

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL



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November 2016

No. 9

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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Caldwell Brethren Church Kids Choir

Members of the Caldwell Brethren Church Kids Choir visited local nursing facilities recently. (See story inside this issue!)

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A Report from the Raifords in Mexico

Be Thankful . . . a poem

... and more!

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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Be Thankful

Be thankful that you don't already
have everything you desire.
If you did, what would there be to
look forward to?

Be thankful when you don't know
something,
for it gives you the opportunity to
learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times.
During those times you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations,
because they give you opportuni-
ties for improvement.

Be thankful for each new challenge,
because it will build your strength
and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes.
They will teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you're tired and
weary,
because it means you've made a
difference.

It's easy to be thankful for the
good things.
A life of rich fulfillment comes to
those who
are also thankful for the setbacks.

Gratitude can turn a negative into a
positive.
Find a way to be thankful for your
troubles,
and they can become your blessings.

~ Unknown Author



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Step In

- by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

What does it mean to be mature?

Emotionally or socially I am certain we can pinpoint a definition for maturity, but what about spiritual maturity? Does it mean that you can quote the books of the Bible forward and backward? Or could it mean that you are so close to Jesus that nothing truly ever bothers you?

Is it possible that spiritual maturity is demonstrated through an equitable mindset that views all religions as viable?

Certainly, if you have come into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, you understand that Christianity is the one way to eternal rest and to exquisite joy in the here and now. As Christians, we are far from perfect as society might qualify it, but somehow, we are “made perfect” or “made over into Jesus’ likeness” with every passing day, as we strive to depend on Him to create the tapestry that is the best, most Christ-like, version of ourselves.

How does Jesus create this tapestry of holiness, of heavenly perfection within us?

The answer:

He calls upon us to decide of our own free will to live as He lived. We are meant to learn as Jesus learned while He was on earth.

In the Letter to the Hebrews, in the Holy Bible, we find answers. Let’s look at chapter 5, verses 7-10 (NRSV):

In the days of His flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverent submission. Although He was a Son, He learned obedience through what He suffered; and having been made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Do you pray to God even to the point of tears in your daily life?

Struggling in prayer is a sure sign that you are in Jesus’ Presence; that He is listening.

Do you hold back from doing what you know is wrong and toxic to your spiritual pulse?



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Submitting to what the Holy Spirit speaks to you as you read the Bible is a sure sign that you are becoming "perfect," more "Christ-like."

Do you look at the suffering in your life and in the lives of those you love as times when you know that drawing closer to Jesus with honest prayers and reading the words of the Bible with faith that Jesus will speak to you, as an opportunity to be "made over" more into Jesus' Christ-likeness?

Step into spiritual maturity, one step at-a-time, trusting that Jesus will never leave you or betray you.

Step into Jesus' capable hands and allow Him to create His tapestry of holiness, of heavenly perfection within you.

Step in and be "perfect" as Jesus is perfect.

Step in.

The water temperature is just right.

The time is now.

Step in.

Jesus is waiting to take care of you.

Step in.

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

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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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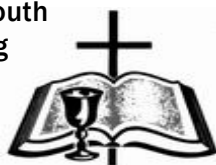
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A Whale of a Tale

- by Jim Pokorny

Teaching an adult Sunday School class is something I am very passionate about. We place a great deal of emphasis on teaching the young, and rightfully so. Yet, learning is meant to be an experience that continues throughout our lives. That is why I try to challenge the students in my class. Together we have studied classics of Christianity by John Bunyan, C. S. Lewis, and Comenius, to name but a few. As I write these lines, we are wrapping up an in-depth study of church history from the vantage points of two different authors whose lives are separated by an entire century. I am delighted to say we will soon embark on a study of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *The Cost of Discipleship*.

To be honest, I seem naturally drawn to such works. Some time back I understood why. I am drawn to them because they allow me to see the truth, but from a different perspective. When that occurs something changes. It is not the truth that changes, for if it did it would cease being the truth. The change takes place within me, and such changes

are always for the better.

I know that my students trust me, and I take that trust very seriously. Their comments to me validate that trust and affirm that these different perspectives impact their lives, as well. In fact, one of my students often states how glad she is that I find these books. My response is to give credit where it is due. It is God who makes certain that these works find me.

