

# *Braman* Foundation of Charities REVIVE MAGAZINE

The Magazine of The Braman Foundation of Charities

Vol. 5 Issue 3

September 2020



Our New Friends  
from Odisha, India  
see page 5

## The BFC Editorial

Welcome to our 3rd edition this year in 2020. While we struggle worldwide with Covid-19 it is important to note that God is on the move throughout the world. We are happy to report that the Braman Foundation of Charities (BFC) Woman's Facility is completed and ready for occupancy.

BFC has seven women volunteering on the woman's facility ministry team as they assemble bi-monthly to organize, pray and wait on the Lord. In the meantime, meeting with two woman's correctional facilities has been going very well. Both the Bedford Hills Facility and Taconic Facility are considering the BFC programs. Continue to pray as the Lord breaks down walls and opens doors. We are also engaged in Schenectady with several ministries to pave a path for several woman to come to the Braman Institute of Higher Learning (BIHL) Facility in Queensbury.

Our mission work is in "full swing" as we are in the midst of planning pastoral conferences at Mityana in Uganda. We have added in Kenya, the Elderly Care Program and are working with 15 new churches to build Sunday Schools in Nairobi. BFC is planning trips to Khartoum, Sudan to organize pastoral conferences and has taken on "The Daniel's House" in Rwanda, a children's orphanage.

In India, we are beginning to receive reports that Asapalli in Assam is currently on lock down and cannot meet right now. Hopefully, they can have students back on campus by December. We are presenting for the first time in this issue our friends from the State of Odisha, a small group of committed brothers and sisters we have known and prayed for several years. Pray as they evangelize in that area of Odisha.

We thank you so much for your support, prayers, financial donations, kind thoughts and love. The work continues as we press into how the Lord extends His love through his command, "To love thy neighbor".

God bless you as you continue to press into and seek deeper revelation from the Lord. He awaits and welcomes with open arms for His Love is deeper and wider than we could ever realize. Grow in this truth as you Love and Serve others.

Always in Jesus we pray.

The BFC Team

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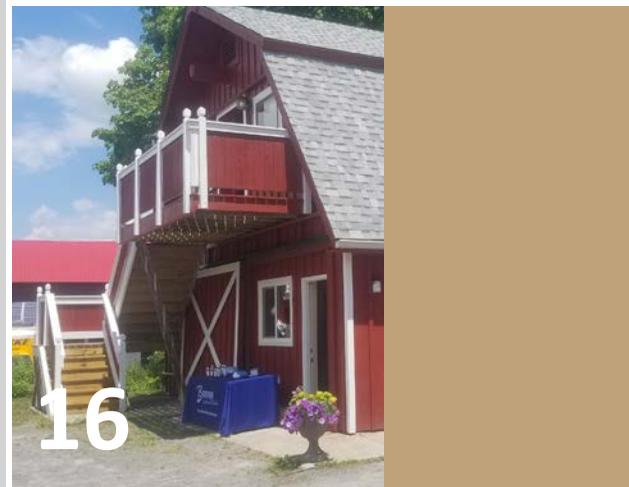
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## The Alliance Church of India Gujarat Synod in Ahmedabad

This is a very difficult time we are going through. As far as community is concerned, they are totally detached from regular fellowship. No doubt online fellowships are there but most people find themselves depressed due to lockdown.

Recently, they have noticed mental issues and social problems, where three of our young people committed suicide.

Most churches are closed except in coming month limited people could access to the fellowship.

Indian economy is lowest in current scenario. Many people are losing jobs due to covid and we have witnessed those who worked especially on daily wages and labor jobs plus good earning business owners are going into complete shut down.

We also witness subtle downgrading of ministerial finance due to lack of monetary support. These organizations are facing lack of financial support for their children's educations.

God Bless!



New in 2020

## Our New Friends from Odisha

### A letter from Pastor Umakant

Greetings to you in His holy name.

Thank you so much for your mail yesterday and also for the concern from Bro. Peter Braman for India and for our State Odisha and its people. The Lord has given us burden to reach out the entire State with the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please continue to pray for the ministry. We need your prayer and encouragement in this work.

Enclosed please find few photographs along with a family photo of us. The Lord has blessed us with two daughters by names Glory(elder one) and Gracy (younger one), they are also helping us in this ministry. My wife is Hannah. Please remember our family also in your prayer. Thank you so much for praying for us and for the ministry in the Odisha State.

With regards  
Yours in His service

Umakant Guru (Pastor)  
Odisha State, India



*Umakant Guru and his family*



## Asapalli School Building Update

The third floor slabs of the New School Building under construction: We want to thank God for His faithfulness for enabling us to continue the ongoing construction work for the new school building on the 28th Feb, 2020. We started the third slab dhalai with prayer, dedicated by Rev. Lalhouplien, the chairman of the Board of Trustees in the presence of the staffs & students.

It's truly amazing to see and witness God's miraculous work moving forward. We want to thank all our prayer partners who relentlessly prayed and supported for the cause, upon completion of this building we expect to accommodate around 1000 students. The need to complete this building is so urgent because during the monsoon seasons for almost more than 5

months the old school building remains under flooded water. We need to pump the water almost every day & most of the time classes get interrupted, students are suffering, documents and other material get damaged. The problem we face is more than a decade.

