

*B*raman *Foundation of Charities* REVIVE MAGAZINE

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The BFC Editorial

As we begin the Autumn here in the Northeast U.S., we are reminded of the crispness of the morning dew as well as the beginning of the beauty of the Fall foliage.

The Braman Foundation continues to grow through its platforms of Missions, Community Programs and Corrections work. We are ever mindful of our mission statement, "To love thy neighbor" and to know that Christ did not come for the proud, but for those that are in need of a physician.

Our Missions works, whether in Africa or India are in full swing. Our Community work through Operation Blessing Bag is expanding into NYC. Additionally, we are trying to launch a much needed woman's shelter. BFC continues to publish, write and print in several modalities, Monday-Friday its daily blog that reaches thousands through social media and email. The long awaited "Reflections", is now available in print. Our book of scriptures and essays are well underway and should be available in early 2020. BFC in its Corrections/Prison work has begun a correspondence course with its program "Behind The Walls" directly into the NYS Facilities. Additionally, we have targeted 9 facilities to launch our "Behind The Walls" program.

Much is happening and we are very encouraged and grateful to carry out the Lord's work. We would never be able to continue this work without your generosity, both financially and through your prayer support. We continue to ask you to remember the Lord's work that is being accomplished through BFC. Your continued support is so needed and much appreciated.

Always know that we serve a God that is always active in all our works, loves us without condition and can always be called upon. Learn to abide in the presence of God.

God Bless You and grow in His knowledge and peace!

Faithfully yours,
BFC



About Our Author

Charles Haddon (C.H.) Spurgeon (1834-1892) was an English Particular Baptist preacher. Spurgeon remains highly influential among Christians of various[which?] denominations, among whom he is known as the "Prince of Preachers".

Spurgeon authored many types of works including sermons, one autobiography, commentaries, books on prayer, devotionals, magazines, poetry, hymns, and more. Many sermons were transcribed as he spoke and were translated into many languages during his lifetime. He is said to have produced powerful sermons of penetrating thought and precise exposition. His oratory skills are said to have held his listeners spellbound in the Metropolitan Tabernacle and many Christians hold his writings in exceptionally high regard among devotional literature.

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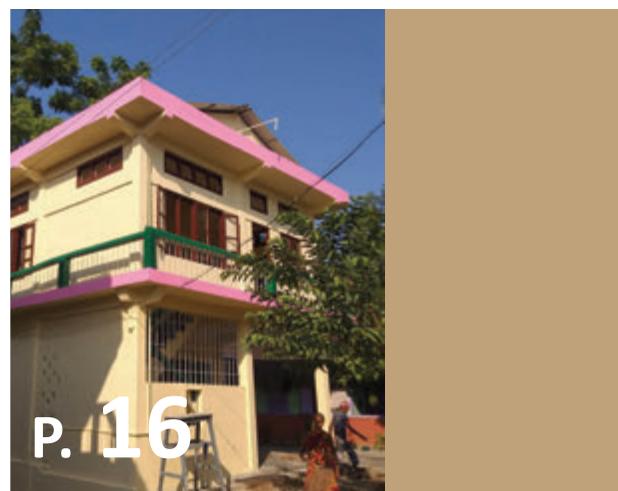
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Tell Me Your Dreams

by: Eve Otieno

A few years ago, most of my siblings had dreams similar in nature at different times concerning one of my brothers. One of the dreams I had was that he had gone to fill up his car tank but could not afford the gas. My other sister dreamt that he was hawking ice-cream on a wheelbarrow (this is usually a sign of poverty). Other dreams included him moving to a tiny one room house that had walls made of mud. Between us, we had almost 6 or more dreams in a certain period of time.

After a while we realized that these were not just indolent dreams but that he/we needed to do something. My brother contacted a pastor friend and we had a prayer meeting at his house.

A few months later, he lost his job and that was the beginning of the most difficult three and a half years for him, as they had to adjust and live on his wife's income. We are grateful because about five months ago God blessed him with a very good job.

Dreams is a subject that has been ignored and taken for granted by many Christians, it is hardly ever taught in churches. We hear phrases like "don't think much about it, it was just a dream".

In Genesis 41:32 Joseph tells Pharaoh, "the reason the dream was given to Pharaoh in two forms is that the matter has been firmly decided by God, and God will do it

soon." From this passage, we learn that dreams are given to us and that by the time we are having them, "it has been decided by God" and in verse 25 he says "God has revealed to Pharaoh what He is about to do;" God uses dreams to reveal to us what He is about to do.

The devil also uses dreams to attack. Sometimes he disguises these dreams to look and feel pleasant while in reality, he's tormenting believers.

I don't know your take, but dreams help me be aware of my spiritual position. Sometimes when I feel confident that am standing firm (1st Corinthians 1:20) then a dream is given to me about a hidden sin, prayerlessness, lukewarmness or any affliction that I may not be aware of at that time and from the dream, I am able to redirect my spiritual path in the right direction. There are also times when God answers specific prayers, gives me a message, assurances or instructions through dreams.

The first thing I do when offering spiritual counseling to someone is to discuss this topic. I start by first explaining the importance of dreams, then we look back to his/her past dreams, and pay attention to frequent ones. We then start to track the dreams as we begin a journey of prayer. Almost immediately, the person is given a dream, that is relevant to what we are praying for, what to focus on when praying, how to pray and even sins to confess.

Since creation, every dispensation in the history of the bible and mankind & his relationship with God, God has used different mediums of passing messages to His children. When we look at the early days in the book of Genesis, it is mentioned that "God spoke to him and said," or "God said to him." We are not told by what means God spoke to Cain, Noah and the rest. As we get introduced to Abram, we are told in Genesis 12:1 "Now the Lord had



Eve Otieno Prayer Department Leader

Born in Kenya, currently residing in the Northeast Region of New York State. Eve serves as the Prayer Department Leader of BFC.

She is a spiritual mentor, who uses the Word of God to build the disciples' faith in order to bring healing, deliverance and restoration. Eve explains the role dreams have in one's life with biblical examples. Dreams are inspired by the Word of God.

We hope you are blessed by the article. Please feel free to communicate with Eve: eve@bramanfoundation.org.

said to Abram." The bible does not tell how this communication occurred.

As we progress into the bible with Abram and his children and descendants, God begins to speak with them through visions, dreams and angels, who sometimes would disguise themselves as men. In Genesis 15:1 We are told that the Lord appeared to Abram in a vision. From here onwards in the bible, we see God appearing to His people in dreams, visions or sending his word through angels and prophets.

Dreams become a common mode of communication as we get into the history of the Israelites and their relationships with God. Later in the era of prophets, the days of Jesus and during the early church, dreams still play a vital role in the lives of many people.

In Numbers 12 Verse 6-7, God himself confirms that He communicates with people through dreams and visions. Then He said, "If there is a prophet among you, I the Lord make myself known to him in a vision. I speak to him in a dream.

Most people at some point in their lives have had a certain dream that reoccurs for a certain period of time. Recurring dreams should never be ignored.

From bible stories, the following are roles of dreams in our lives:

- a. Tell about the future
- b. Reassure God's plan, presence and promises
- c. Instruction
- d. Warning against sin or looming danger
- e. Assurance of the future
- f. Answer to our prayers
- g. God reveals what He wants to do

All the above have examples from the bible.

