

THE BRETHREN



JOURNAL



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THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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President's Column . . . Claren Kotrla CONVENTION THOUGHTS

These are just a few thoughts on my observation of the 2009 Unity convention held in Temple, Texas. You may read the details in another section of the Journal. The most noticeable observation was that everyone did a wonderful job in preparing for the convention, both physically and spiritually.

Our pastors set the stage with a wonderful spirit-filled worship service on Thursday night. The service lasted longer than expected, but no one seemed to mind. On Friday morning we started with a meaningful devotional and went to work. The administrative work of the Unity is tedious and at times both boring and intense, but we plowed forward. The committees met and discussed, with some completing their assignments quickly while others continued for a longer time.

Friday we were also pleased to have the members of the 2009 Hus School class visit and participate both

in the committee meetings and in front of the convention. Meetings continued and those who weren't at meetings had the opportunity to participate in the "Renewal" forum in the main sanctuary led by our three ministerial students.

Friday night saw praise and worship and some entertainment with music and singing, including the former Hus School graduates providing a resounding rendition of *Hoj Verni v Boj*.

Saturday dawned with hopes of finishing early, but it was not to be. After another meaningful devotion, there were many details to attend to. The committees needed to complete their work, and we had to read and act on the various motions developed during the convention sessions. There was much discussion, and in the end we completed our administrative work around four in the afternoon. The delegates showed dedication and



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President: Rev. Henry Beseda

stamina by working long hours and reaching agreements on the motions presented.

To everyone I want to give my heartfelt thanks for your work, thoughts, and prayers to make this convention at Temple a success.

PRAISE

Exodus 15:2 reads: "*The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation. He is my God and I will praise Him, my father's God and I will exalt Him.*"

This was stated after the Israelites passed through the Red Sea on dry ground. They had seen the power of God and were grateful for their deliverance.

Then why should we praise God? We have a severe drought, there is greater dissention within the country

than experienced in recent history, our legislators are trusted less than a used car salesman, we see graft and corruption in our elected officials, soldiers are dying fighting Moslem terrorists at more than one a day, and the economy is as bad as we can remember. So why praise God for this?

We praise God for having the salvation He gives and the strength through our beliefs to be able to overcome these adversities, not the things we see wrong with our world. He gives us the strength to overcome our worst fears. Remember the trials and tribulations of Job. In Job 2:21 he says "naked I came from my mother's womb and naked I will depart, The Lord gave and Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised." He didn't doubt the Lord, but praised

the Lord during his misery, and in the end his misery was ended. How many of us can or could exhibit such faith?

If, however, you want a few positive reasons to praise the Lord, the fact that you are reading this is one. You have the ability and the freedom to do so. We can look back just a few weeks and recognize that our denomination met and addressed many administrative issues to keep the Unity moving forward. We adopted the word

"Renewal" and have seen evidence of renewal within the actions of members of the Unity. At the convention we observed some of the strongest worship services and evidence of the Holy Spirit seen in a long time. So praise the Lord for what is good in your life rather than dwelling on what's wrong with it. Not only will you praise God for the good but you will feel better, also.

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Rogers, TX 76569

(254) 983-1002

Seaton Brethren Church

12561 State Highway 53, Temple, Texas 76501

(254) 985-2694

Sunday Schedule

9:15 a.m.

Prayer

9:30 a.m.

Sunday School for ALL Ages

10:30 a.m.

Worship

Wednesday Schedule

5:30 p.m.

Wednesday Night Meal

6:30 p.m.

KiD's ZoNe (ages 3 – 5th gr.)
Priority ONE Youth (6th gr. – 12th gr.)

& Adult Bible Study

7:30 p.m.

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Rev. Joe Emerson, Pastor

P.O. Box 4615, Temple, TX 76505

(254) 791-0420 hm (254) 931-1653 cell pastorjde@juno.com

Denise Mikeska, Associate Pastor

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P.O. Box 658, Rogers, TX 76569

(254) 913-1214 cell sdejddavis@netscape.net

Dolores Skrabanek, Board of Elders Chair.

13107 State Highway 53, Temple, TX 76501

(254) 985-2344

We Do **LIFE** Together

We remember and celebrate **Marie Marek (1927-2009)**

Clergy and friends from around the Unity of the Brethren gathered at the Taylor Brethren Church on June 16, 2009, to worship God and celebrate God's work in the life of Marie Marek. Born Eleanor Marie Whitten on April 12, 1927, God called Mrs. Marek home on June 13, 2009, at the age of 82. She was joined in holy matrimony to Daniel J. Marek on August 25, 1949, and they would be faithful, devoted partners in life and ministry until the end of Bro. Dan's earthly journey on May 25, 2004.

God blessed the Mareks with three sons, John and his wife, Janet, of Austin, David of Taylor, and James and his wife, Susan, of Taylor, and five grandchildren, Matt, Mandi, Rachel, Kayla, and Kelsey. We pray that God will bless and comfort all of Mrs. Marek's family and friends.

Mrs. Marek served the Lord in countless ways throughout her life, but she was particularly active in the work of the Mutual Aid Society, the

Christian Sisters Union, and the youth programs of the Hus Encampment near Caldwell. Of course, we in Taylor are blessed by the enduring influence of Rev. and Mrs. Marek's ministry here from 1971-1985 and then during their retirement years, beginning in 1990.

We thank God that Marie Marek was such a dear and important part of our spiritual walk, and we will cherish her memory

and remember her with love always.

...a note from her boys:

"Dear Unity Family:

While it is bitter to experience the death of a loved one, especially a wonderful parent, it is sweet to know momma's struggles with her health and well being are finally over and she now rests comfortably under our Savior's care.

The Marek boys –
John, David and James



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Study 10:30 AM
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Rev. Johnny Kueker
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Buckholts, Texas 76518
(254) 605-0434

2009 Unity of the Brethren Convention Report

– by Kathy Harrison, Unity Secretary

As Secretary of the Unity of the Brethren, I bring this report. I first want to thank Claren Kotrla as President, the Executive Committee, Delegates, Synodical Committee Members, Pastoral Relations Committee and the Ministers for their attendance and participation with the 2009 Convention.

The theme for the 2009 Convention was "Renewal". As many have stated, this convention was "Spiritually Uplifting"... Prayer was the main focus, along with worship and music... which left each of us feeling the presence of the Holy Spirit and being unified with one another. It was an excellent convention with all business being completed in a cordial manner.

The Referendum (including motions and bylaw changes for congregations to vote on) will be sent out soon. The attendance ranged from 160-180 daily. Many of our ministers were present and many visitors were in attendance. Pastor Larry Zabcik and his congregation at Temple Brethren did an outstanding job as hosts for this convention! Many thanks to the Ocker Brethren Christian Sisters for assisting Temple Brethren in providing deserts for this convention. Thanks to every group and/or musician who were a part of any of the convention worship services and for sharing God's Word through Music Ministry.

