

THE BRETHREN



JOURNAL



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28 Pages



14th Annual Primetimer's Retreat October 10-12, 2008

The 2008 Primetimers' Retreat
(for story, see inside cover)

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. . . Did you forget to re-subscribe to *The Brethren Journal*?

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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The 2008 Primetimers' Retreat was held at the Hus School Encampment October 10-12. Coordinators for this event were from the Taylor and Granger Brethren. The camp pastor was Rev. Gordon Hejl.

The theme for that year's event was "The Cost of Living," and the theme hymn was "Living for Jesus." Activities for the weekend included the showing of a video and a Bible Study, worship, and Holy Communion. There was also time spent in recreational activities and domino games.

The speaker for the event was Mary Frances Chupik Bennett, the author of INVITATION TO CAT SPRING, an account of a trek by a Czech family from their homeland to Texas in the 19th Century: a history shared by many ancestors of Brethren members. (This book is advertised in this publication.)

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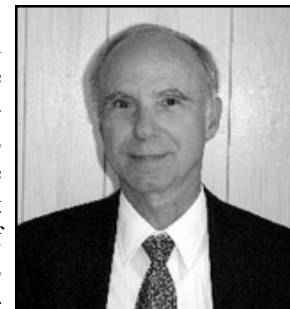
President's Column . . . Claren Kotrla WEALTH

What is it about wealth that so fascinates, intrigues, and draws us? It becomes a desire for many, and even an obsession for some. Of course the obvious "well duh" response is that it means you are rich if you have wealth. Perhaps, but that is just a redefinition of what we generally see as wealth. In reality, the factors associated with wealth could fill several volumes in a library and become the basis for some interesting PhD research.

Throughout history we are aware of the desire for wealth and its good and bad consequences on societies. The Bible addresses wealth in several places. When I look at some of the various references about riches and wealth, it seems to me that wealth is neither good or bad, nor right or wrong. It is your attitude towards it and what you do with that wealth that matters to God. How you accumulated that wealth may also be an

issue. For instance, in James 5:1-6 there is a warning to rich oppressors who don't pay their employees wages and condemn those who oppose the rich. Again, history is full of people who do this, who use intimidation, legal maneuvers, or elected officials to steal from others in order to gain worldly riches.

The "New World" including what is now North, Central, and South America, was explored in large part to gain wealth. The Spanish conquered and plundered the Inca's for their gold. That means that the Incas had wealth and the Inca leaders had possession of great wealth to be taken by the Spaniards. History doesn't address how the Incas amassed their great wealth. In the United States, wealth in the form of land as well as gold was a driving factor for exploration, and conquering the Indians. The Indians, who are often portrayed as



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one with their environment and peace loving also took from each other to gain wealth. That wealth was in the form of territory, slaves, and valuables such as gold.

Just as today, even within early civilizations wealth was not evenly distributed. Some people were better hunters than others, or better craftsmen. That resulted in greater wealth for some than others. Just as today, some had more or better clothes or tools or homes in the form of tents than others because of individual differences in skills, initiative, or some would say luck. However, my own experience indicates that luck seems to be greatly improved when one works harder or smarter.

The desire for wealth has led to many atrocities. One of the most organized and callous examples of this desire occurred during World War II when Hitler and his associates pillaged railroad cars filled with the great art and wealth of Europe for their own collections. Much of this wealth came from the Jews who were exiled and executed. All of this was done in accordance with laws instituted to make the confiscation of anything of value from Jews legal.

In every society there is unequal distribution of wealth and riches. Even under communism, which proclaimed equality for all, it was obvious that some were certainly more equal than others. This is true today in all societies, be it communist, socialist, or capitalist. Those with the most wealth and having the most power receive preferential treatment for medical care, housing, transportation, and all other areas of service. For example, Canada has equal health care for everyone; however, members of parliament travel to the US for treatment, and get better treatment first than the general population. The same is true throughout the world.

