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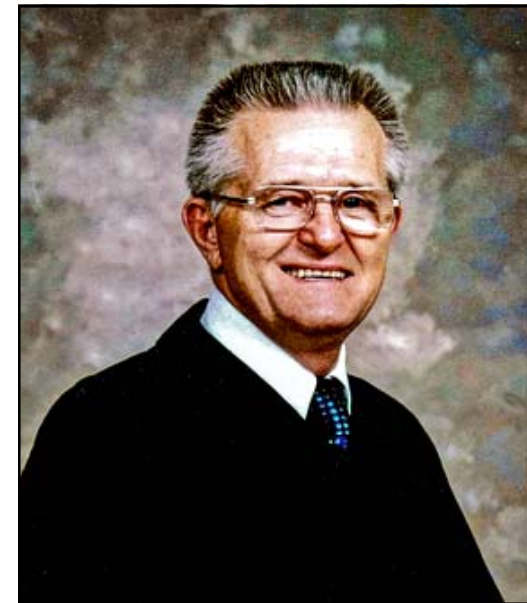
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— from the editor

The Brethren Journal has been publishing life and activities of the Unity of the Brethren in Texas for over 100 years. All of these include records of weddings, baptisms, deaths, etc., of the ministers... when they were submitted. These records are invaluable for families who wish to research their family history or activities that have taken place in our congregations and the denomination. It would be fitting, in the eyes of the Brethren Journal Business Committee, to ask for financial support for the continuation of this publication.

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Reverend Gordon Adolph Hejl
February 21, 1918 - October 24, 2016
(For more about Rev. Hejl, see inside cover.)

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

All Set for the New Year . . . by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell
He Wrote What He Knew . . . by Jim Pokorny
Fayetteville Christian Sisters Send Quilts to Woo Children

...and so much more!

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THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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Gordon Adolph Hejl

February 21, 1918 -
October 24, 2016

Reverend Gordon Adolph Hejl,
98, went to be with his Lord and
Savior, Jesus Christ, on October
24, 2016, at home.

Gordon was born on February
21, 1918, near Taylor, Texas, to
Adolph Hejl and Milady Jansa
Hejl. He graduated from Taylor
High School in 1936. He attended
Hus School, Class of 1937. Gor-
don served in the Air Force 1940-
1945. He graduated from Moravian
College in 1950 and Moravian
Theological Seminary in 1952.

Gordon was ordained as a Unity
of the Brethren minister on June
17, 1952, at the Wall Brethren
Church. During his ministry he
was pastor of the following con-
gregations: Wall, Granger,
Rosenberg, Alief, Robstown,
Placedo, El Campo, Blessing, West,
Dallas, Nelsonville, Industry,
Fayetteville, and Wesley.

Missions were his lifelong pas-
sion, with many trips to Alaska,
Nicaragua, Honduras, St. John,
and Labrador. He served for 22

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years as Chair of the Unity of the Brethren's Mission Board.

Gordon loved the Lord, traveling, new adventures, meeting new people, trying new foods, exploring new venues, seeing the good in people. He devoted his life to living by the motto of the Unity of the Brethren: In Essentials Unity; In Non-Essentials Liberty; In All Things Love.

Preceding Gordon in death were his parents, wife Lillian, brother Raymond Hejl, and sister Gladys Labaj.

Gordon is survived by daughters, Martha Stockton and husband Ron, Ruthie Collins and husband Gary; granddaughters, Susan Stockton and husband Billy, Lauren Wilson and husband Spencer, Marissa McGowen and husband Robby; 3 great-grandchildren; many nieces, nephews, and other family members and friends.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, October 29, 2016, 2:30 p.m. at Taylor Brethren Church, 701 Sloan Street, Taylor, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Gordon's honor to Brethren Missions or Hus Encampment at unityofthebrethren.org

Those wishing to make personal private condolences may do so at www.taylorprovidencefuneralhome.com

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All Set for the New Year

- by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

I can do all things through Jesus Christ who strengthens me.

