

THE BRETHREN



JOURNAL



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Doctors Gerard and Norvelle Rudy at the Moravian Clinic in Ahuas

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. . . and more!

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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The Hus Institute for Lay Leader-
ship (H.I.L.L.) is sponsoring a pre-
sentation on the Brethren History
and Doctrine on June 28, 9 AM-3 PM
at the Houston Brethren Church. Dr.
Mark Labaj of Temple will lead this
seminar.

Mark served as pastor of Temple
Brethren Church for more than a quar-
ter century. He graduated from the
University of Texas, Moravian Theo-
logical Seminary, and earned the Doc-
tor of Ministry degree from Austin
Presbyterian Seminary. He has also
taken courses in history at the Uni-
versity of Texas in recent years and
was accepted in the Graduate School
in History at UT. He has served the
Unity of the Brethren as President
from 1985-1989 and 1995-1997, as Chair-
man of the New Congregation Devel-
opment Committee, and as an instruc-
tor at Hus School. He is married to
Vernell since 1977, and they have two
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President's Column . . . Claren Kotrla

FEAR

Winston Churchill addressed fear during WWII when he said “we have nothing to fear but fear itself.” He said this while bombs delivered by V-2 rockets were raining down on London and other parts of England. There were shortages of everything, including medicine, food, weapons, coal, and optimism for victory. That war would see losses of over a thousand fighting men per day at times. Those were certainly dismal times.



Today we still have our share of fear. You name it and there is fear of it. Our politicians and news media provide a constant barrage of things to fear. We hear a big storm is on the way, and after a thunder shower we go on about our lives. A group of people are without electricity for 8 to 24 hours and the reports would have us believe the world has come to an end.

Not too long ago experts predicted a ‘global freeze and nuclear winter’ caused by human activity. We had that to worry about for a few years, and

now the same experts tell us to worry about ‘global warming’ or more recently ‘global climate change’ caused by human activity. Fortunately we no longer have to worry about the ‘ozone hole’. It repaired itself. Much of the melting icepack seems to have refrozen this past winter. Yet part of an ice shelf broke off from the rest of the ice. We have expected the worst hurricane season ever for the past two years. It hasn’t happened, but we now name tropical storms leaving the impression there is more weather activity than ever before. The news about flooding reports that ‘this is the worst flooding to ever hit the area’. What has really happened is that people are building in flood zones and on the waterfront. With more construction in low areas we can certainly expect more losses when the water rises. However, this does not mean the end of the world.

After a while we become insensitiv-
e to these “disasters” and when a



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real catastrophe does occur, precautions may not be taken, resulting in the dire results that have been predicted over the past several years. Some would call this a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Fear is not limited to natural disasters real or potential. We are fearful about going to the dentist, facing a disease, or caring for a loved one who is aging. These are real fears that we must address in our daily lives.

We may fear having someone find out about something we did, or not find out if we want recognition. Fear of heights, or flying, or being in a cave are just a few of the other things many of us face. Some of us fear sharks, snakes, spiders, bears, cats, dogs, horses, jellyfish, bees, or any number of the other creatures we may encounter. Many of us have a fear of the unknown, wondering what will happen to us in the future.

Some of our politicians and commentators are expressing a fear of financial disaster the likes of which we haven't seen since the great depression. This is presented with a zeal that can become frightful. We are told we will lose our social security, someone else makes more than we do, has

better medical facilities, other countries are better, etc. This is duly reported in all the media outlets regardless of the facts. The politician then strongly states all these fears can be put to rest if only they are elected. There is usually no explanation as to how they will do this or where the funding for saving us from ourselves is going to come from. It is just a trust me statement. Usually there is some grain of truth in these dire statements, however the facts are skewed. For example, we have around 5% unemployment, which has historically been considered full employment. That means that 95% of the people seeking work are indeed employed. We have experienced economic growth for every quarter during the past several years. Almost everyone has air conditioning, television, a car, and much more these days. Today's slow economic growth does not equate to an eighty percent loss experienced during the worst of the depression. Even with the recent mortgage problems, today's facts and conditions simply don't have the look of a depression. So why make the comparison. It raises our fear level, gets our attention and maybe votes regardless of the facts.

Those who understand self-reliance seem to weather these storms better than those who don't.

We are led to believe that our future investments or retirement program needs help. We feel ok about what we have, yet there is that nagging sense that there are others that must be in really bad shape. The credit card companies send us "free" credit cards. Of course, the finance charges and high interest isn't free. There is a lot of credit card debt today, and low and behold there are companies that will "fix" that debt, for a fee of course. We are constantly bombarded with information about what we need. The weather station and media in general tell us we need their news and reports, the advertiser tells us we can't live without their products, and the politicians tell us

they are the answer to all of our problems.

