

THE BRETHREN



JOURNAL



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No. 6

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*God "Owl-ways" Loves You and Me!
Encounter Conference 2013 for ages 7 and 8 years old at the
Hus School Encampment in June.*

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2013 Unity Convention Invitation
It's About Time . . . by Jim Pokorny
The Value of Ministry . . . by Rhonda Johnson

. . . and much more!

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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President's Column . . . James Marek President's Report to the 65th Convention of The Unity of the Brethren

There is an old saying "If you want to learn, teach." This sounds a little strange and backwards at first, but when you think about it a little more, it makes sense. If you are to learn something well, you must study enough to be able to communicate the information to someone else.



After the last two years spent in service on the executive committee, I can better relate to this thought process. Service on the Executive Committee has taught me, if you want to learn, be challenged and be blessed, serve." My role on the Synodical Committee has provided challenge, blessing, and certainly learning. This service role has shown me how much I did NOT know about the Unity, its governing structure, by-laws, and even beliefs.

I am grateful for the time I have spent in service over the last two years and can honestly recommend Synodical Committee service to others. I feel that I have been blessed by this opportunity to serve in the leadership of the Unity. I am also so very grateful for the many fellow servants with whom I have had a chance to

work and from whom I have learned so much.

In Matthew 5:16, as a part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, he says "In the same way, let your light shine before men so that they may see your good works and praise your Father in heaven" I have seen many shining lights in the Unity in the selfless service of a number of faithful servants throughout the Unity. I have been blessed and inspired by their commitment and true love for the Lord we serve. I thank and praise God for these servants and consider myself fortunate to have worked with them.

Since the last convention, the following items are a few of the things that have been accomplished

- Connected the Christ Covenant Church in North Carolina to Synodical Committee Meetings via Skype video conferencing
- Authorized and held the Pastors Retreat held at Horseshoe Bay. The retreat was coordinated through the Pastoral Relations Committee under the direction of Dawn Marie Baletka



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- Transitioned the funding of the mission at Cade Lake from Contingency Funds to a more permanent budgeted item of the Home Missions Board

- Secured Property and Casualty and Liability Insurance for Cade Lake Property

- Secured Fidelity Bond for Unity Treasurer

- Facilitated Loan to Good Shepherd Moravian Church through Board for Grants and Bequests

- Completed Nonprofit Report to Secretary of State

- Appointed New Chairman and Treasurer to The Hus School Board of Trustees

- Proposed various updates to the Unity Constitution and Bylaws through the efforts of the Bylaws committee.

- Began process to update the Unity History Book.

- Began process to review the feasibility of a Unity brochure to include history, statement of beliefs, etc.

- The Board for Grants and Bequests has been reorganized and is becoming active again.

- Authorized the Reinstatement of the Collegiate Ministry.

- Facilitated the reconstruction and repair of the internet tower at the Hus School.

- Approved Home Missions Budget of \$67,000.

- Approved Foreign Missions Budget of \$67,000.

While there have definitely been challenges, there have also been an

even greater number of opportunities for fellowship, collaboration, cooperation, constructive disagreement, and learning. I am proud to be a part of this very unique denomination we call the Unity of the Brethren. I remain convinced that the Unity also has a unique purpose in God's kingdom work. Our role, as I see it, is to figure out what God is calling us to do as local churches and as a denomination. During the last two years specifically, I have tried to assess our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Through this process, the hope is that we can accentuate the positive, minimize our weaknesses, and take advantage of the opportunities God presents to us as we seek to join Him in what He is doing in our little corner of the world. Reflecting on the past and looking towards the future, I see the following.

Strengths

Our Legacy – Jan Hus and the Early Brethren demonstrated incredible faith and love for God and their fellow man, even to the point of risking their lives and personal safety. God has blessed us not only with the supreme example of Christ, but God

has also chosen to give us the example of Hus. One has to wonder, why were we given such a heritage and example of faith? Why did God bring the Unity of the Brethren out of the martyrdom of Hus? Why us? What does God expect us to do with it? I believe God is calling us to look to Him, Jesus, and the examples of faithful servants such as Hus, to put our faith into action. We have a wonderful story to tell as Christians and as Brethren. We must find ways to tell these stories more often – not only in words but also in service to God and our fellow man.

Our Numbers – No, it is not a misprint – I do see our small numbers as an asset. We have the advantage of having small numbers because it may be viewed as a weakness by human logic, but the scriptures tell us that God is strongest in our weakness. With God's guidance and help, we can do great things in our respective congregations. Some great things are already happening in the Unity in the areas of service and outreach. Some of these programs will be presented by various Brethren congregations at the convention. When great



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 Sunday School 9:00 AM
 Worship 10:15 AM

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Pastor</i> Rev. Ron Winsman 3112 W. Ave. R, Temple, TX 76504 (254) 742-0827 ronwinsman@hotmail.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Elder Board President</i> David Sebek 3910 Red Ranger Road Temple, TX 76501 (254) 985-2578, cell (254) 913-0732</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Youth Director</i> Jennifer Chervenka 9494 Big Elm Creek Road Rogers, TX 76569 (254) 983-1002</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Cemetery</i> Sharon Marek 23383 Milam Road Burlington, TX 76519 (254) 869-2845</p>

WESTHEIMER COMMUNITY CHURCH

15635 Westheimer Road
 Houston, Texas 77082

Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
 Westheimercommunitychurch.org



5th Sunday – Holy Communion

things are done in a denomination with modest numbers such in the Unity, the glory must be given to God – which is what we strive towards.

Our People – Brethren are some of the most compassionate and helpful people out there. When a need arises in the Unity, the people have always been quick to respond. Many of our ancestors were farmers who knew what it meant to help your neighbor and be helped by your neighbor. The gift of being a good neighbor a gift of a Christian and a Brethren, we just need to find ways to practice this gift more.

Weaknesses

Being Busy – This is not unique to Brethren. Everyone has schedules that are crammed full of activities. We (as a society and as Christians) spend our time in the pursuit of significance, wealth, and security. Consequently, it can be challenging to find the people to deliver the ministries of the church. Our busy-ness may be an indication that we are drifting away from our calling and our destiny as Christians and buying into the world's plan for success and happiness. God calls us

not to be lovers of the world, for in doing so we become enemies of God. Paul says in Romans 12:2, “Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God – what is good and is pleasing to Him and is perfect.” I believe the Holy Spirit is moving in the Unity and people are responding to callings on their lives to begin and serve in new ministries. New Ministries take time, resources, and people. As is the case with everything, new ministries begin and are sustained through prayer. I believe we must pray that God will realign our priorities and raise up new servants and new ministries if we are to win the war against our own busy-ness. Obviously, we must all begin and continue to ask – what else can I do. What is God calling me to do in service to Him and my fellow man?