Since middle of March 2020 due to Covid-19 pandemic we are under Lockdown, most of our students in the hostel have gone to their own respective village only few remain. The school shut down till date, everyone is suffering, most parents are not able to pay the fees of their children since January 2020. Huge amount is left unpaid. As a result, we are not able to disburse the salary of our staffs for more than 4 months, we are helping them in whatever way we can to

support them, yet in the midst of all this struggle none of them did complain, and they are still continuing their regular activities faithfully. The online classes & examination continue, development work continue like cleaning, painting etc, Our heart is heavy for them and its truly a matter of grave concern, Please keep us close in prayer I believe God will help us overcome this crisis,

pray for our staffs, students & financials needs, huge amount is needed to manage the affairs of the ministry.

The third floor school building construction work which is undergoing, we wish to complete it by the end of November 2020, provided if the present situation goes well.



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## Kenya Conference Update

Mark Otieno,(pictured center), is leading us in Kenya. Mark, Eve’s brother, is our feet on the ground while we can not be there. Through Mark, we are still moving forward on holding conferences this year. This has also lead us to start working with 15 new churches in the region and holding multiple conferences and Sunday School sessions.

Mark is coordinating upcoming training in September, 2020.

The Braman Foundation, through its missions work and Eve Otieno’s family in Kenya feel moved to help with some elderly folks in the Migori region of Kenya. We are stretching our faith as we moved forward to serve the Lord’s people in this region. More information regarding the Elderly Care Program can be seen on the next page.

## New in 2020

# Elderly Care Program

## Migori, Kenya



## Donate Today

Your donation will go a long way towards ensuring that our beneficiaries have good health, hope and renewed purpose in the love of Christ.

To donate, please visit [bramanfoundation.org/elderly-care](http://bramanfoundation.org/elderly-care) and donate using PayPal. If you would like to donate but do not wish to use PayPal, please contact us at: [info@bramanfoundation.org](mailto:info@bramanfoundation.org) or by phone at (518) 636-5930.

Thank you and God Bless!

BFC has implemented an Elderly Care Program in Uri-ru District, Migori County, Kenya. The program started in 2020 and has so far identified five (2 females and 3 males) poor elderly persons who have little or no family support. Four of these elderly persons depend entirely on well-wishers for sustenance as they have no income or known family to support them.

Putting food on the tables of these people not only provides them with proper nutrition so that they can enjoy their years on earth in good health but also fulfills the scripture in Matthew 25:35 " For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink..." This program also seeks to share the word of God with the 5 beneficiaries. Sharing the word of God with the elderly is an important part of their spiritual development so that, even in their advanced age, they will seek the Lord always and share the good news of the gospel.

The food is prepared by Jimo Otieno and his wife Sara, and delivered each day.

The ages of the five beneficiaries of the program range from approximately 80 years to 102 years. A good number of the elderly persons in rural Kenya do not know their accurate birth date and only depend on approximations based on season or events that took place around their birth dates, therefore, approximations have + or - 2 years.

Uri-ru is a rural district in the larger Migori County which is located in the Southwest part of Kenya. The county shares a land border with Tanzania and a water border with Uganda within Lake Victoria. The majority of Uri-ru residents practice subsistence farming and more than half of the population lives below the poverty line.

# How to be positive in our negative world

by Frank Athearn

In life, we sometimes face times of great discouragement. Maybe you have experienced that yourself. Perhaps things did not go the way you wanted or expected them to, or maybe the recent pandemic has had you feeling down. Maybe you have had thoughts like *How should I deal with this? When are things going to turn around?* No matter what you are going through, it is important to remember that God is bigger than any problem you might face.

In 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, Paul writes, "But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness' Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

We do not face disappointments, temptations, challenges, or any other issue alone. We need to know that God can do for us those things that we cannot do for ourselves. God lifts us up when we are down, God gives us strength when we are weak. Isaiah 40:31 says, "But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

It is easy to tell someone to hang in there and to keep a positive attitude when we are not going through tough times, but when it happens to us we find that it is not the easiest thing to do. But we need to remember it is not impossible. Joshua 1:9 says, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

So how are you dealing with COVID 19 and all the changes and restrictions required? We can make it through this

with God's help. This is one of the trials that God tells us about in James 1:2 which says "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance."

God is giving us an opportunity to grow our faith. We can trade impatience for gratitude, we can change hardship to helpfulness, we can show joy versus anger. We can do all that and more knowing Christ is in us! We are bombarded with the bad news in the media and you would think that there is no good in the world. But that is not true. Families are spending more time together, people are showing acts of kindness to those they do not even know, people are being generous with their resources – time, money, and skills.

Look around you and see the good things that God is doing right now! Make it your goal to show someone encouragement; it will do you a world of good. Everything you need to accomplish that goal is already in you. We can make the right choice. We do not have to be discouraged and depressed. When you feel like you are drowning in all the tough situations of life, do not worry because your Lifeguard walks on water. Be the person that God created you to be.

Read the Bible. Our answers are there. God encourages us every day. The Holy Spirit can guide us through any situation. John 16:33 says "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."



Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance

-James 1:2

## About Frank

Christian, son, husband, father, grandfather, business owner, consultant, board member.



## Uganda Update

Jacques Masiko's remaining 2020 training schedules, I have planned for training in Mityana for November 1-3, 2020. The book of study is Genesis 1-12.

The training will comply with Covid-19 guidelines. Pastor John Kamulegeya will contact the Resident District Commissioners (RDC) for permission to hold this training at ENRO and assure the authorities that we shall comply with Covid-19 guidelines. We must wear masks during the training, observe social distancing by arranging sitting arrangements, making sure that sanitizers are available and check temperature for every participant every morning as they enter the hall.

The training will continue to teach expository preaching for Pastors in the Mityana area.

We feel very comfortable in this process since we had strict guidelines to follow during the months of July and August. During these months, we completed a handful of successful training events in Lira, Apach and Soroti.