1. ABRAHAM

Genesis 15: verse 12ff. - God causes Abram to fall asleep and through a dream, tells him how his descendants would be strangers in a foreign land, would be slaves for 400 years. God even talks about the judgement that would come upon Egypt. God gives a clear account how the fourth generation Israelites shall come back from Egypt. Whatever we dream, it has already been established in the spiritual realm. In this case, God used a dream to affirm to Abraham that His promises to him shall be fulfilled and that his descendants will be God's people. - **Reassures God's plan and promises**

Genesis 20:3 - But God appeared to Abimelech in a dream by night and said to him, you are a dead man because of the woman you have taken for she is another man's wife.

We all know the story of how Abram had lied that Sarai is his sister and Abimelech, took her to be his wife. In this dream, God is Warning Abimelech against sinning; taking someone else's wife. - **Warning against sin**

2. JACOB

Genesis 28:12-15 - Jacob dreams about a ladder set up on earth to heaven and angels are ascending and descending the ladder. God speaks to Jacobs, reaffirms all the blessings He had said to Abraham and Isaac, and reassures Jacob that He is with him always.

Genesis 31:11 - Jacob narrates to Laban how the angel of the Lord had spoken to him in a dream and instructed him on how to select his animals, and also to leave the land and go back home - **Instruction**

Genesis 31:24 - God warns Laban in a dream to be very careful how he speaks to Jacob - **Warning to Laban, protection of Jacob**

3. JOSEPH

Joseph's life and destiny was shaped by dreams that occurred in two-fold. The drama in his life commences when he has dreams and ends with dreams. His case is a good example of how God uses dreams to shape our destiny.

Genesis 37 - Joseph dreams that him and his brothers were bringing sheaves in the field and his sheaf arose and stood upright, and the other sheaves bowed to him. Then he dreams again that the sun, the moon and the eleven stars bowed down to him.

Genesis 40 - In prison, the cupbearer and the chief butler both dream, Joseph interprets for them both and everything happens as per his interpretation. Verse 8b "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams.

Genesis 41- Pharaoh has two dreams, and no one can interpret them, no even his magicians and advisors. When he tells Joseph, Joseph tells him that God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace. Verse 25. God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do.

Joseph's entire destiny was guided by dreams, that came in two forms. Because of his **TWO** dreams, his brothers desirously threw him in a pit and later traded him to some Ishmaelites. While in prison, **TWO** of Pharaoh's former officials both have dreams and Joseph interprets these dreams and both later come to pass exactly as per Joseph's interpretation which was, the Butler later connects him with Pharaoh who has a dream in **TWO** forms, In Genesis 41:32 Joseph tells Pharaoh, "and the dream was repeated to Pharaoh **TWICE** because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass. This leads to Joseph's advice on what to do and instant promotion and everything happens as he had interpreted.

His family eventually relocates to Egypt and sure enough, they bow down to him several times as per Joseph's dreams. The entire destiny of the Israelites, during that period and in order for God's plan to be fulfilled in their lives, Joseph and the dreams had to be involved. Please note how Joseph, during interpretations, gave all the credit to God.

4. GIDEON

Judges 7: God had assured Gideon of victory but he was still afraid. In Verse 10 God tells him, "If you are afraid, go down to the camp with your servant Purah, and listen to what they are saying, afterward you will be encouraged to attack the camp." In verse 13-15, and when Gideon had come, there was a man telling a dream to his companion. He said, "I have had a dream, to my surprise a loaf of barley bread tumbled into the camp of Midian; it came to a tent and struck it so that it fell and overturned, and the tent collapsed" Then his companion answered and said, "this is nothing else but the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel I into his hand God has delivered Midian and the whole camp. And so, it was, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, that he worshipped. He returned to the camp of Israel and said, "Arise, for the Lord has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand" (By the way a few years ago I had a dream that involved barley and bread, it was direct instructions, this dream disturbed me for years as I could not get an interpretation, until the day the Holy Spirit opened my eyes to see this passage, then, I had my interpretation.)

In this context, God uses another person's dream, which He had orchestrated beforehand, to assure Gideon of victory.

5. SOLOMON

1st Kings: 3:5 At Gibeon, the Lord appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."

The rest of the dream, Solomon asks for wisdom, and God assures him of wisdom and in addition, wealth and honor. We all know how great the wisdom and wealth of Solomon was, and it all started in his sleep one night.

Isn't it amazing how the whole transaction was done at night while Solomon was asleep, this just reinforces why we should not take any dreams for granted. Imagine if Solomon had woken up the following morning, gave an account nonchalantly about the dream and said 'anyway, it was just a dream.' And we all know how great Solomon's wisdom and wealth was.

1st Kings 9:2 The Lord appeared to Solomon a second time as He had appeared to Him at Gibeon¹¹. This time it was in response to Solomon's prayer.

6. DANIEL

Daniel's story (of dreams) is one that is similar in nature to Joseph's. They are both in foreign lands, both have dreams, they both through God's wisdom, interpreted dreams for the then kings and this leads to their promotion. Daniel 1:17b 'and Daniel He gave understanding in all visions and dreams, and in chapter 2:19 we are told "During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision."

Daniel 2:1 in the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was so troubled that sleep left him .

In Daniel 4 Nebuchadnezzar had a dream, and he had a crazy demand of his magicians, astrologers, sorcerers and the Chaldeans. They were to tell him his dream and interpretation and there was an award to it. When they would not do this, they were all killed - all the wise men of Babylon. But hold on, through divine wisdom and after praying, the secret of Nebuchadnezzar's dream and interpretation was given to Daniel in a night vision. Yes, as Joseph said, interpretations belong to God.

7. JESUS

Our Lord Jesus Himself, right from conception to birth to His life, dreams were used on different occasions to save and protect His life and destiny.

Matthew 1:20 - 24 In a dream, the angel tells Joseph not to be afraid to marry Mary because she had conceived of the Holy Spirit. The angel reveals the baby's name; Jesus and His role, which was to save mankind.

Matthew 2:12 And the wise men, having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country through another route.

Matthew 2:13 an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream "Get up, take the child and His mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child and kill him.

Matthew 2:19 - 20 Again, through a dream, Joseph is reassured of safety because Herod had died. An angel appears to him in a dream and tells him to go back to Israel.

We see God using dreams here to physically protect Jesus from Herod, by warning the wise men and Joseph in dreams.

Matthew 27: 19 19 while Pilate was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him saying, "Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things in the dream today because of him. We are not given details of the dream here, but in this scenario, God is using a non-believer, to prove Jesus innocent.

There are other examples which I have not mentioned, The Prophets, The Apostles - if you read the book of Acts you will see God giving clear instructions to Peter and Paul

on many instances.

WHAT TO DO

1. The first thing is NOT TO IGNORE your dreams.
2. Keep a record of your dreams. Have a journal and write down all your dreams, as much as you can remember, include the dates and if you can, the time of the night/day. This helps when seeking interpretation, and also for future references.
3. Understand the meaning. This may sound far fetched, but you can find a Christians who understand the meaning of dreams or can interpret dreams. If you can't find such a person, then pray for the Holy Spirit to help you understand the meaning (I have done this on several occasions, and a meaning given to me, sometimes even through another dream) Also remember Joseph told the cupbearer and the Baker, "Do not interpretations belong to the Lord? Tell me your dreams". Also, in Genesis 41: 16 he tells Pharaoh, "I cannot (interpret) it, but God will give the answer He desires".
4. Protect your dream, if it's a promise or an assurance from God, when you wake up, claim it, seal it and be thankful -remember the thief comes to steal, kill and destroy. Joseph protected Jesus' (and mankind's) destiny by obeying the instructions and taking actions **IMMEDIATELY** as the bible records.
5. Cancel the negative dreams in prayer. When you get up from a bad dream, remember you have the authority to cancel it through prayer and protect yourself.
6. Follow up and see the dream come to pass. It's a good way to hear from God, cannot be manipulated as one has no control of what and when to dream about.

