

THE BRETHREN



JOURNAL



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36 Pages



**State Christian Sisters' Officers
(l-r) Delores Kubala, Sharon Hohlmann,
Georgia Tyroch, Ann Sebesta, and Mary Kokes**

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

The 2010 Christian Sisters' Convention Report
Mutual Aid Society to Offer College Scholarships
In Christ's Love . . . from the Mission Field
The Youth and Children's Sections, Flyers, and Announcements
. . . and much more!

READERS, PLEASE NOTE: *The next issue will be a two-month issue . . .
keep this in mind in submitting information and schedules.
Also, are you a member of "Friends of the Brethren Journal"?*

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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President's Column . . . Claren Kotrla

HOPE

I hope that someone will write this month's *Brethren Journal* article for me. Mmmmmmm. It looks like hoping isn't going to be enough. I guess I will have to write it myself.

It seems that the word hope has changed in meaning. Once upon a time we hoped we would be successful at something, and with a lot of practice, study, work, and time we were successful at some level. A miracle happened and our hopes were realized because we had something to base that hope.

Today we hear the word hope, and the expectation is that someone else is responsible for realization of those hopes. It now seems that someone else is expected to be responsible for the practice, study, work, and time necessary for those hopes to be realized. The new meaning of hope seems to require no basis for self-realization

or faith for that hope. That attitude can lead not to hope, but to hopelessness.

We hear that people have lost hope in their church or their country or job or whatever. I look at what I see and understand the sense of their loss of hope. The word has been politicized, and as a result has lost its meaning as a positive expectation of success based upon and individual's faith and efforts.

We don't have to accept the new meaning of the word, nor should we accept the new meaning. Why? There is indeed reason for hope in the world and in our lives. I see it in the beauty of the wildflowers we are blessed with, in the people who are healed of disease, of the families that are full of God's love and share that love with others. I see it in people who live through and overcome grief of the loss of a loved one or live with a disease still in Christ's love and with



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President: Rev. Henry Beseda

the hope He provides. I see it in the young people I was with this past week end on the annual Brethren fishing trip to Port O'Connor. I see it in the Unity's dedicated workers and Pastors. I see it in parents who work to insure their children are raised with Christian love and principles. I see it in our seniors who are willing to share their experiences and knowledge with the youngsters they interact with. I see true hope in those who refuse to cower when Christian values are attacked.

The National Day of Prayer has been sued by the Freedom From Religion Foundation and a Judge agreed with them, essentially saying that the National Day of Prayer creates a "hostile environment" for nonbelievers and that it violates the First Amendment. Although nothing could be further from the truth since the National Day of Prayer demonstrates hope of a relationship with Christ and eternal

life, the ruling is what it is.

However, there is hope that this decree by one Judge can be reversed by the Supreme Court. This hope is based on a real expectation that with additional work and effort this Judge's ruling will be reversed. It is not an empty hope, but a hope based on faith, reason, and trust. Regardless of the final outcome of that hope, it will not be misplaced, because as Psalm 147:10-11 says, "His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor His delight in the legs of a man; the Lord delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love."

Why wasn't my hope that someone else would write this article not realized. It was because there was no basis for that expectation to be realized. Perhaps a better hope would have been for me to be able to write the article and have someone find usefulness in it. In that way hope is a little like prayer. God answers it in His

own way and provides us the free will to influence the outcome of our hope.

Romans 15:13 says, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." This verse acknowledges that any hope a Christian has comes from God, and that it cannot be only realized through man's efforts. It is God's gift to us, and through Christ our hopes can be realized.

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**5220 Reading Road
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Sunday School 9:00 AM
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Wednesday Eve. 5:30 PM
Prayer Service and Bible Study

Bro. Larry Butcher
3030 Prescott, Houston, TX 77025
(713) 299-4813 (Home)
Youth Minister: Debbie Gloria

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 sbcpastorjoe@yahoo.com

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P.O. Box 658, Rogers, TX 76569
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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.

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

Ronald Dusek

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

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

The 45th Convention of the Christian Sisters Union

This Convention was held at the Taylor Brethren Church on April 24, 2010. The theme of this gathering was "Serving the Lord with Love." The worship message was delivered by Rev. Ron Winsman, pastor of the Ocker Brethren Church.

The Taylor congregation graciously welcomed all who came to this gathering. The Taylor Christian Sisters Local provided refreshments, and later a delicious noon meal. (Each delegate received a nice "goodie bag" containing a beautiful hand-stitched note pad cover and many other useful items.) In attendance at this event were 20 delegates, 4 officers, 5 ministers, and 40 visitors.

Action taken during the business session included the following motions, all of which passed:

➤ "That a free-will collection be taken to pay for Alice Stone's cemetery headstone."

➤ "That all checks sent to the the Christian Sisters Union be made to 'The Christian Sisters' Union'."

➤ "Currently serving officers who have served more than eight

consecutive years cannot be re-elected for another term."



Officers elected to serve for the next two years were:

President: Delores Kubala

Vice-President: Sharon Hohlman

Secretary: Georgia Tyroch

Treasurer: Mary Kokes

Financial Secretary: Ann Sebesta (continuing from previous convention)

The Resolutions Committee, comprised of Diane Heckman, Dorothy Kocian, and Dorothy Schulze,

➤ givethankstoGodAlmighty for the great gifts to each and every



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participant and his continued guidance and direction in each life represented at the convention,

➤ offers praise for the outpouring of love and fellowship from the Taylor Christian Sisters for hosting the 45th Convention, noting in particular those who cooked, greeted, and served so graciously through the day. No comfort was overlooked.

