# THE BRETHREN







Vol. 111 November 2012 No. 9

32 Pages



The Cade Lake Youth Fellowship stands in front of the sign they purchased for the entry into the Cade Lake subdivision in Caldwell.

IN THIS ISSUE ...

President's Column In Christ's Love . . . from the Mission Fields Time to Renew Your Subscription!

... and much more!

#### THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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#### 2/November 2012

## Visit the Unity of the Brethren Website: unityofthebrethren.org

## Invitation

You are invited to bring a night of Christmas Worship Celebration to your Church or Organization. The program *A Night of Hope* is presented by Brighter Vision; members Tammy Pechal, Joe and Christi Emerson and their Children. To reserve this program please call Joe Emerson (254) 931-1653 for bookings from November 25th through December 20th.

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## President's Column . . . James Marek

## President's Report to the Unity

The days have flown off the calendar at an alarming rate since the last

Synodical Committee meeting in April. It is almost unbelievable that 2012 is quickly coming to an end and the next church convention to be held in Taylor July 18-20 is now less than 9 months away.

Since the last Synodi-

cal Committee meeting, I have had the pleasure of attending and participating in several denominational events and activities.

#### Around the Unity

On April 22nd brethren from around the state gathered at the Bryan/College Station Brethren Church to celebrate the ordination of Rev. Mark Sebek. Bro. Mark's ordination was the 3rd ordination of a Brethren pastor within the prior six months. Rev. Denise Mikeska ordained in Seaton and Rev. Larry Zabcik ordained in Temple preceded Rev. Sebek in their ordinations, and these three ministers now serve as the newest ministers in the Unity. We thank God for His gift of these servants to His kingdom work within the Unity.



On April 28th of this year the Christian Sisters held their conven-

tion in Snook, and the Mutual Aid Society held their convention in Dime Box on July 14th. Both of these organizations have played significant roles in the life and work of the denomination and are in need of membership and support to ensure their

continued service to the Lord throughout the Unity.

#### Missions

On July 8th the Temple Brethren Church hosted a joint worship service organized by the Granger, Ocker, and Temple Congregations. The service featured the preaching of our missionary to the Czech Republic, Pavel Kozak, and the singing of his wife Stanya. Approximately 200 people attended the service. Although the City of Temple was experiencing a water curtailment that caused many businesses to shut down that day, it did not dampen the wonderful time of worship and fellowship for those in attendance. It is always good to see Brethren working together, worship-

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## Brethren Book Store

P.O. Box 321 Caldwell, TX 77836 (979) 200-0513 Diane Heckman, Manager ping together, and enjoying each other's fellowship, but it was a special treat to hear Pavel and Stanya as they shared their gifts and experiences with us that day.

In early August, five congregations were treated to a visit from Michael and Carolyn Woo, our missionaries to China. The Woos recently returned to the United States for a 6-month sabbatical. Before beginning their time of renewal and relaxation, the Woos visited the Crosby, Industry, Wall, Bryan/College Station, and New Tabor congregations to present a program on their work and experiences with the Shan Dai people.

The Unity Mission program has expanded significantly in the last few years, which requires more financial resources. Mission giving throughout the denomination is on the rise, and it is critically important that we continue the momentum in our mission support. The combined mission budgets of Foreign and Home Missions are forecasted to eclipse the \$100,000 mark as together we work to accomplish mission goals domestically and internationally. We now have missionaries in Mexico, China, and the Czech Republic, in addition to the domestic effort underway at Cade Lake. Such an effort requires constant prayer, faithful financial stewardship, and support from all Unity churches if we are to continue and expand our mission footprint. I wholeheartedly support these ambitious goals and budgets of the Home and Foreign Mission boards and encourage each congregation to prayerfully consider their role in the Unity mission effort.

#### **Ministers' Retreat**

A ministers' retreat was held at Horseshoe Bay Resort in Marble Falls, Texas August 11-14. Eighteen pastors and their spouses attended. The event began on Sunday evening with a light meal followed by a round of putt-putt golf. Included in the golf outing was Bro. Henry Beseda. At 92 years of age, Bro. Henry demonstrated that he still has command of his golfing game. Over the course of the next two and a half days, the ministers enjoyed a balanced ratio of discussion time and relaxation. The sessions were facilitated by Pastor Dave Snapper from Washington State. Billy Riggs, former pastor, church planter, and illusionist delivered a thought-provoking and

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5<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Holy Communion

entertaining program complete with various illusions and magic after the Tuesday evening meal. The retreat was a success and seemed to meet the expectations of those in attendance while providing a time of fellowship for the ministers and their spouses. The retreat could not have happened without the hard work on the part of Dawn Marie Baletka. We are very grateful to Dawn Marie for all of her work in planning, organizing, scheduling, and hosting the ministers' retreat. Dawn spent untold hours bringing the event together, and we deeply appreciate her willingness to coordinate the retreat. The ministers are planning to meet again in the near future as a way of continuing the dialogue and fellowship that they enjoyed in the retreat setting. Please pray for all of our pastors. Pray that God will inspire them, strengthen and encourage them while they build relationships with each other and serve both God and the Unity.

#### Hus School to Hit the Century Mark

One of our greatest Unity programs will be turning 100 years young in 2014. The Hus School program began in 1914 as an educational program intended to develop Sunday School teachers and church leaders We look forward to the opportunity to celebrate what God has done through this program in a day that is sure to be filled with reminiscing, fun, and fellowship. A committee is being formed so that plans can be made to celebrate and formally recognize this momentous part of our denomination's history. Anyone interested in serving on this planning committee should contact Jim Baletka.

