VON PROFIT ORGUS POSTAGE PD TAYLOR, TX PERIODICAL

Needed: FRIENDS OF THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

- from the editor

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

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

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Brethren Journal*, 705 Woodson Dr., Caldwell, TX 77836.

36/March 2016 BRETHREN JOURNAL

THE BRETHREN



Vol. 115 March 2016 No. 2 36 Pages



The Thiessen family at the marriage of their daughter, Elai, to Mikael Berthiaume.

(Read more about them inside this issue.)

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

In God We Trust... by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell Being of Sound Mind... by Jim Pokorny Mutual Aid Scholarship Announcement Granger BC Steeple Update

... and a whole lot more!

Unity of the Brethren Church Questionnaires are due NOW!

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

EDITOR -

Cathleen Schlechte 3635 CR 225 Caldwell, TX 77836 (979) 255-8266 editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com

BUSINESS MANAGER -

Ben Polasek 705 Woodson Dr. Caldwell, TX 77836 (979) 220-9270 manager.brethrenjournal@gmail.com

BUSINESS COMMITTEE -

President: Rev. Mike Groseclose Treasurer: Dorothy Milberger Secretary: Stacy Hooker

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS -

Daily Morsels: Dorothy Kocian, 107 S. Barbara, Waco, TX 76705-1317. Sunday School Helper: Angie Hairrell, 11482 FM 2155, Somerville, TX 77879. Hairrell@gmail.com Jim Pokorny, jwppsa@yahoo.com;

Jim Pokorny, jwppsa@yanoo.com; blog: otherbrotherjim.blogspot.com

RATE – \$15.00 per year via hard copy and/ or email; \$7.50 after June 1st

(All subscriptions expire December 31st)
FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS, RENEWALS, AND GIFT
SUBSCRIPTIONS, Hard Copy & E-Mail, write
The Brethren Journal Business Manager (see
addresses above.

FOR ADDRESS CHANGES – Include address label from your most recent issue and write to: *The Brethren Journal* **Business** Manager, 705 Woodson Dr., Caldwell, TX 77836, or email manager,brethrenjournal@qmail.com.

FOR ADVERTISING -

Rates (per column inch per year)
Commercial coverage – \$50.00
Religious coverage – \$50.00

The Brethren Journal Business Manager

FOR ARTICLE AND REPORT

SUBMISSION – DEADLINE is the first day of the month preceding publication.

Write: The Brethren Journal Editor, 3635 CR

write: The Bretinen Journal Editor, 3635 CR 225, Caldwell, TX 77836, or email: editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com.

Permit #064220

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL (ISSN 0006-9655) is published monthly except for January and July, which are bimonthly, at \$15.00 per year by The Unity of the Brethren through SuzAnne Kurten dba Your Business Center, 1050 S. Hwy. 95, Taylor, TX 76574, 512-921-1068, periodical postage paid at Taylor, TX. POST-MASTER: Send address changes to The Brethren Journal, Attn: Business Manager, 705 Woodson Dr., Caldwell, TX 77836.

Visit the Unity of the Brethren Website: unityofthebrethren.org

Unity Questionnaire **Due Now**

It is time once again for churches to complete the Unity of the Brethren Questionnaire for 2015 (through December 31, 2015). This form is to be completed by the secretary of the congregation with the assistance of the pastor and the Sunday School Superintendent.

This questionnaire is due MARCH 1, 2016. Information for completing this information has been emailed to pastors and mailed to each church.

You have several options to submit this information this year:

- 1. **Web Form:** http://goo.gl/forms/ EdDD0ZeOZj Once you complete the online form, the information is entered directly into an Excel spreadsheet. This saves time and ensures fewer errors in the transfer of information from the paper forms to the electronic files.
- 2. **Fillable Word document:** You can complete the information on your computer, then email the completed document back to Angie Hairrell (hairrell@gmail.com). If you use this method, please put your church name in the file name.
- 3. **Pencil/paper version:** These can be mailed to Angie Hairrell; 11482 FM 2155; Somerville, TX 77879.

The documents and weblink are available on the Unity of the Brethren website. Contact Angie Hairrell, Unity Secretary, if you have any questions.

DIRECTORY OF MINISTERS

FULL TIME PASTORS

Rev. Linda Von Chandler, 13108 North Ridge Circle, Leander, TX 78641. (512) 836-2712

Pastor Tim Chaplin, 1326 Starlight Dr., Temple TX 76502. (254) 778-5954; tchaplin@hot.rr.com

Rev. Adolfo Gonzalez, 3913 Brinkman Drive, Port Arthur, TX 77642. (409) 293-2065

Rev. Michael Groseclose, 352 Nelsonville Church Rd., Bellville, TX 77418. (979) 865-3026

Rev. Jim Heckman, 9849 PR 1015, Rockdale, TX 76567. (979) 739-1393, leave message. If no answer, try 2nd number, (979) 200-0513; iimheckman46@qmail.com

Rev. James D. Hejl, 309 Cherrywood Circle, Taylor, TX 76574. (512) 365-6890

Rev. Curtis Holland, 1017 Southwood, Waco, TX 76712. (254) 776-5886

Rev. David Johnson, 902 Timberlane, Caldwell, TX 77836. (979) 567-1838(h), (979) 220-3822(c); pastordjbama@gmail.com

Dr. Larry Koslovsky, 4311 Fir Valley Drive, Kingwood, TX 77345. <u>lwkoslo@aol.com</u> (281) 328-2442 (off), (713) 594-4518 (c)

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

Rev. Denise Mikeska, 409 E. Upshaw, Temple, TX 76501. dkaym@hot.rr.com

Rev. Vanessa Lucia Mitchell, 2070 Carter Lake Drive, College Station, TX 77845. (979) 574-0268; <u>lajoiededieu@gmail.com</u> Blog: notboxingtheair.wordpress.com

Rev. Joseph Polasek, P.O. Box 54, Snook, TX 77878, (979) 272-1624; iosephipolasek@yahoo.com

Rev. Kay Polasek, 705 Woodson Dr., Caldwell, TX 77836. (979) 220-1289:

revkaypolasek@yahoo.com

Rev. Mark Sebek, 9235 FM 437, Rogers, TX 76569. (254) 931-2000; papasebek@gmx.com

Rev. Thomas Tallas, 3829 Sandstone, San Angelo, TX 76904. (325) 949-7543; rev.tjt@gmail.com (h), rev.tjt@zipnet.us (ch)

Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Terrill jerryleeterrill@comcast.net

Rev. Ron Winsman, 3112 W. Ave. R, Temple, TX 76504. (254) 742-0827

Rev. Larry Zabcik, 2013 Burnie Bishop Place, Cedar Park, TX 78613. (903) 265-2277; zabcikville@ymail.com

SUPPLY OR INACTIVE PASTORS

Rev. Charles Amos, 845 Airville Road, Temple, TX 76501. (254) 742-2629

Rev. Whitney Amos, 845 Airville Road, Temple, TX 76501. (254) 742-2629

Rev. Joe Emerson, 5404 Southern Crossing Dr., Temple, TX 76502. (254) 791-0420; ioe.emerson_ma@vahoo.com

Rev. Gordon Hejl (retired), P.O. Box 426, Granger, TX 76530. (512) 963-9219

Rev. James Henry (retired), 1726 15th Ave. N., Lake Worth, FL 33460. (561) 533-3893

Rev. William J. Hodge, 528 N. Post Oak Lane, Houston, TX 77024. (713) 957-8294

Rev. Robert W. Janek, 261 Edinburg, San Angelo, TX 76901. (325) 942-8515

Rev. Lawrence Junek, 3316 Lyle, Waco, TX 76708. (254) 714-2622

Rev. Eugene Kotrla, 4406 Antelope Trail, Temple, TX 76504. (254) 774-7484

Dr. Mark L. Labaj, 3410 Meadow Creek Lane, Temple, TX 76504. (254) 774-8179; mark.labai@utexas.edu

