

THE BRETHREN



JOURNAL



Vol. 107

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28 Pages



2008 Pioneer Conference

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Ocker expands facilities

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. . . and much, much more!

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

EDITOR – Rev. Milton A. Maly
6703 FM 2502
Brenham, TX 77833-9803
(979) 277-2619
miltmaly@industrybrethrenchurch.org

BUSINESS MANAGER –
Cathleen Schlechte
3635 CR 225
Caldwell, TX 77836
schlechte86@msn.com
(979) 255-8266

BUSINESS COMMITTEE –
President: Rev. Joe Emerson
Treasurer: Alice Kocurek
Secretary: Cathleen Schlechte,
Bryan/College Station

CONTRIBUTING WRITER –
Daily Morsels: Dorothy Kocian,
107 S. Barbara, Waco, TX 76705-1317.

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Touches of Grace

- by Macie (Merz) Gonzalez

O, how precious, that from the
Master's Hand come
Touches of Grace so sweet
They cause flowers to bloom.

Yes! And tears melt away beneath
His shield of intimacy-
Years of aches and wounds drift
by
Like drops of rain down life's
plated windowsills...

Mixing and making oceans with
joy and floods of delight
Intertwined for a rushing current
of God's peace –
For all to know.

O, the *Peace* of God alone.
That Love which shifts the ocean's
tides
And changes darkness into light.

Beams peek from beneath crevices
Of drought and destruction – and
darkness within.
To know the light has come is to
see The Light Himself.

To know my Maker, my Father,
my Friend,
Is to know Eternity without end.
To know Joy Himself is to see an
end
To drought and destruction's rule
in Men.

O, to go Home and be with Him,
Yet O, to see Him *Yours* again.

And so I wait...with expectation –
You are His Love and Destination.
Can't you see – and will you soon?
His goodness true and passion
sure
Are *yours* to receive and revel in.

Receive and become *Beloved* once
more.

President's Column . . . Claren Kotrla

PRAYER

Prayer is something we are aware
of and use when needed. After think-
ing about how we use
prayer, I reviewed Mat-
thew 6 and a few other
references and came up
with some interesting ob-
servations. Not being a
theological scholar and
making no claim to a deep
or comprehensive under-
standing of prayer, I will
only share this layman's thoughts.



Matthew 6 appears to have an
overall theme of saying that what we
do, be it charity or prayer, or fasting,
to do it in private and without seeking
recognition from others. In other words
don't make a big show of what you
are doing. Just do it in a humble and
private manner for Christ. Christ en-
courages us to not be like the hypo-
crites who stand up and pray in the
houses of worship and on the street
corners, so that everyone will see

them. These people will have received
their rewards on earth. He encour-
ages us not to use exces-
sive and meaningless
words because He already
knows what we need. He
also says we should not
keep on babbling like
pagans.

While living in Saudi
Arabia I found that the
Moslem's looked at Chris-
tianity as the religion that doesn't
pray. This is because their religion
calls for them to pray five times a day
during prayer call. The first of these
calls is when a black string and a
white string are held up. When the
viewer is able to distinguish the two
colors he goes to the top of the
mosque and initiates the first of the
five prayer calls. This first call can be
as early as 3:30 in the morning and, as
might be expected, not fully attended.



A Note to the Readership... from the editor

The idea of including a Children's
Section in each issue of *The Brethren
Journal* was discussed at the Fall
(October 4) meeting of this
publication's Business Committee.

This proposal owes a debt of grati-
tude to Angie Hairrell, who is offering
to create such a section. A sample of
that proposed project was sent to the
members of the Business Committee
and was met with enthusiastic ap-
proval at the October 4 meeting.

I am requesting Angie to create a
sample of what she could do in this
regard for the December issue of the
BJ, and I am asking you, the readers,
to share your opinion regarding this
idea.

Please feel free to communicate
with me, Rev. Joe Emerson, or any
other member of the Business
Committee.

Thanking you,
Rev. Milton Maly, editor

The other calls are spaced out throughout the day. The majority of the men go to a mosque to pray where it is formal with kneeling and bowing while reciting the appropriate prayer. If they are not near a mosque, they take their prayer rug, face Mecca, and recite their prayers in that manner. It is a very public and formal activity. When contrasted with Christianity, where we pray more privately in our homes and at meals, and in Church during services, it is understandable that they would incorrectly see Christians as a non praying religion.

Let's take a look at how Christ said we should pray in the Lord's Prayer. I have divided this prayer into five parts for this discussion. "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." This part of the prayer acknowledges God and asks that His will be done, not our will be done. When we pray and tell God what outcome He has to provide we are missing the point and telling him that we want our will to be done. Remember, He already knows what we want and He has the plan. That raises an interesting question. If He already knows what we want, why bother with prayer? I see it as an acknowledgement of our relationship with Christ and of God's supremacy. It is also our communication with God. As parents we have a hint of this. When our children come to ask us for something, we more often than not know what they really want before they ask. But it is important to them to be able to express what they see as their needs. Maybe they ask for a pair of tennis shoes that are expensive and not too practical. We

provide them with the shoes they really need. They didn't get what they wanted, but they received what they needed. Other times they will ask for a special toy and we will go out of our way to find it for them. In that case they receive not only what they wanted, but what they needed. On a grander scale, I see our prayer relationship with God in a similar manner.

