

THE BRETHREN



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Discovery Camp 2008

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THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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Crystal Tear

- by James W. Ledbetter Jr.

(And Jesus called a little child unto
Him, and set him in the midst of them,
and said, “Verily I say unto you,
except ye be converted, and become
as little children, ye shall not enter
into the Kingdom of Heaven. Whoso-
ever therefore shall humble himself
as this little child, the same is great-
est in the Kingdom of Heaven.”
Matthew 18: 2-4)

“Tell me my child, what is that I see,
in the corner of your eye.
A crystal drop, known as a tear;
please, ...may I ask why?”

“You say you’re praying for the world
today,
and tomorrows yet to come.
Asking God to help this torn apart
world,
that has been so needlessly done.”

“You’re asking why there must be
war,
and when will it ever cease.
And why the people of the world,
can’t live together in peace.”

“You’re asking Him to forgive you,
for all the things you’ve done wrong.
And asking Him to forgive everyone,
and through Him, make this world
strong.”

“You’re thanking Him for all you have,
and for everything He has done.
And pray that you will awake the next
day,
to see the bright shining sun.”

“Go ahead my child, and finish your
prayer,
a prayer only God will hear.
And maybe someday, the world will
be clean,
washed pure by your crystal tear.”

President’s Column . . . Claren Kotrla

LEADERSHIP

In Luke 12:48 we find Jesus saying
“From everyone who has been given
much, much will be de-
manded; and from the one
who has been entrusted
much, much more will be
asked.”



Ladies and Gentlemen,
we have all been given
much and much has been
entrusted to us as indi-
viduals, as a denomina-
tion, and as a nation. The question is,
can we meet the demands of what is
asked of us who are so richly blessed?

Contrary to what a few politicians
will say, you are living in the richest,
freest, most tolerant country in the
world. You have received so many
things that are taken for granted which
people in other countries see as riches.
The simple act of turning on the clean
water spigot in your air conditioned
home makes you wealthy. You can
drive in your air conditioned car on
paved roads to the grocery store to
buy food that is plentiful. You can go
to the emergency room and be treated
even if you can’t pay for it, can’t

→ speak English, or are not a citizen of
this country. You can go to Church on
Sunday or any other day
of the week! I have lived
in a country where you
could not do that openly
and where talking to oth-
ers about Christ could
get you deported or worse,
including being executed!
Both had indeed hap-
pened. Could it happen
here?

Why do we keep hearing, and in
some cases believing, we are a poor
country with so many problems and
that a depression is just around the
corner. I believe it is a lack of leader-
ship at the national level where set-
ting unreasonable expectations or
timelines and crying wolf is a way to
get votes. Our president has an ap-
proval rating of around 30% and our
congress only about 9%. Instead of
our politicians acting for the general
good, they are pointing fingers, and,
in addition to not leading, many have
lost their moral compass. They have



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become self serving and arrogant. Before you get on this band wagon and start agreeing, please read on.

The problem is not limited to our national leaders. Let's look at a few names and entities: Saddam Hussein, Hitler, Xerox Executives, Osama Ben Laden, "Bill, Susan", the United Nations, Congressman William Jefferson, Congressman Cunningham, and John Edwards to name a few. What do all these names and organizations have in common? Each was or is in a position of leadership and failed. Some of them are well know for what they did, while others aren't that well known. The first two names need no introduction. Xerox executives had the opportunity to become leaders by having the first computers, but their lack of vision and relying on how they had done things in the past

without looking at how things had changed lost that opportunity. Congressman Jefferson commandeered a National Guard truck to be used for rescue work during the hurricane in New Orleans to recover ninety thousand dollars from a freezer. He is being investigated on several charges, but continues to serve on the ethics committee in congress. Congressman Cunningham did a tap dance in a restroom allegedly to entice another man for sex. John Edwards allegedly had an affair while his wife was undergoing cancer treatment. These last two examples are not just about sex. They, like the other examples, are about lost integrity and trust in people in leadership positions. Yet no one seems to show any outrage except for some political posturing, thereby making us all enablers. The United

Nations generally wrings its hands and asks for more money without leading.

What about "Bill, Jack, and Susan"? They represent people on the Board of Elders in your church and individuals in your Unity organizations. They represent your pastor and they represent you as members of your church and the Unity. They took the jobs but didn't bother to learn how best to do them. They became self centered rather than Christ centered. Maybe they couldn't say no and were overwhelmed. Perhaps they chose not to serve but to criticize, or they became enablers for mediocrity or for failure. They became finger pointers while being divisive and causing others to lose interest in their church. Their actions and words discouraged some young person from considering the ministry or serving Christ in some other manner. They failed to have the vision to serve and

lead the existing members, much less attract new ones. While things are changing before their eyes, they are relying only on how things were done in the past. They represent your Synodical Committee and its representatives and other organizations within the Unity.

Contrast the above list and their actions or inaction with the following: John F. Kennedy, Ronald Regan, Professor Livio Librescu, Lee Iacocca, John Hus, "Jane, Joe, and John". What do these people have in common? They each had a vision and took action to achieve that vision. John Kennedy had a vision to beat the Russians to the moon. Americans with slide rules and hard work accomplished that goal within ten years. Ronald Regan had a vision for economic growth and the end of the Russian Empire which freed what was known as the Eastern Bloc. He initi-



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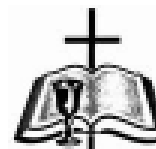
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ated an economic growth environment that lasted for years after his terms were over. Mr. Librescu was a professor who had survived the Holocaust and saved all of his students during the massacre at Virginia Tech University while losing his. This valiant sacrifice didn't get much media coverage, though. I found it deep in our paper, while the individual who did the killing had his name and picture on the front page. John Hus gave his life because he had a vision to allow everyone the opportunity to read the Bible and in the process was the spark that started the Protestant Revolution. Lee Iacocca had the vision for the Mustang car, and had the vision to save Chrysler from bankruptcy. He also used the phrase "lead, follow, or get out of the way." That could also be a thought for us. Are we going to lead? Are we going to follow? Are we going to step out of the

way or be a hindrance to others who are willing to lead?

