

THE BRETHREN



JOURNAL



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36 Pages



*Students and staff of the 2012 Hus School
(See inside front cover)*

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. . . and much, much more!

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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2012 Hus School On the Cover:

The Students and Staff of
the 2012 Hus School gathered
together at the gate of the Hus
Encampment in Caldwell after
they finished repainting the ma-
sonry of the gate. This was only
one of the many projects the
group took on at the camp. Look
for more about them and what
they did in next month's issue
of *The Brethren Journal*.

*L to R: Stanley Zamorsky, Coun-
selor; Connie Janac, Nurse;
Shelby Lancaster, Taylor
Brinkley, Donald Lancaster, Erin
Brinkley, Zachary Fojtasek, Ian
Zamorsky (all students); Jenni-
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President's Column . . . James Marek

Benefits of Gratefulness

Most of us were probably taught
to say “thank you” as a part of our
upbringing. Our parents
no doubt believed that
demonstrating grateful-
ness was an important
part of our maturing pro-
cess. I remember being
taught a meal-time prayer
with gratefulness as its
theme. The prayer went
like this: *Our heavenly*



*Father, make us grateful for these
and all Thy many blessings, for Christ's
sake, Amen.* Although the prayer was
short and to the point, I questioned
why God would need to “make us”
grateful? Was the implication that
being grateful did not come natu-
rally? Furthermore, what challenges
might we expect from God to accom-
plish our request to “make us” grateful?

Scripture certainly indicates God
wants us to be a thankful people.
Both the Old and New Testaments
include multiple passages instructing
us to give thanks to God. In 1
Thessalonians 5:18, the Apostle Paul

even goes so far as to say that giving
thanks is God's will for us. He said
“give thanks in all cir-
cumstances for this is
God's will for you in
Christ Jesus.” Since we
know God is a loving
Father who has our best
interest in mind, we can
safely conclude that be-
ing grateful is in our best
interest, but what causes

people to be grateful? Jesus' parable
of the 2 debtors in the 7th chapter of
Luke may provide some insight.

While at the home of Simon the
Pharisee, Jesus told the story of 2
men who owed debts to the same
creditor. One owed 500 denarii and
the other 50, but neither could pay
their creditor. At the end of the story,
the creditor forgave the debts of both
men. Jesus asked, “Which man would
love the creditor more?” or as some
translations have it, who would be
more grateful? Simon the Pharisee
answered, the debtor who owed the



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most. Jesus confirmed Simon's answer. Jesus was saying that the recognition of need and the meeting of that need makes us grateful. Without need and the fulfillment thereof, gratefulness is difficult to achieve.

Is it possible that prosperity (or the lack of need) can be the enemy of a grateful heart? Consider this: How easy is it to take something as precious as our health for granted until we lose it? Or have you ever experienced a twinge of envy when visiting in someone else's home because their home appears bigger, fancier, newer than yours? It is easy to feel this type of envy until we see the miserable conditions in which many people around the world live. If you have ever visited a country like Mexico and seen people living in cardboard houses, you know how blessed such an experience can make you feel. Our materialistic culture conditions us to look at what we don't have instead of being thankful for what we **DO** have. I recently came across the website www.hopevault.org. The website allows you to enter your annual income and it ranks your wealth in relation to the rest of the world. According to the website, a person earning \$25,000 is

in the top 9% of the wealthiest people on earth.

As humans, we can easily fall into the temptation of envying those people who have more than we do. This is an awful state of mind in which to find ourselves because someone will always have more than we do. As Christians we are called instead to focus on those who are less fortunate. By serving those who are less fortunate, we can find a joy and peace that is satisfying for ourselves while fulfilling our Biblical destiny to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Additionally, by focusing on the needs of those who are less fortunate we begin to understand how very blessed we are and bear witness to the love we have experienced from our heavenly Father. The advice of the old hymn "Count Your Blessings" is still valid and can improve our frame of mind while inspiring us to love and serve our neighbors just as we have been commanded.

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5th Sunday – Holy Communion



Face to Face

- by Rhonda Johnson

Just as God told Moses in Exodus 6:5-8, "I have heard the groaning of the Israelites (and you and I)... and I have remembered my covenant. Therefore, say to the Israelites (and you and I): "I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians (or whatever is holding you back and keeping you from reaching your purpose for God). I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians."

God wants to be *your* God. He is willing to do for you what He did for the Israelites, if needed. The Father has sent His son to be your PER-

SONAL Savior so that He may be intimate with you. He has heard the cry of your heart (or your groaning) for a friend and He wants to be your answer. Listen for a moment... God is saying, "Walk with me... let's take a walk through this life together so I can make it easier for you. Let me be your best friend so that I can carry the heavy weight of all your cares and concerns and you can just walk carelessly, like a little child."

