

THE BRETHREN



JOURNAL



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32 Pages



Christmas Market Outreach in Olomouc, the Czech Republic
(see "In Christ's Love . . .")

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

Dr. Jiri Carda: 1922-2009

Sunday School Island

BYF Winter Retreat Report

2009 Hus Encampment Schedule

In Christ's Love....reports from Mexico, the Czech Republic, and China

Amor Fraternal...a new Outreach in Pasadena.

. . . and more!

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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President's Column . . . Claren Kotrla INCREMENTALISM

Beware the gentle embrace of in-
crementalism. It can be so very subtle
that we aren't even aware
it is happening. Many of
you have heard of the
story about the frog that
was cooked. He was sit-
ting in a pot of water
while the flame underneath
was gradually increased.
He didn't detect the
change and was eventu-
ally boiled (since frogs are cold
blooded this can actually happen).
The frog didn't sense any change in
the temperature because he became
accustomed to the incremental in-
crease in temperature. We as indi-
viduals, as a denomination, and as a
nation need to be aware of this
phenomenon.

When we observe things over time
we see a lot of examples of how we
have accepted incremental changes
that we would never have accepted if
those changes had all happened at
once. A prime example is what we

observe on television. In the name of
free speech and fairness there is gra-
tuitous violence, sex, and
foul language today. That
didn't happen overnight.
It occurred in small incre-
mental steps and today
is accepted.

The marginalization of
Christianity is happen-
ing the same way. In the
name of fairness to other
religions and those who don't believe
in anything, Christian practices in
public are being reduced through
political correctness as well as intimi-
dation. The spirit of "in place of
Christ" is growing incrementally in
America. A complaint by even one
individual can cause recognition of
Christianity to be squashed, usually
because of fear of a lawsuit. When I
was growing up none of this would
have been tolerated, but because the
change has been gradual, and in some
cases carefully orchestrated, we ac-
cept it today.



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(Unity of the Brethren)

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Sunday School – 9:30 A.M.



Pastors:

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(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

In incremental ways by trying to be fair or for safety reasons we accept small changes that in the back of our mind we know to be wrong but just aren't worth dealing with. Then, when too many incremental changes have taken place, it is too late to do what is right. We are sometimes lulled or intimidated into accepting false choices, a red herring if you will. We are told that if we don't recognize something as ok we are not reasonable or are mean spirited, racist, or hypocrites or worse. We respond to the false choice by accepting what we believe is a little wrong, but don't want to look bad at that moment. We fail to realize that the choice we are being asked to make isn't as simple as presented. There can be many ways to accomplish a particular goal. It is seldom that we have to do anything only one way. Eventually, through incremental steps, we accept what we know to be false and become part of the problem rather than part of the solution.

Another story of how people accept things incrementally that they would never accept if the whole truth were known involves a camel in the

desert. There were a group of Bedouins in their tent in the desert waiting for a very rare rain storm to stop. The camel that was standing outside in the rain stuck his head into the tent and asked if he could keep his nose in the tent since he didn't want to catch cold and be sick when they needed him. Of course the answer was yes. Shortly the camel asked if he could put his whole head in since the rain was getting into his ears and it could cause him to lose balance when they rode him. Of course the answer was yes. Later the camel noted that his hump was getting soggy and he didn't want them to have to ride on a soggy hump. He asked if he could put his hump inside the tent. Since they had come this far they said why not. Once again they said yes. The final request from the camel was to allow his small tail into the tent. It was getting wet and that would make it difficult for him to swat the flies off while they were traveling. He didn't want to accidentally knock one of them off with his heavy wet tail. Of course they said yes. The tent was crowded so the Bedouins went outside in the rain and the camel was nice and dry in

the tent. Both the Bedouins and the camel were happy. Are we sometimes like the Bedouins in this story? When we give up our Christian beliefs to accommodate others, that is exactly what we are like.

Reviewing cases of people who get lost shows a series of choices that were made caused it to happen rather than one major mistake. In incremental steps, usually starting even before entering the wilderness, the stage is set. The individual through ignorance or over confidence starts out ill prepared. Then as they get further and further along they continue to make incrementally poor choices. All of a sudden, they realize they are lost and panic sets in. At that point things can and often get really bad.

Once we start down the incremental path, we then have to compensate for our earlier choices by making adjustments and excuses. Then we have to justify those choices as they

become more obviously wrong. At an intellectual level we rationalize those choices by "putting ourselves in their shoes" or excusing our own poor actions. We may simply go into a state of denial and believe that it wasn't a series of bad choices that got us into the predicament in which we find ourselves.

We as Christians are vulnerable to the same kind of incremental mistakes discussed here in our spiritual and daily life. By being prepared through prayer and knowledge of God's teaching we can stay on the correct path and avoid the fear and panic of being lost. A verse we are using this year at Austin Brethren Church may be helpful in avoiding incremental mistakes. It is Proverbs 3:4-6 and reads as follows: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, but in all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your path."

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2nd & 4th Sunday
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Home: rev.tjt@verizon.net
Church: rev.tjt@zipnet.us
www.wallbrethrenchurch.org

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325-656-8363

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Tu-F-8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Special Notice from the President..