Now to "Jane, Joe and John." They also represent the pastors, boards, members of the congregations, and the leaders in the various Unity organizations. They represent the young mother who organized the Bible School where none had been before. They represent the pastor who reaches out not only to the members but to those outside the walls of the church. They represent the persons who help others. They represent those people who take it upon themselves to do whatever jobs need to be done no matter how menial or unrewarding. They have a Christ-centered vision, yet they may not always be the ones we call leaders. They encourage Christ-centered service with our youth through word and deed. They, too, represent your Synodical Committee dealing with the various issues im-

pacting the denomination. These names can represent you! These are the people who recognize they have much and much is required of them and are ready to meet the demands of their blessings. These people have the strength, vision, and humility to do God's work. Will you become one of these people?

Christian leaders are not perfect. Therefore, each of us is qualified to be a Christian leader. It is what Christ has placed in our heart and what we accept from Him that makes us qualified to become Christian leaders. Like it or not, we are each leaders in deed and word in our daily lives, both in formal leadership positions and interaction with others. Great leaders encourage others to succeed rather than putting others down. The type of leader we choose to become is really up to each individual.

When Christ said "Follow Me," He embodied the essence of leadership. He didn't conduct a survey, initiate a poll, or put qualifiers on the command. He took action and focused on the mission to save you and me from eternal death. He new the consequences and moved forward with the vision He had for us. Our leadership vision for Christ's Kingdom may not be this dramatic or as dangerous, but it is important to those we share it with.

As a denomination, we need to focus on growing Christian leaders.

We have the infrastructure in Hus School, HILL, and a mentoring program for those who wish to become pastors, as well as many other opportunities to serve and grow in accordance with what we have been given and are entrusted with.

However, at least two questions remain. Are we using these resources to their full potential? Are we encouraging ourselves and our young people by our actions to use the resources or other resources to grow into the Christian leaders we will need over the next decades? Or, are we satisfied to just let it go until we die and don't need our leaders anymore?

We need to carefully consider the future of Christian service within the Unity. Most Protestant denominations, including the Unity, are shrinking or at best holding steady.

We have the ability but we need the will to grow tomorrow's Christian leaders today if the Unity is going to help carry Christ's word forward. We need to have the vision for the future of this work today if the Gospel is going to be shared in the future. Today's Christian leaders must have the vision to lead through both deed and action.

Members of the Unity, it is time to lead, follow, or allow someone else to do so. It is time to lead by deed, example, and action, particularly for our youth. It is time to unite and it is



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time to actually live the words of the Unity Motto, "In essentials, UNITY, In Non-essentials, LIBERTY, In ALL things, LOVE." Without these three words taken to heart we will continue to see division, reduced membership, frustration, and lack of stewardship that is required of us who have so

much. Without love and unity we will surely lose liberty. By taking these words to heart we will see growth, success, and most importantly we will regain the vision necessary to lead others to Christ for His Kingdom in this world.

Claren Kotrla

Seaton Brethren Church

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9:15 a.m.
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10:30 a.m.
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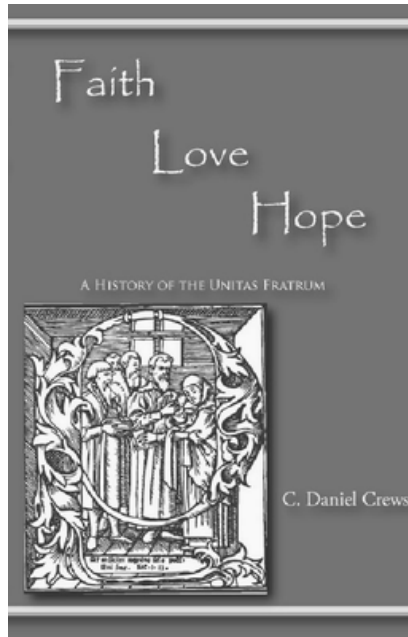
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Unity of the Brethren Mission Board Meeting

- by Joyce Baletka, Secretary



The Unity Mission Board met on September 6 at the Taylor Brethren Church. In addition to the members of the board who were present, Rev. & Mrs. Ron Winsman came to share their experiences of mission efforts in the Czech Republic.

It was noted that after 40 years of Communist domination, statistics reveal that more than 50% of the population in that country are non-believers. This has become a concern for some in the Unity of the Brethren in Texas, as many of our ancestors were immigrants to Texas from Moravia during the latter half of the 19th century. At the meeting, the Unity Board examined several opportuni-

ties for supporting current mission efforts in the Czech Republic.

Rev. Ron Winsman and his wife, Dee, shared their experience of a trip to that country in the summer of 2006. They, and Ocker Brethren Sharon Marek, Charles, Rose Ann, and Carolyn Groseclose visited Decin, Bohemia. There they observed and participated in the evangelistic work of Pastor Pavel Kozak and his wife Stanya. Upon returning to Texas, the travelers gave a detailed report to the Ocker congregation. As a result, Ocker decided to include Pastor Kozak's work in the budget of the Ocker church; that support is continuing. The Unity Mission Board decided to join the Ocker Brethren in helping Pastor Kozak's efforts.

The Board then explored other opportunities for mission work in Moravia. One was in Olomouc, where Steve and April Brown serve as mis-

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sionaries under the umbrella of the Southern Baptist denomination. Detailed information from the Browns concerning their ministry to working people and students in that area was shared. It was decided to support an English camp to be held in the summer of 2009. That support was included in the proposed 2009 Missions Budget which will be presented to the Synodical Committee for approval at its October 4 meeting.