We turn on the television and the advertisement is about a magic elixir that will save us from aging, hair loss, aches and pains, sexual dysfunction, being overweight, hearing loss, low energy, and on and on. The news report shows a picture of a family in an awful condition. The news reporter asks a heart-rending question and at least one member of the family cries while another one blames the government, or someone else. We are led to believe there are thousands in this condition and are fearful that we, too, could be in that condition, whatever it is. This creates a need that didn't exist before. Who will fix it?

What do these three groups have in common? The media, politicians,



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and advertisers have all been using a basic marketing tool that creates a need, and then, miracle of miracles, they have, or even more arrogantly, they are the solution. The media sells time, the advertiser sells products, and the politician is wanting power over our lives.

What are you fearful of, really fearful of? What about not making it to heaven to be with Christ and your loved ones. God doesn't have or need a marketing tool. He is not attempting to sell us something or wanting our votes. He simply provides a gift with no strings attached. Indeed, Christ can fix those fears.

Looking at the Book of Psalms reassures us about our dealing with our fears. Psalm 23 says, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil." Psalm 27 further says "The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strong-

hold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid? When evil men advance against me my heart will not fear; though war break out against me even then will I be confident." Psalm 91: 5 continues by saying "You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day."

Proverbs 27:12 provides a balance in dealing with our fears. It states, "The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it." Trusting God to help us with our fears does not mean that we shouldn't be vigilant or careless in what we do, the politicians we trust, our financial decisions, or preparations we make for potential disasters. It means that we need to keep our fears in their place and not let them overcome our lives. It is not the fear that creates a problem, but rather how we deal with that fear. For example, it is healthy to be afraid of a poisonous snake, but that doesn't

mean we can't go outside and enjoy the beauty of God's world. Fear doesn't mean that we should ignore getting medical care for ailments, nor does it mean we shouldn't participate in our political process. God gave us the ability to be prudent and to take action or seek refuge as needed.


It seems that Winston Churchill had it right when he said we have nothing to fear but fear itself. Even when things are the darkest, we can take refuge in what God says to us and in the skills and knowledge we are given to deal with our fears.

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| 9:30 a.m. | Priority ONE Youth (6 th – 12 th gr.) |
| Sunday School for ALL Ages | Adult Bible Study |
| 10:30 a.m. | 7:30 p.m. |
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There are many other ways to give. Contact any Board of Grants and Bequests member about what you can give and how you can give.

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Your Mission Board at Work!!! A Report on the March Work Crew in Ahuas - by David Miller...Unity Board of Mission Chairman



March Work Crew en route to Ahuas.

A work crew made up of Eddie and Brenda Holik, Walmar Hohmann, and David and Linda Miller of Wall Brethren Church, and Maximo and Albertina Sanchez from Austin Brethren Church, worked and played in Ahuas, Honduras, between March 1 and March 16. We were expected to be real go-

getters after they met the first crew from Texas, but I assured them not all Texans were alike!

Our main project was to build rafters and roof the hospital's new maintenance building. We also put a few finishing touches on some of the



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work left from previous crews. By Monday of the second week, we had the maintenance building roofed and wired with lights and plugs. We also made some repairs to the doctor's house roof and ran wire for the internet. We then installed two new air conditioners in the operating room and the maternity ward. The hospital received a new autoclave the middle of the first week. We had the room next to the operating room rearranged and installed the autoclave by the time we left.

But the best part was the time spent in fellowship and visiting with all the different people. We ate breakfast and lunch with Drs. Gerard and Norvelle Rudy, the husband and wife team working there at the hospital. They are the heartbeat of the Moravian Mission Clinic and great hosts. We

ate supper with Tomasa Miller, one of the nurses there. Working in and around with the hospital crew made the time fun and rewarding. There is a great staff and a great work going on in Ahuas. Also, we were able to visit the YWAM School that we worked on last year. School was in session, working on the second batch of local missionaries and pastors.

While we were there, dentist Scott Booth and wife Larrigan stayed with us above the operating room. They spent about 8 days (104 fillings) seeing as many patients as possible at \$1.50 per patient... no matter how long the work took. What a great couple from Dover, Ohio... they spend their vacation every year working there in Ahuas.

We also met and visited with the "ambulance" drivers: George Goff,




Looking up at the Maintenance Roof Construction.

Jarle Hofstade, Wesley Wiles, and their families. These are the Mission Aviation Fellowship pilots for the hospital and surrounding area. What a great group of people!

In the two weeks that we were there, we saw a lot, gathered up unforgettable memories, and spread

around some good ole' Texas cheer. Both of the Texas crews were well received and appreciated, and we have an open invitation to come back.