## South Sudan Sunday School Update

John Deng has become the director of the company in Juba and Tina Anger has now joined us for the Sunday School classes. Tina was honored and received certification through Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) Training. Since 1937, CEF has provided Sunday School Training for teachers all over the world.

They are teaching their students Bible verses in their center and are beginning to teach the children how to pray. This is being done according to what was learned in previous conferences and Sunday School sessions during our past trips.

The churches continue to organize in Juba, South Sudan.

In Juba, we have met with teachers of 12 local churches four times. Planning our fifth training will continue to help organize the Sunday schools in Juba. Our staff member Elijah Riak Chol is planning the next event, to be announced shortly. Please pray for our teachers to be safe, organized and growing in God's word.



## New | Daniels House Our Friends in Rwanda

Daniel's House-Rwanda is a unique orphanage concept in the heart of Africa, Kigali-Rwanda. It started with the compassion of Jean Pierre Nkunda, a radiantly joyful man who opened his home up to orphaned children and began caring for them.

Since then, Jean recruited other house-moms and together they have taken in over 473 orphans off the streets and villages of Rwanda. We provide food, shelter, education, love, and a safe place to play and gather in community. Daniel's House plays a strategic part as we find funding and connect international and domestic businesses, individuals and churches to this ministry.

What makes Daniel's House different than so many "orphanages" concepts is the hub-and-spoke model in which it operates. We have a central compound that serves as a safe haven for all the kids to play, and learn computers, sew-

ing, and other vocational skills. The children live in individual homes, within walking distance of the compound. All the children then attend local schools, which are within walking distance from their house and the central compound.

Daniel's House connects families, businesses and foundations in the USA to the children. Daniel's House has taken children off the streets and villages of Rwanda. Sponsorship of homes for these children covers education, food, housing, extra-curricular activities, health-care, and mentoring. More than that, it provides another level of love and relationship, enriching the lives of the children and the families in the USA.

*Please contact Jean Pierre Nkunda on facebook or [calvarychrist@yahoo.com](mailto:calvarychrist@yahoo.com), if you are interested in helping with this project. You can visit their facebook group page "Daniels House-Rwanda".*



# Operation Blessing Bag working with COGIC

Many of us struggle with addiction, homelessness, and mental health related issues. This is a small gift to help those in need to understand that we love you and God loves you. Have a conversation with a less fortunate brother or sister.

This bag is a reusable and weather resistant backpack. It contains various items including toiletries, protein bars, and a Christian Bible with some great scriptures that are pertinent regarding the recipient's difficulty.



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

Currently, we are working with the Church of God in Christ (COGIC) church in the Capital District Region of Albany, NY. The Church of God in Christ use the BFC Operation Blessing Bag as part of their outreach program. BFC is also working with other churches , however with Covid-19 we have seen a delay in outreach. Let's pray we are able to press in and serve!!

# Now Available!

## Favorite Scriptures & Prayers

BFC has collected and discovered Promises and Commands from our Lord through scripture for decades. Additionally, we know there are prayers that have been written throughout the bible to give us both guidance and comfort. This collection, when reflected on will, give deep direction, comfort, and joy.

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

## Reflections

BFC is pleased to offer to you a “Daily Reflection” for every day of the year. It is vital to use a strong, spiritual based, Christ centered reading to help start your devotion or to end your devotion. 365 days a year. Use Reflections to help start your day

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

## Interested in ordering a copy?

These are available to purchase on our website, visit [www.bramanfoundation.org](http://www.bramanfoundation.org). You may also send a check for \$25 and your mailing information to:  
The Braman Foundation, PO Box 4743, Queensbury, NY 12804



## Community Programs

### New Woman's Shelter

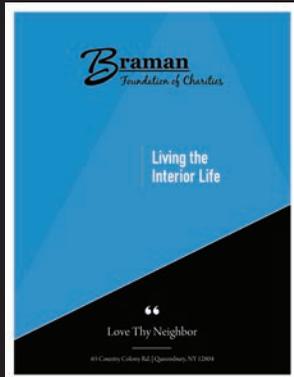
The Braman Foundation has recently secured the new Women's Facility. This new facility will be the home of the BFC offices as well as some of our other programs including the Braman Institute of Higher Learning and Homeland Natural Products.



### Braman Institute of Higher Learning

The Braman Institute of Higher Learning will be a facility in which a woman can reside for two years. A strict "monastic" type of environment allows BFC to be "all in" with these participants. An individual that qualifies for BIHL could be a parolee from Behind The Walls or a homeless person ready to commit to change. Whatever the case, BIHL runs a complete recovery center, Christ focused, monastery style facility. BIHL will work all aspects of its client's life to help bring them back to society through its Christ centered programs. Future plans will allow for expansion and acceptance of more participants.

# BIHL Curriculum

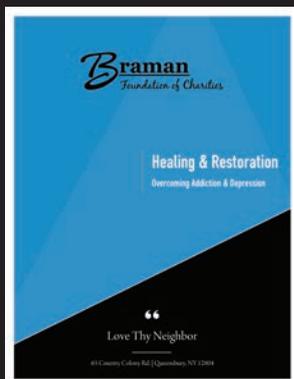


## Living the Interior Life

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

## What is Discipleship?

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

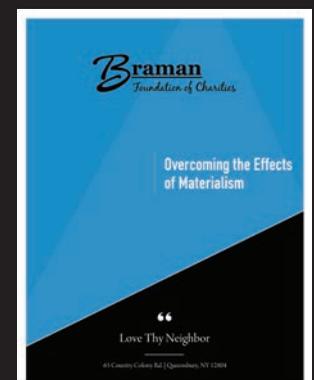


## Healing & Restoration

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

## Overcoming the Effects of Materialism

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



# Volunteers Needed

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

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

## Corrections Minister

- BFC is in need of a volunteer to implement and organize its “ Behind the Walls “ Program throughout the NYS Correctional system.
- Implement and coordinate the Lifeline Corrections Program
- Will be required to attend at least 1 BFC staff meeting per month
- Will need to present to the BFC board three times a year