➤ offers thanks to God for the beautiful music provided by Debbie Grimm and Becky Ruzicka, as well as the message brought by Rev. Ron Winsman as he encouraged everyone, as a Union and as individuals, to spread the word as read in Acts 1 & 2 and Matthew 28... also, to Rev. Jimmy Hejl for leading the convention in the observance of Holy Communion.

➤ rejoices in the following new ministries and staff as well as several new ministerial students: Pastor Larry

Zabcik at Temple Brethren, Ben Kruse, Dave Love, Mark Sebek Davis, Denise Mikeska.

➤ rejoices also in all the renovations at the Hus Camp, which will impact future generations, and the new fellowship facility at Ocker.

➤ rejoices in an increasing missionary presence – both foreign and at home.

➤ rejoices in the celebration of the 90th birthday of Rev. Henry Beseda and his friendship and service over many years.

➤ rejoices in the observance of the 95th anniversary of the Temple congregation during the fall of 2009.

➤ rejoices in the spirit of service of the Christian Sisters to the Unity and to local congregations over the years since the 1920's.

At the same time, the committee regrets:

That Brother Scott Keaton has left his service to the Pasadena congregation,

The loss of 48 Christian Sisters and of two beloved pastor's wives: Marie Marek and Alice Stone, through death, since the last convention,

The continued deployment of our military in the Middle East, and prays for our nation's leaders, for our military, and for their families, affirming the need to remind our citizens that God holds an important part of our country's history and in our Constitution.

The next convention of this organization in 2012 will be at the Snook Brethren Church.



Candle Memorial for the Christian Sisters Members who have died since the last convention

The 2010-2012 Christian Sisters' Union Budget

	2008-2010	2010-2012
1. American Bible	\$ 175.00	\$ 100.00
2. The Brethren Journal	500.00	500.00
3. Hus School Building and Improvement	1,100.00	1,100.00
4. Hus School Books	100.00	- 0 -
5. Hus School Cleaning	2,200.00	2,200.00
6. Missions	900.00	900.00
7. Hus School Operating Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00
8. Administrative Board	1,500.00	1,000.00
9. Womens' Retreat	300.00	- 0 -

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Pastor
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512-365-6890

President
Larry Kotrla
512-818-1504

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

News of the Mutual Aid Society... (continued from the May issue)

New Mutual Aid Scholarship Seeks to Fulfill Scriptural Instruction.

The Mutual Aid Society mission statement taken from Galatians 6:2 “Bear one another’s burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ”, represents one of the core values of early Christians and early Brethren. This tenet seeks to put into action the words of Jesus to “love your neighbor as yourself.” Membership in the Mutual Aid Society provides an illustration of what it means to be Brethren. As the mission statement suggests, it is by looking after other people (especially in a time of need) that we fulfill what we are called to do as Christians and Brethren. Members of the Mutual Aid Society share a common mission to care for their neighbors. The Apostle Paul said “let us do good to all men especially to those of the household

of faith” (Galatians 6:10). The early Brethren knew how important caring for others was and moved to formalize their belief and obedience to scripture by creating The Mutual Aid Society in 1905. Historically, the Mutual Aid Society has provided death benefits to its members not as a life insurance company, but as group of caring Christians who care about their neighbor and seek to provide assistance in times of need. The Mutual Aid has suffered in recent years from a perception problem fostered by the prevalent secular attitude “what’s in it for me?” It should be noted that the Mutual Aid Society has NEVER existed to compete with a life insurance company. It is instead a stewardship opportunity for Brethren to exercise

their faith and affirm the beliefs and practices of the early Brethren. To belong to the Mutual Aid is to say, “I believe it is important as a Brethren and as a Christian to “bear one another’s burdens” and I also value the history and the continuation of the Unity of the Brethren and its role in the execution of God’s will.

In recent years, excess funds have been used to provide low interest building loans to Brethren congregations. However, due to the rising construction costs coupled with the limited resources of the Mutual Aid Society, it has become more difficult to match the loan capacity of the Mutual Aid with the loan needs of congregations undertaking building programs. As most building projects today can easily top more than a million dollars, the \$200,000 loan limit of the Mutual Aid Society is often inadequate to fund an entire building program.

The idea of the Mutual Aid offering scholarships to Brethren college students originated at the 2009 church convention as a new and progressive way to fulfill the mission of the Mutual Aid “To bear ye one another’s burdens and thus fulfill the law of

Christ.” This additional outreach effort is intended to augment the current work of the Mutual Aid Society in providing death benefits and low interest rate loans for Brethren building programs.

