

# THE BRETHREN



# JOURNAL



Vol. 112

September 2013

No. 7

36 Pages

## ***2013 BYF State Volleyball Tournament Winners:***

*Wall Brethren Team A,  
1st place (right);*

*Taylor Brethren Team A,  
2nd place (below).*

*Not pictured:  
Nelsonville/Wesley, 3rd place.*

*See story and additional  
photos in this issue*



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**. . . and so much more!**

**THE BRETHREN JOURNAL**  
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## President's Column . . . James Marek A Moment for Missions

“People need the Lord” was a statement first used by Bro. Ron Winsman at this year’s convention as a part of his presentation on a new ministry underway at the Ocker Brethren Church. As I reflected on this familiar and simple statement, it began to dawn on me – that is exactly why we do missions!

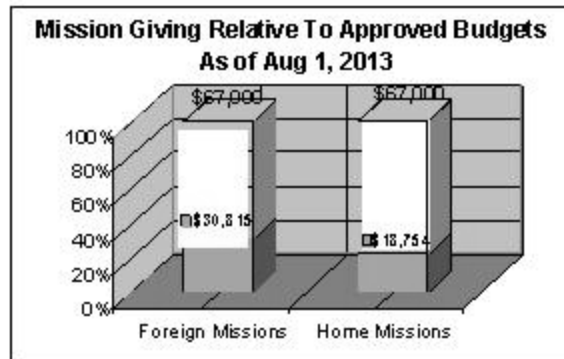


“People Need The Lord! As believers and children of God, it is not enough to be concerned solely for our own eternal future. We are called to be concerned for the salvation of others as well. Jesus is our best example of this truth. Had He only been concerned about His eternal destiny, He would have remained in heaven and not come to earth as a baby. We all would have been eternally separated from God by our sin and had no chance at salvation. We needed a Savior – and so does the rest of the world.

Two thousand years after Christ walked this earth, we remain respon-

sible to see that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is delivered to people everywhere. While few of us are actually called into the mission field as a vocation, we as believers are all to be involved in missions.

The Unity has embarked on an ambitious mission effort. Both the foreign and home mission boards each have a budget of \$67,000 for a combined missions budget of \$134,000. As of the beginning of August, we had collected less than half of the foreign missions’ budget and less than one-third of the home missions’ budget. Failure to meet our budgets by year end will result in the reduction of our missions programs and may have a detrimental impact on our missionaries. I remain convinced that everyone in the Unity still does not know about the need we have collectively as a denomination in the area of missions. This is my opinion because over the years I have seen



Brethren respond generously and repeatedly when they become aware of a need.

During the convention, mission awareness was raised and momentum was gained as approximately \$7,000 was collected for missions. We must keep this momentum going as we seek God's guidance on how He wants each of us to be involved in missions. Mission Support cards were made available at the convention for those who were interested in the convenience of a bank draft to support missions on a monthly basis. While \$134,000 seems like a large amount (and it is), it becomes much more manageable when we consider the fact that this amount could be met if we could just find 150 people within the Unity that were willing to give \$75 per month to missions. While it is likely that there are 150 people who could give regularly at this level or greater, there are those who cannot. All gifts are needed and appreciated

regardless of the size, frequency, or method. It will take a unified effort along with God's blessing to continue to fund our mission effort at current levels.

Paul provides sound advice on giving in II Corinthians 9:6 when he says, *"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."*

Mission donations may be mailed to Marvin Chlapek at P.O. Box 1163, Caldwell, TX 77836. For those who are interested in authorizing a monthly bank draft for any amount on any day of the month, the form at the end of this article may be used.

May God's blessings rest upon our missionaries and our mission effort so that more people may come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

### Unity of the Brethren Electronic Bank Draft Authorization for Mission Support

I hereby authorize a monthly withdrawal in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ from my checking account payable to the Unity of the Brethren in support of Unity Missions as indicated below.

My bank's routing and transit number is \_\_\_\_\_ and my account number is \_\_\_\_\_. The name of my bank is \_\_\_\_\_ located in \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ city \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Home Missions \$\_\_\_\_\_ Foreign Missions

I understand that I will need to contact the Unity Financial Secretary if I ever want to stop this monthly draft and allow 30 days for completion.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Account Holder Signature of Account Holder

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email address Telephone Number

Please send this signed card to the Unity of the Brethren Financial Secretary.

