

THE BRETHREN



JOURNAL



Vol. 115

April 2016

No. 3

32 Pages

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— 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.

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Back row: Sandra Stepan, Liz Ripple, Doris Ripple, Ginger Marshall, Shirley Conwill, Pastor Kay Polasek. (See story inside this issue.)

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Her Final Words . . . by Jim Pokorny

Hope Springs UP . . . by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

Mutual Aid Scholarship Announcement

... and more!

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RATE – \$15.00 per year via hard copy and/or email; \$7.50 after June 1st
(All subscriptions expire December 31st)
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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@gmail.com.

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Rates (per column inch per year)
Commercial coverage – \$50.00
Religious coverage – \$50.00
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SUBMISSION – DEADLINE is the first day of the month preceding publication.
Write: *The Brethren 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. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Brethren Journal*, Attn: Business Manager, 705 Woodson Dr., Caldwell, TX 77836.

Life's Rhythm and Our Spiritual Lives... Practicing the Presence of *The I Am* in Our Daily Lives

Larry Koslovsky,
Pastor to Pastors
Crosby & Pasadena Brethren
Churches

Heartbeats; breath, in and out; stride and gate; even brain waves... All hum to a rhythm. In music... Time signature tells the musician the number of counts or beats in a measure with the notes signifying the length of the beats.

Day follows night according to Genesis 1. Days turn into weeks, weeks into months. Months flow into seasons of the year – spring, summer, fall, winter, and mark the broader seasons of our physical lives.

Our spiritual lives follow a rhythm as well – daily and seasonally according to the church or liturgical calendar. Advent begins the church year that leads to Christmas that moves into Epiphany. Lent, in the throes of winter, leads to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Sabbath, with all moving toward the Resurrection... the authentic, abundant, always life we have in Christ followed by Ascension and Pentecost.

The daily rhythm of our physical lives – morning, afternoon, evening, and night, become even more subvided by worship and watches in the night. The Psalmist speaks of these generically

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Seven times a day I praise you...

Psalm 119.164

6p, 9p, midnight through the early morning hours, 6a, 9a, Noon, 3p called the office of the hours, divine office or daily office, follow the Jewish sense of rhythm. Traditionally these are named vespers, compline, vigils, lauds, terce, sext, none.

In observing these rhythms as moments of praise, they are not necessarily tied to the specific hour and minute, but may vary either before or after in the rhythm of your own life. I find that I am able to observe the hours... some more, others less, if nothing more than connecting them to the *I am* sayings of Jesus that reminds me of His last words.... *And lo, I am with you always until the end of the age.*

The desire is to be cognizant of the Lord in all the days and seasons of our lives. To tap into His presence and allow the rhythm of the day to be measured out in moments of praise, if only brief to begin the rhythm of work, play, and rest.

As we mature, we find sleep to be more evasive for the duration of 6-8 hours. Those waking moments between midnight and sunrise may be redeemed by prayer and watching *for we do not know the hour* when the Lord will return instead of fighting the insomnia, the tossing and turning, and the frustration and anxiety that come with it. More will be said about this later (vigils).

I AM

In seminary, I became fascinated with Exodus 3.14. The God of the Scriptures reveals Godself as *I AM WHO I AM*, which can also be translated *I WILL BE WHO I WILL BE* (printed in Bibles as THE LORD). In the Lord's revelation of Self, the Lord is not limited by any one name or construct, but rather chooses to reveal and proclaim Godself in a variety of ways in order for you and me as creatures to experience and know the Lord in our limited human way.

This theme lives throughout the Gospel of John and the Book of Revelation through the great *I am* sayings of Jesus...

I am the...

Bread of Life
Good Shepherd
Alpha and Omega
Resurrection & the Life
Vine
Light of the World
Way, Truth & the Life

A seminary assignment in New Testament required me to creatively depict a theme from the the rich imagery of Johannine literature – the Gospel of John, Letters of John and Revelation. I took the *I am* sayings and turned these into bulletin covers, depicting these with illustrations & words. The finished product has long disappeared, but I still gravitate toward these sayings in light of the Lord's revelation to Moses through the burning bush and the sayings found in John's writings.



As a part of my experience at the *Academy for Spiritual Formation*, a ministry of *The Upper Room*, I have taken the Psalmist schedule of praise and the daily office to meter my own life with the *I am* sayings:

I am the...

- 6p – *Bread of Life*
vespers practiced with
the Lord's Supper in
many settings
- 9p – *Good Shepherd*
or as one retires at night
- 12a-6a – *Alpha and Omega*
midnight through early
morning hours
- 6a – *Resurrection & the Life*
- 9a – *Vine*
- 12p – *Light of the World*
- 3p – *Way, Truth, and the Life*

In the course of the next several months, I will introduce each of these markers of the day, one at a time. It will give you time to experiment, add, take away, in other words, refine what works for you as you more intentionally seek to be aware with the presence of the Lord in relationship to the rhythm of both the assigned times and your own daily schedule.