"Give us our daily bread" is the next part of the Lord's Prayer. This is where we ask for His support. I view this as more than just bread. It is where we ask for what we see are our needs. However, it is not a government entitlement program where we demand services and goods because it is our right. It is where we express our desires and request for His intervention while remembering the first part of this prayer where it is His will rather than our will that needs to be met. Many times this is the section of the prayer we focus on. We express our wants rather than expressing our gratefulness. We demand our outcome rather than asking God for His outcome to our perceived needs. We are usually selfish in this aspect of our prayers. It is interesting that even when we ask for His help for others it is sometimes really asking for relief of our grief, concern, or even guilt as in "but for the Grace of God go I." We sometimes tell Him what He must do to gain our favor, and in so doing totally miss the point of prayer.

Next we move on to "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." We usually get the first part of this right. We do ask forgiveness for what we believe we have done wrong. We feel a need to do this to insure that we get into heaven. But

we don't always address the second part where we forgive others. These two are intentionally closely linked together. We can't expect to have our transgressions forgiven if we aren't willing to forgive others for their transgressions toward us or those we love. Maybe in our prayer activities we should search deeply within ourselves to insure we are forgiving others.

Finally "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one" asks God for protection from temptation and evil. This does not mean that if we succumb to temptation it was God's will. Believers in Islam have a phrase (God willing) to cover this issue. Unfortunately, it is used to excuse bad behavior as simply being God's will that I chose to do something immoral or failed to meet a

responsibility. It is easy for Christians to move into that mode of living and continue improper actions while hoping that indeed what we are doing is God's will. We do have free will and will be held accountable. I believe "Deliver us from the evil one" addresses more than superficial temptation. I see this as asking for protection from the evil forces of the devil that we don't fully understand. It can manifest itself as gossip, false witness against others, delighting in the failure of others, and standing in the way of those who are earnestly trying to go about Christ's work.

This is not intended to be an in-depth theological review of the Lord's prayer. Hopefully it will be a springboard for each of us to reflect on our pray life and make adjustments to be more Christ like.

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(254) 983-1002

Hurricane Ike Damage... a short report from Brethren who lived through that storm

President Claren Kotrla spoke with folks in the Port Arthur, Crosby, Pasadena, and Rosenberg congregations. He writes: "...everyone seems to have come out of the hurricane with minimal damage. Of course, widespread power outages occurred, but there doesn't seem to have been any major damage to Unity members' properties. Several people (including the Good Shepherd Moravian Brethren of Port Arthur) stayed at the Hus Encampment."

John David Skrivanek of the Houston Brethren reports minor damage to the worship facility, but several trees were uprooted and lost, including the three "Rev. Hodge" trees that had been planted in 2000 to commemorate

that faithful pastor's 80th birthday.

Brother Scott Keaton wrote of his first-hand experience with the storm: "I sat in my living room while the rest of my family was in the closet. I prayed continuously that no harm would come to any structures around me. Sometime in the middle of the second half of the storm I heard a tornado, not a good sound when you live in a double wide."

However, when the storm was over, Bro. Keaton found most of the structure intact... but, as with the entire area, there was much clean-up to do. The temporary loss of power was experienced by all in that part of Texas... even as far north as Caldwell.

REPORT of the Unity of the Brethren Synodical Committee Meeting

October 4, 2008

- by *Kathy Harrison, Secretary*

IN ESSENTIAL, UNITY; IN NON-ESSENTIALS, LIBERTY; IN ALLTHINGS, LOVE

The meeting was called to order by President Claren Kotrla. A devotional was given by Rev. Larry Butcher based on Mark 4:21, "Measure What You Do."

A report was given by Secretary, Kathy Harrison, updating email addresses and requesting Pastors to be sure to communicate with your representative. She presented a reminder that the 2007 Questionnaires are still due from BCS, Crosby, Faith Brethren, Granger, New Tabor, Pasadena, Snook, Taylor & West. The 2008 Questionnaires will be going out in January 2009. She noted that if someone

wanted to obtain a copy of the Revised Bylaws they were to see Rev. Jimmy Hejl. She announced that the 2009 Convention will be held July 9, 10 & 11, at Temple Brethren Church; reports are due to the secretary from officers/organizations by June 15, 2009.

President Claren Kotrla reported that he had visited Granger, Caldwell, and Dime Box. He reported that Dawn Marie Baletka was appointed the President of the Pastoral Relations Committee and that Rev. Jimmy Hejl had resigned from his position of Third Vice President; Rev. Mike Groseclose



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How It All Began

A History of the Unity of the Brethren

By Rev. Daniel J. Marek

A compilation of Rev. Marek's articles and translations of articles written from 1986-2004. These articles appeared in various issues of *The Brethren Journal*. Hard Cover, 159 pages. Includes a section on the Unity's beginnings in Texas and a section on the Unity's European history.