**Please attach a voided check to this form prior to mailing.**

## CALDWELL BRETHREN CHURCH

401 South Main Street  
(979) 567-7203

Sunday School  
9:30 AM

Sunday Worship  
10:30 AM



Rev. Vanessa Mitchell, Pastor

email: lajoiededieu@gmail.com

Church website: www.lifeatcbc.org

Church email: lifeatcbc@gmail.com

Wednesday Family Night Gathering:  
1st & 3rd Wednesdays each month

Welcome

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www.grangernationalbank.com

### 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.*

## Thoughts about giving...

**Remembering the Unity of the Brethren or any of its ministries is a fitting testimony of your belief. Your gift in a will can be a legacy that continues to affect the Christian values, mission, and ministry that is important to you.**

*You can give without restrictions and let us use the funds for the most pressing needs or you can specify how, when, or where you want the funds used.*

*You can require that we hold the principle as an endowment and use only the earnings each year.*

*You can give in memory or in the honor of someone.*

*Your gift can be contingent. The funds go to someone if they survive you and if not, then to the Unity.*

*You can tell us now that you have named the Unity in your will and allow us to express our gratitude...or you can let it be known later.*

**There are many other ways to give. Contact any Board of Grants and Bequests member about what you can give and how you can give.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 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 July	\$ 78,167.00
2013 Actual Income thru July	\$ 49,570.00
Seven-Month Shortfall	\$-28,597.00

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 July, 2013 Brethren Journal.

The Home Mission Fund supports the Cade Lake Mission and In God's Hands Food Pantry Ministry in Burleson 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

Thanks to all who have contributed generously to the Mission Funds during the past two months as the shortfall remains about the same since May!!

Prepared By:

Marvin Chlapek  
Unity Financial Secretary

## WESTHEIMER COMMUNITY CHURCH

15635 Westheimer Road  
Houston, Texas 77082

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

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



## Unity of the Brethren 65th Biennial Convention:

The 65th Biennial Convention of the Unity was held on July 18-20, 2013, at the Taylor Brethren Church. The Convention Theme was "Faith in Action." Registration began at 4:30 p.m. on July 18 followed by a catered meal of chicken fried steak. The evening worship service was led by The Rev. James Hejl, Pastor of Taylor Brethren. The Taylor Brethren Church Choir sang "Sweet, Sweet, Spirit", "God Is Good", "Jesus is in This House", and "Come Just as You Are". Congregational hymns included "Great is the Lord" and the Convention Hymn, "Faith of Our Fathers". Accompanists were Debbie Grimm and Becky



Taylor Brethren Church members manning the Delegate check-in table.

Ruzicka. Communion was administered by Rev. Hejl with assistance from Rev. Tommy Tallas, Rev. Lawrence Juneke, and Rev. Dr. Larry Koslovsky. The message, entitled "They Walked Away", was given by Rev. Hejl using Bible verses from Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18, and John 6:56-69. The benediction was given by Dr. Koslovsky.

After the worship service, Session 1 of the convention began. Rev. Judith Ganz brought greetings from the Northern and Southern Provinces and from the Board of World Mission. A "Faith in Action" report was given by Liz Treybig on the Industry Brethren Church cell phone ministry. An update was given on the West congregation on how they were coping after the fertilizer explosion. Their church did receive a lot of damage and some of the members lost their homes or had damage. Rev Curtis Holland reported that they have found joy in the tragedy.

The devotional Friday morning was led by Rev. Larry Zabcik, Pastor of Granger Brethren. A "Faith in Action"



Unity Pastors recognized for their years of service in Ministry.

report was given by Rev. Mark Sebek, Pastor of Bryan-College Station Brethren Church, on their stewardship program.

Session 2 began with the consideration of the proposed Constitution and By-Laws changes. There was a lot of discussion and some items were amended. A document was accepted to present to the churches for referendum vote.

There was a Mission Presentation during lunch. All the missionaries that the Unity supports had very nice displays with pictures and information. The missionaries include Carolyn Groseclose, serving in Zambia, Africa; Rob & Annie Thiessen, serving in Oaxaca, Mexico; Phil & Dr. Eunice

Raiford, Mexico; Pastor Pavel & Stanya Kozak, Czech Republic; Michael & Caroline Woo, China; and the Home Missions effort in Cade Lake. After lunch, Rev. Ron Winsman of Ocker Brethren gave a Faith in Action report on their Celebrate Recovery program. In the afternoon, the various committees held meetings. A Video Ministry Presentation was given by Pee Wee Surovik and Josef Orsak from the New Tabor Church.

The worship service on Friday evening was led by Rev. Hejl. Recognition was given to several ministers in the Unity who had reached milestones in their ministry. Those recognized were Rev. Henry Beseda, Jr. (62



**THE BUCKHOLTS BRETHREN CHURCH**  
**606 N. 4th Street**  
**Buckholts, Texas 76518**

Worship 9 AM  
Study 10:30 AM  
(No service on  
fifth Sunday.)