Connected to each hour, along with the *I am* sayings, are a hymn, poem or writings, thematic Scriptures, and a prayer (see below). Write your own prayers, add other Scriptures, poems, or thoughts that speak to the *I am* of the hour and speak to you. You may want to add pictures or icons. Add to, take away, whatever is helpful to you in joining and keeping the rhythm of prayer through the centuries.

For this month, practice the presence of Christ by remembering Jesus as the Bread of Life at the 6p hour. Now it does not have to happen exactly at 6p. An hour earlier or 30-45 minutes later is fine. You work at being in touch with your own rhythm of the day. The challenge is simply to remember the 6p hour, known as Vesper.

The reason for starting at 6p is twofold. Genesis 1 reminds us that the LORD in the course of creation spoke of evening and morning as a day. As a result, the Sabbath starts at sunset on Friday and extends to Saturday sunset, the seventh day.

Jesus, as the Bread of Life, on the night He is betrayed, takes bread, blesses it, breaks and gives it to His disciples and us. Those on the road to Emmaus who meet up with the stranger, Jesus, and walk until almost evening, then experience the presence of the risen Christ in the breaking of bread. As we approach the 6p hour, for many of us, our thoughts turn not only to ending of the day in our culture, but also our evening meal. Our supper, in light of His Supper, can take on a sacramental nature as we remember Jesus, the Bread of Life.

The following serves as a guideline. The goal is to mark this hour with some moments of attention to the presence of the Lord in your life. Allow the Holy Spirit to lead you in terms of length of time devoted and manner, for each of us our on our own pathway of faith, experiencing Christ.

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

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.
– Dr. Larry Koslovsky

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 and 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 – 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

VITAL STATISTICS

MEMBERS RECEIVED

ROYDER, KAY, joined the Caldwell Brethren Church Family on December 27, 2015, by Profession of Faith. Minister: Rev. Vanessa Mitchell.

REITMEYER, KAREN, was accepted into the membership of the Granger Brethren Church by reaffirmation of faith on March 6, 2016. Minister: Rev. Larry Zabcik.

RECENT DEATHS

SCHILLER, GLADYS MARIE, age 87, of Belton and a member of the Temple Brethren Church, died March 9, 2016. Graveside services were held on March 12 at the Ocker Brethren Cemetery. She is survived by two daughters and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Minister: Rev. Larry Zabcik.

VOJTEK, CALVIN JOHN, age 85, passed away in Bryan, TX, on February 11, 2016. He was born on May 24, 1930, in Houston to Fred and Anna Kubin Vojtek. He served in the U.S. Army before he married Esther, the love of his life, on April 11, 1953. They celebrated 58 years together before she passed in 2011. Calvin was active in the community and was very service oriented in the BCS Brethren Church and Mutual Aid Society. He was also active at the Hus Encampment serving as Camp Counselor in recent years.

Calvin John is survived by his children, Rosann and Larry Mullens, Daniel and wife Cyndy Vojtek; his grandchildren, Kasey and Chris Lenart, Charlie and Carla Anderson; his great-grandchildren, Ella Lenart, Jacklynn, Cooper, and Lincoln Anderson; his brother, Henry Vojtek of Giddings; as well as many nephews, nieces, and friends.

Funeral Services were held on February 15 at Woodlawn Funeral Home Chapel with burial at Woodlawn Garden of Memories. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Bryan-College Station Church for one of these organizations: Mutual Aid Society, Hus School, or Foreign and Home Missions.

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I am the Bread of Life

Vespers
6p

I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.

John 6:35

Prayer Of Praise

Take a minute to remember the Lord's provision throughout this day...

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His love endures forever.

Psalms 107.1

Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ, His Son
And now let the weak say,
"I am strong"

Let the poor say, "I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done
for us.

Don Moen

O Lord, my God. For the blessings of this day and so much more I give you thanks and praise. You are the great Provider. I deserve nothing, yet you pour into my life all that I need and even more so, Your love. Thank You, Lord, for you are good and for your goodness to all for all. Amen.

Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?

Matthew 7:9



Give us today our daily bread.

Matthew 6:11

Prayer Concerns

physically hungry here and abroad
powers and injustices that keep
food from those who need it most
spiritually hungry

Fill My Cup, Lord

Fill my cup, Lord;
I lift it up Lord;
Come and quench
this thirsting of my soul.
Bread of Heaven,
feed me till I want no more.
Fill my cup, fill it up
and make me whole.

Richard Blanchard

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

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.