#### **Bylaws Committee Action and Update**

The Bylaws Committee has been tasked with making modification recommendations to our current constitution and bylaws. The committee's recommendations will be considered at the next church convention in Taylor in July of 2013. The committee has been very active, meeting monthly for the last six months. In the coming weeks, the bylaws committee plans to conclude its work and present its recommendations to the denomination for review and consideration prior to the convention. In addition to their work focused on bylaws modifications, at the last Synodical Committee meet-





ing the committee was also asked to render an interpretation of the current bylaws. The issue in question was one brought by the Bryan/College Station congregation. The congregation asked if Rev. Vanessa Mitchell could vote and hold office in the local congregation. It was the consensus of the Bylaws Committee that all active Unity pastors are members of the Unity-at-large and are therefore precluded from holding office in a local congregation or being a voting member in any local congregation.

#### **Cade Lake Happenings**

Rev. Jim Heckman has begun his recovery from a recent cardiac ablation. The cardiac ablation procedure was performed to address an irregular and rapid heart rate caused by excess nerves surrounding his heart. According to the doctors, the condition may have been present prior to the episode Bro. Jim recently had that landed him in the hospital.

He and his wife, Diane, continue to minister to both the Dime Box congregation as well as to the Cade Lake Mission. The Heckmans are in the process of setting up a homework lab and study hall for the children of Cade Lake. They are using the Sunday School building and kitchen as the lab, and are outfitting the space with second-hand and laptop computers for the children to use. The study lab was recently toured by the Caldwell ISD teachers and administrators and is being considered as a model for similar labs in Burleson County. Teachers from Caldwell ISD (including Diane Heckman) are volunteering their time to tutor the children in the homework lab.

The BYF of the Cade Lake Mission recently held a fish fry and are purchasing a sign for the Cade Lake Community that will be installed at the entrance of the Cade Lake community. The youth are hoping the sign will inspire a sense of pride in the community and inspire the residents to be good stewards of the community in which they all live.

As a denomination, we have received many blessings from God and pray for His continued presence and guidance as we continue to seek His will. As we begin our preparations for the convention, please pray that God will continue to bless and unite us as we serve Him collectively as a denomination.

### There Is A Way That Seems Right... - by Rhonda Johnson

Imagine a culture where the absence of leadership has left such a crippling vacuum that teens join groups of other teens and allow them to become their models for parental love and guidance. A system so perverted that even the most basic family functions such as discipline are carried out in brutal and carnal ways like near-death beatings and being assigned to take the lives of outsiders. It is difficult to allow ourselves to imagine living like this; becoming so love-starved and experiencing such severe abandonment issues that we could find comfort and security in a group who practice such depravity.

What if you were practicing and acting in ways that were as common to you as the lifestyle of a gang member is common to them? Yet, is just as detestable and foreign to God as the acts of a gang member's ways are detestable and foreign to you? What if our culture and our common practices are as brutal and violent to God's perfect, holy, eyes as the ways of a gang member seem to us? What if what we perceive as normal and acceptable is far from permissible to our Holy Heavenly Father? Proverbs 14:12 says, "There is a way that seems right to man, but its ways are the ways of death," and Proverbs 22:15 states that "Evil is bound up in the heart of a child, but discipline will drive it far from him." If from childhood we have evil or foolishness bound in our hearts, do we really think our best course is to trust what "seems right" to us?

Exodus 32: Moses had been up on Mt. Sinai longer than the Children of Israel thought was right. They became impatient and gave up on Moses and God. They gathered around Aaron and said, "Come make us gods who will go before us (and who will take the place of Elohim); as for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him." Instead of obeying God's servant who told them to "WAIT", and instead of following the Lord God Almighty (Elohim) who told them to obey His servant Moses... they had better thoughts and more

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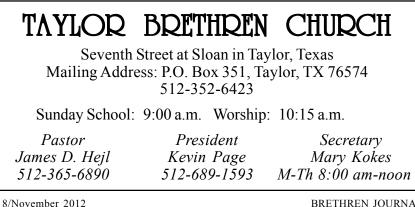
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reasonable solutions. They thought there had been enough time... they thought they had waited long enough... they decided it was time to take matters into their own hands and take care of themselves. God had failed; His provision and instructions were not acceptable; they would do things their own way. How many times have we responded this exact same way to God? We ask for something from God the Father. He would like to bless us with exactly what we have asked. He doesn't say "Yes", He doesn't say "No", His answer is "Wait"... but we become impatient. We think God has forgotten us and we begin to manipulate and "manhandle" our lives. When this occurs, we receive the same result as the Children of Israel; Idolatry. When we take God's sovereignty into our dirty, incapable, hands and we make what is equal to a golden calf. We fashion something from "what we have," just as the Children of Israel and Aaron. They gave offerings from what they had and made something to worship. This was the way that seemed right to them.

We do exactly the same thing today when we take our talents, our

abilities and our gifts that God has given us and we rely on what we have and try and make something excellent for ourselves. God is not and has never been interested in or limited by, what we have; God is interested in what we are willing to give to Him so He can add to our willingness HIS ability and make something great. Many times our abilities and preparedness become as a barricade to our progress with God, not the method to the Promised Land. Our education and abilities are as the Children of Israel's willingness to leave Egypt and start the journey; however, God had to provide manna and direct them every day to get them to the place where He wanted them to live.