(Philippians 4:13, NRSV)

This verse is the one we must stand on as we move into the New Year. You might be thinking: "That's nice, but you cannot really understand what I'm going through right now." So true. However, Jesus Christ does know and He does understand. He knows your pain, your frustrations, your hurt, and your worries. *Jesus has been through it all and because He is God and His primary directive is to love us, you and I have got it made!*

Jesus knows.

Jesus knows, and that makes everything better.

As you ask Jesus to give you His strength, things begin to look up! If optimism is not your strong suit, fear not; Jesus is King over your life circumstances and over your heart if you will only pause and pray:

"Jesus. Holy Lord. King of Kings. Prince of Peace! I NEED YOUR STRENGTH, right this minute!"

Jesus will strengthen you and see you through with blessings that might seem hidden to you at this moment.

Whether you are sitting for days by a loved one in an Intensive Care Unit...

Entangled by an addiction...

Suffocated with worries...

Heartbroken over loss of a family member or friend...

Jesus will strengthen you and see you through with blessings that might seem hidden to you at this moment.

Just pause and pray:

"Jesus. Holy Lord. King of Kings. Prince of Peace! I NEED YOUR STRENGTH, right this minute!"

You can do ALL THINGS through Jesus Christ who strengthens you!

Just ask Him.

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

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

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

Fayetteville Brethren Church

Sunday School 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am

For the schedule of visiting ministers, please visit the church website.

FayettevilleBrethrenChurch.org

"Site of the First Czech Protestant Preaching in Texas - 1855"



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DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for February 2017

Dorothy E. Kocian

1. We know that a person is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. Gal. 2:15
2. My God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:19
3. For me to live is Christ and to die is gain. Phil. 1:21
4. Jesus said, "All that the Father gives to me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away." Jn. 6:37
5. **I have been crucified with Christ and no longer live, but Christ lives in me. Gal. 2:20**
6. Whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith. 1 Jn. 5:4
7. Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Heb. 11:1
8. Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God." Mark 11:22
9. I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I do hope. Ps. 130:5
10. The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me. Ps. 138:8
11. No one is justified before God by the law, because "The righteous will live by faith." Gal. 3:11
12. **By faith, Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. Heb. 11:17**
13. Love the Lord your God; walk in His ways and keep His commands, decrees and laws. Deut. 30:16
14. As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead. James 2:26
15. As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the Lord is flawless. Ps. 18:30
16. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. Heb. 12:2
17. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and that not from yourselves; it is the gift of God. Eph. 2:8
18. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Gal. 3:29
19. **You are all sons of god through faith in Christ Jesus. Gal. 3:26**
20. By faith, Moses left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw Him who is invisible. Heb. 11:27
21. For nothing is impossible with God. Lk. 1:37
22. Abraham did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God. Rom. 4:20
23. He was fully convinced that God had power to do what He had promised. Rom. 4:21
24. We walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Cor. 5:7
25. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Joel 2:27
26. **For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace. Rom. 6:14**
27. Wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her. Prov. 8:11
28. To fear the Lord is to hate evil. Prov. 8:13

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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He Wrote What He Knew

- by Jim Pokorny

One piece of sound advice often given to writers is "write what you know." One writer by the name of Earl Hamner, Jr., did just that.

Hamner was born in 1923 in an area known as "The Ragged Mountains." His childhood home in the foothills of Virginia's Blue Ridge mountains was a mere 25 miles from Jefferson's Monticello. His father's family settled in the region in the 1700's. His mother's family arrived a short time later.

Hamner grew up during the Great Depression as the oldest of eight children. Even as a child he knew that he wanted to be a writer. Hamner admitted that this aspiration likely mystified his father, as there was very little to read in the Hamner household. Looking back on his childhood, Hamner said his father did not initially support this desire, but he did nothing to discourage it.