NOTE: Plans are in the works, so in order to hold your spot, contact me (David Miller) or any other member of the Unity on the Mission Board.



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Rev. Nello Strickland
Rev. Rick Chandler
Rev. Henry Beseda

1st & 3rd Sunday
2nd & 4th Sunday
5th Sunday – Holy Communion

HUS ENCAMPMENT DORM RENOVATION IN NEED OF DONATIONS

The Hus Encampment is one of the shining stars of the Unity of the Brethren. Throughout the years it has been a place of comfort, fun, fellowship, and deep spiritual growth. Generations of youth and adults have had the opportunity to deepen their relationship with Christ, experience God within nature, and serve one another.

Currently, the Board of Trustees is working diligently on several projects. The first project is one of outreach to the local congregations. In the next few months, members of the Board of Trustees will be contacting church pastors and asking to schedule a time where we can share information, visions for the future, and to gather input concerning the how the Hus Encampment can help meet the spiritual needs of individual members.

The second project concerns the annual camping program. Registrations for this year's camping program are in the process of being printed and delivered. The camping schedule for this year includes Alpha Conference from Saturday, June 7, 2008, through Monday, June 9, 2008. Pioneer is scheduled from June 15-20, 2008, and Discovery from June 22-27, 2008. Hus School will begin on June 29, 2008, and continue through July 18, 2008.

The third project was formalized at the Convention last summer and deals with allowing the Hus Encampment to be used as a means of Outreach and Hospitality to groups outside of the Unity of the Brethren. The idea of allowing outside organizations to use the camp facilities has been discussed for many years. Costs associated with using the camp facilities have also been updated, and reservation forms (both for Unity Organizations and Non-Unity Events) are available at the Unity of the Brethren web site. Please note that the fee structure has changed to a per day cost rather than a per event cost. As always, Unity Wide organizations such as the Synodical Committee, Sunday School Union, Christian Sister's, Mission Board, State BYF, etc. are exempt from the fee structure and are asked to submit donations only.

Lastly, many of you have visited the camp during the last year and have seen the new beds that are being phased into the dorms. Many individuals and groups have donated the funds to complete either an entire room or a portion of a room. The new beds are wooden bunks with new mattresses. The beds are wider than the current ones, and have added safety features as well increasing the comfort level. The Board of Trustees

would like to complete the dorm renovation project this spring so that all the rooms in the dorms (both Boys and Girls Dorms) will have the new beds available for the camping season. Any donations for this project would be greatly appreciated. Current levels of donations have ranged from \$100-\$2,600. Previous donors include: Wall Brethren Christian Sisters, Friends of Hus Encampment, Mike & Pat Daffin, Austin Brethren Christian Sisters, Temple Brethren Church, Gary & Paula Vasek, Good Shepherd Moravian Church, Vsetin Christian Sisters, John & Joyce Baletka, Mary & Maurice Maluschka, Houston Brethren Christian Sisters, Caldwell Brethren Christian Sisters, Bill & Dean Hoden, Russell & Janice Corporon, R. Borchers, State BYF, Sandy Moseley, John & Ester Vojtek, W. Maek Memorial, E. Kelarek Memorial, Jim & Dawn Marie Baletka, Marvin and Alice Chlapek, Temple Brethren Christian Sisters and Seaton Brethren Christian Sisters.

Donations should be sent to:
Jim Baletka
600 Benchmark Drive
College Station, TX 77845

Should funds be raised in excess of what is needed to renovate the dorm rooms, the additional monies will be placed in the Hus Encampment Building Fund for future projects including (but not limited to) maintenance to caretaker's house and nurse's cabin.

Again, the Hus Encampment Board of Trustees would like to thank the members of the Unity of the Brethren for their continuous support, and we look forward to visiting with each of you in the near future.

HUS ENCAMPMENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Program Director:

Kimberly Stewart, 407 Kates Way, Hutto, TX 78634. (512) 846-2925

Camp Caretakers:

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Schlechte86@msn.com

NOTE: Please direct Encampment reservation requests to the Schlechtes & Baletkas. Other Board of Trustees inquiries please send to Mike Emery or Jim & Dawn Marie Baletka.

Annual Christian Sisters Bazaar, 2nd Saturday in September
The Rosenberg Brethren Church
Christian Sisters
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 Ocker #8: Doris Svoboda, 109 Friendship Ln, Temple, TX 76501-9614, 254-742-1405
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**Position currently filled by Administrative Board members

To communicate with the Hus Encampment . . .

. . . regarding scheduling* of meetings or events there, contact:
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 600 Benchmark Drive
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*This must be done well in advance.