For believers who do not have dreams, I challenge you to start praying and ask God to give you dreams.

Examples of dreams to cancel.

There are many examples of bad dreams but I'll just give a few examples:

1. Snakes - demonic attack
2. Seeing yourself naked, barefoot or in tattered clothes in the dreams - This indicates shame and reproach.
3. Running and being chased by strange people or animals - Demonic attack
4. Defacating in the public or where others are watching - you are living in sin
5. Having sex in the dream -this indicates spiritual husbands and wives. These are demons who attack marriages and may eventually lead to divorce. When you wake up, issue these partners a certificate of divorce in prayer.

6. Falling in a pit.
7. Eating in the dreams
8. Driving a very old car - Indicates the spirit of poverty or struggle.
9. Losing personal items like shoes, clothes, purses - Signifies loss of divine blessings and virtues.
10. Playing in your childhood home or school, or an environment that's in your past -this signifies regression.
11. Seeing dead relatives or friends in the dream. Renounce your relationship with the dead. This may be hard especially if you were attached to the dead person, the devil uses the false sense of comfort you feel in the dream to torment you with depression.

Amongst the many good dreams, these are a few examples:

1. Being given a key -this indicates spiritual authority (Matthew 16:18)
2. Dreams of you opening a door/s or doors being open for you - Breakthrough
3. Singing a gospel song -The message is usually in the words of the song.
4. Being in a Church environment with believers or your pastor - This shows sound spiritual standing.
5. Being given a scripture.

Please search on the internet, stories of these famous people who had dreams that had great impacts in their lives:

- *Jack Niklaus* - World Champion Golfer
- *Adolf Hitler* -Nazi dictator
- *Oliver Cromwell* - Founder of the English Parliament
- *Elias Howe* - Inventor of the Sewing Machine
- *Niels Bohr* - Nobel Prize-Winning Physicist
- The great composer *Mozart*. He received many of his most glorious compositions through dreams.
- The famous author *Robert Louis Stevenson*. After struggling to write a short story, a dream showed him how to write it. The story he finished was the classic "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde."
- *Dmitry Mendeleev*, a brilliant 19 the century chemist and physicist. He recreated the Periodic Table during his waking hours after it appeared to him in its entirety in a dream.
- *Dr. Jonas Salk*. From a dream, he invented the polio vaccine.
- *Abraham Lincoln*. He dreamed about his death a few days before he was killed.

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.

Operation Blessing Bag is part of the Community programs of the Braman Foundation. 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. Have a conversation and if you are led, pray with them and ask them if they know Christ.

These bags are available to you through the Braman Foundation at No Charge.

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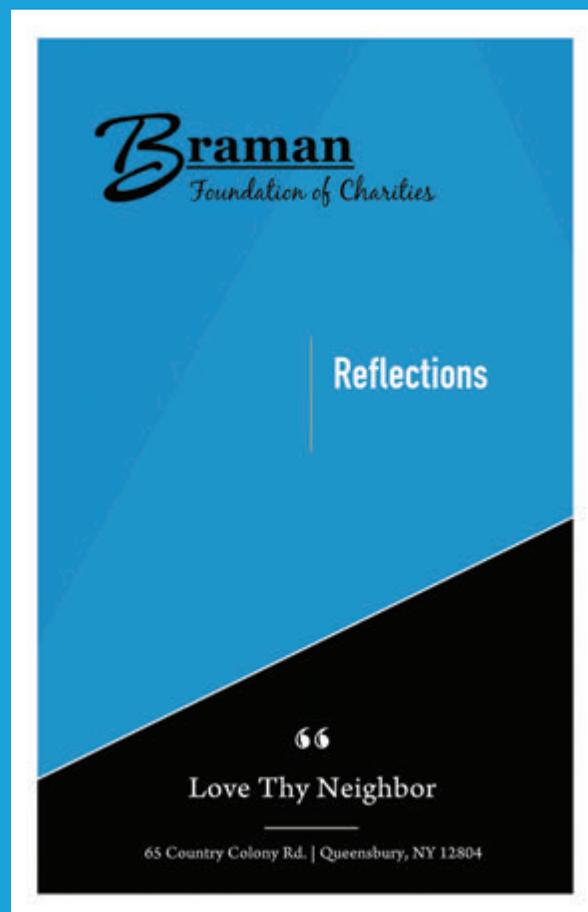
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- Matt 6:33

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Be Strong and Courageous

by: Charles H. Spurgeon

Only be thou strong and very courageous that thou mayest keep and do according to all the law, which Moses my slave commanded thee; turn not from it to the right hand or to the left that thou may be prospered in all the things that thou doest. – Joshua 1:7

Joshua was highly favored with promises, which were given to him by God. They were broadly comprehensive and exceedingly encouraging, but Joshua would not say to himself, “These covenant engagements will surely be fulfilled; therefore, I can sit still and do nothing.” On the contrary, because God had decreed that the land should be conquered, Joshua was to be diligent to lead the people to battle. He was not to use the promise as a shelter upon which his idleness might indulge, but as a girdle to gird up his loins for future activity.

To urge us to action, let’s always remember and respect the gracious promises of our God. If we were to say within ourselves, “God will not desert His people, so let’s venture into sin,” we would be sinning most detestably. We are almost equally wicked if we whisper in our minds, “God will fulfill His own decrees and give the souls of His redeemed as a reward to His Son Jesus; therefore, let’s do nothing and avoid zealous Christian service.” This is not proper language for true children. This is the talk of the apathetic ignorant or mere pretenders, who mock God while they pretend to reverence His decrees. By the oath, by the promise, by the covenant, and by the blood that sealed it, we are exhorted continually to be at work for Christ, because we are saved that we may serve Him in the power of the Holy Spirit with heart and soul and strength.

Joshua was especially exhorted to continue in the path of obedience. He was the captain, but the great Commander-in-Chief gave him his marching orders. Joshua was not left to his own fallible judgment or fickle fancy, but he was to do according to all that was written in the book of the Law. So is it with us who are believers. We are not under the law but under grace. Yet there is a gospel rule that we are bound to follow, and the law in the hand of Christ is a delightful rule of life to the believer.

Only be thou strong and very courageous that thou mayest keep and do according to all one declaration, that thou mayest keep and do according to all the law, which Moses my slave commanded thee. The highest feat of the

Christian life is to obey Christ. No man shall perform such an undertaking unless he has learned the rule of faith, been led to rest upon Christ, and advanced to obedience in a strength which is not his own, but which he has received from the indwelling Holy Spirit.

The world sees obedience as a mean-spirited thing and speaks of rebellion as freedom. We have heard men say, “I will be my own master; I shall follow my own will.” To be a freethinker and a free liver seems to promote the world’s glory; but if the world could be reasonable and convict itself of its foolishness with the indisputable proof that is provided, it would never be difficult to prove that a reviler of the obedient is a fool. Consider the world’s own military rule. Isn’t the man who is thoroughly obedient to the captain’s command presumed to be the boldest and best soldier?

