

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL



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32 Pages

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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BYF Volleyball Champs 2016 Snook Brethren Church

Back L to R: Noah Kovar, Robert Lewis, Colton Orsak, Landon Eldridge.
Front L to R: Deanna Hairrell, Carlee See, Emily Lewis, Anna Faust.

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A reminder from The Twilight Zone . . . by Jim Pokorny

Encounter and Alpha Camp Reports

... and so much more!

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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Visit the Unity of the Brethren Website: unityofthebrethren.org

Seaton Brethren Christian Sisters to Host Bake Sale

The Christian Sisters of
Seaton Brethren Church are
hosting a bake sale and quilt
show on Saturday, November
5th, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at
the church, 12561 State High-
way 53, Temple (Seaton
community).

Featured items in the sale
will be kolaches, cakes, pies,
cookies, bread, jellies, chicken
dressing, homemade canned
goods and craft items. A resale
shop will be opened. Sandwiches
and homemade soup will be
available to purchase for lunch.
Quilts will be on display in the
sanctuary.

A handmade quilt; \$100, \$75
& \$50 Wal-Mart gift cards; HEB
& other gift cards will be given
away for a love donation of
\$1.00 per ticket or 6 tickets for
\$5.00. The proceeds from the
fundraiser benefit the many
projects the Sisters' support.
The sale is open to the public
with free admission.

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64th Biennial Convention of the Unity of the Brethren Mutual Aid Society



The Mutual Aid Society, a benevolent organization of the Unity of the Brethren in Texas, held its 64th Biennial Convention on July 9, 2016, at the Snook Brethren Church. This organization, which was organized on August 15, 1905, in Shiner, Texas, and chartered in 1906 to help families of deceased members, continues to serve that purpose and also to assist Brethren congregations with building loans. College scholarships are also given to qualified members. The motto of the Society is *"Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ."* (Galatians 6:2)

The day's activities began at 8:30 a.m. with registration. Rev. Joseph Polasek, Pastor of the Snook Brethren Church and President of the Mutual Aid Society, welcomed everyone to the convention. The opening worship service began at 9 a.m. led by Reverend Joseph Polasek. A Memorial Service remembering 24 adult members of the Society who passed away since

the last Convention two years ago was led by Natalie Outlaw, General Secretary. Carnations were presented by Dorothy Hinson and Ruth Ann Wuensche as each name was called, which included Rev. Milton Maly. Rev. Maly, who was a member of Wesley Local #18 and former pastor at Fayetteville, passed away on May 30, 2016. Rev. Polasek led everyone in the singing of a Czech Hymn – "Pojd' k Spasiteli" (Come to the Savior). The Scripture Lesson was from Galatians 6:1-10. Rev. Polasek encouraged everyone to do good to all and to fulfill two important laws of Christ, which are to love God with your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love your neighbor. He compared these laws to the two lines that make the cross – the line going up and down as the law to love God and the line that crosses as the law to love your neighbor. Holy Communion was served by Rev. Polasek. Mrs. Joseph (Mary) Polasek



served as the pianist, and Ann Sebesta was the organist.

Rev. Polasek presided over the business session. Daniel Vojtek was appointed Parliamentarian. All of the officers and the audit committee gave a report. Greetings were brought from the Unity Synodical Executive Committee by Liz Ripple, who serves as the Financial Secretary. In attendance were 10 Delegates, 5 Board members, 9 guests, and 2 ministers which included Rev. Polasek and Rev. Lawrence Junek. Sandra Stepan of Fayetteville Local #5, Marvin Chlapek of Dime Box Local #6, Ann Sebesta of Snook Local #7, and Natalie Outlaw of Bryan/College Station Local #34 all received bronze pins for 5 years of service as Local Secretaries. Elaine Koehn of Wesley Local #18 will also receive a bronze pin, but was absent from the meeting. Stepan has served as Fayetteville's Local secretary since July 2008.

It was reported that as of October 31, 2016, there are 796 adult members in the Society and the current membership of the Junior Mutual Aid Department is 156. There were 3 schol-

arships awarded this year. The MASUB Scholarship is supported entirely with donations. Officers elected to serve for 2016-2020 were Natalie Outlaw (General Secretary), Dorothy Hinson (Sec/Treas of the Jr. Dept) and Ann Sebesta (Board Member). Other officers serving until 2018 are Rev. Polasek (President), Daniel Vojtek (Vice-President) and Ruth Ann Wuensche (Treasurer). Rev Junek installed the officers. The next convention will be held in July 2018, the place will be announced.

