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THE BRETHREN JOURNAL



Vol. 115

October 2016

No. 8

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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32/October 2016

BRETHREN JOURNAL



Hus School Class 2016

*Members of the 2016 Hus School on an educational field trip
to the Wesley Brethren Church.*

(Read more about the activities of the Hus School class in next month's issue!)

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What I Am Tolkien About . . . by Jim Pokorny

Summer Retreat Report

Happy Birthday Elsie Myers!

... and much more!

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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RATE – \$15.00 per year via hard copy and/
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(All subscriptions expire December 31st)
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Rates (per column inch per year)
Commercial coverage – \$50.00
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Permit #064220

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL (ISSN 0006-9655)
is published monthly except for January and
July, which are bimonthly, at \$15.00 per year
by The Unity of the Brethren through SuzAnne
Kurten dba Your Business Center, 1050 S.
Hwy. 95, Taylor, TX 76574, 512-921-1068,
periodical postage paid at Taylor, TX. POST-
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How Much Longer?

- by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

How much longer do I have to
endure, Holy Lord?

How much longer?

How much longer must I stay the
course, Faithful Lord?

How much longer?

How much longer will the
challenges keep snowballing
toward me, Loving Lord?

How much longer?

How much longer will I question
your direction and resist an ever-
deepening friendship with You,
my Jesus?

How much longer?

Wherever your heart finds you at
this moment,

Wherever your thoughts have
traveled,

However weary you have become,
Jesus is with you.

Friendship with Jesus will help you
endure.

Just take a deep breath and exhale
slowly and call out His name:

Jesus.

How and why are often the start to
questions whose answers we might
not yet be ready to receive. In fact, it
seems that setting down the “how”

and the “why” is in most cases better
for us in the middle of our struggles.
There is great value in letting go, in
resisting setting parameters and in-
stead diving into wholehearted trust
in God, in Jesus being there for you at
any moment in your life. It’s not some
metaphysical quandary, but rather a
straightforward act of faith, to call out
His name: “Jesus.” “Jesus,” being the
only word in your prayer, will open
your mind and your heart, and even
your circumstances to His power.
Jesus is God. He desires to comfort
you and can guide you in the middle
of the “hows” and “whys.”

Just pray: “Jesus.”

Pray again, eyes closed: “Jesus.”

**Pray again. Eyes closed and sitting
still: “Jesus.”**

As you persist in setting aside
your “hows” and “whys,” “how much
longer” will cease to matter. “How can
I do this” will evaporate, too.

*Jesus said, “Come to me, all you that
are weary and are carrying heavy
burdens, and I will give you rest.”*
(Matthew 11:28, NRSV)



In God's Hands Ministry

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

Wherever your heart finds you at this moment,
Wherever your thoughts have traveled,
However weary you have become,
Jesus is with you.
Friendship with Jesus will help you endure.
Just take a deep breath and exhale slowly and call out His name:
Jesus.

*In Jesus' Hands, Right with You,
Sister Vanessa Mitchell*

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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 9:30 AM, worship at 10:30 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 5th Sunday.
– Visiting Ministers

VITAL STATISTICS

RECENT BAPTISMS



MATCEK, TRENT EDWARD, was baptized on Sunday, August 14, 2016. His parents, Tyron and Rachel Matcek, along with his godparents, T. J. and Elizabeth Atkinson, dedicated him to

the Lord Jesus. Minister: Rev. Vanessa Mitchell.

RECENT DEATHS

HAISLER, MARGARET HENDERSON, a long-time member of Caldwell Brethren Church, went on to be in glory with the Lord Jesus Christ on Monday, August 8, 2016. Cancer overtook the body of this mighty servant of our Lord. Among many other ministries to the Lord Jesus, Margaret was the manager of the Caldwell Senior Center for 15 years. The Caldwell Brethren Church Family stands with Margaret's family in absolute confidence that our Lord Jesus is saying to our fellow servant in Christ: "Well done, good and faithful servant!" (Matthew 25:23)

JOHNSON, PERSIS ANN (GRISWOLD), "Percy", age 75, a member of New Tabor Brethren Church, died Saturday, August 20, 2016. She was born on August 7, 1941, in Plattsburgh, New York. Services were held on August 23, 2016, at New Tabor Brethren Church. Survivors include her children: Cathleen and Robert Schlechte; Robert and D'anka Grauel; and Donna and Joseph Stone. Also her grandchildren: Michael and Kimberly Weisenberger; Nicholas and Shelby Schlechte; Mikalina Grauel Hobson; Brittany Jasper; Brandi Grauel; Brady Grauel; Jonathan Stone; Zachary Stone; and great-grandchildren: Kaylee Weisenberger and Zoey Schlechte; as well as several nieces and nephews. Interment will be at a later date in upstate New York. Minister: Rev. David Johnson.

