

THE BRETHREN



JOURNAL



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Members of the Granger Brethren Church at the installation of their Intercessory Prayer Box outside the church (see story in this issue).

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. . . and much, much more!

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President's Column . . . James Marek

Report to the Synodical Committee

During the last weekend in March, I had the opportunity to drive through-
 out Central Texas as I made my way to a de-
 nomination meeting and the Christian Sisters Con-
 vention. As I drove, I could not help but notice
 how spring was moving into full bloom. What may
 have appeared lifeless and dormant just a few weeks
 before was now re-emerging with vivid
 color and clear signs of life.



As I drove, I began to see similari-
 ties between the onset of spring and
 the activity within the denomination.
 After the last Synodical Committee
 meeting in October, we entered winter
 and the holidays, at which time the
 denominational activity slowed. As
 winter faded and spring has emerged,
 activity centered around the busi-
 ness of the denomination is again on
 the rise.

While a number of projects within
 the Unity may start and stop, our
 support for missions must never wane.
 As reported earlier in the *Brethren*
Journal, although our mission giving
 as a denomination may have reached
 record levels last year, we still fell
 short of reaching our combined mis-

sion goal of \$134,000 by more than
 \$35,000. In 2013, 22 congregations
 participated in missions
 support for a combined
 total of over \$66,000; 33
 individuals accounted for
 over \$24,000. Noncongregational orga-
 nizations like the Chris-
 tian Sisters and local Sun-
 day Schools provided
 over \$8,000. Below are a
 few additional statistics related to
 mission giving:

Congregational Giving

\$1-\$500	5
\$501-\$1000	1
\$1001-\$2000	4
\$2001-\$3000	4
\$3001-\$5000	6
over \$5000	2
Total	22

Individual Giving

\$1-\$500	19
\$501-\$1000	8
\$1001-\$2000	1
\$2001-\$3000	2
\$3001-\$5000	3
Total Givers	33

Organizational Giving

\$1-\$500	4
\$501-\$1000	1
\$1001-\$2000	1
\$4500-\$5000	1
Total Givers	7

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While it is encouraging that more people are getting involved in the support of missions, there is still a need for additional mission partners. For those who may be interested in supporting missions on a monthly basis through a bank draft, the authorization form is available on the Unity website. When we started this campaign, we identified the need for 150 units of \$75 per month to fully fund both mission budgets. So far we have approximately 18 units of \$75 coming in on a monthly basis. Monthly drafts for less or more than \$75 are also welcomed and appreciated.

The topic of missions provides a great segue to the Christian Sisters Union. As mentioned earlier, I was able to attend the Christian Sisters Convention held in Nelsonville in late March. While at the convention, I learned that the Christian Sisters not only continue to play a significant role in our mission programs today, but were also one of the first Unity organizations to formally adopt missions as a part of their purpose for existing. According to our Unity history book, the Christian Sisters pioneered the idea of cooperative mission work in the Unity back in the

early '30s. A \$25 donation to missions sent through the Moravian Church was credited as the start of missions for the Christian Sisters Union. Throughout our history, the Christian Sisters Union has made major contributions in the life and work of the Unity. We owe the Christian Sisters a huge debt of gratitude for their faithfulness, service, leadership and example.

From the time that the Christian Sisters was organized until today, they have been staunch supporters of missions, the Hus School Encampment, American Bible Society, and a number of other worthwhile causes. It was an honor to have had the chance to attend their convention, and I am glad I was there to learn something new from these ladies. I encourage all ladies in the Unity to get involved with your local chapter of the Christian Sisters. By doing so, you can be a part of one of the most significant and tenured service organizations in the Unity, and you may just make history like many of the ladies who have gone before you.

One of the new things we are just beginning is the implementation of a time of prayer before each Synodical

Committee meeting. Beginning at the April 2014 meeting, we began a voluntary time of preparatory prayer for the denomination. This time of prayer will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude just before the Synodical Committee meeting begins. Anyone who is interested in participating is welcome to come and engage in silent prayer for the Unity, our leadership, and the church. Our hope is that time of prayer will be beneficial to the decision making processes of the Synodical Committee, and will also be a time of fellowship with God through prayer.