There are 24 Locals in the Society. The 11 Locals represented and delegates came from Granger #1, Angie Malicoat; Taylor #3, Marie Ripple; Fayetteville #5, Sandra Stepan; Dime Box #6, Marvin Chlapek; Snook #7, Georgia Kovar; Ocker #8, Eugene Haisler; New Tabor #13, Connie Surovik; Temple #20, Ed Marek; Houston #23, Dorothy Hinson (Board member); Pasadena #33, John Orsag; and BCS #34, Geri Polasek. Sandra Stepan was assigned to the Motions Committee. Also attending from Fayetteville Brethren Church were Elizabeth and Joe Ripple.

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

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Youth Directors

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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

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.
– Visiting Ministers

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.
– Visiting Ministers

Nelsonville – Sunday School at 9:00 AM
Worship at 10:15 AM
– Rev. Michael Groseclose

New Tabor – Sunday School at 9:00 AM &
Worship at 10:00 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.
– Position Open

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
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– Visiting Ministers

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“In the Midst of the Heat”

- by Sister Vanessa Mitchell

Sometimes it feels like we only have two seasons in Home Sweet Texas: summer and winter. Of course, we have the treasure of bluebonnets springing up like blankets of colorful frosting for a brief period each year! What a treasure! The heat of summer is clinging to our heels at present. Sunblock and insect repellent remain close at hand. Lawn mowers are getting their exercise. Guzzling water and Gatorade is a priority. Never fear; sweater weather will reappear! (For those who enjoy it!)

In the midst of the heat and the certainty of the change in seasons, the reminder pops up:

God has a purpose for you – things He wants you to do.

Are you listening and watching throughout your days to His voice?

While you're doing chores at home... laundry, dishes, repairs, sitting with family, sifting through bills...

Are you listening?

While you interact with others?

Are you listening?

While putting in overtime at work?

While waiting for more work?

While hoping for a job?

Are you listening?

While trying to eat right and exercise?

While sitting in church?

While holding your child with joy?

Are you listening and watching throughout your days for God's voice?

If your heart truly desires to know what God wants and to commit to follow God's direction without any reservations, you will welcome His whisper which comes in the sheer silence.

You will be able to hear it.

The prophet Elijah, who lived long before Jesus came to us in the flesh, went through a time of maddening fear for his life. He desired to do as God directed him, but his emotions overwhelmed him. God stepped in – as He is always faithful to do – and helped him.

What could you use God's help with today?

In the Book of 1 Kings in the Bible, chapter 11, verses 9 through 18, we can see Elijah relearning how to listen for God's help with his life:



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Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. 13 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 14 He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." 15 Then the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. 16 Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. 17 Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael,

Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. 18 Yet I will leave 7000 in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him." (1 Kings 9:11-18, NRSV)

What could you use God's help with today?

God has a purpose for you – things He wants you to do.

If your heart truly desires to know what God wants and to commit to follow God's direction without any reservations, you will welcome His whisper which comes in the sheer silence.

You will be able to hear it.

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DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for September 2016

- by Dorothy E. Kocian

- The Lord said, "You will remember to obey all My commandments and will be consecrated to your God." Num. 15:40
- "I am the Lord your God." Num. 15:41
- You who know Him, trust in the Lord. He is your help and shield. Ps. 115:11
- The Lord says, "But for you who revere My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings." Mal. 4:2**
- Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. Prov. 4:23
- Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, the person who gains understanding. Prov. 3:13
- Let love and faithfulness never leave you. Prov. 3:3
- Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be in reverence of the Lord. Prov. 23:17
- Lord, better is one day in Your courts than a thousand anywhere else. Ps. 84:10
- "Because he loves Me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him; I will protect him for he acknowledges My name." Ps. 91:14
- Do not set foot on the path of the wicked or walk in the way of evil men. Prov. 4:14**
- Honor the Lord with your wealth. Prov. 3:9
- Wisdom is supreme; therefore, get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. Prov. 4:7
- Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life. Prov. 15:16
- Better a little with the fear of the Lord than great wealth with turmoil. Prov. 15:16
- A cheerful look brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones. Prov. 15:30
- The Lord is near to all who call on Him in truth. Ps. 145:18
- Teach me Your way, O Lord; lead me in a straight path. Ps. 27:11**
- When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom. Prov. 11:2
- A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver. Prov. 25:11
- A prudent man keeps his knowledge to himself, but the heart of fools blurts out folly. Prov. 12:23
- Do not let your mouth lead you into sin. Ecc. 5:6
- Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work. 1 Thes. 4:11
- Like a muddied spring or a polluted well is a righteous man who gives way to the wicked. Prov. 25:26
- A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold. Prov. 22:1**
- Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe. Prov. 29:25
- A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control. Prov. 29:11
- Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry. James 1:19
- Man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. James 1:20
- Humility and the fear of the Lord bring wealth and honor and life. Prov. 22:4

Brethren Book Store

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 Diane Heckman, Manager

November 6, 2016 – Industry and Fayetteville Joint Veterans' Recognition Service, at Industry Brethren Church, 9 a.m. The Texas A&M Singing Cadets Quartet will take part in this service. Contact: Liz Treybig (liztrebig@yahoo.com) or Liz Ripple (lizripple@hotmail.com).