This is true even of books and other media that occupy my personal time, as well. Even works of fiction have lessons to teach if you look deeply enough.

One such work found me again Labor Day weekend. While doing my shopping, I came across a DVD of the 1998 Hallmark Channel miniseries *Moby Dick* starring Patrick Stewart as Captain Ahab and featuring Gregory Peck as Father Mapple. I remembered this miniseries from its original airing almost two decades ago. I purchased a copy and planned to watch it again in the future.



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Whether we are talking about the book or its numerous film adaptations, my fondness for the story continues to this day. Despite any rumors you might hear, the fact that the Starbucks coffee chain named itself after one of the main characters is purely coincidental.

Although I live alone, I must state for the record that I do not make a practice of talking to myself. I found myself really wanting to watch the first installment that evening. That small inner voice tried its best to warn me, "If you start watching it now, you will just end up watching the whole thing before going back to work! Then you will find Melville's book and you will start reading it again!"

That small inner voice also has the most annoying habit of being correct. Ignoring its warning I watched the first installment. Immediately afterward I went to my primary bookshelf, found Melville's book (second shelf, third

from left) pulled it and set it on the coffee table for future reading. By the end of the Labor Day holiday I watched the miniseries in its entirety and began reading *Moby Dick* again with pen and paper at the ready to note the many lessons in faith it offers.

I believe that it is a common dream among those who write to imagine that they will one day write the great American novel. To anyone still clinging to that dream, I would suggest they set a different goal. In my opinion Melville already accomplished that in 1851 with *Moby Dick* and it is very unlikely that any other author's attempt could surpass it.

I am a bit concerned that Melville's classic will fall out of favor because it utilizes the practice of whaling as a backdrop. Historically speaking, whaling in America was a reality, and the gears of the Industrial Revolution would have ground to a halt without whale oil, which was used as both a

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PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 2 of 4)

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*This must be done well in advance.

lubricant and a fuel. That said, faith does play a major role in the novel. There are simply too many instances for me to share in one article alone. Some, like Father Mapple's marvelous sermon on the book of Jonah, will likely be the subject of future endeavors.

For the time being I opted to focus on one aspect of the novel that had the greatest impact on me during this particular reading – the friendship between a Christian named Ishmael and a savage named Queequeg.

The story is told from Ishmael's perspective. He is a former merchant sailor who wants to try his hand at whaling. Having little money when he arrives in New Bedford, he is informed by the local innkeeper that he will have to share both a bedroom and its single bed with a harpooner whom he has never met before.

Ishmael does not relish the idea of sharing such accommodations with a complete stranger. He decides to stay awake until he has a chance to at least meet the man. After waiting a considerable amount of time, Ishmael decides to turn in for the night. Initially he has both the room and the bed to himself.

Eventually the harpooner enters the room and goes about his nightly routine completely oblivious to the fact that Ishmael is lying on the bed hidden in the shadows. As the harpooner turns, Ishmael gets his first glimpse of Queequeg's tattooed face. Ishmael initially mistakes these marks for bruises the stranger likely earned in that evening's brawl. As Queequeg prepares for bed Ishmael notices the stranger's chest and arms are also covered with these same "bruises".



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Ishmael watches silently as Queequeg reaches for his tomahawk pipe. He lights it and springs into the bed which he assumes to be empty. Ishmael attempts to speak. The surprised Queequeg brandishes the business end of the tomahawk pipe and grunts, "Who-e debel you? You no speak-e... I kill-e."

Ishmael shouts for the innkeeper and leaps from the bed as he enters the room. The landlord restores order and admonishes the island harpooner, "Queequeg, look here – you sabbee me, I sabbee you – this man sleepe you – you sabbee?"

Queequeg grunts, "Me sabbee plenty." He returns to smoking his pipe. He turns to Ishmael, points to the bed and flatly grunts, "You gettee in."

Ishmael reflects on what has just transpired. He thinks, "What's all this fuss I have been making about... the man's a human being just as I am; he

has just as much reason to fear me as I have to be afraid of him. Better sleep with a sober cannibal than a drunken Christian."

The innkeeper departs. Ishmael turns in, and later admits that he never slept better in his life.

This awkward encounter begins what many would consider to be the strangest of friendships – one between a Christian sailor and a pagan harpooner – a friendship that will only grow deeper and stronger as time goes by.

