#### **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.

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# THE BRETHREN





Vol. 115

May 2016

No. 4

36 Pages



Brother Ron Winsman, Pastor of Ocker Brethren Church, with his wife, Dee

Bro. Ron will lead services at the church for his last time as Pastor on Sunday, May 29, 2016. Shortly thereafter the couple will move to Zambia, Africa, and embark on their next chapter in life. (See story "From Zabcikville to Zambia" inside this issue.)

## IN THIS ISSUE . . .

Life's Rhythm and Our Spiritual Lives . . . by Rev. Larry Koslovsky From Zabcikville to Zambia Master Gardener . . . by Kay Polasek Jerome . . . by Jim Pokorny Pause . . . by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell Summer Camp Information

... and much, much more!

#### THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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BRETHREN JOURNAL

Life's Rhythm and Our Spiritual Lives... Practicing the Presence of *The I Am* in Our Daily Lives Part 2 – Compline

> Larry Koslovsky, Unity Pastor to Pastors Pastor of Crosby & Pasadena Brethren Churches

The 9 p.m. hour is referred to as Compline. Compline occurs as one retires for the day and includes in some settings The Great Silence. The Great Silence is a time to *Be still and know that I am God* (Psalm 46.10) and simply speak no words, but listen for the still small voice of the Lord.

It is in retiring for the day that Samuel hears the voice of the Lord, mistakenly taking it for the voice of Eli. Eli, taking on the role of spiritual director, recognizes God speaking to young Samuel and gives him these instructions, *Speak Lord, for your servant is listening* (1 Samuel 3.9). Throughout Scripture we find God speaking through the course of the night. More will be said about this later when we examine Vigils, the next marking of time and practicing the presence of God from midnight to dawn.

Setting Compline to the *I AM* sayings found in the Gospel of John, Jesus says *I am the good shepherd. The* good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. My sheep hear My voice. *I* know them, and they follow Me. *I* give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand (John 10:11,27-28).

Going to sleep at night is to place oneself in the total care of the Good Shepherd. We are no longer conscious of time or our surroundings. Life continues for those who are awake, who are working nights or who live in other parts of the world in different time zones, but for us as individuals, life and consciousness are suspended. Nevertheless, we are under the care and watchful eye of the Good Shepherd as we sleep.

Throughout the Scriptures, sleep is a metaphor for death. The Bible speaks

→

## 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 of *asleep in Jesus* (1 Thessalonians 4:14; see also 1 Corinthians 15:18.)

A familiar childhood prayer connects sleep with death:

Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep, If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take. Classic children's bedtime prayer, 18th century

Jesus as The Good Shepherd is rooted in the most favorite of the Psalms – Psalm 23.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down... he leads me beside... He guides me in paths... Even in the valley of the shadow of death,

*I fear no evil...* because the Good Shepherd is with each one of us. Psalm 23 is appropriate to recite as one resigns for the day and lets go of this life to sleep and find rest, renewal and refreshment in care of the Good Shepherd who guards and protects us. We find security in Jesus as Shepherd and Gate, knowing that no one or no thing can snatch us away, not even death.

All Praise to Thee My God This Night was written by Anglican Bishop Thomas Ken in 1674, as one of three songs that mark the daily office: retiring at bedtime (Compline), in the middle of the night (Vigils), and in waking (Lauds). Each of these songs conclude with words that we sing every Sunday as we present our offerings, *The Doxology*.

The articles, this month and last and all succeeding articles, include a guide to use as a tool or reference for the appropriate hour.



## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

| Austin – Bible Study at 10:00 AM<br>Worship at 11:00 AM.<br>– Rev. Linda Chandler  | Nelsonville – Sunday School at 9:00 AM<br>Nelsonville – Worship at 10:15 AM<br>– Rev. Michael Groseclose   |  |
|--|--|--|
| Bryan-College Station – worship at<br>9:00 AM every Sunday.<br>– Rev. Mark Sebek   | New Tabor – Sunday School at 9:30 AM &<br>Worship at 10:30 AM every Sunday,<br>"Tune Up" on Wednesdays, 7:30 PM.<br>– Rev. Dave Johnsor  |  |
| Buckholts – worship at 9:00 AM every<br>Sunday except the 5th Sunday.<br>Holy Communion on 1st Sunday.<br>Guest speaker on 4th Sunday.   | Ocker – worship at 10:15 AM every Sunday<br>Sunday School at 9:00 AM every Sunday<br>– Rev. Ron Winsmar  |  |
| <ul> <li>Rev. John Kueker</li> <li>Cade Lake Community Chapel – A Home</li> <li>Mission Project since 10-22-11 – Sunday</li> <li>School at 11:00 AM; Fellowship Lunch</li> <li>at Noon; Worship at 1:00 PM.</li> <li>Rev. Jim Heckman</li> <li>Caldwell – Come as you are! Sundays –</li> <li>explore the Bible @ 9:30 AM (all ages);</li> <li>KIDS CHOIR practices @ 10:15 AM; &amp;</li> </ul> | Pasadena – Sunday School at 9:30 AM<br>and worship at 10:45 AM every Sunday.<br>– Dr. Larry Koslovsk   |  |
|  | Community Christian Church of Rosenberg -<br>Sundays: Adult Bible Stud y and Sunday<br>School for children at 9:00 AM; worship<br>at 10:30 AM.<br>Wednesdays: 5:30 PM Dinner; 6:30 PM<br>Bible Study. – Pastor Ben Kruse |  |
|  |  | worship @ 10:30 AM! <i>Every 1st &amp; 3rd</i><br><i>Wednesday</i> , join the fun @ Family<br>Game Night, 6-7:30 PM! Check out<br><u>lifeatcbc.org</u> for spiritual resources,<br>events, videos, & more! Friend us on<br>Facebook! |
| – Rev. Vanessa Mitchell  | – Rev. Denise Mikeska  |  |
| Crosby – 9:00 AM: Worship<br>10:00 AM: Faith Adventure<br>– Dr. Larry Koslovsky  | Snook – Sunday School – 9:00 AM;<br>Worship – 10:15 AM.<br>– Rev. Joseph Polasel   |  |
| U  | Taylor – worship at 10:15 AM every Sunday<br>– Rev. James Hej  |  |
| 2nd, 4th, & 5th Sundays – open<br>Dime Box – worship at 9:00 AM every  | Temple – Sunday School at 9:30 AM.,<br>Worship at 10:45 AM.  |  |
| Sunday.  | – Pastor Tim Chaplir   |  |
| – Rev. Jim Heckman<br>Fayetteville – Sunday School at 9:45 AM,   | Vsetin – A non-official member congregatior<br>of the Unity of the Brethren – Worship a<br>10:00 AM every Sunday.  |  |
| worship at 10:45 AM every Sunday.<br>– Rev. Kay Polasek  | – Dr. Mark Laba<br>5th Sunday – Visiting Minister  |  |
| Good Shepherd Moravian – worship at<br>11:30 AM and 6:30 PM every Sunday.<br>– Rev. Adolfo Gonzalez  | Wall – Sunday School (for all ages) at 9:30<br>AM; worship at 10:45 AM every Sunday.<br>– Rev. Thomas Tallas   |  |
| Granger – Bible Study every Sunday at<br>9:00 AM with worship service following<br>at 10:15 AM.  | Wesley – worship at 9:00 AM every<br>Sunday. Sunday School follows.<br>– Rev. Michael Groseclose   |  |
| – Rev. Larry Zabcik  | West – Sunday School at 9:00 AM and  |  |
| Houston – Sunday School at 9:15 AM;<br>Worship at 10:30 AM every Sunday.   | worship at 10:15 AM every Sunday.<br>– Rev. Curtis Holla   |  |
| Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill<br>Industry – worship at 9:00 AM every Sunday<br>with Sunday School for all ages following.<br>– Rev. Kay Polasek   | Westheimer Community – 9:30 AM, Christian<br>Education; 10:30 AM, Worship, with Holy<br>Communion every 5th Sunday.<br>– Visiting Ministers  |  |
| DETUDEN IQUDNAL  | M 001/2/2/   |  |
| BRETHREN JOURNAL   | May 2016/3   |  |

## VITAL STATISTICS

## MEMBERS RECEIVED

DANIEL, JAMES and HEATHER, were accepted into the membership of Temple Brethren Church on December 20, 2015, by reaffirmation of faith. Minister: Tim Chaplin.

FULTON, RANDI, was accepted into the membership of Temple Brethren Church on January 17, 2016, by reaffirmation of faith. Minister: Tim Chaplin.

NICHOLS, PENNY, was accepted into the Temple Brethren Church on March 20, 2016, by reaffirmation of faith. Minister: Tim Chaplin.

SPRINKS, JANE, was accepted into the membership of Temple Brethren Church on March 20, 2016, by reaffirmation of faith. Minister: Tim Chaplin.

#### **RECENT DEATHS**

SUROVIK, ALBERT JOE, SR., age 86, passed away at his home in Bryan, TX, with his loving family by his side on April 4, 2016. He was born on March 20, 1930, to Frank J. and Frances (Surovik) Surovik. Albert married the love of his life, Winifred Ann (Odstrcil) Surovik on August 31, 1963, at the New Tabor Brethren Church. Together they made their living cultivating the farmland growing crops and an enormous garden along with raising livestock. He was a member of the New Tabor Brethren Church, where he was baptized and confirmed. He attended Hus School in 1951. He was a faithful church member, attending Sunday School, and was the Young People's Class Sunday School teacher for over 30 years. He served as church elder several times, sang in the choir, prepared communion, and was the bell ringer for the church. He and Winifred served as BYF sponsors, were the church custodians for many years, and occasionally used his carpenter skills when the church needed repairs. Albert was a member of the SPJST, CSA, RVOS, and Farm Bureau. He was chosen for the "Young Farmer" award for Burleson County in 1964 by the Bryan Production Credit Association.

Albert was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers, and a sister. Survi-

vors include his wife, Winifred (Odstrcil) Surovik; a son, Albert "PeeWee" Surovik and wife Diane; four daughters, Melissa Ostman, Michelle Spiller and husband Jimbo, Shelly Pendergraff and husband Brian, and Charee Surovik. He is also survived by one sister, Vlasta Surovik, 13 grandchildren; 8 greatgrandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at the New Tabor Church with burial in the church cemetary. Memorials may be made to the New Tabor Brethren Church, Hospice Brazos Valley, or a charity of your choice. Minister: Rev. David Johnson.

HENRY, EVELYN M., age 88, passed away Saturday, April 2, 2016, at her residence in Caldwell. She was born April 6, 1927, in Caldwell to Frank G. and Albina M. (Maresh) Mrnustik. She was a member of the New Tabor Brethren Church, where she was baptized, confirmed, and married. She graduated from Caldwell High School and Durham's Business College in Austin. She married C.D. Henry on Easter Sunday 1951, and they enjoyed 31 years together. She worked for Burleson County for 47 years prior to her retirement as the County Clerk. At church she was active in the Christian Sisters and sang in the choir. She was an active member of the community and enjoyed gardening, ranching, and tending to her cattle.

Evelyn was preceded in death by her husband, C. D. Henry; her parents; a brother, Stanley F. Mrnustik and a daughterin-law, Diana L. Henry. Survivors include son George F. Henry and grandson Travis C. Henry and wife, Susan, all of Austin; a granddaughter, Joanna E. Henry of New Orleans, and a step-son, Carroll C. Henry and wife, Charlotte, of Bronson.