December 31, 2016 – Your *Brethren Journal* Subscription expires! Don't forget to send in your renewal!

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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A Reminder from The Twilight Zone

- by Jim Pokorny

I have always enjoyed fantasy and science fiction. I was the kid who came straight home from school and turned the television on so I would not miss a single moment of *Star Trek*. As an even younger lad I stumbled across BBC's *Doctor Who* on the local PBS station and instantly became a fan. When the BBC launched new episodes in 2005, I returned for the ride and am eagerly anticipating next season.

Of all the television programs that fall under the science fiction and fantasy umbrella, *The Twilight Zone* still remains a personal favorite of mine over half a decade later. I was not yet born when it initially hit the airwaves, but I would occasionally see it in syndication. Some years ago Syfy Channel began airing the entire series as a marathon beginning every New Year's Eve.

This became my New Year's tradition, as well. I would find myself staying up extremely late, drinking numerous cups of black coffee, and watching the marathon until the need for sleep rallied in the war against caffeine.

Quite recently, I was able to purchase all five seasons in one complete set. All 156 episodes on 28 DVD's. No longer would I have to wait for the annual marathon. I would be able to watch all the episodes at a more moderate and infinitely saner pace.

There are several things I like about the series. First and foremost is the writing of the late Rod Serling. I have always admired his skill as a writer and his wonderfully delivered narrations. Second is seeing the old stars, most of whom are no longer with us. Third, you could always count on every episode having an unusual and unexpected plot twist.

Finally, though it may seem surprising, a number of episodes had some really significant Christian overtones.

One such episode that always struck a chord deep within me was the final episode of season two entitled *The Obsolete Man*. It starred a wonderful actor by the name of Burgess Meredith. I happened to watch this episode again in very late June just prior to John Hus Sunday. Recalling



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.*

that Hus defended the truth and that the books he wrote were publicly burned encouraged me to watch this episode several times.

This was Meredith's second of four appearances in *The Twilight Zone*. In this episode, he played the part of a somewhat feeble-looking man named Romney Wordsworth who has been summoned to appear before some future State to face a charge of "Obsolescence". According to Serlings' narration, this future State "has one iron rule: Logic is an enemy, and truth is a menace."

Mr. Wordsworth enters through two very tall doors and stands at the end of a very long table. At the opposite end sits the Secretary. Directly behind the Secretary stands a very tall podium from atop which the Chancellor presides. The enormity of these objects serves to illustrate how much distance there is between the individual and The State that sits in judgment of him.

The Chancellor begins by informing Mr. Wordsworth that he has been under investigation for the mandatory period of one year and eleven months and that he has been found "Obsolete". He further states that the

purpose of this televised hearing is to rule on the charge and sentence accordingly.

The Chancellor asks Mr. Wordsworth his occupation. Mr. Wordsworth replies that he is a librarian. This brings about a chorus of jeers from the officials seen standing somewhat hidden in the shadows. The Chancellor reminds him how serious the charge of obsolescence is and again asks his occupation.

Mr. Wordsworth insists that he is a librarian adding, "If you people choose to call that obsolete..."

He is immediately interrupted by the Secretary who asks for clarification of the term. The Chancellor then inquires if by the term "you people" he means "the State".

Mr. Wordsworth concedes this is what he means.

The Chancellor then asks if he persists in his belief that he is a librarian.

Mr. Wordsworth insists that he is a librarian.

The Chancellor then challenges, "Since there are no more books, Mr. Wordsworth, there are no more libraries, and of course, as it follows, there is very little call for the services of a

Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

October 6-8, 2016 – 22nd Annual Primetimers' Retreat for Adults 40+. Contact Person: Kimberly Kennard Marx (kimberlykennard@yahoo.com) 254/931-5657.

October 22, 2016 – Fall Synodical Committee Meeting, 9 a.m., Hus Encampment. Coffee & kolaches served at 8 a.m., meeting will begin at 9 a.m. A light lunch will be provided at noon or immediately following the meeting. Contact Kent Laza, President (kent.laza@verizon.net) or Angie Hairrell, Secretary (hairrell@gmail.com) for more information.

SAVE THE DATE...