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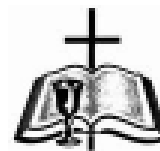
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Worship 9 AM
Study 10:30 AM
(No service on
fifth Sunday.)



Rev. Johnny Kueker
P.O. Box 325
Buckholts, Texas 76518
(254) 605-0434

was appointed to that position.

Rev. Larry Koslovsky gave a presentation on the definition of Stewards and Stewardship. He noted that it took Time, Talent, and Treasure. Pastors and ministers are called by God and entrusted with the Gospel. He also said that the way we can be good Stewards is to listen to God's voice.

Reports were given by the Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Mission Board, Pastoral Relations Committee, Hus School Board of Trustees, Hus School Land Acquisition Committee, Mutual Aid, Book Store Manager, Minister's Insurance Committee, and In God's Hands Ministry.

The Credentialing Committee report was given by Rev. Larry Koslovsky. Rev. Koslovsky conveyed information regarding the study and

development of Seminar Courses for School of Ministry which is incorporated outside of Unity.

Motions were given and passed as follows (each gave background reviews):

a) to accept Jerry L. Terrill, D.Min. as Associate Pastor within the Unity of the Brethren (Houston).

b) to accept Larry Zabcik as a licensed Pastor of Temple Brethren Church.

c) to accept Denise Mikeska as a Ministerial Student within the Unity of the Brethren.

d) to accept Steven Davis as a Ministerial Student within the Unity of the Brethren.

Mark Sebek is still in conference with Credentialing Committee

Rev. Mike Groseclose reported that there has been a new search commit-

tee formed to fill the State Youth Coordinator's position. All resumes are to be re-processed and sent directly to him.

Rev. Jim Heckman gave a report and presentation on an IRS Workshop: "IRS Resources on Tax Exempt."

Rev. Milton Maly gave a report on *The Brethren Journal*, and Rev. Joe Emerson gave a report on *The Brethren Journal* financing, concluding with request of financial assistance.

There was a motion to give *The Brethren Journal* \$10,000.00 out of contingency funds and was passed. The committee is to come up with a business plan to make it solvent.

Pastor Kay Polasek gave a report on the combining of the Board of Christian Education and the Sunday School Union. The Sunday School Union merged with Board of Christian

Education, being under direction of the Synodical Committee. The Committee will consist of the existing members of Board of Christian Education and the Sunday School Union with funds being moved to the Board of Christian Education.

Rev. Linda Chandler gave a full report and presentation on the Southern Province Synod of the Moravian Church that she attended. Points given were: 1) Realizing what the Lord is calling us to do, 2) Move to missions, and 3) God is on the move!

President Claren Kotrla reported on Liability Issues and will be getting a report out giving options in reference to funds of a congregation that would dissolve.

The next Synodical Committee Meeting will be on March 28, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the Hus Encampment.



(l to r): Steven Davis, Dense Mikeska, Jerry L. Terrill, Larry Zabcik

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
Chairperson: Dr. Dawn Marie Baletka,
BaletkaD@navasotaisd.org
Syndical Committee Liaison: Dr. Larry
Koslovsky
Members: Eugene Haisler, dmheeh@msn.com
Tami Laza, tami.laza@verizon.net
Kim Ulmer, kimulmer@mail.ecpi.com

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of the Brethren agency
as a beneficiary in an
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Ocker Brethren Church Expansion –

On an empty grassy area behind the present Fellowship Building, we are constructing a 50' x 100' metal building, housing six Sunday School Classrooms, bathrooms, and a large multi-purpose area with a large storage area overhead. This building will be joined to the present Fellowship Building by an enclosed passageway.



Construction started July 22, 2008. The foundation was poured August 21, 2008, framing began September 19, 2008. October 3, 2008, the metal sides are being put on.

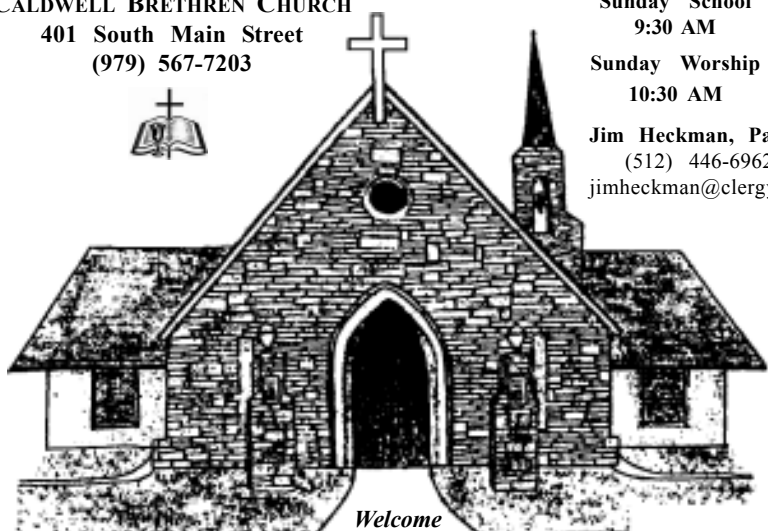
We feel truly blessed to have been able to undertake this project and pray that GOD will be honored in all we do.