I have always been very close to both my parents. Ten years ago my mom passed away and I knew that I would miss her, as my mom. What I didn't realize was how much I would miss my friend. For years when some-



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thing exciting would happen I would have the urge to get to the phone and discuss it with my mom, but it wasn't possible. I know many of you have had similar experiences with friends and loved ones who have gone to be with the Lord. The greatest thing was how my dearest friend, my heavenly Father, was with me all the time. At the greatest times in life, and when things have been at their worst, I have been able to count on the presence of my Lord and Savior. He has never left me, but is always walking beside me. He speaks words of comfort, and just as He was to King David, I have felt Him wrap His loving warmth around me and shelter me in His wings.

All through the accounts in Exodus we see how God makes many provisions for Moses and the Israelites to be able to be close to Him. He told Moses to have them (the Israelites) prepare themselves and consecrate themselves so that they may go up the mountain, as God wanted to be Face to Face with His people. I have often wondered, if the Israeli's would have gone up the mountain that day, if they had heard the Lord give the commandments themselves, would it have changed the way we obey the

Lord? Would we have a holy terror and a holy determination to obey the words of our Father, even more?

Moses knew God, although he had been raised in a foreign land by the oppressors of his own people, he knew that God could be trusted to be good and to have their best interest in mind. God wants for you to have a burning bush experience and hear His words for your life. He wants to be intimately involved in all the details of your life. Some say that He is God, I won't bother Him with my petty little problems. My friend, God is big enough to help you have a good hair day and still keep the cosmos in order. You cannot trouble Him. You can be a close friend of the maker of this world and the creator of the Universe. Hear Him say to you the words He spoke to our adopted brothers years ago... I want to see you Face to Face, come up the mountain and spend time with me. God walked in the Garden with Adam and Eve, He spoke face to face with Moses in lieu of speaking with all the Israelites. He has always preferred personal time over any of our alternatives. He prefers to spend time with you, not just "your Moses" or your pastor.

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fifth Sunday.)



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P.O. Box 325
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(254) 605-0434

Westheimer Community Church Holds Fundraiser

Saturday, June 2, 2012, was the date of the annual Westheimer Community Church Bar BQ fundraiser.

The action began Friday night when members, elders, and friends came together to prepare for the day to come. Chickens were seasoned, tables were set, utensils and plates were organized and ready for the community to come and eat at the church or take their meals to go. Potatoes were prepared by volunteers in the congregation, and final touches were added just before they were served to friends and family that came by to support our church. Pickles and onions, sauce and bread complimented the potatoes and beans that shared the plates with the main event, the BBQ. The smoker was fired up about 4:45 Saturday

morning and the meat went on close to 6:00 a.m.

Sausage and chicken were smoked and brisket was heated until 11:00 a.m. when the hungry masses began to arrive. Meat was flying off the grill for four hours, and desserts were offered by the Christian Sisters for a small donation. Old friends and new came to enjoy a great meal.

Just after 3:00 p.m. a final plate was scraped from the warmers for a family that we had not seen in a while and were very happy to see again.

Over all the fundraiser was a big success, many were fed and a fun day of fellowship was had by all. Proceeds from this annual event will be used primarily for church operation



and ministry, but most importantly, this fundraiser helped in allowing the community a chance to see who we are and what we are about. It was like an open house with BBQ!

Special thanks go out to the Bono brothers for allowing us to use their smoker. Two chairs were left empty by

the smoker for most of the day in memory of Daniel Psencik, who had recently passed, and Henry Nemec, who was unable to attend the event. Thank you to all who participated and attended the Westheimer Community Church fundraiser.



HONOR THE SACRIFICE

by David Johnson, Pastor, New Tabor Brethren

We recently remembered the June 6, 1415, anniversary of the death of John Hus; a man who adopted the writings of the Englishman John Wycliff and began to apply these reforms to the church. For doing so, John Hus was rejected by his colleagues, Branded a heretic (enemy of the church), banished to Hell (through ex-communication), and murdered (burned at the stake).

Hus's high crimes included the following:

1) He preached that we are saved by grace, through faith and not by works. (Eph. 2:8-22)

2) He exposed corrupt practices and teachings in the church. (Something that Jesus did with the Pharisees. Matt. 23:4-6, 13-15, 24-28, 30-36.)

3) He provided Bibles in the people's language (Czech).

Crimes? Hardly!

When I see the Biblical knowledge the average Christian possesses, I shudder. I wonder if we are worthy of

the sacrifices made by these great heroes of Faith.

As Brethren we should be the most well-read Christians on Earth, but we are not. We often are helpless in the hands of cunning cults that knock on our doors and try to twist God's Word to mean what it clearly does not say. Yet, we are clueless and have no answers for someone who is staring us in the face, caught in the web of deceit spun by Satan himself. John Hus and others like him suffered and died to put the Bible in our hands; not as an adornment of costume jewelry, but as a sharp, two-edged sword, to rightly divide the word of truth. Instead of seeing us in that light, atheists say that "Christians won't read what they profess their faith is based on..."

I am unhappy with my current weight (maybe it is the culture change of Czech influence, i.e. Kolaches, sausage wraps, sausages, and leftover of all the above...). I am trying to exercise and lose some weight. We have bought a barrage of "Weight



TAYLOR BRETHREN CHURCH

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Pastor
James D. Hejl
512-365-6890

President
Kevin Page
512-689-1593

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

Watcher's" books but haven't read one of them; Possession of those books hasn't led to the loss of one single pound.