Rev. Milton Maly, 6703 FM 2502, Brenham, TX 77833. (979) 277-2619; miltmaly@gmail.com

Rev. Albert Michalik (retired), 304 Thunder Valley Trail, Georgetown, TX 78626. (512) 688-1104

Rev. Al Newby, 2210 Forest Trail, Temple, TX 76502. (254) 778-1860

Rev. Bill Rinderknecht, P.O. Box 228, Dennison, OH 44621-0228. (281) 433-7704 (cell); WilliamR90@aol.com

Rev. Nello Strickland, 1006 Top Hill Drive, Brenham, TX 77833. (979) 836-2609

Rev. Tony Taylor, P.O. Box 1680, Hilltop Lakes, TX 77871. (936) 855-2563

UNDER CALL OF THE UNITY Military Chaplaincy

CH (Maj) Daniel Husak, 1627 Lakeview Street, DeRidder, LA 70634. daniel.husak@aggienetwork.com

MINISTERIAL STUDENTS

Ben Kruse – <u>krusedadb@yahoo.com</u> (Westheimer)

DIRECTORY OF MISSIONARIES

Carolyn Groseclose NDO

P.O. Box 630260 Choma, Zambia

e-mail: carolyngroseclose@yahoo.com

Pastor Pavel and Stanva Kozak Norska 42

77900 Olomouc Czech Repubic

e-mail: Pavel.Ko@volny.cz

Phil & Eunice Raiford (parents' address in U.S.) 230 SW Sandy Way Port Saint Lucie, FL 34986 pbrmissions@gmail.com

Rob and Anne Thiessen 25 E. Camino Nacional Tlalixtac de Cabrera Oaxaca, MEXICO 68627 (011) 52-1-951-145-8947

e-mail: rvthiessen@gmail.com

Michael and Caroline Woo P.O. Box 27 Chiang Mai 50000 Thailand

e-mail: mcswoo@psmail.net To access their pictures, go to http://gallery.mac.com/woofamily

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Chairman: Jon Farrow:

jfarrow@hot.rr.com; (254) 933-1673;

(254) 718-1938

Dr. Ron Dusek; (979) 567-3732;

rdusekdds@aol.com

Connie Janac; cjanac@st-joseph.org;

(979) 587-0363

Dorothy Kocian; dekocian@yahoo.com;

(254) 713-2761

Adviser: Dr. Larry Koslovsky: lwkoslo@aol.com; (281) 328-2442

Synodical Committee Liaison: Kent Laza

HOME MISSIONS BOARD

Martha Dove, chair; Walhalla71@gmail.com

Ben Kruse (2010-2017); krusedadb@yahoo.com

Alton Ubanovsky (2011-2017);

gjeanu08@gmail.com

Dorothy Hinson (2009-2017): dorothy.hinson@hotmail.com

Rev. Kay Polasek (2015-2017); revkaypolasek@yahoo.com

Beverly Mikeska (2015-2017); bevmikeska@gmail.com

Marvin Chlapek (2015-2017);

mjcarc@airplexus.com

SYNODICAL COMMITTEE

President: Kent Laza, (979) 690-7608; kent.laza@verizon.net

1st Vice President: Rev. Mark Sebek, (254) 931-

2000; papasebek@gmx.com

2nd Vice President: Rev. Michael Groseclose. 979-865-3026, <u>umhbpq@yahoo.com</u>

3rd Vice President: Dr. Jerry Terrill, (281) 364-9865, jerryleeterrill@gmail.com

Secretary: Angela Hairrell, 11482 FM 2155, Somerville, TX 77879; (979) 219-1582; Hairrell@gmail.com

Treasurer: Harvey Treybig, 2504 Timberline Dr., Austin, TX 78746; (512) 923-5315; htreybig@austin.rr.com

Financial Secretary: Liz Ripple, 311 W State Hwy 71, Fayetteville, TX 78940; (979) 378-2239; lizripple@hotmail.com

Ministerial Alternate: Rev. Larry Zabcik, (903) 265-2277; zabcikville@ymail.com

Pastor to Pastors: Dr. Larry Koslovsky; lwkoslo@aol.com

Non-Voting Lay Alternate:

Wiley Marx (Ocker), wmarx@jcgllc.com

Lav Members:

Austin - Eric Havnes:

newhope4nextgeneration@live.com

BCS - Jim Baletka; txnfish@aol.com

BCS - Kent Laza (President)

Buckholts - Charlene Vogelsang;

cakv@hotmail.com Caldwell - Ron Dusek; rdusekdds@aol.com

Crosby - Debbie Clark, foxfire890@aol.com

Cy-Fair - Roger Runnels; rogerhr@swbell.net

Dime Box - Roberta Brinkman;

superblues123@gmail.com

Favetteville - Sandra Stepan:

sandrainaustin@yahoo.com

Fayetteville - Liz Ripple (Financial Sec.)

Good Shepherd - Alfredo Wilson

Granger – Edwina Jezisek, momawina@yahoo.com

Houston - Dorothy Hinson;

Dorothy.hinson@hotmail.com

Industry - Joan Coufal; joanie9695@gmail.com Industry - Harvey Treybig (treasurer)

Nelsonville – Jenell Zettel. (979) 203-8390

New Tabor - Robert Schlechte:

rschlechte@hotmail.com

Ocker - Taylor Brinkley; taylordbrinkley@yahoo.com Pasadena - Linda Planka; mslindaj47@yahoo.com Rosenberg - Genevieve Elliott-Bowman: am elliott@vahoo.com

Seaton - Leonard Mikeska: mikeskains@hot.rr.com

Snook - Angie Hairrell (Secretary)

Snook - Yvonne Kovar; ykovar@cvm.tamu.edu

Taylor - Sidney Srnensky;

sid@brushcreekfarms.com Temple - Kellie Chaplin; kelliechap74@gmail.com

Wall - Robret Berrie; robert.berrie@gmail.com Wesley - Mark Surovik

West - Roy Janek; grandpajanek@att.net

Westheimer - Lerov Parthum:

betty parthum@vahoo.com



Home Missions

KUBENA Funeral Home 507 South Main St.

Foreign Missions

Hallettsville, Texas 77946 **Pre-Arranged Funerals** Low Cost Funeral Insurance Phone 361-798-3271

AMOS ELECTRIC SUPPLY **COMPANY**

Total Mission Giving

LIGHT FIXTURES • APPLIANCES ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

(254) 778-4271

5120 S. General Bruce Dr., Temple, TX 76502

Membership Benefits

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

Insuring & Enriching Lives

A fraternal benefit society serving Texans and their families for 118 years.

> Call us if you have questions about naming your church or a Unity of the Brethren agency as a beneficiary in an existing or new SPJST insurance certificate.

SP.JST 520 NorthMain Street Temple, Texas 76501 (800) 727-7578 www.spist.org

"In God We Trust?"

- by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

Every time we receive change after making a purchase, where do those coins go? Some place their loose change in a big jar at home. Some place it in a cup holder in their cars. Some place it in a wallet that is busting at the seams. "In God We Trust" the coins read. I wonder if the coins could talk if they might ask us, "Do you truly trust in God?" The number one piece of evidence that our trust in God has been misplaced surfaces when we scan the manner in which we spend our days and glance at how we spend money. We quickly forget that time and money are God's gifts to us with the purpose of sustaining life and furthering the Kingdom.

What did you do today?

What did you purchase this past week?

Was the Holy Spirit the One who directed every hour and each transaction?

While these questions might seem too penetrating for some leisurely reading, the prophet Jeremiah speaks to us from the Holy Bible, the consequences of a life not driven by a passionate pursuit of Christ-like living. In the Book of Jeremiah, chapter 2, verses 35-37, we receive what God

You say, "I am innocent; surely his anger has turned from me." Now I am bringing you to judgment for saying, "I have not sinned." How lightly you gad about, changing your ways! You shall be put to shame by Egypt as you were put to shame by Assyria. From there also you will come away with your hands on your head; for the Lord has rejected those in whom you trust, and you will not prosper through them.