Lanelle Lesikar, Ocker Brethren Church

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Welcome

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 Sunday Worship
 10:30 AM
 Jim Heckman, Pastor
 (512) 446-6962
 jimheckman@clergy.net

A Report on the 2008 Pioneer Conference

- by Jon Farrow



We praise God for the success of Pioneer Camp this past summer. There were 39 campers this year. Brother Dave from New Tabor was the Spiritual Leader, and the theme was "Road Trip to Eternity." It was very inspirational to see so many of the young people grow in their faith as the week progressed. The enthusiasm of the campers and the dedication of the camp

directors, the counselors, and the support staff were truly a blessing. Of course, the support of the Unity Congregations continues to be a blessing and is very much appreciated. We all are anxious to see what the Lord has in store for us at Pioneer Camp 2009.



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Youth Schedule

November 8 & 9 Fall B.Y.F. Retreat: Theme: "No Fear"
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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<i>James D. Hejl</i>	<i>Sidney Srensky</i>	<i>Mary Kokes</i>
<i>512-365-6890</i>	<i>512-365-1142</i>	<i>M-Th 8:00 am-noon</i>

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Westheimercommunitychurch.org



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

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

Announcing the 2009 "Joyful Noise!" Choral Retreat January 9-11, at the Hus Encampment



Participants at the 2008 Retreat

Join us for the 3rd annual denomination-wide choral retreat! Spend the weekend rehearsing new liturgical music while sharing your talents with other members of the denomination and followers of Christ. Workshops, rehearsal times, fellowship time, and a concert will be the highlights of the weekend. Registration forms are available at your church office, or you can

request an online form from Angela Farris at akaycat@gmail.com.

Clinician:

Daniel Farris is on the music faculty at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. He has taught music at the public school and college levels for 10 years, and he has worked in



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church music for a combined 18 years in San Angelo, TX; Denton, TX; Flower Mound, TX; other DFW cities, and Elk City, OK. He was the conductor of the Coppell Community Chorale for two years, and serves as a clinician and adjudicator in the DFW and surrounding areas. This is his third year as clinician for the *Joyful Noise!* Choral Retreat.

Who's Invited?

Anyone ages 12-200. If you sing in the shower, the car, or in your head, we would LOVE for you to join us!

Retreat Registration Fee: \$80

Fee includes:

- Building Usage for the weekend
- Music Packet (*you will get to keep the packet – includes at least 6 pieces of music*)
- Friday night & Saturday's Meals
- Sunday Breakfast
- All snacks for the weekend

Non-Singer Registration Fee: \$45
(excludes music packet)

Deposit Required:

- \$30 per person by December 15, 2008

- All childcare fees due with deposit
- All Fees paid in full on the day of the retreat

Childcare Option:

Childcare is available for attendants of the retreat. The parent is responsible for the child during all meals, devotionals, vespers, and bed-times (the child will room with one of the parents).

Childcare fee: \$30 per child

This fee includes the entire weekend with meals.

Childcare fee must be included with the required deposit.

NEW AT THE 2009 RETREAT

There will be an open dress rehearsal Saturday, January 10, at 7 pm for all congregations and community members. The music will be performed in the HUS encampment classroom building with a reception following in the main hall. Everyone is also invited to attend the hymn sing and vesper after the reception.

Music Scholarship Program

Any extra monies collected from the registration fees will be used for a music scholarship. College students

within the denomination who will be enrolled as a music major or in choir/band/orchestra are encouraged to apply for this scholarship. The number of scholarships awarded will depend on the amount of monies

collected. If you are not attending the retreat but wish to donate to the scholarship fund, contact Angela Farris at akaycat@gmail.com.

Thank you!

Seaton Brethren Church

**12561 State Highway 53
Temple, Texas 76501
254-985-2694**



Sunday Schedule

- 9:15 a.m.
Prayer Gathering
- 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School for ALL Ages
- 10:30 a.m.
Worship Service

Wednesday Schedule

- 6:30 p.m.
Kid's NITE Out (ages 3-5th gr.)
- Priority ONE Youth (6th – 12th gr.)
- Adult Bible Study
- 7:30 p.m.
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Pastor
Rev. Joe Emerson
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(254) 931-1653 cell

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

From the Thiessens...

September 11, 2008

Dear friends,

I just came back from Yuvinani, Guerrero. I haven't been out there very often these last years. It's a long story, but the short of it is that the small church there has done very little to reach out to its townspeople, let alone the dozens of villages all around. Why? In part because it adopted a city model of church, in an incredibly remote and indigenous area.