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What I Am Tolkien About

- by Jim Pokorny

Two years ago I shared some thoughts on C. S. Lewis. A portion of that article revolved around the friendships he made while part of the group of Oxford writers known collectively as "The Inklings". Lewis became a Christian in 1931 when God used two of those friends. One of those friends was J. R. R. Tolkien. Scholars have described the friendship between Lewis and Tolkien as "The most important literary friendship of the Twentieth Century." Tolkien was a devout Catholic, but both he and Lewis shared a passion for Norse mythology.

Tolkien is best known for *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings Trilogy* of books, and I am willing to admit that I have read these works a number of times.

In 1926, Tolkien finished his translation of the epic poem *Beowulf*. "Finished" in this case is a somewhat relative term. Beginning in the 1930's and continuing throughout his career, Tolkien lectured on *Beowulf* and was constantly refining his translation. Tolkien never published his trans-

lation. Tolkien's third son, Christopher, made the decision to publish his father's translation in 2014. Being familiar with both the elder Tolkien's work and the story of *Beowulf*, I simply had to read his translation. At heart it is a legend, but it does contain elements of reality, including some actual people and places from the 5th Century.

Beowulf is an epic poem originally written in Old English and is some 3,000 lines long. It was written most probably in the 8th Century by an anonymous Anglo-Saxon poet whom scholars simply refer to as the "Beowulf poet". It contains an unusual mixture of both Christian and pagan elements. This is logical from a historical perspective. The Anglo-Saxon lands of the 8th Century poet were Christian. The poem itself takes place in 5th Century Scandinavia, which was pagan at the time.

My admiration for Tolkien grew as I read his translation. I found his interpretation of its Christian elements



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quite profound. Being familiar with Tolkien, I discovered that his translation may have provided me with another perspective on Tolkien's life.

For the benefit of those who may not be familiar with *Beowulf*, it must be stated that the poem contains more than a fair amount of violence along with its Christian elements. I found it necessary to include some of these as my final reflections on Tolkien depend on them. I did, however, minimize the more graphic aspects as much as was possible.

Beowulf can be divided into three distinct parts. In the first part, a king named Hrothgar has constructed a great hall called Heorot for his warriors. In halls such as these warriors of that region and era would gather together to drink mead (a beverage whose base is fermented honey), sing and celebrate past heroic deeds in warrior-like fashion. Grendel, a troll-like monster said to be descended from Cain, hears the celebratory sounds coming out of the great hall. Knowing that he can never share in such gatherings causes Grendel a tremendous amount of pain and he plots his vengeance.

Grendel waits until nightfall. He slips into the great hall and kills many of Hrothgar's warriors in their sleep. Unsatisfied with this conquest, Grendel makes several more raids on the hall. Hrothgar and his warriors find that they are unable to defend themselves from Grendel's raids. Rather than lose more men, they decide to abandon the great hall.

Word of Grendel's treachery spreads across the lands and eventually reaches a young hero named Beowulf, a proven warrior, who lives across the sea in Geatland. Upon hearing the news, he asks his king for permission to assist Hrothgar in his people's hour of need. The king grants his permission, and Beowulf assembles a band of warriors. Together they travel over the waters to the land of Hrothgar.

Upon arrival, Beowulf offers his assistance, which Hrothgar gladly accepts. The men, those belonging to both Hrothgar and Beowulf, enter the Hall and celebrate the pending liberation. Beowulf surmises that any weapon used against Grendel will be useless. Beowulf is determined to make their contest one of brute strength against brute strength. Yet, he knows the

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for October 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 judgment, 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, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. 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 jealous 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 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. May those who love Your salvation 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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outcome will ultimately be decided by God stating, “I shall seize upon the foe, and engage in mortal contest with hate against hate – there to the judgment of the Lord shall he resign whom death doth take.”

Come nightfall sleep overtakes all except Beowulf, who merely pretends to sleep.

Grendel enters the hall and immediately the two enter into a violent struggle. Beowulf’s companions draw their weapons and rush to their companion’s aid. They quickly discover what Beowulf had suspected. Their weapons are completely useless against Grendel’s hide.