Funeral Services were held on Tuesday, April 5, at New Tabor Brethren Church. Memorials may be made to a charity of your choice. Minister: Rev. David Johnson.

> Unity Archivist Clint Machann c-machann@tamu.edu 979-696-1360 or 979-845-4898



I am the Good Shepherd Compline 9p The Great Silence

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand.

John 10:11, 27-28

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen. St Augustine

## All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night

All praise to Thee, my God, this night, For all the blessings of the light! Keep me, O keep me, King of kings, Beneath Thine own almighty wings.

Forgive me, Lord, for Thy dear Son, The ill that I this day have done. That with the world, myself, and Thee, I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.

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Teach me to live, that I may dread, The grave as little as my bed. Teach me to die, that so I may Rise glorious at the judgment day.

O may my soul on Thee repose, And with sweet sleep mine eyelids close, Sleep that may me more vigorous make To serve my God when I awake.

When in the night I sleepless lie, My soul with heavenly thoughts supply; Let no ill dreams disturb my rest, No powers of darkness me molest.

O when shall I, in endless day, Forever chase dark sleep away, And hymns divine with angels sing, All praise to thee, eternal King?

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.



Bishop Thomas Ken, 1674

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit; For you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth. Keep me, O Lord, as the apple of your eye; Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

## The Master Gardener - by Rev. Kay Polasek

Dear Friends:

Ben and I decided that he should plant a garden. And so, he brought in topsoil and prepared the area where he would plant. Since we were getting a late start, we shopped for hardy plants to put into the ground. There is crookneck squash, zucchini, peppers, broccoli, cauliflower, and more. As most good gardeners do, he waters it, he watches over it, and he prunes it. Every day he goes out to look at it to see how much it has grown (it has only been a few days :o). Don't tell anyone, but I think I heard him talk to his plants.

Today, Bella (our dog) escorted him to the garden and he took a picture of it. That's what Ben does, he takes pictures of everything. He loves his little garden and he is looking forward to taking care of it, watching it grow and bear fruit. Those plants depend upon Ben tending to them. The awesome part of this is that it makes him very happy.

Ben's gardening has caused me to reflect on the Master Gardener, God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Three in One. God knows everything about us,

past, present and future. God planted us where we are and He loves watching us. He waters us with his love. He talks to us with His Word. He watches over us with the Holy Spirit and is concerned about our well-being. John 15:1-4 tells us that in order for us to bear fruit, we must stay connected to God. Are you connected? Do you feel His love pouring over you? Are you talking with Him? If not, why not?

John 15: 1-4 (GNT): "I am the real vine, and My Father is the gardener. 2) God breaks off every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, and He prunes every branch that does bear fruit, so that it will be clean and bear more fruit. 3) You have been made clean already by the teaching I have given you. 4) Remain united to Me and I will remain united to you. A branch cannot bear fruit by itself; it can do so only if it remains in the vine. In the same way you cannot bear fruit unless you remain in Me."

If you are unable to plant a garden, get a plant for your home and let it be a reminder of how God watches over vou.

Blessings, Pastor Kay



## DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

## Daily Morsels for May 2016

- by Dorothy E. Kocian

- 1. Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul. Prov. 29:17
- 2. Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint: but blessed is he who keeps the law. Prov. 29:18
- 3. "Wisdom is better than strength." Ecc. 9:16
- 4. Every word of God is pure: He is a shield to those who put their trust in him. Prov. 30:5
- 5. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will by no means pass away." Mk. 13:31
- 6. God will bring every deed into judament, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil. Ecc. 12:14
- 7. If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God, and it will be given to you. James 1:5
- 8. Many seek an audience with a ruler, but it is from the Lord that man gets justice. Prov. 29:26
- 9. The quiet words of the wise are more to be heeded than the shouts of a ruler of fools. Ecc. 9:17
- 10. Calmness can lay great errors to rest. Ecc. 10:4
- 11. Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come. Ecc. 12:1
- 12. We will all stand before God's judgment seat. Rom. 14:10
- 13. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ. 2 Cor. 5:10
- 14. Anyone who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it sins. James 4:17
- 15. Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. Ecc. 12:13
- 16. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the Lord endures forever. 1 Pet. 1:25
- 17. If we love one another. God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. 1 Jn. 4:12
- 18. Love is patient and kind. Love is not iealous or boastful or proud or rude. 1 Cor. 13:4
- 19. Give honor to marriage, and remain faithful to one another in marriage.

- Heb. 13:4
- 20. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. Eph. 5:25
- 21. Each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. Eph. 5:33
- 22. "For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and will be united with his wife. And the two will become one flesh." Eph. 5:31
- 23. I will make you my wife forever, showing you my righteousness and justice, unfailing love and compassion. Hosea 2:19
- 24. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring one another. Rom. 12:10
- 25. He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Ps. 23:3
- 26. Turn from evil and do good. Ps. 37:27
- 27. The kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Rom. 14:17
- 28. May all who search for you be filled with joy and gladness, and always say "The Lord is great!" Ps. 40:16
- 29. Blessed is he whose hope is in the Lord his God. Ps. 146:5
- 30. Your life is now hidden with Christ in God. Col. 3:3
- 31. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see the hope to which he has called you. Eph. 1:18

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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

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#### 30/May 2016

BRETHREN JOURNAL

## From Zabcikville to Zambia



"Hello, Reverend Winsman," said the UMHB Professor on the other end of the phone, "would you supply preach at a Brethren Church out in Zabcikville?" "Sure," he said, "but what is a Brethren Church and where is Zabcikville?" That was the beginning of God proving to a churchless pastor and a pastorless church the verse in 2 Corinthians 12:18. God knew Ron Winsman needed to pastor a church like Ocker and Ocker needed a pastor like Ron Winsman.