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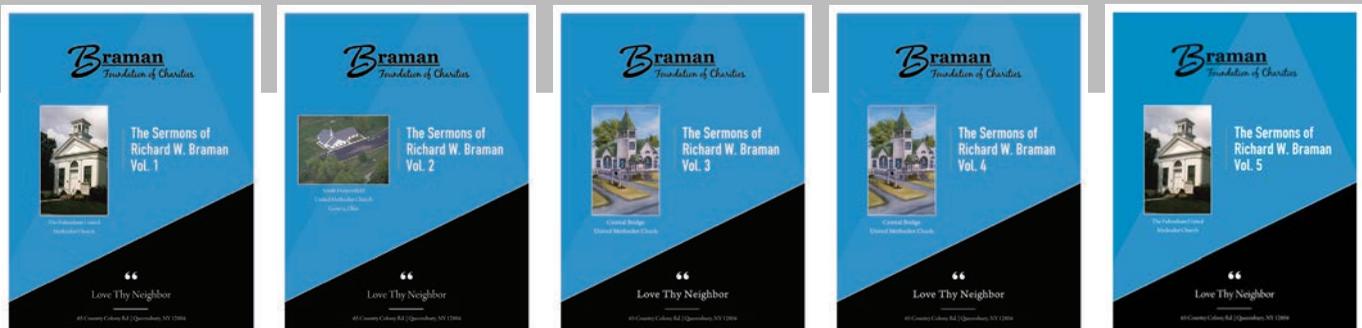
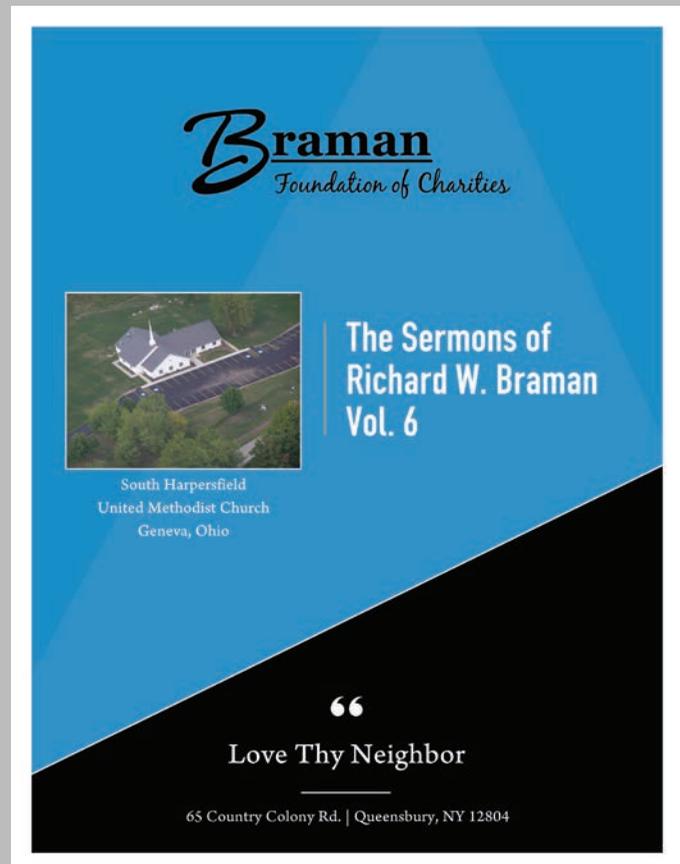
# The Sermons of Richard W. Braman

## Now featuring Vol. 6

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

These can be read on our website.

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



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

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

# Popeyes or Trophies of Grace?

by Pastor Bill Church

Do you remember the cartoon character Popeye? His favorite saying was “I yam what I yam and that’s all that I yam”. Popeye didn’t hold out much hope of changing. Either he wasn’t interested, or he didn’t know how.

Modern day Popeyes abound. Our neighborhoods and even our churches are full of disillusioned people. They are beaten down by life, overwhelmed by their failures, chasing after whatever will bring them relief from their pain. They hold out little hope of seeing significant change in their attitudes, behaviors, and emotions. Some give up and give in to unhealthy and destructive behaviors. Others simply plod through each day lifeless and hopeless – real life Popeyes.

But the message of Christ is “change is possible.” It is the possibility of change that gives birth to hope. The wise man put it like this, *“Without a vision the people perish . . .”*. That is, if there is no hope of changing, people wander around aimlessly or give up altogether.

Hope is like medicine for our souls. Dr. McNair Wilson, the famous cardiologist wrote in his autobiography, *“Hope is the medicine I use more than any other – hope can cure nearly anything.”* Hope is what Christ majors in! Because in Christ change is possible!

Hope in Christ should not be confused with modern day ideas of hope. In the Wizard of Oz the cowardly lion crossed his fingers, closed his eyes, and repeated “I hope, I hope, I hope.”

Christ offers more than “keep your fingers crossed” hope. Biblical hope, centered on Jesus Christ, is filled with the certain expectation of something better, something good. It is anchored in a relationship with the living God through confidence in Jesus Christ.

Other resources may be helpful in facilitating change in an individual’s particular situation. Yet the foundation for all true, lasting change is the hope that comes from focusing our gaze on the living God of the Scriptures.