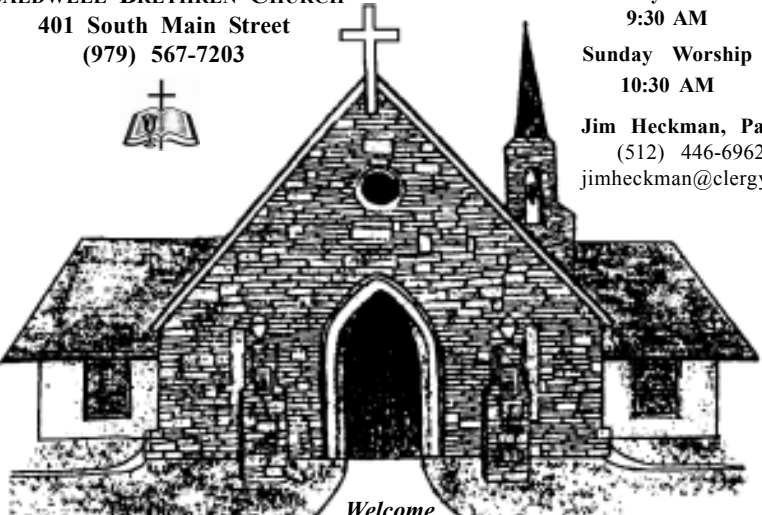
The scholarships will be offered for the fall semester of 2011 school year and will be funded exclusively through private donations. All money collected will remain separate and apart from the dues paid by current members. The creation of scholarships will in no way impact the funds set aside for death benefits or building programs currently being offered by the Mutual Aid.

The call is now being issued to all Brethren. Those who are interested in a stewardship opportunity that subscribes to the scriptural instruction to “love your neighbor as yourself” while helping to ensure the Brethren tradition of bearing one another’s burdens should consider joining the Mutual Aid Society. To do so is to formally promote our Brethren theology, heritage, and service and to take action to ensure the work and service of the Unity of the Brethren will be around for generations to come. Being a



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Sunday Worship
10:30 AM



Jim Heckman, Pastor
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jimheckman@clergy.net

Welcome

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

COME WORSHIP WITH US
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Bryan, TX 77807	Snook, TX 77878	Snook, TX 77878
(979) 779-3634	(979) 272-8845	

member of the Mutual Aid Society says I am Brethren in name and practice.

Those who are looking for a new way to support our youth, especially those best equipped to be our Unity leaders of tomorrow, can now assist these young people with their college education.

Contributions to The Mutual Aid Scholarship may be sent to:

The Mutual Aid Scholarship Program
C/O Guy Huffman
108 N. Main Street
Caldwell, Texas 77836

Please prayerfully consider this new program and be attentive to the Lord's leading as to how you should be involved.

In Christ, James Marek

Mutual Aid Convention Invitation

The Administrative Board of the Mutual Aid Society extends an invitation to all Ministers, Delegates, and Members of the Society to attend its 61st Biennial Convention to be held Saturday, July 10, 2010, at the Nelsonville Brethren Church. A warm welcome is extended to visitors who would like to observe the proceedings. We also ask you to remember this gathering in your prayers.

Rev. Joseph J. Polasek,
President

Mutual Aid Society to Offer Scholarships to Brethren College Students

A new and exciting program is beginning in the Unity of the Brethren and the Mutual Aid Society. Under the encouragement and direction of the 63rd biennial convention held in Temple last summer, the Mutual Aid Society board of trustees has researched and approved the creation and administration of scholarships for Brethren college students.

While the program is in its infancy, many facets of the program have been defined.

Purpose:

The purpose of creating the Mutual Aid Scholarship is to educate and increase the awareness of the Brethren Tenets featuring the Mutual Aid Society mission to "bear one another's burdens" while encouraging youth involvement in Brethren organizations and activities.

For years, many Brethren have lamented the fact that many young people raised in the Unity leave and join other churches and even provide leadership in other denominations

instead of within the Unity. We as a Unity have searched for ways to retain our young people for many years so that the work, traditions, and heritage of the Unity can be passed on to future generations. The scholarship program is being created in hopes that

1. All Brethren will become more familiar and involved of the mission and service of The Mutual Aid Society.

2. Young people will become more interested in and aware of the purpose and work of the Mutual Aid Society and the importance of "bearing one another's burdens" in this increasingly self-centered culture in which we find ourselves today.

3. The most active and involved young people within the Unity may gain assistance with their college education and then be inspired to remain active in the work of the Unity once they begin their careers. Active young people who have been exposed to and trained in Brethren theology, values, and heritage through



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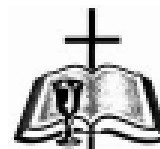
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fifth Sunday.)



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organizations like the Mutual Aid Society will be best equipped to assume leadership roles in the Unity of tomorrow.

4. At a minimum, young people who have assumed leadership roles in the Unity and have been active in the Unity camping program as well as the Mutual Aid Society, will be provided with educational assistance as an expression of support and affirmation of their service as young people. The hope is that the availability of financial support will inspire more young people around the Unity to become members of the Mutual Aid Society and not only attend camp but also eventually serve as a counselor at the appropriate time. The camping program is one of the best Unity programs in which young people can meet other Brethren young people and learn the foundational aspects of Christian service and leadership.

For these reasons, it is important to encourage our youth to participate in the camping program.

Amount:

The goal of the Mutual Aid Scholarship program will be to provide a minimum of \$3,000 in scholarships each year. This amount may be awarded to 1 or more candidates at the discretion of the scholarship review committee appointed by the Mutual Aid Board of Trustees. The amount of the

scholarships shall be determined by the amount of donations collected each year and the number of qualified applicants. All Scholarships will be funded by private donations. There shall be no subsidy from the existing assets of the Mutual Aid to fund these scholarships.