I will be continuing to serve as Secretary of the Unity for the next



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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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2 years. Please visit the Unity website as it will soon be updated with all who will be serving the next 2 years. I ask that if your congregation has a new Synodical representative, please send me the name and email address as soon as possible! Also, the Referendum is being sent out by email, and I ask that each minister and/or Synodical representative from each congregation please share this with your president or secretary of your congregation to be voted on as soon as possible and to be returned by the designated deadline date. Please review once received.

The current Synodical representative email list is being used until I have been informed otherwise. If your Synodical representative has changed, please pass on to the new one. Also, I will be emailing the minutes of the 2009 Convention and ask again that

the ministers and Synodical representatives please share with your congregation. For the next 2 years I will solely be relying on the ministers and Synodical representatives to share all information received by you with your congregation.

Praying that through "Renewal" the Unity of the Brethren will be unified as we all share God's Word and work together in our service unto the Lord.

Romans 12:1-2... *'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.'*

God Bless ~ Kathy Harrison

Youth News...

Oak Island Misson Trip... a report

Faith in Action, Oak Island Mission Trip Sunday, June 28- Friday, July 3

– by Jennifer Chervenka, State Youth Coordinator

54 servants gathered at Oak Island Baptist Church on Sunday, June 28, ranging from age 11 to over 70, and began showing their faith through their actions.

Work crews of 5-10 persons, mostly youth, worked in 100+ temperatures with all their hearts. A home was sheetrocked, taped, and floated. Another was trimmed out with baseboards, door frames, doors, window sills, closets, cabinets, and plumbing. Clean-up crews moved rocks and debris as well as hauled off garbage. The physical and visual results were amazing, but the spiritual testimony was immeasurable.

Not only were the hearts of the

homeowners and community touched, but ours were, as well. These youth set an example for the entire denomination. I pray that we as the Unity of the Brethren will step out in faith as the Body of Christ. We need to set aside our differences, stop complaining about our situations, and quit grumbling amongst ourselves so that we can unite in the most important mission of all: in full service to share the Gospel and God's love with those around us.

CALLING ALL NURSES!

If you are an RN or an LVN, we need you! There are many activities



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Pastor
James D. Hejl
512-365-6890

President
Sidney Srensky
512-365-1142

Secretary
Mary Kokes
M-Th 8:00 am-noon

held at the Hus Encampment each year, and it is vital that these functions have a nurse on staff. Mrs. Jean Coufal, RN, has served at several functions and has helped describe some of the duties:

CHECK-IN – sit at a table so that the parents of children with medications or special medical needs can talk to you personally. Watch the campers' excitement as they say goodbye to their parents, see their friends from other times at camp, and load up their stuff to take to the dorm. **ORGANIZE** – set up the camper (and adult leaders) medication schedule and lock everything up for safe keeping. **ON DUTY** – the camp nurse duties are basic nursing such

as securing and dispensing all medications to campers and leaders, administering first aid, including arranging for medical treatment if necessary, and communicating with parents if problems arise. **CHECK-OUT** – make sure all of the medications brought by campers and leaders goes home with them. **ENJOY** – your time as you desire – participate in worship, singing, crafts, fishing, and every other activity, **OR** visit with campers, leaders, and visitors to camp, **OR** read that book you don't have time for at home, catch up on professional or Bible study in your private **AIR-CONDITIONED** nurse's suite.

At the end of the session, whether a day with the 5-8 year olds at Kid

Retreat, 2-day Youth Retreat, 3- to 6-day camping session, or 2 weeks of Hus School, you will be blessed by the experience of enabling our youngest Brethren and their friends learn about Christ and His Body, the Church. As Paul so well stated in I Corinthians 12, each person in the church has gifts that enhance the work of the church body. Nurses, both RN and LVN, have a unique gift that is vital to the work of the Hus Encampment. By statute, camps must have a nurse in attendance. If you are a nurse or know of a nurse in your local church family, please contact Jennifer Chervenka at jennchervenka@farm-market.net, or 254-983-1002.

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

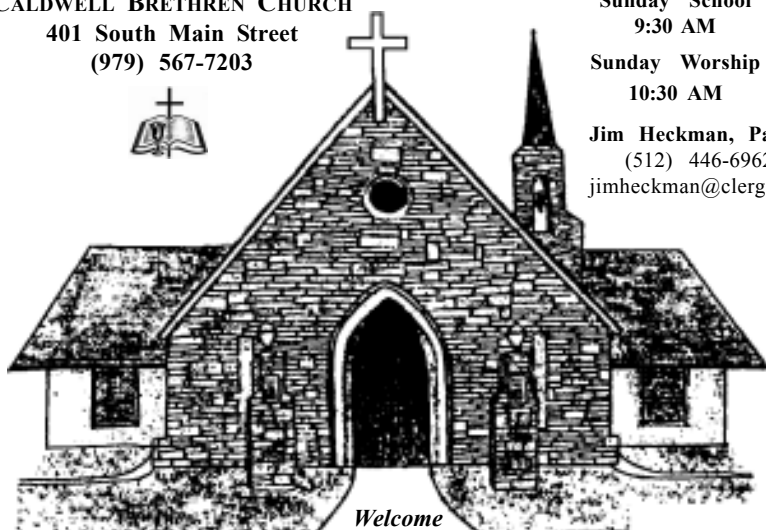
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Syndical Committee Liaison: Dr. Larry Koslovsky
Members: Eugene Haisler, dmheeh@msn.com
 Tami Laza, tami.laza@verizon.net
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 9:30 AM

Sunday Worship
 10:30 AM

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

Youth Schedule...

Fall Youth Retreat for ages 12-21
 November 14-15
 at Hus Encampment
 Registration \$30;
 Deadline October 10

T-shirts \$10; Deadline October 10
 Contact: Jennifer Chervenka

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williamr90@aol.com

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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

Rev. Joseph Polasek
 4241 Blue Heron
 Bryan, TX 77807
 (979) 779-3634

Board of Elders President

Rayfield Slovacek
 P.O. Box 267
 Snook, TX 77878
 (979) 272-8845

Youth Directors

Randall & Jonna See
 P.O. Box 345
 Snook, TX 77878

ALPHA Camp 2009

**SEA THE WORLD GOD CREATED...
and see what fun we had!**

What a great time we had from June 7-9, 2009, at the Hus Encampment! 41 students ages 9-10 and 22 adults gathered for Alpha Camp. This year's theme was "Sea the World Created", and our key verse was "*Their hope is the Lord their God. He made heaven and earth, the sea and everything in it.*" Psalm 146:5b-6.