We are fortunate to have the opportunity to license Tim Chaplin as a licensed pastor for the Temple Brethren Church. Our Unity bylaws allow the Synodical Committee to issue 1-year annually renewable licenses to pastors who do not have a college degree and/or have not completed seminary training. Once a pastor is licensed, he or she may serve as a full-time pastor and may administer the sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism in the congregation for which he or she has been licensed. According to our bylaws, only ordained pastors may administer the sacraments anywhere within the denomi-

nation. Rev Jimmy Hejl has been assigned as a mentor to Tim and has been working with Tim over the last six months. Bro. Jimmy has enthusiastically recommended that Tim be licensed. Tim is enrolled at Truett Seminary at Baylor and plans to complete his Masters of Divinity degree within 2 years. We rejoice with Tim, his family, and the Temple congregation as they continue their faith journey together while Tim proceeds towards the completion of his studies and eventual ordination.

The newly formed Website Redesign Committee has begun to meet and is in the process of evaluating needs and resources necessary to overhaul and update the Unity website. Members of the committee are Liz Ripple, Unity Secretary – Fayetteville, Stacy Sebek – Ocker, Rev Vanessa Mitchell – Caldwell, Ben Polasek – Industry, Larry King – Houston, and myself. The committee has met twice already, and plans to meet regularly until the project has been completed. The committee has chosen to focus their initial efforts on updating the information currently on the website as a first step to the redesign process.



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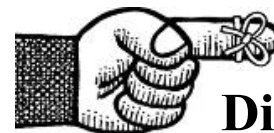
The thought is that the information will need to be up to date regardless of what direction is chosen for the future design and layout. We are reviewing the web hosting companies and have agreed that one of our objectives is to simplify the process of updating the website in the future so that changes can be made quickly and easily. The current website has been in service for almost 15 years. It continues to be a great source of information, but is due for an updated look and feel. Ben Polasek has graciously handled the task of webmaster since the inception of the website, and we are very grateful for Ben's faithful service in this capacity. After almost 15 years, Ben plans to step down as the Unity webmaster and would like to pass the baton to someone else. Ben will leave some big shoes to fill when he steps down as the Unity webmaster, but we will be looking for a person who is willing to be the next Unity webmaster. If you

know of someone who may be a good fit for this position, please let one of the committee members know.

Thanks to the work of the Bylaws Committee, the 2013 Convention, Dawn Marie Baletka, and Liz Ripple, we are in the final stages of making sure all the bylaws changes made at the convention are finalized and reflected in a new document. We expect that the new version of the bylaws will be available very soon on the Unity website at www.unityofthebrethren.org. Special thanks go to Dawn Marie for her tireless work in getting the bylaws ready for Convention, and also to Liz for her work with Dawn Marie in finalizing all of the changes and modifications.

Submitted in the Spirit of
Service to Christ,

James Marek
President



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Church website: www.lifeatcbc.org
Church email: lifeatcbc@gmail.com

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

Welcome

Let's Take a Look at What the By-Laws Say...

- by Liz Ripple

I have been asked to write a few words about what I find interesting in the Unity By-Laws. This column is meant to inspire, encourage, educate, and promote discussion among the Brethren.

I've just come home from the Spring Synodical Committee meeting. One of the topics discussed (again) was the future of *The Brethren Journal*. Among the items discussed were the financial status of the *Journal*, the declining subscription rates, the raise in postage rates, the lack of ads, and the lack of content that is received by the editor.

Let's take a look at what the by-laws say about *The Brethren Journal* – there is mention of a “zealous agent” in “Article II. Congregations, Section O – The congregation shall elect a zealous agent for *The Brethren Journal*, who shall work diligently to gain more subscribers for *The Brethren Journal*.” My dictionary tells me that the word “zealous” is an adjective and the meaning is: feeling or showing strong and energetic sup-

port for a person, cause, etc.; enthusiastic diligence. The word zealous appears only once in the by-laws and can be found in certain versions of the Bible.

Does your church have a zealous agent? While the by-laws say we should elect this one person, there may be several in your church who are zealots for the *Journal*. In order to preserve the future of *The Brethren Journal*, we are going to need many zealous agents. If you have a zealous agent for *The Brethren Journal* in your congregation, encourage them. If you have ideas of articles you would like to see in the *Journal*, tell your zealous agent, contact the editor or anyone on the *Journal's* Business Committee. If you are reading this, you have their contact information (second page).