In Christ’s Love . . . from the Mission Field

From Jill...

Happy Easter greetings everyone!
 I hope you are all doing well and enjoying the beginning of spring! I’m living in perpetual summer at the moment. When I arrived in Perth in June, they were having winter. But since leaving Australia we have had nothing but summertime! I will go back to one week of Aussie winter in May and then right back into Texas summer.

Well, we are finishing up our time here in Sudan. We’ll be in Indonesia by early April. My heart has been so full here. God has been challenging us in so many areas. The last few days I’ve been thinking a lot about Jesus and the life of radical love that He lived. He was an extremist for love and mercy and grace. His scars of love show it. He did life surrounded by misfits and cripples and outcasts, and it upset alot of people. I have to ask myself, “Is that the direction you’re moving? Is this the Jesus you’re following? Is this the Jesus that you’re representing?”

I remember when I was on the plane and we were flying to India I was listening to a song that said, “I believe, that love is the answer.” That simple line has come back again and again as I see a world that is so broken. Love is the answer. I believe. During this Easter time I’m reminded of a passage in Luke. “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see...” (Luke 24:38-39).

Jesus has the scars to show how much He loved. He has lead the way and He beckons us to follow. He really lived and loved and died and came again defeating death. It’s a long and narrow road, living a life of radical love, but I can see His footprints in the dusty trail...

Thanks for all the encouraging words and prayers and support! May God reveal the depth and height and width of His unfailing love!

Blessings,

Jill



HOUSTON BROTHERS CHURCH

6207 North Main, Houston, TX 77009 – (713) 864-6707

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO WORSHIP WITH US
 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. – Church Service 10:30 a.m.

For information please contact one of the following:

Dorothy Hinson
 President
 7331 Misty Morning Lane
 Humble, TX 77346
 (281) 620-0480

Larry King, Secretary
 Board of Elders
 1611 Palomino Ln.
 Kingwood, TX 77339
 (281) 358-3355

From the Woos...

Greetings from the world across the ocean. We are experiencing some March madness over here, but not in basketball.

The Believers

It seems that the government is sending people out to the believers homes in the village and telling them that they cannot share and if they do they will be fined. It is very scary for them. Fear is a HUGE part of the Dai people. We are learning more about this every day. Why do they go to their friend's or neighbor's wedding? Because if they don't they FEAR that no one will come to theirs. It seems that everything they do is motivated by fear. Pray against this fear that comes from the devil and that they would have blessing and boldness and protection.

The Girls

There are about 9 or more 16- to 20-year-old Dai girls who believe. They are the first generation of girls this age to believe. Four of their mothers also believe. But recently their mothers have put HUGE pressure on them to get married ASAP. The mothers have found men, Buddha men, that they want their daughters to get mar-

ried too. The girls don't want to submit to this cultural pressure. Most of the girls have unbelieving Buddha boyfriends that they keep in secret. It seems that everyone is acting out of FEAR again. No one wants to wait on God up above to see what He will do, they all want to take the matter into their own hands. One problem is that there are no young men who believe. This pressure that the mothers are giving and this marriage problem is HUGE in these people's eyes.

These same girls are also starting to share more and more with the people they work with, so praise the Lord for their growth and boldness!

One Girl

One believing Dai girl has just found out she is pregnant. She knows she has sinned and is feeling the weight of this. Most in this situation would abort the baby since that is a common thing over here and not a big deal. She knows this would be an even bigger sin. Her family has started the negotiations with the boy's family to have them marry (most Dai girls get married between the ages of 16 and 20). The mother-in-law to be has said that if this Dai girl comes to live with them she must be Buddhist and not follow Jesus. So her choices are not get married and abort or go and be

persecuted for her love for Jesus. She and her family are hoping that by the time most people start to participate in the Buddha temple ceremonies they are "old" in their 40s. They hope by then the mother in law won't care, or be too old to do anything.

Leadership

The foreign leadership in our area has switched hands, workers have left and it seems that no one has picked up some very important work. There doesn't seem to be much input or leadership going in to the believers for them to regularly get together, grow, and worship. We have finally recognized this problem and hope to move forward now. Please pray for the Dai church, we believe it will go forth, but during times of trouble people struggle, fall away

etc. But it is also a huge opportunity for growth.

The Woos

We all have chest congestion that will never end. It seems we have had it for months. On top of that we now have colds and allergies. Only 9 more days and we will be on the plane home. We have an 8-hour layover in Korea, then on to Boston for a few days. We will arrive in Winston-Salem on April 9. We have a short term team coming on Monday we will host, as well as several other people we would like to see before we leave. Thanks for lifting up the work over here. Without your prayers, nothing would get done.