Reports concerning activities of Unity missionaries during the past year were shared. Jill Miller returned to Texas in June and will not be returning to mission work at this time. She is instead fulfilling a commitment she made when she received one of her college scholarships. Jill will be teaching math and coaching at a Junior High School in San Angelo this fall.

An update from Ray Griggs on the sawing operations in Nicaragua was shared (see it in this issue). Although the operations will continue, Ray will be returning to College Station in mid-September to accept a job in the private sector. Laurie and the children are already residing in College Station.

Michael and Caroline Woo, along

with their three sons, returned to China in early August. They hope to acquire a long-term visa and stay there to start a small business. Previously, they had been allowed in China as language students. Now, that option is no longer available to them, and a small business venture is necessary for them to be allowed to live in China.

Robert and Anne Thiessen and their children are now in Oaxaca, Mexico. They are continuing their ministry through building relationships, introducing people to Christ, and discipling believers to follow the same pattern.

A new name has been added to the roster of persons supported by the Unity Mission Board: Phil Rayford, who was a classmate of Jill Miller when she trained in Mexico under the guidance of the Thiessens. Phil has moved to Nicaragua where has been working in the sawing project and carrying on his own personal ministry to the young people of that area. Phil is originally from a Moravian Church in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

The Board made allocations from funds in the current year's budget as follows:

\$4,000 to Pastor Pavel Kozak's work in Decin, Bohemia

\$1,000 to the Browns in Olomouc, Moravia

\$2,000 to Phil Rayford in Nicaragua

\$5,000 toward the purchase of solar panels for the hospital at Ahuas, Honduras

\$2,000 to assist Ray Griggs in his return to Texas

Presently, there is a need in Nicaragua for someone with small engine repair skills to go for a few months to train others in such skills. Anyone interested in such an effort is asked to contact chairman David Miller as soon as possible.

A work crew is being planned to go to Ahuas, Honduras, in January specifically to prepare framework for the solar panels to be installed at the hospital there later. Anyone interested in that effort is also asked to contact David Miller.

A Missions Festival (or Conference) is being planned for Spring 2009 at the Hus Encampment. Pastor Linda Chandler, Pay Mynar, and Joyce Baletka will serve on the planning committee.

The complete proposed 2009 Missions Budget that will be presented to

the Unity's Synodical Committee for approval at its October 4 meeting is as follows:

Rob and Anne Thiessen (Southern Mexico)	\$20,000
Michael and Caroline Woo (Southeast Asia)	\$12,000
Phil Rayford (Nicaragua)	2,000
Pastor Pavel and Stanya Kozak (Decin, Bohemia)	4,000
Steve and April Brown (Olomouc, Moravia)	4,000
Ahuas Work Crew	11,000
Administrative Board	
Expenses	1,000
*Special Projects	21,000
<hr/>	
TOTAL	\$81,000

*Includes air fare reimbursement for missionaries to attend the 2009 Unity Convention, Mission education and awareness events, and short term mission trips for youth to become better acquainted with missions efforts.

Once again the Mission Board would like to thank all congregations and individuals for support of current mission efforts. As congregations hold



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Fall Congregational meetings, they are encouraged to include Unity Mission efforts in their local budgets.

The Board is challenging each congregation to contribute \$50 per member to assist in meeting the Unity 2009 Mission Budget.

Current Mission Board Members are –

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Christian Sisters' appointees:

David Miller, Chairman, Janet Pomykal, Joyce Baletka, Secretary; Sharon Hohman, Robert Marsh

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Daniel Vojtek, Pat Mynar, Curtis Stewart, (one yet to be named), Mark Olsen

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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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Discovery Camp 2008

Live Out Loud

Theme Verse: Romans 8:5

- by Mark Olsen

Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

The theme of Discovery Camp was making choices, choosing what the world offers to make our lives complete or what the Spirit of God offers to fulfill us.

Monday was based on the crisis of this choice. We reviewed that God always offers us salvation, but it is up to us to accept it. Our lives, our motivation, our point of view depends on us making this choice to accept God's love and share it with our neighbors.

Tuesday we focused on the choice of Happiness vs. Joy. The world can make us happy in many different ways, depending on our individual desires. But only God can offer us the chance to be joyful in any circumstance. We demonstrated this by putting in a long, hot day of service at the Brazos Food Bank.

Wednesday was the day we studied Calm vs. Peace. Again, we try to stay calm under our own power, but many times fail when the storms arrive. If we put ourselves un-

der God's care, He offers us His peace even under the most stressful circumstances.

The world offers popularity in so many ways, God offers us true love and in no greater way than His son, Jesus, giving up His life on the cross. Love is not just a feeling, its action. With God helping us we don't just receive love; we act it out in gestures towards our friends and neighbors.

On Friday morning we made commitments to the choices we were led to make and to live them out day by day.

It was a fun week filled with learning, playing, goofing around, and enjoying the new friends and experiences God gave us.



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

The Woos are back...



We are back in the Misty City. It took us about 56 hours, with an overnight lay over in Kunming, to get here. We have spent the past few days re-organizing our apartment to make room for Zach and his things as well as catch up with what has been happening here. We are so thankful for the time in the States and for you all that are so willing to pray for the D people.

So as before, here are some prayer requests.

1. Please remember a D man that has Hep B. His health is bad and he will probably die soon. He is a strong believer and the leader of a small group in his village. Pray for his healing and for his wife who

struggles with his beliefs and with his sickness.

2. The D Lent, three months of services, is still going on. About 3 women, all who believe, were pressured by their families and their communities to enter the temple and to give the sacrifices to the Buddha. Please pray for repentance and for the other believers to encourage them to come back to the Lord.