Our lessons for the week centered on creation. How God made everything, and how we are the most precious creation, made in His image. We discussed our images and our usefulness. We learned that we all are to love God and love others because God loves us. We also learned that sometimes when we think we are

unloveable, God still loves us, and He forgives us for all of our mistakes.

Our crafts included making piñatas and garden stones. We also made things like dirt cake, jewelry, cards, and bookmarks. A few of us got our putts in on the new golf course; some of us shot a few arrows; and early birds were able to catch a few fish.

It was a wonderful experience, and we hope to see everyone back next year!

Your Alpha Directors,
Jennifer and JP Chervenka
Mike and Danna Dowling
Lynette Urbanovsky

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15th ANNUAL PRIMETIMERS' RETREAT

Adults age 50 +

Hus School Encampment, Caldwell, Texas, October 9-11, 2009

Cost: \$40 Per Person (weekend); \$25 Per Person (Saturday Only). \$10 deposit per person due with Registration; Refundable only if cancellation received by September 30, 2009. Please make checks payable to Taylor Brethren Church–Primetimers

Registration Deadline: October 3, 2009 (Extremely Important)

Send Registration To: Delores Kubala, 2109 Quail Cove, Taylor, TX 76574. (512) 352-3823

What to Bring: Bedding: 2 sheets, blanket, pillow. Personal Items: Toilet articles, towels, wash cloths, etc. Clothes: Casual and comfortable. Other Items: Bible, raincoat, flashlight.

Overnight Accommodation: The Hus School Encampment Dormitory/Cabin Facilities are available (NO ADDITIONAL CHARGE) First come first served basis. Consideration will be given to special housing needs. Accommodations are also available in Caldwell for an additional charge: Sunset Inn (979)567-4661 OR Surrey Inn (979) 567-3221

Directors: Taylor & Granger Brethren Church **Camp Pastor:** Rev. Jimmy Hejl

Primetimers' Retreat Registration Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____, TX

Zip _____ Home Church _____

Age Group: 50 _____ 60 _____ 70 _____ 80 _____

Expected Time of Arrival: Friday Evening _____ Saturday Morning _____

Deposit Enclosed \$ _____

Overnight Accommodations:

_____ I would like to stay at the Hus School Dormitory

_____ I have made my own reservations at the local motel

Medical Information: Medication/food allergies: _____

Medications currently taking (enclose a list)

Dr. & Insurance information _____

Emergency Contact Person _____ Relation _____

Phone _____

BRETHREN JOURNAL

September 2009/13

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Shiner #2: **Natalie Outlaw, 7575 Wixon Road, Bryan, TX 77808-8085, 979-589-2012

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**Position currently filled by Administrative Board members

Sunday School Island

The theme for this month is **PEACE**. The guiding verses for this issue is Psalm 46: 10 “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

Peace. What is peace? And how do we find peace in world that is moving 100 miles per hour or faster. Think to the story of Jesus and his disciples in a rowboat in Mark 4. While the disciples were anything but peaceful, Jesus slept peacefully in the boat. But what were the words that Jesus used to quiet the stormy sea? “Peace! Be Still!” (Mark 4:39). Do you think that it is a coincidence that “peace” and “still” come together? When did Abraham hear God’s “still small voice”? It was when he was still, not frantically moving about. To find peace, as parents, grandparents, Sunday School Teachers, as children of the Holy Father, we need to spend time still, in prayer and thoughtfulness of God. It seems there is a direct link from stillness to peacefulness.



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Brethren website for
the online version!*

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Kid's Beach

Psalms: 46:10



Sunday School Teacher's



Easy Button

Being Close to God:

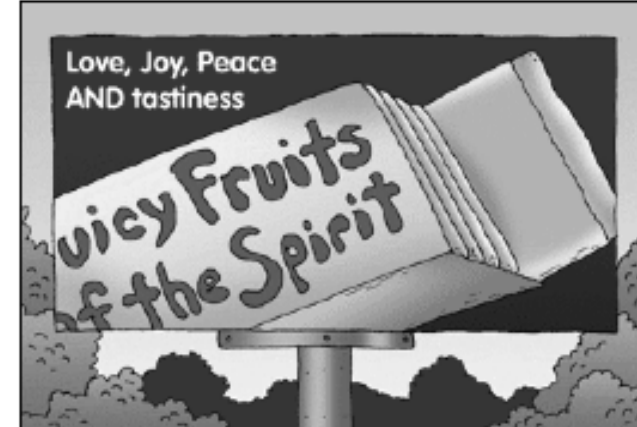
When we are still and think about God, we get a closer relationship with him. You will need LOTS of popcorn. Divide youth in 2 groups. Place them in a line, approximately 10 feet apart. Have one group throw a piece of popcorn to the other group (like a water balloon toss). Youth in the other group try to catch the popcorn. Then have lines take one step in.

Being Close to God cont.:

Continue until youth are close and catching the popcorn is easy. Lesson: When you are close to God and spend time in prayer and worship, it is easier to have a relationship with Him.

Teen Cabana

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Thanks to Patricia (See Galatians 5:16-26)

06-29-2006



**Peace in
the Storm**

Read the story of Jesus and His disciples in Mark 4. Jesus spoke and the waves responded. All it took was a word from Him and peace was returned to the sea. It seems that life is often more like the stormy sea, than the calm sea. So how can we find peace on Earth when there is so much going on around us? Just like in the New Testament, Jesus is the answer! Think about this. "Peace rules the day when Christ rules the heart". Just like the disciples in that little rowboat on the stormy sea, we need to remember who is in the boat with us. Through a personal relationship with Him, He will see us through the storms and bring us peace, even in the middle of the storm! Let Christ rule your life. Instead of telling our Lord how big the storm is you are facing, try telling the storm just how powerful and great your Lord is. Turn it around and find peace.

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.

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

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

Missionaries and their Families' Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Addresses

January	– Ruth T. (2nd), Phil & Eunice R. Annv. (3rd), Anne T. (18th), Samuel W. (23rd)
February	– Philip T. (3rd), Eunice (17th)
March	
April	
May	– Michael & Caroline W. Annv. (13th), Zach W. (26th)
June	– Stanya K. (24th)
July	– Pastor Pavel K. (11th), Stanya & Pavel Annv. (26th)
August	– Robert & Anne T. Annv. (26th)
September	– Caroline W. (5th)
October	– Ian W. (15th), Phil R. (21st), Michael W. (28th)
November	– Jill M. (25th)
December	– Robert T. (15th)

Robert, Anne, RuthE, and Philip Thiessen

25 E. Camino Nacional
Tlalixtác de Cabrera
Oaxaca, Mexico 68627

e-mail: rvthiessen@gmail.com

Jill Miller

3693 Blumentritt Road
San Angelo, TX 76905
(325) 651-7597

e-mail: jillmiller7@gmail.com

Michael, Caroline, Samuel, Ian, and Zach Woo

P.O. Box 27
Chiang Mae 5000
Thailand

e-mail: mcswoo@psmail.net

Phil & Eunice Raiford

(parents' address in U.S.)
2951 St. Claire Rd.