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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

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Diane Heckman, Manager

Unity of the Brethren 2016 Summer Camping Program

Information Form

Encounter Camp (ages 7&8)

June 9-11 (Thurs 2 p.m. to Sat 3 p.m.)

Deadline/Registration Fee

By 4/15, \$200; By 5/1, \$250; By 5/15, \$275

Alpha Camp (ages 9&10)

June 12-16 (Sun 3 p.m. to Thurs 2 p.m.)

Deadline/Registration Fee

By 4/15, \$300; By 5/1, \$350; By 5/15, \$375

Pioneer Conference (ages 11&12)

June 19-24 (Sun 3 p.m. to Fri 2 p.m.)

Deadline/Registration Fee

By 4/15, \$300; By 5/1, \$350; By 5/15, \$375

Discovery Conference (ages 13-15)

June 26-July 1 (Sun 3 p.m. to Fri 2 p.m.)

Deadline/Registration Fee

By 4/15, \$300; By 5/1, \$350; By 5/15, \$375

Hus School (ages 16 & above)

July 3-15 (Sun 4 p.m. to Fri 3 p.m.)

Deadline/Registration Fee

April 15

Fee: \$500-\$600 based on the date
your application is received



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

To communicate with the Hus Encampment...

... regarding scheduling* of meetings or events there, contact:

Dawn Marie Baletka

600 Benchmark Drive

College Station, TX 77845

(979) 777-9940 or (979) 693-2710

DMBaletka@gmail.com

**This must be done well in advance.*

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for April 2017

- by Dorothy E. Kocian

1. When I called You answered me, Lord; You made me bold and stouthearted. Ps. 138:3
2. God did this so that man would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him. Acts 17:27
3. **The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hand. Ps. 19:1**
4. Abraham was looking forward to the city with foundations whose architect and builder is God. Heb. 11:10
5. Despite their fears of the people around them, they built the altar on its foundation. Ezra 3:3
6. With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the Lord. Ezra 3:11
7. You have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the Living God. Heb. 12:22
8. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord! 1 Cor. 12:5
9. A time has come when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. Jn. 4:23
10. **The Lord Almighty says, Give careful thought to your ways. Haggai 1:7**
11. He says, go up into the mountains, bring down timber, build the house, so that I may be honored. Haggai 1:14
12. They came and began to work on the house of the Lord Almighty, their God. Haggai 1:14
13. The trumpeters and singers joined in unison to give praise and thanks to the Lord. 2 Chron. 5:13a
14. The temple of the Lord was filled with a cloud... for the glory of the Lord filled the temple of God. 2 Chron. 5:13b-14
15. Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord. Ps. 31:24
16. Return to Me, and I will return to you, says the Lord Almighty. Malachi 3:7
17. **O Lord, You will keep us safe and protect us forever. Ps. 12:7**
18. I will sing to the Lord, for He has been good to me. Ps. 13:6
19. Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. Isa. 40:31
20. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor serving the Lord. Rom. 12:11
21. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, working for the Lord, not for men. Col. 3:23
22. I will save you, and you will be a blessing. Do not be afraid, but let your hands be strong. Zech. 8:13
23. O Lord, You will hear the desire of the meek; You will strengthen their heart. Ps. 10:17
24. **Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name; bring an offering and come into His courts. Ps. 10:17**
25. Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Ps. 96:1
26. Come and see what God has done; He is awesome in His deeds among mortals. Ps. 66:5
27. I am with you, says the Lord. Haggai 1:13
28. Jesus says, Where two or three are gathered in My name, I am there among them. Mt. 18:20
29. Splendor and majesty are before the Lord; strength and glory are in His sanctuary. Ps. 96:6
30. For there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things come and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 8:6

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

Her Final Words

- by Jim Pokorny

In this article, I conclude my examination of the final chapters of *The Last Will and Testament of the Dying Mother, the Unity of the Brethren*, by John Amos Comenius.

As you recall, Comenius writes this treatise as a will in the voice of the dying Unity in order to preserve its witness.

In these final chapters the Unity addresses other unities, Christians and the Czech nation before bidding her final farewell. Be forewarned that some of the language and imagery could be considered harsh by today's standards. It is imperative they be viewed in their proper historical context.

The Unity in 1650 lives in exile and has no hope of ever returning to her native Czech lands. She is the victim of persecution, war, and political intrigue. As she dies she leaves behind the spiritual things with which she has been entrusted. This, by necessity, includes warnings that may seem insensitive to us today. She wishes to depart the world a good steward, having put her house in order.