One day after a service is held at the chapel, Ishmael returns to the inn and quietly observes Queequeg picking up a large book from a table. The harpooner lays the book open upon his lap and carefully counts out the first 50 pages. That done, he proceeds to count out the next 50 pages and so on. Ishmael determines that Queequeg can count to no more than 50. In silence he marvels at Queequeg's

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 9:30 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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astonishment that this strange thing called a book can contain so many pages. Ishmael studies the savage's tattooed face and finds something agreeable in its countenance. Ishmael thinks, "You cannot hide the soul."

After supper, the two friends return to the room they share. Queequeg removes all the money he has in his wallet which amounts to 30 dollars in silver. He methodically divides this into two equal shares and states that half now belongs to Ishmael. Ishmael is about to protest. Queequeg perhaps senses this and deposits the coins into Ishmael's pocket before he can do so.

The bond between Ishmael and Queequeg continues to grow, and the relationship eventually turns into a truly remarkable friendship. Ishmael reminds himself that he is a Christian "born and bred in the bosom of the infallible Presbyterian Church." In considering the vast differences in their backgrounds, a beautiful thought dawns in the mind of Ishmael: "But what is worship? – to do the will of God – that is worship. And what is the will of God? – to do to my fellow man what I would have my fellow man do to me – that is the will of God."

Ishmael finds some of Queequeg's peculiarities objectionable at first, but he even learns to put these aside and concludes, "yet see how elastic our stiff prejudices grow when love once comes to bend them."

As the friendship deepens, Ishmael wants to learn more about Queequeg and his island home. He learns that Queequeg is the son of one of the tribal chiefs of Kokovoko, "an island far away to the West and South. It is not down on any map; true places never are." One day a ship from Sag Harbor visited his father's bay. Queequeg wanted to visit the Christian lands. Risking life and limb, he managed to board the vessel as it sailed away. Once aboard, he simply refused to leave. The ship's captain had no choice but to make Queequeg a part of the crew and vowed to make a whaleman of him.

Queequeg's desire was a noble one. He hoped to learn from Christians and then return to his own people. His desire was to make his people happier than they were. He also wanted to make them better than they were. These desires were crushed when he learned that Christians "could



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be both miserable and wicked; infinitely more so, than all his father's heathens." Queequeg admitted defeat in this endeavor and concluded "it's a wicked world in all meridians; I'll die a pagan."

Ishmael and Queequeg next travel by ship to Nantucket in order to seek employment aboard the same whaling vessel. Along the way a man is thrown overboard by a swinging boom. Queequeg springs into action. He quickly secures the boom, strips to the waist and dives in to save the man despite the wintry conditions. After swimming for several minutes in the frigid water, Queequeg locates and takes hold of the seemingly lifeless form. The two are picked up by a boat and the young man is revived. Once returned to the ship Ishmael studies his companion, who appears to be thinking: "It's a mutual joint-stock world, in all meridians. We cannibals must help these Christians."

All this is merely the beginning of the story Melville relates concerning

the friendship between Ishmael and Queequeg – the friendship between a Christian and a pagan. Through this relationship Melville holds up a mirror to Christianity and asks it to take a good long look at itself – to examine up close how its actions have the power to repel as well as attract those it is commanded to reach. In doing so, it is possible that it might not really like everything it sees in that reflection.

Still, Melville does not leave us without hope. His implication is that it is still possible for the individual believer to live out his faith, and therein lies hope for us all.

And so, my study of *Moby Dick* continues just as that small inner voice warned me it would. As for additional works finding me, that continues, as well. Just the other day a coworker stopped by my office and said, "I understand you are reading *Moby Dick*. If you like that, then I know another book you might enjoy."

I do believe I heard that small inner voice sigh.