The people of Israel had been defeated by their enemies, yet their trust was not in God. Much like persons confused and wandering with their hands on their heads, God's people were blind as to why things were not working out for them. The greatest challenge in our lives is to live in the reality that we cannot trust in money, in circumstances, or even in others. Our trust can only be in God as we move through life with others and attempt to manage the things that

WESTHEIMER COMMUNITY CHURCH

15635 Westheimer Road Houston, Texas 77082

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



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 A Home Mission Project since 10-22-11 - Sunday School at 11:00 AM; Fellowship Lunch at Noon: Worship at 1:00 PM.
 - Rev. Jim Heckman
- Caldwell Come as you are! Sundays explore the Bible @ 9:30 AM (all ages); KIDS CHOIR practices @ 10:15 AM: & worship @ 10:30 AM! Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday, join the fun @ Family Game Night, 6-7:30 PM! Check out lifeatcbc.org for spiritual resources, events, videos, & more! Friend us on Facebook!
 - 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 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

BRETHREN JOURNAL

- 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 9:00 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.
 - Pastor Ben Kruse
- 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. Jámes Hejl
- Temple Sunday School at 9:30 AM., Worship at 10:45 AM.
 - Pastor Tim Chaplin
- Vsetin A non-official member congregation of the Unity of the Brethren - 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

Affiliated Churches CADE LAKE COMMUNITY CHAPEL Rev. Jim Heckman PO Box 321 Caldwell, TX 77836 (979) 739-1393 CadeLakeChapel.com CHRIST COVENANT CHURCH Pat Highfill 1525 Marblehead Road Lewisville, North Carolina 27023 (336) 945-9396

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 Chlapek, 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

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, 2728 Osborn Appt #1002, 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, 5220 Reading Rd., Rosenberg, TX 77471, 281-344-1386, michael-pruett@sbcglobal.net

Westheimer #22: Betty J. Parthum, 3620 Ave. O, Rosenberg, TX 77471, 713-826-7993,

dparthum@sbcglobal.net

Houston #23: Dorothy Hinson, 7331 Misty Morning Dr., Humble, TX 77346, 281-620-0480, dorothy.hinson@hotmail.com

Wall #25: Sharon J. Hohmann, 222 Crestwood Drive, San Angelo, TX 76903-9106, 325-651-5884

Caldwell #27: Matthew Hyvl, 9760 FM 3058, Caldwell, TX 77836, 979-255-0025,

mhyvl131@gmail.com

Crosby #28: Gisela Gaeke, PO Box 599, Crosby, TX 77532, 281-426-5506

Placedo #30: Dorothy Elsik, PO Box 1054, Victoria, TX 77902, 361-575-2298

Robstown #31: Annette Korff, 1207 Baker, Robstown, TX 78380, 361-387-5241

**Austin #32: Natalie Outlaw, 7575 Wixon Road, Bryan, TX 77808-8085, 979-589-2012,

natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com

Pasadena #33: Betty Orsag, 5118 Coventry Ct., Friendswood, TX 77546-3001, 281-482-1501

B/CS #34: Natalie Outlaw, 7575 Wixon Road, Bryan, TX 77808-8085, 979-589-2012, natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com

God has given us. In God We Can Trust. In God We Must Trust.

So how then do we do this? Pray out loud PSALM 139, EVERY DAY, AND YOU WILL TRUST.

Psalm 139:

O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, vou are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night," even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you. For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I

ADERHOLD FUNERAL HOME, INC.

"Thoughtful Service – A Payne Family Tradition" West, Texas 254/826-5321 know very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! I try to count them – they are more than the sand; I come to the end – I am still with you. O that you would kill the wicked, O God, and that the bloodthirsty would depart from me – those who speak of you maliciously, and lift themselves up against you for evil! Do I not hate those who hate vou, O Lord? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you? I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies. Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

In God You Can Trust.

Amen.

In Jesus' Joy, Vanessa Mitchell

The Community Christian Church of Rosenberg 5220 Reading Road Rosenberg, TX 77471

(281) 342-3060

Sunday School 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Wednesday Eve. 5:30 PM Prayer Service and Bible Study

Youth Minister: Position open

^{**}Position currently filled by Administrative Board members

Being of Sound Mind

- by Jim Pokorny

The Thirty Years War has ended. The Peace of Westphalia begins in 1648. Swedish Chancellor Axel Oxenstierna makes promises while the Unity continues to live in exile. John Amos Comenius writes a letter pleading for them. As time passes, it becomes clear that this peace will have no provision for the exiled Unity. All hopes of the Unity ever returning to the Czech homeland shatter.

As the warring sides meet in Nurenberg to discuss the implementation of the peace, John Amos Comenius concludes that the Unity has effectively been sentenced to die in foreign lands.

Facing this eventuality, Comenius desires to preserve the witness of the Unity. In 1650, Comenius writes a treatise not as himself but rather as the voice of the dying Unity; a mother bidding a final farewell to the believers, unities and the Czech nation (The Ancient Unity reserved the word church for the entire body of believers with Christ as its head). Comenius writes this treatise in the form of a will entitled *The Last Will and Testament*

of the Dying Mother, the Unity of the Brethren.

Unfortunately, the original manuscript has fallen through the cracks of time. Fortunately, there are four transcriptions from the 18th Century. The Berlin transcript from 1757 is the earliest. It was eventually printed in Prague in 1848. Several more printings were made in the 20th Century, including a critical edition by St. Soucek from 1927, which happens to be the basis for the English translation which I have read and will share with you. There was also a second German translation from 1866 as well as a Dutch translation from 1928.

In total, there are twenty chapters in the testament. My purpose here is to provide an overview of the treatise in order to demonstrate how Comenius tried to preserve the witness of the Unity and further substantiate the true genius of the man who came into this world as Jan Komensky.

The treatise is beautifully written and Comenius draws heavily on scripture. To compress my thoughts on this work into a single article would

HOUSTON BRETHREN CHURCH

6207 North Main, Houston, TX 77009 - (713) 864-6707

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

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Terrill

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

John David Skrivanek Secretary P.O. Box 1605 Bellaire, TX 77402 (713) 626-0522 NELSONVILLE BRETHREN CHURCH Rev. Michael Groseclose 332 Nelsonville Church Rd Bellville, TX 77418 (979) 865-3026

NEW TABOR BRETHREN CHURCH Rev. David Johnson P.O. Box 262 Caldwell, TX 77836 (979) 272-3008 New Tabor Church.com

OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH Rev. Ron Winsman Stacie Sebek, Administrative Assistant PO Box 806 Rogers, TX 76569 (254) 985-2240 staciesebek@gmail.com OckerBrethrenChurch.org

PASADENA BRETHREN CHURCH Dr. Larry Koslovsky 1810 Scarborough Lane Pasadena, TX 77502 (713) 472-3192

COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF ROSENBERG Ben Kruse 5220 Reading Road Rosenburg, TX 77471 (281) 342-3060

SEATON BRETHREN CHURCH Rev. Denise Mikeska P.O. Box 4615 Temple, TX 76503 (254) 985-2694 SNOOK BRETHREN CHURCH Rev. Joseph Polasek P.O. 247 Snook, TX 77878 (979) 272-3303

TAYLOR BRETHREN CHURCH Rev. James D. Hejl P.O. Box 351 Taylor, TX 76574 (512) 352-6423 TaylorBrethren.org

TEMPLE BRETHREN CHURCH Tim Chaplin 2202 Bird Creek Drive Temple, TX 76502 (254) 778-8759

WALL BRETHREN CHURCH Rev. Thomas Tallas P.O. Box 195 Wall, TX 76957 (325) 651-4444 WallBrethrenChurch.org

WESLEY BRETHREN CHURCH Rev. Michael Groseclose 8000 FM 332 Brenham, TX 77833 (979) 865-3026