3. It seems the enemy is trying all sorts of ways to scare people away from God. The local villages where there are believers are telling them that if a family even has one believer in it, the rest of the family cannot go to the temple and worship Buddha. This is causing tension and more pressure. Pray for those who are being persecuted.

4. Visas: Currently getting visas and starting new businesses are having a little trouble. Many foreigners are only allowed to have a two-month visa. We think all of this and some other problems are due to tighter rules because of the Olympics. Please keep



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

these problems in mind as we want both a longer visa and to start a business.

5. Earthquakes. In the past month, our city has felt about 5 small earthquakes. We felt one yesterday. After running to an archway and explaining to Samuel what was happening he said, "Ask God to not let the earth move." It's a little scary as the buildings over here are not so sound and made of concrete. The boys are already in school. Zach is growing and getting over jet-lag. We miss you all.

Caroline and the 4 Woo Boys

From the Thiessens

August 27, 2008

Dear friends,

The summer is done, school has started and we've been back for two weeks. We celebrated our eighteenth anniversary yesterday. RuthE is in grade eight, Philip in six. Anne is teaching all the middle and high school English, and the middle school history. This week she is the acting principal (the "real" one is coming in a week late). Thank you for prayer in these areas.

The house church we are part of has stayed consistently around thirty

or more all summer. We're trying to figure out how to be even more involved in our community, taking the gospel of the Kingdom out into the world around us. One way will be for each of us three main leaders to take turns on Sundays, going out with a small team after the singing time and go do something "out there." A Mexican fellow we know is trying to do some "social gospel" outreach in a neighbourhood just outside the city dump, where most of the families live from what they can scrounge there. Anne and I want to take a few of our group and go out there every third Sunday, to start with. Let each time give us a little more direction for the next time, and provide opportunities to do more things on other days, things that our people and others can tie into. Nathan is thinking of taking his group and visiting one of the hospitals nearby, spending time with patients and families (here in Mexico patients are always accompanied by family members, and they do a lot of what would be nurse's work up north). Manuel is still trying to figure out what he and some of the mature young adults can do. I wanted us to make this kind of thing real, something we don't just talk about at "church." If we can only get together

one day a week, well, then we'll plan it into that day.

One of the benefits of sharing our experiences and ideas with people all over the US and Canada this summer is the constant review and the clearer ideas that follow. One extra thing this time home was the biannual Mennonite Brethren conference in Montreal. One of the speakers, David Browning, shared about his journey in the middle of a growing network of house churches in Washington State. It was fun to see him teach the same ideas that we talk about, but applied to the North American context. Listening to him I learned a few things about presenting, and a couple of his "word pictures" stuck with me, and now the people I've shared those with. Perhaps the "stickiest" one is the idea of "arrows out" instead of "arrows in". The very simple idea (which is easier to present live, with hand motions) is for us, the church, to take the Kingdom into the world, finding ways to move from our center into the world. All too often the church has been

really good about trying to get the world to come to us. We repackage and fine-tune ourselves, hoping that the "lost" will find their way to our doors, pass through, and there in our comfort zone "find the Lord." Dave said that everything they do is run through the filter of: "is this going to move us into the community, or we asking the community to come to us?" Later, Anne's father made the additional observation that when churches are "arrows in" we tend to shoot each other.

Friday I take off for a two-week trip to Guerrero, to visit both the Ometepec region and the Tlapa and Yuvinani region. Pray as I continue to walk alongside church leaders there, helping each other be "arrows out." Pray for new apprentices to be part of reaching the Mixtecs of Guerrero (a big part of my work this year is to help Nathan and Manuel with their apprentices, possibly as many as thirty people). Pray for the church that meets at Nathan's house, as we go



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. . . regarding scheduling* of meetings or events there, contact:

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600 Benchmark Drive
College Station, TX 77845
(979) 777-9940 or (979) 693-2710
BaletkaD@navasotaisd.org

*This must be done well in advance.

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

THE MUTUAL AID SOCIETY

Rev. Joseph J. Polasek, President
Calvin J. Vojtek, Vice-President
Natalie Outlaw, Gen. Secretary

Guy E. Huffman, Treasurer
Stanley F. Mrmustik, Junior Dept.
Dorothy Hinson, Board Member

out, and for a few “baby” churches, where friends of ours are trying to live this out, in Ontario and Winston-Salem.

Thank you for your prayer, and to those who hosted us this summer, many thanks, too. Whether a day or a month, we were blessed to be with you, and trust God to bless you, too. Robert.

From Ray Griggs...

Sawing Update from Nicaragua

Joint Effort between MDR (Moravian Disaster Response) and ADSIM (Social Development Association of the Moravian Church – Nicaragua)

September 1, 2008

Thursday, September 4, 2009, will be the one-year anniversary of the destruction brought by Hurricane Felix to the northeast coast of Nicaragua. Please keep the families and villages affected by this natural disaster in your prayers. Over 200 people died, 60 villages were damaged heavily, and thousands of houses were either damaged or destroyed as a direct result of the hurricane.

By the end of August 2008, MDR/

ADSIM had processed over 420,000 board feet (bf) of Caribbean pine lumber. Below is a quick breakdown of where this lumber has been processed to date:

Sukatpin	142,485 bf
Yulu Tingni	149,819 bf
Kuia Tingni	13,500 bf
Tuara	72,917 bf
Klingna	33,414 bf
Prata, Betel, Ucunny	8,442 bf

A couple of weeks ago, we moved two sawmills to the newest area (Prata/Betel/Ucunny) and began processing pine lumber downed after Hurricane Felix. The two sawmills which were previously working in Yulu Tingni were moved up the Wawa River by boat to the pine savannahs around Prata. We have an approved Forestry Management plan to be able to saw around 300,000 bf in that area of which half of it can be sold by the village and the other part used to repair or reconstruct houses in the three nearest villages.