November 5, 2016 – Bake Sale and Quilt Show at The Seaton Brethren Church from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Baked and canned goods, craft items, a resale shop, and quilts will be featured. Sandwiches and homemade soup will be available to purchase for lunch. Chances to win items, including a handmade quilt, will be offered for a love donation of \$1 per ticket or 6 for \$5. Proceeds to benefit the Christian Sisters of Seaton Brethren Church.



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

librarian. Case in point: A minister. A minister would tell us that his function is that of preaching the word of God. And it follows that since The State has proven that there is no God, that would make the function of a minister quite academic as well."

Mr. Wordsworth declares, "There IS a God!"

Another chorus of jeers is heard. The Chancellor, now angry, states that Mr. Wordsworth is in error and proclaims that there is no God. He then picks up the microphone from the podium and shouts directly into it for the benefit of those watching, "The State has proven that there is no God!"

Mr. Wordsworth shouts back, "You cannot erase God with an edict!"

The Chancellor shouts back, "You are obsolete, Mr. Wordsworth!"

Mr. Wordsworth challenges, "A lie, no man is obsolete!... I am nothing more than a reminder to you that you cannot destroy truth by burning pages!... I am a human being."

The irate Chancellor then hurls a series of insults aimed at Mr. Wordsworth.

Mr. Wordsworth counters with: "I don't care, I tell you. I don't care. I'm

a human being, I exist... and if I speak one thought aloud, that thought lives, even after I'm shoveled into my grave."

"Delusions, Mr. Wordsworth!" the Chancellor screams. "Delusions that you inject into your veins with printer's ink. The narcotics you call literature: The Bible, poetry, essays, all kinds, all of it are opiate to make you think you have strength, when you have no strength at all! You are nothing but spindly limbs and a dream, and The State has no use for your kind!"

The Chancellor then composes himself and venomously states, "You waste our time, Mr. Wordsworth, and you're not worth the waste."

Mr. Wordsworth is judged "Obsolete" and condemned to death. His two remaining rights are to choose the method of his execution and the time it is to take place within the next 48 hours.

Mr. Wordsworth asks the court to appoint an executioner and further requests that only he and the executioner be allowed to know the manner of his execution. Although out of the ordinary, the Chancellor agrees provided the execution takes place within the prescribed time limit.



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

Mr. Wordsworth then requests one more thing... a television audience to witness the execution. The Chancellor is more than happy to agree to this term.

Mr. Wordsworth then states that his execution will take place at midnight in his room. The Chancellor agrees to the terms and orders him to return to his room.

The next scene opens in Mr. Wordsworth's room which is filled with books and a clock. He is lying on his bed looking at his clock.

Around 11:30 p.m. there is a knock at his door. Mr. Wordsworth opens it and finds the Chancellor standing outside.

Mr. Wordsworth thanks him for accepting his invitation, invites him in and closes the door behind him. While the Chancellor's back is turned... Mr. Wordsworth secretly locks the door and tucks the key in his pocket.

A strained conversation takes place between these two men. Mr. Wordsworth then shows the Chancellor the remote operated television camera that has been installed in his room. Suddenly, the lights come on and the two men realize they are being televised.

"It's not unusual that we televise executions, Mr. Wordsworth," the Chancellor proudly declares. "Last year in the mass executions, we televised around the clock. Thirteen hundred people were put to death in less than six hours."

Mr. Wordsworth challenges that The State learns nothing from history. Both Hitler and Stalin are cited as examples. The Chancellor replies that neither Hitler nor Stalin went far enough. In his opinion, their error was in failing to finish the jobs they started.

The discussion eventually turns to Mr. Wordsworth's pending execution.

Mr. Wordsworth tells the Chancellor that his executioner arrived earlier and planted a bomb in the room – a bomb which will destroy everything inside the room when it detonates precisely at midnight.

The Chancellor comments that Mr. Wordsworth has chosen a quick end to his existence. He turns to leave and finds to his great surprise that the door is locked. Panic sets in. The Chancellor pounds on the door. He then calls out but to no avail.

Mr. Wordsworth turns to the cam-

8. Stick your thumb down into the clay so that you hollow it out. Encourage them to do the same. The end result should be that they have something resembling a cup without a handle.
9. Say, *"Friends should help us to mold ourselves the way that God wants."*
10. Have everyone put their cup down on the table in front of them once they've gotten it shaped like yours. Pick up a real cup.
11. Say, *"Because what happens is that as the years progress, you begin to harden, like the clay. That is a good thing – if you are the right shape. If you are long and thin and weak, or if you are fat and round and have no depth, you will not be able to hold anything important to the Lord. You are being shaped throughout your childhood, just like Samuel was being shaped by the priests and prophets he hung out with. You want to love everyone, but you want to be careful who gets to help shape you, and everyone you hang out with will be a part of that hand. When your clay hardens, you want to be like this."*
12. Say, *"If you don't have depth, you won't be able to hold the fruits of the spirit. The book of Galatians, Chapter 5, verse 22, says the fruit of the spirit are..."* Pour water into the cup as you continue. *"...joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. King David described his joy as 'my cup runneth over.'"*
13. Fill the cup to the top and let a few drops spill over.
14. Say, *"It all starts with who you let mold you and influence you now. Let's make a vow today to choose our best friends wisely and to not let people mold us – with fun, peer pressure, or fear – so that eventually we will be able to hold lots of spirit from the Lord."*