Chapter Fourteen – The Unity addresses the unity of Rome. “You were our mother, but you turned into a stepmother, or even a female bison sucking the blood of your children.” Taken in context with the times, the Unity laments the fact that the established church stopped nurturing her young. Instead, by focusing on of the fulfilment of her own desires, she turned on those who should have been able to rely on her. The Unity wishes that in her old age, the unity of Rome would repent. “What I bequest to you, if it is of any use, is my example, paying honor to God who remembered us even in my vices. Following the light of His word I left, through His mercy, the haze of your idolatry.”

The Unity knows that these words will likely fall on deaf ears. The unity of Rome believes herself to be the spiritual Jerusalem. She succeeds only in becoming the type scripture warns of that “kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it!” To her sons



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



she bequests the right given them by God “to raise resistance against you, their mother, proving that you are not His wife.” To the kings of the Earth who have carried her, she bequests “God’s zeal, by which they find you ugly and burn you as a dirt with fire.”

Chapter Fifteen – The Unity addresses the Evangelical (Protestant) unities. She speaks to “my beloved sisters, who lead the uprising according to the will of God against our mother.” It is in this chapter that Comenius makes his first reference to Jan Hus who was martyred July 6, 1415. “To me the faithful friend of the bridegroom was sent, Master John Hus, whose testimony I accepted more gladly because he sealed it with his martyrdom.”

She then speaks to the German Unity who “was sent the doctor Martin Luther, in the spirit and power of Elijah.” She commends them for celebrating in his given light.

She also addresses the Swiss Unity who “was sent John Calvin, to betroth you and marry you as a pure virgin to that one man, Christ.” She commends them for responding to Calvin as well.

With them, she rejoices in the

Lord. The Unity concludes this chapter by reminding them that she will soon depart but she has more to tell them. She begs them to listen.

Chapter Sixteen – In this chapter the Unity addresses the German Unity. She refers to her as “my most beloved sister, who when I was alone the Lord brought you to life for my pleasure.”

The Unity was founded in 1457 by Gregory the Patriarch and his followers. Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of All Saints Church in Wittenburg in 1517.

To the German Unity she bequests more orderly discipline and better wisdom concerning faith on justification. The Unity states that the German Unity’s beginning was good when they followed Luther whom God gave her. Those who followed Luther are not fighting as well. “His work for almost all his life was to destroy Babylon,” When the Lord called him to rest from his labors, those that followed should have continued to build. Instead, they kept only what he did. The work that had begun “you don’t want to finish; you don’t want to even hear about it.”

The Galatians started their Christianity with faith, but desired to end

SAVE THE DATES...

July 9, 2016 – 64th Biennial Convention of the Mutual Aid Society – at Snook Brethren Church. Contact: Rev. Joseph Polasek or Natalie Outlaw, NatalieOutlaw@yahoo.com

July 15-17, 2016 – BYF Summer Retreat, Convention and Volleyball Tournament at the Hus Encampment.

August 14, 2016 – Fifth 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

****Date Correction**

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.

Fayetteville Brethren Church

Site of the First Czech Protestant Preaching in Texas – 1855



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**Pastor: Rev. Kay Polasek
Home: 979-567-1999 Cell: 979-220-1289
Email: revkaypolasek@yahoo.com**

www.FayettevilleBrethrenChurch.org

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Dorothy Hinson
President
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Humble, TX 77346
(281) 620-0480

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

Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

April 23, 2016 – Spring Synodical Committee Meeting – at the Hus Encampment Agenda; Contact: Kent Laza (kent.laza@verizon.net) or Angie Hairrell (hairrell@gmail.com), 8 a.m. refreshments, meeting will begin at 9 a.m. A light lunch will be provided at noon or immediately following the meeting.

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. Contact: Ann Sebesta bfsinc@tconline.net or Kim Kennard kimberlykennard@yahoo.com

****May 1, 2016 – Fried Chicken Fund Raiser for Industry Brethren Church** at the Industry Fireman's Hall (16632 Fordtran Blvd. Industry, TX). Eat there or plates to go serving at 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Auction at noon. Desserts available. Country Store, and Raffle.

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.



CALDWELL BRETHREN CHURCH

401 South Main Street
(979) 567-7203

Rev. Vanessa Mitchell, Pastor
lajoiededieu@gmail.com
(979) 574-0268

Sunday School
9:30 AM

Children's Choir
Practice, Sundays
10:15 a.m.

Sunday Worship
10:30 AM

Church email: lifeatcbc@gmail.com

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

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with the Law. She states that the German Unity “started with the living faith but ended with the dead one, the one without any deeds. She reminds the German Unity that she is being disciplined by God. Knowledge of Christ and having delight in the Gospel are wonderful, but this knowledge must include following Christ. This delight must include following the law of love. Without these, she warns, the Gospel is misused.