Fast forward 15 years and 7 months, and you have a pastor heading from

Zabcikville to Zambia, from Ocker to an orphanage. May 31, 2016, will be the last day for Bro. Ron Winsman and his bride, Dee. to serve OBC, but as they both agreed saying, "We'll always be Ocker family! God has done a wonderful job of putting us with family. Our Ocker family saw us through so many firsts in our marriage – our two daughters' marriages, the birth of five grandchildren in Temple and two in Johannesburg, South Africa, and the calling of our kids from ministry in Texas to ministry

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## To communicate with the Hus Encampment ... ... regarding scheduling\* of meetings or events there, contact: Dawn Marie Baletka

600 Benchmark Drive College Station, TX 77845 (979) 777-9940 or (979) 693-2710 DMBaletka@gmail.com

\*This must be done well in advance.

in Zambia. Ocker family has been a small part of the growth of New Day Orphanage, to include providing one of the first two American teachers in Carolyn Groseclose. Ocker family ministered to us through the deaths of three siblings and my mom, and nursed us through three surgeries, allowing ample time for healing. Ocker family worked alongside me, allowing me to fulfill my calling to teach and preach in bi-vocational ministry for the first 11 years. I would put Ocker's lay folks up against any church in Texas. These good people never asked me to RUN the church; they bought into the motto we brought to Ocker when we said our ministry is to PREACH the WORD and LOVE the PEOPLE. Loving Ocker folks has never been a job, but a high honor, and we have received more love in return than we ever gave."

During his time at Ocker the church has maintained growth at the 10% per year rate. In 2015 Ocker received 24 new members; since 2001 Ocker has confirmed 74 students and the total of new members has been 215. Ocker attendance has a wide range from 120 to 220 on any given Sunday. Bro. Ron has said for years that Ocker should run 200 every Sunday. Ocker is a friendly church who needed a cheerleader, and Ron and Dee agreed, saying, "We will never stop cheering for our family out in east Bell County."

When asked what he thought was his crowning achievement at Ocker, he did not hesitate, saving, "When I asked the church leaders to call Jennifer Chervenka as youth director. The children and youth program is Ocker's best asset. We are growing the generation that will inherit our businesses, our schools, and our churches. Just this week Ocker has near completed its new toddler playground. How can a church not get excited about the future when they have so many children? The future is bright for Ocker Brethren Church. The Board of Elders is proactive and positive in their direction to find the next Pastor for Ocker. They trust God will provide exactly like He did back on October 8, 2000, when, for the first time, the handful of faithful folks, a few youth and one 6-month-old baby, gathered at 17454 State Hwy 53, heard a 48-year-old junior high teacher/coach/ preacher."

When asked to share some of the things Bro. Ron and Dee had done to prepare for their relocation to Africa, the Winsmans said, "We have sent a

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Does your church/organization have an activity that you would like to include in this listing? Please send activity information including a contact name, phone number, and/or email address to the Brethren Journal Editor at: editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com. Information must be received by the first day of the month immediately preceding the month of publication.

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Pastor Rev. Ron Winsman 3112 W. Ave. R, Temple, TX 76504 (254) 742-0827 ronwinsman@hotmail.com

> Youth Director Jennifer Chervenka 9494 Big Elm Creek Road Rogers, TX 76569 (254) 983-1002

## Elder Board President David Sebek 3910 Red Ranger 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

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.

May 29, 2016 – Retirement Reception Honoring Bro. Ron & Dee Winsman at the Ocker Brethren Church from 4-7 pm. ALL ARE INVITED. For more information, contact: David Sebek, President, Ocker Board of Elders, at (254) 913-0732.

June 19, 2016 – Ocker Brethren Church Annual Father's Day BBQ Fundraiser at the church. BBQ with all the trimmings, \$10. Quilt Raffle and Silent Auction, also. For more information, please contact Stacie Sebek at (254) 718-5608.

## SAVE THE DATES...

July 9, 2016 – 64th Biennial Convention of the Mutual Aid Society – 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** – 5th-year anniversary celebration of Cade Lake Community Church. Free-will donation lunch at 1:00 and services at 2:00.

## **Brethren Book Store**

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

few items ahead to help in our transition to New Day Orphanage - a bookshelf my dad and I built in 1965, a recliner, a sofa for two, a card table with four chairs, a good set of dominoes, several boxes of Biblical resources, all of our canning supplies, a Kitchen Aid mixer and a really nice mattress. We also bought a solar generator system for the many power outages expected. Our responsibilities at NDO are yet to be determined as we are not going to have any title except 'servant.' We are confident that with our life experiences we will be teachers at the New Day Orphanage School as well as ministry assistants where needed."

Ocker members have mixed feelings about the Winsman departure in June. Bro. Ron and Dee say, "It is bittersweet leaving Ocker family to pursue a new ministry that puts us in the same time zone with our seven grandkids in Zambia. It is bittersweet leaving our Ocker family/friends but we know following God's will is always the right thing to do. One important thing we have learned at Ocker that liberates a church and a people is to have NO DEBT. Ocker's faithful over the years have completed many additions to the facility and added local and global ministries with NO DEBT." Bro. Ron further stated, "Most churches and most people know God's will, but cannot follow it because of that awful four letter word, DEBT. It is sweet that God has provided enough retirement income to allow us to be self-supporting missionaries with NO DEBT whatsoever. How did God accomplish that? By a local church willing to give bi-vocational ministry a chance, and a pastor and wife willing to tackle three jobs for 11 years. 'To God be the glory, great things he hath done'." Bro. Ron and Dee concluded, "To be able to minister in retirement alongside our children and their children... why, it just doesn't get any better than that!" Isaiah 43:19.

Bro. Ron and Dee are NOT asking for any support for themselves beyond PRAYER. Anyone interested in learning more about New Day Orphanage can find all the answers at www.newdayorphanage.org for prayer needs and giving needs. Ocker Brethren Church also welcomes prayer for the transition time between pastors.