Requirements

- Active Communicant member Brethren Church
- Mutual Aid Society member for at least 2 years
- Hus School Alumni having completed at least one full term
- A minimum of 1 week of service as a counselor with the Unity camping program.
- Two-page Essay on Brethren Church History or Brethren Organization

To support the Mutual Aid Society Scholarship program, please send donations to:

The Mutual Aid Scholarship Program
C/O Guy Huffman
108 N. Main Street
Caldwell Texas 77836

Please keep this new program in your thoughts and prayers as it continues to evolve.

In Christ, James Marek

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

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West #4: Dorothy Kocian, 107 South Barbara Street, Waco, TX 76705, 254-799-5331, dekocian@yahoo.com

Fayetteville #5: Sandra Stepan, PO Box 145, Fayetteville, TX 78940, 979-378-4167, sandrainaustin@yahoo.com

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Snook #7: Marie Shelfer, Box 138, Snook, TX 77878, 979-272-8100, shelfer@tamu.edu

Ocker #8: Doris Svoboda, 109 Friendship Ln, Temple, TX 76501-9614, 254-742-1405

Dallas #10: **Natalie Outlaw, 7575 Wixon Road, Bryan, TX 77808-8085, 979-589-2012, natalieoutlaw@yahoo.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

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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

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

From the Czech Republic...

This letter is proof of more excitement through Fields of Faith ministries in the Czech Republic – HOW CAN WE BE MORE INVOLVED in the new work in Moravia... led by Pastor Pavel Kozak and his wife Stana????

Tom Prohaska, President of FOF, would love to come to more churches in the UNITY, and be more involved with our Mission Board, teach evangelism for those ready to take a trip or commit to full-time evangelism in the Czech Republic. Is it TIME for the Unity to REALLY GET BEHIND this effort to evangelize in the HOME COUNTRY? We have started well with the MISSION BOARD'S wonderful commitment to FOF for 2010... but as Pavel says, MORE PLEASE, WE HELP MORE PLEASE as he asks simply to those in the streets and communities—WHERE YOU WILL GO? WHERE YOU WILL BE... WHEN YOU DIE? and then he begins with the gospel... a slow work... but as the newsletter indicates IT WORKS... we need PEOPLE to go... we just need the WANT TO... because we cannot deny that GOD IS CALLING US THERE...

Please forward to all your contacts as we PRAY AND DO more in local

and global evangelism...

Ron Winsman
Ocker Brethren Church

P.S. To contact Tom directly – he is a WEALTH of information on the EFFORTS to evangelize in the Czech Republic, Tom Orohaska (tom@fieldsofffaith.net), and as soon as we get a new address, we will send it along...

Finally, if anyone you know wants to contribute to the Kozaks as individuals – just to let you know that Ocker does this on a monthly or bi-monthly way with monies that come in from members and from around the state... Ocker pays the fee to send that money... so we can absorb that cost for anyone wanting to help them... just FYI – a Christian Sisters group wanted to do that, and Pavel sent it back rather than face the authorities that hassle him/them so much as they do ministry... it is NOT like America... PAVEL AND STANA are so grateful. Have a great day!

Ron

From the Woos:

April 2010

"I do not nullify the grace of God;

for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly."
(Galatians 2:21)

Dear partners in ministry,

Exciting times here with the Woos. We have been busy on all fronts. Our English company moved to a better location and we had a grand opening ceremony where all the major leaders came and participated. I, Caroline, got to play the guitar and sing with Nick, a fellow teacher from the UK, "Country Roads" by John Denver. It was great fun, with over 100 students and parents attending. Things are moving along with the school, but we are getting desperate for some English teachers to come and teach with us starting this summer/fall. Any takers?

Our helper, May, is pumped after attending two Dia conferences in Burma. She got some great teaching and fellowship with other believers, and they even went out and shared the good news in teams of five.

Since she has been back she is really excited, thrilled, and scared, but ready to go out and share. This past Saturday she went to a local village about 20 minutes away and shared with friends and family of hers in 7 different homes. Now she is back with us and using all the questions that the people asked her to spur her on to

study more and find out what the Bible says to these questions. Below are a few of the questions she encountered.

Q. Budda and Jesus are the same. They both say to do good and treat people nice.

A: Our helper said, yes, they both say to do good, most all religions say that, but the main difference is in the way sin is forgiven. To be Buddhist you have to do good things to get your sin forgiven, to believe in Jesus you can never do enough good and must trust his substitutionary death on the cross.

Q. When we go to the witch doctor and he gets possessed by the demon spirits and then watches the candle to see what we should do to help our sick child, it works and our child gets better. We are afraid of the demon spirits.

A. Our helper came back wondering how to address this. How would you answer this?

She has shared with us that her husband may want to move back to his home town which is far, far away back into China and not near any Dia people at all. Please pray that he could find a good job here in Target city, and that he would also have a heart for his wife to share with her local



To communicate with the Hus Encampment . . .

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

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

**This must be done well in advance.*

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE

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

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people here. He is still going to Bible study when he has time and we are thankful for this.

