

THE BRETHREN



JOURNAL



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*"New Fields" Missions Team working together in Mexico.
L to R: Harold & Ofelia with children Alexis & Antonio;
Robert & Anne Thiessen; Phil & Eunice Raiford; Doug & Sarai
(see story in "In Christ's Love," inside this issue)*

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In Christ's Love

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. . . and much more!

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President's Column . . . James Marek

Fulfilling Our Purpose at Christmas

When I was growing up in the '60's and '70's it was fairly common to hear people, especially those in the hippie generation, contemplating such things as "what is the meaning of life?" They would say things like "I need to find out who I am" or "I am getting in touch with my inner self." At the time,



such things seemed like silly and senseless babble. As I have grown older, I have come to believe these were all attempts to find purpose in life. Even before the 1960's, and certainly since that time, people have continued to undertake the quest to find the meaning and purpose of life.

As Christians, we need not look any further than Scripture to find both God's reason for existence and ours, as well as how these two purposes intersect (some examples include 1 Peter 4:11, Isaiah 42:8, John 11:4, Isaiah 43:21, Ecclesiastes 3:14, Ephesians 2:10). In John Piper's book called "*Desiring God*", Piper makes a

compelling, scripturally supported argument that God exists to be praised.

Conversely, we are created to praise God and bring glory to Him. I would recommend this book to any and all Christians. It certainly changed my view of God and the role of believers.

As we travel through this journey we call life, it is easy to forget that life is not all about us, contrary to what the world tells us. We can easily slip into the misconception that the Christian's ultimate goal is to go to heaven and that we are successful if we just make it there at the end of this life. It is important, however, to remember that the root word for Christian is, of course, Christ, and we are called to lives that emulate the life Christ lived. If heaven was the sole goal of Christ, He would just have stayed in heaven. He would have never given up all He had in heaven to come to rescue us. Christ's mission and purpose was to



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be obedient to God and to bring God praise and glory. Through Christ's incredible love, obedience, and sacrifice, God was glorified and we gained adoption into God's family. This miraculous adoption made us not just as children of God, but also co-heirs with Christ. As children of God, we are destined to live with God forever in eternity – not because of what we have done, but because of what has been done for us.

Jesus demonstrated humility, love, and selflessness that brought glory to God in His life on earth. As we journey through this Christmas season, may we use this wonderful time of the year to not only remember the Christmas story of Jesus coming to earth as baby, but also what Jesus' ultimate purpose was – to bring glory to God. For this reason we, too, should also seek to glorify God through, love, sacrifice, and humility.

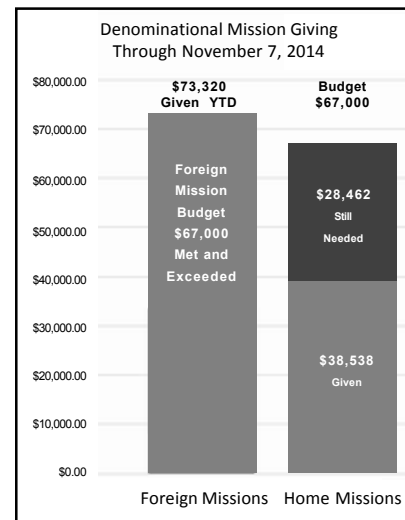
Most of us think of presents when we think of Christmas. The majority of Christmas presents come with a Christmas gift tag or card. Customarily, these gift tags contain the name of the person for whom the gift is intended as well as the name of the giver. We typically want to know who gave the gift so that we can thank the person, and in most cases we want to reciprocate sometime in the future. Christmas is a wonderful time to experience the joy of giving, but also the pleasure of giving glory to God. Here's what I mean. This Christmas, consider giving at least some of your gifts, anonymously or even by signing God's name on a card or gift tag. By giving in

secret so that the receiver has no idea from whom the gift comes, the recipient is more likely to thank God and give Him glory and praise. Think about it. When you are blessed and there is no one to whom you can specifically attribute the blessing, what do you normally do? Aren't we all likely to direct our thanks and gratitude toward God? After all, isn't it actually God who gives all good things anyway?

Obviously, there are many people who could use some help, and Christmas time is a wonderful time to direct more people's thoughts and praise toward God through secretive giving. Secretive or anonymous giving can provide a wonderful sense of joy, humility, and gratefulness to both the giver and receiver anytime, but especially at Christmas. Giving with the specific intention to glorify God by eliminating the possibility of receiving thanks or praise for ourselves can be a great way to direct attention and praise to God.