A story of the old French wars has been repeated hundreds of times. A sentinel was set to keep a certain position, and at nightfall as he is pacing, the emperor himself came by. He did not know the password, so immediately the soldier stopped him. “You cannot pass,” he said.

“But I must pass,” said the emperor.

“No,” replied the man, “if you were the little corporal in grey himself, you could not go by” (meaning the emperor). Thus, the emperor was held in check by order. The vigilant soldier was rewarded later, and all the world said that he was a brave fellow.

Now, from that instance, and hundreds more, we learn that obedience to superior commands that are carried out in the midst of hazards is one of the highest proofs of courage that a man can possibly give. The world itself gives its endorsement to this. Then certainly, it is not a horrible and sneaky thing for a man to obey Him who is the Commander-in-Chief of the universe, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He who does the right and true thing in the midst of ridicule is a bolder man than he who flings himself before the cannon’s mouth for fame. Yes, to persist in precise obedience throughout life may take more courage than even the martyr demonstrates when he gives himself to be burned at the stake.

In Joshua’s case, full obedience to the divine command involved innumerable difficulties. The command to him was that he should conquer the whole land for the favored tribes, and to the best of his ability, he did it, but he had to besiege cities that were protected with walls and fight with monarchs whose warriors came to battle in iron chariots, armed with scythes. The first conflicts were terrible. If he had not been a bold and able soldier, he would have put up his sword and fled from the battle, but the spirit of obedience sustained him. Though you

and I have no Hivites and Jebusites to kill, no cities to pull down, and no chariots of iron to encounter, we will still find it no easy thing to continue on the path of Christian consistency.

Moreover, Joshua not only had difficulties to face, but he also made many enemies through his obedience. As soon as Jericho had fallen and Ai had been taken, we read of first one alliance of kings and then of another, whose objective was to destroy the power of Joshua. These kings knew that he would crush them, if they did not crush him.

Now, the Christian man is in a similar plight. He will be sure to make enemies. He will try not to make enemies; but if he does the right things, believes the truth, and carries out the honest things, he will lose every earthly friend. He will count it a small loss, however, since his great Friend in heaven will be friendlier and reveal Himself more graciously than ever.

In his obedience, Joshua needed much courage, because he had undertaken a task that involved long years of perseverance. After he had captured one city, he had to go on to attack the next fortress. The days were not long enough for his battles. He bid the sun to stand still, and the moon stopped. Even when that long day had passed, he still had his sword in his hand the next morning. Joshua was like one of those old knights who slept in their armor. He was always fighting. His sword must have been quite chipped, and his armor must have been blood-red. He had a lifelong enterprise before him.

Such is the life of the Christian, a warfare from end to end. As soon as you are washed in Christ's blood and clothed in His righteousness, you must begin to carve your way through your enemies, right up to the eternal throne. Every foot of the way will be disputed; Satan will not yield an inch to you. You must continue to fight every day. He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved (Matthew 24:13). The beginner, who begins in his own strength, soon comes to an end; but he who is encircled with divine grace, with the Spirit of God within him, determines to stand firm until he has overcome the last foe. He never leaves the battlefield until he has heard the words, Well done, thou good and faithful slave (Matthew 25:21).

Let the man who says that the Christian's life is common and devoid of manliness go and learn wisdom before he speaks, for of all men the persevering believer is the most manly. You who boast about yourself and your courage in sinning, you give in to the Enemy. You are a cringing cur; you turn tail upon the Enemy and flee. You court the friendship of the world and don't have courage enough to do the right and true thing. You have been humiliated

by Satan and your own passions, and you conceal your own cowardice. You are corrupt enough to call the brave Christian man a coward. Out with you for adding lying to your other vices!

Often if we follow Christ, we will need to be brave as we face the world's customs. This is true in commercial businesses. Husbands will find this so even in connection with their wives and children, if they are unsaved. Children find this to be so in their schools. Retailers find it so in the marketplace. He who wants to be a true Christian needs to have a stout heart.

There is a story of Dr. Adam Clarke, which shows the courage that the youthful Christian sometimes needs. While he was in a shop in a town, they were preparing for the annual fair, will never make a tradesman; you are good for nothing here; you had better go home and take up something else."

That type of thing may not be done today, for men do not generally cheat in such an open way now, but they cheat in more deceitful fashions. The records of the bankruptcy court will tell you what I mean. Bankruptcies one after another for the same person are generally doubled-distilled thievery – not old-fashioned theft like that which once brought men to the gallows, but something worse than highway robbery and burglary. Sometimes the genuine Christian will have to put his foot down and say, "No, I cannot, and I will not be mixed up with such a thing as that." He may have to be this blunt to his master, his father, or his friend, even though he desires to gain the respect of those who may be of great assistance to him in life. But if it is your duty to do the right thing, do it even if the skies fall. Do it if poverty stares you in the face. Do it if you are turned into the streets tomorrow. You will never be a loser with God in the end, and if you have to suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed! Count yourselves to be happy that you have the privilege of making any sacrifice for the sake of conscience, for today we don't have the power to honor God as they did who went to prison or to the stake. Therefore, let's not reject other opportunities that are given to us to show how much we love the Lord and how faithfully we desire to serve Him. Be courageous to do what the Lord Jesus bids you to do in all things, and let men judge you to be an idiot if they will. You will be one of the Lord's champions, a true soldier of the cross.

The world says, "We must not be too precise." Hypocritical world! The world would be glad to get rid of God's law altogether, but since it doesn't dare to say that point-blank, it whines with the most sickening of all hypocrites, "We must not be too particular or too nice."

As someone said to an old Puritan once, "Many people have ripped their consciences in halves; couldn't you just make a little nick in yours?"

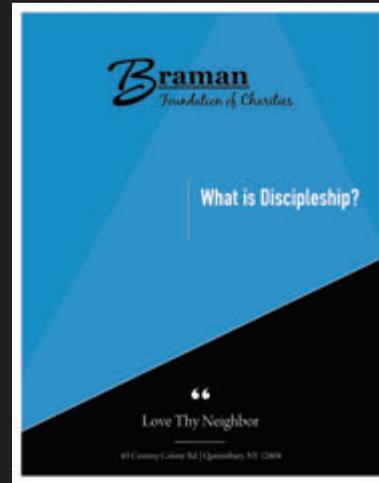
"No," he said, "I cannot, for my conscience belongs to God."

"We must live, you know," said a money-loving shopkeeper, as his excuse for doing what he could not otherwise defend.

"Yes, but we must also die," was the reply, "and therefore we must do no such thing." There is no particular necessity for any of us living. We are probably better dead, if we cannot live without doing wrong.

The very essence of obedience lies in exactness. Probably your child would still do what you told him even though he was sometimes disobedient. It would be in the little things that commendable obedience would appear. Let the world judge for itself. Here is an honest man.

Do people say of him, "He is such an honest man that he would not steal a horse"? No, that would not prove him to be very honest; but they say, "He would not even take a pin that did not belong to him." That is the world's own description of honesty, and when it comes to obedience to God, it is the same. Here is a merchant, and he boasts, "I have a clerk who is such a good accountant that you would not find a mistake of a single penny in six months' reckoning." It would not have meant much if he had said, "You would not find a mistake of ten thousand pounds in six months' reckoning." And yet if a man stands firm on little things and is exact and particular, the world charges him with being too inflexible, too strict, too straitlaced, while all the time he is demonstrating that the essence of honesty and of correctness is exactness in little things.