Life has been busy with teaching and encouraging our helper, continuing our own Dai study (Michael can now sort of read both Dai scripts as both countries have their own), sharing with our own Dai friends, taking day trips into Burma, homeschooling the boys, and continuing to input into our English school. We feel very blessed to be able to live here, very thankful to have our English school visa, and in awe of the Lord's love for us, for the Dai people, and the world! We are also very, very thankful for you, your financial giving to us, and your prayers. Without that we would have to come home with the work undone.

Serving together, Michael, Caroline, Samuel, Ian, and Zach

...More from the Woos...

April 18, 2010, 7:27 PM

Greetings

Hello from hot and dry Target City,

We are doing well, and just survived another water splashing festival. Lots of things have been

happening here. Thanks for your partnership in this work of the Lord.

1) May, our helper, was able to go to some training in Burma and be with other believers. They learned that as soon as someone believes and they share with them, that person, too, can go and share that one story with their family. Then the next week when the new believer hears a new Bible story, they can go and share with others who learned. Then May and 4 others went out and shared with three Dai homes. The first home said they wanted to believe in both Jesus Christ and Buddha at the same time. The second was interested in J.C., and the third home was too scared of demons. The third home had a demon shelf where they worshiped demons and Buddha together. Please pray for these homes that they will come into the Kingdom.

2) May, our helper, is getting more excited about sharing. Currently she is at another training, and we are praying for her to just bust loose and be filled with the Spirit and love for her own people.

3) We have been sharing with a foot massage guy. His heart seems

very open and he is interested. He said that there was a Dai believing man in his village across the border, but the area this village is in is in a place we have never been to. So one day Michael and our helper, May, walked across the stream that was the border crossing and asked around in the area and found this brother. It was a great time of encouragement.

4) Please pray for our helper's husband. He is seeking and going to bible study, but he has had a huge fight with his brother. They have not talked to each other for months now. Their mother is also involved. Please pray that he can ask forgiveness and there can be reconciliation.

5) North of us, there has been a huge earthquake. I'm sure you have seen pictures on TV. We did not feel the quake here, please lift up that area too.

6) Will you join us in whole or in part every Tuesday to fast and pray. for the Dai people to come to know God?

Love, Caroline for the Woos

From the Thiessens:

Two quick updates on Cleo and Bonding. (See the May issue of "In Christ's Love.")

1. For a kid's version of Missionary Bonding 101, try *Ice Age 3*, where three baby dinosaurs imprint on, believe it or not, a sloth. The sloth, like

a Mexican mother raised on beans, tortillas, and chiles, has a terrible time figuring out what his new big babies will eat.

2. Cleo just got in. Sad news is that the president of Zenzontepec turned down her request to move there. Not only that, but he is also trying to get her kicked out of El Portillo. Good news is that the people in El Portillo are sticking up for her. She is learning a lot about village authority, and plans to take more time building friendships in Zenzontepec.

More good news: El Portillo wants me to organize a training program for carpenters. They borrowed money from the government to buy machinery they hardly know how to use. I plan to send in three carpenter friends, all Christians. Even though this town isn't Indian, there are few believers. This is a pilot effort to help Mexican Christians work bivocationally, like Paul the tentmaker.

...More from the Thiessens...

Dear friends,

In 1935, Nobel prize winner Konrad Lorenz was standing watch over a bunch of mallard duck eggs about to hatch. When they did, he pretended to be mother duck, getting in close and quacking at them. Immediately, they bonded with the scientist, or



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Diane Heckman, Manager

“imprinted” as he called it, following him around everywhere as if he were their mother. You may have seen a picture of Konrad and his ducks in some psych textbook.

Some years later, missionaries like Tom and Betty Sue Brewster and Paul Hiebert began to notice that babies are not the only creatures that imprint. People arriving in a new culture do the same thing. When they first arrive, not knowing language, customs, or people, they are vulnerable, impressionable, just like newborn babes or freshly hatched ducklings. They latch on to whoever first shows up and takes care of them.

This is why, as some of you know who have come on short-term mission trips here, we do our best to drop you off with local families as soon as possible and ask you to use your first hours, days, and weeks, imprinting on Mexican people and their culture. We want you to bond with them, to love them.

Today I dropped Andrew off at the airport after three weeks with us. His church, Vineland Mennonite Brethren in Ontario, has sent visitors at Easter for about six years now. Most of them stay a week, but Andrew volunteered

for a longer trip. One of his leaders, Greg, who has been down many times, convinced him of the value of spending more time here, in order to “bond.”

So, Andrew came down a week before Easter, not really understanding what he was getting into. People wanted to know why he wasn’t going to be constructing church buildings or looking after orphans. He couldn’t quite explain to skeptical friends and family the worth of this kind of “mission” trip. But he trusted Greg, and other youth who had been on previous trips, and plunged into this experience with “gusto.” In Ometepe he stayed with Ricardo and Maxi, and here in Oaxaca, with Marcelino and Antonia. Both families wrapped him in hospitality, caring for this helpless cultural babe (all 6’-3” of him). He needed them for every aspect of his day, for how to use the washroom correctly, how to get around the city, how to interact with others. Almost everything has a different angle on it here, and visitors easily feel lost and alone, even while surrounded by hundreds of very helpful people.