Hamner began keeping a journal as soon as he learned to read and write. He shared two early entries from it in an interview. The first was – "Grandma and Grandpa came by after church today. They are not speaking because

he is mad at her." The second was – "Our old pig had eight babies last night. She has eaten four of them." Hamner then quipped that his skill as a writer had nowhere to go but up.

Throughout his career as a writer, Hamner never lost touch with his Virginia roots and values. The stories and scripts he wrote had endearing and folkish qualities to them. They also possessed a remarkable moral depth.

Life in the Depression era was difficult. Hamner's father worked as a machinist, but with a large family to raise, his salary did not go very far. His father often dreamed of one day building a large home in the Blue Ridge Mountains for his wife and children. That never happened, but his father's desire was the inspiration for Hamner's novel *Spencer's Mountain*, which eventually became a movie starring Henry Fonda and Maureen O'Hara.

One day, the mill that employed his father shut down. Hamner's father found work at the DuPont Company



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Sunday School 9:15 a.m. – Church Service 10:30 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Terrill

Dorothy Hinson
President
7331 Misty Morning Lane
Humble, TX 77346
(281) 620-0480

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

in Waynesboro in 1933. The factory was located far away on the other side of the Shenandoah Valley. This meant that his father could only be home on weekends. When weekends came, he would first ride the bus to Chancellorsville. There he would get on another bus that would take him to Hickory Creek. From there he would walk the remaining six miles to the family home.

On Christmas Eve 1933 a snow-storm blew in and Hamner's father did not arrive home as expected. Being the oldest, Hamner's mother sent him out to look for his father. Hamner did not find his father in a literal sense, but he had numerous adventures during that search. Hamner later defined the search as "the maturation of the young man looking for his father's image." The young Hamner returned home without having found his father. The family was deeply concerned, but there was nothing more to be done that night.

At some point during the night, the family was awakened by a loud rattle on the roof. The frightened children leaped out of their beds and ran downstairs. Hamner's mother calmed the children and opened the

door to investigate. In walked the previously missing Mr. Hamner with an armload of packages. Shock was replaced by relief, which was in turn replaced by curiosity. Everyone wanted to know what was in the packages.

At that point Hamner's father spun a tale about "some old fool in a red suit" messing about on the roof. The elder Hamner said he threw a rock at the man and saw him fall. There was no sign of the intruder aside from the packages he obviously dropped to make good his escape.

The packages, of course, contained Christmas presents for the family. Hamner recalled with fondness the azalea his father purchased for his mother as well as the writing tablets for the aspiring family writer. Hamner stated that he may not have found his father in a literal sense that night, but he did find him figuratively. He added, "With a father like that, how could you fail to carry on in an image of such a man."

If this sounds familiar, there is good reason for it. This was the basis for Hamner's novel *The Homecoming*. Sales of the novel were modest, but Malcolm Stewart, a friend and agent, sent it to a new company called Lorimar