The two adversaries struggle mightily with each other. A surprised Grendel wishes to make good his escape, but Beowulf refuses to release his grip on him. The battle between them ends the moment when Beowulf rips off Grendel’s arm at the shoulder. Grendel, although free, is mortally wounded. He leaves the great Hall and returns to his home in the marshes to die.

The second part of the poem begins the night after Grendel’s defeat.

The men celebrate Beowulf’s great victory. The arm of the beast now hangs in the great hall as a trophy.

Grendel’s mother is outraged over her son’s death and plots her revenge. When night falls, she also waits until the men are asleep. She then slips into the Hall and kills Aeschere, Hrothgar’s most loyal warrior, in his sleep. She departs, taking the arm of her son with her.

Beowulf, his men, and a company of Hrothgar’s men track Grendel’s mother back to her lair, which lies at the bottom of a lake. A warrior named Unferth originally doubted Beowulf. Now wishing to atone, he gives Beowulf his personal sword for the coming battle.

As before, Beowulf is determined to fight this battle alone and stipulates what is to be done in the event of his death. Beowulf then jumps into the lake alone. At the bottom of the lake he spies a cavern. He enters the cavern, and there discovers the remains of both Grendel and men he has slain.

Beowulf suddenly finds himself in a desperate struggle with Grendel’s enraged mother, who initially appears to have the upper hand in the struggle. Beowulf finds that the sword he was given is completely useless against



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her and casts it aside. Beowulf manages to take hold of her blade and kills her with it.

“...there Holy God did rule the victory in battle. The all-seeing Lord who governeth the heavens on high with ease did give decision to the right, when Beowulf again sprang up.”

Beowulf uses that same blade to remove the head of Grendel. As soon as the blade touches Grendel's toxic blood, it dissolves to the hilt.

Beowulf swims to the surface with Grendel's head and the hilt of the sword. There he finds the men who have been awaiting his return in despair. The men return to the great hall and the trophies are given to Hrothgar. Hrothgar bestows many gifts to Beowulf, including the family heirloom, a sword named Naegling.

The king shares his reflections in what scholars have termed “Hrothgar's sermon”. This includes a reference to the Biblical flood.

“Hrothgar made answer, looking close upon the hilt, the relic of old days, whereon was writ the beginning of the ancient strife, whereafter the flood of pouring ocean destroyed the Giants' race, evilly did they fare. That was a people alien to the eternal

Lord, for that a final payment with surging water the Almighty made to them.”

Also included is a warning to Beowulf concerning the danger of pride.

“Defend thee from that deadly malice, dear Beowulf, best of knights, and choose for thyself the better part. Counsels of everlasting worth; countenance no pride, O champion in thy renown!”

Beowulf and his men then return to their home across the sea.

In the third part, time has moved on and Beowulf is now both much older and the king of his people. Fifty years after his struggle with Grendel's mother, a slave discovers and steals a golden goblet from the lair of a dragon (dragons have a tendency to hoard the treasures of men although they really have no practical use for them). When the dragon discovers this one single object missing, it goes into a flying rage. It then sets about burning and destroying everything in sight.

Yet again Beowulf and a company of his warriors set out to face the dragon to put an end to its reign of destruction and terror. When the lair of the beast is discovered, Beowulf,

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****Date Correction**

*****Location Correction**

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

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Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

****October 7-9, 2016** – 22nd Annual Primetimers' Retreat for Adults 40+, Hus Encampment. 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.

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.

*****November 6, 2016** – Industry and Fayetteville Joint Veterans' Recognition Service at the Industry Fireman's Hall, 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).

as twice before, insists on fighting the great beast alone.

Beowulf takes on the dragon, but finds himself quickly outmatched. The dragon's tremendous power is more than his bravery and strength can overcome. The men that accompanied Beowulf suddenly fear for their lives. They retreat into the nearby woods; all, that is, except for one man. A loyal warrior named Wiglaf is deeply moved by Beowulf's plight and rushes to his aid. Working together, they eventually manage to slay the dragon, but not before Beowulf is mortally wounded. He dies a short time later.

"A mystery it is where a man of prowess and good heart shall meet the end of his allotted life, which no longer may he among his kin dwell in the hall, his mead drinking. Even thus it was with Beowulf: when he sought out the barrow's guardian, his guile and malice, he knew not himself through what means his parting from the world should come about."

Beowulf's body is returned to Geatland and burned atop a huge pyre. His people mourn his death and a huge burial mound is constructed in his memory which is visible from the sea.

As stated earlier, Tolkien never published his translation mainly because he never considered the work finished. I have another theory concerning this, but it is strictly that – a theory.