Seaton Brethren Church

12561 State Highway 53

Temple, TX 76501

Church Phone: 254-985-2694

seatonbrethrenchurch@yahoo.com

Rev. Denise Mikeska, Pastor –

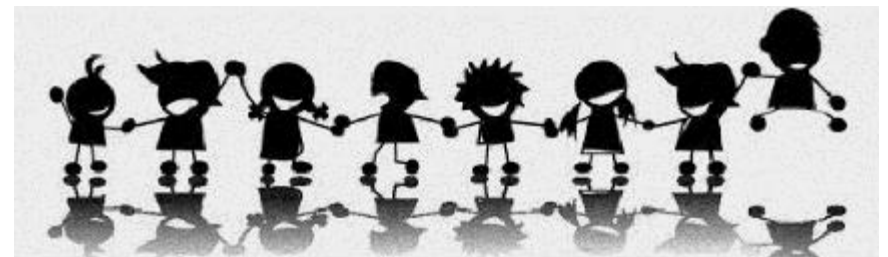
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Check out the blog and Pinterest Board for more ideas and links!

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

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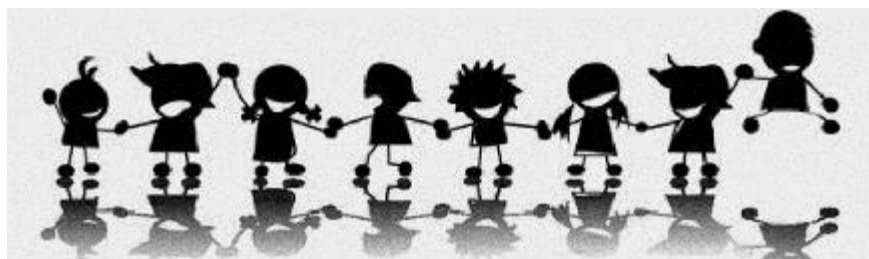
Proverbs 13:20

Whoever walks with the wise become wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

Understand the Proverb:

Read Proverbs 13:20.

1. Give each child Play Dough about the size of a golf ball. Ask them to squeeze it, roll it around, and make any shape they want to.
2. Say *"This Play Dough is a lot like us when we are children. We are soft, or what we call pliable. Pliable means something can be made into many shapes. Our hand is sort of like the people we come in contact with. They can shape us in different ways, depending on their own shapes. Let's pretend you hang out with some really rough friends who enjoy putting pressure on people to do things they might not want to do."*
3. Squeeze the play dough really hard in your hands and have the children do the same.
4. Say, *"What happened to your shape? It got really thin and weak under the weight of all that pressure, didn't it? Are tough people who enjoy putting peer pressure on us the best to hang out with?"*
5. Roll the play dough into a ball again and have them do the same.
6. Say, *"So let's say your friends are nice but not necessarily good, and let's say these nice people really don't care about being good. They're funny and can be fun, but they don't care about God or Jesus or living right. They have great personalities, but underneath they really don't care about much. They're just... morally limp."*
7. Say, *"We want friends who want us to think about things. They will encourage us to think about things before we do them... gauge out consequences for bad actions and rewards for good ones."*



era and states, "How does a man react to the knowledge that he's going to be blown to bits in a half an hour? Answer: That depends on the individual. As for me, I'm going to sit down and read my Bible."

He goes to a secret hiding place in the room and retrieves a very old and worn Bible and returns to his seat in front of the camera. Mr. Wordsworth calmly states, "It's been hidden here for over 20 years, it's a crime punishable by death, so it's the only thing I have that has any value at all to me. So I'm just going to sit down and read it... until the moment of my death... How will you spend your last moments Chancellor?"

The Chancellor realizes the spot he is in. If he shows any outward sign of fear, the State loses some of its grip on the populace. Although unstated, he must inwardly hope that some official will come to rescue him from his predicament.

Mr. Wordsworth states, "Let the whole country see the strength of The State, the resilience of The State, the courage of The State. Let the whole country see the way a valiant man of steel faces his death... Why don't you sit down, we'll have a little

chat. Just you and me... and the great equalizer... Because death is the great equalizer."