No matter what we have to offer God; no matter if our talents are great or seemingly non-existent, we are going to have to know and trust God before we are able to wait on Him and obey Him. We need to know Him through a personal relationship (in prayer and daily communion) and to trust Him for who He really is (faith and trust are increased by reading and knowing His word) before we are able to wait on Him and see the Land where He wants us to live.



Proverbs 4:23 says that we should guard our hearts because they are the well spring of life and that our hearts can deceive us... God will never make us wait longer than is necessary. He will not delay, He is always perfectly on time... we become impatient and judgmental because we are not in God's presence. If you will notice in Exodus chapter 31 and 32, Moses is not the least bit concerned with how much time has passed. He was faceto-face with His Heavenly Father and he was doing very well, not at all impatient or tempted to become an idol worshipper. When we are in the presence of our Father and we are talking to Him friend-to-friend, it is as if time doesn't exist.

When we have a personal relationship with God, our ways and our thinking will look different than our friends and neighbors who are in the

world around us. We may seem to do things "wrong" or illogical. To those around us using only their own brains to determine logic we may seem a little "off", but to those who are close to the Father and who are relying on God's logic, we will know that all is well. We can wait a little longer for instructions, we can give even though we are in need, we can choose to turn the other cheek instead of defending ourselves. We will look as different and odd to the world as a gang of teens look to us. Although there is a way that seems right to man... we are walking in the way of the Godly being led by the Sprit and loving the life that is truly life.

I greatly encourage you to invest time in your relationship with your Father, know Him, and do not allow yourself to be deceived in any way. God's greatest blessings to you.

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

### From the Thiessen's...

September 2012

#### Dear friends.

A few months ago I taught a churchplanting seminar to a team of Chileans headed out to support church planters working in various places in Asia and Africa. Recently I got a letter from Sergio, one of the members of the group, who is now serving on a church-planting team in Mozambique. He is helping to train leaders there and helping them start new churches. This letter was passed on to me with the note, "The principles you taught are being put in practice and are bearing fruit!" Here is part of his letter translated for you:

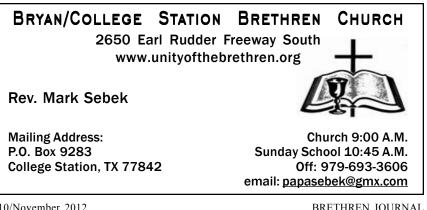
"I told you in my last report that together with the pastors who took our church planting course, we are just starting to plant a new church in Baranda, where there has never been a Christian church before. We keep working harder and harder at this, continuing to do door-to-door evangelism while we celebrate worship services under our tree, teaching,

discipling, and putting up a shelter for the new church.

It has been a beautiful time and we were able to forge strong relationships in the village, which greatly surprised the people who never expected white foreigners to put so much effort into them Four entire families that responded from the beginning and have participated in the whole process are now the core of the new church called "Geracao de Deus Mundial" and the group also includes others.

On our last day together we held a celebration with teachings, greetings and testimonies without translations (butchering their native Chechewa, but doing as best we could), but the highlight of the day was holding the Lord's Supper together. We felt God's presence and unity in the group so strongly.

Afterwards we walked to the river that divides Mozambique from Malawi so that the new believers could seal their commitment to God, giving public testimony of their faith through baptism. The place was surrounded by high rocks and many people came



to witness the event. I was moved to watch the local pastors and my teammates baptize the new believers.

Best of all was when our "Man of Peace" together with his entire family moved into the river for baptism. I can't tell you the joy I felt. As they came out of the water they broke into singing and dancing, and there would have been no way to stop them even if we had wanted. This joy could come only from God.

Two local pastors on our team, Zeca and Dominique, have committed to training up the new leaders of this church, and we are already confident

about who these leaders should be. One of the leaders is a family man, two are mature young men, and the fourth is the son of our Man of Peace. These men were obviously touched by God, and they worked diligently with us in all aspects of the work."

Join me in praying along with Sergio that God would bless this new church, Geracao Deus Mundial, and its four new Chechewa-speaking leaders, and would fill them mightily with His Spirit. Wow! Help us pray for these leaders, both Chilean and African.

Thanks, Anne

### ... from the Home Mission Field

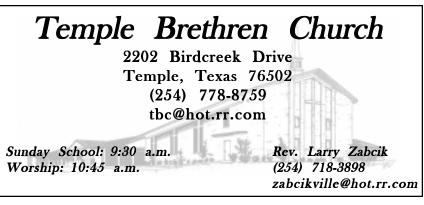
#### From Rev. Jim Heckman. Cade Lake Community... October 2012

As amazing as it is, we have completed our first year of services at Cade Lake Community Chapel. Just eighteen months ago I proposed to the Synodical Committee the idea of moving a building onto some donated property in the Cade Lake Estates subdivision, and in less than six months we had purchased, moved, and set up a 28' x 90' facility and began our

services on August 14, 2011.

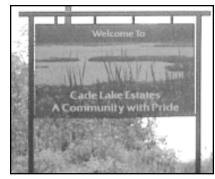
Over that year of services, 156 people (72 adults, 19 youth, and 65 children) have attended at least one service, we have averaged 26 people per Sunday, and we have 34 people who have attended more than one Sunday a month over the year.

A large number of our regular attendees are children and youth, and we have worked hard to maintain their attention and attendance. We sent



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seven children to the Children's Rally in March... thanks to the generosity of the Dime Box Church.

We also took group of 20 or so three times to Texas A&M Women's basketball games (thank you to Coach Gary Blair for the tickets).

During camp season we sent five children to various camps, and were able to do so with the help of Granger Brethren, Dime Box Brethren, and the Friends of Hus School Encampment and Dime Box Brethren.