WEST BRETHREN CHURCH Rev. Curtis Holland 901 N. Marable Street West, TX 76691 (254) 826-3146

WESTHEIMER COMMUNITY CHURCH 15635 Westheimer Rd Houston, TX 77082 (281) 493-0837 WestheimerConnunityChurch.org

UNITY OF THE BRETHREN DIRECTORY OF CONGREGATIONS

AUSTIN BRETHREN CHURCH Rev. Linda Chandler 1706 Payton Gin Road Austin, TX 78641 (512) 836-2712

BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION BRETHREN CHURCH Rev. Mark Sebek PO Box 9283 College Station, TX 77842-9283 (979) 693-3606

BUCKHOLTS BRETHREN CHURCH Rev. John Kueker PO Box 192 Buckholts, TX 76518 (254) 605-0434

CALDWELL BRETHREN CHURCH Rev. Vanessa Mitchell 401 South Main St. Caldwell, TX 77836 (979) 567-7203 Lifeatcbc.org

CROSBY BRETHREN CHURCH Dr. Larry Koslovsky P.O. Box 599 Crosby, TX 77532 (281) 328-2442

CY-FAIR COMMUNITY CHURCH Rev Rick Chandler PO Box 233 Cypress, TX 77410-0233 (281) 355-1474 DIME BOX BRETHREN CHURCH Rev. Jim Heckman 8361 FM 141 Dime Box, TX 77853 (979) 739-1393

FAYETTEVILLE BRETHREN CHURCH Rev. Kay Polasek PO Box 11 Fayetteville, TX 78940 (979) 220-1289 FayettevilleBrethrenChurch.org

GOOD SHEPHERD MORAVIAN CHURCH Rev. Adolfo Gonzalez 2910 South 34th Street Port Arthur, TX 77642 (409) 293-2065

GRANGER BRETHREN CHURCH Rev. Larry Zabcik PO Box 943 Granger, TX 76530 (903) 265-2277 GrangerBrethren.org

HOUSTON BRETHREN CHURCH Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill 6207 North Main Street Houston, TX 77009 (713) 864-6707

INDUSTRY BRETHREN CHURCH Rev. Kay Polasek P.O. Box 73 Industry, TX 78944 (979) 220-1289 IndustryBrethrenChurch.org fail to do it proper justice. Therefore, I have opted to examine it in two separate articles.

Chapter One - Comenius begins the testament with these words: "In the name of God the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen." In this opening chapter, the dying Unity states that, according to scripture, one era is passing but another is coming. The passing of the era is compared with the life cycle of man. We come from where the Lord leads us, we stay here for a length of time of His choosing, and we then go to where He leads us. The Unity states that this is true for every human society - households, cities, kingdoms and other unities. As each one passes, another takes its place.

Comenius sees this happening in the world of 1650 in terms of nations, languages, rights and religion. He sees this happening with the passing of the Unity and concludes that God wishes to renew the face of the land.

Chapter Two – The Unity finds herself in a changing landscape and realizes that she is passing away. The Unity concludes that she is subject to God's discipline. The Unity is pushed into the lands of strangers. Neigh-

bors have abandoned her, seeking peace for themselves (a reference to the Peace of Westphalia). If God affirms these actions, she will die. Therefore, the Unity will do what the wise steward does who has anything to bequeath. She leaves a will so that what she has been entrusted with will not be lost. As God instructed Hezekiah, "Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live."

Chapter Three – In this short chapter, the Unity declares that she is "a widow and forsaken." It is as if she is calling for her loved ones to come and stand by her death bed.

Chapter Four – The Unity divides her audience into four groups in order that she may speak to them individually about what is needed (Comenius would write *Unum Necessarium*; i.e., The One Thing Necessary, in 1658). She has no earthly possessions to bequeath, having been robbed of all of them. She compares her state to that of Christ, who was even robbed of His gown at the cross. As her time draws near she bequests the spiritual gifts with which she was entrusted.

Chapter Five – The Unity addresses her three types of sons. The first type





betrayed her and left her in her trials. The second type persisted, but in a half-hearted manner. To these she declares, "You flatter my enemies and warm yourself at their fires, yet you still long for me." The third type persevered and even shared in her suffering. From that group, she sees some languishing and dying; for the remainder she still clings to the hope that the Lord will care for them until the better time arrives.

Chapter Six – Here, the Unity comforts those who remained true to her. She reminds them not to grieve for anything earthly, including their homeland. With words from both the Old and New Testaments, she consoles them. She reminds them to flee from the shadow of this age because, one day, they will bask in perpetual light. She reminds them of the Heavenly voice who says, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple."

Chapter Seven – The Unity addresses those who did not pass the test. She tells them to weep with these

words, "Cry and groan over yourself! Is it right to keep faith for a time and leave it at the time of temptation?" She asks them to compare themselves to previous generations. "Has anyone trusted in the Lord and been disappointed? Or has anyone persevered in the fear of the Lord and been forsaken? Or has anyone called on Him and been neglected?" Reminiscent of Isaiah, she declares woe to those with timid hearts who lost their nerve. She then poses this ominous question, "What will you do when the Lord's reckoning comes?"

To these she offers advice. They are to do what Peter did after his fall. They should remember who they are. They should seek the corner where the other disciples are sheltered and weep. She advises them to soften their hearts when they hear His voice and humble themselves. She concludes this chapter with these words: "Such are Peter's footprints for returning to the flock, which you left. I bequest [these footprints] to you, O my wandering sons!"

Chapter Eight – Another short chapter. To those who were not faithful to her, the Unity weeps and bequests penitence and reform.

GRANGER BRETHREN CHURCH

1903 (Where it all began

306 WEST BROADWAY STREET, GRANGER, TX 76530

Bible Study Worship Services 9:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.

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



DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for March 2017

- by Dorothy E. Kocian

- How great is Your goodness which You have stored up for those who fear You. Ps. 31:19
- 2. I cry aloud to the Lord; I lift up my voice to the Lord for mercy. Ps. 142:1
- 3. Let Your face shine on Your servant; save me in Your unfailing love, Ps. 31:16
- 4. The Lord is my strength and my song. Ex. 15:2a
- 5. He, the Lord, has become my salvation. Ex. 15:26
- Set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity. 1 Tim. 4:13
- 7. I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Eph. 4:1
- The earnest prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16
- 9. Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. Ps. 34:14
- Be doers of the word, and not hearers only. James 1:22
- Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart. Ps. 37:4
- 12. As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people. Gal. 6:10
- All scripture was given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction. 2 Tim. 3:16
- 14. Lord, teach me the way I should go; for to You I lift up my soul. PS. 143:8
- The fear of the Lord teaches man wisdom, and humility comes before honor. Prov. 15:33
- 16. Turn now, each of you, from your evil ways and evil practices. Jer. 25:5
- To do what is just and right is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice. Prov. 21:3
- 18. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Rom. 12:12
- When the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law. Gal. 4:4
- 20. Hosanna to the Son of David!

 Blessed is he who comes in the
 Lord! Hosanna in the highest!

 Matt. 21:9
- 21. I will praise your name, O Lord, for it is good. Ps. 54:6

- 22. I call to God, and the Lord saves me. I cry out in distress and He hears my voice. Ps. 55:16,17
- Jesus said, "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto myself." Jn. 1:16
- Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. Heb. 10:23
- 25. I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection. Phil. 3:10
- The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life. Jn. 3:14b,15
- 27. The angel said, "You are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here." Mk. 16:6
- I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand upon the earth. Job 19:25
- 29. For He is the living God and He endures forever. Dan. 6:26
- Lord, I trust in Your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in Your salvation.
- 31. Guide our feet in the way of peace. Lk. 1:79

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE

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

THE MUTUAL AID SOCIETY

Rev. Joseph J. Polasek, President Daniel Vojtek, Vice-President Natalie Outlaw, Gen. Secretary Ruth Ann Wuensche, Treasurer Dorothy Hinson, Jr. Dept. Secretary Ann Sebesta, Board Member Rev. Michael Groseclose, Synodical Liaison

VITAL STATISTICS

MEMBERS RECEIVED

AINSWORTH, ANGELA, was received into the Community Christian Church of Rosenberg by profession of faith on January 17, 2015. Minister: Pastor Ben Kruse.