There was discussion at the meeting to stop printing *The Brethren Journal* and to make available a PDF file of the *Journal*. If you would want to print copies, you or your church would be responsible to see that

done. I personally like my printed copy of *The Brethren Journal*. It fits very nicely on my shelf with all the many copies of *The Brethren Journal* that I have collected for over 20 years. I use it almost daily to find information on contact people, look up history, read old articles and new ones. I would not like to have to print it myself. I use the computer and I do see benefit in electronic versions for doing research. Our webmaster, Ben Polasek, is starting to put some of the older *Brethren Journal* issues on the Unity website (Brethren Journal Archives). Anyone who does research knows what a valuable tool this can be. But there are many of our members who do not use or own a computer, and having our members print

their own copies would also be costly.

A survey of all the members in the Unity – not just the Synodical Committee – is going to be taken soon at all the churches regarding the future of *The Brethren Journal*. Please take the time to take this survey. It will be your opportunity to help decide the future of *The Brethren Journal*.

Stealing a line from something a pastor wrote a few years back in *The Brethren Journal*, and I'm adding my own spin on it... “if the printed version of *The Brethren Journal* is indeed to slip away, I have no intention of letting it do so quietly.” Any other zealous agents out there?

Next time – What should be included when we mention our church?

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Putting Things in Perspective

- by Jim Pokorny

While every Sunday is special, Sunday March 23, 2014, was an extremely special Sunday for me.

It was the third Sunday in Lent, and it was on this day that my class finished its study of *The Labyrinth of the World and the Paradise of the Heart*, by John Amos Comenius.

As you may recall from a previous article, this centuries-old classic by Comenius is told in two parts. In the first part the main character, a pilgrim, examines the world and its occupations and finds the world to be a labyrinth or maze that fails to offer true happiness.

It is in the second part that he encounters Christ and learns that true happiness can only be found in union with Him. Thus, he discovers the paradise of the heart.

As a man of faith, I find there is little that occurs in life that I can ascribe to mere coincidence or chance.

How fitting it was that my class should finish its journey with the pilgrim during the Holy season of Lent. How appropriate it was to be

reminded of the truth that was revealed to Comenius four centuries ago that is still just as relevant today as when he put quill to paper.

"Remain in the world as a pilgrim, a tenant, an alien, and a guest as long as I leave you there. But with Me in My household you have been given the right of heavenly citizenship. Therefore, seek to have your associations here! Constantly lift your mind as high as possible to Me, but incline as low as possible to your neighbor. Make use of earthly things as long as you are on earth, but delight in heavenly things. Be submissive to Me, resistant and recalcitrant to the world and the flesh. Guard within yourself the wisdom I have imparted to you, and outwardly maintain the simplicity I have required of you. Have a vocal heart and a silent tongue. Be sensitive to the miseries of your neighbors, but inured to the wrongs inflicted against yourself. With your soul, serve Me alone, with your body, whomever you can or must. What I command, do; what I lay on you, bear. Be un-

yielding toward the world, ever clinging to Me. Be in the world with your body, but with Me in your heart. Blessed are you if you do these things, and it will be well with you. Depart now, my beloved, and remain in your calling until the end, fully enjoying the comfort I have brought you."

As a class we shared our final thoughts on this study, and with the moments remaining I introduced our next study – *Mere Christianity*, by C. S. Lewis.

God had yet an additional surprise in store for me that same Sunday evening.

An outstanding actor named Philip Smith was invited by our Christian Sisters to perform *The Gospel of God's Love*.

This was Mr. Smith's second visit to us portraying the Apostle Paul as a prisoner bound in chains. In this performance, he recited portions of the Apostle Paul's letters that make up a large part of the New Testament that we know and love today.

As he began his performance, I remembered that Paul had a past. He was once known as Saul of Tarsus

and an avid persecutor of the early church. I then recalled that C. S. Lewis had a bit of a past, as well. Before he became a noted Christian scholar, author, and theologian he was an atheist.

This was a wonderful reminder that God indeed changes lives. Moreover, it was also a reminder that while God does not always call those already equipped, He always equips those that He calls.

He has even been known to equip an amateur writer who initially resisted His call to write.

Yes, this truly was a Sunday in Lent that really helped me put things in a more proper perspective.

This is as it should be, because that is a big part of what the journey of Lent is all about.

Having stated this, it seems only fitting to conclude this article with the same words Comenius used to conclude his classic.