Mr. Wordsworth turns to face the camera. He says to the audience, "So here you have this strong, handsome, uniformed, bemedaled symbol of giant authority and this little, insignificant, librarian... and suddenly... in the eyes of God... there is precious little to distinguish us."

The Chancellor nervously takes a seat.

Mr. Wordsworth begins reading Psalm 23 aloud. He follows this with other selected Psalms. All the while the clock ticks methodically onward and time moves mercilessly closer and closer to midnight.

With a single minute left, Mr. Wordsworth reads from Psalm 14: "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God... The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God..."

Suddenly, with only precious seconds remaining the Chancellor cracks from the strain. With tears in his eyes he pleads, "Please, please, let me out! In the name of God... LET ME OUT!"



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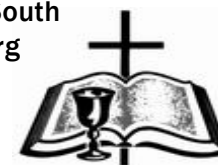
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Rev. Mark Sebek

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

He runs to door screaming, "LET ME OUT! LET ME OUT! LET ME OUT!"

Mr. Wordsworth arises and says, "Yes, Chancellor, in the name of God, I will let you out!" With that he hands over the key.

The Chancellor hurriedly unlocks the door and rushes out of the room leaving Mr. Wordsworth behind clutching his old Bible. Mere seconds later, the bomb detonates, killing Mr. Wordsworth instantly.

Outside the room, the Chancellor picks himself up from the rubble that has escaped through the open door. Covered in dust and still shaking from fear, the Chancellor departs in tears.

When the Chancellor arrives for duty the following day, the Secretary immediately informs him that he has been stripped of his title.

The former Chancellor demands to know why. The Secretary tells him, "You have disgraced The State. You have proven yourself a coward. You have, therefore, no function. You are OBSOLETE!"

Serling's closing narration sums things up this way: "The chancellor, the late chancellor, was only partly

correct. He was obsolete, but so is the State, the entity he worshiped. Any state, any entity, any ideology that fails to recognize the worth, the dignity, the rights of man, that state is obsolete."

It is important to note that a state such as the one Serling depicted does not simply sprout up overnight.

I leave you with the words of Martin Niemöller, a prominent pastor who was an outspoken critic of both Adolf Hitler and the Nazi regime. He spent the last seven years of Nazi rule in concentration camps. According to Niemöller:

First they came for the Socialists,
and I did not speak out –
Because I was not a Socialist.

Then they came for the Trade
Unionists, and I did not speak out –
Because I was not a Trade Unionist.
Then they came for the Jews, and
I did not speak out –
Because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me – and there
was no one left to speak for me.



Proverbs 13:20

Whoever walks with the wise become
wise, but the companion of fools will
suffer harm.

Temple Brethren Church

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

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

Tim Chaplin, Interim Pastor
(254) 718-3898

At the start of a new school year, thoughts of new friends and new situations come to mind. As parents, we pray our children will find Godly friends that push them along the right path instead of leading them away from God. Proverbs has something to say about that, too, as well of the Story of Samuel. Samuel's mom wanted him to be a great prophet, so she sent him away to live with the priests. She knew he would be more like those he lived so closely with. It can be difficult to bring up negative friendships, especially with teenagers. However, by using the wisdom of Proverbs, our task may be eased somewhat.



Unity of the Brethren Christian Sisters Union Officers 2016



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

From the Thiessen's

July 28, 2016

Dear friends,

Our temporary detour of 17 months came to an end on July 5th when we finally slept our first night back in our "own" bed in Oaxaca City. What a journey! Thanks for your prayers along the way. We spent the first few days cleaning up and reorganizing, and of course visiting friends and team mates.

Yet within days we were on the move again. One of our team families, Paco and Ofelia, who live three hours away, lost their 13-year-old son (Alexis) in a tragic accident. So for the last few



Paco's Family

weeks we've been going back and forth to spend time with them and help in any way we can, although nothing takes that kind of pain away. They are expecting a baby girl any day, and this rich blessing is no longer un-alloyed for the mother.