Rev. Johnny Kueker  
P.O. Box 325  
Buckholts, Texas 76518  
(254) 605-0434

**TAYLOR BRETHREN CHURCH**

Seventh Street at Sloan in Taylor, Texas  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 351, Taylor, TX 76574  
512-352-6423

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

*Pastor*  
**James D. Hejl**  
512-365-6890

*President*  
**Kevin Page**  
512-689-1593

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



Rev. Jimmy Hejl and Rev. Gordon Hejl visiting during a break in convention activities.

years of ministry) and his wife, Carolyn; Rev. Gordon Hejl (61 years of ministry) and his wife, Pat; Rev. Albert Michalik (60 years) and his wife, Annie; Rev. William Hodge (63 yrs); Rev. Curtis Holland (56 years) and his wife, Betty; Rev. Allen Newby (50 years) and his wife, Jean; Rev. John Kueker (48 years); Rev. Eugene Kotrla (47 years); Rev. Milton Maly (44 yrs); Rev. Tommy Tallas (43 yrs) and his wife, Donna; Dr. Jerry Terrill (43 yrs); and Rev. Lawrence Junek (40 yrs) and his wife, Barbara. Plaques were given to Beseda, Hejl, Michalik, Hodge, and Holland. Joe K. Ripple was the keynote speaker and his message was "The Power of the Touch" using Bible verses from Matthew 9:20-22. Hymns sang by the congregation

included "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above", "Here I Am, Lord", and "He Touched Me". Due to a family emergency, Rev. Tallas had to leave the convention. He was supposed to lead the remembrance of Rev. William John Baletka, but Rev. Hejl stepped in and said a few words. A gift was presented to Joyce Baletka and the Baletka family. Special music was presented by the Hus School ex-students; they sang "Hoj verni v boj" in Czech. Accompanists for the evening were Liz Ripple and Alice Chlappek.

Elected to serve on the Executive Committee for 2013-2015 are: President – James Marek; Secretary – Liz Ripple; Financial Secretary – Dan Merz; Treasurer – Dewyan Weise; First VP – Rev. Lawrence Junek; Second VP – Rev. Mike Groseclose; Third VP – Dr. Jerry Terrill; Ministerial Alternate – Rev. Vanessa Mitchell; Lay



Meal time during the Convention.

## BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION BRETHREN CHURCH

2650 Earl Rudder Freeway South

[www.unityofthebrethren.org](http://www.unityofthebrethren.org)

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](mailto:papasebek@gmx.com)



Taylor Brethren Church members provided delicious meals to Convention attendees.

Alternate – Wiley Marx. Other elections: Board of Foreign Missions Chair – Kent Laza; Board of Home Missions Chair – Rev. David Johnson; *Brethren Journal* Editor – Cathleen Schlechte; *Brethren Journal* Business Manager – Ben Polasek; *Brethren Journal* Secretary/Reporter – Rev. Kay Polasek; Board of Christian Education Chair – Tami Laza; Board of Grants & Bequests – Roger Runnels, Ron Dusek, Ron Tyson, Alan Tomasek, Eugene Haisler; Pastoral Relation Committee – Dawn Marie Baletka, Jon Farrow, Connie Janace, Dorothy

Kocian; and Pastor to the Pastors – Rev. Dr. Larry Koslovsky.

Tim Chaplin, who is currently serving the Temple Brethren Church, was accepted as a Ministerial Student. Other Pastoral changes announced: Steve Davis has left the Unity, and Rev. Vanessa Mitchell has been called by the Caldwell Brethren Church to be their Pastor.

The devotional Saturday morning was given by Rev. Denise Mikeska, Pastor of Seaton Brethren, who also gave a Faith in Action report about



## 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: 325-656-8558

Home: [rev.tjt@verizon.net](mailto:rev.tjt@verizon.net)

Church: [rev.tjt@zipnet.us](mailto:rev.tjt@zipnet.us)

[www.wallbrethrenchurch.org](http://www.wallbrethrenchurch.org)

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

President  
David Miller  
325-651-7597

Youth Director  
Susan & Bryan Neal  
325-227-7242

Secretary  
Johnie Smith  
Tu-F-8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.





Mrs. Joyce Baletka directing the singing of "Hoj verni v boj" in Czech.



Mrs. Rose Anne Groseclose singing during the Convention.

community service. The day continued with reports given by the committees. Tom Trageser with the American Bible Society gave a presentation before lunch. During lunch, Dr. Mark Labaj reported about the College Campus Ministry that was reinstated by the Unity. There were no invitations to host the next Convention in 2015. This will be discussed at the Fall Synodical Committee meeting. The convention was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. Rev. Charles Amos gave the closing prayer.

In attendance were 40 Delegates, 16 Lay Representatives, 24 Ministers, 3 members of the PRC, and 100 guests.



Bro. Henry Beseda joining in the singing of "Hoj verni v boj".

## 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

## All Voting Members Who Attended the Convention:

At the convention, we used some electronic voting devices to help with the voting process. These devices were an asset at the convention and we appreciate all the efforts taken by Dawn Marie Baletka for the use of them. However, 2 of the devices are missing. If you could, kindly check your purse or bag that you had at the

convention to see if a device was accidentally taken home. If you do happen to find the device, please let myself, James Marek, or Dawn Marie Baletka know. Your cooperation with this is greatly appreciated.