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for January 2017

Dorothy E. Kocian

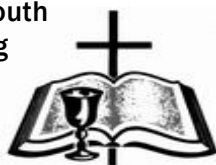
1. **The Lord your God is with you, He is mighty to save. Zeph. 3:17a**
2. He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with His love. Zeph. 3:17b
3. Do good, O Lord, to those who are good, to those who are upright in heart. Ps. 125:4
4. The Lord watches over all who love Him. Ps. 145:20
5. Be sure to fear the Lord and serve Him faithfully with all your heart. 1 Sam. 12:24a
6. Consider what great things the Lord has done for you. 1 Sam. 12:24b
7. God gives wisdom and knowledge to the person who is good in His sight. Ecc. 2:26
8. **You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear Him and keep His commandments and obey His voice. Deut. 13:4a**
9. Serve your God and hold fast to Him. Deut. 13:4b
10. You are forgiving and good, O Lord, abounding in love to all who call on You. Ps. 86:5
11. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. Eph. 4:32
12. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the love of Christ. Gal. 6:2
13. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith. Gal. 6:10
14. So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. Gen. 45:8
15. **Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find help in the time of need. Heb. 4:16**
16. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Rom. 12:18
17. Do not take revenge, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written, "It is Mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. Rom. 12:19
18. Be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position. 2 Pet. 3:17
19. But grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 2 Pet. 3:18
20. The Lord delights in His people; He crowns the humble with salvation. Ps. 149:4
21. He led me to a place of safety; He rescued me because He delights in me. Ps. 18:19
22. **Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. Heb. 10:23**
23. "...listen carefully to the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His eyes, ...pay attention to His commands." Ex. 15:26
24. This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 1 Jn. 5:14
25. The Lord says, "Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you." Jer. 29:12
26. Your ears shall hear a word behind you saying, "This is the way, walk in it." Isa. 30:21
27. For this is God, our God forever and ever; He will be our guide, even unto death. Ps. 48:14
28. "I will sing to the Lord for He is highly exalted. The horse and rider He has hurled into the sea." Ex. 15:1
29. **"The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise Him." Ex. 15:2**
30. Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be people of courage; be strong. 1 Cor. 16:13
31. This is the Lord, we trusted in Him; let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation. Isa. 25:9

BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION BRETHREN CHURCH

2650 Earl Rudder Freeway South

www.unityofthebrethren.org

Rev. Mark Sebek



Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 9283

College Station, TX 77842

Church 9:00 A.M.

Sunday School 10:45 A.M.

Off: 979-693-3606

email: papasebek@gmx.com

LIVE OUT LOUD
Winter Youth Retreat
January 14 - January 15



Check-in: 8:30am Dismissal: 11am
Registration Fee: \$30
Deadline: December 18
T-shirts: \$10 Deadline: December 18

State Children's Rally
Saturday, February 25

Check-in: 8:30am Dismissal: 3:30pm
Registration Fee: \$20 (T-shirt included)
Adult and volunteer t-shirts: \$10
Registration/T-shirt Deadline: February 1

Forms and info:

www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.com



Contact: Jennifer Chervenka, State Youth
Coordinator: jennchervenka@farm-market.net; 254-913-1244

BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

Chairman: David Miller (2015), Wall Brethren Church; cell 325-245-5616, dm103157@wcc.net home 512-996-8846, or cell 512-632-6644, paulak1121@sbcglobal.net

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Arnold Cuba (2015), Taylor Brethren Church; cell 512-247-8019, or work 512-352-3646, arcuba188@yahoo.com

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Reesa Ueckert (2015); phone 979-472-0559, reesa@hrueckert.com

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BYF Representative:

Erin Brinkley (2015), Ocker Brethren Church; erinbrinkley@yahoo.com

Synodical Committee Liason:

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

ADVISORY MEMBERS

Rev. Lawrence & Barbara Juneck (Unity at large); 254-714-2622, ljuneck@hotmail.com

MISSIONARIES

Robert & Anne Thiessen; Michael & Caroline Woo; Phil & Eunice Raiford; Pastor Pavel & Stana Kozak; Carolyn Groseclose

Productions. Lorimar in turn submitted it to CBS, who turned it into the two-hour made-for-television movie that has become an integral part of our traditional holiday viewing.

This special broke ground for the landmark television series *The Waltons*. Hamner was the producer and creator of *The Waltons*, and considered the series one of his brightest moments. It was a memory made even more special as Hamner credited the audience for saving the show. The program's initial ratings were quite low and CBS seriously considered cancelling the series. *The Waltons* struck a chord with its core audience. These dedicated viewers told their friends and those friends in turn told others. In time, the ratings improved, and today the program is considered a television classic.

One of the hallmarks of *The Waltons* came at the end of every episode when the various members of the Walton family would say good night to each other. Just prior to that, a very distinctive voice usually provided some narration recalling bygone days on Walton's mountain. That voice belonged to none other than Earl Hamner, Jr.