The ultimate hope of God honoring, restorative change in the life of an individual does not lie in our counseling methods or techniques - as valuable as they may be - but in our deeply held belief that Christ and God’s Word can be trusted. As trust in those Divine resources grows, they become powerful agents for change.

We, like the Psalmist, encourage ourselves and others to

*“Find rest, O my soul, in God alone. My hope comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress; I will not be shaken.” (Psalm 62:5-6)*

Confidence in Christ and in God’s Word leads the Christian to the following *beliefs and assumptions*:

## **I. People can change.**

Though fallen and sinful, we believe that, with God’s help, people can experience genuine inner and outward change.

The basic problems of humanity stem from our fallen nature. Our souls are ruined. Our minds, feelings, bodies, and social relations are malformed. We have sinned against God. We have “missed the mark” with Him. *“There is none righteous, not even one; there is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God: there is none who does good, not even one.” (Romans 3:10-18)*

Our sinful nature results in the kinds of problems we see in our culture today, both inside and outside the church. Around 50% of all marriages in our country fail. The divorce rate is similar in both Christian and non-Christian marriages. Substance addiction is rampant. Moral failures of public leaders are frequent.

Yet Christ has come to *redeem the ruined souls* of humanity. What is currently ruined can be made new! That which is now dead to God can be made alive!

*“. . . if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come.” (2 Cor. 5:17)*

Christ’s death has broken the power of sin. Therefore, *“sin shall not be our master . . .”* As followers of Jesus we need not continue to act, think, and feel in self-defeating, destructive ways like we did before we came to faith in Jesus. We may continue in defeat, but we no longer must continue because now we have a new source of life and power at work in us – that of the Holy Spirit.

Changes in our thought patters and behaviors may take time, some will take a lifetime, and we will never reach perfection in this life. But genuine positive change in our thoughts, emotions, and behaviors are possible over time - not simply by trying harder, although effort is required, but by relying on the living God who is at work in us by His Spirit.

We are able to offer people hope because we believe that in Christ genuine change is possible. In order for that to happen:

## **2. We must take personal responsibility for our actions.**

God will help us change and grow. But first we must be honest with Him and with ourselves about our part. God will not do it for us.

Jesus came with the message, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.” With that announcement Jesus said, “Something grand, something life changing is near! But in order to experience it you must be willing to repent. Turn from running your own life. The living, loving God who created you has come! He is bringing you a new way to live!”

In order to experience the changing power of God’s kingdom we must co-operate with God. We must be willing to do what God says. We must be willing to stop running and controlling our own lives and offer them to Christ. This means that finger pointing, blame-shifting, and projection must be replaced by admitting when we are wrong, seeking forgiveness from God and others when needed, listening to and respecting others, and considering their needs.

Only when we are willing to transfer ownership of our lives from ourselves to Christ will we begin to experience the grand and abundant life of God’s kingdom. We may need help from others and certainly God will help us as we learn to rely on Him.

Unless we are willing to take responsibility for our actions and attitudes, we will continue to see ourselves as victims of people, or God, or circumstances.

Hope for change is born when we believe that in Christ people can change if we are willing to take responsibility for our actions. Finally, change takes place as we find our security and significance in Jesus.

### 3. Genuine security and significance are found only in Christ.

This truth must accompany personal responsibility. Every human being needs *significance and security* to function effectively. When these needs are met, we feel worthwhile as people. When they are not met, we carry a sense of worthlessness. People then begin to search for ways to feel significant and secure, often by adopting irresponsible lifestyles.

Rather than simply telling ourselves or others to act responsibly, we must work to understand that our real significance is found in who we are in Christ. If my business fails, or if I have a menial job that allows me only a small house and an old car that always breaks down, or if my spouse leaves me, my significance is not tied to any of those, but rather to the fact that I still belong to the One who rules the universe. I am his child and no person nor circumstance can remove me from that privileged position.

Our need for security is one that requires that we be loved without strings attached. There is only One whose undying love reaches that bar. You and I need to know that we are accepted and cared for now and forever. No human being and no amount of material wealth can provide that kind of security.

The source of real security and significance is Jesus Christ!

Larry Crabb puts it well in one of his early books: “God has seen me at my worst and still loved me to the point of giving His life for me. That kind of love I can never lose. I am completely acceptable to Him regardless of my behavior. I am under no pressure to earn or keep His love. My acceptability to God depends only on Jesus’ acceptability to God and on the fact that Jesus’ death was counted as full payment for my sins. That’s security.”

In a world filled with hopeless people outside the church, and discouraged people within it, Christ brings a message of hope – change is possible!

This hope is focused squarely on our relationship with Jesus Christ. He has redeemed our ruined souls. If we are willing to take personal responsibility for our lives, He will work with us to put our lives back into proper working order.

Even when we fail, we no longer need to chase the wind searching for significance and security in temporary things. Jesus is the source for both.

Jesus is able to turn real life Popeyes into trophies of His redeeming grace.

## About Pastor Bill

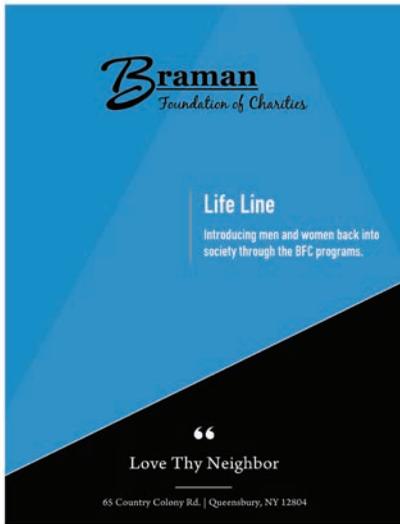
Pastor Community Alliance  
Church in Hoosick Falls -  
1989-2000. Associate

Pastor at Pine Knolls Alliance 2001- Present.  
Graduate of Houghton College and Toccoa  
Falls Bible College. Married 47 years to wife  
Susan. Five grown daughters. Twelve grand-  
children. Hobbies: baseball, gardening.



