THE BRETHREN







Vol. 113 March 2014 No. 2 36 Pages



Kacie Sulak and child patient on the Africa Mercy ship on the coast of Africa Photo Credit: Suzanne Scheumann © 2013 Mercy Ships (See story in this issue)

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... and a whole lot more!

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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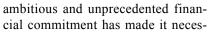
President's Column . . . James Marek Mission Support Increasing, More Still Needed

For the last 2 years, the governing body of our denomination, the syn-

odical committee, has approved aggressive mission budgets. The total Missions budget of \$134,000 is comprised of equal budgets of \$67,000 for both Foreign and Home Missions. In each of the last 2 years, we have fallen well short of

the ambitious goal set for us in the area of missions. Although our failure to meet our mission budget 2 consecutive years is disappointing, there are many things that indicate the tide is turning.

First and foremost, I view the action of the synodical committee relative to missions as a demonstration of faith. I have been inspired by the synodical committee's commitment to missions as demonstrated by their action to approve mission budgets that previous levels of giving would suggest are impossible to meet. I believe this is a supreme demonstration of faith on the part of our denominational representatives, and one that I personally believe God is in the process of rewarding. Secondly, the



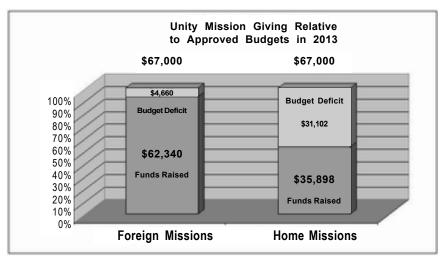
sary to involve more people in missions throughout the Unity. We have seen an increase in the number of individual donors who support missions with monthly bank draft or by check. We are beginning to see congregations either establish a

missions line item in their church budgets or an increase their levels of mission support already included in their church budgets. Additionally, we have received sizable one-time or recurring donations (other than monthly) from Unity members as well as donations from individual Sunday School classes and youth groups. Plans are also underway to hold a unity-wide golf tournament in the Brenham area on May 5th with all of the proceeds going to missions. The support for missions throughout the denomination is definitely on the rise, but there is still more to be done. Although mission donations have risen from approximately \$85,000 in 2012 to over \$98,000, we are still

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approximately \$36,000 short of fully funding our existing mission programs. While we celebrate the 15% increase in mission support in 2013 compared to 2012, we must remain focused on increased awareness of missions activity and support if we are to fully fund our mission budgets.

One might ask – why all the fuss over missions? Why are they so important? Can we afford this level of mission support? Support for missions is a tangible and obedient response to the Great Commission given to us by Jesus in Matthew 28:19-20, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." As Christians, missions represent one of the foundational reasons for our existence - to bring others to Christ. While we may not have personally felt a call to the "mission field", we certainly are called to be a part of the mission effort. We live in a country where we are not persecuted for our faith. Conversely, our missionaries have answered a call to go to places on our behalf where they face personal danger and persecution for the cause of the Gospel. We have the easy jobs – to support them prayerfully and financially from the safety of the United States. As we look at our world today and the stark spiritual need, I would submit that we cannot afford **not** to be involved in missions.

Our missionaries put their personal safety at risk, in some cases on a daily basis, to build the kingdom of God around the world. There are many examples of success in each of the mission fields around the world where people are coming to Christ because of the cooperative efforts of the Holy Spirit and missionaries. The following is an excerpt from an email that was sent by Tom Prohaska, President of Fields of Faith to Kent Laza, Chairman of our Foreign Mission Board. The email reports some of the progress that is being made in the mission field in the Czech Republic.

"We have now added more staff to

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the evangelism ministry in the Czech Republic last year. Marek and Petra, who were Pavel Kozak's disciples in northern Bohemia, have now moved to Olomouc to assist in the church planting efforts there. It's been a great help for the Kozaks to formulate a team for church planting. Pavel also receives evangelism assistance from a young man name Pavel Ferko and another named Radim. They are all on the cold streets and parks nearly every day sharing the gospel with those who will stop and give them an ear. Pavel reports he averages about 50 to 60 gospel presentations per week!!

Also we have added Milan Szturc from Havirov, in the extreme northeast corner of Moravia/Czech Republic. He leads up a youth movement called Fusion. It is where he goes to youth groups in existing churches and promotes singing, teaching how to play musical instruments, and organizational skills. He has now expanded the Fusion ministry to ten churches across the Czech Republic. Currently he is leading a seminar and teaching the ministry to about 100 leaders throughout Eastern Europe. Through the relationships that are built with non-Christians assimilating in these groups, dozens have trusted Christ as Savior."

This is but one success story from one mission field that we support. Each mission field has its own successes. God is at work with our missionaries both domestically and internationally. Unless we are called to the mission field ourselves, our role in the mission effort is likely limited to prayerful and financial support. Either form of support is dependent on the value we assign to missions in our hearts. I was recently given an article written by Gary Walter of the Covenant Church on Christian Generosity. The following quote from that article seems especially applicable and worthy of consideration. Mr. Walter wrote, "What gives money its value is what it can be exchanged for. What can be more valuable than exchanging it for the work of God's Kingdom?"



Hus School 100th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, April 26, the Hus School Encampment will be the site of the 100th Anniversary celebration of Hus School, which was first held in Granger in 1914. The celebration will be primarily on the 26th, but lodging will be available on a first-come, first-served on Friday and Saturday nights for those wishing to stay longer. The activities on the 26th will begin with a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m. and end with supper and a vesper service. There will be no scheduled activities on Friday night, and Sunday will include breakfast and fellowship/worship time.