In Christ,  
Liz Ripple, Unity Secretary  
lizripple@hotmail.com



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## 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](mailto:seatonbrethrenchurch@yahoo.com)

Rev. Denise Mikeska, Pastor – [sbcpastordenise@yahoo.com](mailto:sbcpastordenise@yahoo.com)  
Steve Davis, Youth Pastor – [sbcpastorsteve@yahoo.com](mailto:sbcpastorsteve@yahoo.com)  
Charles Amos Sr., Board of Elders Chair

*You are invited to the*

## PRIMETIMERS' RETREAT XIX

**OCTOBER 11-13, 2013**

Hey, Primetimers! It's time for another Primetimers' Retreat. You are invited to come for Christian fun, study, fellowship, and learning all on one weekend.

The theme is: "Each one of us is valuable to the body of Christ." The retreat begins Friday evening for the early comers with fellowship. And it continues Saturday after breakfast with a worship, Bible study, special program, vesper, and plenty of fellowship. We worship with the Lord's Supper.

Although all are invited to come and stay the weekend, many participants arrive Saturday at Breakfast or thereafter and stay until after the 'burger supper.

A few have come who are shy of 50, they are welcome. You may be a member or just a friend, you are welcome.

Look for a registration form at your local Brethren Church or go to the Unity website:

[www.unityofthebrethren.org](http://www.unityofthebrethren.org)

We are looking for you!

## OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

17454 State Highway 53  
Temple, Texas 76501

*Preaching the Word, Loving the People*

Sunday School 9:00 AM

Worship 10:15 AM

### *Pastor*

**Rev. Ron Winsman**

3112 W. Ave. R, Temple, TX 76504  
(254) 742-0827  
[ronwinsman@hotmail.com](mailto:ronwinsman@hotmail.com)

### *Youth Director*

**Jennifer Chervenka**

9494 Big Elm Creek Road  
Rogers, TX 76569  
(254) 983-1002

### *Elder Board President*

**David Sebek**

3910 Red Ranger Road  
Temple, TX 76501  
(254) 985-2578, cell (254) 913-0732

### *Cemetery*

**Sharon Marek**

23383 Milam Road  
Burlington, TX 76519  
(254) 869-2845

## Time Well Spent

- by Jim Pokorny

Writing for *The Brethren Journal* has proven to be quite different from writing for a weekly blog. The formatting is different, which has introduced me to a new set of challenges. The biggest difference for me, however, is the delay I experience between the time I submit something for publication and the time I actually see it in print.

Normally I begin the writing process for my blog sites on Monday or Tuesday and upload them late Thursday night so my readers can access them on Friday.

Often members of my church family receive their copy of *The Brethren Journal* before I do, and there's that awkward moment when they tell me that they enjoyed my latest article and I simply do not remember what it was I actually wrote about because of the number of pieces I have written since I submitted the article.

That is very likely going to be the case with this article, because I am writing it in June and it will not be read until September.

As I write this, we have just completed another successful Vacation Bible School and I had some personal experiences that I felt moved to share with you, and I needed to capture those experiences soon after they occurred.

I am blessed in that I receive three weeks of vacation from my employer each year and I always try to schedule one of those weeks to coincide with Vacation Bible School. I normally volunteer to teach two of the adult classes and the remainder of the time I try to take photographs in an attempt to preserve some of the things that make VBS so special.

This year's focus was "Stand Strong", and every skit, game, drama, and activity was designed to reinforce the fact that God helps us do just that.

Along with all the activity that week demanded, I was blessed by God in two very special ways. The first was in a blessing that He bestowed on many of us simultaneously.



## 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.

**Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Terrill**

*Dorothy Hinson*  
*President*

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

*John David Skrivaneck*  
*Secretary*

P.O. Box 1605  
Bellaire, TX 77402  
(713) 626-0522



He also blessed me with it again the very next evening.

It was Tuesday evening and I had just finished teaching an adult class that covered the first six chapters of the book of Nehemiah. The class went very well, but when it was over I was exhausted. Six chapters is a lot of ground to cover in one hour, and I had to check the clock several times to make sure we ended on time as I was asked to participate in the closing skit. The moment I dismissed the class, I rushed backstage and awaited my cue for my entrance.

I was behind the curtain awaiting my turn to go on so I really could not see what was going on. But just hearing the sound of the children's laughter was enough to rejuvenate me.

Kay Hejl (Lady Kay to the children) pretended to be burdened by the demands others had placed on her. She drug a parachute behind her which held all the burdens the other actors had placed upon her. Linda Flens also took part in the skit, and her role was to encourage Lady Kay as she dragged her burdens to the throne, where she would give them to God.