See you soon,

Caroline



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How It All Began *A History of the Unity of the Brethren* By Rev. Daniel J. Marek

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PLEASE JOIN US AS WE
"Bear ye one another's burdens
And so fulfill the Law of Christ."
(Gal. 6:2)

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From the Theissens....

April 10, 2008

Dear friends,

Here it's been two months since the last letter; sorry. The crazy thing is, a lot has been happening. Should have written two by now.

Harold and I made the trip to Guerrero to meet with church leaders there. About 35 people showed up, from five churches, a good start. Then a month later I returned for the Easter celebrations, on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. We didn't get the invitations all coordinated, so some showed up the first day, others the second. One group showed up just as we were leaving to return to Oaxaca!

Three guys from one of the Ontario Mennonite churches came down again for the party, two of them for the third time. This speaks volumes to the Mixtecs, since first-time visitors don't know any better, but after that you come to "this terrible place" (as they see it) because you really want to. One of them, Rob, commented that it is hard to explain back home what these trips are about, since they aren't

building anything, or running a crusade, or looking after orphans. He knows that the relationships being built are eternal and uplifting for the local marginalized believers, showing them respect they get nowhere else, and that he is being matured, but that is hard to communicate to someone who hasn't been there yet.

Once we got back to Oaxaca, the group did get the chance to work, and hard. The children's school, OCS, planned a work week of roofing a large concrete structure, and walling in four classrooms. I turned the work project over to Greg (an experienced construction manager) who with his team of about ten others did a marvelous job, and quicker than we had expected. The team had another three volunteers come through Wycliffe Associates, a big help, too. Part of why I had to turn it over to him was that my sister, Kathleen, and her family, came down for a week to visit us. At one point we had seven extra bodies in our small house. Since most of the time it's just us, these are welcome intrusions.

With mixed feelings we saw Phil off, the young man from North Caro-

lina that has been our apprentice for the past three years. We are proud of him. He has worked hard, shared Christ with many friends in Yolo, disciplined people and seen them baptized, helped the church grow, supported the Mexican missionary family on his team, among other things, by making the adobe bricks for their new house, read a lot of books, written a lot of papers, and explained his ideas in a lot of discussions. We feel he is a worthy graduate of our apprenticeship program and ready to take on church planting in a new culture. We will miss him! But he has left here to join two Miskitos on a church planting team forming in Nicaragua. Phil hopes to put all his discipling skills to work as the "senior" mentor on this team! We look forward to his new venture.

Right now I'm planning my three-week trip to India. I leave Saturday night, get in to Delhi Monday evening. I'll be traveling over there with two

leaders of the church planting group I coach in Tlaxiaco (two hours from here). These guys want to explore what it will mean to reach out into the Hindu (and maybe Sikh) world in a discipling church planting effort, combined with missions training opportunities. They invited me to go along and help puzzle, plan, and project. I also was elected trip planner, using contacts of Anne's father and some folks in our own mission agency. One set of RuthE's godparents have been over in Delhi for a dozen years now, doing much the same stuff we try to do here. It has been that long since we've seen them, so it will be wonderful to catch up with them and compare experiences.

Pray for Anne as she holds down the fort for 24 days. Pray for the new family that moved in upstairs, who have children the same age and sex as ours (Aime, Lluvia, Jacaline, Christian). Pray for the coffee shop family



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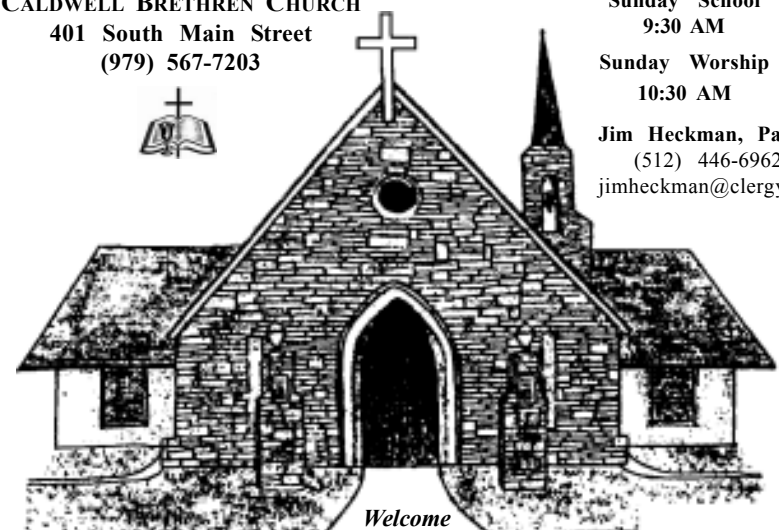
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Sunday School
9:30 AM

Sunday Worship
10:30 AM

Jim Heckman, Pastor
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down the main road (Guillermo, Violeta, Guillermo, Violeta, Alexandra, Joquina). And our landlords (Tomas, Sofia). Pray for me and Grant and Chris as we travel, meet people, and explore the wonders of a different part of God's diverse world.