Gloria in exelsis Deo et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis. (Luke 2:14 – Glory to God in the highest and, on earth peace to people of good will.)

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seatonbrethrenchurch@yahoo.com

Rev. Denise Mikeska, Pastor –

sbcpastordenise@yahoo.com

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Prayer Box Installed at Granger Brethren Church



On Sunday, March 30, the Granger Brethren Church congregation gathered around their new prayer box, which was designed and assembled by Board of Elders President Claren Kotrla. Claren also installed the support post with the able assistance of Angie Malicoat, another member of the congregation.

Hopefully and prayerfully, the residents of the Granger area will use this box to drop off requests for prayer. We certainly have the honor and privilege of going directly to God in prayer; however, there are those times when we each feel the need, the desire, to know that someone else is joining with us in prayer for whatever the specific need(s) may be. This is called intercessory prayer. In the Old Testament book of Numbers, there is an incident involving Aaron, the priest, and the fire of God. Aaron provides a vivid picture of the intercessor. You

may find this passage of scripture at Numbers 16:44-49.

The congregation's pastor, Rev. Larry Zabcik, will be the only one to open the box, which is locked. Paper and pen are available as well as a solar night light. Your requests may certainly be anonymous; however, if you desire followup from the pastor, please provide your name, phone number, and/or email address.

In his book entitled, *The Lost Art of Intercession*, author James W. Goll states, "Prayer is the backbone of the Church," and "Prayer is where everything begins and ends in the realm of the spirit. It is where everything is accomplished." The members of the Granger Brethren Church echo his sentiments and add a hearty, "Amen!"

The Granger Brethren Church is located at 306 West Broadway. Worship services are held on Sunday morning at 9 a.m.

Revival Services Held at Granger Brethren Church

This is the Rev. Mark Sebek speaking at the first night of revival services held at the Granger Brethren Church on Sunday, March 30, 2014. Bro. Mark's sermon was entitled "King of Glory," and on the evening of the 31st, the subject matter was "Examine Jesus for Yourself." Both messages were very powerful!

Jon Farrow and Valeria Miller from the Temple Brethren Church also came and sang two special songs each evening, as well as Jon leading the singing and Valeria playing the piano! What blessings were received and imparted to all in attendance! Plans will soon be made for more revival services to be held this fall.

From the gospel of John 4:35b, we are told, "*Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.*"



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Secretary
Johnie Smith
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Fayetteville Brethren Takes Easter bags to Cade Lake



*Pictured: Jerry Dove, Ann & Milton Heintschel, Martha Dove, Joe Ripple, Betty Yoakum and Kathy Voshalike.
Not pictured – Liz Ripple.*

Several members of the Sunday School class at Fayetteville Brethren Church gathered to make 31 Easter goodie bags for the children at Cade Lake. Then on Sunday, April 13, several members along with their pastor – Rev. Kay Polasek – traveled to Cade Lake and joined in the worship service.

This is the second year that Fayetteville has taken Easter bags to Cade Lake, much to the delight of the children. They also bring Christmas

gift bags for the children. Cade Lake is one of several home missions that is supported by Fayetteville.

The Christian Sisters Society at Fayetteville also financially support the local food pantry, the area hospital, American Legion, Combined Community Action, and Meals on Wheels, along with holding a food drive for the local pantry and also for “In God’s Hands Ministry.” Martha Dove serves as a member on the Unity Home Missions Board.

In Christ’s Love . . . from the Mission Field

Coming back from the printing shop there was a sense of relief in my step. March 11 marked the day we finished our Discipleship Training book for our D people. It contains 10 basic stories for new believers and the best practiced principles for church planting movements. It felt like a crowning achievement for some of the work we had been a part of over the last two years. The following days we trained our fledging church how to use these materials. We also prepared our teammates for the months ahead while we would be gone. Early the next week we packed our five bags and stepped into a taxi heading towards the airport. It felt like the beginning of a new adventure...

Our first stop was the capital city, where we did our original Chinese language study. We connected with

old friends and met new ones. Most importantly we processed a 3-month Thailand visa for our travel needs.

The next week we headed north to Chengdu, a mega city, where we attended a spiritual renewal conference. Our desire was to experience the Lord in deeper ways. Through His grace I feel this was a milestone in our spiritual walk, not only for us, but for our kids as well. An image that was impressed on me was new joy from the Lord bursting forth from the depths. This was like the releasing of water from the depth of the seas during the time of Noah and the flood.