Another interesting facet of wealth that I have observed is that it is relative. By that I mean each of you are wealthy in the view of someone else. If you live in a one-room apartment, you are wealthy compared to someone who doesn't have an apartment. A person in the United States who is homeless is wealthy when compared to a poor person in a third world nation. Even the wealthiest of the wealthiest have degrees of wealth as measured by the number of homes, or cars, or planes, or boats they own.

The examples defining wealth or the lack of it are endless, and in the end meaningless.

Wealth is more than riches and things. It is an extension of power. Ever notice how the two often go together? Do you know a poor Senator, or poor member of Congress? Wealthy people tend to go into politics, and in some cases the reverse is true, where politicians become rich. Power and wealth seem to go hand in hand in all societies, past and present.

By now some of you are wondering how I could have completely missed the true meaning of eternal wealth. Well I was saving the best for last. We all recognize the material wealth and excesses of wealth in Hollywood, politics, labor union bosses, chief executive officers of companies, and many others. However, we may not recognize it when closer to home. Wealth doesn't get you happiness, and it can't keep us from death. We also are acutely aware of how fickle wealth can be. It doesn't provide the security we thought it would, as noted by many shrinking portfolios due to the world-wide economic downturn. James in verse five tells the rich that their wealth is rotted and their clothes are moth eaten. James also chastises those who have hoarded their wealth in the last days. In this example, obsession with wealth can actually be harmful to us.

So, if Wealth doesn't do for us what we think it should, why do we work toward it and desire it? I only pose the question, but don't present an answer. We each have to determine the answer for ourselves. In reaching and trying to understand your answer, remember each of us is wealthy in someone's eyes, and being envious of others with more material wealth doesn't prepare us for Christ's Kingdom.

Luke 16: 11 says, "So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?" Christ does not condemn wealth, but He does put a responsibility on those who have it to use it well to gain trust for the heavenly kingdom. Christ is directing this verse to each of us because we each have wealth. It's not "just those rich guys" Christ is talking to, because when you really analyze it, we are "those rich guys".

In Proverbs 3:9-10 it says, "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits all of your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine." Again, the message is not that wealth in and of itself is wrong, but it is what you do with it that counts in both this world and the next. We need to store riches for the Kingdom of God and not just focus on material wealth here on earth.

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Sunday School Island



Hil! And welcome to a brand new section of the Brethren Journal aimed at helping anyone working with kids. We hope to have items for parents, Sunday School teachers, kids, and grandparents may find an idea or two themselves.

This section will be divided into points of interest for parents, kids, and Sunday School Teachers. This first issue will only have the Sunday School Teacher's Cove and Kid's Beach, but look for the other sections in the months to follow.

Kid's Beach

This section is for the kids. It may include a game or maze, a story to be read by or to the child. This section is to get the youngest members of our denomination involved with the BJ.

Sunday School Teacher's Cove

This is the heart and soul of the new section! Using this forum, ideas linked to the Unity of the Brethren Curriculum can be shared. This is seen as an interactive space where everyone is encouraged to submit ideas of what works in their classroom!

Parent's Lagoon

This section will include information that will be helpful to parents, such as parenting tips, homework ideas, book and movie reviews. Basically, anything that is of interest to you!

Teen Cabana

This idea is in the making. This would be a great location where teens could submit reviews of books, movies, or games. If you are a teen and are interested in writing a movie or book review, please let me know.

Send all submissions to
hairrell@sdishmail.net

Kid's Beach

Psalms 32:8



WILL



guide

u With
my



God

IS



Psalms 46:1

AND



strength

Sunday School Teacher's

Jesus' First Miracle (John 2:1)



Easy Button

You will need 1 clear pitcher and 1 pottery pitcher. Fill the clear pitcher with water. Place 1 packet of grape Kool-Aid (sugar free works best) in the pottery pitcher before the lesson. Make sure the children do not see the mix in the bottom of the pitcher. As you tell the story, pour the water from the clear pitcher to the pottery pitcher. When you finish the story, share the grape Kool-Aid with the students.