I'm attaching a sonnet that Anne wrote. She always does that part of the homework when she assigns it to her students.

Blessings,

Robert

Whisk and Broom

To take a whisk and brush away the dust
Accumulated from a pile of days,
To slowly lift the layers left to rust,
Push back debris left crammed in
passageways—

To puzzle through what happened in
the past,
Find out the story of the prince's
plight,
To reconstruct the speeches of the
cast
That armed disaster— who truly caused
the fight?—

To track the miscreant, gather heinous
clues,
A wrapping dropped, a weapon left
outside,
To judge the players, step into their
shoes—
Who's in the right; who took us for a
ride?—

Makes her a what? Historian? Detective?
Archeologist? Or Housewife Most
Effective?

Anne Thiessen

MISSION BOARD

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77418. (979) 865-3026;
umhbpq@yahoo.com

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Rev. Lawrence & Barbara JuneK
Rev. Milton & Jean Maly
All Missionaries

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for May 2008

Dorothy E. Kocian

- Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? 1 Cor. 6:19
- Humility and the fear of the Lord will bring wealth and honor and life. Prov. 22:4
- Blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God. Deut. 28:2
- “Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build the house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored,” said the Lord. Haggai 1:8**
- May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word. 2 Thes. 2:16
- The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; He delivers them from all their troubles. Ps. 34:17
- If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? 1 Jn. 3:17
- If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like morning. Isa. 56:10
- A generous man will himself be blessed. Prov. 22:9
- I told about the gracious hand of my God upon me. Neh. 2:18
- The God of heaven will give us success. We His servants will start rebuilding. Neh. 2:20**
- For you, O God, have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe. Ps. 61:3
- You have heard my vows, O God; You have given me the heritage of those who fear Your name. Ps. 61:5
- Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever. Ps. 125:1
- The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord; He is their stronghold in the time of trouble. Ps. 37:39
- Don't be afraid. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome. Neh. 4:14
- Our enemies lost their confidence because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God. Neh. 6:16
- So we rebuilt the wall, for the people worked with all their heart. Neh. 4:6
- “Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God and there is no other.” Isa. 45:22
- “Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.” Jer. 29:12
- Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. Lament. 3:22
- The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in love. Ps. 103:8
- My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be My people. Ezek. 37:27
- Carefully follow the terms of this covenant, so that you may prosper in everything you do. Deut. 29:9
- Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know. Jer. 33:3
- In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways. Heb. 1:1
- But in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son. Heb. 1:2
- God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Cor. 5:21
- This is how God showed His love among us: He sent his only Son into the world that we might live through Him. 1 Jn. 4:9
- We have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world. Jn. 4:42
- You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. Gal. 3:26

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VITAL STATISTICS

MEMBERS RECEIVED

By Profession of Faith:

LYNN CASSENS, on March 30 at the Ocker Brethren Church.

ALAN MACIK and SANDY GANDY, on December 30, 2007, at the Rosenberg Brethren Church.

By the Rite of Confirmation:

CHASE JANES, KYLE MASCHECK, and CODY MASCHECK, at the Wesley Brethren Church.

By Reaffirmation of Faith:

JOE CASTILLO, on February 24, KELLY CALDWELL on April 6, and RONNIE MOORE and MARTHA MOORE on March 9 at the Ocker Brethren Church.

By Letter of Transfer:

JEFF and JEANNIE LOGAN on March 9, 2008, at the Nelsonville Brethren Church.

HARVEY and ELIZABETH TREYBIG, on March 23, 2008, at the Industry Brethren Church.

RECENT BAPTISMS

GILLIAN EMILY-JOYCE KOCIAN, daughter of Michael and LaNae (Yariger) Kocian, born December 21, 2007, was baptized on March 30, 2008, at the West Brethren Church. Sponsors: Mari-Anne Gordon, Kirk Yariger, Mase Duge, and Molly Duge. Minister Curtis Holland.

JESSE BLAKE MACAT, son of Melinda (Lane) Macat, born October 2, 2007, was baptized

on February 10, 2008, at the Nelsonville Brethren Church. Sponsors: Clayton and Kathy Ignasiak. Minister: Michael Groseclose.