Recently I looked over the Unity website and noticed that a lot of the information was outdated and in some cases simply lacking. The web site is what people see when they look online to find out about our denomination. Accurately presenting what is currently happening within the Unity shows a vibrant and active church family. Old information or poorly presented information does just the opposite.

Please look at the website to ensure the organization you support is accurately and currently represented on the web site. Just like the information in the *Brethren Journal* where the editor can't make up what you are doing, the web master can't make it up either. Help Ben and the Unity update the Unity website by giving him the information he needs.

Thanks, Claren Kotrla

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9494 Big Elm Creek Rd.
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(254) 983-1002

Dr. Jiri Carda...1922-2009



Dr. and Mrs. Carda with all their family.

(Picture was taken in 1993 during the visit by the Janes family from Wesley.)

Dr. Jiri Carda, Pastor Emeritus of the Protestant Church of the Czech Brethren, died after a long illness at the Diakonia home for the elderly in Krabcice, the Czech Republic. Dr. Carda had visited some of the congregations of the Brethren in Texas, including the historic Wesley Brethren Church. He and his wife, Marie, graciously hosted and served as guides for many Texas Brethren who traveled to the Czech Republic over the years.

Surviving Dr. Carda is his wife Marie, three children – Petr, Marta,

and Jan – and a sister and her children.

He went to be with his Lord on January 2nd of this year, and his memorial service was on January 10th from the Protestant Czech Brethren Church in Horni Cermna, when he had served as pastor for 40 years.

Correspondance may be sent to:

Marie Cardova
DOS, Rovné 58, posta 411 87
Krabcice
The Czech Republic

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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

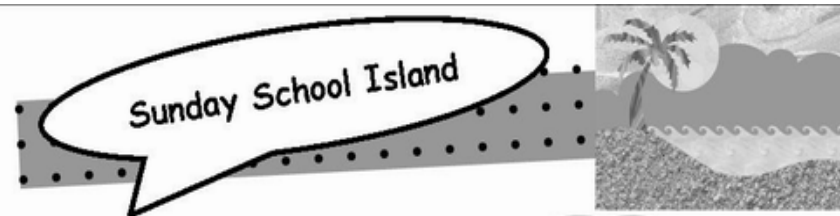
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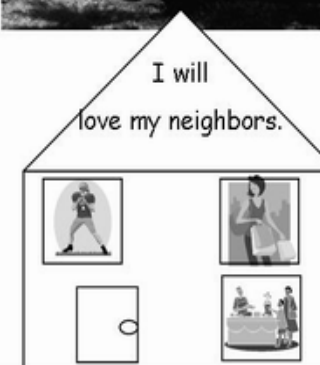
The theme for this month's section is LOVE. The Bible Verse is Matthew 22:39 "And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself."

Parent's Lagoon

Any time is a great time to talk about love with your kids. Preschool children may have noticed the hearts all over the stores during Valentines' and many elementary kids will have given and received valentines to their classmates. Focusing on this month's theme verse, Matthew 22:39, I have several suggestions for helping your child show love to a neighbor. (These can also be used for Sunday School lessons!)

Preschool and Elementary: Gather pictures of neighbors and friends. Place in the craft to the right or in a small album. Send a card or call each person at least once during the month.

Middle and High School: Encourage your child to help a church member. They can bring a meal, clean the yard, or wash their car. Remember, neighbors are everyone in our community!



Send all suggestions/questions/submissions to
hairrell@dishmail.net

Kid's Beach

Matt 22:39



And 2nd is like

it



your



neighbor

as



yourself

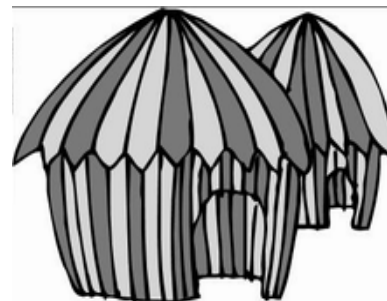
Sharing Love (Matthew 22:39)

Sunday School Teacher's



Easy Button

You will need 1 can of shaving cream and 1 glass about the same size as the can. As you squirt the shaving cream into the glass, talk about how nice and fluffy the shaving cream is and how it helps so much when you shave. Don't look down as you do this and let the cream flow out of the glass. As you see the "mess" tell the children that reminds you of loving your neighbor. Love is like shaving cream. If it stays inside us, it can't do its job. It needs to be let out so it can grow and expand. And God makes sure that our supply of love never runs out!



Teen Cabana

Is it okay to read the book Twilight and go to the movie?

Of course, the most important answer is, What do your parent say? It is a very popular movie and book series. (Twilight is the first in a series of four books and possibly 4 movies). But, here is what some trusted Christian advisers have to say about this book and movie.

From Focus on the Family: (for the complete review go to www.pluggedinonline.com/movies/movies/a0004361.cfm)

It is difficult to write just a movie review about a movie that isn't just a movie, but rather part of a tall tale that doesn't end at twilight, or even the dark of night. It goes beyond into the realm of the eternal—something not really hinted at onscreen...yet. One Twilight t-shirt being sold proclaims, "Forbidden fruit tastes the best." And that's certainly one of the film's underlying themes. This isn't about me beating up Twilight for being about vampires, though. There are positives in it that bear repeating: The Cullens refuse to be party to murder even when it's their "nature" to kill and feed off humans. Edward consistently controls his own blood lust around his classmates and Bella. He cares for her. He protects her. Bella offers up her life for her mom. But there's enough negative undercurrent even in this first outing to justify some pretty serious conversations afterwards for those families that decide to defer their better judgment—which would normally push vampire movies out of bounds—and go ahead and see the show. The positivity of Edward and Bella's abstinence needs to be tempered with a discussion about what's so very wrong with them "sleeping" together and him sneaking in her room. There's an important life lesson lurking in Bella's obstinance. But don't look for Twilight to unpack it for you.