Evangelism/Sharing our Faith – In my 50 years as a Brethren, it seems that we Brethren have a difficult time sharing our faith – at least in words. As mentioned before, Brethren can be very good at showing their faith, but we (myself included) are reluctant

to tell people what and why we believe. I have often thought that this weakness may have been passed down and have its origin in the times of the Hidden Seed. Obviously, in the times of heavy religious persecution, the early Brethren could not speak about their faith or openly practice it for fear of persecution including death. Consequently, we may have been subconsciously taught not to talk much about our faith. Overcoming this will be a formidable challenge for us, but one we should look for ways to overcome.

Threats

Loss of Membership – The decline in membership at the local and denominational levels is a trend we have experienced for a number of years. The trend is likely attributable to more than one cause, but one possible


reason that we can control may be relevance. Are our churches relevant in the communities in which they exist? What are we doing at the local level to serve our community? People want to be a part of something that is relevant – churches that make a difference and have an impact. While numbers are not the goal, we must have people to remain a body of faith which delivers ministry within our communities. We must increase our impact in our communities. We can do this through service and ministry. Service outreach and ministry will require all hands on deck – clergy and laity alike.

Clergy Burnout – At the convention this year we will begin to explore ways to offer more emotional, spiritual, and physical support to our



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pastors. Our pastors are to be those that equip the laity for ministry as well as provide spiritual support for our congregations. The pastor's role is obviously extremely important in any church's ministry. The pastoral care of a congregation can be extremely taxing and stressful, which can easily lead to burnout. Although we will explore several ideas, one way to support our pastors is to join them in ministry. In order to grow spiritually, we must exercise the spiritual gifts God has given us. By exercising our gifts in ministry, we exercise our faith, touch more people, and take some of the stress and pressure off our pastors.

Opportunities

Fertile Landscape for Ministry – The world in which we live is an increasingly dark place. This darkness provides tremendous service opportunity for the church. There has never been a time when the influence of the church is more needed than now. To prepare and equip ourselves for ministry, we can draw inspiration from scripture. The early Brethren valued the Bible and placed it at the center of their lives and faith. To

prepare our members for the service opportunities that exist in today's world, we need to increase our knowledge and inspiration through Biblical exploration and study. Through Bible study we can be led by the Spirit to discern what ministries are needed most in our communities.

Reach Youth Through Parents – Historically we have told ourselves that we need to get our youth to Sunday School or other church activities. I believe we may need to try instead to focus on the parents and seek to increase their faith and spiritual maturity so that they will bring their kids to church and raise their children in a Christian home. It seems far more realistic to reach the parents so that Christian values are taught in the home throughout the week instead of the church trying to instill these values once a week for an hour or two. If the parents are not on board, we are fighting a losing battle.

I believe that a good place to start may be with new parents. If we could focus on offering child-rearing classes and Bible studies (maybe taught by parents who have grown children) where young parents could have a

night of interaction with other young parents and experienced parents, we may be able to positively influence the age-old problem of the youth staying involved in the church.

Increased Support of Home and Foreign Missions – We have recently passed the most ambitious collective mission budget in our denomination's history. It remains to be seen if we will actually meet this budget, but the agreement within the Unity that missions are important is certainly a big step. Carrying the gospel to all peoples of the world is one of the primary purposes of the church as referenced in the Great Commission. We now have the opportunity to see that the Gospel is taken back to the Czech Republic, from which many of our ancestors came. Unfortunately, the Czech Republic is now largely an atheistic country, but it represents a great mission opportunity especially for our denomination. In addition, we have missionaries in Mexico and

China – some of the most populated countries in the world. By supporting missions, we take an active role in the spreading of the Gospel around the world. The support of missions is beneficial to us, providing opportunity for us to exercise our stewardship and faith through giving. This is also a critical piece of ministry through which others can be reached for Christ.

In summary, I believe the Unity has great potential and I believe the Holy Spirit is at work within the Unity. We have tremendous opportunity in today's world and to strengthen our faith and our communities through ministry and outreach under the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit. Over the next 2 years, my prayer for the Unity is that we will seize these opportunities – serving others and building our individual faith and spurring the denomination into increased relevance.

TAYLOR BRETHERN CHURCH

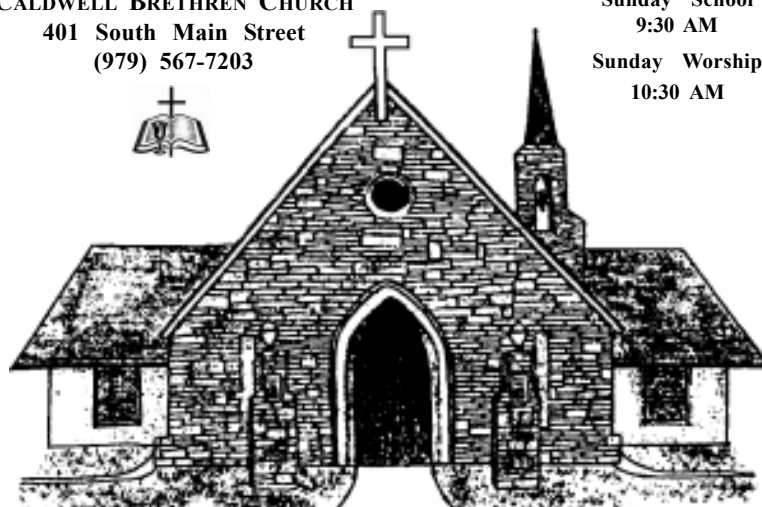
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Mailing Address: P.O. Box 351, Taylor, TX 76574
512-352-6423

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

<i>Pastor</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
<i>James D. Hejl</i>	<i>Kevin Page</i>	<i>Mary Kokes</i>
<i>512-365-6890</i>	<i>512-689-1593</i>	<i>M-Th 8:00 am-noon</i>

CALDWELL BRETHERN CHURCH
401 South Main Street
(979) 567-7203

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



Welcome

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

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Synodical Committee Liaison – 512-365-6890,
jhejl@austin.rr.com

It's About Time

- by Jim Pokorny

In January 2013, Brother Labaj presented a seminar on the history of the Unity of the Brethren at the Brethren Church in Taylor. I recall being one of the first people to sign up for that seminar and how I counted down the days leading up to it. Along with growing up in the church, I have always had a fascination with history.