To help with meal planning and manage lodging requests, we need all of you to register your attendance. Below is a form we would like for you to complete and return to us by April 21. There is no registration fee for the event.

The completed form should be mailed to Marvin and Alice Chlapek, P.O. Box 1163, Caldwell, Texas 77836. You may also call in your information to us at 979-272-9102, or e-mail it to mjcarc@airplexus.com.

Just a reminder for those planning to spend the night: You should bring sheets, pillow, towels, etc., with you.

Plan now to attend and invite others from your Hus School class and from your church to join us for a time of reminiscing, fellowship, singing, and food including a catered lunch. The oldest Hussite and the largest class present will be recognized.

100th Anniversary Registration Form

Name(s)

Address

Lodging Needs: Yes ____, No ____

If yes, which night(s): Friday , Saturday

Meal Needs: Friday Evening ; Saturday Breakfast ;

Saturday Lunch ; Saturday Supper ;

Sunday Breakfast .

Contact Information: Phone _____;

E-mail_____

Emergency Contact Information:

Year attended Hus School:

6/March 2014

Dreams of Long, Long Ago

- by Jim Pokorny

There is an old song written by Billy Hill (1899-1940) entitled The Old Spinning Wheel. The first part of the refrain is very special to me.

"There's an old spinning wheel in the parlor,

Spinning dreams of the long, long ago.

Spinning dreams of an old fashioned garden.

And a maid with her old fashioned beau."

I don't have a spinning wheel, nor do I have a parlor, but I do have a living room, and in one corner of that room I keep a few things that are clearly visible from every part of the room. Each of them reminds me of the connection I shared with my family.

The most prominent item is my parents' wedding photograph that was taken shortly after the conclusion of World War II. It is a black and white photograph and its colors were hand painted by the photographer. I discovered this when I removed it from the frame in order to scan it.

Behind the photograph my parents kept the notes the photographer made for himself so that he knew what colors to use later.

What strikes me most of all is how young my parents look in the photograph. Mom was 40 years of age when I came along, and I was the only child they had who survived into adulthood.

Dad passed away when he was relatively young. I say that because I am now within two years of the age he was when he left us. Mom lived a long and full life, and the two of us had an absolutely wonderful relationship right up until the day I had to say goodbye for the final time.

The other thing that strikes me about the photograph is that it serves to remind me that I am a product of their marriage and their love. What I am talking about is far more than genetics. It is more about the influence each had in my life and how that, more than anything else, molded me into the person that I am.

From Dad I learned early on that a sense of humor is vital.

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Ē	BRETHREN JOURNAL		March 2014/	

Dad was a genuinely happy person and loved to joke around with everyone. Although happy most of the time, I could always count on two sets of circumstances that would send his joy to greater heights. The first was whenever he had the opportunity to spend time with his many brothers and a game of Taroks (a Czech card game played with a special deck) ensued. The game always seemed to turn into a contest to determine just who could hit the table the hardest. Even at a young age, I quickly discovered that it was not the game itself that brought him joy so much as the camaraderie he shared with his brothers.

The other times I saw his joy soar was whenever we had the chance to watch The Three Stooges. It is said that there are two kinds of people in the world, those that love the Stooges and those that wonder why. Dad loved the Stooges. Poor Mom, well, she just wondered why,

Sorry, Mom, but I am going to have to go along with Dad on this one.

Laughter helps me get through my day, and hopefully allows me to help others get through their day, as well. I discovered, with Dad's help, that it is impossible to laugh and dwell on a problem at the same time. He also helped me to see that in almost every situation is the opportunity for laughter if one takes a moment to look for it.

Mom was also influential, in fact more so because of the additional years we had together and because of the nature of our relationship.

She was influential in three very important ways.

First, I am forever indebted to her for the foundation of faith she was determined to instill in me from a very early age. It is a solid foundation and one I continue to build on with confidence to this day.

Second, she was known as "Mom" to many of my friends and coworkers. She just had that quality about her. I have had to share Mom's love with a great many people, but I learned very early on that her store was limitless.

Third, I am indebted to her for something she may not have even been aware of teaching me, because this was done by example over the course of our many decades together. From the way she lived I learned that gentleness should not to be mistaken for weakness. It is, in fact, one of strength.

In her advanced years, whenever I took her shopping or to a restaurant I knew that when people met her they often left with the impression that she was simply a sweet and gentle lady. She was. That gentleness, however, was an extension of a tremendous internal strength that had its basis in

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faith. It was one that weathered the loss of an infant child, a miscarriage, and a husband.

We had a great relationship, and I would not trade it for anything.

When Mom passed away several years ago I had many people tell me that God was going to bless me one day for what I did for her. Perhaps, but I know only too well that God was blessing me through her each and every day along the way.

There were other influences my parents had on me, but these are the ones that I am forced to single out as their greatest influences on me. As such, these are the qualities that I think surface in my relationships with others.

Humor is a wonderful counter to stress. It helps in making new relationships and strengthening existing ones. Gentleness encourages trust. Love is a requisite in all things. Faith is a strong belief in God and the foundation upon which everything else depends.

Scripture reminds us to honor our parents. I sincerely believe this means honoring their memory, as well.

Ephesians 6:2 (NIV) – "Honor your father and mother"– which is the first commandment with a promise –

There are some other items I keep in that corner of my living room, but I'll save those for another time.