Annual Christian Sisters Bazaar, 2nd Saturday in September
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Temple Brethren Christian Sisters Announce Quilt Winner



Temple Brethren Church Christian Sisters recently sponsored a quilt drawing. The winner was Jerry Dillard of Temple. The drawing was held November 16 at the Temple Brethren Church Annual Thanksgiving Dinner. Two-year-old Ethan Zajicek of Zabcikville drew the winning ticket. The quilt was pieced by Debra Johnson, daughter of Edna Pechal, and was hand quilted by several ladies of the church. (Jerry is the grandson of Edna.)

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

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BaletkaD@navasotaisd.org

**This must be done well in advance.*

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

Please note...On January 15-29, a work crew will be headed from Texas to Ahuas. Their work will include replacing the roof on the clinic pharmacy and erecting a framework for the solar panel project there, building a chain link fence around the hangers, and other odd jobs.

*Keep these men (Mark Ebert, Chris Armstrong, Claren Kotrla, Marvin Arnold, Daniel Vojtek, Gerald Styles, Walmar Hohmann, Dennis Miller, and David Miller) in your prayers and **remember to send your support to the Unity Mission Board!***

From the Thiessens...

Dear friends,

You know how you *know* a plant is growing, but you don't actually *see* it grow? That's how it has felt in the

house church we've been part of here in Oaxaca. Slow and steady growth. Until now. In the last few weeks, some of the things we have been waiting for, hoping for, longing for, working for (with our team), are actually happening right before our eyes.

This morning, during worship, one of the men in my small group said casually, "It feels like our church is experiencing a renewal. I feel like I've been a baby for a long time and am finally getting weaned." To tell you the truth, I, too, feel like God has taken a big black spoon and stirred it around and around the pot for a while. I don't know exactly what comes next, but we all know something has changed.

This "something," always budding in the background, bloomed visibly through the women. Teresa had com-



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plained nine months ago that the women in our group were not close. Yes, they greeted one another and chatted casually on Sundays, but there was no real sharing. So, Robert, in his usual straight-forward way, suggested (strongly), "why not start meeting then, and do what you feel lacks there in your group?" So now we meet every Wednesday. I can't say it's felt like much for a long time, but we did grow closer. God then gave me an urge to have us meet for prayer on Sundays during the teaching time as a ministry to the church. The first time it was just three of us who picked up our chairs and huddled outside on the lawn while the teacher ministered. The next Sunday, it was four. Then seven. Joaqui now leads this established and beloved ministry of our church, where many of us take turns praying for the entire congregation. Today a visitor joined the prayer

group, was ministered to by the group of women, and gave her life to Christ!

Last Sunday, this prayer group announced that we needed to use our next Wednesday to go visit one of the other women that can't usually come. So we piled into two cars and drove across town to visit Antonia. We stood in a circle and prayed for Antonia, and for the market lady she is reaching out to, but when we thought we were done, someone said, "and while we are at it, could we pray for...?" And on it went...for two hours! We stood there praying for one another, and for the people in our lives that need help, and for our children, and for our jobs, and friends...we affirmed one another...it was a God moment that didn't want to stop. We all felt that something was happening. God was waking us up and bringing us together, and it was happening through prayer.

Part of what is happening is that these women are discovering their roles, their gifts, their place in the church, and the women are, in turn, sparking a desire in others to find their place as well. I am thankful for the time that Robert and I had in Peru last month, because this reawakened our commitment to working as a body in the church, encouraging every member to discover and develop his or her gift (especially the "hers" in this country where women are easily dismissed as leaders). God used Robert's mentoring behind the scenes and my teaching for two Sundays on the gifts to bring to the forefront what God had already been doing in our body. We are realizing that many of our women have counseling ministries at their jobs during the week but never realized it. We realize that we have teachers and evangelists and

pastors and givers and showers of mercy and counselors and prayers of faith and prophets that we just haven't released into ministry.