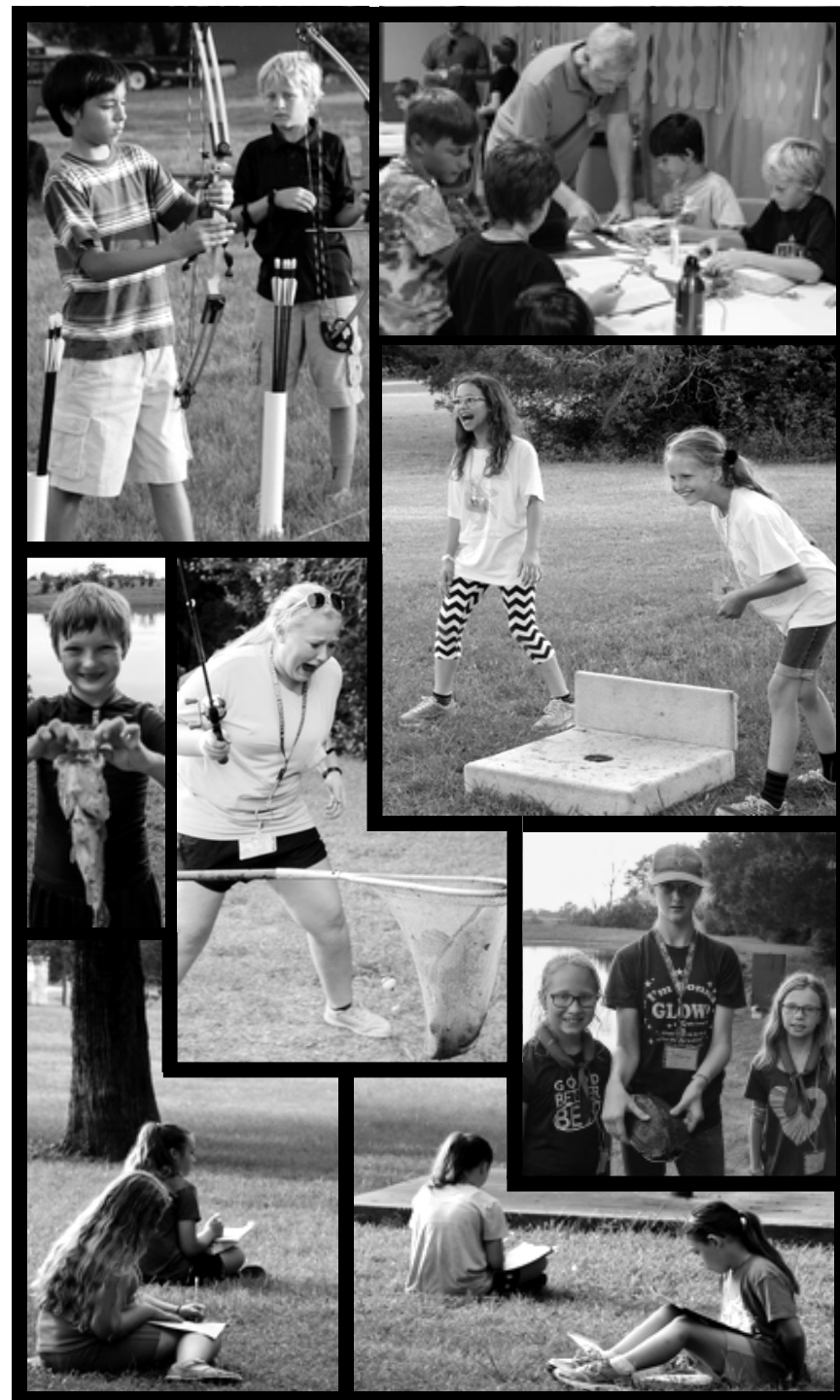
During this time details for a trip to Peru were finalized. We leave this Saturday for two weeks. Our community of Mennonite Brethren churches around the world has varying strengths and weaknesses and for decades there has been a commitment among them to share burdens and resources. That is often fraught with cultural difficulties, as you can imagine, and our economic disparities tend to complicate the situation. So, the small conference of MB churches in northern Peru has been facing its own unique set of challenges for a while now, with no clear path out.

We have been invited to spend time among the leaders to first become friends and then search together for God's direction and some steps to implement. We all know that there is no "magic wand" that can dispel their problems or cover them over, so please pray with us that we would be able to make the most of the ten days we have among the Peruvian

In God's Hands Ministry

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Alpha Campers Learn to READ IT! LEARN IT! LIVE IT!

Directors: John Paul & Jennifer Chervenka; Taylor Brinkley
Pastor: Dr. Larry Koslovsky



The 2016 Alpha theme was “Dive Into God’s Word”. It was an underwater adventure that took campers on a journey to learn about the Bible, the Ten Commandments, God’s gift of salvation, and prayer.

Chants could be heard around the camp as the campers learned to locate book, chapter, verse... book, chapter, verse... book, chapter, verse. They were challenged that to be a child of God, you have to follow His Word. You can’t just hear about it. You have to READ IT! LEARN IT! LIVE IT!