Chapter Seventeen – The Unity then speaks to the Swiss Unity who was “added to me as a lover of order and discipline.” To her the Unity bequests the intent to be constant, growing in accordance with the orders of Christ. Along with the gifts the Swiss Unity is already receiving from God, she wishes to add one more. She wishes for the one thing which the Swiss Unity believes it has but in reality lacks. “Concerning theology, I wish you had more simplicity, less contemplation, more careful talk about God and His deeper secrets.” Lacking this led to “the pitiful tearing of yourself, gathered against you and against each other: Anabaptists, Socinians, Arminians” and others. The Unity sees her sons as always seek-

ing new things. Things upon which they cannot agree. “Oh my beloved sister, let God give something to all your sons, so that we may learn to pray together with David: ‘Simplicity and honesty, let them guard me.’”

Chapter Eighteen – To every Christian unity she bequests unification; unity not only of thought and reconciliation, but also unity in faith and love which leads to the Unity of spirit. The Ancient Unity desired true unity in Christendom. “Oh, if only God would give you to find the foundations of all things essential, things of service and accidental, as he did to me, so that all of you would know what is necessary to enthuse about and what not.” She talks about true participation in the Mercy of God, the merits of the Christ and the sweet inner gifts of the Holy Spirit. She reminds them of what is necessary. To be wholly invested in the One chosen by Mary who sat silently at the feet of Jesus after letting go of all anxious activity, so that “all of you claim allegiance to the house of the Church were only one house of God, well ordered and joined together, and only in that house the one family of God,



TAYLOR BRETHREN CHURCH

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512-352-6423

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

under unanimous order of God in concord, loving and helping one another." One day, she hopes, the Christian Church can sing with the angels, "how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!"

When the Unity was founded in 1457 it initially desired to insulate itself from the evils of the world around it. As it matured with the influx of those with more education, it no longer desired to be an island cut off from the world, but rather to become an influence of good in a fallen world. Even after experiencing persecution and exile, the Unity still desires true unification in Christianity even at the moment of her death.

Chapter Nineteen – In this chapter, the Unity names the Czech nation her first beneficiary and heir and bequests to it six spiritual treasures with which she has been entrusted.

First, "love for the pure truth of God, which the Lord started to show

us before other nations through the ministry of Master Hus, the ministry he together with his helper (a reference to Hus's friend Jerome of Prague, who was also martyred as a result of the Council of Constance) and other faithful Czechs sealed by his blood." She reminds the Czech nation that this gift was given to her before other nations.

Second, the passionate longing for fuller understanding of God's truth. "I bequest to you the inheritance the book of God, the Holy Bible, my sons, from the original languages... into the Czech language translated with great diligence." This is a reference to the Kralitz Bible which learned men translated into Czech over the course of fifteen years. The Unity reminds the nation that "only few nations can listen to the holy prophets and apostles speak in their own language." They are to accept this as their jewel and use it for the glory of God and for

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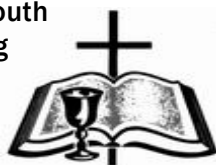
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www.unityofthebrethren.org

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

Explanation

The air-filled balloon will burst, but the one filled with water will not. This is because water is such a great conductor of heat. The water will absorb the heat into itself, thereby preventing the balloon from breaking, even under such intense heat that it could burn flesh.

Craft:

Animal Hats

Have you ever watched a deer twitching its ears to catch every sound? Animals know the importance of staying alert. These fun hats will help kids remember to "tune in" to what matters, too.

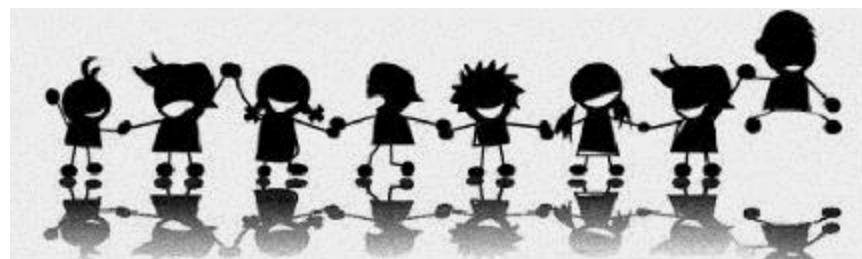
Directions

Begin by measuring the circumference of each child's head. Using thick paper, cut a strip 3-5 cm wide and tape or staple the ends of the paper strip together to make a band that fits snugly around each child's head. Have your children choose what kind of animal they would like to be, then help them cut out and color appropriate ears. Fasten the ears to the headband with tape or staples. Write the memory verse you have selected on the headbands. When you want your children to listen to instructions, have them put on their "listening ears." When a child listens effectively, add a star, a sticker or draw animal tracks around his/her headband to positively reinforce attentiveness. The goal is to completely encircle the headband with animal tracks or stickers.

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 15:32

He who neglects discipline hates himself, but he who listens to correction gets understanding.