BYF Winter Retreat: January 17-18... a report

Faith Ain't Monkey Business

Thirty-one youth and 8 adults gathered at the Hus Encampment January 17-18 for the winter youth retreat. Our focus for the weekend was "Faith Ain't Monkey Business." God turned the cold weather into beautiful sunshine, and we enjoyed every minute of it!

We discovered that our faith is not something that should be taken lightly through games, Bible studies, and fellowship. Many good people go to church, participate in church activities, and read the Bible, but the true measure of Christian faith is Jesus Christ. He is the foundation of our faith, and our thoughts and actions should center on Him.

We were challenged to evaluate our lives. How are we spending our time? What activities are we participating in? Are we giving God the time He deserves? Are we giving God

honor in the things we do? We present you with the same challenge. Have you given your life to Christ and made Him your foundation? How are you spending your time? What things are you seeking fulfillment in?

We pray that the Holy Spirit would touch you. That God would open your heart and your eyes. That you would give Him your time, turn to Him in all things, and that you would seek what is most important: a true relationship with Him through Jesus Christ. Amen.

We look forward to growing together in our faith and growing stronger with the Lord.

In His Love,
The Winter Retreat Coordinators
Jennifer Chervenka, Anna Wotipka,
Brittany Coots, and Christina Kirby



Upcoming Youth Activities Schedule

March 7:	State Children's Rally
April 10:	Fishing Retreat Registration Deadline
May 1-3:	State Youth Fishing Retreat*
July 25-26:	BYF Convention & Volleyball Tournament

B.Y.F. FISHING RETREAT **Friday, May 1-Sunday, May 3** **Port O'Connor, Texas**

Retreat Fee: \$50

The fee includes registration, food, and fishing supplies. You are responsible for your food and snacks while traveling. Participants (ages 17 and older) must have a fishing license with a salt-water stamp.

For information contact Jennifer Chervenka:
jennchervenka@earthlink.net; 254-983-1002.

Summer Hus Encampment Camp Schedule

Alpha Camp (9-10 year olds):	June 7-9 (Sun.-Tues.)
Pioneer Camp (11-12 year olds):	June 14-19 (Sun.-Fri.)
Discovery Camp (13-14 year olds):	June 21-26 (Sun.-Fri.)
Senior High Camp (15 and up):	June 28-July 3 (Sun.-Fri.)
Hus School (15 and up)	July 5-17 (2 weeks straight through, Sun.-Fri.)

Important Information...

from Kimberly Stewart, Summer Encampment Director:

High school students may come to 1 week of senior high camp or to the 2-week Hus School program for leadership training OR they may come for all 3 weeks combined. The two events will be planned in conjunction with one another, so that topics studied at the camp will carry over into the Hus School program. The Hus School theme this year will be Missions and Ministries.

Remember as you discuss Hus School that students are encouraged to come for 3 summers to gain the full realm of study. One year we address Personal and Spiritual Development, one year Prayer and Worship, and one year Missions and Ministries. These are all aspects that were covered in the past when Hus School was 4-6 weeks long. As it has been scaled back to 2 weeks, we have tried to still cover the topics, but now over a 3-year experience. From various conversations, I understand that not all parents or all churches have understood this process in the past few years and have been reluctant to send youth to Hus School for more than one year. We encourage just that. To have the full realm of courses and leadership experiences, we want the students to come multiple years. Now, that's not to say it's a requirement in any way. If someone is available only one summer, then we encourage attendance for one year.

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

SPECIAL NOTICE... Needed: Short-term Elementary English School Teachers in Ahuas, Honduras. Contact David Miller, Unity Mission Board President

Letters

— from the Thiessens...



Dear friends,

The Lord's Supper does not usually come with dessert, but today it did. Today, it came with a birthday cake. Today, 9 of us women squished into a car and drove 20 minutes out of town to celebrate the birthday of an old lady named Linda. Linda is not sure how old she is since her parents never filled out a birth certificate, but I place her somewhere near 90. She says definitely 74, but that's not the point. For years now, Linda has lived

prone on a straw mat in a little tin shack with cows tied outside her door and a goat pen across the yard. She has not sat upright for years. Shriv-eled and tiny, toothless and bedridden, she has a huge callous on her back and on her left elbow where she has scrunched herself around the shack keeping herself, her clothes, and her room clean and tidy. When you enter, there is no smell, no mess. She has a long bamboo stick that she uses to reach into the corners. This is some lady.

Each of us in turn kneels down on a piece of newspaper she keeps by her mat, and we greet her Mexican style, a hug and a kiss on the cheek. She is pleased to see us. It's her birthday.