My role was to give Lady Kay her final burden, so on cue I popped out from behind the curtain frantically seeking Lady Kay. I called for her two or three times and then asked the

children if they had seen her. "She's over there," they said as they pointed me in the right direction. I headed in her direction frantically waving my keys until we stood face to face. There I made a feeble excuse as to why I could not stay late and lock up. I then went through every one of my keys one at a time for effect and told her that I needed her to lock all the doors for me that night, turn off all the lights and shut down the air conditioning. Then for added effect I added my own line worthy of Office Space. "And if you could take one final walk around the outside of the church and double check the doors from the outside... that would be great!" Instead of waiting for an answer, I looked over her shoulder at the parachute she was dragging and said, "I'll just put my keys in here with all your other stuff" and dropped them in. I then said "Thanks!" gave her a thumbs up for added effect, sidestepped the parachute and pretended to leave.

So, there is Kay dragging this parachute around. Linda is walking beside her providing encouragement. That is the moment when God blessed us collectively.

Without being prompted by any adult, about a dozen children got up from where they were sitting and helped Lady Kay drag her burdens to the throne.

At this point, I have to thank

Linda. As a group of us discussed this later, Linda reminded us that although this was not part of our script, it was part of God's script. So, that is how God blessed us that evening.

He continued with that same blessing for me the following evening.

I had just finished supper and was standing in the breezeway with my camera when a girl about age 9 saw me. She walked up to me and said, "I remember you!"

"You do?" I asked.

"Yeah," she replied. "You're one of those people that gave Lady Kay all that stuff to do."

Even though I only played a bit part in a small skit, I could not help but feel a little guilty having just been busted by a child. "Yes, I was," I admitted to her.

She told me, "It's okay. She gave them to God!"

If that had been the extent of my blessing for the week, I would have been more than content. God had yet one more surprise in store for me Thursday evening.

When closing night arrived, the children were given posters to color. These posters had places for them to write the names of the new friends they had made, the games they played and what they learned about God.

One little boy caught my attention as I noticed he was having difficulty spelling.

I put my camera away and walked over to him and asked, "Would you like me to help you spell some things?" His smile was my answer. I pointed to one section of the poster and said, "Okay. Let's start over here." I asked, "What did you learn about God?" He thought for a second and I concluded that he needed just a bit more help.

So, I rephrased the question, "What does God help you do?"

Immediately and confidently he stated, "Stand strong!"

Joy filled my heart as I replied, "That's great! Ready?"

He nodded enthusiastically and then began to write as I spelled, "S-T-A-N-D S-T-R-O-N-G"

I will not say that Vacation Bible School requires a lot of work because some do not consider this work. I am, however, willing to say that it does require a great deal of effort from a lot of dedicated people. It is also very personally rewarding when God blesses us through the children whose lives we try to enrich spiritually.

Now, all that remains are some very special memories and the anticipation of next year. That and trying to remember just what it was I wrote about three months ago!

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

### From the Woo's...

July 7, 2013

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our Father is on the move. Thank you for praying for others to join the family of God and praying for your D sisters and brothers.

**M.A.W.L.:** Model, assist, watch, leave. We have been telling the local church they need to go out, but they have not. Last week we realized we had not been doing M.A.W.L. This is something we have written down to do, basically modeling how to do ministry, but had forgotten about. So last Friday, May and I invited Mary to go and visit some of Michael and I's Dai friends. Our goal was to show Mary how easy it is to share your testimony and share the story about the man in the tombs. Mary shared her testimony; after this May shared the story about the man with demons in the tombs. It was going well until their 30-year-old youngest daughter came in and started acting weird. She started talking very loudly, and non-stop for the next 30 minutes. She

interrupted May and would not allow others to talk. We prayed for the couple and left. When I asked May what their daughter was talking about, they said she was talking about how she could see demons, and hear them, and how she could tell them to go away. Well, it felt like the woman herself was manifesting a demon by trying to talk louder and distract her father from hearing the gospel. Who knows??

Anyway, the MAWL strategy is working. At the church on Monday night when May and Mary shared about this adventure, Joan said, "Why didn't you call and ask me to go out and share? I want to go too!" Positive peer pressure!

Friday May took Mary out, and today May, Mary, and Joan went out to visit a friend of our teammates that has just recently had a head injury and has shared how she has no hope and wants to die. Today this lady prayed to receive Jesus. We praise God for this, but also realize that this first time of receiving is sort of a first step in the right direction. Idols need to be thrown away and baptism needs

to take place in order for true commitment to come.

**The Body:** We praise the Lord that the Monday night D church has met now 6-7 times. They first sing and Joan picks out the songs. Then they share their problems and pray for each other. This usually takes a LONG time as they love to talk. Then they all pray at the same time, with everyone speaking out loud at the same time. (This way of praying actually takes a lot of the fear away that many people have of praying out loud, you should try it.) Then there may be some questions or a testimony, and May shares about how Jesus wants us to go out, not to just invite in all the time. She also shares a new 5-minute story and tries to get them to learn and practice the story. This is when the group usually says, "Oh look at the time, it's 11:45 p.m.," and they all leave without practicing the story.