We focused heavily on reforestation efforts the past 6 weeks. Over 6,000 pine seedlings were transplanted into the savannahs around Yulu Tingni

and over 5,500 were also transplanted around Sukatpin. In the next couple of days we will finish transplanting an additional 3,000 pine seedlings around Klingna. By Nicaraguan law, we (the village and our sawing effort) are required to plant 5 seedlings for each tree that we harvest. Our effort is trying to surpass the minimum required by law and reforest in partnership with the villages where we are working. So far, the transplanting effort has been a combination of efforts by our sawmill operators, a few adult volunteers in the villages, and lots of young elementary students in each of the villages. We are educating the students about how and why we are reforesting, as well as communicating with them that they are the rightful owners of these new pine trees that will reach maturity in 30-35 years. Fire is the greatest danger to these young

trees after the roots take hold. That is why it is so critical to first transplant during the rainy season (June-December) and also that the village protect the young trees from the rampant grass fires that burn the pine savannahs several times each dry season.

INAFOR (the Nicaragua Forestry Agency) has donated all of the pine seedlings so far and the local Puerto Cabezas office has been able to show their bosses from Managua that reforestation is actually taking place. To date, we are the ONLY organization that anyone is aware of in the RAAN that has reforested since Hurricane Felix hit here almost one year ago.

Administration continues to be a major focus of our training and improvement during the past months.



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We are refining our monthly budgets, learning to further reduce costs, and better manage resources. Roy Fredricks has been added to the administrative team in Puerto Cabezas. Roy is trilingual (Miskito, Spanish, and English) and has been working as a sawmill operator the past 3 months in Yulu Tingni and Klingna.

We have overhauled one of the KOHLER gasoline engines and are now waiting on basic parts from the U.S. to rebuild one of the Deutz diesel engines as well. We are still open to and in need of the help and training of someone who might be interested in teaching basic engine maintenance and repair for 2+ months and overseeing these rebuilds.

Please feel free to contact us with questions or interest. We are hoping to increase our engine major repair capabilities over the next few months.

Once again, I want to thank all of the people who are encouraging us and supporting this effort to make

good of a tough situation. Hurricane Felix ravished the Northeast coast of Nicaragua, but now lots of families have been able to rebuild. Additionally 30 families are being supported directly by the employment efforts that MDR/ADSIM have gotten involved in through the sawing effort. We also praise God for the opportunity to use our time and talents to share His love with so many of the folks here on the East Coast of Nicaragua. Please continue to pray for our safety as we saw lots of lumber in the coming months.

Ray Griggs

(Editor's note: Ray will be returning to Texas the last part of September.)

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

President: (TBA)

Advisor: Dr. Larry Koslovsky

Members:

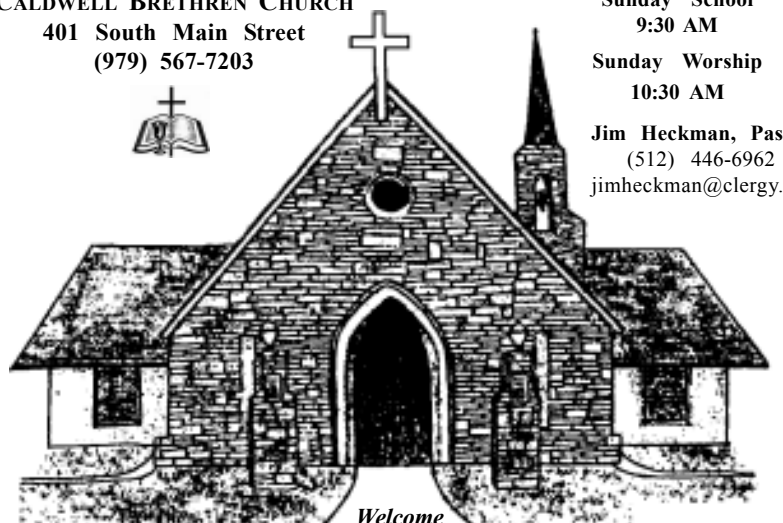
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Welcome

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October 24-26, 2008

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A time of concentrated work, learning, fun, & worship in a Christian setting.

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Open to anyone who enjoys scrapbooking, card making, etc. Youth group and leader(s); historian/reporter working on a group scrapbook; mother and daughter(s); aunt and nieces; group of young mothers trying to get those baby pictures in order; the family historian working on a heritage album; the person who has never done any stamping or scrapbooking; the occasional worker; the "pro"!

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For registration forms or more information regarding this retreat contact: Kimberly Stewart at (512) 846-2925 or kcstew@austin.rr.com

Youth Schedule

2008

October 10-13 National Youth Workers Convention, Sacramento

October 24-26 Fall Scrappin' & Stampin' Retreat

October 24-25 Women of Faith, Houston

October 21-November 3 National Youth Workers Convention

November 8 & 9 Fall B.Y.F. Retreat

November 21-24 National Youth Workers Convention, Nashville

2009

January 23-24 Planet Wisdom, Houston

January 23-24 Acquire the Fire, Houston

January 23-24 Hot Hearts, Beaumont

February 6-7 Hot Hearts, Texarkana

February 13-14 Revolve Tour, Houston

February 20-22 Spring Scrappin' & Stampin' Retreat

February 20-21 Acquire the Fire, San Antonio

February 20-21 Hot Hearts, Hill Country

March 6-7 Acquire the Fire, Fort Worth

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Sunday School – 9:30 A.M.

Worship – 10:45 A.M.