Today she is going to be baptized. She has committed herself to God and wants to do all that she can do to show that she is serious about this. Aide, who has visited her nearly

every week for over 4 years now, bringing her food, caring for her small needs, and leading her to God, lovingly kneels beside her, takes the bandana off her head (she has no hair), and with a simple prayer, pours water over her head. Teresa leads us in a song. We pray. Linda prays... "God, I can't see you. But I know you are always here..."

We share the Lord's Supper there together in that shack. Tears glisten. Linda blesses us with her quiet, chirpy voice. Her bright eyes cherish us. My friend Binisa says, "I've never experienced the Lord's Supper like this before." And that doesn't even include the cake.

Afterwards, we all take pictures with Linda. She wants lots of copies to give to all her relatives. She wants a picture of the cake, and of her eating it, too. We sing "Las Mañanitas" in our best voices and cheer at the end.

This is her day.

When we leave, Soledad kills a poisonous spider making its nest in one of the slats near the doorway. Death and life lurk so close, here in this place.

As Aide has hoped in bringing us here with her today, all of us in our minds are wondering how to serve this beautiful woman better. We are all proud of her. She has won us. Her name, "Lovely" in Spanish, suits her.

We file out past the cows and the goats to our car. The cake was good. The time was holy. Through a little square hole in the tin behind her bed she waves us all goodbye, and that is the final image I see, a little shriveled hand vigorously bidding me goodbye, like a final benediction, like the icing on the cake.

Blessed, Anne



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For information please contact one of the following:

Dorothy Hinson
President

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

Larry King, Secretary
Board of Elders

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

**– from the Browns in Omolouc
the Czech Republic**

Greetings from frigid and snowy Olomouc, Czech Republic! We hope this email finds each of you doing well and growing in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. It has been quite awhile since we have communicated with you all. We have exciting news to share with you and thank you in advance for your partnership through prayer for us, Moravia, and God's glory.

Here's what is going on:

Family

*April is walking. Praise the Lord. She's been through some grueling physical therapy, but all the pain, sweat and tears is paying off. It's nice to see her walk and not have too much pain. April has befriended each of the physical therapists and meets weekly with one of them, Zuzanka. She is open to spiritual things and

interested in "God". Pray for them. April also meets with Zuzanka's roommate, Eva, weekly.

*The kids are doing well. They love going to school and are making many friends. It's awesome to watch each child develop and grow. It brings tears to our eyes to hear our kids speak fluent Czech. April wells up with tears because they can speak so well. I cry because it only reminds me of the fact that I can't speak Czech very well. ha! :) Chloe loves to talk to her friends about God, and her and Vance often come home with many questions about why their friends don't believe in God.

*Baby – we continue to wait each month for a call from the Social Office. We recently heard that there are children available for adoption, but there are no babies like we request. So we wait and pray.

*Natasha Simonenko – Natasha joined our team in early October and

is doing very well. She came through the International Mission Board's journeyman program. We're delighted to have her join us. She will begin teaching English in January. She's currently taking Czech lessons and is doing well.

*Philip and Lisa Bennett – The Bennetts, with their 2 small girls, will join our team in early January. They are currently at the IMB's International Learning Center for 8 weeks going through Field Personnel Orientation. Pray for them as they will face many changes and have many adjustments in the coming months.

*Ivos and Elen Stanko – we have been partnering with Ivos and Elen on different levels for 4 years now. God has knit our hearts together with theirs and we love working side by side with them. Pray for them as they have recently found out that Elen is pregnant!!!

Ministry

*Praise God! Honza, who has been attending our Bible discussion groups for about 2 years now, recently became a follower of Christ. You can see a dramatic change in his life and it's amazing. He truly has been trans-

formed. He's devouring the Word of God and is hungry to learn and live for Christ. It's awesome!! Pray for him. He is currently going through some VERY DIFFICULT family issues and desperately needs your prayers. Please pray for wisdom for us and Ivos and Elen as we guide and help him through this time in his life.

*Franta is an 18-year-old student in High School who has been coming to our group for over a year now. Recently he told us that he, too, is a follower of Jesus. He said that he now believes there is one God and his Son Jesus Christ. He can rattle off biblical facts about Jesus, but grace is missing in his life. With all the knowledge that he has, he is still working to get his way to God. Pray for him. He is struggling with some things that took place earlier in his life. He will not tell us what happened, but you can see the hurt in his eyes. Pray for him.

*Tonda, Jarka, Mila – All 3 of them said they wanted to follow Christ last May. It's been back and forth with them ever since. All 3 are dealing with issues in their lives and there is hurt and pain. One day they are open and say they believe, the next week they



PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Dr. Dawn Marie Baletka,
BaletkaD@navasotaidsd.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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say the do not or can not believe. Pray for all 3 of them. Thank you! Please pray for Mila's husband, Mirek, who is a very hard man, yet has come to our group. They invited us over to their home recently and we had a wonderful conversation about many different things.

*Please pray for the others that greatly need your prayers that attend or have attended our groups: Terezka, Lucie, Marek, Adriana, Vlasta, Mirek, Rahel, Betty, Zuzka and Eva.

*Christmas booth – The annual Christmas Market is getting ready to open in the main square of Olomouc. Once again we will be renting a booth and giving away free cookies, hot chocolate, crafts from America, Bibles, literature, and information about our ministry. Please pray for these 3 weeks.



We are going to freeze. Pray God would draw many people to Himself through our efforts. We are going to freeze. Pray for our health. We are going to freeze.