What is Discipleship?

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

Matthew 28:19-20

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.



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Asapalli Christian Hostel

PLATINUM JUBILEE



NOVEMBER 26, 2019
1941-2019

“Your faithfulness endures
through all generations”
Psalms: 119:90

- Chief Guest
- Praise Worship Band
- Lifetime Achievement Award
- Alumni Testimony
- Special Choir



Results of July 2019 VBS India

CEF Training staff joined us July 1-5, 2019 at the Asapalli English school for Vacation Bible School.

Here, we will have 5 consecutive days of meetings, where children can hear Bible truths and join in exciting games and activities.

The theme for this VBS was “Living Stones”. We are living stones who are being built into a spiritual house in order to be a holy priesthood. We offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. When we fully realize who we are and the reason why we have been called, we are able to commit ourselves to the service of Gospel preaching, especially to the younger generation.

Charmaine Long, who is an acting Board Member and in charge of Operations at the Braman Foundation of Charities, joined us for her first trip to Asapalli.





Charmaine Long in front of girl's dorm



CEF staff with George Gideon. BFC is working with CEF as part of Strategic Alliance.



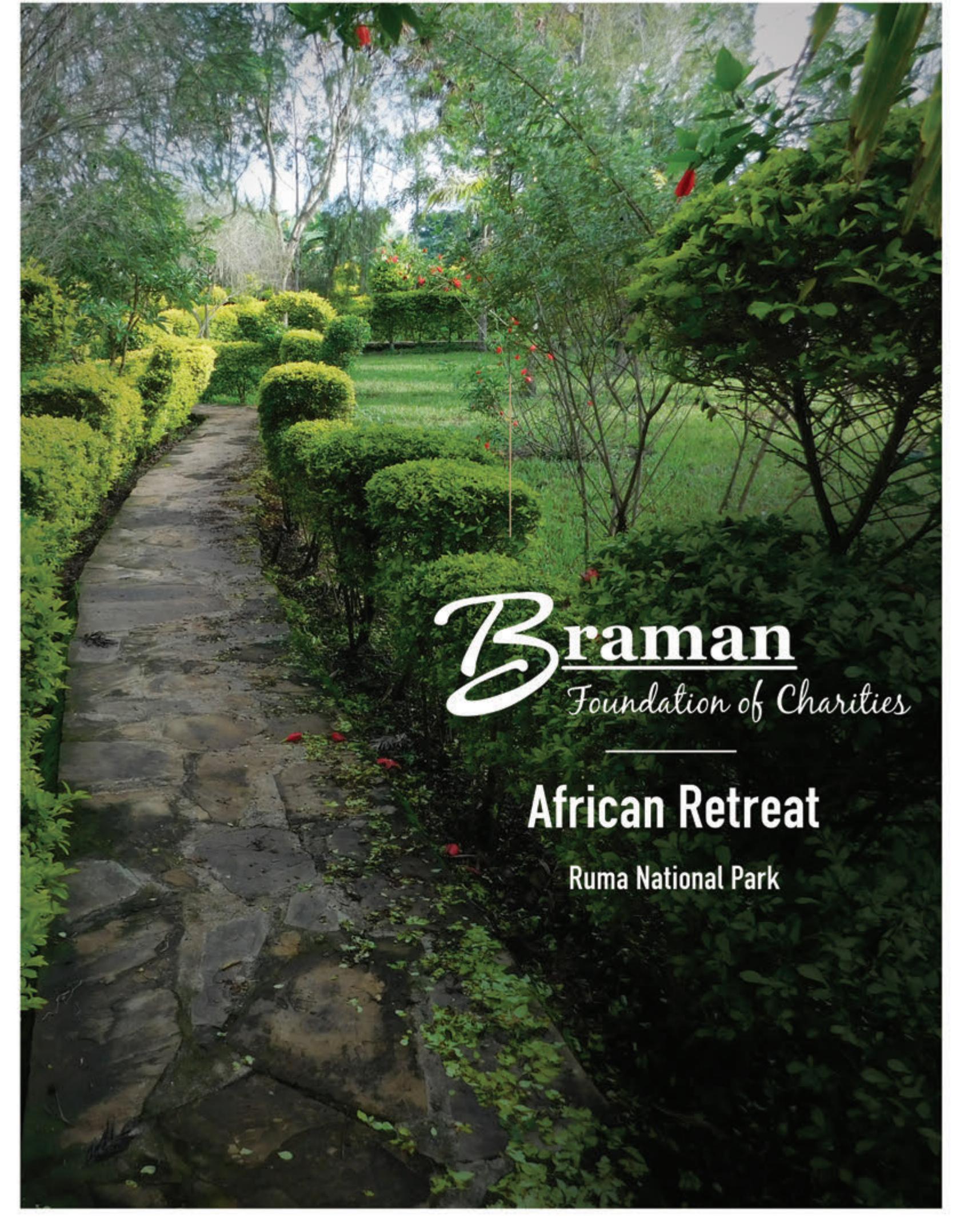
Charmaine Long with women's staff



VBS Day 2, kids worshipping



Charmaine Long with CEF staff



Braman
Foundation of Charities

African Retreat

Ruma National Park

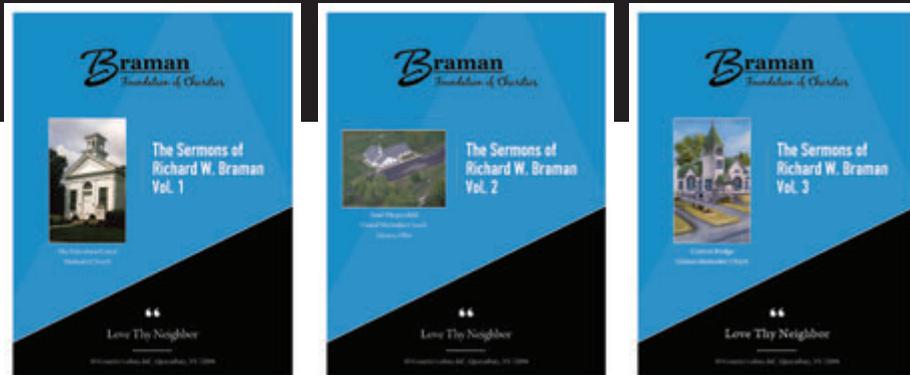
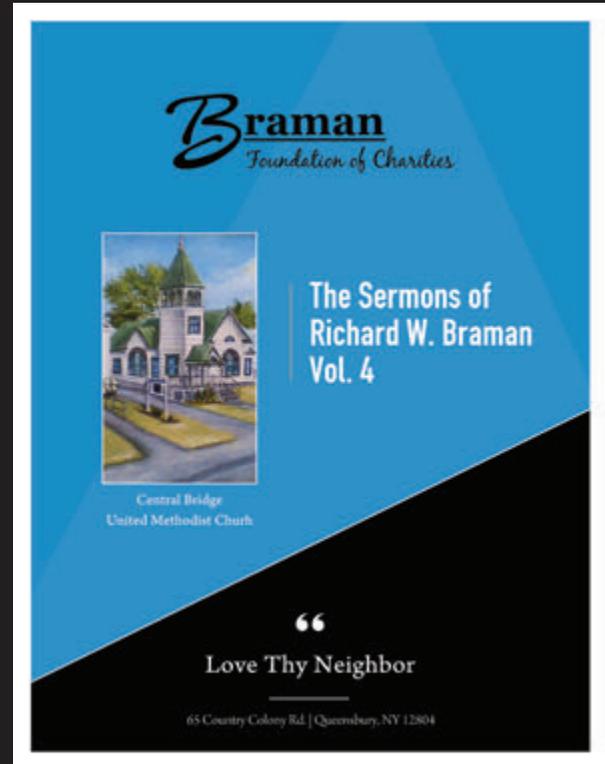
The Sermons of Richard W. Braman Now featuring Vol. 4

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.