Winston-Salem, NC 27106

e-mail: pbrmissions@gmail.com

Pastor Pavel & Stanya Kozak

Na Vyhliče 315

405 05 Decin 9

Czech Republic

e-mail: Pavel.Ko@volny.cz

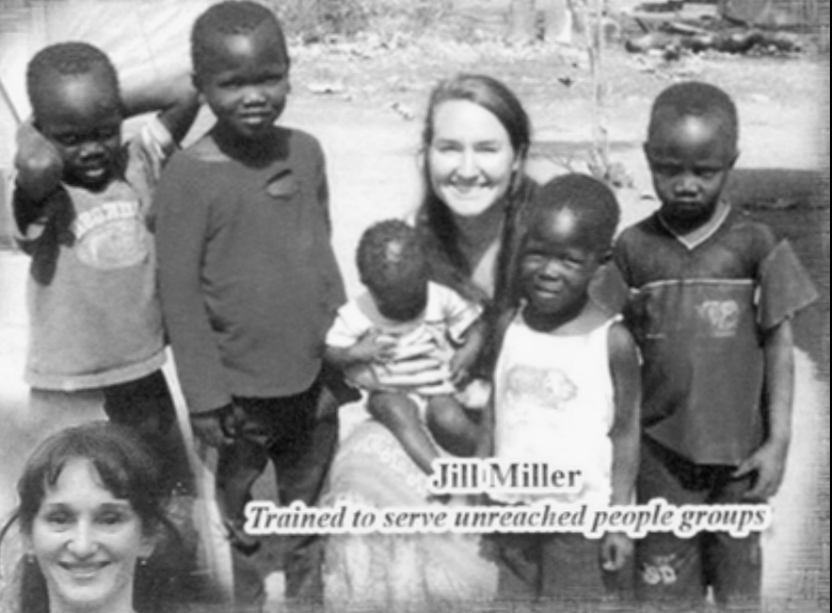
Your prayers are essential and your financial support is greatly appreciated. To support these missionaries, please mark your donation "Foreign Missions" and place it in the offering of any congregation or mail it to the current Unity Financial Secretary:

Dewyan Weise
6006 FM Hwy 765
San Angelo, TX 76905

These are God's missionaries sponsored by the Unity of the Brethren.
Please pray for them and all of His servants world-wide.



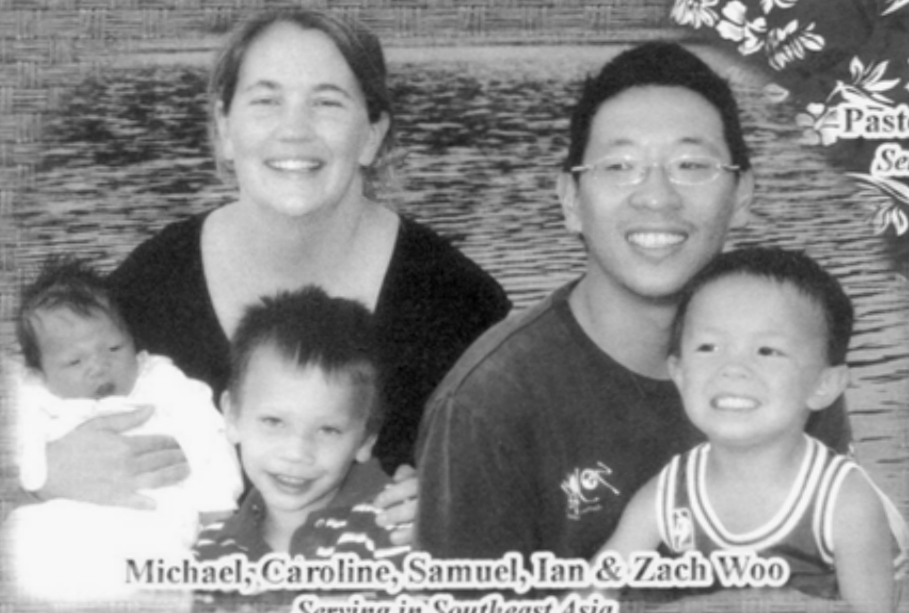
Rob, Anne,
Ruth E. & Philip Thiessen
Serving in Southern Mexico



Jill Miller
Trained to serve unreached people groups



Pastor Pavel & Stanya Kozak
Serving in the Czech Republic



Michael, Caroline, Samuel, Ian & Zach Woo
Serving in Southeast Asia



Phil & Eunice Raiford
Serving in Nicaragua

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

A Letter from the Czech Republic...

Dear Brother and Pastor Ron,
Dear leadership committee of the Ocker Brethren Church, Our dear Brothers and Sisters of our SISTER church,
Dear Friends, Dear Sponsors,

First of all, accept please very warm, heart greetings from Czech republic, greetings from myself and from my wife, and also from our Maranatha church, in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The months are "jumping" very quickly and the things are "rolling" hectically too often here...

Wow... What a wonderful time is behind us in those days!

We have had TWO great events in this month. The first one was the visit of the Pastor Ron Winsman and his wife, and the second one was the BAPTISM of the SIX people in the lake!

We are always so happy when we have guests in our church. This visit was an incredible blessing and encouragement for me, as the leader

here in my tough ministry, for my wife Stana, and mainly for the church.

Those our new converts are always so blessed to know, that we, as brothers and sisters are ONE BIG GOD's FAMILY in this world. It is always lifting up their faith, when seeing that, although we are just a few in Decin (55,000 population) as Christians, we are united together in the Love of God in Christ Jesus to minister together on His mission FIELD.

Brother Ron have had a great Word presentation (Psalm 40) in the church, when all the church members had been blessed and encouraged by it. His singing together with his wife was also the BLESSING!!!

We also ministered to the youth together with Brother Ron and with his wife. There was really crowded... Lots of kids, short Gospel presentation, games, fun and candies... We are praising our Lord for the chance to minister to the youngest generation here. It is really something and a difference for them to be with Christians, with the Love of God instead of browsing the downtown and to be tempted to do the evil things.

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Most of those kids are living in the terrible conditions in their homes (financial, moral, spiritual), so our church is many times as the shelter for them.