*International Worship Service – Last month we started a monthly International Worship Service. We've had two worship times, and around 50 people have attended each. Pray for this time. We are partnering with the local Baptist Church. The Baptist church provides the praise and worship, and I, Steve, preach. Pray for wisdom for us.

God constantly brings people to us and we are so grateful for it. April and I are meeting with people weekly for cappuccinos and conversation. We have had great opportunities to share the Hope that lies within us. We love to sit and talk with people for hours. They talk, we listen. We talk, they listen. We love living with and loving lost people in need of our Savior.

How are you all doing? We'd love to hear from each of you!!

We love you all, Steve, April, Chloe, Vance, and Sophie
Ephesians 6:19

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– from the Woos... (February 2009)

"For this reason you be ready too; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will." (Matthew 24:44)

Dear Friends and Family,

Happy Chinese New Year, it's the year of the bull and all of you born in '97,'85,'73,'61,'49,'37,'25,'13... it's your year! Last Sunday night was New Years Eve, and we were woke up at midnight by what sounded like a war zone roar of fireworks. Zach and Ian amazingly slept through it. We are getting pretty good at dealing with all the noise and smelly incense since this is our 5th time experiencing it.

Since we wrote you last we have continued to work on establishing an English training center. It will be a company, not a school. We praise the Lord that He has helped us to rent an office, make signs and business cards,

advertise, and even teach one week of classes. We had 6 students made up of 3-6 year olds. By the end of the week they could understand and sort-of say things like: "The man is jumping, the duck is yellow, I'm 4 years old." Next week we will hold more classes for middle school youth and adults, too. We have been given permission to go ahead with our teaching, but the government paperwork is not yet finished. Our co-worker has gone to 2 of the 8 government offices that we need permission from. The government really seems to want to make it work for us as they feel this province is behind in English. We are currently praying for some of you to come teach English with us for a year or so. If interested, just let us know.

This week we are back home in Target City and we feel we are still



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waiting... waiting on Him... waiting for the new year break to be over, waiting for a house helper and language helper, waiting for a breakthrough, waiting to see what He will do here. We again feel Him calling us to more prayer. This place is dark and the enemy is alive and well.

We see the enemy all around us. Before we had our own apartment we would stay in hotels and were awakened at night by the sights and sounds of prostitutes in the streets and others fighting and beating each other up between 1 and 6 AM. Today we went to the main bookstore of the city and there were pornographic videos with images out in the open for us to see right beside the English book section. On the highway between here and our former city we have twice come upon a traffic accident that has just taken place between a young Dai man on a motorcycle with no helmet and a truck or car. The young boy is always dead in the

street when we pass by. Drugs, AIDS, violence, prostitution, idol worship... it's all here, and people seem numb to it.

However, He is here, too! We feel Him in our family worship times, we feel Him calling us to pray, we feel Him telling us to seek Him, and we feel Him in the blessing of good neighbors and new friends. Hallelujah!

Today Samuel asked me when Jesus will come back. I told him that no one knows, but the Bible says that we must be ready. He asked what it means to be ready. What a great question. In this new year for China, please join us in seeking the Lord on behalf of the Dai people that they may be ready for the Lord's return, His glorious coming. May we all be ready, even so, come, Lord Jesus.

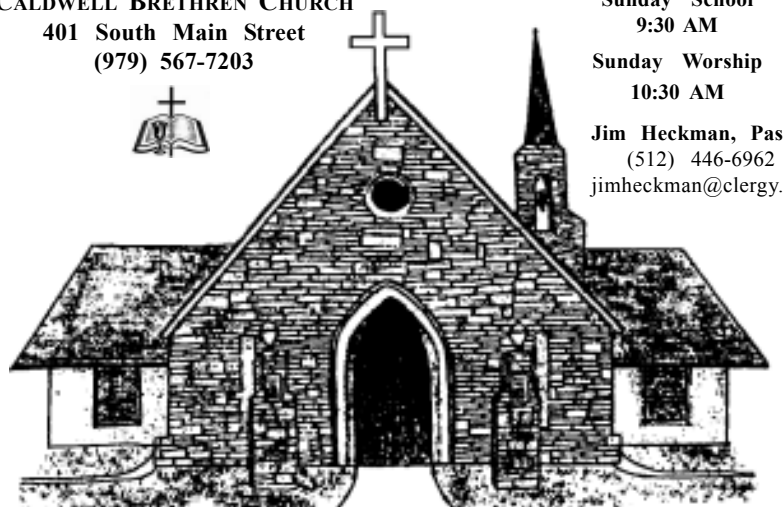
In Him,

Caroline, Michael,
Samuel, Ian, and Zach

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401 South Main Street
(979) 567-7203

Sunday School
9:30 AM
Sunday Worship
10:30 AM

Jim Heckman, Pastor
(512) 446-6962
jimheckman@clergy.net



Welcome

Amor Fraternal...a New Outreach in Pasadena

– by Pastor Scott Keaton

Amor Fraternal, that is the name of the Hispanic congregation that shares our church building with us. Pastors Armando Barros Sr. and Jr. were careful to name their congregation in a way that would fit with our denomination, just one of many ways they have been careful to fit as seamlessly as possible with our congregation. They have been with us for about 8 months now and have kept their word and them some. Amor Fraternal translates to “Brotherly Love”. We have recently started doing things together, first our annual Christmas banquet, and most recently our Christmas Eve service. Both events were a blessing to all in attendance.