In Acts 20:35, Paul says that Jesus Himself said that is it more blessed to give than to receive. In Matthew 24:15 Jesus also said, "Let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

May this Christmas be a very special and blessed Christmas for you and your family, not because of what you receive, but what you give that inspires others to praise God for His incredible love and mercy. May God use you this Christmas to communicate His love to others secretly so that He may receive the glory.



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Giving and Stewardship Corner

The Giving and Stewardship Corner is a small way of reminding us what the Bible has to say about giving and stewardship. Generosity is not only an act of worship, but an expression of our gratitude to God, our Father and provider. Giving is also a spiritual discipline that promotes spiritual development and maturity. What is God prompting your heart to give?

Deuteronomy 14:22

"You shall tithe all the yield of your seed, which comes forth from the field year by year."

II Corinthians 9:7

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

"Find out how much God has given you and from it take what you need; the remainder is needed by others." St. Augustine 354-430

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Write On

- by Jim Pokorny

To say that 2014 has been an eventful year for me is an understatement.

As I write this in late October, my coworkers and I are very near the completion of the purchase of our small and successful company. The buyer is a very large firm that has over 4,000 employees in offices around the globe.

We were first told about this in November 2013 when the projected turnover date was only a month away. Now, almost a full year later, the transaction is still not quite final. Thankfully, we are now merely days away from this becoming a reality.

People, as a rule, do not like change. We tend to like things well enough the way they are (especially when one has been doing this for over 23 years), and we don't particularly care for things beyond our realm of control rattling our cages. When the announcement came down to people at my level, I knew that I had a great deal of praying to do.

These were not prayers to alleviate fear. Rather, they were prayers for guidance in weathering the winds of change. I did not realize at the time that these winds would blow for almost an entire year. As I prayed, several things were imprinted on my heart very early on. These impressions have proven to play pivotal roles in my life and, at least to some extent, the lives of my friends.

The most prominent of these impressions was a reminder to keep God first. This meant pursuing my ministries regardless of what else vied for their time and attention. This was particularly true where my writing was concerned. I knew that this would be by far the easiest thing for me to discontinue. All I would have to do is simply promise myself that I would return to it later when things settled down. Experience from a group website taught me that very often when people requested leaves of absence from this sort of ministry they very seldom



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returned to it. Do not mistake this for criticism, because it is certainly not intended in that way. Human nature simply makes a ministry such as this far easier to set down than pick up again later.

The second of these impressions was to steer clear of another pitfall of human nature. People seem to have an almost innate tendency to dream up completely irrational fears which, in all probability, rarely come to pass. I found that helping others cope with their fears and anxieties was an excellent means of avoiding this trap. Focusing on their concerns rather than imagining my own allowed me to keep an objective point of view as the process labored on.

The third was to face the prospect that some people I have worked with for a very long time would not make the transition. This proved to be far more important than I realized at the time. I had no way of knowing that a good friend and mentor would pass away during that year. If I am to be completely honest, I must admit to reminding God that this was certainly not a good time for me to lose such a

friend. Now, in hindsight, I can see that it is altogether possible that God used this event along with other circumstances for my personal growth. Perhaps it was now my turn to fill that role for someone else.

The fourth was to always keep at hand what I fondly refer to as my “go to” verse. It is one that I have leaned on successfully many times in the past, and I knew only too well that I would have to do so time and again as circumstances dictated.

Philippians 4:13 (NET) – I am able to do all things through the One who strengthens me.

In August I found out just how true this was when I was asked to participate in a conference call with members of the new firm’s management. They had the responsibility of overseeing both the purchase and the ensuing transition. It is important to note that I was not forewarned of my involvement in this call. It is also important to note that these managers had never met me during any negotiations to date. When my Vice President introduced me, the conference call came to a complete and

sudden halt. Looking back, it was almost comical to hear them suddenly rifling through documents as they looked for some elusive clue as to just who I was and why my position warranted their time. That verse got me through that call successfully. So much so that I also credit it to my being added to the acquisition team two days later.

As I write this, the preparation and the waiting are all but complete. There are still a great many changes and unknowns that lie ahead, but I can say that thus far I have been able to stay the course both professionally and in matters of faith. While I am still under instruction not to divulge certain details, I can say that I have been officially offered both future employment and a new title once the ink is dry. I am also quite happy to add that I have accepted both and look forward to new challenges which lie ahead.

Above all else, I must stress that God has provided me with a tremendous amount of support over the course of the last year. This is especially true where my writing is concerned, and particularly so in the

autumn when things began to accelerate rapidly. He has done this through some very special people when the temptation to temporarily set that ministry aside might have become quite alluring. I would like to share some of those special people and moments with you.