For some, history is a study that seeks to answer two questions: What happened and when did it occur? Some will take this to another level and seek the answer to another question: Who was involved?

These are important questions to ask. For me the study of history requires the answer to one more question: Why is this significant? The answer to this question is what gives history a dimension of depth.

As the date for the seminar approached, I remember mentioning to Rev. Hejl how much I was looking forward to the upcoming seminar. He gave me some valuable insight into our church history which made me look forward to the seminar even more. →

Finally, the day of the seminar arrived, and I am happy to report that it exceeded my expectations. If you have the opportunity to attend one of Brother Labaj's seminars, I encourage you to do so.

As Brother Mark discussed our history, he identified the events that occurred, when they occurred, and who was involved. To my delight, he also expounded on why these things were important. This added that dimension of depth I spoke of earlier. This was also true in his discussions of the Unity's motto and the elements that make up our symbol.

As the seminar neared its conclusion, I had a much better understanding of why the Brethren Church was where God wanted me to be.

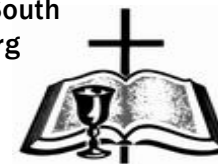
Please understand that I have always enjoyed a sense of belonging. My church family has always made me feel at home and welcome. This level of understanding was different and went deeper than that.

You see, as each "why?" was answered, and stacked on top of the

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Rev. Mark Sebek

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 9283
College Station, TX 77842

Church 9:00 A.M.
Sunday School 10:45 A.M.
Off: 979-693-3606
email: papasebek@gmx.com

others, I gained a fresh perspective. A perspective that not only extended laterally to all current members of the Unity, but one that also bridged the expanse of time to days long ago. It allowed me to connect in a way with those who preceded us from our collective past. I understood that I was not only where God wanted me to be, I was where God wanted me to be at this moment in time.

That realization has not left me, and I am reminded of it quite often and in different ways.

Recently, I found myself preparing an adult class for Vacation Bible School which was to cover the first six chapters of Nehemiah. The focal point of this study was how Nehemiah persevered in rebuilding of the wall around Jerusalem. Throughout my preparation for this class, I was repeatedly struck by the fact that Nehemiah was precisely where God wanted him to be. Moreover, Nehemiah was also exactly where God wanted him to be at that particular time.

During this same time frame, a good friend and student in my Sunday school class went to be with the Lord. At his funeral service, the pastor shared something my friend's physical therapist said to him that made him realize that my friend was exactly where God wanted him to be. This was also an affirmation to me that he was also there at the time God dictated, as well.

It is comforting to know we are where we are because God placed us there. We get a glimpse of God's omnipotence when we realize that He also determined the timing of that placement.

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2012-2013**

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**Spring Synodical Committee Meeting
April 13, 2013 - 9:00 a.m.
Summary of MINUTES**

(Editor's Note: This is a continuation of the Summary of Minutes printed in the June 2013 issue.)

To view the minutes in their entirety, please go to the Unity Website, click calendar – see April 2013. The attachments mentioned in the following are also on the website.

1. Internet Service Expense – The camp internet tower was struck by lightning. The company tried to repair it, but they suggested a taller tower. This has been done at a cost of \$1700.00 for a 50-ft tower. When the tower was put up, the Unity agreed to pay the monthly expense of \$79.95 a month.

MOTION by Bro. Tommy to pay the \$1700.00 for construction of tower and then transferring all future expenses to the camp budget.

SECOND by Dan Merz
Passed

2. Collegiate Ministry Revival – Bro. Mark Labaj has expressed interest in restarting the collegiate ministry that was active at one time in College Station and in Austin. This ministry provides an invitation to Brethren kids on college campuses. It

would be for Brethren kids at first, then reach out to others; it's a time for the kids to get together with Bro. Mark and reach out to students and to provide a meal. In the past, funds for this ministry have come from administrative fund. Bro. Mark estimates this ministry could cost \$1800 per year (at this time, for meals).

MOTION by Bro. Larry Junek to authorize Bro. Mark to restart this ministry.

SECOND by Gayle Farrow

Discussion on funds and what campus the ministry would focus on (A&M, Baylor, Austin)

Passed unanimously.

3. Convention Planning Update

A. Hotel information – Best Western in Taylor, (512) 352-5292. Another hotel will be in Hutto.

B. Five meals to be served (lunch on Thursday only for pastors, executive committee, and spouses). After lunch, the pastors will have the afternoon to elect the Pastor to the Pastors. Registration for everyone else



In God's Hands Ministry

P. O. Box 321
Caldwell, TX 77836
979-574-7134

**Everyday Ministries to Meet Everyday Needs
A Home Mission Work to Cade Lake and Burleson County**

begins at 4:30. We will try to do some things that address the business, but address spiritual motivation, as well. James has been inspired by some of the churches as to what they are doing in the Unity. The by-laws state that pastors could be asked to speak at the convention, so we will try to do that. Keep the convention in your prayers. We will have disagreements, but if we as a Unity are to prosper, if we look at the scripture, we are the church. We are responsible for the ministry of the church. Pastors are there to equip us, but the lay people are the hands and feet. At this convention we will try to send this message home and try to motivate you and send something home with you.

C. Report Booklets done electronically – deadline for reports is June 1. Booklets will also be printed for convention members and handed out at the convention.

D. Mission Board working to bring Missionaries to Convention – Kent Laza reported that the Raifords may not want to travel this summer, they are expecting a baby boy in August. Liz added that they will be the key-note speakers at a Spanish Conference in North Carolina for the

Southern Province Mission Board.

4. Committee to review Unity Brochure – This item was not addressed at this time.

5. History Book Appendix Update – James reported that Pat Hejl has offered to head this update. The interval in updating the book has been 16 and 19 years.

6. Other Reports / Business / Preparations

A. President's report – (see attachment – Agenda 10-A)

B. First Vice-President's report – Rev. Lawrence Junek (see attachment – Agenda 10-B)

C. Third Vice-President's report – Rev. Tommy Tallas (see attachment – Agenda 10-C)

D. Secretary's report – Liz Ripple: Minutes w/attachments from October 20, 2012, were sent out.

Minutes were sent in to the *Brethren Journal* and to Ben Polasek for the Unity Website.