This has happened week after week. Last week after saying again that Jesus in the great commission told us to **GO** to those that have NOT believed and tell them, Mary said, "May, why do you always want us to go out and share with people that have never heard? Let them first believe and then

we will go and share with them. We like to go and visit believers." May said, "How will they believe if they have not heard? We must first go and tell them. Did you first believe or first hear?"

I think this is so classic. How many of us, even in the USA, have excuses why we can't share the simple love of Jesus, even a Bible story, to someone else. We think we can't do it, we aren't trained enough; we think we can just invite the person to our church and that is enough. Well, put all those thoughts away and just obey Jesus. GO into all the world, including your workplace, your neighborhood or city, and watch Jesus show up!

**The Worm Composting Project:** The worms we have started in the village don't seem to be doing so well. It's almost like baking a cake. The first time you bake it, it doesn't turn out that great, but if you keep trying you will get it and get the right recipe. Brad, May's cousin, will help us do our own bed of worms in the city so we can take care of them and get the right recipe.

**Aug. 12 Training:** In August, our



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#### Board of Elders President

Justin Lewis  
P.O. Box 222  
Snook, TX 77878  
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#### Youth Directors

Randall & Jonna See  
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(Unity of the Brethren)

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Sunday School – 9:30 A.M.



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Rev. Rick Chandler  
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Church Phone – (281) 955-1655

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President: Rev. Henry Beseda

local Chinese church, for the first time, will hold a training for all the D believers in the prefecture. We praise the Lord that this church is trying to reach out to the local D. Martha, a local D believer, is very connected with this Chinese church. She is also coming to the Monday night D church. She has invited local D teachers from other cities to come and teach during the training. She has not asked May's help to teach or to cook or to do anything. We are joyful that they will try and reach out and hold the training, but it would be wonderful for the older, more traditional church leaders to recognize May and give her a chance to share or teach.

**Gordon Conwell Team:** We have been enjoying the 4 students from GCTS Boston/ Hamilton campus. They have been lots of fun and lots of help. Last Saturday they went to a drug rehab farm. It is a Christian place with about 6 men. It is the only one of its kind in the country.

**Drugs, AIDS:** Many of you know we live in the drugs and AIDS capitol of China. It is similar to Las Vegas, an adult playground. There is nothing for children to do. For the local kids the only way out is through education. The hope to go to high school and college is only for the top percent of kids. So most kids get sucked into the drug, prostitution, and AIDS culture even after middle school since they didn't pass the exam to go to high school. Everyone does drugs and or prostitutes as there is really nothing fun to do. Now that summer is here, the kids are out of school and we see them everywhere, bored out of their minds. **Anyone want to bring a team over next summer for a sports, art,**

**dance, or music camp? Let us know!**

**Homeschool helper needed:** As our ministry grows, so do our homeschooling needs. Currently we teach Samuel and Ian and will soon start with Zach. We are looking for someone to come live with us for 6 months to 1 year and help with homeschool as you learn Chinese and get a taste of life in Asia. Maybe someone that wants to take a gap year. **Are you interested? Give us an email. Mcswoo@psmail.net**

**Next summer mission trip:** Come for 2 weeks to Thailand in June 2014. One week of seeing the culture, 1 week of serving our kids and 100 other kids of workers over here. At our annual meeting in Thailand we need you to come and serve with the babies all the way up to high school. Maybe you have always wanted to go on a mission trip. Well this is it! **Interested? Give us an email. Ages 18-88 accepted!**

Serving together,

Michael & Caroline,  
Samuel, Ian, Zach & Isaac

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## Super-Alpha Camp 2013

June 9-13, 2013



Top Row: Jenn Chervenka, JP Chervenka, Dee Winsman, Bro. Ron Winsman, Logan Jones, Arnold Motl, Micheal Mills, Ian Zamorsky, Tanner Murrow, Ben Wilde, Connie Janac, Kelly Stephens, Robert Stephens

Middle Row: Taylor Brinkley, Erin Brinkley, Emma McGrath, Jaycee Johnson, Ty Sebek, Riley Dolgener, John Hill, Payton Mills, Devin Orr, Chip Amos, Austyn Sanders, Anthony Farris, Logan Woelfel, Jacob Van Winkle, Maverick Raesz, Sean McSorley, Tami Paddenberg

Bottom Row: Mary Vasek, Gabby Harrison, Arianna Graham, Keeley Jones, Linsey Olsen, Jacelyn Chervenka, Leah Costanza, Maegan Buss, Anita Heckman, Sarah McCoy, Morgan Lesika, Jocelynn Coan, Haleigh McIntyre, Megan Darnell, Macy Narro, Jaylea Elkins, Jordan Krcha, Kari Raesz

Twenty-eight super-alpha campers and many super-alpha staff came together at the Hus Encampment for a super week of Bible study and fellowship. Campers enjoyed games, crafts, music, good food, and great Bible lessons prepared by Directors JP and Jenn Chervenka; Robert and Kelly Stephens; and Taylor Brinkley, and camp Pastor Rev. Ron Winsman and his wife Dee.