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for November 2016

Dorothy E. Kocian

1. If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all. Isa. 7:9
2. Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry. James 1:19
3. There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Rom. 8:1
4. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as God through Christ forgave you. Eph. 4:32
5. A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born to help in time of need. Prov. 17:17
6. **Where two or three gather together because they are mine, I am there among them. Mt. 18:20**
7. Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; His greatness no one can fathom. Ps. 145:3
8. How precious is your unfailing love, O God! Ps. 36:7
9. When I sit in the darkness, the Lord will be a light to me. Micah 7:8
10. You must be blameless before the Lord your God. Deut. 18:13
11. Above all, love each other deeply, for love covers over a multitude of sins. 1 Pet. 4:8
12. "Be perfect, therefore, as your Heavenly Father is perfect." Mt. 5:48
13. **Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. Mt. 5:44,45**
14. Humble yourselves under God's almighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. 1 Pet. 5:6
15. Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you. 1 Pet. 5:7
16. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 Jn. 1:9
17. I confess my sins; I am deeply sorry for what I have done. Ps. 38:18
18. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their prayers. 1 Pet. 3:12
19. But the priest said, "Let us ask God first!" 1 Sam. 14:36
20. **I will wait for the Lord; I will put my trust in Him. Isa. 8:17**
21. God is with us. Isa. 8:10
22. Do not worry, saying: "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" Mt. 6:31
23. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Mt. 6:33
24. Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name; make known among the nations what He has done. Isa. 12:4
25. Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Phil. 4:6
26. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with spiritual blessing in Christ. Eph. 1:3
27. **The Lord is gracious and compassionate; slow to anger and rich in love. Ps. 145:8**
28. I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous. Josh. 1:9
29. So Abraham called the place The Lord Will Provide. Gen. 22:14
30. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and now all promises God gave to him belong to you. Gal. 3:29



CALDWELL BRETHREN CHURCH

401 South Main Street

Rev. Vanessa Mitchell, Pastor
lajoiededieu@gmail.com

Sunday School
9:30 AM

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

Sunday Worship

Church email: lifeatcbc@gmail.com

Wednesday Family Night Gathering:

www.lifeatcbc.org

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Friend us on Facebook!

Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

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. Guest minister – Rev. Charles Amos; Guest speaker – Leighton Schubert, State Representative. Contact: Liz Treybig (liztreybig@yahoo.com) or Liz Ripple (lizripple@hotmail.com).

November 24, 2016 – Happy Thanksgiving!

DON'T FORGET!...

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

SAVE THE DATES!

February 25, 2017 – Children's Rally @ The Hus Encampment
July 6-8, 2017 – Unity Convention

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.

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

Caldwell Brethren Kids Choir

The Caldwell Brethren Church Family is thankful to Jesus that we had the privilege and great JOY on Sunday, October 16th, of singing to local nursing home residents and giving them beautiful cards that the KIDS CHOIR made by hand. The children truly reached out and brightened the day of these precious senior citizens.



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 a.m. to 2 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 re-sale shop will be open. Sandwiches and home-made 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 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$5. The proceeds from the fund-raiser benefit the many projects the Sisters' support. The sale is open to the public with free admission.

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Eve could not eat from it, they would die. God had given Adam and Eve everything. The one thing they could not have they wanted. They wanted to be God and ate fruit from the one tree they were told not to eat. Adam and Eve sinned against God by trying to be their own god and brought death into God's perfect creation. Why do we give? God gives us everything –God's Son Jesus gave His life so we could have eternal life.

6. We receive God's blessing when we give. As we prepare to finish our lesson, let's look at Proverbs 11:25 and Proverbs 10:22. A person who freely gives will enjoy God's blessings. It doesn't necessarily mean that if you freely give you will be rich with money and things. It does mean you will live a life that pleases God. He rewards us with spiritual blessings like peace and joy on this earth and eternal blessings or rewards in heaven. (Matthew 6:19-20, Colossians 3:23-24) Our motive to give needs to be out of our thankfulness for all that God has given us, not so that we can get a prize or reward. Why do we give? God has given us everything! When we understand the truth that God gives us everything, we will put into practice an attitude of freely giving.

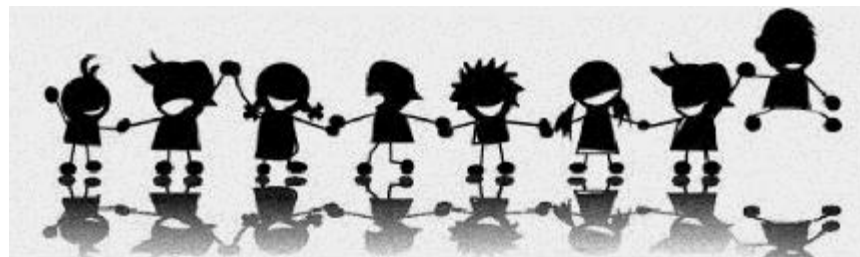
Thankful Pillows

Prepare pillowcases ahead of time. On one side write, Rise and Shine, Give God the glory, glory, children of the Lord. On the other side write, Watch over me as I sleep. Then let children use markers to decorate their pillows. Tell children that each morning as they wake up, look at the rise and shine side and remember to thank God for the new day. Each night, turn the pillow to the other side to be reminded that God is watching over you.