Over the course of the first year we have experimented with how often to schedule movie nights. After trying weekly and semi-monthly we have determined that we will have movie nights on the third Saturday of each month. Anyone in the community is invited to the movies. We began hosting a weekly Alcoholics Anonymous meeting in September.

On November 20, 2011, we were treated by the BYF Fall Retreat to a full Thanksgiving dinner.

In conjunction with In God's Hands Ministry, we sponsored a Candidate Forum for all contested races in Burleson County on May 7.

In July 2012, we conducted a weeklong Vacation Bible School with 22 children attending, along with 10 adult teachers/helpers and 6 youth who acted as shepherds of the children.

On August 3, 2012, the Cade Lake Youth Fellowship sponsored a fish fry to raise money to purchase a new sign for the entry to the subdivision.

On October 1, 2012, we began offering a tutorial/homework assistance



## Seaton Brethren Church

12561 State Highway 53, Temple, TX 76501 Mail: P.O. Box 4615, Temple, TX 76505 Church Phone: 254-985-2694 <u>seatonbrethrenchurch@yahoo.com</u>

Rev. Denise Mikeska, Pastor – <u>sbcpastordenise@yahoo.com</u> Steve Davis, Youth Pastor – <u>sbcpastorsteve@yahoo.com</u> Charles Amos Sr., Board of Elders Chair



service to the community... here is what is being published to the teachers and parents of the Caldwell ISD:

Cade Lake Community Chapel is sponsoring tutorials on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 4 P.M. to 6 P.M. at their location, 1005 Elm Dr. in Cade Lake. CISD administration has provided a single copy of many textbooks for those Cade Lake students who have left a book at school and need to copy out an assignment or page. Several laptops with internet service are available for research purposes. All we ask is a flash drive be used to store the information. Students can be dropped off at the tutoring site by the

buses with signed permission of parents only. The tutoring site will need to be notified if the parent gives permission for the child to walk home or whether the parent will pick up the student. No transportation will be provided. A sandwich or light snack may be provided if needed by the child. For further information, please call Jim Heckman at 979-200-0513 or 979-739-1393. Assistance will be provided as possible, but not necessarily in all subject areas.

## OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

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Elder Board President Doug Rowald 2227 Huskaville Road Temple, TX 76501

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*Elder Board Vice President* David Sebek 3910 Red Ranger Road Temple, TX 76501 (254) 985-2578, cell (254) 913-0732

BRETHREN JOURNAL

## Industry Brethren Church Makes The Connection Cell Phones & Services

Industry Brethren Church has started a new program to make the connection between Sunday morning church services and its shut-ins that cannot make it to church. Members of the congregation have offered the use of their cell phones to dial the person that is not able to be present and they are able to listen and participate in the service as it goes on.

Rev. Kay Polasek greets the person/persons on the phone and holds it up for the congregation to respond with "Good Morning" and the members in turn can hear the person on the phone as she holds it to the microphone. They continue to listen to the service, including having an opportunity to pick their favorite hymn (a practice that we do each Sunday morning when those present have an opportunity to select their favorite hymn to sing that morning). The shutin members have been given red hymnals and the Favorite Songs Book as well as portable communion packages to use when we have communion, which they participate in with the congregation.

This program starts each Sunday morning when someone calls the shutin prior to the service beginning to see if they want to "attend church that morning". When the bell is ready to begin for the service, they are redialed and the connection is made. After the service is complete with benediction and "Bond of Love" is sung (our way of closing the Sunday morning service); the phone is open for any of the members to visit with the shut-in that is on the phone. This has allowed some people to visit for the first time in six years (time in nursing home for one of the shut-in attendees, and even as long as 30 years last time they saw each other!)

Industry Brethren is thankful for the modern-day technology of "making the connection" between our shutins and services on Sunday morning on a personal present time connection.

Note to anyone wanting to do this: Many of the cell phone plans have free minutes on the weekends. Praise The Lord for modern technology!

### HOUSTON BRETHREN CHURCH

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

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

For information please contact one of the following:

Dorothy Hinson President 7331 Misty Morning Lane Humble, TX 77346 (281) 620-0480 John David Skrivanek Secretary P.O. Box 1605 Bellaire, TX 77402 (713) 626-0522

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### Mutual Aid Society Officers Elected



The Mutual Aid Society met for their Convention at the Dime Box Brethren Church on July 14, 2012. New Officers elected at this Convention are:

President: Rev. Joseph J. Polasek Vice-President: Daniel Vojtek Gen. Secretary: Natalie Outlaw Treasurer: Guy Huffman Jr. Dept. Secretary/Treasurer: Dorothy Hinson Board Member: Ann Sebesta Synod. Board: Rev. Jimmy Hejl The original purpose of the Society was to provide survivors of deceased members financial help in a time of need, but as its membership and financial resources grew, so did its program of service and outreach.

Today the Society provides loans at a lower rate of interest to the denomination for building of churches, fellowship halls, educational buildings, and parsonages. It supports numerous benevolent and charitable enterprises, and stands ready to sup-

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port programs developed and implemented by the Synodical Committee.

The Society supports our youth and the future of the Unity through donations to the Unity Youth Coordinator as well as the Society's recently established college scholarship. It has always adhered strictly to the teachings, doctrines, and beliefs of the Unity of the Brethren Church.

In the words of the late Rev. Joseph Barton: "In the years of its existence it has wiped away many tears, and has extended brotherly sympathy and help when it is most needed. May the Lord continually be glorified by the task the Society performs, and by the lives of its members."