Hamner was often asked if he was John Boy Walton. Hamner always responded that he believed there was a little bit of John Boy in every writer.

The Waltons may have been Hamner's crowning achievement, but it is by no means his only contribution to radio and television.

Hamner's first venture into radio was for a program called *Doctor Christian* which invited listeners to submit scripts. Hamner submitted a script while attending college in 1946. The writers of the scripts selected were invited to the studio to be interviewed by the host of the program. Among those invited was another young college student by the name of Rod Serling. This was their first encounter. The pair lost touch with each other.

Hamner eventually decided to move to Hollywood. Serling's *Twilight Zone* was already a success when the pair happened to meet again at a party. With no film credits to his name, Hamner was having difficulty breaking into the business. He began wondering if the decision to move to Hollywood had been a terrible mistake.



Temple Brethren Church

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

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

Tim Chaplin, Interim Pastor
(254) 718-3898

Hamner was familiar with *Twilight Zone* and admired it. Hamner admitted that he did not consider himself the proper type of writer for the show. Low on funds and not having any other prospects, he decided to write two stories for *Twilight Zone*. He sent these to Rod Serling. Serling sent him a reply stating that stories were selected by a committee and that he had forwarded the stories to them.

Hamner was convinced that this was Serling's way of politely rejecting his submissions. A few days later a producer contacted Hamner with an offer to buy both stories. Understanding that Hamner had no film credits, he asked Hamner to rewrite them as plays. Hamner insisted that he could write them as proper film scripts, and did so.

My favorite Hamner episode of *Twilight Zone* is entitled *The Hunt*. The story revolves around a simple man named Hyder Simpson who lives in a cabin with his wife and hunting dog. One night the man decides to go racoon hunting with his faithful dog Rip despite his wife's protests. Far from home the dog picks up the scent and the pursuit begins.

The raccoon leads the pair on

quite a chase, which finally ends at a lake. The excited dog falls into the water and does not resurface. Simpson goes in after his dog, and he also does not resurface immediately.

Simpson later finds himself beside the lake with his faithful companion. Without a raccoon to show for their misadventure, Simpson decides it is time for the pair to return home and face the music.

When Simpson and Rip arrive at the cabin the following day, he discovers his wife dressed in black and in tears. In a strange turn, it appears that neither she nor the others who arrived before him are aware of him. Try as he might he remains both unseen and unheard. Eventually, Simpson deduces that the reason for this is that both he and Rip must have drowned in the lake.

At a loss for what to do, Simpson and Rip wander about until they come to a fence. They follow the fence and eventually come upon a gate. A man greets Simpson there and bids him welcome. The two are about to enter when the man at the gate informs Simpson that although he is welcome, his dog is not. Simpson refuses to enter without his dog and chooses to

February 25, 2017 – THE LORD'S ARMY State Children's Rally @ The Hus Encampment. Check-in at 8:30 a.m. with dismissal/pickup at 3:30 p.m. Registration fee is \$20, which includes a t-shirt. Adults and volunteers may order t-shirts for \$10. Registration and t-shirt order deadline is February 1. Registration forms available at www.Unityofthebrethrenyouth.com, or for more information contact Jennifer Chervenka, State Youth Coordinator, at jennchervenka@farm-market.net, or (254) 913-1244.

Save the Dates . . .

July 6-8, 2017 – Unity Convention (Information to follow soon!)

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.

OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

17454 State Highway 53, Temple, TX 76501
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 806, Rogers, TX 76569

Preaching the Word, Loving the People

Sunday School 9:00 AM

Worship 10:15 AM

Elder Board President

David Sebek

3910 Red Ranger Rd.
Temple, TX 76501
(254) 985-2578

Youth Director

Jennifer Chervenka

9494 Big Elm Creek Road
Rogers, TX 76569
(254) 983-1002

Cemetery

Sharon Marek

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

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 Study – Each Tuesday, 9:00-10:00 AM

Pastor

Rev. Joseph Polasek
P.O. Box 54
Snook, TX 77878
(979) 272-1624

Board of Elders President

Justin Lewis
P.O. Box 222
Snook, TX 77878
(979) 220-4732

Youth Directors

Randall & Jonna See
P.O. Box 345
Snook, TX 77878
(979) 272-8179

Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities Don't Forget!...