By the way, if you ever find out that we will be serving on the same board or committee together, I do have some friendly advice for you. The Three Stooges are available on DVD. You might want to watch a few episodes before our first meeting.



• Vestnik weekly newspaper

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Invitation to the 47th Biennial Christian Sisters' Convention from the Christian Sisters' Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the Christian Sisters' Union cordially extends an invitation to all delegates, representatives of women's work in the church, members of the local Christian Sisters' Societies, Ministers of the Unity, and to all friends of the Christian Sisters' Union to the 47th Convention on March 29, 2014, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Nelsonville Brethren Church.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., followed by a morning worship service and communion at 9:00 a.m. There will be a memorial service after the noon hour.

Please pray that God will direct and lead us in all we do and say.

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> 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

Invitation to the 47th Biennial Christian Sisters Convention From the Nelsonville Brethren Church

The Nelsonville Brethren Church Minister, Board of Elders, and Christian Sisters offer an invitation to Christian Sisters members, delegates, and their guests of the denomination to join us for the 47th Biennial Convention to be held on Saturday, March 29, 2014, at the Nelsonville Brethren Church, 332 Nelsonville Church Rd in Nelsonville, Texas.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Morning and afternoon refreshments will be provided. A catered lunch will be served at noon for a fee of \$10. Overnight accommodations can be made at the following hotels:

Best Western Plus Inn of Brenham, 1503 US 290, Brenham, TX; 979-251-779. La Quinta Inn & Suites, 2950 Wood Ridge Blvd., Brenham, TX; 979-836-5551.

Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites, 555 US 290, Brenham, TX; 979-836-4590.

We are very excited to be hosting the Convention this year and look forward to making each and every one of you feel welcome. We are praying that first and foremost our focus will be on God and that He will guide the Christian Sisters in the direction that He would have us go.

Please contact us at the following numbers if you have any questions or concerns.

Rev. Michael Groseclose, Pastor Shane Siptak, President, Board of Elders Edna Macat, President, Nelsonville Christian Sisters; 979-877-8308 Beverly Mikeska, Secretary, Nelsonville Christian Sisters; 979-357-2102 Nelsonville Brethren Church; 979-865-0186

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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: <u>papasebek@gmx.com</u>

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Rev. Henry E. Beseda, Jr. Memorial Golf Tournament for Missions

In an effort to raise money for the Unity Mission Fund, a golf tournament will be held on Monday, May 5, 2014, at Faith Bridge Ranch Gold Club in Monaville. The tournament will be a four-man team scramble. Registration is \$80 per golfer. This fee includes green fee, golf cart, drinks, and a catered BBQ meal. Registration that day will be at 9 a.m. with tee-off at 10:30 a.m. Names of all golfers participating need to be turned in by April 23, 2014.

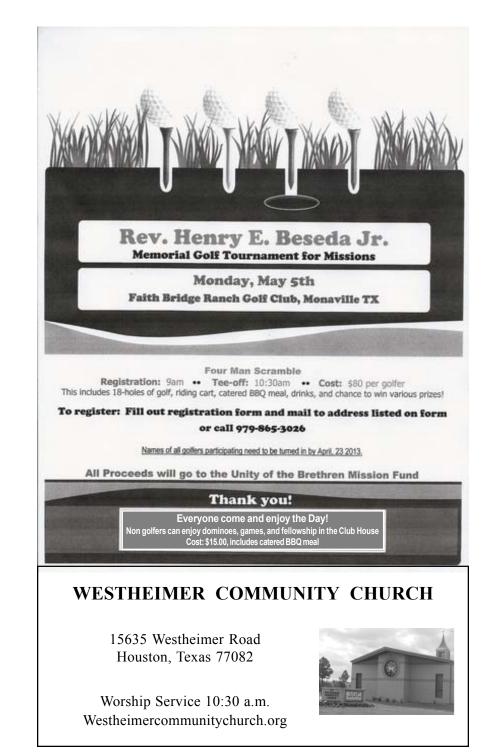
Because of his love for both golf and missions, the tournament has been named the Rev. Henry E. Beseda, Jr., Memorial Golf Tournament for Missions. All proceeds from the tournament will go to the Unity Mission Fund. We would also like to invite non golfers to come and enjoy the day. They can enjoy dominoes, games, and fellowship in the club house. The cost will be \$15.00, which includes a catered BBQ meal. Please help us get the word out by announcing this in your church.

Registration and donation forms should be available at your church or can be downloaded from the Unity website calendar at www.unityofthebrethren.org. Please give donation forms to any organization or individuals in your church or community who may be interested. Any help in greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please contact Brother Mike Groseclose at 979-865-3026 or by email at umhbpg@yahoo.com.

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

From the Woo's...

February 2, 2014

Dear Partners in Mission,

When I was young one of my favorite things to do was to go fishing with my dad. Today I still love catching trout or big mouth bass, and still my father would be my number one choice of fishing buddies. When the fish are biting and you can pull one big one in after another, it is a thrill. Your heart starts to beat fast. There is a rush of joy and excitement when you get that first tug on the line.

Matthew 4:19: And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

Fishing for men, with our Heavenly Father, can be even more thrilling. When you go out and share the gospel. It's scary and risky, and yet the rush makes your heart beat wildly. And when someone believes, there is nothing like the thrill. You want to do it more and more!