At the end of March we arrived in Thailand to attend several meetings. Caroline is involved in our field counsel and annual conference planning. The same week Michael helped another field conference by leading a



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child/youth program. Only this week have we been able to relax, reflect, and pay attention to the fact that our baby girl is coming!

We plan to stay at our conference center and help out wherever is needed until May. At that time we will move to a retreat center while Michael's parents will brave a trip to visit us. Needless to say, these are all life-changing experiences happening before us.

As we wait for the birth of our new child, we are reminded of the D church in China. May and Stephen attended a training in a neighboring country teaching similar church reproducing principles. We have heard they are very encouraged to continue the work towards church multiplication. We hope that another meeting place(s) will be birthed while we are away, that the church will continue to go out and share in love, that people will come to faith and then come together as churches. We challenge you to continue to pray with us for new life and new joy among our people group.

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

Missionary Spotlight:

Robert and Anne Thiessen: Life, Ministry & Vision

In 1998 the Unity Foreign Mission Board became acquainted with the Thiessens and their work through the Board of World Missions of the Moravian Church. Since, the Unity has given them financial and prayerful support as well as visits to their work in Southern Mexico. Some of you may recognize them because they have been to a number of the Brethren Churches and the Unity conventions. Here is the story of their life and work, written by Robert.

Background

Robert grew up in southern Ontario, left church-related life early, and God broke through to him a couple years into a construction job after dropping out of engineering. He went back to his Mennonite Brethren church, searching for God's purpose for his life. Robert worked alongside United Church youth ministries and was "ripe" for missions when an opportunity

arose to live in Honduras and learn all about church planting movements in 1987.

Anne grew up in Honduras, surrounded by this CPM that her father had helped pioneer. After university and a few years helping Nicaraguan refugees, she experienced an awakening to the great needs of the "unreached" around the world, and the need for the non-Western church to participate in missions. She began presenting weekend seminars throughout the churches of Honduras while supporting herself as a bilingual teacher.

Robert and Anne met at one of these weekends, and after several turns and many months later, they were engaged, and committed to a life-long mission of working alongside the Latin church in going to the unreached.

Even though most of the unreached are in the 10-40 Window, they became aware that in southern Mexico, just a thousand kilometers south of the US border, hundreds and thousands of indigenous villages remained without any Gospel witness. There were more than 50 distinct groups of pre-Columbian natives speaking their own

languages, necessitating close to 300 translations of the New Testament. Robert and Anne began incarnational ministry among the Mixtecs of Metlatonoc, about seven hours up in the mountains from Acapulco, in 1992. For five years they migrated between this area and northern Mexico, accompanying the Mixtecs in their seasonal labour in the extensive tomato fields of Culiacan. They concentrated on learning the tonal language and the complex world view of these mostly monolingual and distrusting people. They were building relationships and finding ways to share of the goodness of God, His respect for each people group, and the freedom from fear that Christ can bring.

In the subsequent years, they lived with their family (RuthE in 1995, Philip in 1997) in two market centers for the Mixtec people, encouraging the gathering together of believers, indigenous church forms, and helping the Latin church make efforts to reach out to the marginalized indigenous people all around them.

In 2004 the family moved to Oaxaca City, where the kids could attend an American system school and Anne



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began teaching English literature and writing. Robert continues to visit and mentor among the Mixtec and Latin leaders, while developing relationships with church leaders in this much larger center of indigenous people and missions. He mentors and teaches existing leaders and missionaries and apprentices new missionaries, while also being involved in church plants in the city (a new culture for the Thiessen's to learn and adapt to). Anne is integrally involved in many of these activities, too.

Ministry

As the Thiessens lived among the Mixtec people, and then with the Latins, a ministry of missiological mentoring developed. Their contact with leaders, both indigenous Latin and North American, taught them much about the interplay between traditional models of church and the starkly different reality of indigenous people. Applying their own experience and the best practice thinking of current mission leaders, they help local ministries refine their approach to reaching the animistic people of Mexico and beyond. While still involved them-

selves in work among the Mixtecs of Metlatonoc and church planting in Oaxaca City, they are able to help build the capacity of missions endeavors of many types aimed not only at the indigenous of Mexico, but the urban masses and the unreached of the classic 10-40 Window. An important addition is the direct apprenticeship of missionary candidates who come to Mexico looking for a complete preparation into incarnational cross-cultural missions.