I remember back when Alfonso, whom I disciplined from 1995-1998, wanted something different. At that time I was visiting him every two weeks, teaching him carpentry and mentoring him in church leadership. He was the only leader to stay behind when the rest took off to the US to work. It was in those years that we translated leadership training materials into Mixtec, week by week taking one or two out to put into practice in Yuvinani. Alfonso was eagerly discipling others and exploring ways of keeping church indigenous.

Then in '98 the men of the church returned, bringing with them an insistent need to look like a traditional city church, and they sidelined Alfonso, ignoring his sacrifice in staying be-

hind and barely getting by while they worked for American dollars. Perhaps this doesn't justify Alfonso's spiritual cooling, but it does put it into perspective. He slowly went into a ten-year sleep, eventually not bothering to attend services. He suffered some traumatic family setbacks, too, including the disappearance of his eldest, adopted son, Rey.

This April, God woke him up. He started sharing the Good News with new people in the village, and a few of these began meeting with him. Now he wants to start reaching out into the neighboring villages, too. He dug up the old studies we did years ago and is using them to disciple five young family men. He has started a new baby church!

The problem, as you can imagine, is that the other church leaders accuse Alfonso of splitting their church. Feelings have been bad between the two groups. So while I (there were a few other "outside" leaders, too) was in Yuvinani, we had a time of reconciliation, talking the situation over and praying together. The men forgave each other and agreed to greet one another, once again, as brothers. But Alfonso doesn't want to rejoin the "old" church. I'm not sure of all

his motives, but he's adamant that he can't go on under the old leadership. Is there a right time for a Mixtec leader to leave a church, even when it's the only church in town? Alfonso's family has followed him into the new group, but Alfonso has been careful to urge any old members not to join him. He wants to work with new people. I don't know. Maybe this is the only way that new growth is going to happen in Yuvinani. That's certainly what Anne and I have been begging God for during the last 16 years!

Alfonso and I talked about the opportunities all around him, and how discipling is not only the New Testament model, but the only real way to spread the Gospel from village to village. More than 200 villages dot the mountains around Yuvinani, and only a handful have any Christian witness. That's a lot of need, and no one man can meet that. Alfonso has to reproduce, through disciples to other disciples, until the whole area has heard of the Good News.

We hold our breath to see what will happen in Yuvinani with Alfonso. It seems too good to be true, that after all this time, new churches might be planted in the Guerrero mountains. I intend to visit him at least every two months over the next year to encourage and provide what I can to the mix.

Please pray that, by God's grace, this dream of all of ours would finally come true.

Blessings, Robert.

October 7, 2008

Dear friends,

The two-hour drive to Tlaxiaco winds through mountains and eroded valleys, the road littered with fallen rocks and interrupted by potholes and speedbumps in each small town that add challenge to my solo racing progress. Swooping up curving hills, swinging around tight corners, tires shrill. I seldom do this drive myself, opting for public transport normally, but this rare pleasure refreshes, invigorates.

Bruce Cockburn's lyrics – "This feast of beauty intoxicates, like the finest wine,... come on, all you stumblers who believe love rules, stand up and let it shine." – float in the background as I drive, remembering several reasons for this quick trip. Out there is a group of church planters that came out of a missions training school, and I've been visiting them every two or three weeks over the last year. Chris is their team leader (and is one of the guys I went to India with in April). This year they have two of last year's members, and a few new ones. This is a group of



To communicate with the Hus Encampment . . .

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

Dawn Marie Baletka
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

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“stumblers”, journeyers, learners. They’ve been struggling to figure out what the “gospel” is, what is really important in the “church”, what well-intentioned damage can be wrought unthinkingly. So much of what I do is to ask them questions, challenge their assumptions, make them think about this work of “letting love shine”.

Last spring I had recommended to Chris the Donovan book, *Christianity Rediscovered*. Donovan lived among the Masai in the sixties, struggling as a Catholic priest to discover for himself what is central to the Gospel, and what was worth telling his new friends about. His story and reflections bring together what is most important for beginner “church planters”, and seasoned ones, too. In the preface he introduces his core idea: “...do not try to call them back to where they were, and do not try to call them to where you are, as beautiful as that place might seem to you. You must have the courage to go with them to a place that neither you nor they have ever been before.” Chris was gripped by this book, and now he has his team reading it. This morning we went over the first three chapters. They get it. They feel the difference. They draw good insights. More so the ones that were there last year, but it’s working

for all of them. The feast of relationships is forming, taking steps that lead into eternity, the team members growing as much as the new friends that are responding to God. It is intoxicating, more than the finest wine.

Listening to this handful of “stumblers” tell of deepening friendship, praying to make more friends, planning together how best to “get out there” is challenging to me, as well. With our landlords we’re getting closer to begin to study the Sunday readings of the Catholic church. I’m thinking that I need to be more intentional about getting out among our neighbors along the part of the road I never go by, and find more people who want to know the Good News of God’s coming into our world. I get busy with a lot of good things, things that help build the Kingdom, but I don’t want to forget this simple starting point.