The Kingdom is starting to fish -

in all joy we are thrilled to announce that the D church in Target City is going strong. When the 4 ladies started meeting together last May, they were small, but knew it was time to start a D church. Now Stephen, a man on fire, and several other women have joined the group. They meet on Sunday afternoons now, fully believing that they can do communion and baptism. They pray, worship, and give testimony. The Lord is leading, and each week whoever has something to share shares it. It's awesome!

Last Friday we gathered them together to encourage them not to forget about the lost. The church came together on Friday and they prayed for the Lord to lead them to those in the city that He has already prepared to receive the gospel. Those whose hearts are soft.

After they prayed, they listened to the Lord to see what and where He would tell them to go. They then went to three different D homes. In the first home a man believed and agreed to hold Sunday's church meeting there. In the second home a lady believed

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

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and was excited about inviting two of her friends to come and listen to the gospel too.

After this outing, they came back to Mary's home and prayed again and said "Let's make this our habit! We should go out like this twice a month! This was so exciting! If we do this, the Lord will grow our own faith more and more!"

Of course in the past all of these people have gone out to share here and there, but this is the FIRST time they have done it as a church body together. Trying to grow the Church of Jesus together! It's amazing! The Church is on the move!

But the birds and some pigs came out. Remember Joan, who can share the gospel, but can't stop complaining about her husband? After the outreach she told her sister about the two new believing homes. Then her sister went and told these new believers not to believe and filled them with fear. Then the new believers turned back and decided not to follow Jesus. She is throwing pearls before swines (Matthew 7:6) and the birds of the air are swooping in unnecessarily fast (Luke 8).

Next steps and prayers – In 7 weeks we will head to Thailand to wait for baby Woo to come, as we have to fly before a certain date. We are due May 8, with a baby girl! Michael's parents are coming to Thailand for the birth.

Our boys have been sick with cough. Please pray for health for all.

In the next 6 weeks we hope to continue to encourage the local Dai church to go out every two weeks and maybe have a training or two with them. We also want to challenge them in what they should do with new believers that know NOTHING about God and the Bible. Our 11 discipleship stories and after that 20-30 chronological Bible stories can be used to disciple new believers.

→

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 Church: rev.tjt@zipnet.us www.wallbrethrenchurch.org

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

President				
David	Miller			
325-65	1-7597			

Youth DirectorSecretarySusan & Bryan NealJohnie Smith325-227-7242Tu-F-8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Woo boys – Samuel is now 11. He was 5 months old when we first came to Asia. He is turning into such a servant leader. The other day, without us telling him to, he said to his brothers, "Let's all clean up the toys in the den and see how fast we can do it. On the count of 3. 1,2,3 Go...." And all 4 boys cleaned and the den was picked up faster than I could have gotten them to do it.

Ian is 9 and his broken wrist has healed nicely. He is starting to love to read. He is compassionate and loves to swim.

Zach, 5-1/2, is full of life and enjoys playing with our teammates kids. He always wants snacks and is our best sleeper.

Isaac, 2, just loves mommy. He is talking a lot and is starting to love books and drawing. He is living up to his name as he laughs a lot.

Thank you for all your prayers! Without your prayers and support for us and this ministry there would be no ministry! Keep praying! It's working!

Love, Michael & Caroline, Samuel, Ian, Zach, Isaac, #5



16/March 2014

State Youth Leadership Team 2012-2013

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Africa Mercy – A Nurse's Point of View

The following article has been compiled from the blog of Kacie Sulak. She is the daughter of Cindy Sulak and the late Ron Sulak of Troy, Texas, and the granddaughter of Edwin and Erline Husak of West, Texas.

Kacie has been a Trauma ICU nurse with Scott & White Hospital, and is currently volunteering her service on the Africa Mercy ship stationed on the coast of Africa through March 2014.

These are only small snippets of her entries describing her experiences. To read more, visit her blog at africamercyaug-dec2013.blogspot.com

Sunday, August 25, 2013 First couple days on board...

Hey everyone! My name is Kacie. I'm a Trauma ICU nurse in Texas that has decided to take a break from that for three months and volunteer on Africa Mercy. Some of you may know what it is, some of you don't. So for those of you who don't, it's basically a huge hospital on a ship that provides free medical care to third-world countries. Africa Mercy has just started their field service in Pointe-Noire, Republic of Congo, this August and will be there for a total of 10 months. I will be here for three months as a nurse, so August-November. This blog is basically to help me remember everything, and to share as much as I can with those who aren't here.

→



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

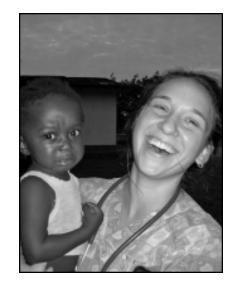
Pastor			
Rev. Joseph Polasek			
P.O. Box 54			
Snook, TX 77878			
(979) 272-1624			

Board of Elders President		
Rayfield Slovacek	F	
P.O. Box 267		
Snook, TX 77878		
(979) 272-8845		

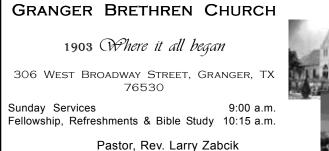
ent Youth Directors Randall & Jonna See P.O. Box 345 Snook, TX 77878 (979) 272-8179

Tuesday, August 27, 2013 Awe Moment...