Campers painted sea creature wall hangings and made sea turtle photo frames. They also learned several camp songs, contemporary Christian songs, and did quite a bit of dancing. For sports, campers played kickball, volleyball, and hungry hippos (a scooter

game with balls and clothesbaskets). Special interests were bike riding, fishing, miniature golf, horseshoes, washers, and archery. The favorite activity for most of the staff was fleet off the floor every day after lunch.

Alpha was a great camp. The campers were wonderful, energetic, enthusiastic boys and girls who soaked up the lessons and opened their hearts to learning God’s word. We directors can’t wait for Alpha 2017 and all God has in store until then.

MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS BOARD (2015-2017)

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

church, and that God would strengthen them and encourage them to move beyond what troubles them. This is hopefully only the first part of developing a long-term relationship with them.

When we return to Mexico City, we get to spend a couple days with Philip and his girlfriend, Cailey, and Elai. If we could only have Mikael, too, we would be a complete family, but he will be on a business trip. We are looking forward to those days together. Maybe, because we are getting used to not having the kids in the house, these together times are more precious.

Mikael has an internship with IBM in San Francisco this summer and will be finishing up his job there. He and Elai return to Wheaton for their junior and senior years. Philip will have finished his engineering internship at an acetylene manufacturer in Texas and ready to go back to his junior year of university.

We should be able to settle down a bit once Anne gets back to teaching high school (part time – she is starting already to shift her focus toward providing more support for our team), starting on Aug 22nd.

Thank you for your support and prayers throughout this last stage of our journey, and now also for what is to come.

Blessings, Robert

From the Woo’s . . .

Dear wonderful prayer partners,

You truly are sharing a part in the Great Commission by praying for us and for His Kingdom to go forth among the nations! “The Great Commission is not a suggestion to be considered but a command to be obeyed,” H. Taylor.

We are settling in. We had an amazing trip out west to see family and the redwoods, then to Thailand, then on to our new home. Father has gone before us in every way. Here are a few examples. When we drove up to Charlotte there was only one spot to stop and unload, and it happened to be in front of the roadside check in. The porter was not busy at all, and checked in all 14 of our bags in 5 minutes. Then when we got to the gate, they asked if anyone wanted to check in their carry ons for free. So we did!



HOUSTON BROTHERS CHURCH

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Dorothy Hinson
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(281) 620-0480

John David Skrivaneck
Secretary

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*Woo's day at the
redwood trees
near the
West Coast.*

Another amazing thing is that the kids did great in our many long car trips. The guest houses we stayed in were amazing. The flight to Asia was not that bad as we all slept. Getting over jet lag was the easiest it has ever been. And two days before we got to our new home, our teammates moved in ALL of our stuff into our apartment that had been in storage for over a year.

We have felt so welcomed back. Our home is amazing and almost in place, the mangos are sweet, and Father is on the move. Let us join with Him, His passion, His love for the nations, so that every person has the chance to know Him. He is so good.

We love and miss you all. We can still text, email, and Facebook or Facetime with you.

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

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PLEASE JOIN US AS WE

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

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Encounter Camp 2016 "Sea the World God Created"



What a wonderful 48 hours our 7- and 8-year-old campers had at Encounter Camp on June 9-11. There were 18 boys and girls from across the Unity who descended upon the Hus Encampment for a time of learning about God, meeting new friends, and having a blast.

Our theme this year was "Sea the World God Created." We had 4 lessons throughout the 48 hours where we incorporated a Bible lesson and Bible verse, music, games, crafts, and science experiments. (ALL science experiments worked this year!) Our 4 lessons included God's Creation, God Made Me Special, Nothing Is Impossible for God, and Salvation.

The children enjoyed playing Hungry, Hungry Sharks, water games, crab soccer, bicycle riding, and kickball, in addition to fishing and many other fun activities. There were also vesper services, morning watch, and nighttime devotions on the "beach". These wonderful children of God had a terrific time. (Several parents told us that

their children were asleep before they left the camp grounds!) They were so excited to learn and grow as children of God.

We would like to especially thank our wonderful staff for being exceptionally exceptional! The children had a BLAST because of you. Tons of memories were made and friendships that will last a lifetime. Thank you to the directors-in-training, Angie Labaj and Kelsey Marek; the counselors, John Eilers, Matt Wilde, Tammie Riethmeyer, Kami Hooker, and Deanna Harrell; the counselors-in-training, Baylis Zak and Kelton Hooker; the Grandmas, Dorothy Milberger and Vicky Zak; and our wonderful pastors, Dr. Mark Labaj and Rev. Jimmy Hejl. We LOVE each of you and thank you from the bottom of our hearts. The kids love you and we are so grateful and blessed to have had you on our team!

Vernell Labaj and Peggy Hejl
Encounter Co-Directors