Have updated roll call for the April 13, 2013, meeting; working on updating a proper roll of the pastors in the Unity; Convention information will

be sent out next week to all the Pastors and Synodical Committee members; Information about the Convention will be placed on the Unity Website and in the *Brethren Journal*. Reminder: To be seated at the 2013 Convention, each Congregation will need to have all Unity funds paid, the Delegate cost paid, and questionnaires for 2011 and 2012 sent in. Still need questionnaires from Good Shepherd Moravian and Christ Covenant Church.

Those who can vote at the convention: Delegates presenting proper credentials, Synodical members, and Pastoral Relations Committee.

E. Treasurer: Dewyan Weise gave a printed report. He also reported that he has changed the format of his report and wanted to know if he should keep the new style or go back to the old format. People liked the new style. He pointed out that the Mission funds needs some attention. Contingency fund sounds good, but

we must realize the all the negative figures would also come out of the Contingency fund (see attachment – Agenda 10-E).

James commented about missions – we are behind the pace at this point. He asked everyone to prayerfully consider what you can further do to help these funds. Marvin plans to have a graph (thermometer style) in the *Brethren Journal* to let us know where we are in the budgets. Discussion. Question asked by Pastor Linda – where do we have the Grants and Bequests financial report? James answered – has reorganized, have met a couple of times since last October, Bro. Jimmy is liaison – those funds have not been included in the treasurer's report. Have discussed to do this, to get it back in front of the people to get some ideas.

F. Financial Secretary: Marvin Chlapek (see attachment – Agenda 10-F).



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

WALL BRETHERN 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: 325-656-8558
 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>
David Miller	Susan & Bryan Neal	Johnie Smith
325-651-7597	325-227-7242	Tu-F-8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

G. Grants and Bequests – Report from Roger Runnels (Cy-Fair), President of the Grants and Bequests Board: Total funds are \$371,063.00. A flyer so everyone knows what the Board does should be ready by the convention. Guy Huffman was a financial advisor who helped the board and did not charge for his services. They are looking for a new advisor to help with the investments. Discussion (see attachment – Agenda 10-G).

H. Cade Lake: Rev Jim Heckman had a printed report and also reported that God is working at Cade Lake. They have been tutoring school kids Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 3-10 kids are coming, the tutor is Diane. Reported on their activities. He encouraged everyone to look up CadeLakeChapel.com. He needs someone to work with the youth and someone with experience to lead confirmation classes (see attachment – Agenda 10-H).

I. “How It All Began” by Rev. Dan Marek: Reported by Joyce Baletka – she encouraged everyone to buy this book and also the Unity history book, the bookstore has plenty of copies of both these books.

J. “Shepherd’s for the Saviour”: David Johnson reported on a program that was begun by David Johnson – no relation – a pastor at a Methodist Church. He has bought into a low-power television station, was bought by Joel Olsteen – Channel 59 in Houston. The money is in a trust, drawing interest – “Shepherd’s for the Saviour” for retired pastors, widows of pastors – fill out an application to get funds – \$3000. If you know of someone who could benefit, contact Bro. David Johnson, or go to the website for an application.

K. Youth Coordinator Report – (see attachment – Agenda 10-K).

MOTION by Rev. Kay Polasek to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND by Rev. Mike Groseclose. Passed.

Bro. Tommy ended the meeting in prayer. The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Ripple
Secretary, Unity of the Brethren

Mission Funds Income Report

Below is a summary of the combined income to the two Unity of the Brethren Mission Funds (Foreign and Home).

2013 Combined Goal	\$ 134,000.00
2013 Combined Goal prorated thru May	\$ 55,833.00
2013 Actual Income thru May	\$ 29,804.00
Four-Month Shortfall	\$ -26,029.00

At the October 2012 Synodical Committee meeting, a budget of \$67,000 was approved for each mission program (Foreign and Home).

At joint meetings of the Foreign and Home Mission Boards, a decision was made that the income would be reported jointly, not separately.

The Foreign Mission Fund supports the missionaries listed on Page 34 of the June 2013 *Brethren Journal*.

The Home Mission Fund supports the Cade Lake Mission and In God’s Hands Food Pantry Ministry in Burlleson County, Texas.

Contributions to the two mission funds can be made to:

Unity of the Brethren
Financial Secretary Marvin Chlapek
P. O. Box 1163
Caldwell, TX 77836

Prepared by Marvin Chlapek
Unity Financial Secretary

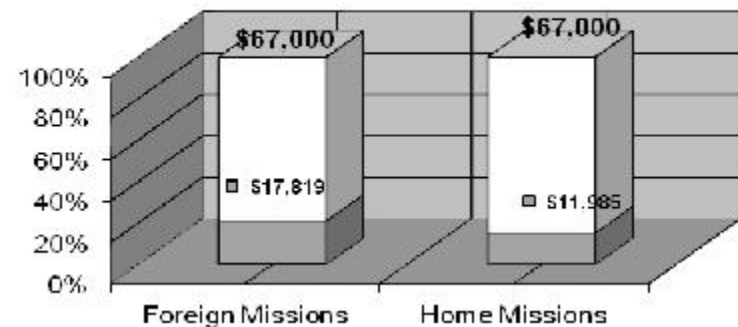
HOUSTON BRETHERN CHURCH
6207 North Main, Houston, TX 77009 – (713) 864-6707

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

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Terrill

<p><i>Dorothy Hinson</i> President 7331 Misty Morning Lane Humble, TX 77346 (281) 620-0480</p>	<p><i>John David Skrivanek</i> Secretary P.O. Box 1605 Bellaire, TX 77402 (713) 626-0522</p>
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Mission Giving Relative To Approved Budgets



Unity Convention Invitation . . . “Faith in Action”

To the Synodical Committee, Delegates, Pastors, Members, & Friends of the Unity of the Brethren:

You are most warmly invited to the 65th Biennial Convention of the Unity of the Brethren, to be held at the Taylor Brethren Church July 18-20, 2013. The church is located at the corner of Seventh and Sloan Streets in Taylor, Texas.

This year’s Convention theme is “Faith in Action”, from James 2:26: *“As the body without the Spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead.”*

The convention will begin Thursday, July 18, with registration at 4:30 p.m. The evening meal will be served at 5:30 p.m., followed by worship and Holy Communion at 7:00 p.m.