So you know when you have one of those moments when you just realize that things are so much bigger, broader, and deeper than you originally thought? I had another one of those this morning. I feel like I have those every now and again. You know, when scientists discover things deeper in space, or new depths of the ocean, or they make advancements in medicine that we never thought possible. It's kind of that overwhelming feeling, or sense of awe, like when you look at the stars, or stare at the ocean, or even at a newborn baby, and think... how is that possible? The point is, this morning, first thing when we woke up, we were to meet at 7:30 AM and have a morning devotional. As we met, and we're all singing together in worship, I realized that I was surrounded by someone from the Netherlands, Canada, Australia, people from the USA, England, South Africa, Switzerland, and many countries that I can't even remember. I was surrounded by all these people from all these different places, and we have all been raised and taught so many different things and values. Add onto that, we



are in the Republic of Congo in Africa – a place where Christianity is not as wide-spread or well understood. Yet, after all these factors that could degrade at our mission, I've never felt so strongly in one common purpose, and in one common goal. We are all here to help those who are hurt and need healing, to give them hope, and to let them know about Jesus. We are all very different, in this different place, with very different views on many different things, yet we all share the same view on the most important



Pastor, Rev. Larry Zabcik (903) 265-2277

BRETHREN JOURNAL

one. I definitely had an awe moment. There is no doubt in my mind that this group of people is not here by chance. Every person here, whether it be a nurse, a doctor, a deck hand, an engineer, a receptionist, etc., is volunteering their time to serve these people, and they are here with the most sincere attitudes. Mercy Ships is truly an amazing organization.

Thursday, October 31, 2013 What is Happiness...Love...Joy...

I've been here 2 months, and I know I've already learned an entirely deeper level of nursing. Nursing that focuses on caring for and loving someone as Jesus would. I try, and I know I fall short every day – but the relationships I gain with my patients, and the care I'm able to provide to them, is what nursing should be. Focusing on the person as a whole. Not only on their specific illness, but their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. At home I worked in a surgical/trauma ICU, and we still have an ICU on the ship – but the acuity of these patients is far less severe, and that has taken a little getting used to. Last night part of my shift was admitting three new patients to our unit, and getting them ready for surgery today. As 'non-ICU' as this is, there is a certain satisfaction in easing their anxiety of this completely new and foreign environment. They have been immersed into a new surrounding, a new language, asked to conform really to a new way of life for a time, and I get the chance to help their passage along.

I've already learned so much from the people that volunteer on this ship. They are such an example of selflessness. They will be the first to admit that they are sinners, and have a long way to go on the path of learning. But, at the same time, they are the first to readily admit their love for Jesus, ask questions, admit their lack of or propensity for knowledge in biblical areas. Everyone is here with the same common goal - that is an understood mission on this ship openly stated right as you walk through the doors. We are all here to serve Jesus first and foremost, for His Glory and His Purpose. To share that mis-



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March 2014/19

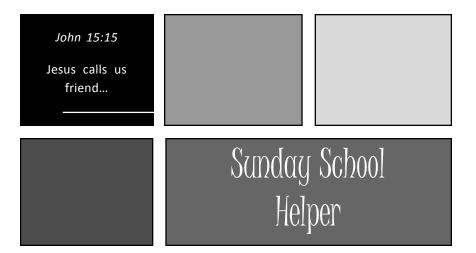
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sion in a workplace is rare, and to see the efficiency of the workflow is unbelievable. I learn from it every day; I only wish I could adequately express it through my words.

I've titled this post 'What is happiness, love, and joy'... I know I'm still learning, but I thought I could share a little of what I've learned. The main goal of what we do here is showing the love of Jesus for the Congolese in the way we live, the way we work, the way we interact, just attempting to be a living, breathing example of Christ – in order that we spread His word and fulfill His mission. Ephesians 2:4-5 says, "But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved." And Ephesians 1:11-12 says, "In Him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of His glory."

God has a plan for each and every single one of us. We, including myself, have to trust in that plan, listen to it. That is exactly what I'm trying to do right now. He has a plan for me, and I'm to follow it, but what is the focus of serving him? 1 Corinthians 13:13, "And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love." That's just it. I'm going to use my nursing skills, I'm going to work, I'm going to volunteer, I'm going to sacrifice, but most importantly, I'm going to love my patients, my coworkers, the Congolese, just as Jesus does. At times I epically fail, but I will continue to try again and again. As I attempt to do this day by day, and those times when I see smiles creep across their faces when they learn they can trust us, I know I've succeeded. Then I feel the happiness... followed by the joy... of the Lord.







My favorite song from the movie Toy Story is "You've Got a Friend in Me." It reminds me of our best friend, Jesus. Just like Andy wrote his name on the bottom of the shoe of his best toy, Jesus writes His name on our hearts. What a beautiful thought. This is something children can relate to directly and get a small glimpse of Christ's amazing love for them. Have them think of their favorite toy. How much they love that toy is nothing compared to how much God loves them!! Just like Andy claimed Woody by writing his name on his boot, Jesus writes His name on our hearts! What a friend, indeed.

20/March 2014

Jesus is my best friend

1. He is our CREATOR. (Read Colossians 1:15-17. Show the class a globe and talk about how big, powerful, incredible, amazing, and huge Jesus must be to have made the world and still be holding it all together!)

2. He is our SAVIOR. (Read John 4:14. Show a wooden cross and review how Jesus died for the world. Place the cross over the globe and talk about how wonderful it was for Jesus todie f or the sins of others.)