The Winsmans' last day at Ocker is May 31. A retirement reception will be held for Bro. Ron and Dee on their last Sunday, May 29, from 4 to 7 p.m.

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BRETHREN JOURNAL



## **Demonstration of the Proverb:**

You will need a piece of paper measuring 2-3/4" x 2-3/4", a flat surface such as a tabletop, and a plastic water bottle or a glass bottle with a mouth measuring less than 1" in diameter.

Begin by asking children to list the things they are tempted to be proud of. Write their ideas down on a small sheet of paper. Take that list and crumple it into a tight ball. Have your children practice blowing the paper ball around on a flat surface, such as your kitchen table. For extra fun and practice, have them try to blow the paper ball through a "goal" area. You can make a goal by placing two coins 6" apart.

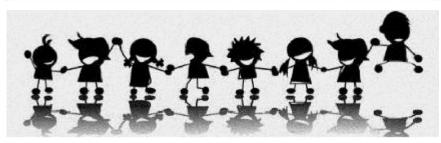
Once your children have mastered the technique of blowing the ball around, hold the bottle at the edge of the table so its mouth is level with the surface. Ask your children to take turns trying to blow the paper ball into the mouth of the bottle. (Since the bottle is full of air, the ball will not go in.) After your children have had plenty of opportunity to try blowing the ball into the bottle, stand the bottle up and allow them to drop the paper ball into the bottle using their hands.

Explain that the paper ball represents pride. The bottle represents us. When we acknowledge that we need God's help in life, we are humble. Humility is often demonstrated by a person bowing down. The bottle on its side is in a bowed position. If we stay humble, honoring God instead of ourselves, pride has a hard time getting into our hearts. On the other hand, when we become self-confident and forget to honor and trust in our own ability to resist sin, the sin of pride can easily sneak up on us.

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/

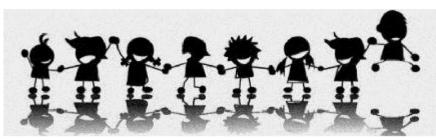


BRETHREN JOURNAL

## Proverbs 3:34 The LORD laughs at those who laugh at Him, but He gives grace to those who are not proud.

## **Understand the Proverb:**

- 1. Read the proverb aloud.
- 2. Tell children they will use a snack to help them understand this Proverb.
- 3. Make Trail Mix ahead of time. Ingredients: 1 cup each raisins, M&Ms, granola or other cereal; 2 cups peanuts.
- 4. Look at this trail mix. What are the 4 ingredients? Which is your favorite? (most will say M&Ms)
- 5. M&Ms probably have the best taste. But they drive a point home that has to do with Proverbs 3:34b: God gives grace to those who are NOT proud. M&Ms are a lot like popularity. Kids who try to be popular can often get to be quite popular. But they don't really do anything for anyone. They just look good.
- 6. Look at this raisin. It is wrinkly and not the prettiest thing in the pot, but raisins are dried fruit, full of potassium, cakium, and vitamin B6.
- 7. Look at this peanut. It isn't a bright color. It's very neutral. But it is loaded with biotin, copper, and maganese.
- 8. This granola also surely doesn't stand out in the crowd, but it is a great source of potassium and magnesium. M&Ms on the other hand... they hardly have any nutritional value. They are sugary. Sugar actually works against nutrition.
- 9. We should not judge people by their appearances, just like we should not judge trail mix ingredients by their taste and color. If we want friends who will do the most for our lives, we should look for the ones with "spiritual nutritional value." As the Proverb says, "the Lord gives grace to those who are not proud," just like He puts the most nutritional value in foods that don't look or taste as good as those with hardly any nutritional value. Let's be humble and try to be good, like Proverbs 3:34b tells us to. We will have the same effect on others as raisins, nuts, and granola!





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## Pause - by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

Hitting the pause button seems an elusive plight amid the scurrying around that we engage in day after day, hour after hour, task after task. The simple query here is: Why?

The Book of Psalms, originally written in Hebrew, as we know, is musical in nature. Many of the psalms have the single Hebrew word, *selah*, at varying points in any given psalm. "Selah" indicates not merely a division in a psalm, but *a pause in the music*. What does the music of your day sound like?

Is Loretta Lynn singing about being a coal miner's daughter?

Could Frank Sinatra be entrancing your ears with notions of flying to the moon?

Perhaps you are listening to Bob Dylan's impressions on life?

Maybe Carly Simon is consoling you?

Are you following New Order's beat?

Might Hootie and the Blowfish be your favorite on Pandora?

You may prefer a steady diet of classical compositions as I do.

Or is your I-Pod determined to take lessons from Adele on love?

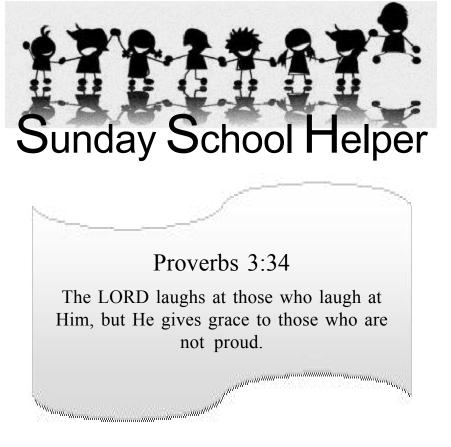
Hopefully, whatever the music of your day entails, it points you to Jesus Christ without ceasing. We know that embracing songs and hymns that praise Christ draw us to grow in our faith every time. Those uplift me the most. Nonetheless, the music of our day does stop. There come moments when silence reigns. It is almost deafening and all at once reinvigorating. This is the "selah" to which I am referring: the great "pause." It is in the musical silence that the Holy Spirit is often most clearly heard.

Turn off your music. Pause.