I think this is a paradigm shift for us. Instead of focusing on knowing more, we are now focused on doing more, on applying what we know so well. We don't even know exactly what we are meant to do, but the God part of it is that just this switch into *wanting* to do, wanting to obey, is making the difference, and He is pulling together stuff beyond our control. We are all waiting in expectation to see what God is cooking up with all this pot stirring. It seems to include prayer, and a commitment to work together and to recognize how God is already reaching out to others through the members of our church. And it seems to include women. It's beautiful.



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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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So your prayers are doubly welcome now, with all the vulnerability that accompanies change and growth. Thanks!

Anne

From Mark and Macie Gonzalez...

Great Commission Ministries: A Growing Fervor to Press On!

By: Mark Gonzalez

For starters, Macie and I have been doing well and are enjoying each day as we grow together. What a delight it is to have someone by your side who truly shares your passion for God and vision for life. We are working hand in hand and running as fast after the heart of God and the heart of people as we know how. We talk frequently about the future and what it will look like to spend a lifetime in full-time ministry – God willing. This is because our deepest desire is to connect people with their Savior, and for those people to be able to do the same for others. So, when we say we have a “a growing fervor to press on!” we really mean it.

Over the past four months, Macie and I have seen our hearts touched

and invigorated more than ever for the college campus. As we see it, college campuses around the world are spring boards to major change and influence in this world. This is why we want to reach students with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We live in a confusing world where one’s values, ideas, and beliefs can be formed or altered at the drop of a hat. This means that just a few years in full-time ministry is not enough to finish a work, but to merely start one. And as Macie and I have prayed through and strategized how we can make full-time ministry a life-long endeavor, we’ve realized one of our first tasks should be to have a healthy financial support level. Therefore, Macie and I have included another piece of paper that describes one of our ministry’s financial needs. **Would you pray about giving to these needs?**

With excitement in what God is doing,
Mark

....and the ministry continues...

By: Macie Gonzalez

What a wonderful journey it has been these past few months with

Gennessis and Poleth, two of the most precious women I’ve ever met. They are best friends and roommates, and both started attending our group by coming to our beginning of semester Kick-Off Rally in September. These freshmen girls joined us three days later for our “recipe-free cake making” party, and again for homegroup the next week. Since then, they have been regularly attending homegroup, church, and homegroup activities! Additionally, Poleth and Gennessis began meeting weekly with a friend from homegroup, Julie, and I for lunch and fellowship (to our delight).

Then, one night at homegroup, Mark shared a teaching on evangelism, and several students were praying for friends who didn’t yet know the saving love of Christ. During our lifegroup time, I asked what the girls’ responses were to Mark’s teaching. They both giggled, looked at each

other, then back at me, and Gennessis said, “Last night we were talking, and we think we both need to be saved.” WHOA! To my surprise, it was that easy to share the gospel! I started sharing about what God has done through Jesus, asking one at a time if they would like to believe and accept Him as Lord and Savior. Both girls made personal decisions for Christ that night – right at the end of homegroup! Since then, we’ve been learning and growing together – along with Julie – what it means to be a fully devoted child of God. My honor and privilege has been to see what God has done and continues to do through our lives and His Spirit.