CHUPIK, TERRY, was received into the Community Christian Church of Rosenberg by profession of faith on January 17, 2015. Minister: Pastor Ben Kruse.

KING, RICK, was accepted into the membership of the Granger Brethren Church by reaffirmation of faith on January 31, 2016. Minister: Rev. Larry Zabcik

SANDERS, KIMBERLY, was accepted into the membership of the Granger Brethren Church by letter of transfer on January 31, 2016. Minister: Rev. Larry Zabcik

TREVINO, KAREN, was received into the Community Christian Church of Rosenberg by profession of faith on January 17, 2015. Minister: Pastor Ben Kruse.

WILLS, BILL, was received into the Community Christian Church of Rosenberg by profession of faith on January 17, 2015. Minister: Pastor Ben Kruse.

RECENT DEATHS

SRALLA, EMILIE F., age 71, of San Antonio and a former member of the Granger Brethren Church, died December 8, 2015. Funeral services were held on December 13 at Providence Funeral Home in Taylor, Texas, with burial at the Weir Cemetery in Williamson County. She is survived by a sister, a niece and several cousins. Minister: Rev. Larry 7ahcik.

RUZICKA, MARY, age 101, of Temple and a member of the Buckholts Brethren Church, died December 11, 2015. Funeral services were held on December 14 at Marek-Burns-Laywell Funeral Chapel in Cameron, with burial at the Corinth Cemetery in Milam County. She is survived by a sister, a son, two daughters, six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Minister: Rev. Larry Zabcik.

BYF OFFICERS AND ADVISORS

State Youth Coordinator:

Jennifer Chervenka, jennchervenka@farm-market.net

Youth Members:

Erin Brinkley - Foreign Mission Board Representative, erinbrinkley@yahoo.com Krystal Dusek, krystal.dusek@gmail.com Jordan Eilers - Hus Board of Trustees Representative, eilers.js@gmail.com Deanna Hairrell, d.abcd108@gmail.com Kelton Hooker, kth99@sbcglobal.net Reed Olsen. futurepres21@gmail.com Montgomery Raesz, mogom16@gmail.com Ben Wilde, alwaysbenwild@gmail.com Cameron Wilt. jcwilt16@yahoo.com Madalynn Woelfel, madwoefel@aol.com

Adult Members:

Taylor Brinkley, taylordbrnkley@yahoo.com Kari Raesz, kari.raesz@dps.texas.gov Tammie Reithmayer, triethmayer1972@gmail.com Anna Wotipka – Treasurer, awotipka58@yahoo.com

Pastoral Advisors:

Bro. Jim Heckman, jimheckman46@gmail.com Bro. Mark Sebek, papasebek@gmx.com

MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS BOARD (2015-2017)

Rev. Dr. Larry Koslovsky (Pastor to the Pastors) Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill Rev. Michael Groseclose Rev. Jimmy Hejl

Chapter Nine – The Unity asks her sons to weep for priests who have sinned. She reminds them of what happened when the sons of Aaron brought unauthorized fire before the Lord. He destroyed the sons of Aaron but allowed the people to weep for them. The Unity states that the guardians of her tabernacle brought or permitted foreign fire into the presence of the Lord in the forms of human vanities, pride, miserliness, indifference, and more. "See, they died and are dying in front of you for their sins; but you cry because this wound is injuring you and your

Chapter Ten – The Unity bequests penitence and prayer, fasting and weeping. She states that this repentance should be as in times of old with torn hearts not just torn robes. She reminds her sons of those who "sought the merciful Lord with weeping and fasting lying prostrate for three days without ceasing." She reminds them that they never knew such repentance with this kind of fervor even after their many defeats during the last thirty years (The Thirty Years War 1618-1648). She begs them to return to the Lord who is gracious

descendants."

and compassionate. Perhaps He may yet relent.

Chapter Eleven – The Unity remembers her virtues: love of God, simplicity and honesty. She recalls with tears that which she lost. She mourns how her children lost that which was dear: love for God and His honor, hatred of the world and its futility, meekness and honesty with self. She reminds them that this permitted unfaithfulness, suspicion, conflicts, pride, and a host of other negative things to creep in. She reminds them that some of them have grown even worse in exile by unhitching themselves "from the yoke of discipline, settling in places where you can do whatever you feel is right."

In agony, she pleads with them to remember what they were called for and what path they were led to. She reminds them that they are just pilgrims in this world and that their true home is in the heavens.

Chapter Twelve – The Unity expresses gratitude to the Polish Unity. She likens her to a daughter born to her in the middle of her life who accepted her exiled children. "You brought them up. God give you re-



TAYLOR BRETHREN CHURCH

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

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

Pastor Board President James D. Hejl Buddy Michna 512-365-6890 512-365-1621 Secretary Mary Kokes M-Th 8 a.m.-noon

ward for it!" She reminds the Polish Unity from which trunk she came. As the times are troubled she advises the Polish Unity to take care lest it be said, "They claim to be the seed of the Czech brethren, but they are not." She reminds the Polish Unity about the importance of order. She warns her daughter of the dangers of sending her young to foreign schools for purification because they return with wildness, strange customs, and awful styles of clothes. This is not the simplicity "the Christ and our ancestors sought." This places the Polish Unity in peril. If left unchecked, the Lord could uproot her, as well. The Unity advises her to remember this and repair everything to good order.

Chapter Thirteen – The Unity advises her ministers and lay people what they are to do upon her death. Her preachers should serve Christ in any Evangelical church which would have them. She reminds them never to forget their simplicity. They should "encourage love, concord, and common good in the Church; develop in people only a faith in Christ, pure and religious, passionate and hopeful of the sweet future age, so that you may be witnesses of where you came from."

She then refers to her lay people as "orphaned listeners." She advises them to care for those who walk in her example. She tells them to "join the unity where you will see the truth of the Christ's gospel, pray for the peace [of this unity] and take care of its good building, also by example shine to others, also by true prayers, so that at least on me and you, my sons, the Almighty wrath will stop, which is justly imposed on the Christianity so fallen into many heresies and divisions."

In the chapters that follow, the Unity addresses the German and Swiss Unities, Christians, and the Czech nation. She then bids farewell. I will share these chapters in next month's article.

Knesek Family Funeral Chapels



Neighbors helping Neighbors Since 1914"

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

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

BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION BRETHREN CHURCH

2650 Earl Rudder Freeway South www.unityofthebrethren.org

Rev. Mark Sebek

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 9283 College Station, TX 77842 Church 9:00 A.M. Sunday School 10:45 A.M. Off: 979-693-3606 email: papasebek@gmx.com July 15-17, 2016 – BYF Summer Retreat, Convention and Volleyball Tournament at the Hus Encampment.

August 14, 2016 – 5th-year Anniversary Celebration of Cade Lake Community Church. Free-will donation lunch at 1:00 and services at 2:00

Summer Camp Dates:

Encounter Camp (ages 7-8) June 9-11, 2016 Alpha Camp (ages 9-10) June 12-16, 2016 Pioneer Camp (ages 11-12) June 19-24, 2016 Discovery Camp (ages 13-15) June 26-July 1, 2016 Hus School (ages 16 – High School Seniors) July 3-15, 2016

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.

OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

17454 State Highway 53, Temple, TX 76501 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 806, Rogers, TX 76569

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 Sebek3910 Red Ranger Rd.
Temple, TX 76501

(254) 985-2578

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

Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

***DUE NOW *** Unity of the Brethren Church Questionnaire. See inside this issue for announcement regarding the requirements for this questionnaire. Information is also available online at www.unityofthebrethren.org

March 5, 2016 – Children's Rally at the Hus Encampment. 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Activities will begin at 9 a.m. and closing begins at 3:30 p.m. Registration form and \$20 fee due by February 1. T-shirt, 2 snacks, lunch, and crafts included in fee. Children ages 3 to 3rd grade invited to attend. Volunteers ages 12 and up \$10 fee for shirt and food. Forms available at www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.com or contact Jennifer Chervenka, 254-913-1244; jennchervenka@farm-market.net

March 27, 2006 - Resurrection Sunday

April 23, 2016 – Spring Synodical Committee Meeting at the Hus Encampment beginning at 9 a.m. Registration begins at 8 a.m.

April 29-May 1, 2016 – Annual Fishing Retreat in Port O'Connor, Texas.

April 30, 2016 – 48th Convention of the Christian Sisters Union at Ocker Brethren Church. More information to come or see your local Christian Sisters Chapter representative.

SAVE THE DATES . . .

May 6-8, 2016 – Community Christian Church of Rosenberg hosting Dr. Gary Wood during 3 different services. For additional information, see story in this issue.

May 27, 2016 – Fried Cicken Fund Raiser at the Industry Fireman's Hall (16632 Fordtran Blvd., Industry, TX) for the Industry Brethren Church.

July 2016 – 64th Biennial Convention of the Mutual Aid Society at Snook Brethren Church

Granger Brethren Church Steeple Repair Update

January 25, 2016

The first stage of repair is almost completed. It included replacing/repairing rotten framework, siding and trim, crickets, wall, and valley metal added to insure proper roof drainage, and painting of the bell tower support structure.

As funds allow, we plan to move to the next stage of inner bell tower structure repair and painting of the exterior bell tower.

We have seen God's hand in this project. The positive responses of the Unity, the community and congregation have been a shining example of faith.

Please continue to follow our project on our webpage, www.grangerbrethren.org, and Facebook. Thank you.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Tami Laza, Chair; tami.laza@verizon.net Charles Groseclose, Representative to Foreign Mission Board; cmrag@aol.com Angie Hairrell, Representative to Hus Board of Trustees; hairrell@dishmail.net Jennifer Chervenka: jennchervenka@farm-market.net Dorothy Kocian; dekocian@yahoo.com Jean Kotrla; kotrla@flash.net Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill, Synodical Committee Liaison: jerryleeterrill@comcast.net Debbie Clark Peggy Heil

Home Mission Board Announcement

The members of the Home Mission Board will begin visiting churches in their area to share our plans for 2016. We will have Mason jar banks to hand out to help us reach our budget.

As 2016 is the 5th-year anniversary of Cade Lake Community Church, plans are being made for an open house celebration at the Cade Lake Church on August 14, 2016. A free will donation lunch, preaching, and singing are in the plans. Pastor Jim Heckman and Dianne held the first service on the property on August 14, 2011.

CHRISTIAN SISTERS' UNION OFFICERS

President: Ann Sebesta, P.O. Box 115, Snook, TX 77878. (210) 244-3362; bfsinc@tconline.net

Vice President: Jean Kotrla, (512) 491-7802. kotrla@flash.net

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

Financial Secretary: Linda Planka, (832) 335-2248 or (713) 472-3192; mslindai47@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Carol Miller, 413 West Val Verde, Brenham, TX 77833. Home: (979) 421-8291 Cell: (979) 220-0030; crhmiller45@gmail.com

Hus Encampment Rep.: Paula Wagner

Unity Mission Board Rep:

Jean Kotrla, (512) 491-7802; kotrla@flash.net

Synodical Committee Liaison:

Rev. Dr. Jerry Lee Terrill, 7 Torch Pine Ct., The Woodlands, TX 77381; jerryleeterrill@gmail.com

Thoughts about giving...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Leroy Parthum, Chair – Westheimer; betty_parthum@yahoo.com Roger Runnels – Cy-Fair – 281-469-4302, rogerhr@swbell.net Ron Tyson – Houston – 281-373-4376 (home), rdtyson1@hotmail.com

Alan Tomasek – 512-859-2197, amtomasek@thegateway.net Eugene Haisler – Ocker – 254-985-2316, dmheeh@msn.com Harvey Treybig – Industry – Unity Treasurer and Synodical Committee Liaison, 512-327-2504; htreybig@austin.rr.com

Apply the Proverb for Teens:

In what ways does the world tend to rub off on you?

Take a few moments and answer the following questions. The intention is to get you thinking about how things of this world may affect your life. Your answers are personal, not to be shared, so be honest with yourself.

- Do you (1) use money and love people, or (2) use people and love money?
- Do you think you need more than food, clothing, and God's love?
- When you have an extra fifty bucks to spend on anything you want, what do you do with it?
- If aliens were to come to earth, knowing nothing about our planet, and they were asked who you looked or acted like, who would they choose?
- ____ like a pop star
- ____ like a movie star
- ____ like a celebrity
- ____ like Jesus

This activity should at least start us thinking about how the world affects our lives. More often than not, we say one thing and do another. Very few of us really live out our faith in tangible ways.

Proverb Craft:

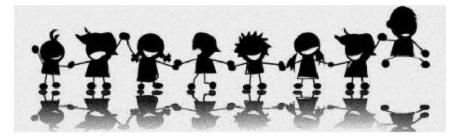
Bird's Nest Security

Paper plate, Wiggle eyes, Scrap construction paper, glue

- 1. Cut the plate in half. Paint or color brown.
- 2. Write Proverbs 29:25 on the bottom of the plate.
- 3. Cut ovals (birds) from scrap paper. Glue on wiggle eyes and a beak. Glue in the nest.

Check out the blog and Pinterest Board for more ideas and links!

http://sundayschoolhelperbrethrenjournal.blogspot.com/
https://www.pinterest.com/ahairrell/ss-helper-proverbs-for-children/



Proverbs 29:25

Fear of man is a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe.

Understand the Proverb:

- 1. Read the proverb aloud.
- 2. Ask: What is fear of man? (Man can be friends. Fearing other people means we are likely to do what they say to avoid conflict.) If we fear someone who is pressuring us to do something wrong, what might happen? (We might do things we regret.) What does this proverb tell us about facing peer pressure? (Trust in God and He will give us a way out of the situation.)

Practice the Proverb:

Blow up the balloon and draw a face on it with a Sharpie. After the ink dries, deflate the balloon. Insert the balloon into the empty water bottle and pull the opening of the balloon over the mouth of the bottle. The balloon should be hanging inside the bottle.

Choose someone who claims they can blow up a balloon. Give them the bottle and tell them to blow hard into the balloon so that it will inflate. No matter how hard they blow, the balloon will not inflate inside the bottle. This is what it's like to be influenced by negative peer pressure. Peers are the people around us and pressure is when we feel forced to be and act a certain way. The balloon represents a person and the bottle is peer pressure. No matter how hard he tries, when he allows himself to be surrounded by negative peer pressure – people trying to influence him to act in a certain way – he's not able to grow into the person God intended.

Remove the balloon from the bottle and let your assistant blow it up. The face on the balloon will appear. When this person freed himself from peer pressure, he was free to grow and thrive and become what God intended.



Industry Brethren Church Christmas/155th Year of Service Celebration

The Industry Brethren Church celebrated Christmas and its 155th year of services on Sunday, December 20, 2015, with Holy Communion served by Pastors Kay Polasek, Lawrence Junek, and Nello Strickland. It was served to approximately 80 people. It is estimated attendance was 90 people. Prayers and blessings were offered for the church and its people. A manger scene was outside the church and beautiful wreaths were on the front doors to the church, and each window held greenery and candles inside the church. A large Christmas tree was in the front of the church and a handmade ceramic manger scene was displayed on the piano in the front of the church. A lighted star above Mary and Joseph with a large lighted angel with wings spread above them adorned the front of the church. Several poinsettias were displayed in the church, also giving it a festive Christmas atmosphere.