Brethren, our heritage is ground zero for the dispersion of Bibles around the world, yet we are just like everyone else. We have just enough Biblical knowledge to confuse ourselves much less the gentlemen knocking on our doors.

I challenge you today to honor the sacrifice! Read the book! Be true to God, your heritage and those that need you to be an expert. Put the Bible at the top of your "Bucket List". The Bible tells us that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. In that crowd may very well be one... John Hus.

Jesus and this crowd are cheering us on; "Honor The Sacrifice, Honor The Sacrifice!" Hus' time is past. This is our time, our appointment with destiny, we will not be mediocre, AND WE WILL HONOR THE SACRIFICE!

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The Men of the Community Christian Church of Rosenberg are seen sporting their suspenders in church on Father's Day. From L to R: Mike Massengale; Edwin Marek; Bro. Larry Butcher; Carl Hopkins; and Ken Miller.

KUBENA Funeral Home

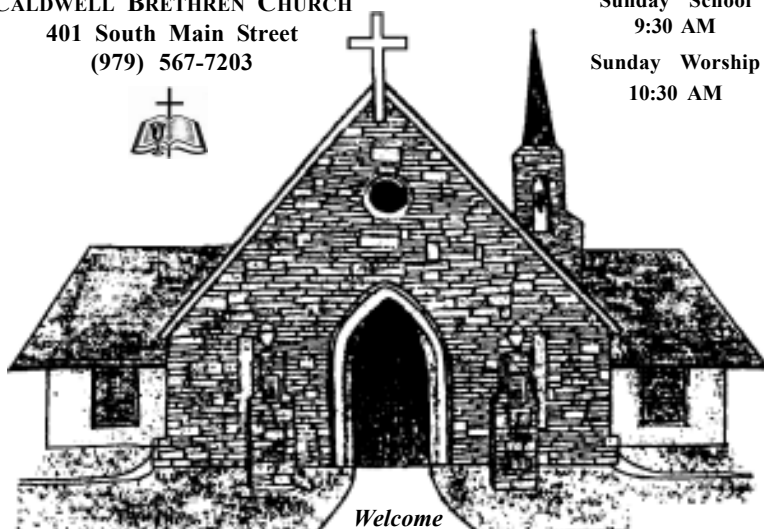
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Fayetteville Christian Sisters Make Donation

The Fayetteville Brethren Christian Sisters recently presented a check for \$1500 to be used for the purchase of a sleeper chair for use in a patient room in the Medical/Surgical wing of St. Mark's Medical Center. Shown from left to right representing the Fayetteville Brethren Christian Sisters are Ginger Marshall, Charlene Wright, Pauline Ott presenting the check to Tammy Hartfield, RN, Chief Nursing Officer and Laurie Quitta, RN, Medical Surgical wing director.

WALL BRETHREN CHURCH

12 miles east of San Angelo, Loop 570, Wall, Texas
P.O. Box 195, Wall, Texas 76957
Phone: 325-651-4444 ~ Fax: 325-651-5100

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Tallas
Home: 325-949-7543 Cell: 656-8558
Home: rev.tjt@verizon.net
Church: rev.tjt@zipnet.us
www.wallbrethrenchurch.org

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Worship: 10:45 a.m.

<i>President</i>	<i>Youth Director</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
Roy Martin	Susan & Bryan Neal	Johnie Smith
325-651-8788	325-227-7242	Tu-F-8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

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

From the Raifords . . .

As you may have read in our last email, the work here in Oaxaca is moving along quite well. Our vision of bringing affordable medical care with private practice quality is becoming a reality. Eunice and I are focused on getting the best materials to provide this medical care. To work in Juquila Mixes and the surrounding villages of more than 8,000 people, we need a large supply of medicine and equipment. **Our goal is to raise \$12,000 before the end of the year** for a fully functional clinic and for our home in the village.

Your church or Sunday school class can give to Indigenous Mission Today and help the lives of thousands of people cut off from decent medical care and the gospel. **With a one-time donation**, you can put in motion the final step toward treating these people physically and spiritually. The clinic only needs your financial support for the beginning, but your prayers are always in need. Please consider helping us fulfill our

vision to spread healing and the love of Jesus with the Mixe people of Southern Mexico.

If there are any questions about our work or any details you will need, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are always glad to share with others about our mission. Our first trip with medicine will be July 23rd. We will begin with just a bed and medicine, growing over the months. **Donations are tax deductible**, and can be written out to Friedberg Moravian Church with the memo IMT (address below).

Check us out on Facebook and like us at Indigenous Mission Today.