# BFC Corrections / Prison Behind the Walls Program

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

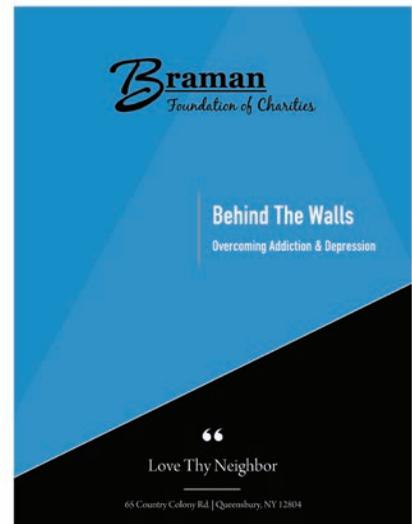


## Life Line

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

## Behind the Walls

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



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



The Braman Foundation of Charities has a deep history throughout the NYS State Corrections. Our current director, Peter Braman, began in June of 1985 to witness his testimony at Summit Correctional Facility. Summit has long since closed due to the changes in the state level. However, meetings were set up and through the years as BFC developed into an organization the personal testimony evolved into what the BFC Corrections Programs are today. Here are some of the certificates issued for Peter’s activity in several NYS Facilities. Moved by Matthew 5:36, “I was in prison and you came to visit me”, inspired was Peter to press into what the Holy Spirit meant for him to do.



Through the years as BFC formed and activity grew the Christ centered program, Behind the Walls was formed and utilized in several facilities. The idea of working with men and women coming out of prison, and Life Line was formed.

In 2020, BFC has had meetings with the Catholic Deacon, and Protestant Chaplain that oversee and work with the women at Bedford Hills and the Taconic Correctional Facilities in Mount Kisco, NY. The decision to grow the woman’s ministry seems to be opening doors for the Holy Spirit to begin work through the BFC Prison programs at these respective facilities.

Deacon Calanni and Rev. Thronhill, the clergy at both facilities, believe that these Christ centered programs can really change lives. Therefore, we are announcing that both facilities are presenting programs to their respective superintendents to begin once a week in the fall of 2020.

Our hope is that we are able to establish a long term relationship with the woman throughout both facilities and the Holy Spirit to heal and minister to the women. In addition, BFC is announcing that we will be able to help minister to woman further through the vehicle of Life Line.



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Here is how the ministry would work at Taconic and Bedford Hills. BFC would sponsor and enter each facility once a week to facilitate “Behind the Walls” in the Taconic facility while in Bedford Hills, once a week and use the BIHL Curriculum . This will be a strictly voluntary program for woman to attend.

As the weeks and months pass, any women that believe she wants to grow deeper in her relationship with Christ would fill out Life Line. Life Line will give the BFC ministry team time to either bring the woman to the Queensbury facility or help the woman find a loving, Christian community in her home town or city.

This announcement allows that platform of BFC to be in full swing in all its ministries. We ask your prayers and kind thoughts as we continue to press into the Lord’s work through the BFC Prison Programs.

## Bedford Hills Correctional Facility

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



## Taconic Correctional Facility

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



## New Building Renovation Vision

Through prayer and inspiration of the Holy Spirit we have decided to begin construction on another building on the BFC Queensbury property. This renovation will allow additional woman to reside at the facility and increase our effectiveness in the ministry.

Included in the renovation to this building, we are moving forward with plans to add a dining hall. Here fresh fruits and a wide variety of nutritional meals will be made.

We welcome any and all visitors. Come on over and experience the retreat! Call for more information and/or tour!

“For he satisfies the longing soul,  
and the hungry soul he fills with good things.”

- Psalm 107:9

# In The Beginning There Was Hope

by Sandra Torrant

*When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband who was with her and he ate it. Genesis 3:6*

As I sit here and listen to the news about the catastrophe occurring in Beirut, Lebanon, I ask myself, "Why, God? Why does this happen to the 'least of yours' who are already burdened with countless refugees who fled from Syria with their economy on the brink of collapse? Nowhere in the world would this be welcome, but this is like "singing songs to a heavy heart"-where is your compassion God? How often do we wonder about this and doubt God's promises?

Perhaps we feel entitled this year; to doubt that is. It feels at times we have been wrung out and hung up to dry, like our masks cleansed for another day of fighting off COVID. At other times, we feel that all our privileges, as we know them, have been usurped by this insidious disease, that lingers around our comfort zones of loved ones, our labor and in our leisure. All the time, showing us how dependent we are on the 'experts', who have the power to take away our freedoms in the interest of protection for all. All this causes us to doubt: our way of living, our common sense, our safety, ourselves and unfortunately our faith.

Or does it? After all, there have always been miseries in the world, thanks to our willful ancestors in the garden. Isn't this one more incidence of testing our fortitude or resilience? I have often thought in these last 5 months, "they are not asking us to man the foxholes", rather to just follow a few simple rules. How hard can that be? We know that depravity defines the human condition; war, disease, food scarcity, death, abortion, abusive and toxic relationships, poverty, disasters; bombs that wipe out 85% of the Lebanese grain stores. The list seems to grow with civilization's progress. Perfection left this world a long time ago and ever since we have been left to hang out to dry. Or have we?