Shout out to Sandra!

Sandra, through a labor of Love typed RWB Sermons into Microsoft Word.

Thank you and God Bless You!



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Save the Children

by: Charles H. Spurgeon

And he said unto them, Follow me, and will make you fishers of men. – Matthew 4:19

I hope you do not neglect Sunday school, but I am afraid many Christians are scarcely aware that there are such things as Sunday schools at all. They have heard of it in conversations but not by observation. Probably in the course of twenty years, they have never visited a Sunday school or concerned themselves about it. They would be pleased to hear of any success accomplished, but though they may not have heard anything about the matter one way or the other, they are content. In most churches you will find a group of young, passionate spirits giving themselves to Sunday school work, but there are many others who could strengthen the school but never attempt anything of the sort. In this they might be excused if they had other work to do, but unfortunately, they have no godly occupation. They are mere killers of time, while this work lies ready to do, is accessible, and demands their assistance but is entirely neglected. I will not say there are any such sluggards here, but I can't believe that we are free of them. Therefore, I will ask consciences to do their work with the guilty parties.

Children need to be saved; children can be saved; children are to be saved by an intermediary. Children can be saved while they are children. He who said, Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of the heavens never intended that His church should say, "We will look after the children by and by when they have grown up to be young men and women" (Matthew 19:14). He intended that children should be a subject of prayer, and with earnest effort they should be converted to God as children. The conversion of a child involves the same work of divine grace and results in the same blessed consequences as the conversion of an adult. One such consequence is saving the soul of the child from death and hiding a multitude of sins, but there is an additional matter for joy. A great preventive work is done when the young are converted. Conversion saves a child from a multitude of sins. If God's eternal mercy blesses your teaching of a little jabberbox, how happy that boy's life will be compared to what might have been if he had grown up in foolishness, sin, and shame.

It is the highest wisdom and best judgment to pray for our children that while they are philanthropic enterprises, and Christians should be earnest about it. He who converts a child from the error of the world prevents as well as covers a multitude of sins, for we know that whosoever

causes the sinner to convert from the error of his way shall save a soul from death and shall cover a multitude of sins (James 5:20).

Moreover, the church acquires the hope of being furnished with the best men and women. The church's Samuels and Solomons are made wise in their youth; Davids and Josiahs were tender of heart when they were tender in years. Read about the most esteemed ministers, and you will usually find that their Christian history began early. Though it is not mandatory, it is highly advantageous to the growth of a well-developed Christian character for its foundation to be grounded on youthful devotion. I do not expect to see the churches of Jesus Christ ordinarily built up by those who have lived in sin throughout their lives, but by those young men and women who have been brought up in the fear and admonition of the Lord; they are the ones who become pillars in the house of our God. If we want strong Christians, we must look to those who were Christians in their youth; trees must be planted in the courts of the Lord while still young if they are to flourish.

The work of teaching the young is more important than it has ever been before, for at this time there are those around the world who are creeping into our houses and deluding men and women with their false doctrine. Let the Sunday schools teach the children well. Let them not merely occupy their time with pious phrases, but let them teach them the whole gospel and the doctrines of grace intelligently; let them pray over the children and never be satisfied unless the children are turned to the Lord Jesus Christ and added to the church. We have laid aside catechisms sometimes with too little reason, but if we do not use godly catechisms, we must bring back decided, plain, simple teaching, and there must be pleading and praying for the conversion of the children, the immediate conversion of children to the Lord Jesus Christ. The Spirit of God waits to help us in this effort. The Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all the things that I have said unto you (John 14:26). He is with us if we are with Him. He is ready to bless the humblest teacher, and even the infant classes will not be without a blessing. He can give us words and thoughts suitable to our little ones. He can so bless us that we will know how to speak a word in season to the youthful ear. But if teachers are not found or are not faithful, we will see the children who have been in our schools go back into the world. Like their parents, they will hate religion because of the tedious hours spent in the Sunday school, and we will produce a race of infidels or ageneration of superstitious persons. The golden opportunity will be lost, and the blame will rest on us. I pray for the church of God to value the Sunday school. I plead for all who love the na-

tion to pray for Sunday schools. I entreat all who love Jesus Christ and want to see His kingdom come to be tender toward all young people and pray that their hearts may be won to Jesus.

The theme lies very near to my heart, and it should press heavily on all our consciences. God must lead your thoughts into it; I leave it, but not until I have asked these questions: What have each one of you been doing for the conversion of children? What have you done for the conversion of your own children? Are you quite clear about this matter? Do you ever put your arms around your boy's neck and pray for him and with him? Father, you will find that such an act will exercise great influence over your boy. Mother, do you ever talk to your little daughter about Christ and Him crucified? Under God's hands, you may be a spiritual as well as a natural mother to that beloved child of yours. What are you doing, you who are guardians and teachers of youth? Are you clear about their souls? Do all of you teachers, both weekday and Sunday, do all you should so your boys and girls may be brought to confess the Lord at an early age? I leave it with you. You shall receive a great reward if, when you enter heaven, you find many dear children there to welcome you into eternal life. It will add another heaven to your own heaven to meet with heavenly beings who salute you as their teacher who brought them to Jesus. I would not wish to go to heaven alone – would you? I don't want to have a crown in heaven without a star on it because of my failure to teach and lead a child to Jesus – do you?

Imagine: there they go – the sacred flock of blood-bought sheep, and the great Shepherd leads them; many of them are followed by twins, and others have their lambs. Would you like to be a barren sheep of the great Shepherd's flock? The scene changes. Harken to the trappings of a great host. I hear their war music, and my ears are filled with their songs of victory. The warriors are coming home, and each one is bringing his trophy on his shoulder to the honor of the great Captain. They stream through the gates of pearl; they march in triumph to the celestial Capitol along the golden streets, and each soldier bears with him his own portion of the spoil. Will you be there? And if you are, will you march without a trophy and add nothing to the pomp of the triumph? Will you bear nothing that you won in battle, nothing that you have taken for Jesus with your sword and with your bow?

Again, another scene is before me: I hear them shout the "harvest home" and see the reapers each bearing his sheaf. Some of them are bowed down with the heaps of sheaves which load the happy shoulders. These went out weeping, but they rejoice as they return and bring the sheaves with them. Here comes one who only brings a little handful, but it is rich grain; he only had a tiny plot and

a little seed corn entrusted to him, and it has multiplied well according to the rule of proportion. Will you be there without even a solitary ear, sow and therefore could not reap. If you do not love my Master, do not profess to do so. If He never bought you with His blood, do not lie to Him, or come to His table, and say that you are His servant. But if His wounds bought you, give yourself to Him. If you love Him, feed His sheep and feed His lambs. He stands here unseen by my sight but recognized by my faith. He exhibits the marks of the wounds upon His hands and His feet, and He says to you, Peace be unto you; as my Father has sent me, even so send I you. Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature ; remember that whosoever causes the sinner to convert from the error of his way shall save a soul from death and shall cover a multitude of sins (John 20:21; Mark 16:15; James 5:20).