Thank you and blessings,

Phil Raiford
pbrmissions@gmail.com
Friedberg Moravian Church
2178 Friedberg Church Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27127
Oaxaca, Mexico IMT



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THE WOOS VISIT TEXAS



Woo's Visit with the Foreign Mission Board

The Foreign Mission Board and guests met with missionaries Michael and Carolyn Woo August 4th. From left to right are John Brinkley; Ann Sebesta; Michael Woo, Kent Laza; Carolyn and Isaac Woo; Marvin Chlapek; Charles Groseclose; and Rev. Lawrence and Barbara Juneke

Michael and Caroline Woo, missionaries to southern China who are supported by the Unity of the Brethren, visited Texas during the first week of August. They arrived in Houston on Saturday, July 28th and were accompanied by their four sons—Samuel, age 9; Ian, age 7; Zack, age 4; and Isaac, age 9 months.

During their visit they met with the Foreign Mission Board and also gave programs about their work in five congregations. They began with a presentation at the Crosby Brethren Church on Sunday morning and another at the Industry Brethren Church on Sunday evening. They then proceeded to the Hus Encampment, which

became their base of operations during their stay in Texas. During the middle of the week they traveled to Wall, where they gave a presentation on Wednesday evening. On Saturday morning they met with the Foreign Mission Board at the Ocker Brethren Church and in the afternoon visited informally with people of the Temple area at the home of Jon and Gayle Farrow. Two presentations were given on Sunday, August 5th. The first was at the Bryan-College Station Church in the morning and then another at the New Tabor Church in the evening. In every location, the presentations were well received by those present. The Foreign Mission Board would like to thank all who assisted in hosting the Woos during their visit.

The Woos have just completed a six-year term working with the Shan Dai people in southern China. People are not permitted to enter China as Christian missionaries, so the Woos went there as teachers of English. They explained that their efforts to share Christ had to be very quietly done and mostly on an individual basis. They have been developing and using a method of telling short stories and challenging those who

hear these Biblically based stories to share them with their relatives and friends. They have been encouraged by success in sharing stories with their housekeeper, who is now excited about telling others these stories and gradually leading them to understand what it means to accept Jesus.

They shared an exciting event that took place when they went to visit a family with whom they had been trying to establish a relationship. The grandfather of the family had been the most resistant to their efforts. On this particular day, when the Woos arrived at the family home they found the grandfather in bed because he had been injured in a tractor accident. The Woos had been studying about the power of Christ to do miracles. When they found the grandfather bedridden, they felt led to ask him if they might pray for Jesus to heal him right then and there. Amazingly, the grandfather agreed, and the Woos prayed that Jesus would heal the injured leg immediately. Suddenly, the grandfather said that he felt a warmth in his leg, then got out bed and began walking about the house, leaving his crutches leaning against the wall be-



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www.unityofthebrethren.org

Rev. Mark Sebek

Mailing Address:
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Sunday School 10:45 A.M.
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President
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(281) 620-0480

John David Skrivaneck
Secretary
P.O. Box 1605
Bellaire, TX 77402
(713) 626-0522

side the bed. Everyone was amazed, including the Woos. They had never tried calling on Jesus like that before. When their housekeeper heard of this event, she became very excited and has been calling on Jesus and His power to act immediately in solving problems in the lives of her family and friends.

The Woos will be in the States until January. They will be enrolling their children in school in North Carolina. This will be a new experience for the boys. Most of their education thus far has been home schooling.

While in the States, Michael and Caroline will be trying to develop more stories for their ministry, and also trying to decide on some other form of business to give them access for visas to allow them to return to China.

The Woos have expressed deep appreciation for all the prayer and financial support given to them by the Brethren. If you would be interested in receiving their regular newsletters, you may contact them at mcswoo@psmail.net.

If you would like to make financial contributions to assist the Woos in their work, you may do so by making checks payable to Unity of the Brethren Foreign Missions, noting for Woos, and mailing to Unity financial secretary Marvin Chlapek; P.O. Box 1163, Caldwell, TX 77836.

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State Youth Coordinator:

Jennifer Chervenka, 9494 Big Elm Creek Rd., Rogers, TX 76569. jennchervenka@farm-market.net

Pastoral Advisor:

Rev. Bill Rinderknecht, 8787 Shenandoah Park Drive, Apt. 634, Shenandoah, TX 77385. williamr90@aol.com

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18th Annual Primetimers' Retreat Notice

Plans are being completed for the October 12-14, 2012, Primetimers' Retreat. This is an activity for adults of all ages in the Unity of the Brethren and their friends.

Some like to arrive Friday evening to get settled in and enjoy an early time of fellowship, various games (dominoes, chickenfoot, trivia, etc.), and snacks. Others arrive in time for breakfast around 8 a.m. Saturday.

The retreat theme is "Staying Connected with Jesus". We will have a Bible Study related to the theme on Saturday. Also, there will be a special program, "I AM", A dramatization of the "I am" phrases by Jesus. Two ladies will bring the presentation. Other Saturday activities will include devotional, icebreakers, and singing. Good food, time for visiting and fellowship, and an early vesper service are all part

of Saturday's schedule.

Many participants enjoy spending all day Saturday and Sunday until after lunch. On Sunday there is a worship service with the Lord's Supper. If, however, you can come only for Saturday, you will find the experience rewarding by seeing old friends, making new ones, and being spiritually blessed.