What a BLESSING to tell you, our beloved brothers and sisters about the BAPTISM! EACH year I am praying humbly to the Lord Jesus to be merciful to me and to give me next chance to lead NEW people to Him in repentance, to trust Him and to confess their FAITH publicly at the lake...

WE ALL are SO HAPPY, that we had been privileged to baptize SIX NEW people. **One brother and five sisters!** What a GRACE! There is a NICE story, that there has been baptized a MOTHER with her TWO DAUGHTERS!!! Isn't it GREAT!!!!??? ONE DAY, mother and TWO her kids!



Maybe shocking for some of you may be the temperature of the water... There was "NICE" 52 degrees!!!! TOOOO COOOLD!!!

It is always very SPECIAL atmosphere before and during the Baptism! Everybody could FEEL the Holy time of this event, together with the JOY and HAPPINESS and also a kind of Holy Fear...

So precious is that there had been MANY visitors, unbelieving people, who probably NEVER seen something like this in their lives before.

The entire church is VERY HAPPY now thanks to the LORD! We are ministering faithfully in the Litomerice each week, and also we do minister regularly in Usti, where is a HUGE Gypsy community too... In Usti it is very tough ministry, where we are focused mainly to the kids and to the youth, to put a SEED to their hearts...

We all do live in the hectic and hard times, as the Bible says concerning the latter days... Our Lord is about to come BACK in the GLORY of His FATHER in His DAY, and we are so HUMBLed before Him that we can have a part on this divine task, the SALVATION of the LOST...



THANK YOU, dear Brother Ron and Sister Dee, THANK YOU our PRECIOUS Brothers and Sisters, that we see and feel that your heart are so softened by the Love of God, that you do fight the good FIGHT in His Name, that you do remember us in your prayers and LOVE, that you do bear and carry our ministry and burdens with us... YOUR LOVE makes us HUMBLE before the Lord Jesus!

THANK YOU so very MUCH for ALL kind of SUPPORT, you are generously sharing with us. Each one of you are the PART of our LIVES, HEARTS and MINISTRY! May our Dear Lord Jesus Christ is BLESSING on ALL you WAYS in your LIVES by His Holy Will...

Humbly With PRAYERS and LOVE,
Yours,
Pavel and Stana

From the Theissens...

June 23, 2009
Dear friends,

Yesterday, Yaslie, a new mom in our women's Bible study, met Linda, my 74-year-old friend who has laid prone on her straw mat for 30 years, a victim of polio. These two women at opposite ends of the spectrum of life, one just beginning her family life and one with almost no one left, reminded me of what the church is meant to be for all of us: a family.

I remember the first time we met for Bible study at Yaslie's house. She had gathered a few aunts and in-laws who were curious about how we handled a Bible, and we sat around a long table

under a mango tree in her front patio and opened the book of John. We had been praying for Yaslie's newborn son, who was suffering from minor seizures. From one end of the table, Yaslie's aunts and in-laws were suggesting she make the pilgrimage to Juquila, where there is an especially powerful image of the Virgin Mary that has healed thousands. One aunt reminded Yaslie of how she had taken her own newborn there many years ago, risking the dust and exposure of the long, winding road down to the coastland, and of how the Virgin of Juquila had granted her plea. The risk to her sick child had been worth the arduous trip. Surely Yaslie would be willing to take the same risk.

From the other end of the table, Teresa, our prayer warrior, urged Yaslie to pray directly to God Himself to heal little Matthew. Why search for power elsewhere when He, her own Father, would listen to her right there in Santa Lucia, Oaxaca? Teresa told her story about when her own son Juan Pablo (named after John Paul II) had suffered from seizures until he was six years old. Then, after Teresa met God as her own Father, He healed Juan Pablo completely. The seizures had finally stopped. Yaslie sat at the head of the table, silent, motionless, weighing both sides. Although she attends our church faithfully and praises God for what He has done to pull her marriage back together and heal old wounds, she won't yet take the step of baptism. She still doesn't know what to think about this God who loves us as His own children and responds to our pleas without any other mediator but Jesus.

I remember the first time I met Linda, baptized as a sign of her faith in Christ among the women gathered in her tiny tin shack to celebrate her birthday. Yesterday, as always, she blessed us in Jesus' name, and our children and husbands and enter-

prises. As I served her the Lord's Supper and she repeated the words of Scripture calling us to remember Jesus' death, tears dropped from Yaslie's bent face. Linda's faith and steadfastness, her cheeriness and blessing had touched her. "Don't forget me," Linda said as we knelt around her, hugging her in parting, "you are my family." "How could I forget you?" Yaslie asked. We are family.

We are family. I think that often we who are self-sufficient in jobs and family and finances forget that the Church is not just a place to go on Sunday, not just a source of inspiration and knowledge about the Bible, a social haven, a spiritual obligation. Church is a family gathered together to love one another into the Kingdom of Heaven. I see that in Yaslie and Linda. I hope I stay as aware of this blessing as they are.

Pray with us this summer:

- for Yaslie and her family to take the step of obedience of baptism
- for us to be a faithful family to Linda in her isolation
- pray for Teresa, whose son Juan Pablo now suffers not from seizures but from temptation to abuse alcohol. Teresa has a ministry praying for



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other mothers suffering this same anguish

- for our kids who are away from us, very happily spending the summer in North Carolina with the Wheeler family

- for our upcoming trip to the Brethren convention in Texas in early July

- for two new church-planting interns from North Carolina (Scott and Carter), both placed in Oaxacan homes this summer

- for the training of six Mexican short-term missionaries (plus Scott)



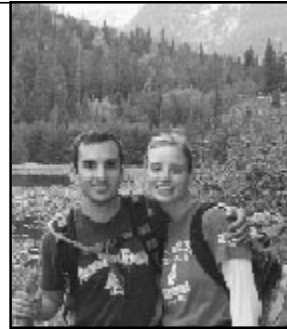
who will be doing their internships learning the language and culture of the Chol Indians in Chiapas

Thank you, Anne.

mark & macie's june update

mark

Well, as we write this update we have been at Colorado leadership Training (LT) for over a month. I feel like the things that I have experienced already as LT staff are invaluable. Traveling from Texas to Colorado to interact with college students from 10 different campuses and many different cultures is an awesome experience. Some students have big questions they want answered about life and the Bible, while others are here just seeing what the summer will bring them. During our Project Day (one full day a week spent with a group of 15 students who serve, pray, and develop spiritually together), two students each week have been sharing their testimonies about how they became Christians.