I have to admit I have been puzzled as how to best serve this congregation. I promised when I first came that we would somehow reach this community, and the first three years were spent trying one outreach plan after another and seeing no results. Amor Fraternal was the answer to prayer,

prayer that God would use our congregation and our facility to serve the growing population of Hispanics in the area around our church. Amor Fraternal has been able to connect with a community that I had failed to connect with. They have been able to connect because they are Hispanic. There are areas where the population is becoming or has become predominantly Spanish speaking, I believe there is a place for The Unity in these areas if we begin to open up and recruit Hispanic pastors.

There is a tremendous home mission opportunity in the Hispanic community. I am in prayer about this and I invite you to pray with me, I have witnessed changed lives and families through my connection with Amor Fraternal, and to me that is proof that God is working in this area, and I want to be where God is.

In Christ,

Bro. Keaton

SNOOK BRETHREN CHURCH

9882 FM 2155/P.O. Box 247m Snook, TX 77878
Church Phone – (979) 272-3303

COME WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday School – 9:30 AM; Worship – 10:45 AM
Bible Buddies – 2nd Wednesday, 6:00-7:30 PM

Pastor	Board of Elders President	Youth Directors
Rev. Joseph Polasek	Rayfield Slovacek	Randall & Jonna See
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**MUTUAL AID SOCIETY
GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT
Period of July 1, 2008 - December 31, 2008**

Membership July 1, 2008	922
Deaths	5
Withdrawn	2
Dropped	15
Reinstated	0
New Members	9
Membership December 31, 2008	909

Those members received since the last report:

NAME	LOCAL	DATE JOINED
Shelby Taylor Macha	Rosenberg #21	August 10, 2008
Jared Morgan Ulmer	Taylor #3	August 23, 2008
Adam Kyle DeWitt	B/CS #34	August 23, 2008
Justin Wayne Polasek	Cadlwell #27	August 23, 2008
Allison Suzanne Jackson	West #4	August 23, 2008
Elizabeth Jae Ripple	Fayetteville #5	August 28, 2008
Blaise Alexandria McKinzie*	Fayetteville #5	August 28, 2008
Scott Lee Coleman	West #4	December 1, 2008
Seth Paul Beal	Taylor #3	December 1, 2008

*Not Junior Transfers

Those members for whom death benefits were paid since the last report:

NAME	LOCAL	DATE OF DEATH
Lillie J. Skrabanek	Seaton #16	June 20, 2008
Ben H. Chlapek	Temple #20	July 27, 2008
Frances S. Storey	New Tabor #13	October 4, 2008
Joseph Daniel Holey	At Large (Holland)	September 21, 2008
Jesse Hajdik	Houston #23	December 11, 2008

TAYLOR BRETHREN CHURCH

Seventh Street at Sloan in Taylor, Texas
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 351, Taylor, TX 76574
512-352-6423

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. Worship: 10:15 a.m.

<i>Pastor</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
<i>James D. Hejl</i>	<i>Sidney Srnsensky</i>	<i>Mary Kokes</i>
512-365-6890	512-365-1142	M-Th 8:00 am-noon

A Report on the Unity of the Brethren Synodical Committee Meeting of October 4, 2008 A Summary Report

The meeting was called to order by President Claren Kotrla. The Secretary reported that the 2008 questionnaires were still due from the B/CS, Crosby, Faith Brethren, Granger, New Tabor, Pasadena, Snook, Taylor, and West congregations. The 2009 questionnaires will be sent out after the first of the year.

The devotional, led by Rev. Larry Butcher, was entitled: "Measure What You Do" and was based on Mark 4:21.

Items of business:

- For a copy of the Revised Unity By-Laws, see Rev. Jimmy Hejl.
- The next Unity Convention would be held at the Temple Brethren Church, July 9-11, 2009. For the Convention, the reports from all officers and organizations will be due June 1, 2009.
- President Claren Kotrla noted that he had visited the Granger, Caldwell, and Dime Box congregations. Also, that Dawn Marie Baletka was now the president of the Pastor Relations Committee, that Rev. Jimmy Hejl had resigned as the Second Vice President; Rev. Michael Groseclose was appointed to take his place. He fur-

ther noted that he was looking for a Unity-Wide Pastor whose duty it would be to work with and visit all the Unity ministers to help churches be unified and to work better as a denomination. Bro. Larry Koslovsky defined "stewards" and "stewardship" as involving the sharing of time, talents, and treasure.

Reports were given by: Financial Secretary, Dewyan Weise; Treasurer, James Marek; Credentialing Committee, Rev. Larry Koslovsky. Presented the Seminary Courses for School Ministry (incorporated outside of Unity) for five Ministerial Students as follows. These are to be taught by Ministers within Unity: Jerry L. Terrill, D.Min., Houston; Larry Zabcik, Temple; Denise Mikeska, Seaton; Steven Davis, Seaton; Mark Sebek, Ocker.

Other Reports: The Mission Board, Joyce Baletka; State Youth Coordinator, Rev. Mike Groseclose. A New search committee was formed to reprocess resumes for the State Youth Coordinator Position; Rev. Mike Groseclose will serve as Chairman; Pastoral Relations Committee, Dawn



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.