Attendees are advised to secure lodging as soon as possible, as the Taylor Rodeo will be held that weekend. Recommended hotels include:

Best Western Taylor Inn
(\$88 plus tax)
2600 W. Second Street
Taylor, TX 76574
512-352-5292 front desk
800-780-7234 for reservations
Website: bestwestern.com

Holiday Inn Express of Hutto
(\$95 plus tax)
323 Ed Schmidt Blvd.
Hutto, TX 78634
512-846-1168 front desk
Cutoff date to reserve rooms:
6-27-2013
Website: HIExpress.com

Mention Taylor Brethren Church Convention to get these rates. If you bring a Texas Hotel Occupancy Tax Exemption Certificate from your Church, you can avoid the state tax.

The meals which will be provided are:

Thursday, July 18

Noon Luncheon for Ministers & Spouses and Executive Committee members & spouses – (RSVP to Mary Kokes, church secretary, 512-352-6423)
Dinner 5:30 p.m.: \$10.00

Friday, July 19

8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast – Complimentary
Lunch 12:00 p.m. – \$10.00
Dinner 6:00 p.m. – \$10.00

Saturday, July 20

8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast – Complimentary
Lunch 12:00 p.m. – \$10.00

Let us all join in prayer that God will bless this gathering and that the work of the Holy Spirit will be evident among us as we seek to serve our Lord in this day and time.

For the Taylor Brethren Church,
Mark Olsen,
President of the Board of Elders
Rev. James D. Hejl, Pastor

700 Sloan Street, Taylor, TX 76574
512-352-6423 (Church office)

The Value of Ministry

- by Rhonda Johnson

In the past year I have been rearranging our home; trying to de-clutter and do away with things we no longer need or use. I have sold a few items that I felt were of value, such as a few pieces of jewelry. At times I have taken my articles to the jewelry store with an idea of what a piece may be worth only to find that my sentimentality and memory placed a much higher price tag on the item than its actual market value. Consequently, I have told the jeweler, “This is worth more to me in sentimental value than the actual value; so I think I will just keep it.” I know this is a common occurrence (for the jeweler), as every time I have said this she smiles sincerely and says, “I understand.” From this experience, I have realized that value is a perception that varies from one individual to another. The jeweler only considered the market price for the metals, the size and quality of the gemstones, and the weights of each; to me there were memories and occasions tied to each piece that were worth more than raw materials. The jeweler’s idea of value and worth and

mine are different, even though we may both be looking at the same string of pearls.

Christian author Tommy Tenney teaches a concept regarding VALUE in his book “God’s Favorite House” (Destiny Image Publishers, Inc. 2000) stating that how much something is *worth* to us is determined by a “transference of value”. The transference is the trade-off of sweat (from working for our earnings) to how much we determine something is worth or how much of our earnings we are willing to spend for an item, service, or offering. Thus, we transfer our sweat into dollars and trade them for goods or offerings, etc.

Malachi 3:10 tells us to bring in the tithe (or one tenth of our earnings) to the store house so there will be food in His house. Yet, I wonder how many of us value ministry enough to obey the word of the Lord and be diligent to do this, *faithfully*. God’s perception of the value of ministry was made very clear to me when I began to



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	Board of Elders President	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

study the design and details of the tabernacle in the book of Exodus.

The children of Israel left Egypt and were now in the wilderness headed for “The Promised Land”. In Exodus 26, God gives the dimensions and specifications for the tabernacle (where they are to offer ministry to THE LORD and basically...go to church). I noticed the meticulous description of the fabric for the curtains that were to define the space that would become the Tabernacle. Exodus 26:1 – “Make the tabernacle with ten curtains of finely twisted linen and blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, with cherubim worked into them by a skilled craftsman. ²All the curtains are to be the same size – twenty-eight cubits long and four cubits wide. ³ Join five of the curtains together and do the same with the other five... then down to verse 14 ...they were told to make a covering for the tent of ram skins dyed red, and over that a covering of hides of sea cows...” The next time the guys in my house are moving furniture or plants in for the winter for me they should not complain; God is obviously a nester, too. He knows EXACTLY how he wants things in

HIS house.

When we look closely at the detail, precision, and time THE LORD took to have the tabernacle built exactly as he wanted, we have to know that this was important to the Father. God was willing to use HIS resources and the Children of Israel’s time, strength, and effort to do things right so that ministry could be performed and offered in this mobile temple. God gave explicit instructions as to HIS desires for a place to dwell and be present with HIS people. He was creating a way to be close to them and dwell among them. (Now is a good time to get goose bumps and have a realization that YOUR GOD, (Yahweh) wants to live inside of you [His current temple] and be close to YOU, too.)

In Exodus 28, THE LORD begins to prepare the servants who would attend to HIS HOLY PRESENCE in the tabernacle and in the HOLY OF HOLIES. This is where we begin to see the correlation of God’s anointed, chosen, servants and His House. Please read Exodus 28, as I will only summarize, and there is so much to gain from knowing God’s heart where priests (pastors) are concerned. God

told Moses to call for Aaron and his sons so that they may serve Him in the tabernacle as priests. THE LORD instructs Moses to summon skilled craftsman to make sacred garments for Aaron and His sons. Their garments are to be made of fine linen and the colors of the fabric are to be gold, blue, purple, and scarlet. Their clothing was to be made from the same fabric and colors (with the addition of gold) as the fabric that would define the tabernacle and/or the dwelling place of the Lord God Almighty. The priests looked different than all the other Children of Israel. They stood out in a crowd; they were set apart for God and for His specific purpose and service. The priests’ garments were defining that they, too, were a part of the very perimeter of God’s presence. Because of this distinction, the priests were to make decisions for Israel and lead God’s people. I believe that all the detail and materials, effort, and time that were spent to distinguish God’s leaders from the other Children of Israel is a distinction of value. God values those in leadership, He holds them to a higher standard, and He expects more from them and their families. If THE LORD has placed distinction on His servants even to the point of having them wear a sign on their heads that read, “Holy to the Lord”, do you think that our actions and appreciation should reflect God’s heart toward His anointed? Pastors no longer wear the Holy Ephod of Aaron and there is no physical embroidery that says, “Holy to the Lord” on their heads, but I believe that when THE LORD sees those who are called to serve Him, HE still sees

those words on our foreheads. With this in mind, should we take the words and wisdom of our pastors dismissively or should we feel more of a reverence when they speak or dare to lead God’s people?