Tolkien was born January 3, 1892. In August 1914, England entered World War I when Tolkien was 22 years old. Tolkien, unlike so many other youths of the time, did not immediately volunteer for the British Army. This came as a shock to some of his relatives.

Tolkien wrote a letter to another son, Michael, in 1941. In that letter he stated: "In those days chaps joined up, or were scorned publicly. It was a nasty cleft to be in for a young man with too much imagination and little physical courage."

Tolkien entered a program whereby he could delay his enlistment until he completed his degree. Tolkien passed his final exams in July 1915. Shortly thereafter he was commissioned as a temporary second lieutenant. He then trained with the 13th (Reserve) Battalion. In a letter to his future wife Edith he stated: "Gentlemen are rare among the superiors, and even human beings rare indeed."



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In June 1916, Tolkien received a telegram informing him he would soon be departing for France, where he would experience the horrors of that war first hand. He wrote, "Junior officers were being killed off, a dozen a minute. Parting from my wife then... it was like a death."

Tolkien arrived at the Somme in early July 1916. The battles against lice were almost as relentless as battles with the enemy. In October 1916, Tolkien contracted trench fever, a disease carried by lice.

In November 1916, he was invalided back to England. Many of Tolkien's dearest friends were killed in the war, including Rob Gilson and Geoffrey Smith, to name but two. The horrors and brutalities of war had a lasting impact on Tolkien, and they emerged

through his pen as he wrote about fictitious battles in his works of fantasy.

When *Beowulf* was written in the 8th Century its message was one of living life without fear and facing every danger without thought of personal risk or consequences. Although Tolkien spent years of his life translating *Beowulf* and lecturing on it, I cannot help but wonder if Tolkien's personal experiences in World War I also made *Beowulf* a painful reminder. A reminder of his own fragile humanity in the face of an all too real war.

Conjecture aside, I remain appreciative of both Tolkien's talent and his friendship with C. S. Lewis; a friendship that helped to unlock one of the most powerful voices ever to defend the Christian faith.



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West #4: Dorothy Kocian, 107 South Barbara Street, Waco, TX 76705, 254-799-5331, dekocian@yahoo.com

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Member to be announced
Jennifer Chervenka – Youth Coordinator, Ocker Brethren
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Home Mission Board Report

- by Martha Dove

Plans for the anniversary celebration have been put on hold until Rev. Jim Heckman's health improves.

A new freezer has been purchased to replace the broken one for the kitchen.

The Home Mission Board met in September to work on the 2017 budget to be presented at the synodical committee meeting in October. The funds collected as of August 27, 2016, are Home Missions: \$37,111.18; Foreign Missions: \$46,236.15. To meet our budget for 2016, \$29,888.82 is still needed. Please check the Brethren web site for further updates.

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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 Highway 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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‘All or Nothing’ Summer Youth Retreat July 16-17, 2016

Over 200 people gathered at the Hus Encampment for the 2016 Summer BYF Convention & volleyball tournament.

The convention began at 9 a.m. Regular business was conducted. Retreat dates for 2016-2017 were set. The fall retreat will be held September 17-18 and the winter retreat will be held January 14-15. The summer retreat dates will be set once camp dates are finalized.

The new leadership team was elected. Youth team members are: Krystal Dusek, Jordan Eilers, Deanna Hairrell, Kelton Hooker, Reed Olsen, Montgomery Raesz, Madalynn Woelfel, Taylor Krcha, and Grace Jungmann. Adult Advisors are: Taylor Brinkley, Kari Raesz, Tammie Riethmayer, and Anna Wotipka. Pastoral Advisor is Bro. Mark Sebek. Erin Brinkley is serving her 2nd year of her first term as representative to the Foreign Mission Board. Jordan Eilers is serving her 2nd year of her first term as the representative to the Hus Board of Trustees. The convention ended at 9:48 a.m.

Referees met and coaches drew for the tournament bracket. Volleyball was HOT, but fun, and all teams came out victorious in attitude and sportsmanship. Trophies were awarded: 1st place – Snook; 2nd place – Wall; 3rd – Nelsonville/Wesley.



*Volleyball Tournament 2016
First Place – Snook Brethren Youth.*

To communicate with the Hus Encampment . . .

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

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

*This must be done well in advance.

Practice the Proverb:

Give each child three rubber bands. Have them place one on their wrist. Every time they use sweet words, they can move one rubber band to the other wrist.