Listening to these testimonies has brought many insights into just how different we all are. I love this. God has saved some from extremely dysfunctional families and saved others from relatively normal families. One thing is true for all of them, they have seen their need for forgiveness and eternal life through Jesus, and are desiring to grow in their relationship with God this summer. **Please Pray that Macie and I would follow God's lead as we help all these students grow closer to Him.**

*Mark & Macie Gonzalez, 1700 George Bush Dr. East Ste. 140
College Station, TX 77840; (979) 574-3843*

Mark.Gonzalez@gcmweb.org (Macie) Marmar4011@yahoo.com

If you can remember from last year, the environment up here is amazing and lends itself to introducing others to God. We are constantly in close quarters with people from all over the world who come to work here. One of the best places to interact with people is in the staff dinning hall, called the "Pondo". Here, we eat every meal together, so you get to know people quickly.

Because of this environment, we are able to invite our new friends to our Tuesday and Thursday LT church

services. As a result, we have Muslims, athiests, and many others of different backgrounds attending. **Please pray for the outreach taking place.**

It's a little harder to get an update out during the summer, but Macie and I just wanted to give you a little insight into what it's like here. Thank you so much for your prayers and financial support. Being able to help see another generation of Christ followers raised up is an honor, and you help to make that possible.

macie

So far, this is my third summer at Colorado LT, and it's arguably the best yet! I have been blessed by constant time with Jesus, a (now) regular routine after settling in here, and great times with other LT Staff. Specifically, I have loved getting to spend one day a week with the other female GCM staff, getting refreshed by other ladies who are "sold out for Jesus".

Also a favorite, our Project Day has been so worthwhile. During his

testimony, Dan, a student from Arizona, shared that his life was changed through reading, *The Search for Significance*. So, I've started reading it and must say, it's highly engaging. It targets those of us who struggle with perfectionism, fear of failure, and finding our worth from the opinions of others rather than God. Basically, it's really thought provoking, and everyone should read it!

Lastly, I had an awesome time with God the other day as I was journaling



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and reading the Word, and wanted to share some insight from it with you. In Mark 10:43-45 (NIV), Jesus says, “...*Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to give His life as a ransom for many.*”

From this passage, I gathered this simple truth: Love equals sacrifice. If

I choose to love “only when I feel like it”, I won’t really be loving or following Jesus’ example of sacrificing for those He loved. So, I need Jesus to help me not fear sacrificing in love for His pleasure and His name. I shared these thoughts with a friend in Janitorial Services and he said, “I wish I would’ve learned *that* sooner.” **Please pray that we would learn the way of Jesus, loving and sacrificing out of hearts committed to following Him.**



hsin

When I was about 10 years old, my mother began to take my sister and me to church. But because my parents were always busy running a restaurant, it was hard to go to church often. Once when I observed a group of kids my age as they attended Sunday school, I thought to myself, “I have always wanted to be part of the group, it looks fun.” At that time, though, I did not know what Christianity was about or the importance of God to

Christians. As I grew more, I learned that God was a “powerful spirit,” but I still did not fully understand what God offers to Christians. I also did not understand the importance of Jesus: his life, death, and resurrection.

The summer before my sophomore year of college, I learned more about Christianity. One of my mom’s friends shared with me about being a Christian. She only had a few weeks to work with me before I left to start the fall semester, and I was hesitant and lost. She kept sharing through, and told me before I left that she was praying I would find a church to go to. After a few weeks of school, I met someone who shared a common interest. He asked me, after we met personally a few times, if I went to any churches around here. I said no, and he wanted to invite me to his “homegroup” and church. During my first few semesters with the homegroup,

I had some great times, but I still did not understand God and what He desires of us.

At that time, however, I did not have the confidence to ask questions to find out what becoming a Christian was all about. There was still reluctance to becoming a Christian in my mind, so after more than a year of being involved in the homegroup, I stopped going (I had stopped attending church some time before this point). It was not until last summer (the summer of 2008) that the same person who introduced me to homegroup invited me to come back. So I came back and attended a few of the homegroups. Homegroup was the same as I remembered it, but only a handful of students were the same. That next fall, I met Mark again at the AMCF (A&M Christian Fellowship) Rally. He was one of the few I had remembered from when I first attended homegroup two and half years ago.

When I returned, I was introduced to a lot of new people in the group. I was reintroduced to the fun they all had. Something in that semester hit me – something I can’t explain. I just wanted to attend everything they had planned. I joined a discipleship class that Fellowship Church offered dur-

ing the semester; it was a great class that the homegroup leader, Bryce, took me through. I finally learned the purpose of being a Christian, and Bryce helped answer any questions I had about being a disciple of Jesus Christ. I am still a shy and quiet person, but over the course of last semester I went from being merely an attender of homegroup events to being an active homegroup member.

This semester (Spring 2009) was the best semester I’ve ever had, thanks to homegroup. I was baptized after becoming more confident that I had become a Christian. After being baptized I felt more devotion and responsibility toward living the Christian life. Today, I know the importance of Jesus dying on the cross for our sins, and I know He’s done this for me. God is a loving God and I am His child. Homegroup has helped boost my confidence in saying prayers out loud, doing group activities, singing worship songs (which can get stuck in my head time and time again), and seeing God’s love poured out to all of us in the group. As I graduate this May, I will deeply miss all the people who have touched my heart and shown me what God is really doing in the hearts of His people.



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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.*

chrissy



At the beginning of this school year I thought I had a pretty good idea about what it meant to be a Christian and how to be close to God. Surely by joining a church, getting involved, and getting to know the people, I'd become close to God, right? But no! Not only is the only way to God through Jesus Christ our Saviour alone, but I wasn't getting involved for the right reasons; it was all for me and none for God. I went through my first semester feeling more alone than ever. I was wondering why I felt so distant from God, why I did not make any real friends this semester, and was ready to give up on it all and completely fall away. "After all," I wondered, "What's the point?"

The next semester came, as did the peak of my loneliness, until one night when I was debating, making deals, grumbling and whining with God.

During my grumbling, He pulled me out of my room and shoved me to the A&M Christian Fellowship Kick-off Rally. As I kept on walking towards the Rally location, I just kept on saying in my head, "This is going to be just another disappointing time. It's not like I'm going to talk to someone and then find some awesome friends, plus – a bunch of them are probably all crazy and out-going about their religion and being Christian, and I don't want to deal with that," but God kept me going forward that night, and I'm so thankful. Not only did I meet some awesome friends, who are now part of my homegroup – friends that I can tell anything to and know I won't be put down in any way – but they helped me come closer to God than I ever thought possible. They helped me become one of those "crazy and out there about their religion" people, and I gotta say, "It's awesome!" You don't really understand how amazing it is until you feel it for yourself. I LOVE JESUS!!!! PRAISE GOD!!!