Registrations have been sent to all congregations. Information is also available on the Unity website. The cost remains \$45 person for the weekend and \$30 for Saturday only. The deadline for registration is Friday, October 5, 2012. Send your registrations to: Rev. Lawrence and Barbara Juneck, 3316 Lyle Ave., Waco, TX 76708.

See you at the retreat!!

The organizing committee

To communicate with the Hus Encampment . . .

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

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

**This must be done well in advance.*

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE

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

THE MUTUAL AID SOCIETY

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

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

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.

Ron Dusek, Treasurer – Caldwell – 979-567-3732,
rdusekdds@aol.com

Roger Runnels – Cy-Fair – 281-469-4302,
rogerhr@swbell.net

Ron Tyson – Houston – 281-373-4376 (home),
rdtyson1@hotmail.com

Eugene Haisler – Ocker – 254-985-2316, dmheeh@msn.com

Brett Mikeska – Nelsonville – 979-357-2102
bmikeska@hotmail.com

Rev. Jimmy Hejl – Taylor – 2nd Vice President and
Synodical Committee Liaison – 512-365-6890,
jhejl@austin.rr.com

All Scripture... is
useful for teaching,
rebuking, correcting
and training in
righteousness.
1 Timothy 3:16

Sunday School Helper



Kids are so adept at iPads, computers, and smart phones it is unbelievable. We can capitalize on that motivation and fun to learn Scripture. The Bible (and our Catechism) tells us that “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness” (1 Timothy 3:16), so this month will focus on ways to make learning scripture fun and active, and a few technologies to help along the way!

Scripture Websites & Apps

Impress Kids Demo

Guide your frog through the lily pads as you learn a Scripture.

Mobilize Faith App

Learn Scripture on your iPhone.

AdventureBible.com

Games and activities online or your phone for kids

Fighter Verses App (\$)

Designed for children through adults with 520 verses preloaded

Bible Islands (\$)

A collection of online games

Superbook.cbn.com

A large collection of free Bible-based games.

For
comments/questions/
information, contact:

Angie Hairrell

Hairrell@gmail.com



Thoughts for Teens

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Technology-Free Scripture Learning

Great Cover-up

Write the BV on the board. Say the verse. Each time you say it, cover one word with a post it note. Continue until the entire verse is covered.

Move it

Give each word in the verse a movement.

Sparkle

The children will stand in a circle facing one another. The teacher says a reference for a recent memory verse. The game travels around the circle with each child saying the next word to come in the verse. If the child says an incorrect word or does not know the next word they sit down. The verse continues around the circle until the final word is said and then the next child says "Sparkle!" to finish the verse. The child who says "Sparkle!" also sits down. The children continue to play with a variety of verses until there is only one child standing who is the winner. The teacher can choose any word to be used for the "Sparkle!"

From Ministry-to-children.com

Friends of Hus Scholarship Drive Soon

Can you believe that school has started and we are looking to the end of the year already? The summer camping season was a big success, especially our new camp-Encounter. The campers came for the fun, but also learned about God's word.

The Friends were able to sponsor 9 campers this year. We had 2 for Encounter, 2 for Alpha, 1 for Pioneer, 2 for Discovery, and 2 for Hus school. We are excited that this was our biggest year for scholarships, but it did put a dent in our working capital.

We will be doing our drive to raise money for the 2013 camping season soon, but you or your church can make a donation at any time during

the year. It can be mailed to the address below. This is a wonderful opportunity to help the Christian development of our young people.

Please consider this outreach as you plan your giving for next year. Thank you and may God bless you.

Connie Janac

1002 Munson

College Station, TX 77840

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Dr. Dawn Marie Baletka: DawnHayes@aol.com,
BaletkaD@navasotaisd.org; (H) 979-693-
2710; (C) 979-777-9940; (W) 936-825-1112

Mrs. Connie Janac: cjanac@st-joseph.org;
979-587-0363

Mr. Albert Surovick: albertsurovick@gmail.com;
979-255-2225; 979-778-4882

Mr. Jon Farrow: jfarrow@hot.rr.com; 254-933-
1673; 254-718-1938

Seaton Brethren Church

12561 State Highway 53, Temple, TX 76501

Mail: P.O. Box 4615, Temple, TX 76505

Church Phone: 254-985-2694

seatonbrethrenchurch@yahoo.com

Rev. Denise Mikeska, Pastor – sbcpastordenise@yahoo.com

Steve Davis, Youth Pastor – sbcpastorsteve@yahoo.com

Charles Amos Sr., Board of Elders Chair

Temple Brethren Church

2202 Birdcreek Drive

Temple, Texas 76502

(254) 778-8759

tbc@hot.rr.com

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Worship: 10:45 a.m.

Rev. Larry Zabcik

(254) 718-3898

zabcikville@hot.rr.com

Alpha Camp 2012 S.O.A.R.



"Teach me the way that I should go, for to you I lift my soul."