In silence read *Psalm 84* below, slowly. The primary goal is not to get through it, nor to focus on the language as much as on the points of "selah," of pause, where **in the silence, the Holy Spirit teaches your heart and your mind with laser focus**, how to truly be like Jesus... how to listen for God's voice... how to embrace the "pause" because of its



BRETHREN JOURNAL



This month we will learn about a proverb through our STOMACH. Trail mix is a great way to show the lesson in Proverbs 3:34: *The LORD laughs at those who laugh at Him, but He gives grace to those who are not proud.* Trail mix is a lot like those who are proud, in other words – arrogant and conceited – in school. The most popular item in trail mix has zero nutritional value. However, the ones that don't look so great, like the wrinkled raisins and neutral colored peanuts, are the best for us.

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BRETHREN JOURNAL

value as a tool in connecting you to your Christ.

## Psalm 84 (NRSV)

1 How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! 2 My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. 3 Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. 4 Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. (Selah)

5 Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. 6 As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools. 7 They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion. 8 O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob!

## (Selah)

9 Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed. 10 For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness.

11 For the Lord God is a sun and shield; He bestows favor and honor. No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly. 12 O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

Turn off your music. Pause.

> In Jesus' Joy, Sister Vanessa Mitchell



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## Jerome of Prague - by Jim Pokorny

July 6, 2015, marked the 600th anniversary of the martyrdom of Jan Hus.

Hus was burned at the stake by order of the Council of Constance in 1415. Hus was not the only martyr to fall victim to the Council of Constance. It also sentenced Jerome of Prague to the same fate. May 30, 2016, will mark the 600th anniversary of his martyrdom.

Jerome of Prague was born somewhere between 1360 and 1370. He was a Czech philosopher and theologian who, like Jan Hus, advocated reform in the Western Church.

While a student at Charles University in Prague, he was influenced by Hus. In fact, Jerome was a student of Hus for a time. Although he was ten years younger than Hus, the two were considered friends. Jerome received his bachelor's degree from the university in 1398. At Hus's suggestion, Jerome went on to study at Oxford. This was the seat of learning of the English reformer John Wycliffe. Like other reformers of the period, Jerome was also influenced by the theology of Wycliffe. Wycliffe's theology and attempts at church reform largely fell on deaf ears in his native England. Such was not the case in Central Europe, where his doctrines merely added fuel to an already volatile mixture.

Jerome returned to Prague in 1401, where he assumed the duties of a university professor. The influences of both Hus and Wycliffe permeated his teaching. He was also known to have sided with nationalistic students. All that remain of his writings are his university lectures and two of his treatises, *A Position on Universals* and *The Question of Universals*.

Like Hus, Jerome believed that the true church is composed of the body of believers chosen for salvation by God rather than one determined by legalism through the structure of the established church. Like Hus, he also believed that lay people should be allowed to partake of the wine at Holy Communion. Jerome also advocated the need for poverty in the church and promoted the concept that priests should be allowed more freedom in their sermons.



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## Under Construction Unity Children's Rally 2016 Saturday, March 5

Many children and several adults came together at the Hus Encampment to learn what it means to construct their lives on Jesus.

Bible lessons focused on building a firm foundation. Children learned what it means to build their house upon the rock (Jesus) as well as how to follow Christ on the narrow road verses choosing the wide road. Children also enjoyed painting during crafts, singing, dancing, and playing during music, parachute games, a scavenger hunt, and making their own playdough. Thank you to all of the youth and adults who volunteered their time to make this day a success.







"they understand what someone is going through," that they really might not understand unless they truly experienced that same type event. So, he is careful in using that statement. He also recalls Mrs. Theilemann saying that to express "Why is this happening to me?" when trying situations happen; we should be saying "Lord, why not me?' as we are not excused from life's challenges and trials. These statements have given Ernest thoughts to ponder and remember in his conversations at trying times.

So what is it that inspires you during difficult and challenging times? Is there a Bible verse or some parable, or perhaps a quote that comes to mind that will spur you on to get the job done or face life's challenges? Do you have a quote that you give as advice to others? You can be an influence to others that you might not even realize. May we all be beacons of strength for others to remind them of God working through us daily.

## 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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#### MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS BOARD (2015-2017)

Rev. Dr. Larry Koslovsky (Pastor to the Pastors) Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill Rev. Michael Groseclose Rev. Jimmy Hejl Jerome traveled extensively to numerous academic centers of learning and openly expounded on the need for reform wherever he went.

In 1405 he taught at the Sorbonne and also at universities in Heidelberg and Cologne in 1406. In each of these cities, ecclesiastical authority demanded he leave.

Jerome returned to Prague, where both he and Hus continued to openly discuss the need for church reform. Jerome resumed his travels, this time to Vienna and Poland. As was the case before, he quickly wore out his welcome and was told to leave by the authorities.

Returning to Prague once more, he and Hus ramped up their rhetoric by stating that the faithful were not obligated to obey papal orders when those orders were in direct conflict with scripture and the teachings of Christ. This came to the forefront when John XXIII authorized the sale of indulgences.

Jerome led a procession through the streets. At the end of this procession, the papal decree was publicly burned.

Neither Jerome of Prague nor Jan Hus considered themselves anti-Catholic. The problem, as they saw it, lay solely in the corruption of church leadership.

When Jan Hus set out for the Council of Constance on October 11, 1414, he was given three promises. First, he would be granted safe passage. Second, he would be given a fair hearing. Third, if he disagreed with the Council's decision he would be allowed to return home.

Of these, only the first promise was kept.

When Jerome learned that Hus had departed for Constance, he set out in secret to defend his friend. When he arrived in Constance on April 4, 1415, he found he could do nothing for Hus. He also discovered that he was in great danger as well.