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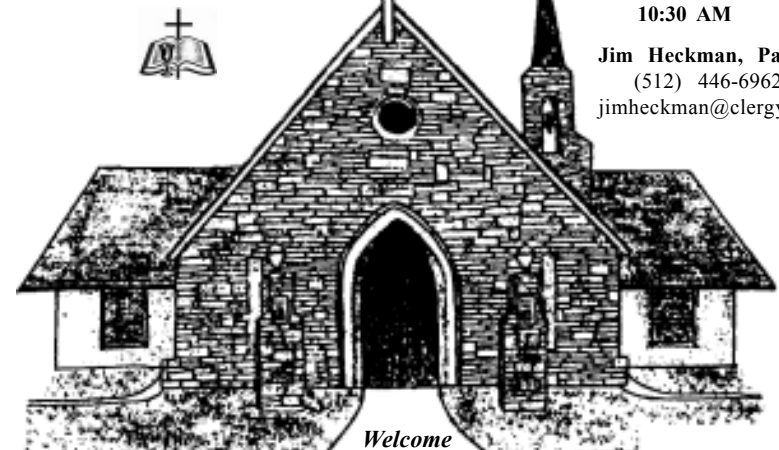
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There are many other ways to give. Contact any Board of Grants and Bequests member about what you can give and how you can give.

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Coming Up!

*Note: On **February 28, 2009**, the Unity Mission Board is presenting "Celebrate Missions" at the Hus School from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm.*

A continental breakfast and lunch will be served. There will be no cost, but a free will donation will gladly be accepted.

The following is an article related to this program by Pastor Linda Chandler:



Where in the World Are You & Jesus Working?

- In Your Church?
- In Your Community?
- In our State?
- In the USA?
- Beyond our borders?

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Contact Mission Team Members, Rev. Linda Chandler, L77C@aol.com, 512-836-2712; Pat Myner, patmynar@yahoo.com, 979-779-5546; Joyce Baletka, jbaletka@peoplepc.com, 979-567-4563

Where in the World.....

*"In his heart a man plans his course,
but the LORD determines his steps."*

Proverbs 16:9

During my three sons' childhood, they had a favorite picture book entitled, *Where in the World is Waldo*. The book contained a character named Waldo who was hidden in the pictures from around the world, and the reader was to visually locate and then point Waldo out. Then the reader would "know" where in the world was Waldo! Today as disciples of Christ we must know "Where in the World Jesus is" calling His disciples to join Him in His missions for God the Father. Many times churches and individuals miss opportunities that are right under their noses because they were unable to "see" where Jesus was already at work but needed His disciples to join Him and complete the work. Paul reveals this concept in his letter to the church of Colosse. Paul reminded them, "For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear

with Him in glory" (Colossians 3:3-4). To sum it up, we must find where Christ is working, then join Him, which will then reveal God's glory. That sounds like something we ALL would want to do... bring Glory to God and reveal the REALITY of God to the unbelieving world!

On February 28, this is exactly what the Mission Board would like to help each church and each individual explore, their hiddenness in Christ Jesus and where in the world we may be able to join Him in bringing glory to God our Father. I was greatly impressed by the Missions Conference that the Moravians put on this last spring, "Congregations MOVING in Missions." They trained us for three days to use our ASSETS, *the gifts and strengths God has embedded in us, in our facilities, and our communities*, to MOVE us in the missions of God. We hope at our Conference, "Where in the World is Jesus"... to

help each church team and every individual discover new ways to use their hidden assets for the glory of God and to reveal a new enthusiasm for the days ahead in each of our missions individually and corporately.

Of course we will be celebrating the places we have uncovered in the past years and been faithfully supporting: the Woos, Thiessens, Griggs, and Honduras Teams. We will have a new work in the Czech Republic to celebrate. We will be building a Wall of Missions for ongoing individual churches' work that will inspire and sharpen each other in our community work. So if you have missional work that has inspired your congregation in the past year, please bring video, pictures, or work to be displayed. Let one of the convening team know (see

flyer for contact info). This is to be a Celebration of Missions and a Re-commitment to Open our Eyes and Ears to new possibilities. We are asking each church to bring an intergenerational team of at least 3 members who differ in age and thought! Diversity in our Unity is exciting. Finally this is a day to really understand "that we may make plans and ask the LORD to bless them BUT really God is who DETERMINES OUR STEPS." My prayer is that we will "uncover" new possibilities as we come together with passion for His purposes and a new commitment to bring OUR ETERNAL CREATOR GLORY. I can hardly wait...

