word of gratitude with a joy of tear as they received those things.

The communal war which started from the 3rd of may 2023, brought a tragic event to lost of 256 meitei Churches by being burnt down and dismantled. Now we Meitei Christian don't have any Church building left for gathering Physical worship. Even recently some extremist group of meitei came and had beaten the Pastor and Church leadership for having worship service at their own home.



So among these affected pastors, we have selected 40 pastors and gave them a help of Rs 1500 to each one them.

They gave a heart of gratitude for getting such a help at this time of need. These pastors don't get any monetary help or salary for this last 7 months because of closing down the worship services.



*Blanket distribution in winter by Acmm*



*Inside in relief camp's pic*



*Pastors and leaders's meeting and given cash by Acmm of Synod*



*Distribution of warm cloth in relief*

Chunchunpur



*Inside of relief camp at chunchunpur of Manipur*

Manipur



NEW

# Jesus Christ Church & Ministries

## Missions: Pakistan

Haroon Ashraf is a Pastor that has recently contacted us from Pakistan. Pastor Haroon has a following and is seeking to start a church. Before doing any work with Haroon, BFC would need to travel to Pakistan.

Here are pictures of houses and churches that have been burned. Our Christian brothers and sisters are struggling and looking to build an organization with us to aid their people. Please pray for Haroon and whether BFC ought to move forward with his ministry.



# SPURGEON'S CORNER



He is no petty deity, presiding, as the heathen imagined their gods to do, over someone nation, or one department of nature.

Wherever thou art, and whatever thou lookest upon, thou art in God's workshop, where every wheel is turned by his hand. Everything is not God, but God is in everything, and nothing worketh, or even existeth, except by his present power and might.

Is it not a sad proof of the alienation of our nature that though God is everywhere we have to school ourselves to perceive him anywhere?

His circumference is nowhere, but his centre is everywhere.

Distance is no distance in the sight of God.

## *Interested in Prasham?*

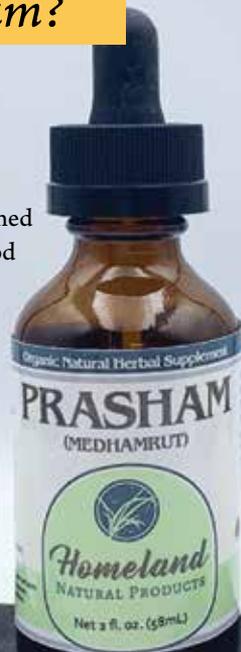
Prasham is an Indian ayurvedic herb, imported from India.

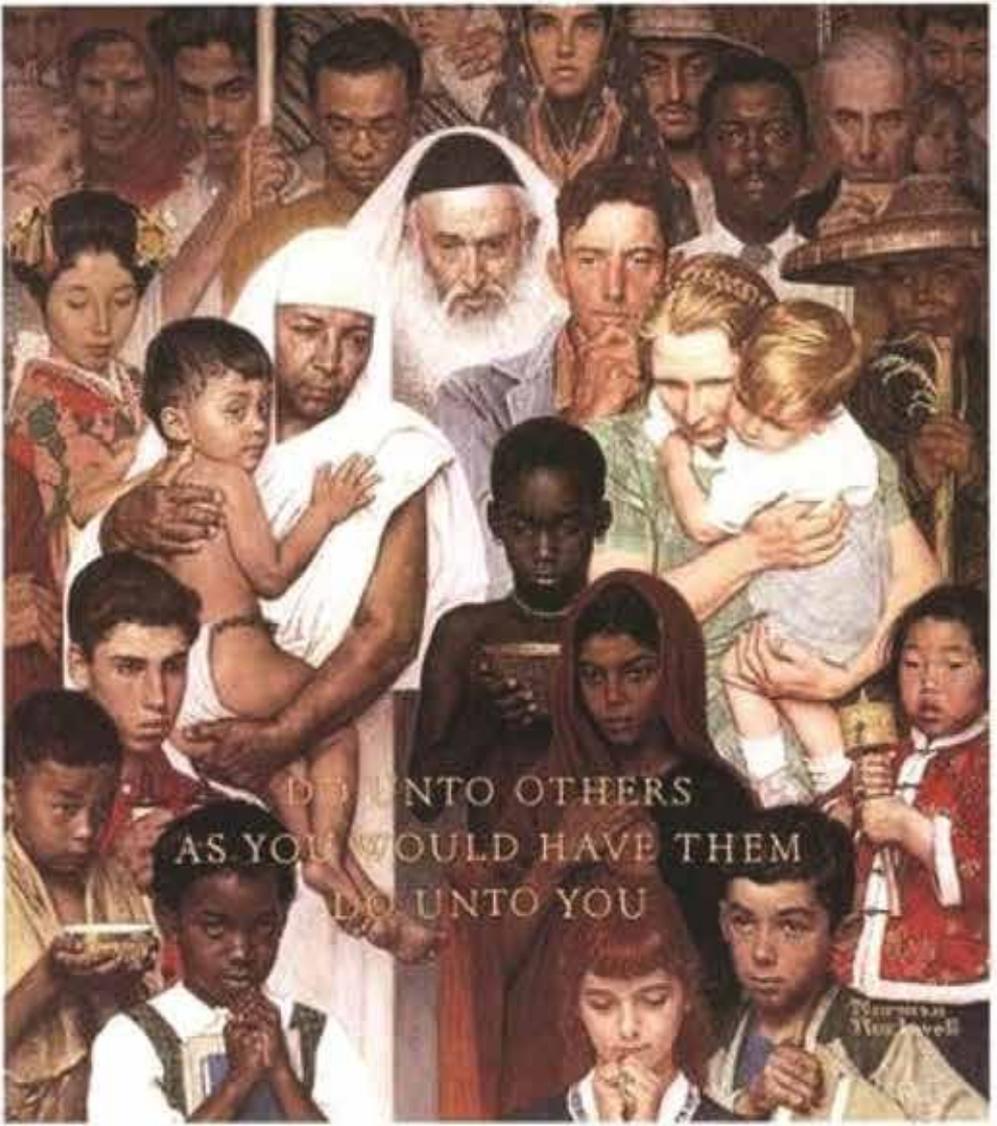
Prasham is a concoction of 8 herbs, combined to help relieve insomnia, anxiety, high blood pressure, and agitation.

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