Any member of the Unity of the Brethren Church may join through various membership options. We would like for YOU to become a part of this great effort in our Church.

For information about the Mutual Aid Society or how to become a member, please go to their page on the Unity website at www.unityofthebrethren.org.

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Rev. Jim Heckman; jimheckman@clergy.net

Jennifer Chervenka

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Kimberly Stewart; <u>kcstew@austin.rr.com</u>

Jean Kotrla; kotrla@flash.net

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- Erin Brinkley Board of Trustees Rep., 119 CR 3000, Lott, TX 76656. erinbrinkley@yahoo.com
- Taylor Brinkley Registration Manager, 406 Elmwood Street, Gainesville, TX 76240. taylordbrinkley@yahoo.com
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- Erika (Rikki) Sebesta Chairperson, 3737 Essen Loop, College Station, TX 77845. guitargoalie93@yahoo.com
- Ian Zamorsky, P.O. Box 556, Taylor, TX 78634. <u>cseigmund@austin.rr.com</u>

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Mary Jones, P.O. Box 212, Wall, TX 76957. marystoked@gmail.com

#### Advisors:

- Kari Raesz, 4900 CR 101, Taylor, TX 76574. <u>kari.raesz@dps.texas.gov</u>
- Tammie Riethmayer, 1401 Giolmore Street, Taylor, TX 76574. <u>triethmayer@aol.com</u>
- David Sebesta, 3737 Essen Loop, College Station, TX 77845. tractordavid@gmail.com
- Anna Wotipka Treasurer, 652 CR 324, Caldwell, TX 77836. <u>awotipka58@yahoo.com</u>

#### Pastoral Advisor:

Rev. Rev. Mark Sebek, 9235 FM 437, Rogers, TX 76569. papasabek@gmx.com

#### State Youth Coordinator:

Jennifer Chervenka, 9494 Big Elm Creek Rd., Rogers, TX 76569. jennchervenka@farm-market.net 1 Corinthians 11:2 Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you.





Traditions are wonderful and powerful things in the lives of children. I fondly remember the live nativity scene every year as a child, anxiously looking forward to the day when I could participate! Or sleepy-eyed Easter mornings in church at the break of dawn—literally. These memories are forever etched in my mind and remind me of the solid Rock on which I was raised. These memories never fail to evoke a smile or remind me of the love of my Heavenly Father. Thank God for parents and grandparents who provided this foundation. So, this month's section is about traditions, Christmas and Thanksgiving, that you can provide your Sunday School students or maybe your children or grandchildren

## Holiday Traditions

- Use the child's handprint (or tracing of their hand or foot) to create a craft. For Thanksgiving, you can turn a handprint into a turkey. At Christmas, use multiple handprints to create a tree. The fun is looking back each year to see how each child has grown. Don't forget to add the date! Moms will appreciate this years down the road.
- 2. Take a picture of the class and add it to a "Wall of Honor".
- 3. Take up a special collection. We do the Feast of Caring. My little ones love to drop change in the metal jar! Each year they look forward to the can making its appearance in early November.
- 4. Make cards for members of the church for Thanksgiving and Christmas (or any holiday). This will nurture the spirit of love.
- Put out a Nativity Scene that can be played with.
   Fisher Price has a great one, as do other companies.
   We love to act out the story of Jesus' birth with ours.
- 6. Pass out candy canes with the story of the candy cane attached.
- 7. Take pictures throughout the year and do a "Year in Review" lesson, reminding students what they have learned!

For comments/questions/ information, contact:

Angie Hairrell

Hairrell@gmail.com



BRETHREN JOURNAL

# Thoughts for Teens



NICE WORK FELLAS ... IT'S BEEN A LONG WHILE NOW AND THEY ARE STILL REMEMBERING

## Traditions for Teens

Teens may have different reactions to traditions. Some may love them and look forward to them as they cling to their childhood. Others may try to push them away and not participate in an effort to gain independence and their own unique identity. Whatever the response, it is important to provide the opportunities. Here are just a few ways teens can promote the Love of Christ during the Holidays.

- 1. Sing. Sing for the elderly, sing in Church, sing in the park, sing door to door. Just sing!
- 2. Help. At our church, the youth help decorate the Church for Christmas.
- 3. Share. Share the story of Christmas with a live nativity, a Christmas program, a special movie night or game night.
- 4. Serve. Make a yearly trip to a food pantry or soup kitchen to serve those in need.
- 5. Collect. Collect items for others. Many organizations host food drives, coat and blanket drives, toy drives, etc.
- 6. Party. Host a Christmas party, bring gifts, but donate all the gifts to a charity. You will have fun opening, and then rewrapping!

## Fall Retreat Summary FACING YOUR GIANTS September 15-16, 2012

God has a plan for you. Some of the GIANT obstacles in your life may be to shape you and prepare you for what He is going to call you to do. David was a small boy. He had defeated a bear and a lion and was only a 'lunch bringer' when God used him to defeat Goliath. If you feel invaluable or not good enough, remember that God created you. He values you. He loves you. He has a plan for you and you are PERFECT for that plan. Remember Noah. It took him 150 years to build the ark by hand. His relationship with God helped him persevere because he trusted and obeyed God. He knew it was about God's plans.