Children's Ministry

The Braman Foundation supports all VBS and all children's ministry throughout its work. All children are so vital to the Lord's Kingdom.

In addition, we spread the love of Christ through the bracelet ministry and the Pen Pal Program. Children communicate with one another in the Spirit of the Lord.

Assam, India

Started in 1944 with 5 children, Asapalli now gathers over 700 children, teaching the Love of Christ. Our third building will allow us to serve over 1250 children.

Each child is taught the Love of Christ and educated to achieve a high school diploma. Our teachings are grounded in biblical standards and disciplines. Children experience authentic Christian and biblical discipleship as a child in their respective class. In addition, we offer permanent residence for over 700 children.

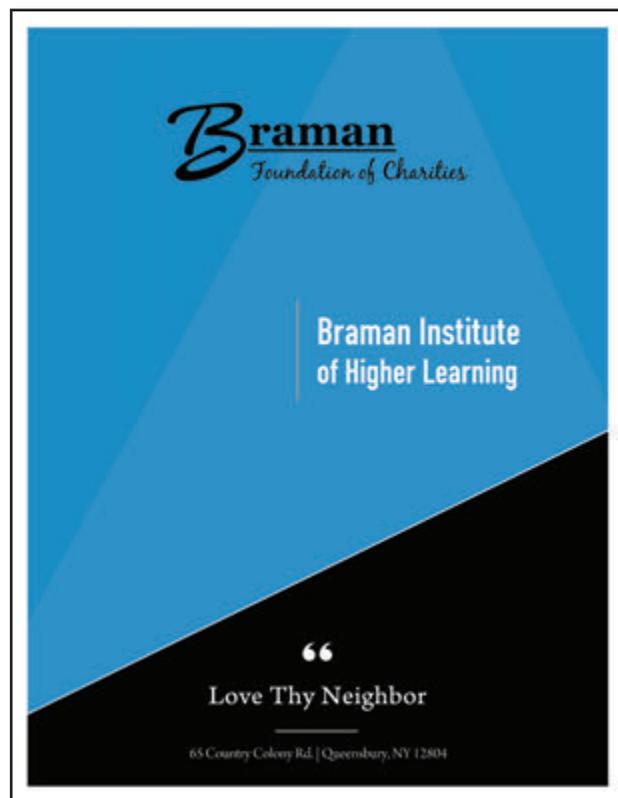
Jared Weiss Class 100 Village of Hope Asapalli Christian Hostel & School	Rahul Saha Class 100 Village of Hope Asapalli Christian Hostel & School
Ladison Marjhang Class 100 Village of Hope Asapalli Christian Hostel & School	Himika Bhangphak Class 100 Village of Hope Asapalli Christian Hostel & School
Saravjit Goswami Class 100 Village of Hope Asapalli Christian Hostel & School	Ujjwal Class 100 Village of Hope Asapalli Christian Hostel & School
Harshdeep Rana Class 100 Village of Hope Asapalli Christian Hostel & School	Lakshmi Rana Class 100 Village of Hope Asapalli Christian Hostel & School
Saravjit Hane Class 100 Village of Hope Asapalli Christian Hostel & School	

Small text at the bottom of the grid: "We are a Christian organization and we are not a religious organization. We are a Christian organization and we are not a religious organization. We are a Christian organization and we are not a religious organization." Below the grid is the Braman Foundation logo and contact information: 46 Coverts Colons Rd, Queensbury, NY 13084 | (518) 696-9990 | bramanzfoundation.org

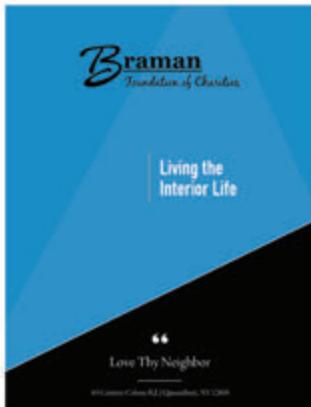
What is Braman Institute of Higher Learning?

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 ten 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.

Secondly, BFC DBA Braman Institute of Higher Learning will be an accredited course in Theology of Christianity. BIHL will offer: Certificate of Theology course, Bachelor of Theology and finally a Diploma of Theology. Currently, we are reviewing the credentials to be a legitimate university. Through this organization we will offer a scholarship program. This program will be offered to children in India and Africa to train them up in a degree in Biblical Studies.



BIHL Curriculum Programs

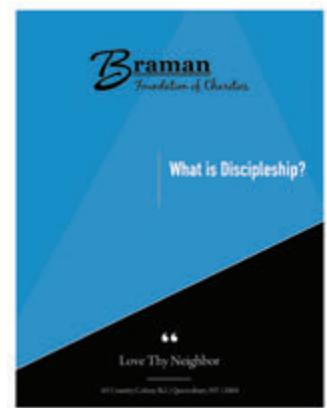


Living the Interior Life

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.





New Building of Grace Alliance Church Opening June 7, 2019 in Gujarat, India

The Christian and Missionary Alliance Church is Alive and Well

Ministry of Gujarat Synod

Place of Ministry: Agavada

Population: 8000 People

Group: Bhill Tribe and Katara Tribe

Name of a Missionary : Kadu Bhai

Our Vision is to reach 8000 people through the existing Church



Maharashtra City Synod

"Look carefully how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil... understand what the will of the Lord is."
Ephesians 5:15-17





THE ALLIANCE

Our Alliance family celebrates Jesus—the image of the invisible God, the Lord of all Creation!

*“For in Christ, all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness.”
Colossians 2:9-10*



Sonnarpur Kolkata

The vision of cross culture is to break the cycle of oppression empower people to lead a life of dignity.

Transforming lives through sports.



We Need Laborers

by: Charles H. Spurgeon

Then he said unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few. – Matthew 9:37 O ur Savior looked upon and moved among the people in a manner worthy of our imitation. He was a Man of great feeling: And when he saw the multitude, he was moved with compassion on them because they fainted and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd (Matthew 9:36). His sympathies were awakened; He could not look upon a mass of men with an indifferent countenance. His inmost soul was stirred, but at the same time, He was no mere enthusiast; He was as calmly practical as if He had been a cool calculator. He did something more than sigh; He proceeded to aid those He pitied. He had practical compassion on the crowd, so He turned to His disciples and said, pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest (Matthew 9:38).

He did not go among the masses with an undiscerning admiration of them. I do not hear Him praising them as “the finest peasantry” or “the sinew of the nation,” as some will do, but neither do we see in Him any trace of aversion to them, as though He felt out of place in their society. He was often saddened by their foolishness and grieved by their sins, but He never loathed them or spoke contemptuously of them. The common people heard Him gladly, because they saw that He had sympathy for them. Though in character grandly aristocratic, He was in manner and life profoundly common and compassionate; He was a King, and yet one chosen out of [the] people, who loved them with all His heart (Psalm 89:19). It is clear that He never grew discouraged in laboring for their good; you never hear Him say that it is useless to preach to the multitude, that they are too degraded, too priest-ridden, or too ignorant. No discouragement ever dampened His passion; He persevered until His work was done. Jesus possessed a brave and glorious heart that always melted to tenderness but at the same time was always practical. He was never influenced by admiration, or aversion, or discouragement in a way that He’d cease from practical methods of bettering the condition of the people among whom He dwelt.