We’re hosting a small group from a church in Saskatchewan. They’re in the middle of an acculturation period, staying with Mexican friends, learning a bit of the language and immersing in the culture. We’ll do some “project” work on a building at Anne’s school for a few days, see some sights, process a lot of what “missions” is all about. Then Anne and I

are off to Peru for a week-long retreat of the Mennonite Brethren missionaries in Latin American.

Thanks again for your participation in all its forms.

Blessings, Robert.

News from Macie...

HOWDY, AGS (as we say)!

When I returned to Texas from Colorado Leadership Training, I immediately missed the 70-degree temperatures of Estes Park, CO. One aspect I was so grateful for was being “home” after three months away. Oh, I truly am so blessed to call Fellowship Church in Aggieland my spiritual home! “Ags” are my home! I love what God does here!

This semester started without a hitch, and we’re going “full-speed ahead!” The first week back, about 50 other church leaders and I attended Fellowship Church’s Staff Retreat.

We prayed, planned, and prepared for a new ministry year together; what an honor to be serving with like-minded family and friends as soon as I arrived in Texas. Also, to my delight I was able to help design new materials to advertise our student organization, AMCF, and Fellowship Church to all of the Aggies! What a gift to

have “an eye for design” and a Marketing Degree! Praise God! Also, the first official AMCF event for the semester, our Fall Kickoff Rally, boasted the largest attendance ever. Some 325 Aggies came to check out what God’s doing with AMCF! And more students means more reached for God’s kingdom! Whoop!

Please pray with me for “the Lord to add to our number daily those who are being saved!” (Acts 2:47 NIV). Woohoo! A&M Christian Fellowship’s (AMCF) Fall Kickoff Rally is one of my favorite events! I especially love the Rally because it’s how I first came to be involved with the group! It’s an informational where all 10 of our student homegroups come together as AMCF and showcase who we are. To advertise on campus, we hand out flyers and do a “blackboard blitz” to write an announcement on as many white and blackboards as possible about our upcoming Kickoff Rally! This was definitely an adventure, especially when you’re scribbling as fast as you can, practically running from building to building to reach as many boards as you can before 8am classes start! Yay!

Macie (Merz) Gonzalez

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(Unity of the Brethren)

Worship – 10:45 A.M.

Sunday School – 9:30 A.M.



Pastors:

Rev. Henry Beseda
(979) 567-7033

Rev. Rick Chandler
(281) 355-1474

Church Phone – (281) 955-1655

12915 Cypress North Houston
P.O. Box 0233
Cypress, TX 77410-0233

President: Rev. Henry Beseda

A Letter from the Czech Republic

Tue, 9 Sep 2008

Dear President of the Unity Board,
Dear Brother David Miller,

My name is pastor Pavel Kozak and my wife and myself are mission workers and church planters here in the Czech republic, where we do work hard in the Gospel. We do minister in the MOST ATHEISTIC country in the Europe. Our privilege is to minister to our Lord Jesus Christ daily, while seeing the needs of the people around us. It is sometimes hard to find the right and proper words to express our gratefulness and thanks for each single prayer, encouragement, love, support, financial gift, and help... All this we see as a nice fragrance before the Throne of our Father God who loves all of us in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

We would like to say THANK YOU dear brother David Miller, THANK YOU dear Unity Mission Board for your loving care, for your blessings, for your prayers, and mainly for your participation, together with us on this special mission task here in Czech.

THANK YOU so very for your GIFT of LOVE, for your generous money support, which means SO MUCH for us. Thanks to this your goodly gift we can continue on doing what we did receive to do from our Lord – to share the Gospel as the full time ministers.

May our Blessed Lord Jesus Christ is re-paying you back in abundance, in His divine Blessings everything, what you faithfully are doing for Him!

With gratefulness, prayers and Love, Pavel & Stana Kozak

WALL BRETHREN CHURCH

Located in Wall, Texas, on old Highway 87
(Loop 570), 12 miles east of San Angelo.



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

Chairman, Board of Elders
Jimmie Brenek, (325) 469-3733

“Come as a guest, leave as a friend”

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for November 2008

Dorothy E. Kocian

1. They cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and He brought them out of their distress. Ps. 107:28
2. **Jesus prayed, “Father, I want those you have given Me to be with Me where I am, and to see My glory!” Jn. 17:24**
3. There is one body and one Spirit; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and one Father of all. Eph. 4:4-6
4. Speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is Christ. Eph. 4:15
5. So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all for the glory of God. 1 Cor. 10:31
6. Dear friends, I urge you to abstain from evil desires, which war against your soul. 1 Pet. 2:11
7. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Mt. 5:9
8. I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes. Rom. 1:16
9. **We know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. Gal. 2:16**
10. In Him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in His holy name. Ps. 33:21
11. Light is shed upon the righteous and joy on the upright in heart. Ps. 97:11
12. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Phil. 4:6
13. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Rom. 12:10
14. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Rom. 12:12
15. Rejoice in the Lord, you who are righteous, and praise His holy name. Ps. 97:12
16. **The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:7**
17. The Lord said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” Joshua 1:5
18. Offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life. Rom. 6:13
19. Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 Tim. 2:1
20. And the things you have heard Me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. 2 Tim. 2:2
21. Remember your Creator in the days of your youth. Eccl. 12:1
22. The word of God is living and active. Sharper than a double-edged sword, it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Heb. 4:12
23. **The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 1 Tim. 1:14**
24. Jesus said, “If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.” Mt. 16:24
25. You, O Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light. Ps. 18:28
26. I will thank you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all the marvelous things You have done. Ps. 9:1
27. Give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for men. Ps. 107:15
28. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. Ps. 73:26
29. The wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial, and sincere. James 3:17
30. **The Lord said, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.” 2 Cor. 12:9**