Breanna, Matthew, Rikki, Brittany, Erin, and Philip

When you are faced with giants in your life, remember the 3 choices you have to make:

1. Keep the right attitude. It's not about you; it's about God.

2. Keep the faith. God is big enough. Trust Him!

3. Step into action. Do the right thing, press on, even if you're the only one.



Bottom Row- Montgomery Raesz, Tylor Greenly, Lance Sebesta Middle- Matthew Stewart, Philip McSorley Top= Kelton Hooker

#### 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.



Austin, Ashley, Lindsey, Tylor, and Taylor



Kassie, Kolton, Monique, Emma, and Montgomery



Meghan, Layne, Taylor, Gaithon, Lance, and Grace



Adult's giant built by Sandy McAdams, Kari Raesz, Rev. Mike Groseclose, Rev. Mark Sebek, Anna Wotipka

### The WINTER YOUTH RETREAT is just around the corner! MAN vs. WILD – January 19-20 Registration Deadline January 1.

Make sure to use the forms at www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.com or contact Jennifer Chervenka if you do not have access to the website. Check in 8-9am Saturday. Dismissal 11:30am Sunday.

Youth ages 12 & older are invited to the camp for a weekend of Bible study and fellowship as we look into temptations and pressures from the wild world around us and how to live a godly life according to God's Word.

## Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

**November 3:** Bake Sale and Quilt Show at the Seaton Brethren Church, 12561 State Hwy 53, Temple (Seaton Community), from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free admission. Raffle tickets available for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. For more info., contact Helen Haisler at (254) 718-5356.

**November 11:** "Honor our Vets" service at the Industry Brethren Church, 9a.m. For more information, please contact: Liz Treybig, liztreybig@yahoo.com.

November 22: Thanksgiving

#### **December 25: Christmas**

**December 31:** All *Brethren Journal* **Subscriptions Expire!** Thank you if you have already mailed in your payment. If you haven't yet, please do as soon as possible. Please refer to the renewal form in this issue for additional information. Thank you for your continued support of *The Brethren Journal*.

#### Looking Ahead for 2013:

January 1: Registration Deadline for Winter Youth Retreat January 19-20: Winter Youth Retreat: *Man vs. Wild* February 1: Registration Deadline for State Children's Rally March 2: State Children's Rally: *Grow With God* April 1: Youth Fishing Retreat Deadline April 26-28: Youth Fishing Retreat in Port O'Connor

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: <u>editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com</u>. Information must be received by the first day of the month immediately preceding the month of publication.

## **SNOOK BRETHREN CHURCH**

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

#### COME WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday School – 9:00 AM; Worship – 10:15 AM Bible Buddies – 2nd Wednesday, 6:00-7:30 PM

| Pastor              | <b>Board of Elders President</b> | Youth Directors     |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Rev. Joseph Polasek | Justin Lewis                     | Randall & Jonna See |
| P.O. Box 54         | P.O. Box 222                     | P.O. Box 345        |
| Snook, TX 77878     | Snook, TX 77878                  | Snook, TX 77878     |
| (979) 272-1624      | (979) 272-0416                   | (979) 272-8179      |

BRETHREN JOURNAL

## DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

## Daily Morsels for November 2012

#### **Dorothy E. Kocian**

- 1. Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in Your law. Ps. 119:18
- 2. Your attitide should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. Phil. 2:5
- 3. Open their eyes and turn then from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God. Acts 26:18
- 4. Paul said, "I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds. Acts 26:205.
- 5. My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from Him. Ps. 62:1
- 6. I will sing praise to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. Ps. 146:2
- 7. God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit whom He has given us. Rom. 5:5
- 8. A wise man built his house on the rock. Mt. 7:24
- 9. He who belongs to God hears what God says. Jn. 8:47
- 10. God is my mighty Rock, my Refuge. Ps. 62:7
- 11. The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. Deut. 33:27
- You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God. 1 Pet. 2:9
- Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. 1 Pet. 2:11
- Live such good lives among the pagans, that though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God.
   Pet. 2:12

- Be subject to rulers and authorities, be obedient, be ready to do what is good. Titus 3:1
- Slander no one, be peaceable and considerate and show true humility to all men. Titus 3:2
- God made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions; it is by grace we are saved. Eph. 2:5
- We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Eph. 2:10
- 19. Blessed are the people whose God is the Lord. Ps. 144:15
- 20. Many, O Lord my God, are the wonders You have done. Ps. 40:5
- 21. God saw that all He had made, and it was very good. Gen. 1:31
- 22. With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the Lord. Ezra 3:11
- You answer us with awesome deeds of righteousness, O God our Savior. Ps. 65:5
- 24. May god be gracious to us and make His face shine upon us. Ps. 67:1
- 25. Give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love, and His wonderful deeds for mankind. Ps. 107:8
- 26. Praise be to God who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Eph. 1:3
- 27. He predestined us to be adopted as sons through Jesus Christ. Eph. 1:5a
- 28. In Christ we have redemption through His blood and the forgiveness of sins. Eph. 1:7
- 29. God lavished His grace on us with all wisdom and understanding. Eph. 1:8
- 30. God will bring all things in heaven and on earth together under Christ. Eph. 1:10

#### PLEASE JOIN US AS WE "Bear ye one another's burdens And so fulfill the Law of Christ."



### THE MUTUAL AID SOCIETY

Rev. Joseph J. Polasek, President Calvin J. Vojtek, Vice-President Natalie Outlaw, Gen. Secretary Guy E. Huffman, Treasurer Dorothy Hinson, Board Member

## VITAL STATISTICS

#### MEMBERS RECEIVED

DAN GATLIN, by re-affirmation of faith and baptism, was received into the membership of the Temple Brethren Church on September 16, 2012. Larry Zabcik, Pastor.