My task for the Braman Foundation is to type the sermons of the Rev. Richard Braman; to preserve them for perpetuity. It has been an honor to perform this work; having had the pleasure of hearing him preach before he passed into glory. As I type, I can still hear his deep, calm and resounding voice as he looks out over the congrega-

tion to deliver his message; with confidence at the Spirit's leading. Also, as the sermon develops, I am keenly aware that his words are as relevant today as they were decades ago from the pulpit. It is a sad commentary that our world is still to be pitied, and at the same time validation that the "word of the Lord endures forever" (1Peter 1:25) and the message that "Jesus Christ is the same today, tomorrow and forever." (Heb. 13:8) On this we hang our hope.

There is so much heartache and hardship; so many desperate and divided people. That seems to be our world right now. Where is God when the whole world is hurting? The short answer: right here along side us in our suffering. The Bible tells us, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." (Deut. 31:6) Perhaps that is the verse we doubt today.

Before we doubt that doubt has its place and we shun it altogether, it is important to doubt at times. It helps us make informed decisions by asking questions, it challenges us to face our fears and realign our lives and it warns us to think critically before accepting an idea. It is a mindset that the human condition has been given by God, to use wisely, even to doubt him if it will clear the way to the truth. It was Mark Twain that said, "When in doubt, tell the truth."

There are many references about doubt in the Bible; so many saints that have gone before us who second-guessed God's purposes. What is that Abraham said, "How can I know that I will gain possession of it"? ...when God tells him all this land will be yours. (Genesis15:8) Moses stammers and stutters around the burning bush, telling God he has called the wrong person for the job. (Ex . 3:11), Esther fears for her people, David, well then there's David, a man after God's own heart and still he is tempted time and time again and disobeys God's word. Jonah, Jeremiah and even Mary's response to Gabriel at his announcement that she will bear the Messiah is, "How will this be?" Mary, the Mother of Jesus, doubting God! Jesus' own disciples are just a few that carried out God's commands despite their initial hesitation. Proving that uncertainty does not mean we lack faith, rather faith becomes our inspiration to overcome the doubt. It is Eve who has the top honor of doubting God first, wanting to become like him, bringing about mankind's fall and providing the explanation of why the world is the way it is. We are supposed to read and understand, learn and grow from original sin. Really, God is holding a grudge this long? Still it's hard, for us and for God.

Yes, God, who wanted nothing but good for his creation. He took care to place them in a garden abundant with food; a beautiful habitation to care for and gives them one condition for eternal bliss. You might say they were on 'easy street'. But it didn't take long for them to bow to temptation and sully this pure and perfect world. No

sooner had God finished his work when Eve is approached by Satan (Rev. 12:9) and is led into doubting God's warning - not to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil...*"good for food, and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom."* And off we go, into the millenniums as broken and wicked progeny. Limping our way home. As Reinhold Niebuhr tells us, "the will to live becomes the will to power", and Satan convinced Eve she would have the power of God if she consumed from the forbidden tree.

How easy it is for us to follow in their footsteps. God had no sooner established a home for them than they sought to be like God - to be in control, to want for more and never be satisfied. Sound familiar? Aren't we drawn to that in the world that is easy on the eyes, creates delicious opportunities for success, and to be known for our wisdom? When we turn our thoughts from God and he is "out of sight and out of mind", we wrap ourselves in the fig leaves of doubt and dejection, feeling all alone.

We like to think we are the ones in control. Of our children, our jobs, our decisions. What happens when our children don't live up to our expectations, or our employment ends, or we make the wrong decisions with devastating results...who's at fault? Do we shift the blame to someone else, or play the woulda-coulda-shoulda game and fall into a deep despair? Do we transfer our disappointment to our loved ones; creating more stress. Is it times like this when our faith fails us as it did Eve. Doubt sets in and we begin to question our commitments, especially to God.

Maybe it is not so much that we forget about God; it may be that we just take him for granted. Expecting him to be there even though we pay him no attention. We may overlook him because our schedules are too full and we feel overwhelmed. Bill Hybels, in his book, *Too Busy Not To Pray*, tells us it is especially when we are overcome with the details of living that we need to be on our knees. Still we know he will understand-he is a forgiving God, and we ignore his precepts. Charles Spurgeon in his "Morning and Evening" daily devotional, reminds us, and I paraphrase, when we fail to make our home in the "closet", it is no wonder we do not reap the blessings God has in store for us. Neglect our daily and earnest prayer, communicating with our Savior, at the peril of risking your joy.

What do you do when the Lord feels so far away? When you are called "to believe when you have not seen." (John 20:29) When the words of scripture fall on deaf ears? (Mark 4:12) When you are blind to the ways of God or you are too tired to pray or worse when we feel your prayers are for naught because God has forgotten you? When all the tools in our faith toolbox fail to keep even an ember of faith burning, and we question and doubt God's love? It's easy to find ourselves alone on the lake

shore, having missed the Jesus boat. We have our personal pity party alone in the wilderness. But sometimes the wilderness is our best shot at hearing and listening to what God has planned for us. Especially when we doubt his purpose.

We left Eve and her circumstances too soon. What happened after the fall of mankind and even before she and Adam were kicked out of the garden is the crux of the story. There is a silver lining embedded in the curse of Eve. It is a hint of God's plan for salvation. It is the hope of all Christians. In Genesis 3:15, God tells the serpent, "... and I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head and you will strike his heel." Indeed throughout Christ's life on earth, Satan constantly tried to berate and discredit him, only to be defeated permanently by the cross and Christ's resurrection. Here in the very beginning of our scriptures, we are offered a way to regain God's favor. The rest of his story is about his love and his grace and mercy and his pleas for us to repent, to grant us forgiveness through his Son, Jesus Christ. Commit today to be one who receives this good news and not one who rejects it.