Once during this semester, when I was seeking God for answers, I feel like He took my hand and wrote down with me in my journal all the words I needed to see – forever in my journal the permant ink will never sink – and now all I want to do is get closer to

Him. That day my life changed, and I accepted Christ as my Lord and Saviour. Now I feel so safe in His arms, knowing that it is impossible for me to be alone ever again. God has given me the confidence to go back to my own family and friends who might not believe as I do and still be able to stay close to Him. I don't have to be influenced by other ways. God knows what is best for me and what I need to do with my life. He has turned my life upside down and has put me on a path that I know will not fail as long as I remember this, "Everything I do is for God." God was always there and has always desired to carry me in the right direction. All I had to do was listen to and trust in Him.

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And so fulfill the Law of Christ."
(Gal. 6:2)

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

Jesus' Mediterranean Diet

— by Janet Baca, who is studying Nutrition at Texas Women's University

Editor's note: This article was submitted to me by Pastor Joe Emerson during the first few days of August as something that would be of interest to BRETHREN JOURNAL readers. My initial reaction, because this information was available on the internet as a result of other articles and publications by the same title: "What Would Jesus Eat?", was that I didn't feel that our denominational publication should become a sharing of various "forwards" that may (or may not) be of interest to the readership.

In further consideration, though, I do believe that someone of our fellowship who researches timely subjects for the goal of furthering their education should be recognized. And, secondly, considering the problem of obesity with which our country is plagued, any motivation and information that would lead to better eating habits (because we are to 'glorify God' in our bodies... 1 Cor. 6:19) is worth sharing.

Dr. Don Colbert is a family physician in a practice of more than 20,000 patients in Orlando, Florida, and is also the author of "What Would Jesus Eat?: The Ultimate Program for Eating Well, Feeling Great, and Living Longer." In his book, he mentions that few Bible passages actually show Jesus eating. These verses include: Luke 24:42 "And they (the disciples) gave him (Jesus) a piece of a broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their

presence." Other passages infer that Jesus either ate or would have permitted eating certain foods: bread and wine at the Lord's Supper, wine at the wedding at Cana, and bread and fish at the feedings of the multitudes.

Colbert says that because Jesus was a Jew, he would have followed Old Testament dietary laws (found in Leviticus 11). These included laws governing clean and unclean animals. "You may eat any animal that has a split hoof divided into two and that chews the cud," Deuteronomy 14: 6. These laws were specific in stating that cattle, sheep, deer, and goats were allowed but hogs, camels, and rabbits were not. "Of all the creatures living in the water, you may eat any that has fins and scales," Deuteronomy 14:9. Fish with fins and scales were allowed, but catfish, crustaceans (crabs, lobsters, shrimp), mollusks (clams, mussels) were not. These foods are higher in an inflammatory fatty acid and saturated fat, which predisposes us to disease.

Individuals in Jesus' culture would have eaten foods based on their availability. Fish was widely available and eaten on a daily basis and beef was saved for special occasions such as the prodigal son's return, so probably



not more than once a month. Bread and other whole grains, vegetables, fruits, and olive oil would have also been eaten.

Colbert cites myriad studies showing that individuals who eat a Mediterranean diet, as Jesus would have, suffer less heart disease, cancer, and other diseases.

The Mediterranean eating pattern was first identified more than 50 years ago as part of a study of health and habits in seven countries. One of its most intriguing findings was that people living in Crete, other parts of Greece, and southern Italy lived longer and had the lowest rates of heart disease in spite of a high-fat diet and limited medical care. The Mediterranean diet is a heart-healthy eating

plan which focuses on eating a large amount of fruits and vegetables, consuming whole grains in breads, pasta, and rice, consuming healthy fats such as olive and canola oil, eating fish, eating small portions of nuts, drinking red wine in moderation for some, and consuming smaller portions of red meat.

Figure 1 refers the general characteristics of the Mediterranean diet:

- Vegetables: 4-6 servings, serving size is a ½ cup raw or cooked, 1 cup raw leafy greens and ½ cup vegetable juice.

- Fruit: 3 or more servings, serving size is a ½ cup fresh, frozen, or canned, ¼ cup dried, one medium sized piece of fruit, or ½ cup fruit juice.

- Grains: 6-8 servings, serving size is 1 cup dried cereal, ½ cup cooked cereal, rice, or pasta, or one slice of bread.

- Fish: 2 or more servings per week, a serving is 4 oz. Consume cold-water fish such as mackerel, herring, salmon, trout, sardines, and albacore tuna (avoid frying).

- Dairy: 2 or more servings, serving size is 1 cup of milk or yogurt, 1½ oz of cheese. Try to limit higher fat dairy products such as whole or 2% milk (higher in saturated

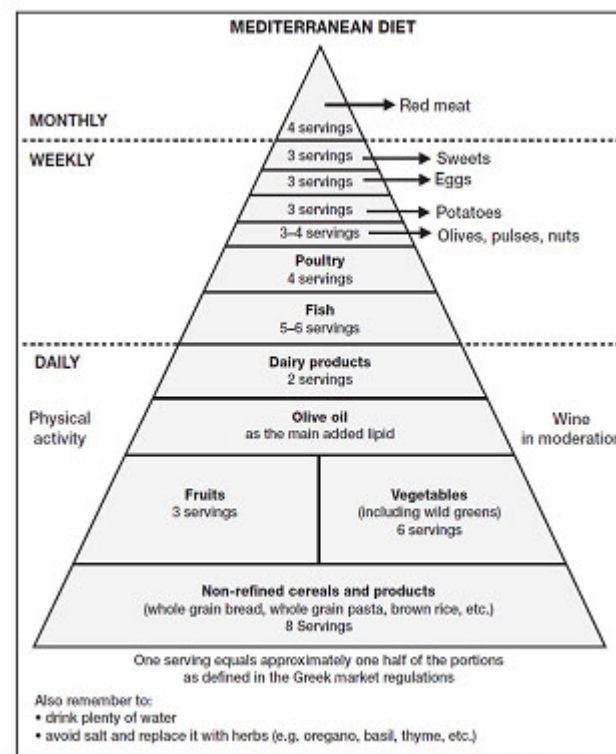


Figure. The traditional Mediterranean dietary pattern. Reprinted with permission from Arch Intern Med. 1993;153:515-524.

fat), and replace them with skim milk, fat-free yogurt and low-fat cheeses.

- **Nuts:** 1 serving a day (especially walnuts), limit to a handful, about 1½ oz. Nuts are high in fiber, folic acid, and antioxidants.

- **Alcohol:** If you already consume alcohol, limit to one for women and 1-2 for men a day. One drink is 5 oz of wine, 12 oz of beer, or 1½ oz of liquor.