Psalm 143:8b

Fifty campers, 10 counselors, and 9 CITs, along with camp pastor Ron Winsman and camp nurse Connie Janac, blessed the lives of Alpha directors JP & Jenn Chervenka and directors-in-training Jeremy & Cindy Wentrcek and Angie Labaj as we learned about our awesome God.

The Alpha camp theme was SOAR. We learned to **SEEK** God (1 Chronicles 16:11), **OBEY** God (Deuteronomy 13:4), **ASK** God (Matthew 7:7), and **REJOICE** for all God gives us (Psalm 118:24). Campers learned about the #1 best-selling book of all time, the Bible, and they learned how to use it. They learned about God's Commandments and the forgiveness He offers through

Jesus Christ. They learned to ask God and to talk to Him through prayer. They also learned to rejoice and give God praise and thanks in all things, even when it's hard.

Campers enjoyed group games, sports, a scavenger hunt, crafts, and special interests such as archery, putt-putt, and fishing. We also rocked it out with our music leaders Jeremy and Cindy Wentrcek, who taught us new songs and chants – Hey, I got your J, I got your J... JESUS!

May we continue to learn more about our God, His Son, and His Spirit so that our souls may be lifted up and we may be in His presence on earth.

Brethren Book Store

P.O. Box 321

Caldwell, TX 77836

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Diane Heckman, Manager

State Youth Convention and Volleyball Tournament Saturday, July 21- Sunday, July 22

Seventy-four youth and many adults gathered at the Encampment for the 2012 Youth Retreat, Convention, and Volleyball Tournament. Seven groups were present and represented during the convention, which began at 9 a.m.

The State Leadership Team 2012-2013 was elected as follows: Youth Members – Kassie Benner, Erin Brinkley, Taylor Brinkley, Monique Duron, Meghan Griggs, Rikki Sebesta, and Ian Zamorsky; Adult Sponsors – Kari Raesz, Tammie Reithmeyer, David Sebesta, Anna Wotipka; Pastor – Rev. Mark Sebek. Retreat dates for 2012-2013 were scheduled as follows: Fall Retreat September 14-16, Winter Retreat January 18-20.

The tournament began at 10 a.m. with 9 teams fielded. It ended around 6 p.m. The State Champions are Wall A Team, 2nd was taken by Snook A, and Taylor A won out over Nelsonville

for 3rd place. Following the tournament, everyone enjoyed a BBQ dinner and then gathered for Saturday evening worship.

We were reminded that we are walking witnesses. We were challenged: if we are asked to be born again, do we? When we're asked to turn from evil and do good, do we? When we are presented opportunities to tell others about Christ, do we hold back? We have been given God's light, the light of life, and we should share it with others, we should be walking witnesses in all we do.

We hope to see everyone in September. The retreat coordinating team of Erin and Taylor Brinkley and Kassie Benner are already making plans! Look for forms online by mid-August, and remember that they are due by September 1. If you need to register late, contact Jenn Chervenka.



Shaking hands after a game during the tournament



Delegates from the Bryan/College Station Church



State Volleyball Champions: Wall A Team

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DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for September 2012

Dorothy E. Kocian

1. We also rejoice in our suffering, because we know that suffering produces perseverance. Rom. 5:3
2. I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ. Phil. 3:14
3. Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. Heb. 11:1
4. If you have faith as small as a mustard seed... nothing will be impossible for you. Mt. 17:20
5. The one who calls you is faithful and He will do it. 1 Thes. 5:24:
6. I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. Gal. 2:20a
7. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. Gal. 2:20
8. Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Rom. 5:1
9. Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. Heb. 10:23
10. Be still and know that I am God. Ps. 46:10a
11. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. 1 Tim. 6:11
12. Fight the good fight of the faith. 1 Tim. 6:12a
13. It is by faith you stand firm. 2 Cor. 1:24b
14. Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Heb. 12:1
15. Continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from hope held out in the gospel. Col. 1:23
16. Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 Tim. 2:1
17. The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn shining ever brighter till the first light of day. Prov. 4:18
18. Let us be thankful and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe. Heb. 12:28
19. I thank my God every time I remember you. Phil. 1:3
20. Stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel. Phil. 1:27b
21. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever. Ps. 107:1
22. Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Phil. 2:27a
23. Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Heb. 10:24
24. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 1 Cor. 3:4
25. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 1 Cor. 13:6
26. Accept Him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters. Rom. 14:1
27. Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love. Eph. 6:24
28. Now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. 1 Cor. 13:13
29. If I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 1 Cor. 13:2b
30. The righteous will live by faith. Hab. 2:4

Renew, Revive, Refresh... Retreat!

Ladies, please save the date! You are invited to the Renew, Revive, Refresh Ladies' Retreat on Saturday, September 29, 2012, at the Ocker Brethren Church in Zabcikville, Texas. There will be several guest speakers, lots of music and workshops, plenty of fun, food, and fellowship!

For more information, please contact Lisa Sebek at (254) 985-2578.