Children participating were Casey Marshall playing "The Toy Maker" on the piano; Alyssa & Grace Martinsen played "Jolly Old St. Nick"



on the cellos; Alyssa Martinsen played "Away in the Manger" and "Silent Night, Holy Night". Children sang "Away in the Manger" and they also played bells while the congregation sang "Joy to The World". The congregation sang "Silent Night, Holy Night" in Czech, German, Spanish, and English while hand-held candles were lit throughout the church. Kyla Cmajdalka sang "Do You Hear What I Hear?" and "A King Is Born" while playing the guitar. Children reading the Bible verses were Casey Marshall, Grace Martinsen, Brynn Martinsen, and Avery Marshall. Brynn Martinsen lit the Advent Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and Christ's". Everyone



Temple Brethren Church

2202 Birdcreek Drive Temple, Texas 76502 (254) 778-8759 tbc@hot.rr.com

Worship: 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Tim Chaplin, Interim Pastor (254) 718-3898



was given a historical program giving the dates and information of the Industry Brethren Church from 1860 to current. Also, a picture of the live oak tree under which the first meeting in 1860 of the Industry Brethren Church members was held was on the cover. The tree is still standing on Main Street in Industry. Bill and Loyce Bravenec own the property that the tree is located on, and they brought a large photograph of that tree to share with everyone. Pastor Kay Polasek



had the children come forward and she read "The Legend of the Christmas Tree" to them. She also gave the children gifts and candy canes afterward. Lillie Coufal was recognized as the oldest member (98 years) and given a corsage, and Cullen Hickman was given a boutonniere as the youngest member (1 year old). Persons who were baptized, confirmed, married, served on the Board of Elders, ministered, etc., at the church were asked to stand and be recognized. Allan Kuehn, former City of Industry Mayor read a Proclamation from the City of

Seaton Brethren Church

12561 State Highway 53
Temple, TX 76501
Church Phone: 254-985-2694
seatonbrethrenchurch@yahoo.com

Rev. Denise Mikeska, Pastor – sbcpastordenise@yahoo.com Charles Amos Sr., Board of Elders Chair



Proverbs 29:25

Fear of man is a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe

Our proverb this month is all about peer pressure. Peer pressure is something all children (and adults, for that matter) face. Hiding this proverb in our hearts is an effective way to help us overcome peer pressure.

Try this quick demonstration to show the power of peer pressure. Line up a set of dominoes, BUT secure the last one with glue or tape so it will not fall. Explain that peer pressure is just like barely touching that first domino, causing the chain reaction. But using God's Word, we can stand firm, just like the last domino.

Community Christian Church of Rosenberg Invitation

This year Community Christian Church in Rosenberg will celebrate 90 years in the ministry. We are celebrating with Dr. Gary Wood coming and speaking at our church. Dr. Wood has an incredible testimony about his death experience on that Christmas Eve so many vears ago, his description of Heaven, and meeting Jesus. He has a book called "A Place called Heaven" on the market. He has a riteous sense of humor, is a gifted speaker and singer and a powerfully anointed man of God.

He will be here on May 6th,7th, and 8th. Friday and Saturday services will be at 7 p.m. Sunday services will be at 10:30. Our address is 5220 Reading Road, Rosenberg, TX. Love offering will be taken every service.

Come join us and see God move.

FOREIGN MISSION BOARD

Chairman:

David Miller (2015); (325) 651-7597, dm103157@wcc.net

Unity Representatives:

Joyce Baletka (2013), 2505 E. Villa Maria Rd. Apt. 101, Bryan, TX 77802. (979) 574-8948; jbaletka@hotmail.com

John Brinkley, (254) 721-3196

Anne Wentrcek (2013), 1901 Meadow Lane, Taylor, TX 76574; aggieanne@att.net

Board of Christian Education Rep.:

Charlie Groseclose (2009), 358 State Hwy. 53, Rosebud, TX 76570. (254) 583-4160; cmrag@aol.com

Christian Sisters Representative:

Ann Sebesta, P.O. Box 115, Snook, TX 77878. (210) 244-3362 (c); bfsinc@tconline.net

BYF Representative:

Mary Jones (2009), PO Box 2112, Wall, TX 76957. (325) 651-4623; gkjones@wcc.net

Synodical Committee Liason:

Rev. Mark Sebek; (254) 931-2000, papasebek@gmx.com

ADVISORY MEMBERS

Rev. Milton & Jean Maly Rev. Lawrence & Barbara Junek Ray & Laurie Griggs Jill Miller

CURRENT MISSIONARIES

Robert & Anne Thiessen Michael & Caroline Woo Phil & Eunice Raiford Pastor Pavel & Stana Kozak Carolyn Groseclose

Brethren Book Store

P.O. Box 321 Caldwell, TX 77836 (979) 200-0513 Diane Heckman, Manager Industry to the church recognizing Industry Brethren Church's 155 years of service. As everyone was leaving the church, they were given a white crocheted cross bookmarker for their Bibles with a note on back saying it was in honor of the 155the anniversary of services at Industry Brethren Church.

Fellowship Hall was decorated with a large Christmas tree with popcorn and cranberry strands and old fashioned decorations. Two large nutcrackers were on either side of the tree, and a wooden manger scene beneath it. The doors to Fellowship Hall were decorated with sparkly garland and bows and a lighted manger scene sat beside the door as you entered. There were handmade Advent candle holders lighted on each of the tables. A large white cake with a gold cross and purple writing of "Industry Brethren Church 155th Anniversary of service" was served to everyone. A smaller sugar-free cake



was also available for everyone. Barbeque chopped beef on buns, sandwiches, chili, chips, dips, sausage, cheese, vegetable trays, and fruit trays were served in addition to many delicious desserts of all kinds. Everyone was given a bag of fruit, trail mix, and word-find books as they left. (This was a practice many years ago when one visited Santa Claus.) There was a lot of fellowship and visiting in the Christmas spirit.



Mutual Aid Society Scholarship Announcement

The Mutual Aid Society will award up to \$5,000 in the Spring of 2016. The amount of each scholarship will depend on the number of qualified applications received. Candidates must be high school seniors or undergraduate students who will be attending an accredited university, college, or technical school during the summer or fall of 2016. Past recipients may apply again; however, preferential consideration will be given to firsttime applicants. Scholarship application and requirements can be found on the Unity website at: "http:// unityofthebrethren.org/mutual-aidsociety/".

Application must be postmarked by **March 31, 2016,** and mailed to: Rev. Joseph J. Polasek, President, Mutual Aid Society, P.O. Box 54, Snook, TX 77878.

In addition, an electronic copy of the essay must be emailed by **March 31, 2016**, to Rev. Joseph Polasek at josephjpolasek@yahoo.com.

Recipients will be announced after May 1, 2016.

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

Sincerely,

Rev. Joseph J. Polasek, President, Mutual Aid Society

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, Taylor, TX 76574. (512) 365-7191; krueg98@austin.rr.com

Secretary: Connie Janac (Chr. Sis. 2010) 1002 Munson, College Station, TX 77840. (979) 696-1953; cjanac@st-joseph.org

At-Large: Phil Michalik, 15918 Brook Forest Dr., Houston, TX 77059. Pmichalik1@peoplepc.com

Member: Debbie Grimm (Chr. Sis. 2010) 1409 Stone Ridge Rd., Taylor, TX 76574. 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; rtsnelgrove@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; DMBaletka@gmail.com

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

(979)255-8266; <u>rschlechte@hotmail.com;</u> <u>schlechte86@msn.com</u>

Oversight of Synodical Committee: Rev. Dr. Jerry Lee Terrill, 7 Torch Pine Court, The Woodlands, TX 77381. (281) 364-9865; jerryleeterrill@gmail.com 30th if you are interested.

Thank you Lord for Inheritance of Hope. Bless them so that they can bless more families who face potential loss.