One example of His support came when the Temple Brethren Church celebrated their Centennial. My friend Bill invited me to accompany him to this celebration in September after our church service in Taylor was complete.

When we arrived the meal was being served. After the meal, I spotted Mr. Hejl in the room. It was my great pleasure to take some photographs when we celebrated his 100th birthday. I went over to his table and sat down with him. He was most congenial and we spoke for several minutes. His comments about my writing were very uplifting. I will remember this visit with him always.

Please understand that I did not attend this celebration in order to get compliments. Still, several people in



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tbc@hot.rr.com

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Worship: 10:45 a.m.

Tim Chaplin, Interim Pastor
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attendance were able to make the connection between my name tag and *The Brethren Journal*, and I thoroughly enjoyed my time with them. I cannot begin to describe just how warm and encouraging these people were. In fact, that was one of the things that Bill and I spoke about on the drive back to Taylor. I remember joking with him that if my math was correct I still had a few minutes left of my 15 minutes of fame.

Another instance occurred one Sunday just as I finished my duties at church. As I stepped outside I noticed there were still a few people visiting in the parking lot. A very special member of my church family was seated in her vehicle patiently waiting for her family.

I saw this as a great opportunity for me to walk over and spend some time with her. To my great surprise God reversed our roles, and it was she who greatly encouraged me instead. Upon my arrival she immediately asked if I was continuing to write. I told her that I was. She then asked me if I knew who else liked to write. I wondered where she could possibly be going with that. She quickly brought me

back down to earth when she reminded me that John Boy of television's *The Waltons* wanted to be a writer. At that moment I realized that I had just been given one of the finest compliments I would ever receive. It is certainly one that I will always treasure.

Then there was the time I saw another special member of my church family seated in the narthex waiting for her daughter. I offered her my company until her daughter arrived. This wonderful lady also complimented my writing, and followed that up with something I will never forget. She said that she remembered teaching me in Sunday School many years ago. She paused and then added, "I never would have thought that you would have turned out like this." I still smile every time I think about that.

Finally, in early October, things at work reached a fever pitch. This coincided with our church Barbecue Supper and Fall Festival. My role was to take family portraits as part of the festival activities. When there was a lull I decided to pick up a "to go" plate and return to the festival with it. As I waited in the serving line I was very surprised to see someone I have

only had the pleasure of meeting twice. The last time was when we hosted the church convention. Although our meetings were few, I held him in very high regard. I waved to him, but there was far too much traffic in the hallway for him to see me.

After I ate I returned to the hall. I simply had to find out if he was still there. Fortunately for me, he was.

I approached him fully intending to start the conversation with, "You probably don't remember me..." Instead, to my great surprise, something really wonderful happened.

He stood up, called me by name and shook my hand. Before I could say anything, he told me that he felt like we've been friends for years just from my articles. We only had an opportunity to visit for a few minutes as I needed to return to my duties. Had it not been for that I would have enjoyed nothing more than to visit with him for the remainder of the evening. As I prepared to leave him, his parting words to me were an encouragement to continue writing.

These are but a few examples of the special people God placed along my path that encouraged me when, in His wisdom, He knew I needed it most. I will certainly try to pay that kindness forward.

That is as it should be.

Proverbs 27:17 (NET) – As iron sharpens iron, so a person sharpens his friend.

I know that this is going to sound strange, but reflecting upon encouragement from friends brought to mind Wyatt Earp.

Wyatt Earp and his brothers, Virgil and Morgan, along with Doc Holliday found themselves at odds with Ike and Billy Clanton, Frank and Tom McLaury, and Billy Claiborne in the town of Tombstone in the Arizona Territory. This confrontation came to a head on October 26, 1881. This clash is cemented in Western lore as "The Gunfight at the O.K. Corral." There have been a great many books written as well as a number of movies made about this event and its participants.

Although Morgan Earp was the Assistant Town Marshall, it was the temporary Deputies Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday that became the most renowned of the participants.

In his later years Wyatt Earp settled in Los Angeles, California.

In the silent film era a great many Westerns were made, and Earp was hired as a technical adviser.

It was on the movie set that Earp met a young actor who starred as an extra in several of these films. Earp would often encourage that young actor and regale him with stories of the "Old West". In return, that young actor would fetch Mr. Earp's coffee.

That relationship developed into a genuine friendship.

That young actor would later go on to say that his portrayal of cowboys and Western lawmen was largely based on those conversations he had with Wyatt Earp.