Unwilling to do nothing, Jerome had placards placed throughout Constance which stated that he would be willing to appear before the bishops, that his character had been maligned and that he would willingly retract any error if such error could be proven to him. All he requested in return was a pledge of security. Jerome then left Constance and traveled to neighboring Heidelberg to request safe conduct.

→

## 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

While travelling through the Black Forest, he was captured and arrested on April 20, 1415, and imprisoned in Sulzbach. He was subsequently placed in irons to which a long chain was attached. In this miserable state he was brought back to Constance on May 23, 1415, and was immediately brought before the Council. There, insults were hurled at him. He was charged with fleeing a citation and was imprisoned. He was locked in a tower with his feet immobilized in stocks. Enduring these harsh conditions for almost a year, Jerome became physically ill.

The combination of immobility, illness and repeated interrogations all took their toll on Jerome.

After Hus was burned at the stake on July 6, 1415, Jerome was threatened with additional torments. In a moment of weakness, he disavowed both the doctrines of Wycliffe and the teachings of his friend Jan Hus.

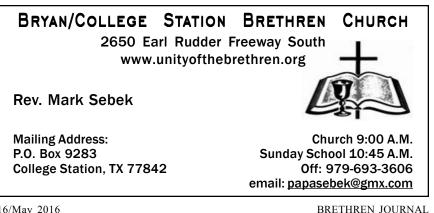
Despite this recantation, Jerome was not released. The Council demanded a second recantation.

It was then that Jerome experienced a change of heart.

Jerome stated that he would recant a second time, but only if he could do

so publicly. At this public "recantation" he withdrew his original recantation, stating that the confession had been brought on by fear in a moment of weakness.

The following account is from a witness of the proceedings: At length, launching out in praise of John Hus, who had been condemned to the fire, he pronounced him a good, just, and holy man, altogether unworthy of such a death – adding that he was also prepared to undergo, with fortitude and constancy, any punishment whatsoever, yielding himself up to his enemies and the impudent lying witnesses, "who would, at length, have to give an account of all they had uttered before God, whom they could not possibly deceive." Great was the grief of all that stood around him. There was a universal desire among them to save so noble a personage, could his own consent be obtained. Persevering, however, in his opinions, he seemed voluntarily to seek death; and continuing his praise of John Hus, he declared that man had never conceived any hostility to the church of God; but that it was to the abuses of the clergy, and the pride, pageantry, and insolence of her prel-



## Those Inspiring Seeds of Our Minds - by Liz Treybig

As spring is a time to plant, whether it is produce, flowers, grain, vegetables, crops for our animals, etc., it might also be a time that we remember when seeds of inspiration were planted in our minds. Although it may not have necessarily been during the "spring", as these seeds can be planted any time of the year! I have talked to several people to see what has inspired them through difficult times, and these are some of those responses.

I personally remember a seed that was planted in my mind as a child. Rev. Henry Beseda, Jr., told a parable about a frog that fell in a milk can full of milk. Well this drew my attention as an eight-year-old or so child as we, (me included) milked cows and had milk cans. Well, this frog thought he was going to die drowning in all this milk. But he paddled and paddled until the milk turned into butter and he sat on top of it; resting enough to get energy to jump out, saving his life. This allowed the frog to go on and do his good deeds with the rest of his life and face things difficult; knowing that all he had to do was paddle harder (work harder) and all would be okay. I have had to rely on this parable many times in my life as to not give up or just to try harder to make something succeed.

As a young person, another bit of advice I received from a supply minister to the Industry Brethren Church was from Rev. John Bravenec. Growing up we did not have a lot of money in our household, and I expressed my desire to be a missionary and etc. Rev. Bravenec advised me that we as people do not have to go to foreign countries, etc., to serve as "missionaries". we could do that in our own communities, and wherever we were. That has encouraged me to do just that.

Jerry Edward Kunetka tells me that his Ag teacher at Fayetteville High School, Emil Schley, had a favorite saving and bit of advice for students as they faced competition, etc. Emil's saying was, "When the going gets tough; the tough get going!" This has helped Jerry Edward through some of his difficult times, particularly lately, and has been a source of strength to keep that positive/tough attitude in times of stress. Jerry says one of the other favorite sayings of Emil was "Losers never win; and winners never lose." This was popular advice for anyone competing in an event, Jerry recalls.

Shirley Maeckel says that she was inspired by her boss at the title company where she worked for 50 years starting in 1953. She and her coworkers had to type instruments from the deed records to compile abstracts. It was very hard to read, and when workers voiced their concern, J. D. Kamas, her boss, told them to "duck their heads and get at it." So throughout her life, when things got difficult for Shirley she recalls to "duck her head and get at it!" Shirley reflects that she had the "best boss anyone could have had," and that is why she worked there for 50 years.

Ernest Platte recalls Anita Theilemann explaining to him one day after a crisis that when people say →

West Pastor Honored at Waco Medical Center Curtis Holland Family Room Dedication



The Rev. Curtis Holland, pastor of West Brethren Church, was honored for his more than 30 years of spiritual work at the Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center in Waco.

The Curtis Holland Family Room was dedicated on Thursday, March 24, 2016, between 3-5 p.m. at the Baylor Scott and White Medical Center – Hillcrest in Waco. The public was invited to the event, which was held in the medical center Austin Auditorium. Tours were held to view the new Curtis Holland Family Room following the dedication.

For over 30 years, the Rev. Holland cared for the spiritual needs of patients, families, and staff at the Waco hospital where he served as Chaplain. The new family room in his name is to be "a place in the hospital's emergency department where healing and closure can occur during one of the most difficult times in health care and in life – when a loved one has passed."

The Curtis Holland Family Room, which serves as a small piece of the Rev. Holland's legacy, will affect countless lives going forward in a very positive way.

For the past 14 years, Rev. Holland has served as pastor of the West Brethren Church. He is also a member of the West Ministerial Alliance.