Our first lessons were on a superhero from our past, David. He was an ordinary boy who God used to do extraordinary things. He started as a shepherd, defeated a giant, served in King Saul's army; became the king of

God's people, and one day became the great-great-great-great grandfather of Jesus.

We then learned about the superhero spirit God gives to each of us: the Holy Spirit who fills us with spiritual fruits.

Finally, we learned about our ultimate superhero, Jesus Christ, who gave His life to save us from our sins.

We had an awesome adventure as we learned that we can ALL be superheroes for God. Thank you to our extraordinary staff and super-hero campers for making this an Awesome Super-Alpha.





**Super-Counselors:** Emma McGrath (CIT); Kari Raesz; Michael Mills; Ian Zamorsky (CIT); Arnold Motl; Logan Jones (CIT); Jaycee Johnson (CIT); Tamela Paddenberg; Mary Vasek; Erin Brinkley; Tanner Murrow; Ben Wilde (CIT)



**9c: Super-Kids & Super-sitters:** Kole Stephens; Joanna Chervenka; Jaidyn Chervenka; Karsen Stephens; Kash Stevens; Jessica Chervenka; Taylor Krcha; Grace Jungmann

## W.A.R. Challenger Camp 2013 July 7-12, 2013



*Back Row: Zachary Fojtasek; Matthew Stewart; John Eilers (counselor); Rev. Larry Zabcik (pastor); Lane Walton; Logan Jones; Chris Deere*

*Middle Row: Kassie Benner; Jordan Eilers; Deanna Hairrell; Jenn Chervenka (director); Anna Wotipka (counselor); Jaycee Johnson; Sarah Jacobs; Emma McGrath*

*Front Row: Connie Janac (nurse); Tammie Reithmayer (director); Taylor Brinkley (director)*

We are ready to go to W.A.R. We are Ready. We are Relational. We are Relished. We are Rescued. We are Reconciled. We are Remade. We are Rule-abiding. We are Released. We are Reachers.

Challenger Camp 2013 was a battle of the forces of good and evil. We had a full week of lessons and activities planned as we learned what it means to be on God's side and how we battle physically and spiritually while we are here on earth.

We looked mainly at a video curriculum "To Save A Life" as we learned that every choice we make affects those around us; whether it is through

our speech or actions. We learned that God has called us to reach out to the lost, the hurting, and the lonely even if it means losing our friends. We also learned that we should be unashamed and guilt free as our sins have been forgiven. We are ALL God's children. We are God's sons and daughters, blessed and holy, without blemish, full of grace, forgiven, and loved; we are relished by a God who loved us so much He sent His son to die for us. We cannot let the world convince us to think otherwise of ourselves or of others. We have been remade and then released to share His love with others all around us.





*Singing during a session.*



*Guys making our cannon ball dessert.*



*Ladies ready for marshmallow war.*

## Summer Retreat, BYF Convention, and Volleyball Tournament

Saturday, July 13-Sunday, July 14

Seventy-six youth and many visitors gathered at the encampment for the annual youth retreat, convention, and volleyball tournament.

Ten teams were fielded for the tournament, and after several hours in the heat, Wall A defeated Taylor A in the tie-breaking championship match. Nelsonville/Wesley took 3rd.

The Leadership team ended the evening with worship for all who remained at the camp. We were reminded that our speech is powerful. Not only does it have the ability to build up or tear someone down in the moment, but our words can have lasting effects on others.



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[natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com](mailto:natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com)

\*\*Position currently filled by Administrative Board members

*For there is one God and  
one Mediator between  
God and men, the Man  
Christ Jesus.*

*1 Timothy 2:5*

Sunday School  
Helper



The Holy Trinity is a difficult concept for even us to understand. Why? Because there is nothing on Earth even close! However, understanding the nature of the Holy Trinity is an important part of our faith. But how do we teach and explain something to children that we often don't quite understand ourselves. We might not even want to address it because we are worried we won't be able to answer their questions – and you know they will have questions. If we can find a concrete way to explain, it is often easier. I hope this lesson helps you share the Holy Trinity with the children in your life.

# 3 In 1



## The Holy Trinity in an Apple

Show a shiny, red apple. Talk about how it is one thing.

Cut the apple in half. Display the inside for children to see. Point out the peel, the flesh, and the seeds.

Explain the Holy Trinity is also three in one, just like the apple.

1. The peel is like God the Father. He protects us, just like the peel of the apple protects the flesh.
2. The flesh is like God the Son. Jesus was flesh and blood just like we are, but he was still God. It is also food; it fills us up. Jesus filled his followers with spiritual food.
3. The seeds are like the Holy Spirit. Just like the seeds make new apple trees grow, the Holy Spirit helps us to grow.

w.