That young actor's name was Marion Morrison. You probably remember him better by his professional name, John Wayne.

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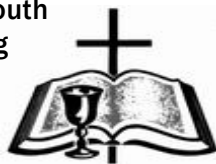
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Seaton Brethren Brotherhood Annual Ladies Night Event



Seaton Brethren Church Men's Brotherhood monthly meetings typically begin with a meal and include a spiritual growth program and a business meeting. The group prepares breakfast for the church on Easter Sunday, sponsors a church-wide tractor drive and the festive annual Ladies Night event. The Brotherhood is very active in supporting ministries and various projects of SBC.



The Brotherhood-sponsored banquet featured a delicious catered Czech-style meal. SPJST President, Brian Vanicek, brought us an interesting program on the Czech people's historic love of freedom with an emphasis on the Velvet Revolution, and on a lighter note engaged the audience with delightful Czech trivia information. Accordion music and a volunteer choral group were enjoyed by all.



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Seaton Brethren Church Christian Sisters' Bake Sale and Quilt Show

The Seaton Brethren Church Christian Sisters' Bake Sale and Quilt Show is as strong as ever after decades of success; and the next generation, as well as some veterans to the cause, continues to carry the "torch."

On November 1, the Seaton Fellowship Hall was packed full of shoppers, from all over the area, grabbing up fresh baked goods and Kolaches as well as rummages sale items and also purchasing chances for the Quilt Raffle.

The sanctuary pews displayed many beautiful quilts as each quilt told a story of history and love. Soup and sandwiches were being served for lunch at an alarming pace. We also were blessed to have the fire chiefs from 3 local community volunteer fire departments join us. We hosted these honored guests for lunch and presented them with a donation and thanked them for their service and sacrifice to the public.

But most importantly, and our biggest prayer, was that God would be seen in His church and to Him be the glory and honor forever and ever. Amen. May we all be thankful to God for His grace and love for us.



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Seaton Brethren Church Fall Fest

Seaton Brethren Church hosted their Fall Fest on October 31 filled with food, games, face painting, trunk-or-treat and a hayride. This event reached out to the community in giving families a “safe place” to bring their kids, and it also gives us another way to show the love of Christ to those around us.



Some games that were enjoyed by kids and adults as well were musical chairs, soda ring toss, football throw, bean bag toss, and a fish pond. There was plenty of candy, much laughter; and the night ended with making and eating s'mores. This is one of the ways SBC reaches out to target younger families for Christ, as our mission is always to share the gospel to all and also from one generation to the next.

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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Terrill

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

John David Skrivaneck
Secretary
P.O. Box 1605
Bellaire, TX 77402
(713) 626-0522

In Christ's Love . . . from the Mission Fields

From the Thiessen's...

October 22, 2014

Hello friends,

Our team, called *New Fields*, had a great meeting this last weekend, after being apart for four months. Anne and I have been on the road for most of that time, getting our kids situated in the US at colleges, and visiting churches and supporters (I also returned to Mexico twice).

Our team has developed into four families:

- Doug and Sarai: He's from California and she is from the north of Mexico; got married in March, they live in Metlatonoc (where Anne and I lived in the '90s), a Mixtec town about ten hours away.

- Harold and Ofelia (children are Alexis, 11, and Antonio, 9): He's from Kansas and she is from Oaxaca; got married in June, they live in Tlaxiaco, a Mixtec market town about three hours away.

- Phil and Eunice (child Ian, 1): He's from North Carolina and she is from Oaxaca; they live in San Juan

Juquila de Los Mixes, a Mixe village about three hours away.

- Robert and Anne

We are praying for the next family, the Clarks from Washington, who are raising support and hoping to arrive for the New Year. They will be doing a two-year apprenticeship into cross-cultural church planting missions here in the city.

During our two days together we prayed, worshiped, shared each one's stories, studied the missional relevance of some of the major biblical characters from Genesis, and reminded ourselves of the importance of simple obedience to Jesus Christ. Good food, coffee, and fun were, of course, a part.

We are trying to meet every two months, and this new formality is bringing a cohesiveness that is encouraging to all of us. The rest of them affirmed their sense of our central role in the team, and the need for us to embrace that fully.

That is particularly important as we contemplate what comes next for us. We are now officially empty nest-

ers (not true till we returned to Oaxaca, even though we left the kids two months ago), and during these four months on the road we have spent a lot of time pondering our direction. We are looking at adding at least one further effort – intentional leadership training of Guerrero Mixtec leaders that is reproducible and appropriate (oral, applicable). Please pray for us and Isaul as we explore avenues that suit the diverse needs.