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Pastor: Rev. Thomas Tallas

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rev.tjt@verizon.net

Chairman, Board of Elders

Jimmie Brenek, (325) 469-3733

“Come as a guest, leave as a friend”

MUTUAL AID SOCIETY OF THE UNITY OF THE BRETHREN 60TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION JULY 12, 2008, OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

WORSHIP SERVICE

The Convention was called to order by the Rev. Joseph Polasek at 9:00 a.m. He was assisted by Ocker Brethren Church Elders, in the opening Service. The worship service included the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The offering, which was divided with the Ocker Brethren Church, was \$318.

During the Memorial Service, Natalie Outlaw read the names of 46 adult members who were deceased since the last Convention. As each name was read, a white carnation was placed into a vase by Dorothy Hinson, Board Member and Houston Local #23 member, and Sharon Hohmann, Wall Local #25.

Following the service, refreshments were served by the Ocker Church.

CALL TO ORDER

The convention was called to order by Rev. Joseph Polasek at 10:30 a.m.

WELCOME & RESPONSES

Bill McGuire, Ocker Board of Elders President, welcomed the Convention to Ocker Brethren Church. Eugene Haisler, Ocker #8 Local President also welcomed the Convention. Rev. Joseph Polasek made a response on behalf of the Mutual Aid Society.

ROLL CALL

Dorothy Hinson assisted in roll call by distributing Convention packets to the Delegates. Officers, Del-

egates and Ministers present were given their Convention packets. Present were 5 Ministers, 16 Delegates, 6 Officers, and 26 Guests, making a total of 53 people present at the Convention.

ELECTION OF CONVENTION OFFICERS

Dorothy Vitek moved and Daniel Psencik seconded that Convention officers be the members of the Administrative Board. Motion carried.

The Convention Officers were: Chairman, Rev. Joseph Polasek; Vice-Chairman, Mr. John Vojtek; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Natalie Outlaw; Assistant Recording Secretary, Guy Huffman.

APPOINTMENT OF CONVENTION COMMITTEES

Convention Committees were named by Rev. Polasek.

READING OF LETTERS AND GREETINGS

John Vojtek brought greetings on behalf of Rev. Beseda. Rev. Maly brought a health update on Rev. Beseda. Rev. Polasek welcomed Rev. Michalik and expressed gratitude that he was able to attend considering recent health problems. Claren Kotrla brought greetings and thanks to everyone for doing God's important work, on behalf of the Unity and Synodical Committee.



READING OF MINUTES OF LAST CONVENTION

Sharon Hohmann moved, Dorothy Kocian seconded, that the Motions only from the 59th Convention be read. Motion Carried.

Natalie Outlaw read the Motions from the 59th Convention. Wilbert Milburger moved, Joyce Skrabanek seconded to accept the minutes. Motion Carried.

OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Rev. Polasek reviewed select motions of the previous Convention.

Number 3 – Stated that Fayetteville has been reinstated as Mutual Aid Local #5.

Number 4 – No workshops held due to lack of necessity.

Number 5 – The MASUB Board recommends amending Motion #5 to read ‘a number equivalent to 25% of the number of active communicate members’. Ann Sebesta moved that Motion #5 be amended to include ‘a number equivalent to 25% of the number of active communicate members’. Eugene Haisler, seconded. Motion Carried.

Number 7 – Proposal will be discussed by the Motions Committee who will bring a recommendation to the Convention.

Rev. Polasek asked for other Old or Unfinished Business. There was none.

RECOGNITIONS

Mrs. Outlaw recognized 4 Local Secretaries for their service: Ann Sebesta, Snook #7 Delegate, accepted for Marie Shelfer, Snook Local #7, a bronze pin for 5 years of service as Local Secretary; Joyce Skrabanek,

Seaton Local #16, received a bronze pin for 6 years of service as Local Secretary; Betty Orsag, Pasadena Local #33, received a silver pin for 21 years of service as Local Secretary; Evelyn Henry, New Tabor Local #13, received a gold pin for 31 years of service as Local Secretary.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

President's Report – Rev. Joseph Polasek read his report. (Copy attached.) Addition to the report - Cy-Fair church has been sold and loan paid off.

Vice-President's Report – John Vojtek thanked convention for watch presented at last Convention.

General Secretary's Report – Mrs. Outlaw gave her report.

Treasurer's Report – Mr. Guy Huffman gave his report. Total Current Assets are \$ 650,384.39.

Junior Department – Mr. Stanley Mrnustik gave his report.

Board Member: Dorothy Hinson thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve on the Board.

Evelyn Henry moved and Daniel Psencik seconded that the Officer reports be accepted as read. Motion carried.

Rev. Polasek read the letter sent to Fayetteville in April 2008 reinstating them as Local #5.

A possible motion to increase the mileage paid for travel was discussed. Question was raised by Rev. Polasek, does anyone object to mileage remaining at \$0.20 per mile for this Convention. No one objected, so discussion was suspended and the issue

will be left to the Motions Committee.

LUNCH BREAK

Rev. Albert Michalik led the Congregation in a prayer for the meal. The Convention was recessed for lunch at 12:05.

Rev. Polasek opened the afternoon session with prayer at 2:00 pm.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Publicity: Dorothy Kocian read the report.

Budget: Martha Huffman read the proposed budget for 2008-2010. Martha Huffman moved and John Vojtek seconded that the budget be accepted. Discussion. Motion carried. The final budget will be submitted to *The Brethren Journal* along with the minutes from this Convention.

Credentials: Evelyn Henry reported that mileage expenses for the convention totaled \$ 551.20 to 16 delegates, \$58 to 2 Board members, and \$77.20 to 3 pastors for a total of \$686.40. The committee made the distributions. Meal expenses were \$208 (26 x \$8.00) for 6 Board members, 4 pastors, and 16 delegates.

Audit: Ann Sebesta read the audit report that had previously been sent to the MASUB Board.

John Vojtek moved, Dorothy Kocian seconded to release the Budget, Credentials and Audit committees. Motion carried.