- **Fats:** Olive oil and canola oil contain healthy fats, monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats, to be used instead of butter or margarine. Limit the consumption of saturated fats and hydrogenated oils (trans fats).

The Mediterranean diet emphasizes the consumption of natural whole foods and the avoidance of processed foods because they are high in unhealthy fats, such as saturated and trans-fatty acids, which contribute to heart disease. The Mediterranean diet is rich in a variety of vitamins and nutrients, including beta-carotene, vitamins C and E, polyphenols, fiber, antioxidants, and many important minerals. In small clinical studies, the adherence to the Mediterranean diet is associated with improved blood glucose (lower insulin resistance), reduced blood pressure, and improved lipid profiles (lower triglyceride levels, lower LDL levels, and increased HDL).

Steps toward the Mediterranean diet can be easy and taken in strides and not all at once. Try incorporating one recommendation of the diet every week, building upon them to eventually include all of them into your daily living activities. Also remember that daily physical activity is important and should be incorporated into daily

activity, striving for at least 30 minutes a day.

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1. Sodergren, R. What Would Jesus Eat? In the Kitchen with Suzanne Martinson. 2003. Available at: <http://www.post-gazette.com/food/20031113jesusfood1113fnp2.asp> Assessed April 8, 2009
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4. Bautista, M.C RN; Engler M.M. PhD, RN, MS. The Mediterranean Diet: Is it Cardioprotective? Prog Cardiovasc Nurs. 2005; 20:70-76. Available at: www.lejacq.com Assessed April 10, 2009
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6. Mediterranean diet sails well in the USA. Harvard Heart Letter. Harvard Health Publications. 2008. Available at: www.health.harvard.edu Assessed April 10, 2009

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

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for September 2009

Dorothy E. Kocian

1. If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all. Isa. 7:9b
2. The Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one. 2 Thes. 3:3
3. "Be strong and courageous!" Josh. 1:18
4. Do not be afraid or terrified... for the Lord your God will never leave you or forsake you. Deut. 31:6
5. Do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Josh. 1:9
6. **Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, ...but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord. Josh. 24:15**
7. May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance. 2 Thes. 3:5
8. From everlasting to everlasting, the Lord's love is with those who fear Him. Ps. 103:17
9. Though I sit in darkness, the Lord will be my light. Micah 7:8
10. The Lord says, "Obey My voice, and I will be your God." Jer. 7:23
11. "Do not be afraid, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the Lord. Jer. 1:8
12. Stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God. Job 37:14
13. **"The Lord is with you, mighty warrior." Judges 6:12**
14. Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Ps. 32:1
15. Return to the Lord your God. Your sins have been your downfall. Hosea 14:1
16. The fear of the Lord teaches a man wisdom and humility comes before honor. Prov. 15:33
17. The gracious hand of our God is on everyone who looks to Him, but His great anger is against all who forsake Him. Ezra 8:22
18. The Lord Almighty says, "I will refine and test My people." Jer. 9:7
19. The Lord detests the way of the wicked, but He loves those who pursue righteousness. Prov. 15:9
20. **I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord", and He forgave the guilt of my sin. Ps. 32:5**
21. When men are brought low and God says "Lift them up!", then He will save the downcast. Job 22:29
22. Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens. Ps. 68:19
23. This is what the Lord says, "Seek me and live." Amos 5:4
24. May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in His works. Ps. 104:31
25. The joy of the Lord is your strength. Neh. 8:10
26. Sovereign Lord, you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. Acts 9:5
27. **Stand up and praise the Lord your God, who is from everlasting to everlasting. Neh. 9:5**
28. Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved. Acts 16:31
29. Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Heb. 11:1
30. We have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, and especially of those who believe. 1 Tim. 4:10

Annual Christian Sisters Bazaar, 2nd Saturday in September
The Rosenberg Brethren Church
Christian Sisters
 5220 Reading Road, Rosenberg, Texas 77471

VITAL STATISTICS

MEMBERS RECEIVED

By Reaffirmation of Faith:

JOHN CARTER and NANCY SNOW, on July 12, 2009, at the Taylor Brethren Church.

RECENT BAPTISMS

GAVIN ALASTAIR GLORIA EICHENBERGER, son of Evan Eichenberger and Debbie Ann (Gloria) Eichenberger, born on March 21, 2009, in Rosenberg, was baptized on June 21, 2009, at the Rosenberg Brethren Church. Minister: Larry Butcher.

RECENT DEATHS

RONALD JOE SULAK, age 52, died June 19, 2009, at Temple. He was born December 18, 1956, at Waco and was married in 1978 to Cindy Husak. Mr. Sulak is survived by wife, 2 sons, 2 daughters, 2 brothers, 2 sisters, and parents. Services were on June 22, 2009,

from the First Baptist Church of Troy with burial in Bellwood Memorial Park cemetery. Minister: Mark L. Labaj.

DANIEL PAUL BALUSEK, age 77, and member of the Holland Brethren Church, died July 24, 2009, at Bartlett. He was born October 5, 1931, at Holland and married November 25, 1989, to Martha Hopson. Mr. Balusek is survived by step-children, two sisters, and many step-grandchildren. Services were on July 27, 2009, from the Goodnight Funeral Home in Bartlett with burial in Holland Cemetery. Minister: Mark L. Labaj.

LELAND EDWARD MAECKEL, age 78, died on July 6, 2009, at his family farm. He was born April 30, 1931, in Bleiberville, Texas. Leland served his country in the U.S. Army during the Korean war. He was a faithful servant in the Industry Brethren Church. Leland is survived by two sisters and a sister-in-law, as well as a niece and a nephew. Services were at the Industry Brethren Church on July 9, 2009, with burial in that church's cemetery. Minister: Milton Maly.

Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

Keep these activities in your prayers.

The Fall Synodical Meeting will take place at Hus School on Saturday, . It will begin at 9:00 AM with a lunch around noon.

October 9-11: 15th Prime Timers' Retreat! (Further information will be sent to the churches; registration forms available on the Unity website. Contact Person: Delores Kubala, 2109 Quail Cove, Taylor, TX 76574; (512) 352-3823.)

Relax in Port O'Connor at Kotrla's Coastal Retreat!

Reservations: Contact Valerie at 361-920-4663, or Valerie@tigrett.com
Oh Yes – GREAT FISHING, too!

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 –
Sunday Worship (Communion on 1st Sunday): 10 years old & adults – 5:30 PM; Children's Church 5:45-6:30 PM
Thursday, 6:30 PM: Sister Chicks & Youth
– 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.
– Visiting Ministers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vsetin –
Worship at 10:00 AM every Sunday.
– Dr. Mark Labaj
5th Sunday – Visiting Ministers

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 5th Sunday.
– Visiting Ministers

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