RuthE is still in the cold, but this year at Wheaton (Illinois), carrying on with a mix of social sciences. She has some family friends in Chicago that she can get away to once in a while (Thanksgiving especially), and her boyfriend is at Wheaton, too. Philip is in eastern Texas, at LeTourneau, reeling under a full load of engineering courses, but doing well. He is hours away from his best friends in Texas, but fortunately it looks like he will get a ride to visit them for Thanksgiving. We were able to visit each of them before returning here. We are very glad that it works for both to come back for the Christmas break.

Thank you for praying and supporting us in so many ways.

Love, Robert & Anne

November 1, 2014 – All Saints Day

Dear friends,

I am resting on this very important Mexican (Catholic) festival day, in part since very little is open. Also, I just got back from a trip to Guerrero and the western parts of Oaxaca. I traveled with Chris, a good friend, one I had walked with over several years as he headed up a group of young missionaries figuring out what it meant to live incarnationally among the indigenous of Oaxaca. He's been back in the US for four years, but is able to come for visits periodically.

This time he brought Heath, another young man whom Chris is journeying within the Fresno area as they pursue a holistic relationship with the Body and with God. We drove long hours to Tlapa and spent the night and next morning with Isaul and his



WESTHEIMER COMMUNITY CHURCH

15635 Westheimer Road
Houston, Texas 77082

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



Heath, Chris, & Isaul

family (attached photo), talking about leadership training and the economics of semi-rural Mexico. Then we went out to Yuvinani (where Anne and I lived in the '90s) and Metlatonoc, where we spent the night with our team-mates, Doug and Sarai. The next day we convinced them to join us in a drive over the rugged mountain path to Oaxaca State, in part to avoid a strike threatening to shut down the roads in Guerrero (reacting to the recent disappearance of 43 student teachers). Doug tried out his new 4x4 Nissan pickup, while my 2wd struggled through the ruts. They returned to their town after picking up supplies and we continued on to Tlaxiaco, the town where Chris lived for six years.

I spent the night with Paco and Ofelia, more team-mates, and also visited with several other missionaries. We got involved with some more economic studies, and helping a little with some well drilling. There I left Chris and Heath and returned to Anne, who was experiencing her first time at home without any kids to look after while I'm gone. She had a lot to do with teaching, writing, visiting people, and joining a women's life coaching group.



Rob & Chris on Bridge

Speaking of writing, I (edited by Anne) have an article (*Dignity in Cross Cultural Relationships*) that was just published (on paper and online) in the Anabaptist Witness, a joint effort of the Mennonite Missions Network and the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, IN. You can find it at: http://anabaptist.dreamhosters.com/blogs/journal_entry/dignity-in-cross-cultural-relationships-an-anabaptist-approach-to-short-term-missions/

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
P.O. Box 267
Snook, TX 77878
(979) 272-8845

Youth Directors

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

I value trips like this one I just made with Chris and Heath. There are hours of discussing what really matters (and why), about issues that cover the whole spectrum. On this trip we delved deeply into the Kingdom of God, Church, economics (especially disparity and just wages), and the afterlife. Together with living alongside friends from several cultures these talks continually refine where God is taking us, and I grow as much as anyone. Plus, we got to cross raging rivers on rickety foot bridges. Thanks, guys!

And thanks to all of you who keep making this possible.

Love, Robert

From the Woo's...

October 2014

Dear Partners,

Recently Mary C. joined us as our home school teacher. She is from the

Winston-Salem area and is a huge help. She teaches Samuel and Ian from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 every day and gives Zach and Isaac an art lesson on Friday. This has freed us up to focus on ministry more. The kids love her.

We want to use this year as a big push for the ministry. I have a picture of a parent coming along side a young child learning to ride a bike. The parent walks beside encouraging the child to pedal saying, "You are going to get it." The parent may need to start to run while pushing before finally letting go altogether and the child is riding on their way. I see us running along side of this small church encouraging them, training them, going out to share with them, discipling them, and providing resources for them. Our goal has always been for them to reach their own people.

This past week we have seen a new excitement come over the whole group. Last week at church there were



CALDWELL BRETHREN CHURCH



401 South Main Street
(979) 567-7203

Sunday School
9:30 AM

Sunday Worship
10:30 AM

Church website: www.lifeatcbc.org

Church email: lifeatcbc@gmail.com

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

Welcome

over 10 people meeting together. We also had the privilege of going out four different times in one week with some from this group to share about our Savior. One time Michael and 3 women took some time to ask the Lord where they should go. They asked and quietly listened for a thought, a picture, a name of a village. Michael thought about the color orange, May thought the person would have a troubled heart, and the local Mary got a specific house and family that she had known a while before.