See you in February...

Pastor Linda

OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

17454 State Highway 53

Temple, Texas 76501

Preaching the Word, Loving the People

Sunday School 9:00 AM

Worship 10:15 AM

Pastor

Rev. Ron Winsman

3112 W. Ave. R
Temple, TX 76504
(254) 742-0827

ronwinsman@hotmail.com

Cemetery

Sharon Marek

23383 Milam Road
Burlington, TX 76519
(254) 985-2457

Elder Board President

Bill McGuire

2418 South 49th
Temple, TX 76504
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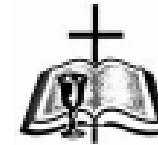
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Seaton Brethren Church

**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
P.O. Box 4615
Temple, TX 76505
(254) 791-0420 hm
(254) 931-1653 cell

Youth Director
Steve Davis
P.O. Box 658
Rogers, TX 76569
(254) 913-1214

Board of Elders
Chairperson
Dolores Skrabanek
13107 State Highway 53
Temple, TX 76501
(254) 985-2344

At SBC...

...We Are A True Community

We Do *LIFE* Together

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE

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

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Dorothy Hinson, Board Member

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for January 2009

Dorothy E. Kocian

1. Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling. Ps. 2:11
2. Choose today whom you will serve... But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord. Josh. 24:15
3. Offer yourselves to God as instruments of righteousness. Rom. 6:13
4. **Love the Lord your God, walk in all His ways, obey His commands, hold fast to Him, all your heart and soul. Josh. 22:5**
5. In the Lord I put my trust. Ps. 11:1
6. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. James 4:10
7. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of sound mind. 2 Tim. 1:7
8. Turn Yourself to me, and have mercy on me, for I am desolate and afflicted. Ps. 25:16
9. Humility and fear of the Lord bring wealth and honor and life. Prov. 22:4
10. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Josh. 1:9
11. **The Lord said, "Be careful to obey all the law; do not turn from it to the right or left, that you may be successful wherever you go." Josh. 1:7**
12. The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits. Josh. 3:17
13. Come here and listen to words of the Lord your God. Josh. 3:9
14. But as for me, it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord God my refuge. Ps. 73:28
15. This is the confidence we have in approaching God, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 1 Jn. 5:14
16. May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance. Jude 2
17. Your ears shall hear a voice behind you saying, "This is the way; walk in it." Isa. 30:21
18. **I served the Lord with great humility and with tears, although I was severely tested. Acts 2:19**
19. The Lord is good to those whose hope is in Him, to the one who seeks Him. Lam. 3:25
20. Since the world began, no ear has heard, and no eye has seen a God like you, who works for those who wait for Him. Isa. 64:4
21. Listen to my voice in the morning, Lord. Each morning I bring my requests to you and wait expectantly. Ps. 5:3
22. My child, give Me your heart, and let your eyes observe My ways. Prov. 23:26
23. Behold, children are a gift of the Lord. Ps. 127:3
24. It is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. Lam. 3:26
25. **God will keep in perfect peace all who trust in Him. Isa. 26:3**
26. Do whatever you see fit to do, for God is with you. 1 Sam. 10:7
27. Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay. 1 Pet. 4:9
28. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. Heb. 13:2
29. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Rom. 12:13
30. A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born to help in time of need. Prov. 17:17
31. The Lord gives strength to His people; the Lord blesses His people with peace. Ps. 29:11

"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)