Understand the Proverb:

1. Read the proverb aloud.
2. Ask: What is discipline? Is discipline fun? Why do you think your parents discipline you? Why should you listen to them?

Practice the Proverb:

Explain that being “filled” with God’s word can help take the heat off when life gets tough.

Materials

2 large balloons, candle, water, lighter

Preparation

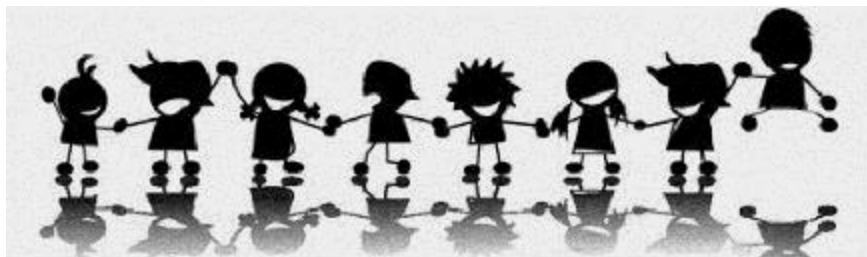
Fill one balloon with air and one with water.

Introduction

Proverbs 15:32 says, *He who neglects discipline hates himself, but he who listens to correction gets understanding.* Let’s pretend these two balloons are kids for a moment, and we’ll see how that works.

Instructions

1. Light the flame.
2. Take up the balloon with air in it. Ask students what they think will happen when they hold it over the flame.
3. Hold the balloon filled with air over the flame. Watch what happens.
4. Next, take up the balloon with the water in it. Ask students what they think will happen when they hold it over the flame.
5. Hold the balloon filled with water over the flame. Watch what happens.



their own education.

Third, she commands the nation “to especially love the Church orders and loving discipline.” This should and must exist among all God’s children. This discipline she has never hidden. “Use it, my beloved country, for your benefit, either according to my style, or whatever best can be found in the Holy Scriptures.”

Fourth, she bequests a “passion for the service of the Lord God. Serve Him in unity, as I have longed for always, evidenced by the memories of my ancestors as well as the history written by Jan Lascius about my matters.” Though the times are difficult she draws hope from the words of Ezekiel looking forward to the day “when the Lord Almighty collects our scattered bones again, covers them with flesh and skin, and fills us with the spirit of life. For Him, nothing is impossible!”

Fifth, the Unity bequests the Czech

nation diligence in the cultivation and refinement of the Czech language. “My sons were always watchful and known for this in times past. So much so, that the wise told us there was no better Czech language than the one among the Brethren and their books... So whatever books you find, old or new, accept it from my sons, have them as your own for the best use you can see!”

Sixth, the Unity bequests better youth, “It was my mistake to entrust my youth to an alien, who inflamed my sons and ruined them.” If God would return her to better times, she would do better. Having lost this hope, she begs the nation to correct this.

The chapter ends with these words: “In total, all my inheritance, as ashes after the fire, I bequest to you, my beloved country, so that you can make lye from it for the cleansing of



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tbc@hot.rr.com

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

Tim Chaplin, Interim Pastor
(254) 718-3898

your children, in the same manner as the Lord did for me in the beginnings when he raised us and our children from the ashes of Hus.”

Chapter Twenty – The Unity, the dying mother, bids farewell. She wonders what more can be said. She knows the time has come for her to say goodbye, but how? She recalls how Jacob blessed his sons when his time came. She recalls how Moses blessed his people when the time came for them to part ways. “From their mouths I take words and declare as a farewell blessing for you, the Czech nation, from your LORD God, so that you may be and remain a growing branch over the wall.” Though bitter and shot at by enemy archers, the bow of the nation remains unmoved. God will “bless you with the blessing of heavens above, blessings

of the deep that crouches beneath, blessings of the breasts and of the womb! Let your blessings be mighty beyond the blessings of my ancestors, up to the bounties of the everlasting hills.”

With words of hope, she reminds the Czech nation it is blessed by God and encourages it to live on. She calls upon God to bless its struggle and to accept the work of its hands. “Let the time come, so that nations will say: Happy are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD, the shield of your help, and the sword of your triumph! Your enemies shall come fawning to you, and you shall tread on upon their backs.”

The testament ends with these words: “Salvation belongs to the Lord; your blessing be on your people! Selah.”



Proverbs 15:32

He who neglects discipline hates himself,
but he who listens to correction gets
understanding.

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

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David Sebek

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(254) 985-2578

Cemetery

Sharon Marek

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

Through the church, God calls us into relationships with others. These relationships are not optional. So, too, is learning to receive what God wants to say to us through these relationships. It doesn't matter if we are 8 or 48, we all need wisdom, and God often chooses to give it through the mouth of a wise counselor. It is good to consider the advice of others. It is better if those others are wise and not foolish advisors. Children, from toddlers to teenagers, resist depending on the wisdom of others. There is a good reason for that. They are people... just like us. Committing this verse to memory can go a long way in preparing our hearts to accept counsel... wise counsel.