They decided to go there and visit the family. Wouldn't you know that the lady of the house came out in an orange outfit and said she had a troubled heart? This gave the group boldness and joy and they were able to share the love of the Father. There needs to be followup, and we believe her husband may beat her and possibly sell drugs. We called this a treasure hunt.

The Lord is on the move. He loves those who are sick, who are in darkness, who don't even know He exists. Keep praying that their eyes will be open to His love and glory, for His Name's sake! Thank you for your prayers and support for us. Remember that October is pray for the Shan month.

Blessings and Much Love,

Michael & Caroline
Samuel, Ian, Zach, Isaac, Salem

Unity Archivist

Clint Machann

c-machann@tamu.edu

797-696-1360 or 797-845-4898

HUS ENCAMPMENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Voting Members:

Chair: Mark Olsen, 1316 Howard St.,
Taylor, TX 75674. (512) 630-5153;
olsenemcee@yahoo.com

Vice-Chair: Rick Weise, P.O. Box 28,
Vancourt, TX 76955.
rick.weise@sanangelotexas.us

Treasurer: Ron Krueger, P.O. Box 1225,
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krueg98@austin.rr.com

Secretary: Connie Janac (Chr. Sis. 2010)
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Pmichalik1@peoplepc.com

Member: Debbie Grimm (Chr. Sis. 2010)
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C: (512) 718-2310;
mama_dgrimm@hotmail.com

Member: Erin Brinkley (BYF: 2012), 119
CR 3000, Lott, TX 76656;
erinbrinkley@yahoo.com

Member: Angie Hairrell (Bd. Chr. Ed.),
11482 FM 2155, Somerville, TX 77879;
Hairrell@gmail.com

Member: Todd Snelgrove, 5207 Draycott
Ct., Bryan, TX 77802. (979) 229-7524;
tsnelgrove@gmail.com

Non-Voting Appointments:

Programming Director: Kayla Marek, 901
Hidden Valley Dr. #9302, Round Rock,
TX 78665; kmarek2012@gmail.com

Unity Youth Coordinator: Jennifer
Chervenka (Synodical Committee
Appointment), 9494 Big Elm Creek Road,
Rogers, TX 76569. (254) 983-1002;
jennchervenka@farm-market.net

Facilities Manager(s): Jim and Dawn
Marie Baletka, 600 Benchmark Drive,
College Station, TX 77845;
txnfish@aol.com;
BaletkaD@navasotaisd.org

Caretakers: Robert and Cathleen
Schlechte, 3635 CR 225, Caldwell, TX
77836; (979) 324-5560,

(979) 255-8266; rschlechte@hotmail.com;
schlechte86@msn.com

Oversight of Synodical Committee: Rev.
Dr. Jerry Lee Terrill, 7 Torch Pine Court,
The Woodlands, TX 77381. (281) 364-
9865; jerryleeterrill@gmail.com

Taylor Brethren Church Holds Annual Picnic



The Taylor Brethren Church annual picnic was held Sunday, October 26, 2014, at the cabin of Ken and Paulette McConchie on the San Gabriel River in Circleville, Texas. Fellowship began at 4 p.m. A meal of grilled hamburgers was served at 6 p.m. The picnic was sponsored by the Sunday School as a gift to the congregation. Fifty members and guests were in attendance. *Photo by Jim Pokorny.*

OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

17454 State Highway 53
Temple, Texas 76501

Preaching the Word, Loving the People

Sunday School 9:00 AM

Worship 10:15 AM

Pastor

Rev. Ron Winsman

3112 W. Ave. R, Temple, TX 76504

(254) 742-0827

ronwinsman@hotmail.com

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

An Invitation from Seaton Brethren Church

The Seaton Brethren Church annual sausage supper fundraiser will be held Saturday, February 21, 2015, beginning at 4 p.m. until the sausage is gone. The menu consists of homemade pork sausage, sauerkraut, new potatoes, seasoned green beans, bread, homemade desserts, and tea or coffee. Plates will be available to eat in or take out for \$8 each.

The NEW LOCATION of the supper will be at Seaton Star Hall, 10842 State Hwy 53, Temple (Seaton). Proceeds benefit the church building fund. Priority One Youth Fellowship will be selling kolaches, pies, cakes, strudels, and other baked goods. The public is invited.