Some moments were hard, especially those first days. Andrew drew on his desire to live as Jesus did,

persevering in faith that what we had told him was true. He did very well, quickly coming to enjoy his new families and friends, hardly needing us except for a few moments of orientation. His wasn’t the full-blown “purist” approach that we prefer for long-term apprentices, but more than sufficient for experiencing many of the blessings that the Brewsters write about.

One of the more telling moments was when Ricardo turned to him while driving around, and corrected him for using the term “gringo” to refer to himself. “Gringos wouldn’t come and live in our house, and eat our food. They wouldn’t go with me to my work place and sweat and toil like we do. They would turn their noses up at how we live, at who we are. You are different. You seem to enjoy being here. You are living like us. You are not a gringo.” Andrew knew that this

was what we had been talking about, even if it was hard to explain back home.

We are thankful to our many host families who continually show us and our friends what they are capable of, and for our North American visitors who, following the example of Jesus Christ (Phil. 2: 5-10), come into our world helpless and vulnerable. Some, like Andrew, might even look, trailing behind his Mexican host family, a bit like some scientists and a duck.

Blessings, Robert and Anne

P.S. For more insight into missionary bonding, we recommend reading the Brewster’s *Bonding and the Missionary Task* and the article that quotes Paul Hiebert (well known Mennonite Brethren missiologist) at the site: www.foundbytes.com/witness/CrossCO/CCnurture/bonding.htm

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Worship: 10:45 a.m.

Pastor Larry Zabcik
(254) 718-3898
zabcikville@hot.rr.com

It's Time to Sign Up for Camp!

(By program director Kimberly Stewart)

Attention Parents, Grandparents, Uncles and Aunts! It is time to sign your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews up for the Hus Encampment's summer camps! The directors have been hard at work to develop great camps this summer. Now all they need are all the children who will attend!

Please note there have been a few changes in prices and deadlines this summer. Mark your calendar now, if you haven't already, and make a note to get your forms in by the deadline.

Forms are available at your church and online at the Unity's website (www.unityofthebrethren.org). Please be sure to include your completed form with all signatures, your payment, and a copy of your insurance card. These will be mailed to Cathleen Schlechte at 3635 CR 225, Caldwell, TX 77836.

Special Notice for Hus School-age (or soon to be) campers

Summers are busy for high school students and we want you to be able to make your plans for this summer and in the future. Hus School, three weeks of further Christian development and leadership training, will be held every other year (even years). The odd year summers will offer a one-week Senior High Conference. This summer, 2010, the three-week Hus School Program will be available for those 15 years old and up. Next summer, 2011, there will be a one-week Senior High Conference.

2010 Camp Dates:

Alpha Camp	June 13 – 15
Pioneer Conference	June 20 - 25
Discovery Conference	June 27 - July 2
Hus School	July 5 (Mon.) – July 23

DEADLINES & FEE STRUCTURE:

Deadline	Date	Alpha	Pioneer/Discovery	Hus School
Deadline	By May 1	\$225	\$300	\$600
Late Registration	By May 15	\$250	\$325	\$625
Space Available	After May 15	\$275	\$350	\$650

Youth Fishing Retreat 2010

- by Jennifer Chervenka

What a successful retreat! 39 persons from the Unity gathered at Port O'Connor on Friday, April 30-Sunday, May 2. We began fishing on Saturday morning, filling 8 boats with plenty of eager youth and dedicated adults. After a few hours and quite a bit of bait, the coolers were filled with fish of all varieties. And, after an afternoon of cleaning and filleting, they sure tasted great! There was fish to eat and fish to keep.

Isn't it amazing what the Lord provides? The weekend was filled with His Spirit and His provisions. We had such beautiful weather, fantastic volunteers, an amazing group of young people, and fish most everywhere we anchored. We were able to see God's creation and God's provisions and to give Him praise for those things. We were also reminded that Christian fellowship is Biblical, that God can be found everywhere and in everything around us, and that He has given us so much, but we ought not take it for granted. Anyone can see fish; anyone can see the ocean; anyone can gather together, but only those who are seeking Him, who are following in His ways, can see Him in those things. How won-



derful to be blessed with His provisions and to give Him praise for those things!

We would also like for you to share in some the blessings. We are planning to have a Unity-wide fish fry this summer at the Bryan/College Station Brethren Church. Please be on the lookout for more information so that you can come and share in the Lord's provisions. Last year over \$2,000 was raised, and the money was used solely for camp scholarships. Again, the Lord provides...

In God's Hands Ministry

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Upcoming Youth Activities ..

Wednesday, June 30: Annual youth reports due for all congregations

Friday, July 10: Summer Retreat Registration Deadline

Saturday, July 24-Sunday, July 25: BYF Retreat, Convention, and Volleyball Tournament

Saturday, November 20-Sunday, November 21: BYF Fall Retreat

Summer Youth Retreat, Convention, and Volleyball Tournament Friday, July 23-Sunday, July 25

The Details:

It's time to begin preparations for the annual BYF convention. All locals must turn in their annual reports by June 30 to be eligible for the tournament. Registration and report forms are available at www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.com. Please use these forms as they are current and correct.

Any youth (age 16 or older) or adult who wishes to be on the State Leadership Team will find applications online, as well. Leadership team members need to be able to plan and participate in the upcoming retreats: Fall Retreat, November 20-21, 2010, and Winter Retreat, February 19-20, 2011.