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 first-time applicants. Scholarship application and requirements can be found on the Unity website at: "<http://unityofthebrethren.org/mutual-aid-society/>".

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 josephjpasek@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

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Rev. Mark Sebek, Bryan/College Station Brethren Church; cell 254-931-2000, papasebek@gmx.com

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Hope Springs UP!

- by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

Bluebonnets, fresh cut grass, hummingbird feeders, mild temperatures, strolls in the woods, light jogs through the park, picnics... Spring is here! Even for those with seasonal allergies, the joy of Spring is inescapable!

Jesus, we call on you to cause your hope to spring up where the grass is bare, where the flowers will not bloom, where many are unable to walk in their own strength due to illness or injury, where allergies or life circumstances have fogged up our senses. Restore, Holy Jesus, Restore! Cause Your hope to well up in us!

Take a glimpse into the type of hope that Jesus Christ alone gives! Open your thoughts and your emotions to the hand of the One and Only, the Savior of the world! The Book of Revelation, chapter 7, verses 11 to 17, can be a game changer for your faith – whether you are floating along, feeling numb, need inspiration, or just hunger for the reminder that **Jesus Christ will cause hope to spring up in you as you open yourself to Him!**

Dive in:

Revelation 7:11-17:

All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!" Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes – who are they, and where did they come from?" I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come 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; and He who sits on the throne will shelter them with His presence. 'Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them,' nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at



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the center of the throne will be their shepherd; 'He will lead them to springs of living water.' And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'"

Can you feel the Hope of Jesus Christ as you take in this passage of Scripture?

Angels standing around the throne worshipping and praising God for:

His glory
His wisdom
His honor
His power
His strength

Then those who have "washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Christ Himself):

Before God's throne day and night
Serving Him in His temple
Protected by Jesus

Never hungry
Never thirsty
Never scorched by the heat
At the spring of Living Water
Without tears in their eyes
Can you feel the Hope of Jesus Christ as you take in this passage of Scripture?

Jesus Christ will cause hope to spring up in you as you open yourself to Him!

Will you now shout out this great affirmation of faith?

"Lord Jesus, I trust You! I trust that you are creating HOPE to Spring Up in me! I cast off my hopelessness. Thank You, my Great and Holy Shepherd! Amen."

In Jesus' Certain Hope,
Sister Vanessa Mitchell

Caroline

This coming Monday morning Caroline will have surgery to take out her port-a-cath and put in an expander for reconstruction. Then after 4-6 weeks of stretching her skin, she will put in an implant. Lord, we pray for a great surgery and for NO INFECTION in the Name of Jesus. You can also pray for the following for Caroline:

- Continued healing for her body. For God to strengthen her immune system, muscles, energy level.
- For Caroline to have such a sense of the Lord's love and joy in her life, as it can be difficult to move into the "cancer survivor" mode.

What's next?

We are planning to go back to China in June. In order for that to happen, we have to get medical clearance and financial clearance. Currently we are about 90% supported. Lord, would you raise up people who want to see Your kingdom come among the nations of Asia, to join the Woo's team.

Steps

Please pray for the boys as they finish school, and participate in track, basketball, trumpet, soccer, football, and golf. Please pray that the Woo's can clean up their house, get rid of all their stuff with as little stress as possible. (It's amazing how much stuff we have accumulated.)

Back in Target City, an update on May

We were able to have a great talk with May back in Target City. Please continue to pray for her and her husband and son, for their love and

growth in the Lord. Pray for a job for her where she can make money and yet have time for ministry and for her family. Pray for the local church as they have been regrouping since our teammates have come back from the states and are living in Target City again since December. Pray for them to grow deeper and wider.

City Wide Prayer Walk

Calling any believer in Winston-Salem to a city-wide prayer walk Saturday, March 19, 10 a.m.-12 in downtown Winston-Salem. I believe we totally have enough believers and enough recourses to see revival in our city. The only thing we don't have enough of is prayer and asking God to pour out upon our city. Join us as we walk through the city for 2 hours praying for Winston-Salem. After, there will be food trucks and a worship celebration. Registration opens at 8 a.m. at the Inmar building, which is down in the Reynolds Tobacco area, 635 Vine St. Check out <http://www.loveoutloudws.com/pray/>

Blessings to you today,
Caroline



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ters then consider this... Jesus has no wasted time, no wasted travel, and no wasted healings... I like to imagine the harvest field is ripe in Gergesa and the man once called Legions was the harvester...