Fall Bake Sale and Crafts Event Invitation

The Temple Brethren Church's Christian Sisters' group is preparing for a 2012 Fall Bake Sale & Crafts event to be held on Saturday, October 6, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the church fellowship hall located at 2202 Birdcreek Drive in Temple behind Luby's. The public is invited and admission is free; however, canned goods and non-perishable items are being accepted to be donated to local charities.

Featured items in the sale will be kolaches, cakes, pies, cookies, candies, jellies, canned goods, homemade noodles, casseroles, and various craft items. Rental spaces are available for vendors. Contact Barbara Poulter (254) 718-9876 for details and rental contract.

Love donations will be accepted for a Quilt Drawing. The quilt to be given away is 88" x 101" in size featuring a wildflower pattern with neutral shades of browns and navies with touches of tiny pink roses. Love Donations are \$1 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$5 and are available by contacting the church office: (254) 778-8759, or tbc@hot.rr.com.

Fall Youth Retreat: FACING YOUR GIANTS September 15-16, 2012

Cost \$30

Registration due Sept. 1

E-mail jennchervenka@farm-market.net or
call 254-913-1244 if you missed
the deadline.

Check-in from 8-9 a.m. Saturday
Friday arrivals need to let Jenn
know, and

please come no earlier than 7p.m.
No meals provided on Friday.

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Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

September 15-16: Fall Youth Retreat: *Facing Your Giants*, at the Hus School Encampment. Registration is due September 1! Cost \$30. Email Jennifer Chervenka for more information at jennchervenka@farm-market.net or call (254) 913-1244 if you missed the deadline.

September 29: Renew, Revive, Refresh Retreat at Ocker Brethren Church. For more information, please contact Lisa Sebek at (254) 985-2578.

October 6: Fall Bake Sale and Crafts Event with a Quilt Drawing at the Temple Brethren Church, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the church fellowship hall, 2202 Birdcreek Dr., Temple, behind the Luby's. Admission is free; however, canned goods and non-perishable items will be accepted to donate to local charities. Love donations for the Quilt drawing is \$1 per ticket or 6 for \$5. For more info, contact the church at (254) 778-8759 or tbc@hot.rr.com.

October 12-14: The 18th Annual Primetimers' Retreat at the Hus School Encampment. Registrations have been sent to all congregations. Information is also available on the Unity website. The cost remains \$45 person for the weekend and \$30 for Saturday only. The deadline for registration is Friday, October 5, 2012. Send your registrations to: Rev. Lawrence and Barbara Juneke, 3316 Lyle Ave, Waco, Texas 76708.

October 20: Fall Synodical Committee Meeting at the Hus Encampment, 9 a.m.; refreshments served at 8 a.m. A light lunch will be served at noon. The agenda will be sent out soon. Inquiries may be sent to Liz Ripple, Unity Secretary at lizripple@hotmail.com.

Other Events of Interest

September 8: Kolache Festival, on the square in Caldwell.

September 30: 49th Annual Sts. Cyril & Methodius Slavic Heritage Festival, Knights of Columbus Hall and Grounds, 607 E. Whitney Dr., Houston, TX 77022. Cultural Program in the large hall at 12 p.m.-6 p.m. Join the Czech, Ukrainian, Polish, and Croatian communities of Houston for food, live music, crafts, folk dancing, and fun for the whole family! Admission is \$5, ages 12 and under are free. For more info: www.houstonoslavicheritagefestival.com.

Does your church/organization have an activity that you would like to include in this listing? Please send activity information including a contact name, phone number and/or email address to the Brethren Journal Editor at: editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com. Information must be received by the first day of the month immediately preceding the month of publication.

Youth Ministry Positions Available

Community Christian Church of Rosenberg has openings available in our Youth Ministry. The primary position is Youth Leader for a small group. This part-time position requires Wednesday evenings 5:15 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Sunday mornings 8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The church is located at 5220 Reading Road in Rosenberg.

We also have a position available with the younger children on Sunday mornings from 8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The youth director provides the curriculum needed.

These positions will require an interview and a background check. Please contact Carla Butcher at 281-381-4408 for more information or to apply for either or both positions.



CY-FAIR COMMUNITY CHURCH

(Unity of the Brethren)

Worship – 10:45 A.M.

Sunday School – 9:30 A.M.



Pastors:

Rev. Henry Beseda
(979) 567-7033

Rev. Rick Chandler
(281) 355-1474

Church Phone – (281) 955-1655

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President: Rev. Henry Beseda

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VITAL STATISTICS

RECENT DEATHS

ESCALLIER, MILDRED (BAYLISS), age 102, died April 29, 2012, at Hallettsville. She was born January 13, 1910, at Kingsville and was married August 31, 1935, to Ed Escallier. Mildred is survived by more than 110 nephews and nieces, great-nephews and great-nieces, and great-great-nephews and great-great-nieces. Services were held on May 2, 2012, from the Vsetin CMB Church with burial in Inglewood Cemetery in Inglewood, California. Minister: Mark L. Labaj.