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/>

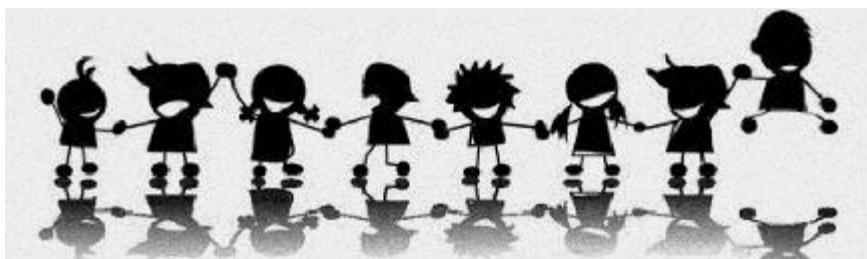


Honor the LORD with your wealth and the first fruits of all your produce;

PROVERBS 3:9

Understand the Proverb:

1. Ask children to think of their most treasured possession. Suppose you were asked to give that thing away. What would you say?
2. Most of us would ask, "Why should I give my most treasured possession away?" Our answer to our own question can be answered in our lesson today. Today our question is, "Why do we give?" We give because God has given everything to us.
3. Read Proverbs 11:24. This verse is talking about 2 kinds of attitudes about giving. What attitudes do you see? We see someone who gives freely and someone who holds back from giving. Can you think of a word that describes a person who gives freely? (Generous, sharing, unselfish, giving, bighearted, open handed, charitable) What word comes to mind when you think of a person who doesn't give or holds back from giving? (Stingy, not generous, close-fisted, greedy, selfish, uncharitable, ungenerous, tight-fisted,)
4. **We give because God has given everything to us.** Genesis 1:1: "In the beginning, ____ created the heavens and earth." The rest of Genesis 1 tells us about all that was created. Who created all things? (God)
5. **We give because God has given us salvation through the death of His Son Jesus.** (Genesis 1:26, 28-29) God created all things. God gave Adam and Eve everything on earth to take care of. He gave Adam and Eve every plant and tree with fruit for food to eat. There were many trees for Adam and Eve to choose from to eat. God told them there was one tree that they could not eat from. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil was the only tree that Adam and



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

From the Raiford's

October 12, 2016 10:57 AM

Greetings friends,

Fall is upon us even here in Mexico. The air is getting cooler, but unfortunately the leaves don't change to those bright orange, yellows, and reds.

Eunice and I have been busy running the clinic and helping our friends learn more about God and the life He wants for us all. Even as we work deep in Southern Mexico, we still hear things about American politics. And as the election is coming to a close, we are all tired of the political rhetoric and how government can make your life so much better (or how the other side ruins your life).

In all the noise though, there are some things that are true. One of the big talking points is that small businesses are the backbone of our economy and country. Through the years, whether in Nicaragua or Mexico, Eunice and I do believe in creating small businesses for people and that those businesses are important. Many

of the people we work with are young newlyweds who struggle to find their own path in life. We work hard to teach them about economic independence and how that fits into God's plan for our lives. Listening to our friends, living among them and teaching them the principles of a Christian life, allows us take their economic struggles and turn them into a life lesson where God becomes the focus as provider and and source of inspiration and creativity.

Here in Juquila, after years of talking and working odd jobs, Tadeo came to me with a new job opportunity. He had thought hard about how to provide for his new family and even began to dream about it. He told me about restoring old machetes and fixing the handles. He had already collected ten machetes that had been thrown away as useless. He knew that this could be a job he could do at home and it is something that is not provided in the village. It may seem simple, but Tadeo has already begun to see new possibilities in his life, where he is able to be creative and



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Youth Directors

Randall & Jonna See
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Snook, TX 77878
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provide for his family on his own terms. He has stepped out of the status quo in the village, destined to follow others into poverty, and now he trusts himself and me through the freedom God gives him to choose a unique path in life. He is taking a narrow path, one not travelled by many.