Luke tells us in 8:39 *Return to thine own house, and show how great things God hath done unto thee. And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him.* Mark gives us more room to wonder because Jesus simply tells the man once possessed by the devil to go tell his friends what great things Jesus had done for him, and in the next verse Mark says:

And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel. Decapolis (ten cities) is the whole region west of the sea of Galilee... As my mind wonders, I like to imagine the multitudes of gentiles coming to our Christ because Jesus invested one stormy day in a foreign country...

These four encounters with Christ are more than healing of the body, they are a picture of spiritual healing or a picture of salvation... Who do we

share Jesus' healing love with? Certainly our neighborhood, those who ask, those brought to us, and even where we just simply see the need. What about those so remote, so far away circumstance won't let us go, but we know God invited us to share the Gospel in far away places.

Remember; Jesus invested one day on the shore of Gergesa and changed the whole country of Decapolis... The Unity of the Brethren is invested. We support five missionaries who are willing to go to 3rd world countries. They are willing to invest years, living humbly (*houses with dirt floors*) raising their family, all to share God's healing love. Five families with a bare bone budget of \$68,000.00!

Can you invest in foreign missions?

From the Woo's...

March 12, 2016

Greetings friends and partners,

We are well and wanted to update you on our plans so you can join with us in prayer.

SNOOK BRETHREN CHURCH

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Church Phone – (979) 272-3303

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(979) 272-1624

Board of Elders President

Rayfield Slovacek
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Youth Directors

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Snook, TX 77878
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Fayetteville Brethren Christian Sisters Rag Quilt Project

The Fayetteville Brethren Christian Sisters, along with other women of Fayetteville and Industry Brethren church and some friends, met in the church fellowship hall during the month of February to make rag lap quilts. The ladies, led by Ann Heintschel, made 5 quilts for the men of the churches and 4 baby quilts to benefit Unity missions.

Leland Miller (Navy-WWII) and Laddie Ripple (Army-WWII) of Fayetteville, Jesse Coufal (Air Force-WWII) and Henry Lee Franke (Marine Corp-WWII) of Industry and Rev. Milton Maly (Air Force) were all presented lap quilts. The quilts were made from military and patriotic flannel fabrics. On each quilt was sewn a Bible verse from Proverbs 3:5 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." All the materials were donated

by Ann Heintschel, who is retired U.S. Navy herself. Pictured are ladies present at the service when the quilts were blessed and Laddie Ripple as he was presented his quilt. Mr. Ripple is the oldest member at Fayetteville Brethren. His grandparents, Joseph and Mary (Novosad) Rippel, were the first couple to be married in the church in 1875, at that time called the Czech-Moravian Brethren Church at Ross Prairie.

The baby quilts will be displayed at the Synodical committee meeting on April 23 and will be available for purchase. It is planned to put the baby quilts in the silent auction at the Rev. Henry Beseda, Jr., Memorial Golf Tournament with all proceeds going to Unity missions. If you have any questions about the baby quilts, please contact Liz Ripple, 979-378-2239.



*Left to Right:
Liz Ripple, Laddie
Ripple, Ann Heintschel
and Pastor Kay Polasek*

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 years 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.

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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Pastor: Rev. Thomas Tallas

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

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Church: rev.tjt@zipnet.us

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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 David Miller, President of the Mission Board...

Hello friends of the foreign mission board,

Jn. 21:25 "And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen."

The end of John's Gospel leaves a lot of room for my mind to wonder, not about the gospel message itself, but how far it has gone or **could go**... After the Beatitudes, in chapter 8, Mathew tells about four healing encounters of Christ; first, a leper who just comes up and asks to be healed, and was... second, a healing that comes through petition of a centurion for his servant (intercessory prayer)... third, where Jesus just sees the need for healing of Simon's mother and just does it (no asking, no petition or prayer, just sees the need).

The fourth encounter is the most interesting to me and leaves me won-

dering... Jesus (not being asked, not hearing of a need, not seeing a need, but yet He knows the need is out there) gets in a ship, crosses the stormy sea of Galilee, and there is a need that most of us would run from... crazy wild foreign heathens... we have all heard this encounter, after Jesus heals this possessed man called Legions, the people of Gergesa, out of fear, ask Jesus to leave... Jesus and his disciples, after being there maybe only hours, board a ship right back across the sea of Galilee... This adventure to visit the Gergesenes also appears in Mark chapter 5 and Luke chapter 8...

Even with 3 Gospel writers there are questions for my mind to wonder about... What prompted Jesus to cross the sea of Galilee? Did He hear about Legions? Did He just always want to go to Gergesa or maybe just cross the sea? Maybe Jesus just didn't like pigs... And what about those Gergesenes, or in particular the healed man? I suggest you read all 3 encoun-



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