#### **RECENT DEATHS**

SASSIN, LOUIS FELIX, age 84 and member of Saint Paul's American Lutheran Church in Freeport, died September 10, 2012, at Clute. Born November 20, 1927, in Lavaca County. Married to Evelyn Galetka November 1, 1959, at Vsetin. Is survived by 2 sons, 2 grandchildren, 1 brother, 1 sister, and many nieces and nephews. Services were on September 15, 2012, from the Vsetin CMB Church with burial in the Vsetin CMB Church Cemetery. Minister: Mark L. Labaj.

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HOME MISSIONS BOARD Rev. David Johnson – Chair pastordjbama@yahoo.com Alton Urbanovsky – (No email address) Angie Hairrell – hairrell@gmail.com Ben Kruse – KRUSEDADB@yahoo.com Dorothy Hinson – dorothy.hinson@hotmail.com Martha Dove – walhalla71@gmail.com Claren Kotrla – kotrla@flash.net Lawrence Junek – ljunek@hot.rr.com

The Community Christian Church of Rosenburg 5220 Reading Road Rosenberg, TX 77471 (281) 342-3060

Sunday School 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Wednesday Eve. 5:30 PM Prayer Service and Bible Study

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

| 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: albertsurovik@gmail.com |
| 979-255-2225; 979-778=4882                   |
| Mr. Jon Farrow: jfarrow@hot.rr.com; 254-933- |
| 1673; 254-718-1938                           |
|  |

## 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.

| President    | Youth Director     | Secretary              |
|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Roy Martin   | Susan & Bryan Neal | Johnie Smith           |
| 325-651-8788 | 325-227-7242       | Tu-F-8:30 a.m1:30 p.m. |

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## **RESUBSCRIPTION FORM**

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## 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.

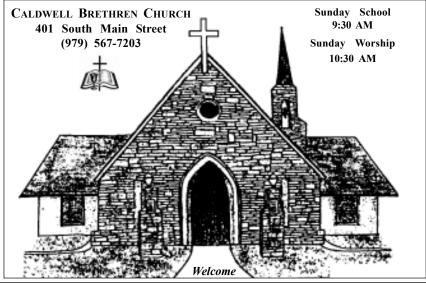
We also have a position available with the younger children on Sunday mornings from 8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The youth director provides the curriculum needed.

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.



## **GRANGER NATIONAL BANK** Ryze Ceska Banka, Member F.D.I.C.

Granger, Texas www.grangernationalbank.com



#### 26/November 2012

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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.

Ron Dusek, Treasurer – Caldwell – 979-567-3732, rdusekds@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

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

Granger #1: Angle Malicoat, PO Box Weslev #18: Lerov Kamas, 6520 362, Granger, TX 76530, Kamas Road, Brenham, TX 77833, 512-859-2837 979-836-5576 Taylor #3: Marie Ann Ripple, 2302 Temple #20: Irene Marek, 2900 Pecan Valley Drive, Temple, TX 76502, Heights Blvd, Taylor, TX 76574, 512-365-6916 254-778-2120 West #4: Dorothy Kocian, 107 South Rosenberg #21: Carla Butcher, 5220 Barbara Street, Waco, TX 76705, Reading Rd., Rosenberg, TX 77471. 254-799-5331, allbutchers@vahoo.com dekocian@yahoo.com Westheimer #22: Daniel W. Psencik, 1216 Damon Street, Rosenberg, TX Favetteville #5: Sandra Stepan, PO Box 145. Favetteville, TX 78940. 77471. 979-793-6783 979-378-4167. Houston #23: Dorothy Hinson, 7331 sandrainaustin@yahoo.com Misty Morning Dr., Humble, TX Dime Box #6: Marvin Chlapek, PO Box 77346, 281-620-0480 1163. Caldwell. TX 77836. Wall #25: Sharon J. Hohmann. 222 979-272-9102 Crestwood Drive, San Angelo, TX Snook #7: Ann Sebesta, Box 115. 76903-9106. 325-651-5884 Snook, TX 77878, 210-244-3362, Caldwell #27: Guy Huffman, PO Box 216, Caldwell, TX 77836, bfsinc@tconline.net Ocker #8: Doris Svoboda, 109 979-567-7089. Friendship Ln. Temple, TX cpaquy@cpaquy.com 76501-9614, 254-742-1405 Crosby #28: Gisela Gaeke, PO Box Dallas #10: \*\*Natalie Outlaw, 7575 599, Crosby, TX 77532, Wixon Road, Bryan, TX 77808-8085, 281-426-5506 979-589-2012. Placedo #30: Dorothy Elsik, PO Box natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com 1054. Victoria. TX 77902. Cooks Point #12: Patsy Albright, 2105 361-575-2298 Rivendell, Bryan, TX 77807-4812, Robstown #31: Annette Korff, 1207 979-779-8463 Baker, Robstown, TX 78380, New Tabor #13: Evelyn Henry, PO Box 336. Caldwell. TX 77836-0336. 979-567-4397 Nelsonville #14: Peggy Peschel, 8000 Hwy 159 W, Bellville, TX 77418, 979-865-5095 Seaton #16: Joyce Skrabanek, 7157 FM 2086, Temple, TX 76501, 254-984-2283 Sealy #17: Esther Breeden, 2728 Osborn Apt #1002, Bryan, TX

361-387-5241 Austin #32: Doris Boriski, 17111 Oak Cliff Circle, Dripping Springs, TX 78620-2527, 512-264-2273 Pasadena #33: Betty Orsag, 5118 Coventry Ct., Friendswood, TX 77546-3001, 281-482-1501 B/CS #34: Natalie Outlaw. 7575 Wixon Road, Bryan, TX 77808-8085, 979-589-2012, natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com