Parent Challenge

Compliments are an amazing motivator. Try using these statements to help your child(ren) make a habit of speaking more respectfully.

- What kind words those are, __
- __, when you speak that way, it shows others that you respect them.
- __, when you speak that way, it encourages me/others.
- __ speaks courteously.
- You have blessed your friend by speaking that way, __.
- You were wise to wait until you had calmed down before you spoke, __.

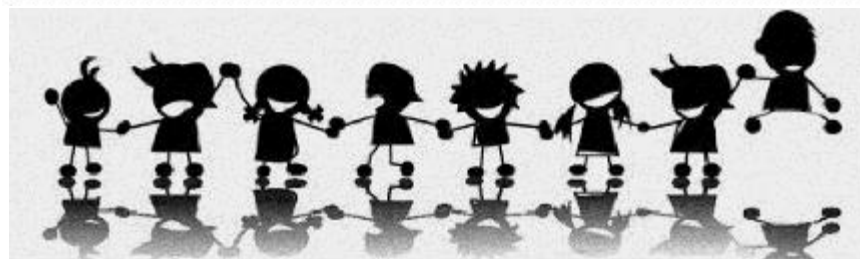
Honeycomb Craft



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/>



Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.. (NIV)

Kind words are like honey – sweet to the soul and healthy for the body. (NLV)

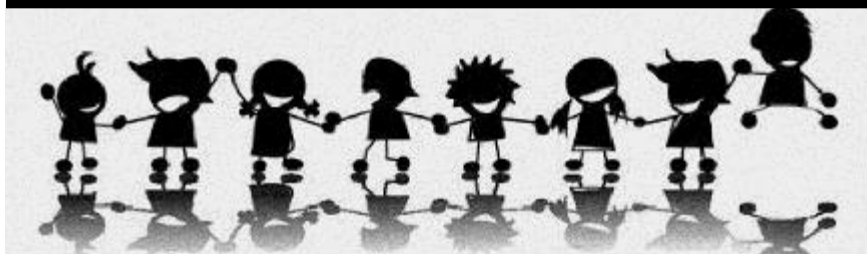
PROVERBS 16:24

Understand the Proverb:

Read the proverb, NIV and NLV versions. Talk about what honey is like (sweet, makes things taste better, good for us). Use honey in a snack to reinforce the idea (honey on nuts, honey on a sandwich or yogurt). Talk about how words make you feel, especially “sweet words”.

Garbage Talk or Precious Words

Hold your nose! For this exercise, you will need a bag of rotten garbage and some shiny silver coins. Have your children observe the refuse. Ensure they get a big whiff of the dreadful aroma. Ask them if they see anything in the garbage that is worth keeping. Next, open your wallet or purse and show them some shiny silver coins. Ask your children if they see anything valuable in your wallet. The concept you'll want to convey is that our attitudes and words flow from our hearts. Explain that when we have sinful or selfish thoughts in our hearts, what we say will be of little value – like the garbage. Words of little value can be silly talk, or words spoken with a selfish or mean intent. When our hearts are pure in thought (like the refined metal used for making coins), then the talk that comes from our mouths will be like precious metals – kind, gentle and respectful words that encourage others. Write each of the following examples of “garbage talk” and “precious words” on a separate slip of paper. Read the words aloud and ask your children to identify where the words belong – in the garbage or in your wallet. Scrunch up the garbage words and throw them away. Place the precious words in your wallet or a piggy bank. Feel free to add your own examples to this list: “I hate peas!” “This is a great supper, Mom!” “Get out of here!” “Please stop doing that.” “I don’t like you!” “That is an ugly drawing.” “You stink.” “I like your artwork.” “I love you.” “I’m glad God gave me you as part of my family.” Close by praying, asking that God would put kind and loving thoughts in everyone’s heart so that you will be a family who speaks choice words, rather than words of no value.



Worship was held at 10 a.m. for everyone at the camp. Brother Mark Sebek brought the message. Lance LaBedelle led music and played guitar. Holy Communion was shared. It was the perfect way to wrap up a year focused on ‘All or Nothing’. The Bible is the truth – you believe all of

it or you don’t. The only way to heaven is Jesus – you are either saved or you’re not. We are called to live for Jesus – you either follow God or you live like there is no God for you.

It was wonderful to be reminded that everything we do is about Christ and what He has done for us.



Second Place –
Wall Brethren Youth



Third Place –
Nelsonville Brethren Youth

Brethren Book Store

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

Happy Birthday Elsie Myers!