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for February 2009

Dorothy E. Kocian

1. **Be kind and compassionate to one another. Eph. 4:32**
2. Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Ps. 51:1
3. I confess my sins; I am deeply sorry for what I have done. Ps. 38:18
4. Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other. James 5:16
5. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Ps. 51:10
6. I know, O Lord, that your decisions are fair; you disciplined me because I needed it. Ps. 119:75
7. If another believer sins, rebuke him; then if he repents, forgive him. Lk. 17:3
8. **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 Jn. 1:9**
9. You have been called to live in freedom, not freedom to satisfy your sinful nature, but freedom to serve one another in love. Gal. 5:13
10. Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight. Isa. 5:21
11. The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust him. Nahum 1:7
12. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Isa. 40:29
13. Be strong and take heart, all of you who hope in the Lord. Ps. 31:24
14. The Lord is our judge, the Lord is our ruler, the Lord is our king; He will save us. Isa. 33:22
15. **My eyes will be on the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with Me. Ps. 101:6**
16. "Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, My unfailing love for you will not be shaken," says the Lord. Isa. 54:10
17. The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their prayer. 1 Pet. 3:12
18. I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. Ps. 32:8
19. Surely then you will find delight in the Almighty and will lift up your face to God. Job 22:26
20. Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior. Hab. 3:18
21. Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe. Prov. 29:25
22. **I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me." Isa. 6:8**
23. Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom He promised those who love Him? James 2:5
24. Everyone who does not abide in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. 2 Jn. 1:9
25. "Keep My commandments and follow them. I am the Lord." Lev. 22:31
26. By this we may be sure that we know Him, if we obey His commandments. 1 Jn. 2:3
27. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever. 1 Jn. 2:17
28. Then they will follow My decrees and be careful to keep My laws. They will be My people, and I will be their God. Ezek. 11:20

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Youth Schedule

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

WESTHEIMER COMMUNITY CHURCH

15635 Westheimer Road
Houston, Texas 77082

Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Westheimercommunitychurch.org



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

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

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”

VITAL STATISTICS

RECENT BAPTISMS

COLLYN DAVID COLEMAN, son of Kevin and Kellie Coleman, born December 20, 2007, was baptized on August 10, 2008, at the West Brethren Church. Sponsors: Sam and Lindsey Lawrence. Minister: Curtis Holland.

JAMES DANIEL DARNELL, son of Jimmy Don and Lisa (Niemeyer) Darnell, born July 22, 2008, was baptized on August 10, 2008, at the West Brethren Church. Sponsors: Kerri Niemeyer and Gary Niemeyer. Minister: Curtis Holland.

RECENT WEDDINGS

DELANCEY-RAESZ. Harlan Wayne Raesz and Alisha Dawn Delancey were joined in marriage at the Taylor Brethren Church on Saturday, September 27, 2008. Minister: James Hejl.

RECENT DEATHS

LILLIE J. SKRABANEK, born March 13, 1921, to Tom and Anna Vitek in Rosebud, Texas, died on June 20, 2008. She married Ed Skrabanek on January 15, 1942. She is survived by 2 sons, 2 daughters, 6 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, 3 step granddaughters and 2 step great-granddaughters. Services were held at Seaton Brethren Church on June 24, 2008. Ministers: Rev. Joe Emerson, Denise Mikeska, and Rev. Billy Koinm.

ELLA A. HEJL, 92, born November 7, 1915, to John and Albina Chupik in Oscar, Texas, died on October 3, 2008. She married Alfred Hejl on September 8, 1936. Mrs. Hejl is survived by a son and a daughter, 5 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. Services were held at Seaton Brethren Church on October 6, 2008. Minister: Joe Emerson.

HOUSTON BRETHREN CHURCH

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

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

For information please contact one of the following:

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

Larry King, Secretary
Board of Elders
1611 Palomino Ln.
Kingwood, TX 77339
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Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

*Keep these activities in
your prayers.*

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

February 28, 2009: The Mission Board is presenting "Celebrate Missions" at the Hus School from 9:00am until 3:00 pm. A continental breakfast and lunch will be served. There will be no cost, but a free will donation will gladly be accepted.

March 28, 2009: The Spring Meeting of the Synodical Committee, beginning at 9:00AM at the Hus School Encampment.