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Membership Benefits

- Life Insurance
- Annuities
- Home Loans
- Family Activities
- Community Involvement
- Youth Activities and Camp
- Scholarships
- Vestnik weekly newspaper

*...For unto us a
child is born...*

Isaiah 9:6

Sunday School Helper



This marks our last month to look at lessons based on Sunday School songs. This week we look at an easy song about the birth of Jesus. There are a multitude of activities, songs, crafts, and videos that can be used during the Advent season. This is a wonderful time of the year to emphasize the love of our Heavenly Father and to celebrate the most wonderful gift ever given!

Be sure to check out the blog for direct links to additional resources!

<http://sundayschoolhelperbrethrenjournal.blogspot.com/>

Christmas Bells

SING:

To the tune of Jingle Bells

Christmas Bells, Christmas Bells
Ringing through the air
Telling of the birth of Christ
To people (or children) everywhere
(repeat)

Down in Bethlehem
Came a little baby boy
In a stable dark and dim
Bringing hope and joy

Bells on churches ring
To celebrate that night
That Jesus came new life to bring
He's The Way, The Truth, The Life...

Christmas Bells, Christmas Bells
Ringing through the air
Telling of the birth of Christ
To people (or children) everywhere
(repeat)

For
comments/questions/
information, contact:

Angie Hairrell

Hairrell@gmail.com



TELL

Jesus is Born

Share the story of Jesus' birth using a storybook, a Children's Bible, or this resource: http://www.dltk-bible.com/cv/baby_jesus_cv.htm

PLAY or MAKE

Action Poem

A baby in a manger (*rock arms as if cradling a baby*),
A loving mother near (*reach out arms*),
A star shines in the heavens (*point with awe to the sky*),
The Son of God is here (*clap hands for joy*)!

Bible Verse Memorization

"She gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:7 (New International Reader's Version)

She gave birth to her firstborn, a son: act like you are rocking a baby

She wrapped him in clothes: wrap a pretend baby in a blanket

And placed him in a manger: pretend to gently lay the baby down

Because there was no room: shake head side to side as though saying, "no"

For them in the inn: make the shape of a house with your arms

Luke 2: hold up 2 fingers

7: hold up 7 fingers

Ornament



OVERCOME: Winter Youth Retreat

Ages 12-21 Cost: \$30

January 3-4, 2015 Hus Encampment

If you missed the December 1 deadline, contact Jenn Chervenka
254-913-1244; jennchervenka@farm-market.net.

GO GLOW! State Children's Rally

Ages 3-11 Cost: \$20

Saturday, March 7, 2015 Hus Encampment

Check-in 8:30 a.m. Dismissal: 3:30 p.m.

Registration Deadline: February 1

NO REGISTRATIONS will be accepted after
February 8 due to t-shirt and craft orders.

This is a one-day Bible adventure for children ages 3-11, filled with
Bible lessons, music, crafts, games, and food. The t-shirt design is
posted on the youth website, and extra shirts are available for \$10.
All orders must be received by February 1.

LOOKING AHEAD:

State Youth Fishing Retreat Port O'Connor, TX

Friday, May 1-Sunday, May 3 Registrations Due April 1

Information and registration form will be posted in March.

Summer Youth Retreat, Convention, and Volleyball
Friday, July 17-Sunday, July 19

Visit www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.com for more information.

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for December 2014

Dorothy E. Kocian

1. The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against Him. Dan. 9:9
2. The Lord our God is righteous in everything He does; yet we have not obeyed Him. Dan. 9:14
3. Praise God for His mighty acts of power; praise Him for His surpassing greatness. Ps. 150:2
4. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts... and be ye thankful. Col. 3:15
5. "The Lord turn His face toward you, and give you peace." Num. 6:26
6. **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the worst. 1 Tim. 1:15**
7. In these last days God has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, and through whom He made the universe. Heb. 1:2
8. "Let us go at once to entreat the favor of the Lord, and to seek the Lord Almighty. Zech. 8:21
9. Worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness; tremble before Him all the earth. Ps. 96:9
10. My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. Lk. 1:47
11. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Ps. 110:1
12. My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to You. Ps. 71:23
13. **Sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts. Eph. 5:19**
14. Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things. Ps. 98:1
15. Let each of you lead the life that the Lord has assigned, to which God called you. 1 Cor. 7:17
16. The Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. Isa. 60:19
17. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the majesty. 1 Chron. 29:11
18. "Bethlehem, out of you will come for Me One who will be ruler over Israel." Micah 5:2
19. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them. Luke 2:9
20. **"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you." Isa. 60:1**
21. Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has looked favorably on His people and redeemed them. Lk. 1:68
22. They will call Him Immanuel – which means "God with us." Mt. 1:23
23. The Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God. Lk. 1:35
24. Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. Lk. 2:10
25. After Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Magi from the east came... and asked "Where is the one who was born King of the Jews?" Mt. 2:1,2
26. He appeared in a body, ...was believed in by the world, was taken up in glory. 1 Tim. 3:16
27. **Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. Rev. 19:10**
28. I am the Lord our God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. Isa. 43:3
29. "So I say to you, Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Lk. 11:2
30. I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with Him in prayer and petition. Dan. 9:3
31. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever, Amen. 1 Tim. 1:17

Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

December 13 – Annual Christmas Singing at the Granger Brethren Church at 6 p.m. For more information contact Rev. Larry Zabcik at (903) 265-2277 or email him at zabcikville@ymail.com.

January 3-4, 2015 – BYF Winger Retreat at the Hus Encampment (registrations due December 15).

January 21, 2015 – Seaton Brethren Church Annual Sausage Supper fundraiser at the Seaton Star Hall, 10842 State Hwy 53, Temple (Seaton), 4 p.m. until the sausage is gone. Eat in or take out for \$8 (see article this issue).

SAVE THE DATE . . .

March 7, 2015 – State Children's Rally at the Hus Encampment (registrations due February 1).

April 11, 2015 – Spring Synodical Committee Meeting at the Hus Encampment, 9 a.m.; refreshments served at 8 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.

May 1-3, 2015 – State Youth Fishing Retreat in Port O'Connor, Texas.

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.

Brethren Book Store

P.O. Box 321
Caldwell, TX 77836
(979) 200-0513
Diane Heckman, Manager

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.
– Visiting Ministers

Christ Covenant Church – Tuesday
Evening Bible Study.
– Carl Shamel

Crosby – 9:00 AM: Worship
10:00 AM: Faith Adventure
– Dr. Larry Koslovsky

Cy-Fair Community Church – worship at
10:45 AM every Sunday.
1st & 3rd 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 – Bible Study every Sunday at
9:00 AM with worship service following
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.

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

Mutual Aid Society – Listing of Local Secretaries’ Addresses and Phone Numbers

- Granger #1: Angie Malicoat, PO
Box 362, Granger, TX 76530,
512-859-2837
- Taylor #3: Marie Ann Ripple, 2302
Heights Blvd, Taylor, TX 76574,
512-365-6916
- West #4: Dorothy Kocian, 107
South Barbara Street, Waco, TX
76705, 254-799-5331,
dekocian@yahoo.com
- Fayetteville #5: Sandra Stepan,
PO Box 145, Fayetteville, TX
78940, 979-378-4167,
sandrainAustin@yahoo.com
- Dime Box #6: Marvin Chlappek, PO
Box 1163, Caldwell, TX 77836,
979-272-9102,
mjcarc@airplexus.com
- Snook #7: Ann Sebesta, Box 115,
Snook, TX 77878, 210-244-
3362, bfsinc@tconline.net
- Ocker #8: Doris Svoboda, 109
Friendship Ln, Temple, TX
76501-9614, 254-742-1405
- Dallas #10: **Natalie Outlaw, 7575
Wixon Road, Bryan, TX 77808-
8085, 979-589-2012,
natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com
- Cooks Point #12: Patsy Albright,
2105 Rivendell, Bryan, TX
77807-4812, 979-779-8463
- New Tabor #13: Evelyn Henry, PO
Box 336, Caldwell, TX 77836-
0336, 979-567-4397
- Nelsonville #14: Peggy Peschel,
8000 Hwy 159 W, Bellville, TX
77418, 979-865-5095
- Seaton #16: Joyce Skrabanek,
7157 FM 2086, Temple, TX
76501, 254-984-2283
- Sealy #17: Esther Breeden, 3130
E. Villa Maria Road, Apt. 101,
Bryan, TX 77803, 979-779-3835
- Wesley #18: Elaine Koehn, 9053
Learning Oak Lane, Brenham,
TX 77833, 979-836-5196,
koehns72@yahoo.com
- Temple #20: Irene Marek, 2900
Pecan Valley Drive, Temple, TX
76502, 254-778-2120
- Rosenberg #21: Cathy Kuritza,
4200 Meadowbend Drive,
Richmond, TX 77469,
281-344-1386,
michael-pruett@sbcglobal.net
- Westheimer #22: Betty J. Parthum,
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PLEASE JOIN US AS WE

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

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**This must be done well in advance.*

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