CALEB MICHAEL HART, son of Roy & Tracy (Chupik) Hart, born on February 12, 2003, was baptized on February 15, 2004, at the Rosenberg Brethren Church. Pastor: Larry Butcher.

KARA ASHLEY HART, daughter of Roy & Tracy (Chupik) Hart, born on October 10, 2006, was baptized on December 10, 2006, at the Rosenberg Brethren Church. Pastor: Larry Butcher.

RECENT WEDDINGS

EBERSPACHER-SINGLEY. Russell Charles Singley II & Brandy Rene Eberspacher were joined in marriage at the Rosenberg Brethren Church on October 13, 2007. The ceremony was performed by Brandy's father, Pastor Larry Butcher.

JONES-SCHLITZKUS. Sandy Jones and Bobby Schlitzkus were joined in marriage at the Rosenberg Brethren Church on Saturday, November 17, 2007. Pastor: Larry Butcher.

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 Worship Service 10:30 AM
 Wednesday Eve. 6:00 PM
 Prayer Service and Bible Study

Bro. Larry Butcher
 3030 Prescott, Houston, TX 77025
 (713) 669-9381 (Home)

RECENT DEATHS

MAREK, HERMINA POPP, age 102, of the West Brethren Church, born on April 21, 1905, in Abbott, Texas, died on July 28, 2007. She is survived by two daughters, eight grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. Though profoundly hearing impaired since childhood, Hermina remained a bright, smiling, involved member of the church and family, even after her move to a nursing facility. Services were held at the West Brethren Church with burial in that church's cemetery. Minister: Curtis Holland.

PINTER, LILLIAN JOE RYPEL, age 91 and a member of the West Brethren Church, died on January 1, 2008. She was born on April 22, 1916, in Penelope, Texas, and was an active member of her church and the Christian Sisters. Survivors include her husband William, two daughters, one sister, four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Services were at the West Brethren Church with burial in that church's cemetery. Minister: Curtis Holland.

MALER, JAMES "JIM" ROGERS, age 73 and a member of the Nelsonville Brethren Church, died on February 22, 2008, at Bellville, Texas. He was born on April 2, 1934, at

Sealy, Texas, and married to Della Duke in Sealy on October 2, 1965. Mr. Maler is survived by his wife, two children, four grandchildren, one brother, and three sisters. Services were on February 26, 2008, at the Nelsonville Brethren Church with burial in Sealy Cemetery. Minister: Michael Groseclose.

SUROVIK, DANIEL OTTO, age 83 and a member of the Wesley Brethren Church, died on February 28, 2008, at Brenham, Texas. He was born on January 6, 1925, at Wesley and married Bessie Mikeska at the West Brethren Church on March 23, 1957. Mr. Surovik is survived by his wife, one child, two grandchildren, three sisters, and one sister-in-law. Services were on March 8, 2008, from the Wesley Brethren Church with burial in the Wesley Cemetery. Minister: Michael Groseclose.

WALDEN, IVY H., age 81, of Houston, died on April 1, 2008. She was born Ivy Syptak on November 8, 1926, in Houston. Survivors include two brothers, two daughters, two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. The funeral was held in Houston at the Chapel of Heights Funeral Home officiated by Rev. Pete Whitaker and a graveside service at the Fayetteville Brethren Church on April 4, 2008, by Milton Maly.

WALL BRETHREN CHURCH

Located in Wall, Texas, on old Highway 87
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Sunday Schedule
 Sunday School – 9:30 A.M.
 Worship – 10:45 A.M.

Church: (325) 651-4444
 Pastor: Rev. Thomas Tallas
 (325) 949-7543
 rev.tjt@verizon.net

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Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

Keep these activities in your prayers.

May 4, 2008: The annual Industry Brethren Church's Chicken Fry (see invitation below).

June 28: History and Doctrine Class at the Houston Brethren Church (see article inside the front cover).

Youth Activities Calendar

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| May 1 | National Day of Prayer |
| May 2-4 | Fishing Retreat, Port O'Connor |
| June 7-9 or 8-10 | Alpha Camp |
| June 15-20 | Pioneer Camp |
| June 22-27 | Discovery Camp |
| June 29-July 18 | Hus School |
| July 26 & 27 | Summer B.Y.F. Retreat |
| October 24-26 | Fall Scraffin' & Stampin' Retreat |
| November 8 & 9 | Fall B.Y.F. Retreat |

WANTED: A BYF member to serve as the Youth Representative on the Hus Encampment Board of Trustees.

UNITY OF THE BROTHERS YOUTH DIRECTOR

Kimberly Stewart, 407 Kates Way
Hutto, TX 78634, (512) 846-2925
kcstew@austin.rr.com

You are invited...