Elsie Myers is one of the most faithful attenders of Cade Lake Community Chapel. She has been attending since we opened on 2011...and has missed very few services in that time.

Elsie's 84th birthday was August 8, and she normally does not want us to acknowledge her day. However, this year when Diane asked her about her birthday, Elsie said she had a request for a gift. She wanted to sit on a horse for the first time since she had not done so since she was six years old.

As it happens, this was something we could do for her. Diane arranged for one of our youth to bring her horse down to the church on Sunday the 7th and had some steps arranged so Elsie could mount the horse.

As you can see, Elsie had a wonderful time on her birthday. Her only regret was that Bro. Jim was unable to attend since he was in the hospital. However, when the candles on her cake were lit, Bro. Jim called and was put on the speaker so he could join the church in singing "Happy Birthday."



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KIND WORDS ARE LIKE HONEY –
SWEET TO THE SOUL AND HEALTHY
FOR THE BODY.
PROVERBS 16:24

Couldn't we all use some kind words! We are bombarded by the media with words and images that are not so sweet and healthy. This proverb is a wonderful reminder of how refreshing sweet words can be and what a positive impact they can have on someone. And they are completely FREE! This is especially an area where we can be positive role models for our kids. They will see us using kind words (not sarcasm, gossiping, bossiness, bragging, teasing, yelling, inattentiveness) and follow our lead.

This proverb also lends itself to some fun, tasty activities.

Thoughts about giving...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Leroy Parthum, Chair – Westheimer – 713-826-7993;
betty_parthum@yahoo.com

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Roger Runnels – Cy-Fair – 281-469-4302, rogerhr@swbell.net

Alan Tomasek – 512-859-2197, amtomasek@thegateway.net

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

September 8, 2016

Dear friends,

Exactly one month ago, under a tin roof and hot sun surrounded by desert, we met for a 2-day seminar workshop with 25 church leaders from the Peruvian Mennonite Brethren conference. We had spent the previous 8 days getting to know them in their own environment, probing into their backstory and desires for the future.

Anne and I both felt that the people we met in Peru and their situation reminded us strongly of Honduras. Our new friends mostly lived on less than the government prescribed minimum wage of 250 U\$ a month, yet were very generous with us. They struggled with finding adequate education, both because of cost and scarcity, yet impressed us with their depth and wisdom. Even though they have not seen much “success” in church growth terms, we were convinced of their faithfulness and longing to participate in the Coming Kingdom.

Their 35-year history hadn't given them many tools or models or mind-sets for making the most of their kind of situation. We spent two days together looking at God's Story to find new ways of thinking about pastoral training in their context, so of course this is just beginning.

One of the final ideas we left them with was Jesus' parable of the mustard plant. He compared the Kingdom of God to a weed that grew voraciously in many kinds of soil and climate and was difficult to eradicate. A plant that reproduced quickly and adapted to different situations. For this to happen in the kingdom, it needs new leaders that are engaged in ministry right away, being entrusted with “enough for the day” in a system that provides ongoing mentoring with just enough more for each new step. What some of us call “just in time discipling.”

The leaders of the conference are now considering what we left them with (both the ideas and some tools that we have found effective to help disciple new leaders for new churches)



Temple Brethren Church

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

Tim Chaplin, Interim Pastor
(254) 718-3898

and will inform us of how they want us to continue to come alongside them. A trip in November is already being “penciled in”, with a proposal to visit every few months. The last thing they need now is a full-time outsider to get in the way of them taking their own steps.

And our team here in southern Mexico is keeping us hopping. First of all, the team is growing! Daniel Neufeld is now five months old, and Samantha Mills is almost three weeks old. There is another Raiford on the way, too. Each of the six families is continuing to be fruitful and developing better practices for bringing the Good News of the Kingdom to their area.

Additionally, we are moving into resourcing the broader Latin missionary effort among the indigenous of southern Mexico. Right now Anne is in Philip’s old bedroom, now her “office,” recording some of the pastoral training material we have found useful. She teaches one class (AP English lit) at the missionary children

school, but now devotes more and more time to preparing both written and audio materials that will cover these areas: field missionary ongoing education, novice missionary training, and new church leader training.

So please continue to pray for us and our friends here. Anne is still dealing with some after-effects of cancer treatment (read her blog), but with exercise and some medication seems to be doing well.

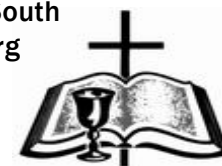
Thanks, Robert



BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION BRETHREN CHURCH

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Charles Amos Sr., Board of Elders Chair