So, my mind began to work out details of the new business venture, and I asked Rob Thiessen to give us a few lessons on tools we need and how to actually restore old machetes. We spent a few days in Rob's shop learning our new trade, and Tadeo's world grew even more. It is amazing to see Tadeo's eyes light up as he learns more about his new trade. He is excited about learning and being a man who is confident and a provider for his family. What the politicians don't talk about is how this small business Tadeo is starting is part of being a true disciple of Christ. In all things we must do them for the Lord, even work. Within our discipleship (Tadeo and mine) all aspects of life are included, not just scripture lessons that are memorized, but life breathing scripture lessons. From creation we are called to create, and be stewards of

those things. We are called to provide for our families and be disciplined and have self-control. We are taught to be compassionate and forgiving. Within a small business there are many tangible lessons (like those mentioned) to be learned that supersede all cultural barriers.

We ourselves have a small business in the village and can teach others from our example. Tadeo is learning and growing in Christ as his family grows and (hopefully) his wallet. Imagine a world of prospering Christian entrepreneurs running and economy governed by generous, disciplined men and women who love God above all things, who live among all nations; not greedy amoral politicians who claim that they are the savior to your problems. So next time you hear about the importance of small businesses, smile to yourself, knowing that God's hidden truth is right there, coming out of the mouths of people who do not even know what they are saying. That truth is being taught to people around the globe, and that truth will be revealed to all who seek Him.

Since it is Fall, that also means, for us, budget time, and if you need info

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Rev. Denise Mikeska, Pastor –

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Charles Amos Sr., Board of Elders Chair



Honor the LORD with your wealth
and the first fruits of all your
produce.

PROVERBS 3:9

Thanksgiving is made of two words – thanks and giving. This month's lesson will focus on both of these concepts – giving to others and being thankful for what we have.



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from us about a 2017 budget, please let me know. If you would like to be a part of our support for 2017, there are many needs for the coming year and we would love to let you know specifics if you like (we are having a baby in March). We do not know the sex of the baby yet, but we should know the next time I write. Eunice is doing great and the baby is big and healthy. She just finished a course to keep her medical license updated and is serving Juquila proudly, with many patients coming to see the good doctor.

As I write this, Ian has finally gone poopy in the toilet for the first time and we are super excited, it has been a real struggle to get him potty trained.

Thank you all for your support, and please continue praying for the

Holy Spirit to guide and protect us as we bring the life giving love of Jesus to the people in Juquila. Please check out our Facebook page for pictures of us learning about how to refurbish machetes and other fun stuff. God bless us all!

Blessings,

Phil, Eunice, Ian,
and little one Raiford

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Cemetery

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Industry Brethren Church Columbarium



The Industry Brethren Church has a columbarium at its site since October 20, 2013, when it was dedicated. A columbarium is a place for holding urns of deceased's cremated remains. The Latin term "Columba" means "dove" and originally referred to compartmentalized housing for doves and pigeons called dovecote. A white dove was released when the columbarium was dedicated at Industry. These structures can be in the ground as a garden feature, within the walls or structures of a church, or free standing as this one is at Industry Brethren Church. It is directly across from the main church cemetery near the church building beneath a round decorative glass

window of Jesus.

The construction of columbaria within churches is particularly found in the Czechoslovak Hussite Church. One example of this is the Church of St. Nicolas in Old Town Square in Prague, Czechoslovak.

The columbarium was donated in honor/memory of Travis Kasmiersky. There are 12 compartments with 2 niches per compartment. This means that two persons may be placed per compartment. We believe that this may be the only columbarium in the Unity at a church site. The front panels can be engraved with photos, dates, scriptures, etc.

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- Taylor #3: Marie Ann Ripple, 2302 Heights Blvd, Taylor, TX 76574, 512-365-6916
- West #4: Dorothy Kocian, 107 South Barbara Street, Waco, TX 76705, 254-799-5331, dekocian@yahoo.com
- Fayetteville #5: Sandra Stepan, PO Box 145, Fayetteville, TX 78940, 979-378-4167, sandranaustin@yahoo.com
- Dime Box #6: Marvin Chlapek, PO Box 1163, Caldwell, TX 77836, 979-272-9102, mjcarc@airplexus.com
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