Pictured above are Rev. Holland's wife, Bettye; daughter, Annissa Jackson; son, Corky Holland; and Rev. Curtis Holland.

ates alone he felt opposed; for, since the patrimony of the church was due, in the first place, to her poor; then to her guests; and finally to her own workshops; it seemed to that good man a shameful thing to have it expended upon courtesans and in banquets; for the sustenance of horses and dogs, the adornment of garments, and other things unworthy of the religion of Christ.

Jerome also stated the following: "You will condemn me iniquitously and unjustly, and when I am dead, I shall leave remorse in your consciences and a dagger in your hearts; and soon, within a hundred years, you will all have to answer me, in the presence of a Judge most high and perfectly just."

He demanded a hearing to plead his case.

The Council refused this demand and judged him to be a relapsed heretic and sentenced him to be burned at the stake.

For two days, the Council kept him in suspense, hoping to frighten a second recantation from him. The Cardinal of Florence met with Jerome personally and tried to "reason" with him.

Jerome was brought before the Council one final time on May 26, 1416. This time the Council also accused him of ambiguity and insincerity.

Jerome of Prague was burned at the stake on May 30, 1416, at the very same spot where the soul of Jan Hus departed this world. It is recorded that Jerome of Prague "took a long time dying in the flames."

His remains, like those of Hus, were cast into the Rhine River.

101 years after Jerome's somewhat

prophetic statement and martyrdom, Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of All Saints Church in Wittenberg, marking the beginning of the Protestant Reformation.

Jerome of Prague is not as wellknown as his friend and mentor, Jan Hus.

Among those who are familiar with him, there exists a number of critics. They are especially critical of how Jerome chose to recant in "a moment of fear and weakness." I suspect many believers would prefer to think that they would remain completely faithful even if faced with a trial of this magnitude.

In truth, none of us can be absolutely certain how we would respond in such a crucial moment until such a moment is at hand. Few of us will ever have to face such a reality.

It is well worth remembering that even Peter told the Lord, "If they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away!" Peter then denied knowing the Lord not once, but three times.

Despite the criticism, Jerome did find strength in the end. I suppose that is a hope we all have. There will be times when we stumble, but we can find the strength to do the right thing. This is especially true when the strength upon which we rely is not our own.

In July 2015, a special service was held in the cathedral in Constance, Germany, where Jan Hus and Jerome of Prague were condemned. There, representatives of Constance Christian churches asked for forgiveness for the death of Jan Hus. They also asked for forgiveness for the death of his friend, Jerome of Prague.

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

## From the Thiessen's

March 25, 2016: Good Friday

## Dear friends,

Today marks one year from Anne's first step into the Ontario medical system. We arrived here from California in wintery weather and started this journey with a visit to a very nice oncologist, who started the ball rolling. There were some hurdles at the beginning: We didn't have the Ontario health insurance yet, all Anne's tests had been done in California, and she is American, albeit a Canadian resident. Despite all that, and a few other glitches along the way, we have had excellent care overall.

Anne now awaits two more of the specialized chemo treatments, ending April 15th (then she gets to hit the big copper gong hanging in the entrance to the chemo ward). She will also have two separate operations, one for each hand, to release tendons to a couple fingers that are "locking up" on her. All the different final doctor visits happen throughout the middle of June, so we are taking advantage of that gap to visit some churches in North Carolina that are faithful supporters. Also in there we will finally celebrate our 25th anniversary (last August) by taking two weeks in Ireland. No, we don't have any relatives or background there – it just seems like a really interesting place to visit.

We will also be packing up belongings (books and tools!) that have accumulated over the months, and preparing to leave our friends again. This is the life-long burden of missions, more than anything else: the continual leavings (from the several cultures and places we call home now). Of course, it is somewhat made up for by the constant arriving in familiar places and to other sets of friends.

Our long-range plans are to arrive in Oaxaca by late June and fulfill commitments there and the other places we work through at least the summer of 2017. Along the way we want to be praying and listening about how we can best serve the unreached of south-

## SNOOK BRETHREN CHURCH 9882 FM 2155/P.O. Box 247, Snook, TX 77878 Church Phone – (979) 272-3303 COME WORSHIP WITH US Sunday School – 9:00 AM; Worship – 10:15 AM Bible Buddies – 2nd Wednesday, 6:00-7:30 PM Pastor Board of Elders President Youth Directors

| 1 astor             | Doard of Elders Freshdelin | 10util Directors    |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Rev. Joseph Polasek | Rayfield Slovacek          | Randall & Jonna See |
| P.O. Box 54         | P.O. Box 267               | P.O. Box 345        |
| Snook, TX 77878     | Snook, TX 77878            | Snook, TX 77878     |
| (979) 272-1624      | (979) 272-8845             | (979) 272-8179      |



Sin Silla Church

ern Mexico over the next five to ten years. We are part of a growing team, which now overlaps with a second team (Mexican) that every year is having more and more Gospel impact among the indigenous of Oaxaca and Guerrero and beyond. Ongoing training during their practicum in Indian villages seems to be the area where greatest need meets our abilities, so we will explore what that means during this coming year.

We were just in Oaxaca for ten days, doing two different kinds of training. First was a five-day crosscultural ministry training with the Mexican missions

group, which is especially important to us since these people will be going to Mixtecs of Guerrero. Next was a two-hour Perspectives class in the city of Oaxaca. Anne and I have been teaching two classes there for a few years now, but this time I was assigned a different segment since I won't be around when my "regular" one is scheduled. I taught on the theology of missions, which I find to be a critical "missing link" in many potential missionaries' background. I got Phil and Eunice to help teach this class, and I am sure their stories will carry more impact than the ideas I shared. I've attached an outline of the ideas if you want to look at that, plus some pictures of the two trainings.

Blessings, and many thanks for the different kinds of help during this year, Robert.



Anne in Tlaziaco