COUFAL, DOLORES ROSE (JANECEK), born on December 27, 1920, died on May 22, 2012. She was a member of the Industry Brethren Church and was preceded in death by her husband, Ben. Services were on May 27th at the Industry Brethren Church with burial in the Oak Knoll Cemetery in Bellville. Minister: Milton Maly.

MAREK, JACQUELINE (JACKIE) LOU (REZNICEK) died Saturday, June 23, 2012, at her home in Tomball. She was born October 8, 1936, in Rogers, Texas, to Louis and Agnes Schiller Reznicek. She graduated from Jeff Davis High School and attended classes at the University of Houston. On December 19, 1953, she married Benjamin Louis Marek. She was a member of the Houston Brethren Church, the Christian Sisters, SPJST Lodge 88, the Czech Heritage Society of Texas, and the Czech Cultural Center. Jackie is preceded in death by her husband of 56 years, Benjamin Louis Marek; granddaughter, Jody Anne Knapick; and her parents, Louis and Agnes Schiller Reznicek. She is survived by daughters, Deborah Marek Knapick and her husband Michael and Gina Marek Geyer; granddaughters, Jamie Knapick Miller and her husband Chris and Jill Knapick Moye and her husband Christopher; great-grandson, Samuel Benjamin Moye; sister, Jean Reznicek Bravenec and her husband Frank; brothers, Louis Reznicek, Jr., and his wife Brenda and Gary Reznicek; along with numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and her beloved Shih Tzu, Ming. Visitation was held on Wednesday, June 27th, prior to the funeral service at Brookside Funeral Home Grand Chapel. Interment followed in Brookside Memorial Park. In memory of her years as a dedicated member

of the Harris County chapter of The Czech Heritage Society of Texas, memorial donations may be made to CHS Harris County Chapter Library, 4117 Willowbend Boulevard, Houston, TX 77025, or to a charity of your choice. Minister: Larry Koslovsky.

KUBENA, KYLE G., age 17, died June 1, 1999. He is survived by his parents, Thomas and Rose Kubena. and one sister, Kate. A private internment was held on May 29, 2012, at the Fayetteville Brethren Church Cemetery.

ELSIK, HERRELL L., age 71 and a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, died June 25, 2012, in Alice, Texas. He was born in Fayette County, Texas, and is survived by his wife Mae Elsik, 2 brothers, 3 sisters, 2 sons, 1 daughter, and 7 grandchildren. Herrell spent about 50 years in the Texas oil fields. Services were held on June 28 at the Holmgreen Mortuary Chapel in Alice with Pastor Kathleen Kasper officiating. Burial was at the Fayetteville Brethren Church Cemetery with Rev. Michael Keen officiating.

COLLIER, JAMES R., age 51, died June 20, 2012, in Dilley, Texas. He is survived by his step-son, Tucker Collier, and special friend, Doug McCoy. Services were held on June 28 at the Hurley Funeral Home in Pearsall, Texas. A private internment was held on June 29 at the Fayetteville Brethren Church Cemetery.

WYCHOPEN, JUANITA A. (MARTINEC), age 97 and a member of the Temple Brethren Church, passed on July 11, 2012, in Temple. Born August 8, 1914, near the Red Ranger community in east Bell County, she married Albert Wychopen on October 16, 1934, and lived in the Temple area all of her life. She is survived by one daughter, one granddaughter, and two great granddaughters. Services were on July 16, 2012, at the Ocker Brethren Church pavilion with burial in the Ocker Brethren Cemetery. Pastor: Larry Zabcik.

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Austin – Bible Study at 10:00 AM
Worship at 11:00 AM.
– Rev. Linda Chandler

Bryan-College Station – worship at
9:00 AM every Sunday.
– Rev. Mark Sebek

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

Cade Lake Community Chapel – Sunday
School at 11:00 AM; Fellowship Lunch
at Noon; Worship at 1:00 PM.
– Rev. Jim Heckman

Caldwell – Sunday School at 9:30 AM,
worship at 10:30 AM every Sunday.
Bible Study on Tuesday at 10:30 AM.
– visiting ministers

Crosby – 9:00 AM: Worship
10:00 AM: Faith Adventure
– 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

Fayetteville – Sunday School at 9:45 AM,
worship at 10:45 AM every Sunday.
– Rev. Kay Polasek

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.
– Rev. Whitney Amos and
Rev. Charles Amos

Houston – Sunday School at 9:15 AM;
Worship at 10:30 AM every Sunday.
– Dr. Jerry Terrill
Ben Kruse once a month

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

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.
Midweek Study twice per month on
Thursdays at 6:30 PM.
– Rev. Bill Rinderknecht

Community Christian Church of 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 – Prayer Gathering;
9:30 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. Denise Mikeska
Pastor Steve Davis, Youth Pastor

Snook – 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.
– Rev. 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

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

Granger #1: Angie Malicoat, PO Box 362, Granger, TX 76530, 512-859-2837

Taylor #3: Marie Ann Ripple, 2302 Heights Blvd, Taylor, TX 76574, 512-365-6916

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

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Rev. Lawrence & Barbara Juneke
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