Shan Update

Please pray for groups of believers to be connected and streamed together throughout the Shan State. We are thankful for the Shan Bible that was put on a phone app and that many people are using it now.

2015 Support

Thank you so much to those that are already on our financial and prayer team. We received over 100% in 2015. However our budget has gone up significantly in 2016. Currently we are at 83% support.

Praise you Lord for your desire to see the nations come to you.

Now what?

I have two more surgeries I need to do for reconstruction and then we hope to be on our way back to China by June or July. To make this happen we need to have 100% of our financial support **pledged**. So we are praying for the Lord to raise up the right team of people and churches that will want to give continual monthly or yearly to our work and ministry. Some of you may want to give a one-time gift, but that does not help us get back on the field. What we need is monthly or yearly pledged support. It only needs to be pledged, not necessarily given yet.

Lord, would you call forth those who want to give monthly or yearly to the Woos and your work through them. Continue to heal Caroline's body so she can live and serve You!

If you have wanted to pledge financially but have never been sure how to do it, then here is the easiest way: Go to http://omf.org/us/give/people/pledge-your-support/.

Lord We Pray For:

- continued healing in Caroline's body.
- surgery dates and clarity/wisdom for when the Woos should head back to China.
- the Woos partnership development. For them to reach 100% pledged support.
- Ray and Rachel, our teammates, who have returned to the field and are continuing Shan Dai ministry. Give them fresh vision and opportunity.
- May, Lisa, Mary, Timothy, Paul, and the other Shan Dai believers to know you and love you and share the love of Christ.
- your hand to move across SE Asia.

Serving Together,

Michael and Caroline Woo Samuel, Ian, Zach, Isaac, Salem

From the Woo's...

Dear Prayer Warriors,

Happy Sweet 16 in 2016! We are believing Jesus for awesome things this year.

Caroline's Dad

On December 27th, my parent's 51st wedding anniversary, my dad's



The Woo family during their vacation at Disney World.

body gave out and he went to see Jesus face to face. One of the last things he said was that he knew two things. "One is that the Carolina Panthers are going to win (the Super Bowl), and two is that he would see Jesus face-to-face soon." The funeral was beautiful and Jesus was glorified.

Jesus we ask you to continue to comfort Caroline's mother and her dad's 6 kids and 16 grandkids.

Disney World

Two weeks after my dad's funeral I finished radiation and we all went to Florida to enjoy Disney World and Universal Studios with Inheritance of Hope (IoH) on a Legacy Retreat. It was an AMAZING trip. You can see pictures of our trip at inheritanceofhope.org, (retreats/photo galleries).

IoH is having a Legacy Run in Brevard, NC, to raise money on April

WALL BRETHREN CHURCH

12 miles east of San Angelo, Loop 570, Wall, Texas P.O. Box 195, Wall, Texas 76957 Phone: 325-651-4444 ~ Fax: 325-651-5100

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Tallas

Home: 325-949-7543 Cell: 325-656-8558

Home: rev.tjt@gmail.com
Church: rev.tjt@zipnet.us
www.wallbrethrenchurch.org

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

President Pastor/Director of Youth Church Office
Board of Elders and Young Family Ministries Secretary
Josh Holik Ryan Volkman Johnie Smith
325-234-8667 325-213-0671 Tu-F: 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

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

From the Thiessen's...

January 16, 2016

Dear friends,

The New Year is always a good time to reflect on what has been accomplished and then what to look forward to. This last year was obviously taken up with Anne's journey along the cancer path, yet during that we were able to fulfill many ministry goals, as well. And, of course, one of the big events was helping our daughter get married on December 23rd.

Elai and Mikael had a wonderful wedding, reception, and dance. Most of it was fairly simple, but several friends and family helped to bring extra details adding flair and memories. Thanks to all who helped, and for the many gifts, too.

Mikael's family stayed around for a week, and we spent several days together. Our joint Christmas with the kids was special. The newly marrieds finally returned to the Chicago area in early January.



Elai and Mikael Berthiaume at their wedding.

Anne is done with most of the major parts of treatment. However, since the beginning she has been receiving a special targeted chemo drug every three weeks. This will continue till mid April, and then she is "free". She will need to do follow-up every four to six months, but we hope that can be done from Mexico.

During this year I made several trips to Mexico to visit our team and network. Anne joined me on one of them. I also did some teaching at our head office in BC. Anne wrote exten-



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

DMBaletka@gmail.com

*This must be done well in advance.

sively throughout the time, and I finished several articles.

I am traveling this week to Montgomery, AL, for a Mixtec Summit. Several thousand Mixtecs (from the area where Anne and I first lived) migrated there and now a group of local churches has a well-developed outreach among them. They organized this conference to help refine their efforts and keep others in the loop.

Anne and I will visit Mexico for two weeks in mid March, during which she will give a five-day course in cross-cultural ministry to Mexican missionary candidates. I will visit the church leaders in Guerrero and we will have team meetings.

Once Anne is done in April, we will visit several supporting churches in North Carolina, and by early June we intend to be back in Mexico resuming our "normal" life there

Unity Archivist

Clint Machann c-machann@tamu.edu 979-696-1360 or 979-845-4898 Thank you so much for your encouragement and prayer throughout this year, and your ongoing support.

Blessings, Robert

February 6, 2016

Dear friends.

This is a quick note to let you know that on Monday Anne will be undergoing an ablation operation for her irregular heart beat (tachycardia). I will attach an outline of what this is if anyone wants to read further. The short of it is this:

Catheter ablation is an invasive procedure used to remove or terminate a faulty electrical pathway from sections of the hearts of those who are prone to developing cardiac arrhythmias.

The doctors keep reassuring us that this is not a very difficult procedure (not an operation), and that she

GRANGER NATIONAL BANK

Ryze Ceska Banka, Member F.D.I.C. Granger, Texas www.grangernationalbank.com

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

PastorBoard of Elders PresidentYouth DirectorsRev. Joseph PolasekRayfield SlovacekRandall & Jonna SeeP.O. Box 54P.O. Box 267P.O. Box 345Snook, TX 77878Snook, TX 77878Snook, TX 77878(979) 272-1624(979) 272-8845(979) 272-8179

will be out the same day. Anne goes in at 9:30 a.m. for the pre-op stuff and then has tiny sections of her heart burned between 2 and 3 p.m., and we should be home by the evening.

She's had the problem for years, mostly mild, but with the chemotherapy that she received at the beginning of her treatment this condition worsened, and she was having episodes of several hours with a very high heartbeat. Twice she went into emergency and had her heart stopped with a drug so that she could be "reset".

It's amazing how fast things came together, since we only went to see the heart surgeon last Monday. There was a cancellation that they informed us about yesterday, and so in she goes. This is really helpful, since our travel plans were getting full and the hospital schedule didn't look flexible. (We are planning on going to Mexico for two weeks in March and then to North Carolina for two weeks in the end of April.)

My time in Montgomery, AL, was uplifting for me as I got to know better what some church groups are doing with indigenous Mexicans that live in the US. There were people from Richmond, VA, and Bakersfield, CA, who

shared about their ministries with different Mixtec groups. The Montgomery folks are working directly with Metlatonoc Mixtecs living in their area. Everyone agreed that this kind of ministry was difficult, especially building relationships with the family men, but they are all committed to carrying on. The Southern Baptist are working on establishing networks of churches in the 100 largest cities in the US that will be aware of the unreached people groups that have migrated to their city and help provide targeted resources for those groups.

Anne joined me at the end and we spent four days with her parents in Sebring, FL. We value each time that we can see them (Dad has had some issues with strokes), and this particular visit we got "hooked" on the Superbowl drama. We watched the two lead-up games that Sunday, and now will for the first time in our lives actually make an effort to watch the big game tomorrow together with some friends. As Anne says, "It's a story."

Thanks again for all that you do to keep us going.

Robert and Anne



In God's Hands Ministry

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

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