It seems as if an attitude has emerged in the church where we take the words from pulpits and leadership meetings as a verbal buffet. If we like what is said we listen, but if it ruffles our feathers then we just throw it out of our minds and choose to subscribe to the theories and teachings of Oprah on specific subjects. Modern philosophies and political correctness have made pulpit ministry a “tinder box” of spoken controversies. Pastors must be able to speak God’s word and lead with boldness, or the church will lose all power and just be another club in town.

To be right with God is to wholly subscribe to HIS value system. THE LORD has ordained, anointed, and set apart Pastors for HIS service, just as He established and valued the priesthood of Aaron. God still uses the same method today. Pastors are set apart and different, and it is their job (ordained by THE LORD) to lead God’s people through the desert of this life. Follow your pastor; value his or her leadership and support what God has blessed, and you will find that you yourselves are blessed.

(Editor’s Note: Rhonda has been ordained with Full Gospel Fellowship since 1997 and is available for speaking engagements and/or pulpit supply.)

Rhonda.johnson1122@gmail.com

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.

(254) 718-3898

In Christ's Love . . . From the Foreign Mission Fields

From the Woo's...

June 2013

Praise be to God. We have so much to tell you and give thanks for. First let me say we give thanks to God for you because of the seriousness you give towards prayer. Well, let me encourage you to say it's working! In our hearts we feel that now is the time for the Shan Dai to be brought from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of light. For far too long they have lived in fear, hopelessness, addictions, idol worship, and demonic control.

Buddhist Festival outreach: Many of you who receive our email prayer know about May and Lisa selling SD phone cards at a local Buddhist village festival. It is not strange for people to set up booths selling pictures, snacks, clothes, and toys. May and Lisa went for two days and sold about 7 of these phone cards that you put in your telephone. These upgraded cards were full of videos, sermons and music all sharing the Good News in their own language.

Brad: May's younger cousin has moved back to town with his wife and

5-month-old son. He is working 12-hour days and she stays at home with the baby. We have tried to help them some, but it seems they need some good local friends, especially a church group to love and help them. She is a different minority and they communicate using Chinese.

Mary and Martha are the two local Shan Dai believers that live at the sugar factory. Thank you for praying for Mary's heart problem. She was able to go to the big city and get a proper diagnosis for her illness. She recently has returned to Target City, and she and Martha went to visit a pastor who prayed for Mary's illness. She said she felt something leave her, like an evil spirit, and since then her sickness has been tons better. These two women have come alive with boldness. In the past we have asked you to pray for them to get up and go out. Two Saturdays ago they did just that, and the two of them went to visit a young man, Joe, 28 years old, his wife and 3-year-old daughter. He also seemed to be under the control of an evil spirit, and these ladies prayed for him so that he was able to be free enough to speak back. May went

back with them the next day and the man prayed for Jesus to be his Lord! They also prayed for the young daughter and cut a string off her neck that was put there to protect her from demons, but it had done the opposite.

The CHURCH: We have been here for almost 5 years, but there has never been a Shan Dai church in our city. We rejoice that last night they came together for the first time out of their own desire. Seven people came together to worship, pray, and share testimonies. Martha was there as well as a woman named Joan and her nephew, the new believer, Joe. May was able to point out to them how Martha had shared with Joan and Joan had shared with Joe. Then she asked all three of them if they want to come together every week and pray and praise and also learn a story every week that can help them to go share with others. They all agreed, and next Monday night, Monday morning your time, the church will meet again to learn a short simple story (the 11 Bible stories we have worked on) that they can share with others.

Conflict on the Border: The Burmese army has come into our area about 10-20 min. away. May said she

has lived here her whole life and can never remember them coming into this Dai area. The Shan Dai have their own army and are resisting the Burmese as the Shan Dai desire to have autonomy. Thirty people have been killed and many Shan Dai villagers have fled into China. We feel perfectly safe as the fighting is in Burma and we are in China.

The Worm Composting Project: We started the worm project out at the village with the family where the man was healed a year and a half ago. We had a good time with the mother and wife of the man whose leg was healed by Jesus. We sang and prayed and taught them to pray. His mother knows that Jesus is stronger than Buddha; that Jesus loves her but Buddha doesn't; that Jesus forgives her but Buddha doesn't. And yet they still have not been so convicted of this to want to get rid of their home idols. I think this is due to the husband, the man who was healed. His heart is open yet closed.

Other Towns: Michael and other teammates have been able to travel to other cities, 1-2 hours away, and meet with Shan Dai believers. Each situa-



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.*



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

12915 Cypress North Houston
P.O. Box 0233
Cypress, TX 77410-0233

President: Rev. Henry Beseda

tion is different, including some persecution, but we are hoping to set up some training as we are expanding into different regions.

Our Family: Samuel and Ian are doing well in Chinese school and in homeschool. We are very proud of them for trying and working so hard. Zach goes to Chinese kindergarten and is also starting to read English. He just turned 5 and asks the best questions about everything.

Isaac is still hanging in there with May's son, Jonathan. They love each other and follow each other around the house. There is still some biting, but we are seeing a change in Jonathan. Isaac is also learning how to be potty trained! Michael and Caroline celebrated 13 years of marriage on May 13, 2013. What a great 13 years we have had!

Tomorrow we will go to Thailand to attend our annual conference. We all love it, including the kids, as they get to see their friends and do a VBS.

Serving together,

Michael & Caroline,
Samuel, Ian, Zach & Isaac

CHRISTIAN SISTERS' UNION OFFICERS

President: Delores Kubala, 2109 Quail Cove, Taylor, TX 76574. (512) 352-3823, (512) 971-2173. d_kubala@yahoo.com

Vice President: Ann Sebesta, P.O. Box 115, Snook, TX 77878. (979) 272-8691, (979) 272-8786.

Secretary: Kim Kennard, 4501 Oxford, Temple, TX 76502. (254) 931-5657; kimberlykennard@yahoo.com

Financial Secretary: Carol Miller, 1710 West O.S.R., Caldwell, TX 77836. (979) 567-7774 (h), (979) 220-0030 (c). delandcarolmiller@verizon.net

Treasurer: Mary Kokes, 451 CR 369, Taylor, TX 76574. (512) 365-7146, (512) 352-6423. taylorbrethren@sbcglobal.net

Hus Encampment Rep.:

Debbie Grimm, 1409 Stone Ridge Dr., Taylor, TX 76574. (512) 352-8966, (512) 718-2310. mama_dgrimm@hotmail.com

Connie Janac, 1002 Munson, College Station, TX 77840. (979) 587-0363, (979) 696-1953.