This summer's retreat will begin with a Worship Service at 10:00 p.m. on Friday for those who arrive that evening. The convention proceedings will begin at 8:00 a.m., so delegates are encouraged to arrive on Friday. Look for the Saturday schedule to be posted soon.

Faith in Action

Unity of the Brethren Youth Mission Project

Monday, July 26-Saturday, July 31

Plans are being made for the youth of the Unity to participate in a week-long mission venture this summer. The location and full details will be available online as of May 1. All participants must be at least 12 years of age and submit their forms by June 30.

If there are any questions concerning the youth activities, please contact Jennifer Chervenka, Unity Youth Coordinator, jennchervenka@farm-market.net; (254) 983-1002.

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!**

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for May 2010

Dorothy E. Kocian

1. Grace and peace to you. 1 Thes. 1:1
2. We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Rom. 5:2
3. God does great things beyond understanding, and marvelous things without number. Job 9:10
4. Set your mind and heart to seek the Lord your God. 1 Chron. 22:19
5. We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. 1 Thes. 1:2
6. **The Father has rescued us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of Son he loves. Col. 1:13**
7. We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works. Eph. 2:10
8. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Eph. 4:32
9. Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists. Heb. 11:6
10. Indeed God is not far from each of us. Acts 17:27
11. May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Gal. 6:14
12. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts. 1 Thes. 2:4
13. **Now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. 1 Cor. 13:13**
14. If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. James 1:5
15. Strengthen the tired hands, and encourage those whose knees give way. Isa. 35:3
16. Encourage the young men to live wisely in all they do. Titus 2:6
17. When I called, Lord, You answered me; You made me bold and stouthearted. Ps. 138:3
18. Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid because of (the enemy); for there is greater power with us than with him. 2 Chron. 32:7
19. We have the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles. 2 Chron. 32:8
20. **Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and grace to help in time of need. Heb. 4:16**
21. This is God's command: to believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another. 1 Jn. 3:23
22. Live in order to please God. 1 Thes. 4:1
23. I will praise the Lord, who counsels me. Ps. 16:7
24. Live in peace with each other. 1 Thes. 5:13
25. And we urge you, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 1 Thes. 5:14
26. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. 1 Thes. 4:7
27. **I have set the Lord always before me. Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Ps. 16:8**
28. The Lord will be a refuge for His people, a stronghold for them. Joel 3:16
29. The Lord's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in Him. Ps. 32:10
30. Keep me safe, O God, for in You I take refuge. Ps. 16:1

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A Special Gateway

Contest



The entrance to the Hus School Encampment has been special to many people on their spiritual life journey. The reality is that this special gateway is in need of replacement due to weathering, ground shift, and the deterioration of the materials.

The Hus School Board of Trustees is holding a contest for the design of a new entrance. We are asking for ideas and sketches from which blueprints will be later created and the entrance built. Design and materials are up to the contestant, but the entrance would need to be accessible in some way to heavy and tall equipment.

The prize for the contest: 1 free camp registration for 1 child to a camp of their choice at the Hus School Encampment, plus a gift certificate to a Darden's brand restaurant (Olive Garden, Red Lobster, etc.).

Mail entries to: **Gate Contest**
c/o Cathleen Schlechte
3635 County Rd 225
Caldwell, TX 77836

Or email: schlechte86@msn.com ,subject "Gate Contest"

For more info: call 979-255-8266 after 4 pm.

Deadline for Entries: Postmarked by July 15, 2010



This month will focus on the Parable of The Lost Sheep. This parable is found in Matthew 18:12-14 and Luke 15:3-7.

This month's Bible verse is
Luke 15:5, **"Rejoice with me,
for I have found my sheep
which was lost."**

There are three parables about something that is lost...The lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son. Each of these stories reveals 4 Biblical truths:

1. Jesus wants us to search for those who are lost.
2. God rejoices when we stop doing wrong and return to Him.
3. God welcomes, loves and accepts any sinner who asks for forgiveness.
4. Every individual is special to God.

Think about how differently we may treat each other if we always remembered these principles!

<http://parablesforkids.com/html/contents.html>

Coming next month: The Parable of the Wise Man and the Foolish Man.



See the Unity of the Brethren website for the online version!

- Send all suggestions/questions/ideas to hairrell@gmail.com

Sunday School Teacher's



Easy Button

Lost Sheep Games

1. Hide 10 sheep (cotton balls) around the classroom. Hide one in a very difficult place. When all 10 have been found, celebrate with a snack.
2. Place 10 items on a table. These could also be pictures. Take one away. Ask students if they know which item is "lost".
3. Fill a washtub with sand. Have students find (dig) for the lost sheep.

Handprint Lamb

1. Trace each child's hand on black construction paper. Cut it out
2. Cover the palm with cotton balls. The fingers will be the legs.
3. Add wiggly eyes and a mouth to the thumb.



Teen Cabana



"Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep."
It's time for a party! The shepherd calls his friends and says, "Come on over for something to eat and drink. We're celebrating finding my sheep that was lost on the hills."
The sheep is a sinner, and the ninety-nine represent the righteous. This is the answer to the Pharisees who were grumbling about Jesus' welcoming tax collectors and sinners. You are happy for all your sheep. But you take them a little for granted. It is when one is threatened, you are worried and concerned, you search until you find it. Then you are so delighted that you must share your joy with others. Jesus takes this parable from real life reactions and now turns it to a spiritual application. God rejoices, angels rejoice, when a sinner repents! Jesus' redemption is one-by-one, person-by-person, name-by-name. Jesus is on a search-and-rescue mission. Is it your mission?