Marie Baletka; Hus School Board of Trustees, Mike Emery; Hus School Land Acquisition Committee, Jim Baletka; Mutual Aid, Rev. Joseph Polasek; Book Store Manager, Rev. Jim Heckman; Minister Insurance Committee, Tommy Tallas .

Other Discussion & Reports:

- IRS Workshop, Rev. Jim Heckman ("IRS Resources on Tax Exempt"). It was recommended that each Church view online (contact Rev. Jim Heckman for website information).

- "In Gods Hands Ministry", by Rev. Jim Heckman.

- *Brethren Journal*, by Rev. Milton Maly & Rev. Joe Emerson (Financing).

- Combining of Christian Education and Sunday School Union Report, by Kay Polasek.

- Southern Province Synod of the Moravian Church, by Rev.

Linda Chandler.

- Liability issues, by Claren Kotrla.

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

Submitted by

Kathy Harrison, Secretary,
Unity of the Brethren

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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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DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for March 2009

Dorothy E. Kocian

- 1. I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them.**
Ez. 11:19
- The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. Ps. 23:1
- He is our God and we are the people of His pasture, the flock under His care. Ps. 95:7
- Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep." Jn. 10:11
- For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. 1 Pet. 2:25
- When the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. 1 Pet. 5:4
- They will know that I, the Lord their God, am with them, and they are My people. Ez. 34:30
- You, my sheep, the sheep of my pasture, are people, and I am your God, declares the sovereign Lord. Ez. 34:31
- You are great and do marvelous deeds; you alone are God. Ps. 86:10
- Sing to God, sing praise to His name; rejoice before Him. Ps. 69:4
- Let the nations praise Your great and awesome name. Ps. 99:3
- "Keep My commands and follow them. I am the Lord." Lev. 22:31
- "Do not profane My holy name. I must be acknowledged as holy. I am holy." Lev. 22:32
- The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe. Prov. 18:10
- Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in Your truth. Ps. 86:11
- You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God. Ex. 20:7
- Because you, O God, are my help, I sing in the shadow of Your wings. Ps. 63:7
- The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. Isa. 40:28
- He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Isa. 40:29
- The Lord is good to those whose hope is in Him, to the one who seeks him. Lam. 3:25
- Jesus said to them, "Surely I am with you always." Matt. 28:20
- Those whose hope is in the Lord will renew their strength. Isa. 40:31a
- Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. Lam. 3:22
- God our Savior saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. Titus 3:5
- Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners. Ps. 1:1
- He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit and whose leaf does not wither. Ps. 1:3
- It is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. Lam. 3:26
- If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come. 2 Cor. 5:17
- God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Cor. 5:21
- Every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Phil. 2:11
- Jesus said, "Rejoice that your names are written in heaven." Lk. 10:20

Annual Christian Sisters Bazaar, 2nd Saturday in September

The Rosenberg Brethren Church

Christian Sisters

5220 Reading Road, Rosenberg, Texas 77471

Mutual Aid Society – Listing of Local Secretaries' Addresses and Phone Numbers

Granger #1: Angie Malicoat, PO Box 86, Taylor, TX 76574, 512-859-2837
 Shiner #2: **Natalie Outlaw, 7575 Wixon Road, Bryan, TX 77808-8085, 979-589-2012
 Taylor #3: Marie Ann Ripple, 2302 Heights Blvd, Taylor, TX 76574, 512-365-6916, hripple@att.net
 West #4: Dorothy Kocian, 107 South Barbara Street, Waco, TX 76705, 254-799-5331, dekocian@yahoo.com
 Dime Box #6: Olga Brinkman, 2302 E. Mercer's Landing, Bryan, TX 77808, 979-731-8681
 Snook #7: Marie Shelfer, Box 138, Snook, TX 77878, 979-272-8100, shelfer@tamuu.edu
 Ocker #8: Doris Svoboda, 109 Friendship Ln, Temple, TX 76501-9614, 254-742-1405
 Dallas #10: James A. Marek, 2511 Wedglea, Apt 608, Dallas, TX 75211, 214-942-5168, jamcei@aol.com
 Cooks Point #12: Patsy Albright, 2105 Rivendell, Bryan, TX 77807-4812, 979-779-8463
 New Tabor #13: Evelyn Henry, PO Box 336, Caldwell, TX 77836-0336, 979-567-4397
 Nelsonville #14: Peggy Peschel, 8000 Hwy 159 W, Bellville, TX 77418, 979-865-5095
 Seaton #16: Joyce Skrabanek, 7157 FM 2086, Temple, TX 76501, 254-984-2283
 Sealy #17: Esther Breeden, 1505 E 27th, Bryan, TX 77802-1318, 979-779-3835
 Wesley #18: Mary Surovik, 2530 S Berlin Rd, Brenham, TX 77833-2048, 979-251-7485
 Smithville #19: **Natalie Outlaw, 7575 Wixon Road, Bryan, TX 77808-8085, 979-589-2012
 Temple #20: Ed Marek, 2900 Pecan Valley Drive, Temple, TX 76502, 254-778-2120
 Rosenberg #21: Virginia Macik, 1209 Tobola, Rosenberg, TX 77471, 281-342-8802
 Alief #22: Daniel W. Psencik, 1216 Damon Street, Rosenberg, TX 77471, 979-793-6783
 Houston #23: Dorothy Hinson, 7331 Misty Morning Dr., Humble, TX 77346, 281-620-0480
 Industry #24: **Natalie Outlaw, 7575 Wixon Road, Bryan, TX 77808-8085, 979-589-2012
 Wall #25: Sharon J. Hohmann, 222 Crestwood Drive, San Angelo, TX 76903-9106, 325-651-5884
 Caldwell #27: Guy Huffman, PO Box 216, Caldwell, TX 77836, 979-567-7089, cpaguy@cpaguy.com
 Crosby #28: Gisela Gaeke, PO Box 599, Crosby, TX 77532, 281-426-5506
 Buckholts #29: **Natalie Outlaw, 7575 Wixon Road, Bryan, TX 77808-8085, 979-589-2012, NatalieOutlaw@yahoo.com
 Placedo #30: Dorothy Elsik, PO Box 1054, Victoria, TX 77902, 361-575-2298
 Robstown #31: Annette Korff, 1207 Baker, Robstown, TX 78380, 361-387-5241
 Austin #32: Doris Boriski, 17111 Oak Cliff Circle, Dripping Springs, TX 78620-2527, 512-264-2273
 Pasadena #33: Betty Orsag, 5118 Coventry Ct, Friendswood, TX 77546-3001, 281-482-1501
 B/CS #34: Mary Polasek, 4241 Blue Heron Road, Bryan, TX 77807-9027, 979-779-3634, josephpolasek@hotmail.com