Unity Mission Board Rep:

Ann Sebesta, P.O. Box 115, Snook, TX 77878. (979) 272-8691, (979) 272-8786.

Ephesians 4:30

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Sunday School Helper



As a new school year begins, it is important for each of us as parents, grandparents, friends, community members to become involved in our community's schools. Volunteering may not be possible for you, but we can all pray for our schools, teachers, and children. Here is a sample prayer for a new school year!

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for the opportunity to begin this new school year, and we ask that you bless and protect the students, faculty, and student families that make our school a great place. We pray that you will guide us in all ways, and to seek your will in everything that we do. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Knesek Family Funeral Chapels



"Neighbors helping Neighbors Since 1914"

- Service all Pre-Arranged Funeral Plans
- Share Plan Concept with Pre-Arranged Funerals
- Sponsor Mission Pre-Arranged Funeral Plans

Bellville 865-3121 Sealy 885-3535 Wallis 478-6311

The Community Christian Church of Rosenberg

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

Back to School

He knows us

Objective: We belong to God and He knows our name.

Materials: Various school supplies in a backpack, Sharpie.

Children's Object Lesson:

Show the backpack and begin pulling out items. As children name the items and what they are used for, write your name on them with the Sharpie. Ask children if they put their names on their supplies and why. Explain that way if you share it with someone else, they can know it belongs to you and you can get it back when they are finished with it. It's important to know what items belong to me and what items don't belong to me. When we head off to school it's important for us to know that WE belong to God. In much the same way that we mark things that belong to us, God has marked us (His children) with the Holy Spirit. Now we can't see the Holy Spirit, but the Bible makes it clear that God has placed His mark of ownership on us. If we are followers of Jesus, we belong to God and are a part of His family. I hope you remember to put your name on all the new school supplies that belong to you. I hope you will also remember that you belong to Jesus Christ and God has marked you with His Holy Spirit.

Pray: Lord God, thank you for the many things (especially our new school supplies) that belong to us. Thank you, too, for the fact that we belong to you and you have marked us with your Holy Spirit. Thank you that you will watch over us and help us live for you during this new school year – In Jesus' name, Amen.

For
comments/questions/
information, contact:

Angie Hairrell

Hairrell@gmail.com



Thoughts for Teens

Set goals for a successful school year

A person who sets goals makes progress. Noted motivator Zig Ziglar writes, "Studies tell us that only 3 percent of people in the USA set goals, and they are among the wealthiest people in the nation!" Solomon warns in Proverbs 29:18, "Where there is no revelation (vision), the people cast off restraint." Vision and goals can motivate a teen to maintain self-discipline in school. Read Proverbs 29:18. On your own, or with the help of a parent, minister or mentor, see the power of looking to your future and setting goals to get there. An Olympic athlete, for example, has a vision of winning the gold medal. He sets goals for exercise and diet as a result. Vision is a far better motivator than threat of punishment.



Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

July 7-12 – Challenger Camp

July 12-14 – BYF Convention and Volleyball Tournament. Please note that the weekend for the annual youth retreat, volleyball tournament, and convention has changed due to the Unity Convention. All local group forms and reports must be submitted by June 30. Lodging provided on a first-come, first-served basis with youth given first priority. Those wishing to arrive on Friday night must let Jennifer know in advance so plans can be made for meals. No Friday arrivals before 7 p.m. Saturday registration begins at 8 a.m. Convention will begin at 9 a.m., followed by the tournament. For registration forms, report packets, tournament information, please visit www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.com or contact Jennifer Chervenka, jennchervenka@farm-market.net; 254-983-1002.

July 18-20 – Unity of the Brethren 65th Convention at the Taylor Brethren Church. Secretary's letter and Credentials forms are on the Unity Website (see Calendar – July 2013). Also posted on the website – a draft of the proposed changes to the Unity by-laws that incorporates all the changes made at the April 13, 2013, Synodical Committee meeting. This document will be on the agenda at the upcoming convention along with other topics. There will be a limited number of copies available at the convention of this document and the 2009 by-laws. If you plan to come to the convention and want to follow along during the meeting, please try to secure your own copies. This document is being made available to give everyone a chance to go over the proposed changes before the convention and also have an opportunity to discuss it with your congregations. Please visit the Unity website for updates (see calendar – July 2013). *(See the official invitation with additional important information in this issue.)*

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.

**ADERHOLD
FUNERAL HOME, INC.**
"Thoughtful Service –
A Payne Family Tradition"
West, Texas
254/826-5321

**AMOS ELECTRIC SUPPLY
COMPANY**
LIGHT FIXTURES • APPLIANCES
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR
(254) 778-4271
5120 S. General Bruce Dr., Temple, TX 76502

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for July 2013

Dorothy E. Kocian

1. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; be persistent in prayer. Rom. 12:12
2. Listen to advice and accept instruction, and house of prayer. In the end you will be wise. Prov. 19:20
3. "Shout aloud and sing for joy, for great is the Holy One among you." Isa. 12:6
4. God says, "People come near Me with their mouth and honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me. Isa. 29:13a
5. "Their worship of Me is made up of rules taught by men." Isa. 29:13b
6. "The Lord is good; His love for Israel endures." Ezra 3:11b
7. **"The eye of their God was watching over them." Ezra 5:5**
8. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord. Ps. 27:14
9. Jesus said, "My house will be called a house of prayer." Mt. 21:13
10. Our God is greater than all other gods. 2 Chron. 2:5
11. "O Lord, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth below." 1 Kings 8:23
12. With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the Lord. Ezra 3:11a
13. Be strong and take courage, all of you who hope in the Lord. Ps. 31:24
14. **They celebrated the dedication of the house of God with joy. Ezra 6:16**
15. The Lord said, "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for My temple." 2 Chron. 7:12
16. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Prov. 3:5
17. If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and forgive their sin, and heal their land. 2 Chron 7:14
18. Answer me, O Lord, out of the goodness of Your love; in Your great mercy turn to me. Ps. 69:16
19. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16
20. "The gracious hand of our God is on everyone who looks to Him, but His great anger is against all who forsake Him." Ezra 8:22
21. **So we fasted and petitioned our God about this, and He answered our prayer. Ezra 8:22**
22. We have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Heb. 10:10
23. All the Israelite men and women who were willing brought to the Lord freewill offerings for all the work the Lord had commanded them to do. Ex. 35:29
24. "The Lord bless you and keep you." Num. 6:24
25. "The Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you." Num. 6:25
26. "The Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace." Num. 6:26
27. I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go. Ps. 32:8
28. **"Since the people began to bring their contributions to the Lord, the Lord has blessed His people." 2 Chron. 31:10**
29. We have known and believed the love that God has for us. 1 Jn. 4:16
30. You gave me life and showed me kindness, and your care has preserved my spirit. Job 10:12
31. The Lord longs to be gracious to you. Isa. 30:18