No, God does not hold grudges. Sin does not hold back his work in this world; it merely shifts the paradigm. He was transparent from the beginning; we were saved by his love and the promise of a better world to come. Do not follow in Eve's footsteps and let doubt steal the joy God has planned for each of us. Know that God can do all things and no purpose of his will be thwarted. (Job 42:2)

## About Sandra

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

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# Inspire

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

Colossians 6:17

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The screenshot shows the 'Inspire' newsletter header with the Braman Foundation of Charities logo. The main content includes a 'BFC Thanksgiving Greetings' section with a 'Thanksgiving' quote from 2 Corinthians 8:9 and a 'Thankful' section with a quote from Psalm 9:1. There are also images of a Thanksgiving card and a group of people. The footer contains social media icons and a 'Visit Our Website' button.

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

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# A Tribute to Eve Otieno

As we say goodbye to Eve, we give thanks for her kind spirit and wish her well. Eve will be missed and we continue to pray for her to be blessed on her journey.

The Lord brought Eve to BFC through our relationship from the Kenya mission work. We have developed relationships with much of her family. Both her brother Mark and her father Jomo are on the BFC staff.



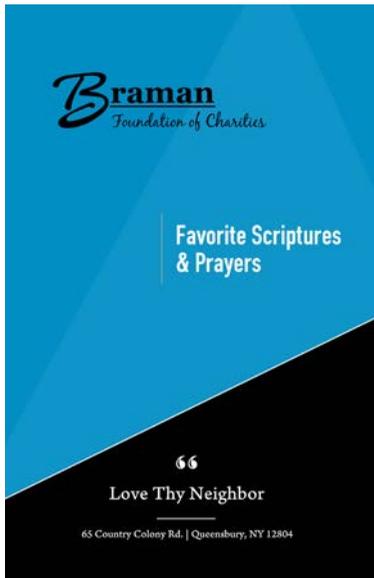
During Eve's time with BFC, she has been very insightful and supportive of BFC. We know she will continue to be a blessing to others.

*"I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus." 1 Corinthians 1:4*

*You are such a blessing.  
Thank you, Eve!*



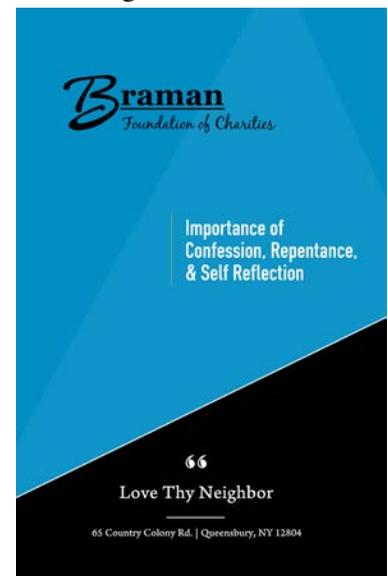
# 2020 Book Releases



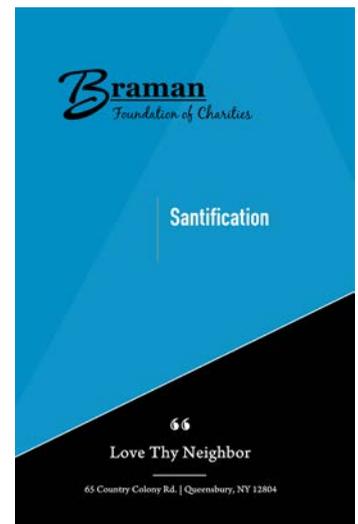
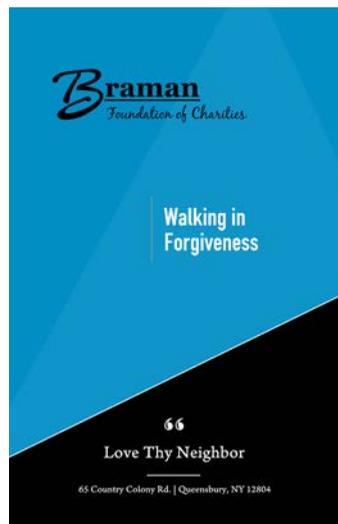
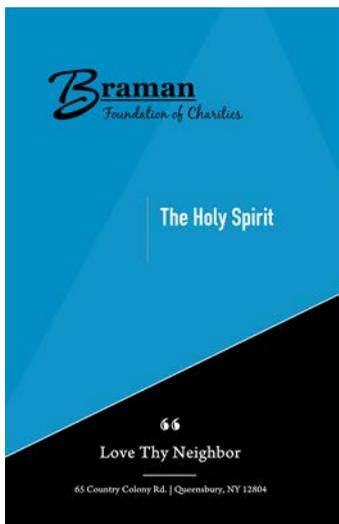
BFC has collected and discovered Promises and Commands from our Lord through scripture for decades. Additionally, we know there are prayers that have been written throughout the bible to give us both guidance and comfort. This collection, when reflected on will give deep direction, comfort, and joy.

Available on our website  
[bramanfoundation.org](http://bramanfoundation.org)

Coming soon!



## Small Booklet Series | Coming Soon!





## INSPIRED BY OUR BELIEFS TO “LOVE THY NEIGHBOR”

In keeping with the prominent BFC mission statement to “Love thy neighbor,” our products do just that. Our herbs, essential oils, cleansing products, and incense help in a subtle nature with your relationship with the Holy Spirit. Both herbs and essential oils help to restore you to a healthy mind and body. Incense and daily prayer can enhance your devotions and purpose driven life.

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