3. He is our MASTER. (Read Luke 17:12-14. Show a badge and state that Jesus is the highest authority in the universe. When you see a person with a badge, you feel a sense of his or her power. Jesus not only has power over people, but He also has the incredible power to heal and calm storms – so we owe Him our lives and allegiance. We should live to serve Him.)

4. He is our FRIEND! (Read John 15:14-15. Show a blanket, and explain that it keeps us warm and close, just as Jesus promises to stay close to us, too. In this staggering verse, Jesus says that he no longer calls us servants, but friends! He wants to have a close, personal relationship with us!)

For comments/questions/ information, contact:

Angie Hairrell

Hairrell@gmail.com



Thoughts for Teens

The Friend Factor

Select two boy and two girl volunteers from the class to compete in a game show-style competition.

The audience participates by rooting for their team and guessing who will win. Set up the stage with four chairs, two on each side, and a sign that says "The Friend Factor." Ask each child two questions, one at a time, and have him or her write each answer on a notecard that they give to the emcee. Blindfold their partners and give them three options as to the answer (only one of which is correct). While the blindfolded partner guesses at the correct answer, have the non-blindfolded partner hold up a card with the number 1 or 2 or 3 (the number of the partner's answer) as the emcee reads them. In this way, the entire class can see the correct answer. If the blindfolded partner answers incorrectly, the opposing team gets the opportunity to guess which of the other two answers is correct. Then the emcee reveals the correct answer.

If the team that was up answers correctly, award 100 points. If not, and the opposing team answers correctly, award the opposing team 50 points. Repeat this process for the opposing team, and then switch roles/blindfolds.

Question suggestions:

- 1) My favorite TV show is...
- 2) My favorite candy is...
- 3) If I had \$100, I would buy...
- 4) My best/favorite subject in school is...
- 5) The last book I read was...
- 6) If I could dye my hair, I would pick the color...
- 7) My kindergarten teacher's name was...
- 8) My favorite color is...

(or make up your own!)

22/March 2014

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

Made With Love: Forgiveness Winter Youth Retreat January 4-5, 2014

Forty-nine youth and several adults came together for a weekend of fellowship and spiritual growth. The weekend focused on the spiritual truths that each of us and all others are sinners; that Christ died to set us free from our sins; and that God asks us to forgive others, even when they don't seem to deserve it. We were challenged to "Go, live out God's love."

To live God's love, we have to do our best to follow His Ten Commandments. We have to love God with all our hearts, souls, and minds, and to love others as we love ourselves. If we can do this, we will be following God's perfect 10. Sometimes, though, we fail. We make mistakes. We sin. That's who we are. We are sinners. We are imperfect people made worthy of love by the grace of God through His son Jesus Christ, who died on a cross for us, knowing how imperfect we are. Jesus died for each of us. He died for all of us. He died for our mistakes, and He died for the mistakes of others.

As followers of Christ, we have a joy and a peace that come from knowing God has each of us in His hands and that He loves us and is patiently waiting for us to honor Him with every part of our lives. We have joy and hope that we shouldn't keep to ourselves. It is joy and hope that we should eagerly share with others. "Go," Christ says, "Go teach people to follow me. Be my hands; be my feet."

We have to live out God's love even when it's difficult. We have to



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learn not to hold grudges and to let go of the hurts that hinder us. We have to learn to reach out to those around us, even our enemies, and go above and beyond what is expected and deserved.

My prayer is that each of us, young and aged, would go and live out God's love. I pray that we would see what God sees, in ourselves and others. Open your eyes and see those who are hurting, who are lost, who feel replaceable, and who feel unloved. Go, be God's love to them, offer God's forgiveness to them. Be the joy and spread God's hope. Choose daily to let people see God through you.

Scripture to reference, refresh, or challenge... Exodus 20:1-17; Matthew 22:34-40; Romans 3:23; 5:8; 8:37-39; 1 John 1:8-2:6; 4:7-21; Matthew 5:43-48; 6:14-15; 7:1-6

Seaton Brethren Church

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

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





BRETHREN JOURNAL



YOUTH FISHING RETREAT Port O'Connor, Texas Friday, May 2-Sunday, May 4

Retreat Fee: \$60

This fee includes lodging, food, and all of the supplies for fishing. You are responsible for your food and snacks while traveling, and a salt-water fishing license (ages 17 & older).

Registration Deadline: Friday, April 4th

There are a limited number of spots available. This is a firstcome, first-served retreat! Get your forms turned in as soon as possible. Forms are available at

www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.com

Mail forms, rules, and \$60 registration fee to:

Jennifer Chervenka 9494 Big Elm Creek Road Rogers, TX 76569 (Make checks payable to Unity of the Brethren)

If you would like to be a guide and provide the use of your boat, or provide lodging, or if you have any questions, please contact:

> Jennifer Chervenka, 254-983-1002 jennchervenka@farm-market.net

Mutual Aid Society Scholarship Announcement

The Mutual Aid Society of the Unity of the Brethren is now accepting applications for a Mutual Aid Scholarship. The Mutual Aid Society will award up to \$6,000 in the spring of 2014. Qualified applicants are eligible to receive up to \$3,000, depending on the number of qualified applications received. Scholarship funds are available to high school seniors or undergraduate students who will be attending an accredited university, college, or technical school during

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE

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

THE MUTUAL AID SOCIETY

Rev. Joseph J. Polasek, President Daniel Vojtek, Vice-President Natalie Outlaw, Gen. Secretary Ruth Ann Wuensche, Treasurer Dorothy Hinson, Jr. Dept. Secretary Ann Sebesta, Board Member Rev. James Hejl, Synodical Board the summer or fall of 2014. Scholarship application and requirements can be found on the Unity website at: "http://unityofthebrethren.org/ mutualai.htm"

Application and essay must be postmarked by March 31, 2014, and mailed to:

Rev. Joseph J. Polasek President, Mutual Aid Society P.O. Box 54 Snook, TX 77878

Recipient(s) will be announced on May 1, 2014.