\*\*Position currently filled by Administrative Board members

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## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

| Austin – Bible Study at 10:00 AM<br>Worship at 11:00 AM.<br>– Rev. Linda Chandler   | Nelsonville – Sunday School at 9:00 AM<br>Worship at 10:15 AM<br>– Rev. Michael Groseclose  |  |
|---|---|--|
| Bryan-College Station – worship at<br>9:00 AM every Sunday.<br>– Rev. Mark Sebek  | New Tabor – Sunday School at 9:30 AM &<br>Worship at 10:30 AM every Sunday,<br>"Tune Up" on Wednesdays, 7:30 PM.<br>– Rev. Dave Johnson   |  |
| Buckholts – worship at 9:00 AM every<br>Sunday except the 5th Sunday.<br>Holy Communion on 1st Sunday.<br>Guest speaker on 4th Sunday.  | Ocker – worship at 10:15 AM every Sunday.<br>Sunday School at 9 AM every Sunday.<br>– Rev. Ron Winsman  |  |
| <ul> <li>Rev. John Kueker</li> <li>Cade Lake Community Chapel – Sunday<br/>School at 11:00 AM; Fellowship Lunch<br/>at Noon; Worship at 1:00 PM.</li> <li>Rev. Jim Heckman</li> </ul> | Pasadena – Sunday School at 9:30 AM<br>and worship at 10:45 AM every Sunday<br>Midweek Study twice per month on<br>Thursdays at 6:30 PM.<br>– Rev. Bill Rinderknec  |  |
| Caldwell – Sunday School at 9:30 AM,<br>worship at 10:30 AM every Sunday.<br>Bible Study on Tuesday at 10:30 AM.<br>– visiting ministers  | Community Christian Church of Rosenberg –<br>Sundays: Adult Bible Study and Sunday<br>School for children at 9:00 AM; worship<br>at 10:30 AM.<br>Wednesdays: 5:30 PM, Dinner; 6:30 PM,                        |  |
| Crosby – 9:00 AM: Worship<br>10:00 AM: Faith Adventure<br>– Dr. Larry Koslovsky   | Bible Study; 6:50 PM, Prayer Meeting.<br>– Bro. Larry Butcher<br>Seaton –   |  |
| Cy-Fair Community Church – worship at<br>10:45 AM every Sunday.<br>1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays – Rev. Rick Chandler<br>2nd & 4th Sundays – Rev. Henry Beseda<br>– Rev. Henry Beseda       | Sunday, 9:15 AM – Prayer Gathering<br>9:30 AM – Sunday School, All Ages<br>10:30 AM – Worship Celebration Servi<br>Wednesday, 6:30 PM – Kid's NITE Out<br>and Priority ONE Youth (BYF), Adult<br>Bible Study. |  |
| Dime Box – worship at 9:00 AM every<br>Sunday.  | <ul> <li>Rev. Denise Mikeska</li> <li>Pastor Steve Davis, Youth Pastor</li> </ul>   |  |
| - Rev. Jim Heckman<br>Fayetteville - Sunday School at 9:45 AM,<br>worship at 10:45 AM every Sunday.   | Snook – Sunday School – 9:00 AM;<br>Worship – 10:15 AM.<br>Rev. Joseph Polasek  |  |
| – Rev. Kay Polasek  | Taylor – worship at 10:15 AM every Sunday.<br>– Rev. James Hejl   |  |
| Good News Fellowship Church of West<br>Palm Beaches – worship at 1:00 PM every<br>Sunday at First Presbyterian Church,<br>Boynton Springs, Florida.                                   | Temple – Sunday School at 9:30 AM.,<br>Worship at 10:45 AM.<br>– Rev. Larry Zabcik  |  |
| - Rev. James Henry<br>Good Shepherd Moravian - worship at<br>11:30 AM and 6:30 PM every Sunday.   | Vsetin – Worship at 10:00 AM every Sunday.<br>– Dr. Mark Labaj<br>5th Sunday – Visiting Ministers   |  |
| – Rev. Adolfo Gonzalez  | Wall – Sunday School (for all ages) at 9:30<br>AM; worship at 10:45 AM every Sunday.  |  |
| Granger – worship services every Sunday at<br>9:00 AM; Sunday School at 10:15 AM.<br>– Rev. Whitney Amos and<br>Rev. Charles Amos   | Wesley – worship at 9:00 AM every<br>Sunday. Sunday School follows.   |  |
| Houston – Sunday School at 9:15 AM;<br>Worship at 10:30 AM every Sunday.<br>– Dr. Jerry Terrill<br>Ben Kruse once a month   | — Rev. Michael Groseclose     — West – Sunday School at 9:00 AM and     worship at 10:15 AM every Sunday.     — Rev. Curtis Holland   |  |
| Industry – worship at 9:00 AM every<br>Sunday with Sunday School for all<br>ages following.<br>– Rev. Kay Polasek   | Westheimer Community – 9:30 AM, Christian<br>Education; 10:30 AM, Worship, with Holy<br>Communion every 5th Sunday.<br>– Visiting Ministers   |  |
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#### DIRECTORY OF MISSIONARIES

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Financial Secretary: Marvin Chlapek, P.O. Box 1163, Caldwell, TX 77836, (979) 272-9102; <u>mjcarc@sbcglobal.net</u>

Ministerial Alternate: Rev. Vanessa Mitchell, (979) 574-0265; lajoiededieu@gmail.com

Pastor to Pastors: Dr. Larry Koslovsky; <u>lwkoslo@aol.com</u>

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