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DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for August 2013

Dorothy E. Kocian

1. He determines the number of the stars and calls them by name. Ps. 147:4
2. By day the Lord directs his love, at night his song is with me – a prayer to the God of my life. Ps. 42:8
3. You, O Lord, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old. Isa. 63:16
4. Now, our God, we give You thanks, and praise Your glorious name. 1 Chron. 29:13
5. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever. Ps. 136:1
6. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the heights above. Ps. 148:1
7. We all, like sheep, have gone astray; each of us has turned to his own way. Isa. 53:6
8. Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Ps. 139:23
9. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Ps. 139:24
10. The Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Isa. 53:6
11. You, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, and abounding in love and faithfulness. Ps. 86:15
12. Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise, He is feared above all gods. Ps. 96:4
13. For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens. Ps. 96:5
14. Say among the nations "The Lord reigns." Ps. 96:10
15. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in His truth. Ps. 96:13
16. "You will be My people and I will be Your God." Jer. 30:22
17. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits. Ps. 103:2
18. "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come." Rev. 4:8
19. The Lord spoke: "For six days, work is to be done, but on the seventh day is a Sabbath of rest, holy to the Lord." Exod. 31:15
20. You will call and the Lord will answer. Isa. 58:9a
21. You will call for help and the Lord will say, "Here am I." Isa. 58:9b
22. "Keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day." Isa. 58:13
23. "The Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath." Mk. 2:28
24. The Lord said, "How long will you refuse to keep My commands and My instructions?" Ex. 16:28
25. Show mercy to me, O my God, according to Your great love. Neh. 13:22
26. All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful for those who keep the demands of His covenant. Ps. 25:10
27. If we are fatherless, Christ will remain faithful, for He cannot disown us who are part of Himself. 2 Tim. 2:13
28. For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor. Ps. 84:11
29. O Lord Almighty, blessed is the one who trusts in You. Ps. 84:12
30. Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, Your faithfulness to the skies. Ps. 36:5
31. When you pass through the waters I will be with you. Isa. 43:2

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VITAL STATISTICS

MEMBERS RECEIVED

By Letter of Transfer:

CHARLES AND MILLIE SCHILLER were welcomed into membership of the Community Christian Church of Rosenberg on June 9, 2013, by transfer of membership from Industry Brethren Church.

RECENT BAPTISMS

ADDISON ELIZABETH BROWN, daughter of Mr. Allen and Melissa (Vicktorik) Brown, born on December 10, 2010, was baptized at the Houston Brethren Church, Houston, Texas on December 4, 2011. Sponsors: Mr. Ashley Victorick, Uncle, and Keith and Donna (Jahns) Casey, Second Cousins. Minister: Rev. Henry Beseda.

RECENT DEATHS

BRIGHTWELL, JOHN "BOB" ROBERT, age 80, of Fayetteville, Texas, passed away on May 9, 2013. He was born on September 26, 1932, in Overton, Texas. He served in the U.S. Army from February 1953 to December 1954, and was a Master Electrician for Pfeiffer & Sons in La Porte. He is survived by his wife, Lillie Mae Pearl (Vavra); son, Michael Edward Brightwell and wife, Gail; one granddaughter and one great-granddaughter. Funeral services were held at the Fayetteville Brethren Church on May 14 with burial in the church cemetery. Minister: Rev Kay Polasek.

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GALETKA, EMIL OSCAR, age 91, died May 9, 2013, at Lake Jackson. He was born December 28, 1921, at Hallettsville, Texas. He is survived by 3 children, 8 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren, and 1 brother. Services were held on May 13, 2013, from the Vsetin CMB Church with burial in the Vsetin CMB cemetery. Minister: Rev. Mark L. Labaj.

PALLA, LORENE (MUCHA), age 90, and longtime member of the Temple Brethren Church, died May 6, 2013, at Temple, Texas. She was active in the Christian Sisters, flower committee, and quilting circle. Born August 4, 1922, at Granger, married 1941 to Johnnie Palla. She is survived by 3 daughters, 3 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren, and 2 sisters. Services were on May 10, 2013, from the Scanio-Harper Funeral Home Chapel with burial in Bellwood Memorial Park. Minister: Rev. Mark L. Labaj.

STRAUSS, DANIEL V, age 79, and member of the Zion Lutheran Church of Schulenburg, died June 5, 2013, at Hallettsville. He was born July 28, 1933, at Vsetin, Texas. Married July 29, 2000, to Carolyn Blumberg. Is survived by his wife, 2 step-children, 2 step-grandchildren, 1 brother, and 2 sisters. Services were held on June 8, 2013, from the Vsetin CMB Church with burial in Vsetin CMB Cemetery. Minister: Mark L. Labaj.

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE

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

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**Position currently filled by Admin-
istrative Board members

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
- Christ Covenant Church – Tuesday
Evening Bible Study.
– Carl Shamel
- 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
- 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, a Provisional Church of
the Unity of the Brethren – 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. Larry Zabcik
- Houston – Sunday School at 9:15 AM;
Worship at 10:30 AM every Sunday.
– Rev. Jerry Terrill
- 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
Nelsonville – 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.
– Visiting Ministers
- Vsetin – Worship at 10:00 AM every Sunday,
– Dr. Mark Labaj
5th Sunday – Visiting Ministers
- Wall – Sunday School (for all ages) at 9:30
AM; worship at 10:45 AM every Sunday.
– Rev. Thomas Tallas
- Wesley – worship at 9:00 AM every
Sunday. Sunday School follows.
– Rev. Michael Groseclose
- West – Sunday School at 9:00 AM and
worship at 10:15 AM every Sunday.
– Rev. Curtis Holland
- Westheimer Community – 9:30 AM, Christian
Education; 10:30 AM, Worship, with Holy
Communion every 5th Sunday.
– Visiting Ministers

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– from the editor

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

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

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