Motions: Marie Ann Ripple presented the following motions:

1. Motion to offer a lifetime membership to Mutual Aid (to provide a solution for continued membership in the event that the membership being paid by a parent or grandparent is

discontinued). Eugene Haisler seconded. Discussion. Would apply to both Junior and Adult members. Would not replace current membership options. Ann Sebesta moved to amend the motion to give the Administrative Board authority to determine the details of this new option and implement it as soon as a viable fee structure has been established. Joa Boelsche seconded the amendment. Amendment Carried. Motion to offer a lifetime membership to Mutual Aid and to give the Administrative Board authority to determine the details of this new option and implement it as soon as a viable fee structure has been established. Motion as Amended Carried.

2. Motion to send all Junior Dept. applications and fees to the General Secretary so that all of the data would be entered into the computer for efficiency and accuracy. The paperwork for transferring from the Junior Dept. to the adult dept. will also be handled through the General Secretary's office. The Junior Dept. Secretary would continue the banking and certificate generation duties. Angie Malicoat seconded. Discussion. Motion carried.

3. Each Convention is to decide the amount of the mileage reimbursement to be paid to delegates, officers and ministers. This amount will remain in effect for reimbursement to officers until the next Convention. Wilbert Milberger seconded. Discussion. By-laws change required. John Vojtek moved to amend the motion to read: The Administrative Board is to determine the mileage reimbursement rate prior to each convention. Amendment seconded by Ann Sebesta.



Amendment Carried. The Admin. Board is to decide the amount of the mileage reimbursement to be paid to delegates, officers and ministers prior to each convention. This amount will remain in effect for reimbursement to officers until the next Convention. Motion as Amended Carries.

4. Through a special membership, allow those who are currently ineligible to join the Mutual Aid Society due to being over the age of 60 to join for the purposes of voting and representation rights. Specifically, members over 60 can join through their local at the amount of \$100 per year until they reach a maximum of the current death benefit amount to these special members who join after the age of 60 will be limited to the amount that the member has paid to the Mutual Aid Society. No physical examination will be required for these members upon joining. Died for lack of second.

5. John Vojtek moved to permit persons over the age of 60 who are currently ineligible to join the Mutual Aid Society (Constitution, Art. III, 2) to join for purposes of voting and representation. Specifically, members over 60 can join through their local at \$100 per year until they reach the maximum current death benefit. Furthermore, the death benefit paid to members who join after the age of 60 will be limited to the amount the member has paid to the Mutual Aid Society, solely for benevolent purposes, to do so without adding liability to the Mutual Aid Society. Daniel Psencik moved, Sharon Hohmann seconded that the Motions Committee be released. Motion Carried.

poses of voting and representation. Specifically, members over 60 can join through their local at \$100 per year until they reach the maximum current death benefit. Furthermore, the death benefit paid to members who join after the age of 60 will be limited to the amount the member has paid to the Mutual Aid Society. No physical examination will be required for these members upon joining. Dorothy Hinson Seconded. Motion Carried.

Explanation to Motion #5: The Mutual Aid Society of the Unity of the Brethren exists as a benevolent organization that helps those at a time of need in their life. Our primary purpose is to help the Unity by lending money for construction of facilities with very few requirements needed to qualify and at a lower rate of interest. Currently more money is paid in death benefits than is received in membership dues and assessments. Allowing members over the age of 60 to join for death benefit purposes would accelerate the reduction of funds. Yet, not allowing members over the age of 60 prevents this large segment of our population from having a voice in our benevolent society. The above proposed motion would allow those who want to join the Mutual Aid Society, solely for benevolent purposes, to do so without adding liability to the Mutual Aid Society.

Daniel Psencik moved, Sharon Hohmann seconded that the Motions Committee be released. Motion Carried.

6. Martha Huffman moved to replace the current by-law addressing mileage reimbursement (Art III, #12) with the motion that was passed addressing mileage reimbursement. John

Vojtek seconded. 15 for, 0 against. Motion Carried.

Rev. Polasek asked for motions from the floor. There were none.

NEW BUSINESS

Rev. Polasek asked for any more new business from the floor. There was none.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Three positions were open for election, those held by Dorothy Hinson, Stanley Mrnustik, and Natalie Outlaw. Daniel Psencik moved and Angie Malicoat seconded that these officers be re-elected for 4 year terms. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF AUDITING COMMITTEE

Dorothy Hinson moved, John Vojtek seconded to amend By-Laws Art. III #22 b to read 2 audit committee members instead of 3. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Stanley Mrnustik moved, Marie Ann Ripple seconded that Evelyn Henry and Ann Sebesta be re-elected to the Auditing Committee. Motion carried.

INVITATIONS

An invitation for the 61st Convention in 2010 was received from Nelsonville. John Vojtek moved, Wilburt Milberger seconded to accept the invitation. Motion Carried.

Eugene Haisler moved and Sharon Hohmann seconded to pay the Recording Secretary \$150 and the Assistant Recording Secretary \$75. Motion carried.

FINAL READING OF MINUTES

Mrs. Outlaw read the minutes of the 60th Convention. Dorothy Hinson moved, Evelyn Henry seconded that the minutes be approved as read and amended. Motion carried.

Eugene Haisler invited everyone for coffee and kolaches.

The Administrative Board officers for 2008-2010 will be:

President: Rev. Joseph Polasek

Vice-President: Mr. John Vojtek

Treasurer: Mr. Guy Huffman

General Sec.: Mrs. Natalie Outlaw

Secretary-Treasurer Junior Department: Mr. Stanley Mrnustik

Board Member: Mrs. Dorothy Hinson

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Rev. Lawrence Junek installed the officers. Rev. Polasek thanked everyone attending.