In 2013 RuthE graduated and has entered University in Canada near family. Phillip is still in school in Oaxaca City.

Robert and Anne have mentored many missionaries. Among them were Jill Miller and Phil and Eunice Raiford.

Let us support them financially and prayerfully as they minister to the Mixtecs in Jesus' name and for God's Glory. Our support is not the only support, but is substantial for them. May God use their ministry to enrich many more lives.

(Last three concluding paragraphs by Rev. Lawrence JuneK.)

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Worship 9 AM
Study 10:30 AM
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fifth Sunday.)



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

*Sing the praises of the
Lord, you His faithful
people; praise His holy
name.*

Psalms 30:4

Sunday School Helper



Sunday School songs are a mainstay of Sunday mornings. As Sunday School teachers, we sing the familiar songs such as Jesus Loves Me and The B-I-B-L-E. As parents, we also sing these songs as we rock our babies to sleep or in the car as we travel from school. These songs are powerful. They engrain Biblical truth almost effortlessly. They also help children remember Bible stories. For the next few months we will explore common Sunday School songs and Bible lessons and crafts to accompany them.

Zaccheus

SING:

*Zaccheus was a wee little man
And a wee little man was he.
He climbed up in a sycamore tree
For the Lord he wanted to see.*

*And as the Savior came that way
He looked up in the tree.
And He said, "Zaccheus, you come down from there"
For I'm going to your house today,
For I'm going to your house today.*

YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkd-QFD7vMA>

TELL the story of Zaccheus from the Bible: Luke 19: 2-10. *The Beginners Bible* is an excellent resource to tell the story to young children. You could also use this video of the story: <http://vimeo.com/57088533>

PLAY musical chairs. Place chairs (or carpet squares, pieces of paper, or whatever you are using to mark "spots") in a circle, using one less than the number of players. Play music and have the children walk around the circle, when the music stops, they must sit down on a spot as fast as they can. Continue playing until only one player remains. Possible questions for discussion after the game include, What did it feel like to be the last person playing? What did it feel like to be "out"? What does it mean to leave someone out? Have you ever not included someone on purpose? Have you ever been the one excluded? How does Jesus want us to treat one another? Who was Jesus especially good at including?

For
comments/questions/
information, contact:

Angie Hairrell

Hairrell@gmail.com



The Call of Zaccheus

Such a familiar story is easy to dismiss. However, there are some subtle points that teens can discern and apply to their lives.

Setting: Note that this story of Zacchaeus occurs as Jesus has set His eyes toward Jerusalem and has told the disciples all that will occur there (Luke 18:31-34). Not understanding but willing to follow, the disciples go with Him toward Jericho.

Outside of the city gates, Jesus meets a blind beggar and heals him. Certainly, word of this travels fast even without cell phones!

vv. 1-2: Jesus is passing through Jericho on his final trip to Jerusalem. Zacchaeus lived there; he was a tax collector. Rome controlled a vast group of countries they had taken over. Heavy taxes were levied to keep the government ruling. Roman officials would appoint local people to collect these taxes and set an amount. The appointees would then tell the citizens how much to pay. Jews despised the taxes and the tax collectors as the money went to support a government they saw as ungodly, and when the tax collectors were some of their own Jewish kin, they felt great hatred for them. Zacchaeus was a "chief tax collector", probably indicating that he was over a district with other tax collectors reporting to him... and giving him a cut of the profits. He was a wealthy man.

vv. 3-4: Obviously Zacchaeus had heard of Jesus and was anxious to see him. A couple of things stood in the way: huge crowds and his short stature. Neither of these hindrances stopped him... He ran (unusual for a wealthy man in the Middle East to do) and climbed a tree (surely undignified for his position in the Roman community). A sycamore tree was an evergreen that could grow to a height of 40 feet.

vv. 5-6: It appears that Jesus knew Zacchaeus. Had others talked about him? Did some of the crowd point and call his name? Or was this a divine appointment? When Jesus looked up into the tree and called his name, He told Zacchaeus, "I must stay at your house today" – the term "must" indicating a divine necessity or plan.