December 31, 2016 – Your Brethren Journal Subscription expired! Don't forget to send in your renewal! If you've already sent it in, please accept our thanks and appreciation for your continued support. Happy New Year!

January 1, 2017 – HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

January 14-15, 2017 – LIVE OUT LOUD! Winter Youth Retreat
@ The Hus Encampment. Check-in at 8:30 a.m. Registration fee is \$30 and T-shirts are \$10. Deadline for both is December 18. Dismissal time on Sunday is 11:00 a.m. For more information, contact Jennifer Chervenka, State Youth Coordinator, at jennchervenka@farm-market.net, or (254) 913-1244.

February 18, 2017 – The Seaton Brethren Church Annual Sausage Supper @ the Seaton Star Hall, 10842 State Highway 53, Temple (Seaton) beginning at 4:00 p.m. until the sausage is gone. See story in this issue for more information.

WALL BRETHREN CHURCH

12 miles east of San Angelo, Loop 570, Wall, Texas
P.O. Box 195, Wall, Texas 76957
Phone: 325-651-4444 ~ Fax: 325-651-5100

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Tallas
Home: 325-949-7543 Cell: 325-656-8558
Home: rev.tjt@gmail.com
Church: rev.tjt@zipnet.us
www.wallbrethrenchurch.org

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

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

move on despite the gatekeeper's protests.

Eventually they come to another gate. There they are met by a young man who is, in reality, an angel. The angel tells Simpson that he has been expecting him. Simpson declines, telling him that he will not enter without his dog. Puzzled, the angel then asks Simpson if he had encountered anyone else along the way. Simpson tells him about his encounter at the previous gate.

The angel listens intently. He then informs Simpson that the prior gate leads to Hell whereas this gate leads to Heaven. He assures Simpson that at this gate both he and Rip are welcome. A grateful Simpson then asks why Rip was not allowed into Hell. The angel explains that the dog would have detected the fire and brimstone and warned him about it. The angel adds, "You see Mr. Simpson, a man – he'll walk right into Hell with both eyes open. But even the Devil can't fool a dog!"

Serling's closing narration states, "Travelers to unknown regions would be well-advised to take along the family dog. He could just save you from entering the wrong gate. At

least, it happened that way once – in a mountainous area of the Twilight Zone."

As stated before, life during the Depression was difficult. Hamner's father had several hunting dogs that were well trained and well treated. Often Hamner's father would wake up before the rest of the family had their breakfast to hunt enough quail to feed his large family.

On one of these hunting expeditions Hamner's father accidentally shot one of his dogs. The wounded dog ran away. Hamner's father searched throughout the night for his dog. The body was found the next day. Hamner recalled his father grieving for the dog as if it were a person. This memory from Hamner's childhood was the inspiration for *The Hunt*.

One day, the producer of *Twilight Zone* contacted Hamner desperately looking for a script which he needed in three day's time. He was hoping that Hamner might have a completed work lying around. Hamner said he did not have one, but offered to write one. The producer thought this would be impossible, but Hamner insisted that he could do it.



TAYLOR BRETHREN CHURCH

Seventh Street at Sloan in Taylor, Texas
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 351, Taylor, TX 76574
512-352-6423

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. Worship: 10:15 a.m.

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

Drawing on his Blue Ridge Mountain roots, Hamner wrote the first act that day and completed the script the next. This story is also set in the hills and revolves around a jealous young woman who makes a deal with a witch so that she can steal a young man from the woman to whom he is engaged. The deal struck, the young man falls hopelessly in love with her and breaks off the engagement with his fiancé.