Other objects to make the Holy Trinity concrete

- Egg – shell, yolk, white
- Water – ice, water, steam
- Shamrock – three leaves
- Roles of a person – child, brother/sister, cousin

For  
comments/questions/  
information, contact:

Angie Hairrell

Hairrell@gmail.com



# Thoughts for Teens

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Thanks to Mikel Rice 04-05-2000  
LORD, I KNOW THE HOLY SPIRIT INSTRUCTS  
US IN YOUR WORD ... BUT I COULD USE SOME  
HELP IN MATH HERE TOO

## Holy Trinity Batmat

Ask teens which super power they would like to have.

Connect to the superpower of the Trinity.

Explain that God is of one, singular being, yet He is experienced in three persons – Father, Son, Holy Spirit. Assign verses below to pairs/groups of students to help them discover the Biblical basis of the Trinity.

- a) Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 41:21-24, 42:8
- b) Genesis 1:1-3; John 1:1-5
- c) Matthew 3:13-17; Acts 2:38; Matthew 28:19
- d) John 1:14, 18; John 14:25-26
- e) Acts 1:3-8; Acts 2:1-4; Joel 2:27-28

Discuss/Write the findings from each of the verses about the Trinity.

Father	Son	Holy Spirit



## Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

**October 5, 2013 – Fall Synodical Committee Meeting at the Hus Encampment –** 9:00 a.m.; refreshments served at 8:00 a.m. A light lunch will be served at noon. The newly elected officers for 2013-2015 will be installed and the results of the referendum votes from the 65th Unity of the Brethren Convention will be reviewed. The agenda will be sent out soon. Please share this information with your church members. If you have any questions, contact James Marek, email: james@cnbt.com or (512) 352-6165, or Liz Ripple, email: lizripple@hotmail.com or (979) 378-2239.

**October 11-13 – Primetimer's Retreat at the Hus School Encampment.** Please mark your calendars to come and enjoy Christian fellowship, fun, worship, and education. Theme this year is: Each one of us is valuable to the body of Christ. Cost is \$45 per person for the weekend, \$30 per person for Saturday only. A \$10 per person deposit is due with registration. For addition information see article in this issue or contact Rev. Lawrence & Barbara Junek at (254) 714-2622. Deadline for registration is October 4, 2013.

**October 18-20 – Fall Youth Retreat at the Hus School Encampment.** Registration deadline is October 1. For more information, contact Jennifer Chervenka. jennchervenka@farm-market.net; (254) 913-1244.

*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.*

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### PLEASE JOIN US AS WE

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

### THE MUTUAL AID SOCIETY

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## DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

### Daily Morsels for September 2013

Dorothy E. Kocian

- 1. Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. Prov. 1:8**
- Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding. Prov. 3:13
- Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act. Prov. 3:27
- Now this is eternal life: that people may know You, the only God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent. Jn. 17:3
- If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all. Isa. 7:9
- The Lord gives wisdom, and from His mouth come knowledge and understanding. Prov. 2:6
- Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Prov. 3:5
- 8. Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of your crops. Prov. 3:9**
- Do not set foot on the path of the wicked or walk in the way of evil men. Prov. 4:14
- Whoever finds wisdom finds life and receives favor from the Lord. Ps. 8:35
- To God who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy. Jude 24
- We are not those who shrink back and are destroyed, but those who believe and are saved. Heb. 10:39
- Refrain from anger and turn from your wrath; do not fret – it leads only to evil. Ps. 37:8
- The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out. Prov. 10:9
- 15. Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or swerve from them. Prov. 4:5**
- When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom. Prov. 11:2
- Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers all wrongs. Prov. 10:12
- Man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment. Heb. 9:27
- Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death. Prov. 11:4
- The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but the Lord tests the heart. Prov. 17:3
- Lord, may integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope is in You. Ps. 25:21
- 22. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. 1 Cor. 13:3**
- Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 1 Cor. 13:4
- My son, keep my words and store up my commands within you. Prov. 7:1
- Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves. Prov. 31:8
- Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy. Prov. 31:9
- Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing one another in love. Eph. 4:2
- Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Prov. 31:30
- 29. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Col. 3:13**
- How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity. Ps. 133:1

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## VITAL STATISTICS

### RECENT DEATHS

SIMEK, ALBINA RUTH (RYPEL), age 91, died June 27, 2013, at Flatonia. Born January 7, 1922, at Hubbard, Hill County. Married October 5, 1943, in Temple to Jerry Joseph Simek. She is survived by 2 sons and 1 sister. Memorial service was on July 6, 2013, from the Schwenke-Baumgarten Funeral Home Chapel in Schulenburg. Minister: Mark L. Labaj.

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**Programming Director:** Kayla Marek, 901 Hidden Valley Dr. #9302, Round Rock, TX 78665; [kmarek2012@gmail.com](mailto:kmarek2012@gmail.com)

## 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.  
Family Night, 1st & 3rd Weds. each month in Fellowship Hall. Bring a snack, a game, and a friend if able.  
– Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

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. Dr. 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

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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