CLOSING OF CONVENTION

Rev. Polasek led everyone in *Blest Be the Tie that Binds* to close the Convention at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Natalie Outlaw,
Recording Secretary

**Visit the Unity of the
Brethren Website:
unityofthebrethren.org**

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for October 2008

Dorothy E. Kocian

1. Our Savior saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:5
2. John said, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come." Lk. 3:16a
3. "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." Lk. 3:16b
4. The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Rom. 8:16
5. **Through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of Life set me free from the law of sin and death. Rom. 8:2**
6. We must obey God rather than men. Acts 5:27
7. Avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. Titus 3:9
8. We received grace and apostleship to call people to the obedience that comes from faith. Rom. 1:5
9. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised. 1 Pet. 4:11
10. Fear the Lord your God and serve him; hold fast to him. Deut. 10:20
11. Even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many. Mk. 10:45
12. **Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. Mk. 10:44**
13. In your heart set apart Christ as Lord. 1 Pet. 3:15a
14. Be clear-minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. 1 Pet. 4:7
15. You also are among those are called to belong to Jesus Christ. Rom. 1:6
16. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Ps. 51:10
17. Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out. Acts 3:19
18. Stand firm in the spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel. Phil. 1:27
19. **For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. Phil. 1:21**
20. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit is upon you, and you will be my witnesses. Acts 1:8
21. I always thank God for you because of His grace given for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Cor. 1:4
22. We speak as persons approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. 2 Thes. 2:4a
23. We are not trying to please men, but God, who tests our heart. 2 Thes. 2:4b
24. Preach the Word; be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not; correct, rebuke, and encourage. 2 Tim. 4:2
25. Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Mt. 28:19
26. **Day after day, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ. Acts 5:42**
27. As God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Col. 3:12
28. Bear with each other and forgive, as the Lord forgave you. Col. 3:13
29. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. Col. 3:15
30. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Eph. 4:2
31. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Eph. 4:3

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VITAL STATISTICS

MEMBERS RECEIVED

By Confirmation of Faith:

AMY NICOLE HOLECEK, on July 13, 2008 at the West Brethren Church.

RECENT DEATHS

SMART, MELISSA (COLLIER), age 37, died on August 8, 2008, at Columbus, Georgia. She was born on October 28, 1970, in Temple, Texas, and is survived by her parents Jack and Dorothy Sefcik Collier, 2 daughters, and a brother. She was buried at Parkhill Cemetery in Columbus on August 11, 2008. A memorial service was held at the Scanio-Harper Funeral Home chapel in Temple on August 16, 2008. Minister: Mark L. Labaj.

MARESH, ADILA (WEHRING), age 92 and a member of the Nelsonville Brethren Church, died on August 16, 2008, at Bellville, Texas. She was born on September 2, 1915, at Bleiberville, Texas, and married Ben Maresh on November 25, 1937. Mrs. Maresh is survived by three children, four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Services were on August 19, 2008, from the Nelsonville Brethren Church with burial in the National Cemetery. Minister: Michael Groseclose.

PINTER, WILLIAM JOHN, 92 and a member of the West Brethren Church, died on July 20, 2008. Mr. Pinter served the Lord as an Elder and a Sunday School Officer in his congregation. He was born on August 7, 1915, in Abbott, Texas. Surviving are a sister, two daughters, four grandchildren, and one great grandchild. Services were from the West Brethren Church with burial in that church's cemetery. Minister: Curtis Holland.

KOTRLA, AUGUST, age 87, died on July 29, 2008. He was born on June 21, 1921, to Joe and Albina Kotrla. Survivors include his wife Henrietta Gordon, one daughter, two sons, two grandchildren, one brother, and one sister. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Olga Kotrla, one daughter, four brothers, and three sisters. Services were held August 2, 2008, at the Taylor Brethren Church, with the Rev. James Hejl officiating.

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Friends of the Hus Encampment Representative:

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Brethren Youth Fellowship Representative:

(Currently vacant)

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Camp Caretakers:

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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.

Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

Keep these activities in your prayers.

October 4: At 9:00 AM: Fall meeting of the Synodical Committee, at Hus School Encampment.

October 10-12: The 14th Annual Primetimers' (age 50+) Retreat at the Hus School Encampment. (See registration forms and details at your local church. **Registratio Deadline – October 10**).

October 24-26: Scrappin' and Stampin' Retreat t the Hus School Encampment..

November 1 (Saturday): The Seaton Christian Sisters bake sale and quilt show (see details below).

November 8 (Saturday): The annual Houston Brethren Christian Sisters Harvest Dinner (see details below).

UNITY OF THE BRETHREN YOUTH DIRECTOR

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

We are invited . . .

. . . to the Seaton Brethren Church on Saturday, November 1. The Christian Sisters of this congregation are hosting a bake sale and quilt show on Saturday, November 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the church, located at 12561 State Highway 53, Temple (Seaton community).

Some of the items featured in the sale will be baked goods including kolaches, cakes, pies, cookies and bread, as well as craft items and canned goods. Sandwiches and home-made soup will be available to purchase for lunch. Quilts will be on display in the sanctuary.

A hand-made quilt and a floral arrangement will be given away for a donation of \$1.00 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$5.00. The proceeds from the fund-raiser benefit the many projects the Sisters' support. The sale is open to the public with free admission.

. . . to the Houston Brethren Christian Sisters Harvest Dinner at the church (6207 North Main Street) on Saturday, November 8. Come for a turkey and dressing and all the trimming dinner with serving from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. There will be a Country Store featuring all kinds of homemade goodies. A raffle will be held at 5:30 p.m. for a quilt and other valuable items. Join us for a time of good food, fun, and fellowship.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES OCTOBER 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 –
Worship - 5:00 PM
Bible Study - 6:15 PM
– Kay Polasek

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

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

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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