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Thoughts about giving...

Remembering the Unity of the Brethren or any of its ministries is a fitting testimony of your belief. Your gift in a will can be a legacy that continues to affect the Christian values, mission, and ministry that is important to you.

You can give without restrictions and let us use the funds for the most pressing needs or you can specify how, when, or where you want the funds used.

You can require that we hold the principle as an endowment and use only the earnings each year.

You can give in memory or in the honor of someone.

Your gift can be contingent. The funds go to someone if they survive you and if not, then to the Unity.

You can tell us now that you have named the Unity in your will and allow us to express our gratitude...or you can let it be known later.

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.

Guy Huffman . . .

cpaguy@cpaguy.com ph: (979) 567-4974

Frank McKay III . . .

mckayfrank@aol.com ph: (281) 424-5126

Ronald Dusek

rdusekdds@aol.com ph: (979) 567-3732

Dewyan Weise . . . ph: (325) 651-8550

VITAL STATISTICS

MEMBERS RECEIVED

By Reaffirmation of faith:

LARUE and MARION HIGGINS, on September 7, 2008, at the Dime Box Brethren Church.

RECENT DEATHS

POPELKA, THOMAS JR., age 89, born April 7, 1919, died August 15, 2008. He was preceded in death by his wife, his parents, 2 sisters, and 2 brothers. He is survived by 3 sons, 3 daughters, 14 grandchildren, and 20 great-grandchildren. Services were held at Scanio Harper Funeral Home in Temple on August 18, 2008. Minister: Rev. Tom Popelka III.

FUESSEL, LYDIA, age 87, died on August 31, 2008. She was born on December 22, 1920, in the Friendship community and was married to Carl Fuessel on June 30, 1941. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, a sister, two brothers, and a son-in-law. Survivors include three sisters and one brother, one daughter, two grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Ser-

vices were held at the Taylor Brethren Church, September 3, 2008. Minister: Rev. James Hejl.

STAUFFER, FRANKIE, age 86, died on September 17, 2008. She was born on May 23, 1922, in Jarrell, Texas. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and one daughter. Surviving are one son, three grandchildren, one great-grandchild, two brothers, two sisters, and an adopted son. Services were held at the Taylor Brethren Church, September 20, 2008. Minister: Rev. James Hejl.

ZETTEL, CELIA (SHUPAK), age 94 and a member of the Nelsonville Brethren Church, died September 26, 2008, at Bellville, Texas. She was born on June 9, 1914, in Austin County and married Alfred Zettel, Sr., on November 8, 1932. Mrs. Zettel is survived by 3 children, 7 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and 8 great great-grandchildren. Services were on September 30, 2008, at the Nelsonville Brethren Church with burial in the National Cemetery. Minister: Michael Groseclose.

SUNDAY SCHOOL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - 2006-2008

President: Pat Mynar, 606 Churchill Drive, Bryan, TX 77801-1905. (979) 779-5546. patm@housing.tamu.edu

Vice President: Kay Polasek, 1112 Sul Ross Drive, Bryan, TX 77802. (979) 846-6561. fbcpastorkay@yahoo.com

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Secretary: Brenda L. Vajdak, P.O. Box 436, Snook, TX 77878. (979) 272-7601. Brenda.vajdak@verizon.com

"Love Practiced Here" The Rosenberg Brethren Church

5220 Reading Road
Rosenberg, TX 77471
(281) 342-3060

Sunday School 9:00 AM
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)

Annual Christian Sisters Bazaar, 2nd Saturday in September

**The Rosenberg Brethren Church
Christian Sisters**

5220 Reading Road, Rosenberg, Texas 77471

Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

Keep these activities in your prayers.

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

November 1 (Saturday, 9:00 am-2:00 pm.): Rosenberg Christian Sisters Bazaar, rescheduled because of Hurricane Ike.

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

November 8 (Saturday, 8:00AM-12:00Noon): Temple Brethren Christian Sisters Fall Bake and Craft Sale.

November 8-9: Fall BYF Retreat at the Hus School Encampment. Theme: "NO FEAR".

January 9-11, 2009: "Joyful Noise" Choral Retreat at the Hus Encampment (see complete details in this issue).