vv. 7-8: When the crowd began to "mutter," consider this as complaining. Perhaps there was outright disbelief that one who called God "Father" would also go to dine with such a sinner. Zacchaeus heard these complaints; he knew what he had done wrong. The attention of Jesus seems to have caused him to look at himself. Zacchaeus declared he would give half of all he owned to the poor, and for those he had cheated, he would repay four times the amount. The Mosaic law was clear: a thief had to restore what he took plus 1/5 (Lev. 6:1-7). If something was stolen that couldn't be restored (for example, a sheep that was eaten or sold), the thief had to repay four times the value (Ex. 22:1). Zacchaeus didn't try to avoid the law – he exceeded it by repaying more.

vv. 9-10: The response of Jesus, "Today salvation has come to this house," was not affirmed because Zacchaeus gave money to the poor. Salvation came because Zacchaeus had a change of heart and life. The call of Jesus was answered with a new man in Zacchaeus. The phrase "this man, too, is a son of Abraham" is for the crowd. Jesus is reaffirming Zacchaeus' place in the Jewish community. And Jesus reiterates his mission: "The son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

May 2-4 – State Youth Fishing Retreat, Port O'Connor, TX – Retreat fee of \$60 includes lodging, food, and fishing supplies. Fishing license required for 17 years old and older. Registration deadline is Friday, April 4. Registration forms available at www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.com. See flyer in this issue for additional information, or contact Jennifer Chervenka at jennchervenka@farm-market.net or (254) 983-1002.

May 4 – 25th Fried Chicken Fund Raiser for Industry Brethren Church – at the Industry Firemen's Hall (16632 Fordtran Blvd., Industry, TX). Eat there or plates to go. Serving 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Auction at noon. Desserts available, country store, and raffle items.

May 5, 2014 – Rev. Henry Beseda, Jr., Memorial Golf Tournament for Missions – Faith Bridge Ranch Golf Club in Monaville, TX. Four-man scramble. Registration at 9 a.m., tee-off at 10:30 a.m. Cost is \$80 per golfer, which includes 18 holes of golf, cart, meal, drinks, and chance to win prizes. Deadline for golfer names to be turned in is April 23, 2013. Registration forms available on the Unity website, or call Rev. Michael Groseclose at (979) 865-3026.

May 15-17 – Maintenance work at the Cade Lake Community Church in Caldwell. Lodging will be available for overnight workers at the Hus Encampment. Please contact Bro. Jim Heckman with how many will be able to help and whether or not they will be using the camp for lodging. Phone (979) 200-0513 or email: brotherjim@cadelakechapel.com

June 22 – Fayetteville Brethren Church 16th Annual Celebration – Ellinger Chamber of Commerce hall. Worship is at 10:45 at the church. Starting at 10:30 a.m. at the Ellinger C of C hall: Meal of turkey, ham, and dressing – eat there or plates to go – bake sale, country store, musical entertainment by Kovanda's Czech Band, and at 1 p.m. a live auction. Proceeds benefit the Building Fund. The Christian Sisters will have a silent auction to benefit Unity of the Brethren programs and local charities. For more info, contact Joe Ripple at (979) 378-2239.

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.*

Summer Camps

June 12-14 – Encounter Camp
June 22-27 – Discovery Camp
July 6-25 – Hus School

June 15-20 – Pioneer Camp
June 29-July 3 – Alpha Camp
July 26-27 – BYF Convention & Volleyball Tournament

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.



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Unity of the Brethren 2014 Summer Camping Program

Information Form



2014 Schedule

Encounter Camp (ages 7&8)

June 12-14 (Thurs 4 PM to Sat 1PM)

Deadline / Registration Fee

By 4/15 - \$200; By 5/1 - \$250;

By 5/15 - \$275

Directors: Vernell LabAJ, Peggy Hejl

Alpha Camp (ages 9&10)

June 29-July 3 (Sun 3 PM to Thurs 2 PM)

Deadline / Registration Fee

By 4/15 - \$300; By 5/1 - \$350;

By 5/15 - \$375

Directors: John Paul & Jennifer

Chervenka, Taylor Brinkley

Pioneer Conference (ages 11&12)

June 15-20 (Sun 3 PM to Fri 2 PM)

Deadline / Registration Fee

By 4/15 - \$300; By 5/1 - \$350;

By 5/15 - \$375

Directors: Don & Laurie Bagby,

Jon & Gayle Farrow

Discovery Conference (ages 13-15)