If you would like to donate to the Mutual Aid Scholarship fund, please send checks payable to 'Mutual Aid Scholarship Fund' to: Ruth Ann Wuensche Mutual Aid Society Treasurer 2451 CR 405 Taylor, TX 76574

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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.

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for March 2014

Dorothy E. Kocian

- 1. We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was. Rev. 11:17
- 2. You, O Sovereign Lord, have spoken, and with Your blessing the house of Your servant will be blessed forever. 2 Sam. 7:29b
- 3. They will call Him Emmanuel, which means "God with us." Mt. 1:23
- 4. He will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. Lk. 1:32
- "Here is My servant, whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight. Mt. 12:18a
- "I will put My Spirit on Him, and He will proclaim justice to the nations." Mt. 18B
- 7. In His name the nations will put their hope. Mt. 12:21
- 8. Praise be to the Lord forever! Amen and Amen. Ps. 89:52
- 9. For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. Titus 2:11
- 10. Keep me safe, O God, for in you I take refuge. Ps. 16:1
- 11. Because the Lord is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Ps. 16:8
- Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me in the shadow of Your wings from the wicked who assail me. Ps. 17:8,9
- Because Jesus Himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted. Heb. 2:18
- 14. I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Phil. 3:8
- I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Phil. 3:12
- 16. "God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it." Acts 2:32
- 17. Our citizenship is in heaven, and we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. Phil. 3:20
- 18. You will know that the living God is among you. Josh. 3:10
- Now devote your heart and soul to seeking the Lord your God.
 1 Chron. 22:19a

- 20. Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith. Heb. 10:22
- 21. We all like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way. Isa. 53:6
- 22. He bore the sins of many, and made intercession for their transgressions. Isa. 53:12
- 23. Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise! Rev. 5:12
- 24. Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Ps. 32:1
- 25. Rejoice greatly! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation. Zech. 9:3
- 26. He will proclaim peace to the nations. Zech. 9:10
- 27. In the Lord alone are righteousness and strength. Isa. 45:24
- The Lord says, "I have made you and I will carry you. I will sustain you and I will rescue you." Isa. 46:4
- 29. "As surely as I live," says the Lord, "every knee will bow before me, every tongue will confess to God." Rom. 14:11
- 30. The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life. Jn. 3:14,15
- The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow His precepts have good understanding. Ps. 111:10

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

Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

March 1 – State Children's Rally (age 3-5th grade), 9 a.m.-4 p.m. See flyer in this issue for information.

March 29 – Christian Sisters' Union Convention at the Nelsonville Brethren Church.

April 5, 2014 – Spring 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. 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.

April 11-12 – Camp Planning and Counselor Training at the Hus Encampment – More information to come soon, or contact Program Director, Kayla Marek, at kmarek2012@gmail.com.

April 26, 2014 – Hus School 100th Anniversary Celebration at the Hus Encampment – See article in this issue for more information.

May 5, 2014 – Rev. Henry Beseda, Jr., Memorial Golf Tournament for Missions – Registration forms available online at www.unityofthebrethren.orgcalendar (see article and flyer in this issue for additional information).

Upcoming Dates:

Summer Camps

June 5-7 – Encounter Camp June 8-12 – Alpha Camp June 15-20 – Pioneer Camp June 22-27 – Discovery Camp July 6-25 – Hus School

SAVE THE DATE ...

September 14, 2014 – The congregation at Temple Brethren Church would like for you to mark your calendar as well as the Unity calendar that we will observe the 100th anniversary of the congregation on September 14, 2014. The tentative plans are for morning worship, lunch, and then an afternoon program. Details need to be developed, but just wanted everyone to mark their calendars. Hope to see you then! Grace Labaj President, Board of Elders and congregation

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.

VITAL STATISTICS

MEMBERS RECEIVED

CASEY SCOTT BAIZE and RACHEL RENEE BAIZE from San Angelo, Texas, were welcomed into membership at the Wall Brethren Church, Wall, Texas, on January 19, 2014. They were received by Re-Affirmation of Faith. Minister: Rev. Tommy Tallas.

RECENT BAPTISMS

BAYLEN SCOTT BAIZE, born June 1, 2010, son of Casey and Rachel Baize, received Baptism at the Wall Brethren Church, Wall, Texas, on January 19, 2014. Minister: Rev. Tommy Tallas.

TAYLOR JUNE BAIZE, born January 4, 2004, daughter of Casey and Rachel Baize, received Baptism at the Wall Brethren Church, Wall, Texas, on January 19, 2014. Minister: Rev. Tommy Tallas.