The thought of the multitude rises from the sight of a harvest field. When the crop is plentiful, the idea of a multitude forces itself upon you at once. You cannot count the ears of all the thousands of Israel. He could not have

restricted His heart to the little country of Israel. He glanced across the seas and beyond the mountains to the myriads of mankind swarming upon this globe.

It crushes one to think of the millions of humans. It is difficult to obtain an idea of the vast extent of our huge city; you could travel from one end to the other as long as you want and study its statistics, but you can’t truly comprehend what the population is. But what is one city compared to our nation and with the millions that speak our language all over the world? Yet even these are just a small portion of the innumerable host. We shall never be able to comprehend a nation like China with its teeming millions or northern India. Multitudes are in the valley of existence, as the drops from the rain cloud and as the leaves upon the forest trees – such are the sons of men.

But when the Lord spoke of them as a harvest, He realized the danger to them. Suppose the owner of some large estate walked through his acres and said, “I have a great harvest – look at those far-reaching fields. But the country has become depopulated, the people have emigrated, and I have no laborers. There are one or two over there, and they are reaping with all their might. They work long days and labor until they faint, but over here there are vast acres of my farm not reaped, and I don’t have a sickle to thrust in. The corn is being wasted, and it grieves me. See how the birds gather in flocks to prey upon the precious ears! Meanwhile, the season is far advanced, and the autumn dampness is already upon us. The chilly, frosty nights, which are winter’s forefront, are on their way. Mildew is spoiling the grain, and what remains will shell out on the ground or swell with the moisture and become useless.”

Imagine the Redeemer in this picture. He looks at the world today, and He says, “All these multitudes of precious souls will be lost, for there are so few reapers to gather them in. Here and there are men who, with immense energy, are reaping all they can and are all but fainting as they reap; I am with them, and blessed sheaves are taken home, but what are these among so many?” Look, can your eye see it? Can even an eagle’s wing fly over the vast fields without growing weary in the flight? There are the precious ears – they decay, they rot, they perish, they are ruined. They are lost to God and to their own eternal injury; it grieves the Great Husbandman that it is so. That is still the case today, and it should grieve us that it is this way, for His sake and for the sake of our fellow men.

The Savior had yet another thought, namely, that the masses were accessible, for He used the same expression when the people came streaming out of Samaria to the well to hear Him. They were drawn by curiosity created

by the woman's story. He said to His disciples, Lift up your eyes and look on the fields, for they are white already to harvest (John 4:35). When people are ready to hear the Word, the fields are ripe. Our Lord explained that as the wheat ears do not oppose the sickle but stand there, waiting for a man to enter the field and use the sickle, the result will surely follow. Likewise, there are times when nothing is lacking except to preach the gospel, and the souls that otherwise would perish will surely be gathered. Who have gathered the crowds? Such men as Augustine and Chrysostom. 12 And what was their preaching other than the gospel of Jesus Christ? Who joined them? Such men as John Huss, and Jerome, and Luther, and Calvin who were a sweet savor of Christ. 13 Who joined them in this land? Who but our Wycliffe and our Knox? 14 Who joined them in later days but our George Whitefield and John Wesley, men who spoke the common language of the people and had no theme but Jesus crucified. People will not come out to hear your philosophies; they leave you and your philosophies to the spiders and the dry rot, but if you preach Jesus and His precious blood and tell men that whoever believes in Christ shall be saved, those people will hear you gladly.

12 Augustine (354-430) was a fourth-century philosopher and Catholic theologian, known for writing Confessions , his autobiographical work outlining his sinful youth and conversion to Christianity. John Chrysostom (347-407) was considered the best preacher in the early church and leading intellectual. 13 John Huss (1369-1415) outlined his case for reform of the church and was burned at the stake. Jerome (347-420) was a theologian and historian. 14 John Wycliffe (1320-1384) was an English Protestant theologian and church reformer best known for translating the Bible into the common language. John Knox (ca. 1513-1572) was a Scottish minister and theologian who was a leader in the Reformation.

I heard from a missionary, who spends nights working for his Lord in gin palaces and the lowest resorts of the peo-

ple, that he was rarely met with an insult. The people received his tracts and thanked him for his kind words. Our city missionaries and those who visit taxicab stands or bus stations or work among other public servants say that, in general, there is a willing attention to the gospel. The fields stand asking us to reap them, but there are not enough reapers; the grain perishes for want of laborers. The people are accessible. What country is there where the gospel cannot be preached? China was closed fast, but now you can go throughout the length and breadth of the land and talk of Christ, if you want to. Japan is open to you, and Africa has laid her central secret bare. Spain, shut tight as with a seal, is set free today, and Italy rejoices in the same liberty. The whole world lies before the reapers of the Most High, but where are the reapers? The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few .

The idea of immediate need is contained in this figure of speech, for the reaping of the harvest is a matter of now or never to the farmer. "Ah," says he, "if I could postpone the harvest and let it be gathered in by slow degrees, if we could work until the harvest moon has gone and then through November and December until winter comes, then the few number of laborers would be a small problem. But there is a limited time in which the wheat can be safely brought in, and it must be before winter begins, or it is lost to us." There is no time for us to waste in the salvation of the sons of men. They will not live forever; older men will not this generation will be buried before that time. You must reap the harvest at once, or it will be destroyed; it must be gathered speedily, or it will perish. Today, today, today – the imperative necessities of manhood appeal to the benevolence of Christians. Today, the sure destruction of the unbeliever speaks with pleading voice to the humanity of every quickened heart: "We are perishing; will you let us perish? You can only help us by bringing us the gospel now; will you delay?"



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THE ALLIANCE

"... But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
Acts 1:8

Alliance Church Jalgaon Maharashtra

In 1899 the Alliance work started in Maharashtra and the main office was situated at Akola.

As Jalgaon City has impacted with migrants so the same with the Church also.

Maharashtra Bible College

The purpose of the mission to Maharashtra by Maharashtra is to motivate them to reach out to the Marathi people, churches, organizations and individuals in order to actively involve and participate in the process of going, preaching, baptizing planting, establishing discipling and multiplying work of the church.



Asapalli - A Village of Hope

Asapalli strives to provide excellence in education, in a caring, friendly environment, where each individual, nurtured and shaped by the values of the Christian faith, providing opportunity to achieve full potential and to develop a passion for life and for learning.



CAMA Zending

Alliance missionary to Congo 1897: 'We believe that Africa is to be evangelized through its own people; for they, of course, understand their own the best.'

C&MA Northern India

To establish Alliance House Fellowship in each village and city of North India.

The goals for C&MA in India is to plant 100, then 1,000, and then 100,000 House Fellowships in the coming eras.

*" The hearty desire of saviour, that no one die in sin
 Our mission is to share full gospel & goal is to win
 Forming house groups of saved souls is our dream
 Holy Spirit is our counselor & Holy Word is spiritual cream
 Wish you all to seek biblical spiritual DNA
 Unite & Fulfill Lord's vision my world C&MA"*



We Love Our World

Our U.S. family sends and supports hundreds of Alliance international workers who care for the sick, befriend the lonely, and introduce spiritually impoverished people to the One who releases us all from the curse of sin and the sting of death.

Currently, more than 700 U.S. Alliance workers are serving in 70 nations.



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