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 Rosenberg Christian Sisters Bazaar on November 1, 9:00AM-2:00PM (rescheduled because of Hurricane Ike). Featured will be bakery items, a country store including canned pickles, Silent Auction with Czech items, and more, and Chili-Sandwiches-Chicken Noodle Soup Lunch available. There will also be raffle tickets sold (\$1.00 each; 6 for \$5.00) for Handmade Quilt and Rocking chair made by Alan Macik Hope to see you there.

. . . 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.

. . . to the Temple Brethren Church Christian Sisters Fall Bake & Craft Sale, including a Quilt Drawing on Saturday, November 8. Time: from 8 a.m. to 12 noon; Location: in the church fellowship hall. Some items featured in the sale will be baked goods including kolaches, cakes, pies, cookies and candies, as well as jellies, canned goods, casseroles and craft items. A hand-made quilt will be given away for a donation of \$1.00 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$5.00. The sale is open to the public with free admission. Temple Brethren Church is located at 2202 Birdcreek Drive in Temple next to Luby's Cafeteria.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

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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77842.

Laurie (281) 221-7083
lgriggs@swmail.sw.org

Ray: 011-505-632-1489 NIC (in
Nicaragua), raygriggs@hotmail.com
Laurie's e-mail: lgriggs@hotmail.com

Jill Miller (at home in San Angelo now)
e-mail: jillmiller7@gmail.com

Rob and Anne Thiessen
25 E. Camino Nacional
Tlalixtac de Cabrera
Oaxaca, MEXICO 68627
(011) 52-1-951-145-8947
e-mail: rvthiessen@yahoo.com

Michael and Caroline Woo
P.O. Box 27
Chiang Mai 50000
Thailand
e-mail: mcswoo@psmail.net
To access their pictures, go to
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Delma Drive, Bryan, TX 77802.
(979) 691-2149

Vice President: Janet Pomykal, P.O.
Box 560, Brenham, TX 77834.
(979) 836-3772

Secretary: Dorothy Hinson, 7331
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77346. (281) 620-0480

Financial Secretary: Ann Sebesta,
P.O. Box 115, Snook, TX 77878.
(979) 272-8786 or 292-8691

Treasurer: Evelyn Henry, P.O. Box
336, Caldwell, TX 77836.
(979) 567-4397

**Unity Mission Board Representa-
tives:** Sharon Hohmann, 222
Crestwood, San Angelo, TX 76903.
(325) 651-5884

Janet Pomykal (address above)

**Hus Encampment Board Representa-
tives:** Lillie Chafin, 800 County
Road 284, Caldwell, TX 77836.
(979) 272-1136

Anna Wotipka, 652 County Road 324,
Caldwell, TX 77836. (979) 567-3613

SYNODICAL COMMITTEE

President: Claren Kotrla, (512) 491-7802;
kotrla@flash.net

1st Vice President: Rev. Linda Chandler;
L77c@aol.com

2nd Vice President: Pastor Joe Emerson;
pastorjde@juno.com

3rd Vice President: Rev. Michael Groseclose,
352 Nelsonville Church Rd, Bellville, TX 77418.
(979) 865-3026

Secretary: Kathy Harrison, P.O. Box 593, Little
River-Academy, TX 76554. (254) 721-1815;
kathy@pearson-lawfirm.com

Financial Secretary: Dewyan Weise, 6006 FM
Hwy 765, San Angelo, TX 76905;
HDWeise@academicplanet.com

Treasurer: James Marek, 1304 T.H. Johnson
Drive, Taylor, TX 76574. (512) 352-6165;
james@cnb.com

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Pastor to Pastors: Dr. Larry Koslovsky

Lay Alternate: Marvin Chlapek, 11026 Elm
Bridge Court, Houston, TX 77065. (281) 469-
7630; mjcarc@sbcglobal.net

Lay Members:

Austin – Claren Kotrla

BCS – Jim Baletka; TXNFish@aol.com

Buckholts – Dan Balusek

Caldwell – Ron Dusek; rdusekdds@aol.com

Crosby – Chris Armstrong;

chrisarmstrong@alltexenergy.com

Cy-Fair – Roger Runnels; rogerhr@swbell.net

Dime Box – Theresa Buchan;

tkbuchan@aolmail.net

Fayetteville/Industry – Jerry Marshall;

jerry@thepropertynote.com

Good Shepherd – Alfredo Wilson

Granger – Alvin Kubala; alvink@prismnet.com

Houston – Marvin Chlapek;

mjcarc@sbcglobal.net

Industry – Jerry Marshall;

jerry@thepropertynote.com

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Ocker – Kathy Harrison;

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Pasadena – Mickey Jones;

mickeyandpat@yahoo.com

Rosenberg – Alice Kocurek

Seaton – Leonard Mikeska;

mikeskains@hotmail.com

Taylor – James Marek; james@cnb.com

Temple – Jean Newby; aljean8@sbcglobal.net

Wall – Dewyan Weise;

HDWeise@academicplanet.com

Wesley – Michael Koehn koehns72@yahoo.com

West – Dorothy Kocian; dekocian@yahoo.com

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