DIRECTORY OF MISSIONARIES

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
<http://gallery.mac.com/woofamily>

HUS ENCAMPMENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Mike Emery, 104 Pecan Ridge, Lorena,
TX 76655. (254) 857-9873;
xluddite@earthlink.net

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

Member at Large:
Charles Groseclose, 358 State
Highway 53, Rosebud, TX 76570.
(254) 583-4160; cmrag@aol.com

Christian Sisters' Union Representatives:
Secretary: Lillie Chafin, 800 County
Road 284, Caldwell, TX 77836.
(979) 272-1136; LChafin9@cs.com

Anna Wotipka, 652 County Road 324,
Caldwell, TX 77836. (979) 567-4613;
awotipka@caldwell.kiz.tx.us

Sunday School Representative:
Joel Mitchell, 2070 Carter Lake Drive,
College Station, TX 77845.
(979) 574-3212;
joel@mittchellandmorgan.com

**Friends of the Hus Encampment
Representative:**
Rev. Bill Rinderknecht, 19
Brandenberry Court, The Woodlands,
TX 77381. (281) 433-7704;
WilliamR90@aol.com

**Brethren Youth Fellowship
Representative:**
(Currently vacant)

Facilities Managers:
Jim & Dawn Marie Baletka, 600 Benchmark
Drive, College Station, TX 77845.
(979) 693-2710; txnfish@aol.com;
BaletkaD@navasotaisd.org

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

Camp Caretakers:
Robert and Cathleen Schlechte, 3635
County Road 225, Caldwell, TX 77836.
(979) 272-8176 (Hus Encampment #),
(979) 324-5560 or (979) 255-8266;
Greeseomonkey86@hotmail.com
Schlechte86@msn.com

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

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 – Bible Study -
9:30 AM; Worship 10:45 AM
– 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

Snook – Sunday School – 9:30 AM;
Worship – 10:45 AM
Bible Buddies – 2nd Wednesday, 6-7:30 PM
– Rev. Joseph Polasek

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

Temple – Sunday School at 9:30 AM.,
Worship at 10:45 AM.
– Larry Zabckic

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

MISSION BOARD

Chairman – elected by the Unity Convention:

David Miller, 3693 Blumentritt Road,
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Sharon Hohmann, 222 Crestwood,
San Angelo, TX 76903. (325) 651-5884

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TX 76501. (254) 541-1912;
Kacie.Easley@yahoo.com

Unity Liaison to Mission Board:

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Nelsonville Church Road, Bellville, TX
77418. (979) 865-3026;
umhbpg@yahoo.com

ADVISORY MEMBERS

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

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kotrla@flash.net

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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.
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HDWeise@academicplanet.com

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Pastor to Pastors: Dr. Larry Koslovsky

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Good Shepherd – Alfredo Wilson

Granger – Alvin Kubala; alvink@prismnet.com

Houston – Marvin Chlapek;

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Industry – Jerry Marshall;

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Nelsonville – Daniel Merz

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kathy@pearson-lawfirm.com

Pasadena – Mickey Jones;

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mikeskains@hotmail.com

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Taylor – James Marek; james@cmbt.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

Westheimer – Daniel Psencik

DIRECTORY OF MINISTERS

PLEASE NOTE: In all future correspondence to Rev. Michael Groseclose and the Nelsonville Brethren Church, please use the address
352 Nelsonville Church Rd., Bellville, TX 77418.

FULL TIME PASTORS

Rev. Charles Amos, 618 N. 7th Street,
Temple, TX 76501. (254) 742-2629

Rev. Henry Beseda, P.O. Box 516,
Caldwell, TX 77836. (979) 567-7033

Bro. Larry Butcher, 3030 Prescott,
Houston, TX 77025.

(713) 669-9381 (h),
(800) 941-4892 (pager)

Rev. Linda Von Chandler, 13108
North Ridge Circle, Leander, TX

78641. (512) 267-4826 (h),
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