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

VITAL STATISTICS

RECENT DEATHS

STONE, ALICE JEAN, wife of the late Rev.
Richard Stone, passed away on Tuesday,
April 20, 2010, in Austin, Texas. She was
born on August 19, 1940, and was raised in
Helotes, Texas. She and Dick on September
11, 1989, and served with him in the
Caldwell/Dime Box parish from 1990-1995
and at the Austin Brethren (known then as
Faith Community) Church from 1996 until
Dick's death in 2003. Graveside services
were held on April 23, 2010, at Hranice
Cemetery in Dime Box, Texas. Minister: Rev.
Jim Heckman.

MARES, DELLA LYDIA, age 92 and a member
of the Seaton Brethren Church died July 9,
2009. She was born on July 18, 1915, in
Seaton, Texas. She married Henry Mares on
November 23, 1938. Mrs. Mares is survived
by three sons, one sister, four grandchildren
and five great-grandchildren. Services were
held at Seaton Brethren Church on Monday,
July 13, 2009, with burial at the Seaton
Cemetery. Minister: Rev. Joe Emerson.

MAREK, EDWIN JAMES, age 52 and a
member of Seaton Brethren Church, died on
August 6, 2009. He was born on June 14,
1957, in Rockdale, Texas. He is survived by
his parents, Edwin and Nelda Marek, two
brothers and one sister. Services were held
at the Marek-Burns-Laywell Funeral Home
Chapel on August 8, 2009, with burial at the
Seaton Cemetery. Minister: Rev. Joe Emerson.

FLETCHER, RICHARD "DICK", age 63 and a
member of the Seaton Brethren Church,

died on February 20, 2010. He was born on
October 3, 1946, in Cleburne, Texas. He is
survived by his wife, Sharon Mikeska Fletcher,
and one son. Services were held at the
Scanio-Harper Chapel on February 23, 2010.
Minister: Rev. Joe Emerson.

PECHAL, DOROTHY MAE, age 80 and a
member of Seaton Brethren Church, died on
February 27, 2010. She was born on Decem-
ber 17, 1929, in Temple, Texas. She was
married to Jerry Pechal on December 29,
1951. Mrs. Pechal is survived by three sons,
Edwin, Donald, and David, a daughter,
Joyce, and one brother, James Chlapek, six
grandchildren and one great-grandchild.
Services were held at Seaton Brethren Church
on March 2, 2010, with burial at the Seaton
Cemetery. Ministers: Rev. Joe Emerson and
Pastor Denise Mikeska.

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HOUSTON BRETHERN CHURCH

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

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

For information please contact one of the following:

Ronnie Tyson
President
22015 Golden Cedar Dr.
Cypress, TX 77433
(281) 373-4376

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

Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

We are invited:

... to the Wesley Brethren Church's Annual Sausage and Saurkraut Lunch on June 13th.

... to Fayetteville Brethren Church's Annual Celebration in Ellinger on June 27th.

... to the 61st Biennial Convention of the Mutual Aid Society which will be held on Saturday, July 10, 2010, at the Nelsonville Brethren Church.

And, throughout this summer, keep the Summer Encampment Youth Programs in your prayers: for the leaders, the workers, and the young people.

(see the Youth Activities Schedule in the Youth Section)

OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

17454 State Highway 53

Temple, Texas 76501

Preaching the Word, Loving the People

Sunday School 9:00 AM

Worship 10:15 AM

Pastor

Rev. Ron Winsman

3112 W. Ave. R

Temple, TX 76504

(254) 742-0827

ronwinsman@hotmail.com

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shadimar@vvm.com

Cemetery

Sharon Marek

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Burlington, TX 76519

(254) 869-2845

Youth Director

Jennifer Chervenka

9494 Big Elm Creek Rd.

Rogers, TX 76569

(254) 983-1002

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.
– Visiting Ministers

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 School
– 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 First 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,
Rev. Whitney Amos
4th & 5th Sunday – Mark Sebek

Houston – 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.
Sunday School at 9 AM every Sunday.
– Rev. Ron Winsman

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

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

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

Snook – worship at 10:45 AM every Sunday.
Sunday School – 9:00 AM; Worship –
10:15 AM.
– Rev. Joseph Polasek

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

Temple – Sunday School at 9:30 AM.,
Worship at 10:45 AM.
– 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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<http://gallery.mac.com/woofamily>

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— from the editor

The Brethren Journal has been publishing life and activities of the Unity of the Brethren in Texas for over 100 years. All of these include records of weddings, baptisms, deaths, etc., of the ministers... when they were submitted. These records are invaluable for families who wish to research their family history or activities that have taken place in our congregations and the denomination. It would be fitting, in the eyes of the Brethren Journal Business Committee, to ask for financial support for the continuation of this publication.

If you wish to become a special FRIEND OF THE BRETHREN JOURNAL, please send your donation to the Business Manager, Cathleen Schlechte (address inside front cover). These donations are tax deductible.

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