June 22-27 (Sun 3 PM to Fri 2 PM)

Deadline / Registration Fee

By 4/15 - \$300; By 5/1 - \$350;

By 5/15 - \$375

Directors: Amy Snelgrove, Mark Olsen,

Rebecca Gibbs, Steve Gleinser

Hus School (ages 16-High School Senior)

July 6-25 (Sun 3 PM to Thurs 2PM)

Deadline / Registration Fee

By 4/15 - \$600; By 5/1 - \$650;

By 5/15 - \$675

Director: Jennifer Chervenka

Questions or Comments? Contact Kayla Marek, Camp Programmer
(512) 944-2619 or kmarek2012@gmail.com

Brethren Book Store

P.O. Box 321

Caldwell, TX 77836

(979) 200-0513

Diane Heckman, Manager

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for May 2014

Dorothy E. Kocian

1. Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only. Mt. 4:10
2. For the Lord is good, and His love endures forever. Ps. 100:5
3. Do not put the Lord your God to the test. Mt. 4:7
4. **Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Mt. 4:4**
5. Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him. Col. 2:6
6. Seek the Lord and His strength; seek His presence continually. Ps. 105:4
7. This is the victory that conquers the world – our faith. 1 Jn. 5:4
8. The Lord shall overcome because He is Lord of lords and King of kings. Rev. 17:14
9. He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Ps. 23:3
10. Once made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him. Heb. 5:9
11. **Jesus said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor." Lk. 4:18**
12. Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Ps. 139:23
13. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Ps. 51:10
14. Revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You. Ps. 85:6
15. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for they will be filled. Mt. 5:10
16. Blessed are those who maintain justice, who constantly do what is right. Ps. 106:3
17. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. 1 Tim. 6:11
18. **"These people honor Me with their life, but their hearts are far from Me." Mt. 15:8**
19. Stop doing wrong; learn to do right! Isa 1:16
20. Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Isa. 1:17
21. Jesus said, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice, for I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." Mt. 9:13
22. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love. Eph. 5:1,2
23. Godliness with contentment is great gain. 1 Tim. 6:6
24. I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings. Hosea 6:6
25. **Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Mk. 12:30**
26. Love your neighbor as yourself. Lev. 19:18
27. This is what the Lord Almighty says: Give careful thought to your ways." Haggai 1:5
28. "I am with you," declares the Lord. Haggai 1:13
29. We will serve the Lord because He is our God. Josh. 24:18
30. I am the Lord your God. You will acknowledge no other God but me, no Savior except me. Hosea 13:14
31. Fear the Lord and serve Him with faithfulness. Joshua 24:14

VITAL STATISTICS

MEMBERS RECEIVED

BY TRANSFER OR PROFESSION OF FAITH:

TIM and KELLIE CHAPLIN were received into the membership of Temple Brethren Church by reaffirmation of faith on April 6, 2014. Board of Elders Temple Brethren Church.

RECENT BAPTISMS

CARSON BODE OWENS, son of Corey Justin Owens and Shauna Simcik Owens, born October 26, 2013, was baptized March 30, 2014. Sponsors: Bryan and Brityn Black. Grandparents: Peggy Lynn Black, Penni Dempsey Owens, Rusty Bode Owens. Great-Grandparents: Margaret Black, Buck and Jan Owens, and Nell Dempsey. Ken Michalik held the Baptismal Cup and represented the church. Minister: Rev. Tommy Tallas.

RECENT WEDDINGS

VALERIA PITTMAN was united in Holy Matrimony to TERRY MILLER on March 15, 2014, in an outdoor setting, under God's big, beautiful, blue sky in southwestern Milam County. They will reside in Belton, Texas. Minister: Rev. Larry Zabcik.

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE

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

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d_kubala@yahoo.com

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delandcarolmiller@verizon.net

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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.

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rdusekdds@aol.com

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rogerhr@swbell.net

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

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Dewyan Weise – Wall – Unity Treasurer and Synodical

Committee Liaison – 325-651-8550, hdweise@zipnet.us

Alan Tomasek – 512-859-2197, amtomasek@thegateway.net

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Phil & Eunice Raiford

Pastor Pavel & Stana Kozak

Carolyn Groseclose

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 Sundays – Rick Chandler

2nd, 4th, & 5th Sundays – open

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.

– Visiting Ministers

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.

– Pastor Tim Chaplin

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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