**Position currently filled by Administrative Board members

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

THE MUTUAL AID SOCIETY

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

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

VITAL STATISTICS

MEMBERS RECEIVED

By Profession of Faith:

DEBBIE GLORIA on August 24, 2008 at the Rosenberg Brethren Church.

EVAN EICHENBERGER on November 2, 2008 at the Rosenberg Brethren Church.

SHERI STEFFEK on November 16, 2008 at the Rosenberg Brethren Church.

By Reaffirmation of Faith:

TERRI PARKISON, at Wesley Brethren Church on November 30, 2008.

By Letter of Transfer:

LARRY and JACLYN ZABCIK, from First Presbyterian Church of Hillsboro to Temple Brethren Church, on October 19, 2008.

RECENT WEDDINGS

RECENT WEDDINGS

GANDY/MACIK. Alan Ray Macik and Sandra Gandy were joined in marriage at the Rosenberg Brethren Church on Saturday, November 8. Minister: Larry Butcher.

GLORIA/EICHENBERGER. Debbie Ann Gloria and Evan Arnold Eichenberger were joined in marriage at the Rosenberg Brethren Church on Wednesday, November 12. Minister: Larry Butcher.

PIERCE/KIRKFIELD. Robert Keith Kirkfield and Cheryl Loraine Pierce were joined in marriage at their residence in Waco, Texas, on January 17, 2009. Minister: Lawrence Juneke.

RECENT DEATHS

BOELSCHKE, JOA W., 83, died on September 4, 2008. He was born on July 8, 1925, and was married to Gladys Mikeska on November 20, 1948. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and served in France and Germany, where he was a German interpreter. Mr. Bielsche was a faithful and serving member of the Pasadena Brethren Church. Survivors include his wife, two sons, and three grandchildren. Following visitation at

the Pasadena Funeral Chapel, burial was at the Wesley Brethren Church Cemetery. Ministers: Henry Beseda, Scott Keaton, and Jim Heckman.

ZETTEL, VLASTA ANNIE (SISA), age 89 and for years a member of the Nelsonville Brethren Church, died November 29, 2008, at Houston, Texas. She was born April 13, 1919, at Nelsonville, Texas, married October 30, 1946, to Charlie Zettel. She was a member of the Nelsonville Christian Sisters, a BYF sponsor for over 20 years, and a Sunday School teacher for over 50 years. She is survived by two children; five grandchildren; four great grandchildren and one brother. Services were held on December 2, 2008, from the Nelsonville Brethren Church with burial in National Cemetery. Minister: Michael Groseclose.

MASSENGALE, YVONNE MARIE, age 50 and a member of the Rosenberg Brethren Church, died on Tuesday, December 2, 2008, in Houston. She was born on October 6, 1958, and is survived by her husband, her mother, a daughter, and two brothers. Services were at the Rosenberg Brethren Church on December 5, 2008. Minister: Larry Butcher.

ZAPALAC, JOYCE GENE (MACAT), age 63 and for years a member of the Nelsonville Brethren Church, died on January 21, 2009, in Bellville. She was born October 6, 1945, in Houston and is survived by three children, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Services were on January 24, 2009, from the Knesek Bros. Funeral Chapel in Bellville with burial in the National Cemetery. Minister: Michael Groseclose.

Knesek Family Funeral Chapels



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Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

Keep these activities in your prayers.

March 28, 2009: Beginning at 9:00 AM at the Hus Encampment – Synodical Committee meeting.

July 9, 10, & 11, 2009: The 63rd Convention of the Unity of the Brethren in Texas . . . hosted by the Temple Brethren Church.

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

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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
– Pastor 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.
– Pastor Dr. Jerry L. Terrill

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.
– Pastor Larry Zabcik

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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