On **May 4**, the **Industry Brethren** will be serving fried chicken and the trimmings from 11:00 AM 'til 1:00 PM. Cost: Free-will donation. There will also be an auction at noon, a Country Store, and desserts will be available. This event will take place at the Industry Fireman's Hall.

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES MAY 2008

Austin – Bible Study at 10:00 AM
Worship at 11:00 AM.
– Rev. Linda Chandler

Bryan-College Station – worship at
9:00 AM every Sunday.
Snook – worship at 10:45 AM every
Sunday.
– Rev. Joseph Polasek

Buckholts – worship at 9:00 AM every
Sunday except the 5th Sunday.
Holy Communion on 1st Sunday.
Guest speaker on 4th Sunday.
– Rev. John Kueker

Caldwell – Sunday School at 9:30 AM,
worship at 10:30 AM every Sunday.
Bible Study on Tuesday at 10:30 AM.
– Rev. Jim Heckman

Crosby –
Sunday – 9:00 AM: Worship
10:00 AM: Faith Adventure
11:00 AM: Celebration
– Dr. Larry Koslovsky

Cy-Fair Community Church – worship at
10:45 AM every Sunday.
1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays – Rev. Rick Chandler
2nd & 4th Sundays – Rev. Henry Beseda
– Rev. Henry Beseda

Dime Box – worship at 9:00 AM every
Sunday.
– Rev. Jim Heckman

Faith Brethren in Bryan – For current
worship schedule, call 979-260-2700
(Church) or 979-846-6561 (Pastor).
– Kay Polasek

Good News Fellowship Church of West
Palm Beaches – worship at 1:00 PM every
Sunday at Boynton Springs Presbyterian
Church, Boynton Springs, Florida.
– Rev. James Henry

Good Shepherd Moravian – worship at
11:30 AM and 6:30 PM every Sunday.
– Rev. Adolfo Gonzalez

Granger – worship services every Sunday at
9:00 AM; Sunday School at 10:15 AM.
1st, 2nd, & 3rd Sunday – Rev. Charles Amos
4th & 5th Sunday – Mark Sebek

Houston – Every Sunday:
Sunday School at 9:15 AM;
Worship at 10:30 AM every Sunday.
– Visiting Ministers

Industry – worship at 9:00 AM every
Sunday with Sunday School for all
ages following.
– Rev. Milton Maly

Fayetteville – Sunday School at 9:30 AM,
worship at 10:30 AM every Sunday.
– Rev. Milton Maly

Nelsonville – Sunday School at 9:00 AM
Worship at 10:15 AM
– Rev. Michael Groseclose

New Tabor – Sunday School at 9:30 AM &
Worship at 10:30 AM every Sunday,
"Tune Up" on Wednesdays, 7:30 PM.
– Rev. Dave Johnson

Ocker – worship at 10:15 AM every Sunday.
– Rev. Ron Winsman

Pasadena – Sunday School at 9:30 AM
and worship at 10:45 AM every Sunday.
Bible Study at 7:30 PM on Wednesday.
– Scott Keaton

Rosenberg –
Sundays: Adult Bible Study and Sunday
School for children at 9:00 AM; worship
at 10:30 AM.
Wednesdays: 5:30 PM, Dinner; 6:30 PM,
Bible Study; 6:50 PM, Prayer Meeting.
– Bro. Larry Butcher

Seaton –
Sunday, 9:15 AM – Sunday School, All Ages;
10:30 AM – Worship Celebration Service.
Wednesday, 6:30 PM – Kid's NITE Out
and Priority ONE Youth (BYF), Adult
Bible Study.
– Rev. Joe Emerson

Taylor – worship at 10:15 AM every Sunday.
– Rev. James Hejl

Temple – Sunday School at 9:30 AM.,
Worship at 10:45 AM.
– Rev. Bill Rinderknecht, Interim

Vsetin – worship at 10:00 AM every Sunday.
1st, 2nd, & 4th Sunday – Dr. Mark Labaj
3rd Sunday – Rev. Henry Beseda
5th Sunday – Visiting Ministers
– Rev. Henry Beseda

Wall – Sunday School (for all ages) at 9:30
AM; worship at 10:45 AM every Sunday.
– Rev. Thomas Tallas

Wesley – worship at 9:00 AM every
Sunday. Sunday School follows.
– Rev. Michael Groseclose

West – Sunday School at 9:00 AM and
worship at 10:15 AM every Sunday.
– Rev. Curtis Holland

Westheimer Community – 9:30 AM, Christian
Education; 10:30 AM, Worship, with Holy
Communion every 2nd Sunday.
– Visiting Ministers

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changing to (281) 221-7289
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