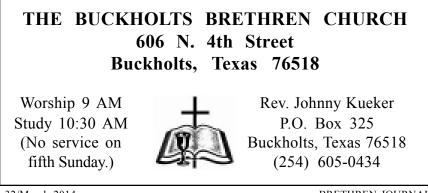
RECENT DEATHS

BESEDA, REVEREND HENRY EARNEST, JR., age 93 and a member of the Cy-Fair Community Church, died on September 16, 2013, in Houston, Texas. He was born on February 17, 1920, in Port Lavaca, Texas, to parents Rev. Henry Earnest Beseda, Sr., and Julie Chernosky Beseda. Rev. Beseda served proudly in the U.S. Navy during World War II as Yeoman 1st Class from 1941 to 1945. He was married on Christmas Eve, December

24, 2005, to Carolyn Filipp Beseda at the Westheimer Community Church, Dedicated to his God, Henry served a total of 17 congregations of the Unity of the Brethren for 62 years. He is survived by his beloved wife, Carolyn Francine Filipp Beseda, and 14 nieces and nephews. His only surviving sister, Mrs. Florine Beseda Mrazek, died on November 25, 2013, who was married to Mr. Jerome Mrazek. Funeral services were held on September 21, 2013, in the Chapel of Forest Park Lawndale Funeral Home in Houston, Texas, followed by internment at Forest Park Cemetery. Dr. Larry Koslovsky and Rev. Joseph Polasek officiated.

COLLINS, PATRICIA (JOHNSON), age 78, and longtime member of the Methodist Church, died January 1, 2014, at Hallettsville, She was born November 10, 1935, at Zavala, Texas, and is survived by two daughters, three grandchildren, one great-grandchild. two brothers, and one sister. Services were on January 11, 2014, from the Vsetin CMB Church. The body was cremated and will be laid to rest at Zavala at a later date. Minister: Mark L. Labai.

KOTRLA, ALBERT, age 90 and a member of the Granger Brethren Church, died December 26, 2013, at Taylor, Texas. He was born July 16, 1923, at Taylor, and married Dorothy Bowles on August 25, 1949. He is survived by his wife, three daughters and their spouses, seven grandchildren and five greatgrandchildren. Services were on December 29, 2013, from the Granger Brethren Church with burial in the Granger Brethren Cemetery, Ministers: Rev. James Heil and Rev. Larry Zabcik.



BRETHREN JOURNAL

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

BRETHREN JOURNAL

Austin – Bible Study at 10:00 AM Worship at 11:00 AM. – Rev. Linda Chandler	Nelsonville – Sunday School at 9:00 AM Nelsonville – Worship at 10:15 AM – Rev. Michael Groseclose	
Bryan-College Station – worship at 9:00 AM every Sunday. – Rev. Mark Sebek	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	
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	Ocker – worship at 10:15 AM every Sunday. Sunday School at 9 AM every Sunday. – Rev. Ron Winsman	
Cade Lake Community Chapel – Sunday School at 11:00 AM; Fellowship Lunch at Noon; Worship at 1:00 PM. – Rev. Jim Heckman	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. – Visiting Ministers	
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	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.	
Christ Covenant Church – Tuesday Evening Bible Study. – Carl Shamel	– Bro. Larry Butcher Seaton –	
Crosby – 9:00 AM: Worship 10:00 AM: Faith Adventure – Dr. Larry Koslovsky	Sunday, 9:15 AM – Prayer Gathering; 9:30 AM – Sunday School, All Ages; 10:30 AM – Worship Celebration Servic Wednesday, 6:30 PM – Kid's NITE Out and Priority ONE Youth (BYF), Adult	
Cy-Fair Community Church – worship at 10:45 AM every Sunday. 1st & 3rd Sundays – Rick Chandler 2nd, 4th, & 5th Sundays – open	Bible Study. – Rev. Denise Mikeska Snook – Sunday School – 9:00 AM;	
Dime Box – worship at 9:00 AM every Sunday.	Worship – 10:15 AM. – Rev. Joseph Polasek	
– Rev. Jim Heckman	Taylor – worship at 10:15 AM every Sunday. – Rev. James Hejl	
Fayetteville – Sunday School at 9:45 AM, worship at 10:45 AM every Sunday. – Rev. Kay Polasek	Temple – Sunday School at 9:30 AM., Worship at 10:45 AM.	
Good News Fellowship Church of West Palm Beaches, a Provisional Church of	Vsetin – Worship at 10:00 AM every	
the Unity of the Brethren – worship at 1:00 PM every Sunday at First Presbyterian Church, Boynton Springs, Florida. – Rev. James Henry	Sunday. – Dr. Mark Labaj 5th Sunday – Visiting Ministers	
Good Shepherd Moravian – worship at 11:30 AM and 6:30 PM every Sunday. – Rev. Adolfo Gonzalez	Wall – Sunday School (for all ages) at 9:30 AM; worship at 10:45 AM every Sunday. – Rev. Thomas Tallas	
Granger – worship services every Sunday at 9:00 AM; Sunday School at 10:15 AM.	Wesley – worship at 9:00 AM every Sunday. Sunday School follows. – Rev. Michael Groseclos	
- Rev. Larry Zabcik Houston - Sunday School at 9:15 AM; Worship at 10:30 AM every Sunday.	West – Sunday School at 9:00 AM and worship at 10:15 AM every Sunday. – Rev. Curtis Holland	
 Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill Industry – worship at 9:00 AM every Sunday with Sunday School for all ages following. Rev. Kay Polasek 	Westheimer Community – 9:30 AM, Christian Education; 10:30 AM, Worship, with Holy Communion every 5th Sunday. – Visiting Ministers	
DETUDEN KUDNAL	Marsh 2014/22	

DIRECTORY OF MISSIONARIES

Carolyn Groseclose NDO P.O. Box 630260 Choma, Zambia e-mail: <u>carolyngroseclose@yahoo.com</u>

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