The deal, however, comes at a terrible price. Every night the man's new love turns into a great cat that stalks the area until sunrise. The woman realizes that she is losing more and more of her humanity with each transformation. She deduces that eventually she will become a witch herself.

In the end, the young man marries his first love and the jealous young woman reappears in various forms until she is killed. Hamner named this episode *Jess-Belle* after the jealous young woman. The name, of course, is a play on the name Jezebel we are familiar with from scripture.

Interestingly, Hamner's script called for the great cat to be a tiger. When filming of the episode began the ani-

mal trainer was unable to get the tiger to cooperate. It so happened the trainer also had a leopard, which was substituted. This unexpected change added an exotic touch to an already great story. Of additional interest is the fact that *Jess-Belle* is the only episode of *Twilight Zone* in which Rod Serling did not supply a closing narration.

Hamner wrote eight episodes of *Twilight Zone* all together, including the final episode entitled *The Bewitchin' Pool*.

As stated before, writers are advised to "write what they know" and Hamner did just that. Even while living in Hollywood and writing for a science fiction program, Hamner always remained true to his roots. Hamner successfully wove his own background, experiences, and values into the fabric of his creations.

Just how far is it from the *Twilight Zone* to Walton's Mountain? I could not possibly measure the distance in miles. I do, however, know for a fact that the journey can be made in a lifetime... one very special lifetime.

Earl Hamner, Jr., died March 24, 2016, at the age of 92.

3. There's an even deeper hunger we all have. It's a hunger for meaning, for purpose, for something to make us feel loved. God placed an empty place in all of our hearts, and Jesus is the only one that can fill that hole.
4. In today's scripture, Jesus tells a woman something very similar to what I've just told you about Snickers.
5. Read or tell the story of the Woman at the Well – John 4:4-26. The woman at the well was thirsty. Yes, she needed water to drink, to wash, and to cook, but she longed for something more. Jesus knows her life's story, and He knows how empty she feels. Her many husbands have made her an outcast – which is why she comes to fetch water when no one else is around. Jesus tells her she needs living water. The living water Jesus is referring to is Himself. Jesus is the Son of God, who became man so that He could restore us to a relationship with God. Jesus made this possible by dying on the cross to pay the price for our sins. When we place our trust in Jesus, He forgives our sins and gives the living water that truly satisfy.
6. The Snickers commercials remind us that there's a hunger that goes deeper than the growl in our stomachs. We hunger for love, for friendship, for success. We hunger for something to give meaning to our lives. A candy bar can make you feel better for a bit. Science has even shown that chocolate has a positive effect on our minds. But chocolate can't heal a broken heart. Nothing on this Earth can. People still try to satisfy their hungers with the things of this world. They think money, fame, power, and things will make them happy. These things can give us a temporary boost, just like a candy bar, but they never last. The sugar crash always comes, and we feel worse than we ever did. God knows we need Him. That's why He put that hunger inside us. He wants us to feel hungry, and He wants us to fill that hunger with Jesus. Jesus loved us so much, he died for us. The Holy Spirit becomes an unending fountain of living water, filling us over and over. Snickers can satisfy hunger for a bit. Many things in this world can make us smile, but only Jesus can satisfy our greatest need.

GRANGER BRETHREN CHURCH

1903 *Where it all began*

306 WEST BROADWAY STREET, GRANGER, TX
76530

Bible Study
Worship Services

9:00 a.m.
10:15 a.m.

Pastor, Rev. Larry Zabcik
(903) 265-2277



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/>



Object Lesson

You will need 1 Snickers Bar.

1. Say: Is it true what they say? Can Snickers really satisfy? Can Snickers turn someone who is grouchy, tired, or irritated into a pleasant person?
2. Snickers is packed with peanuts, a good source of protein, and science has shown that chocolate does have a positive effect on our minds. It makes us happy! But there's only so much a Snickers bar can do.
3. Have one of the kids read the calorie count on the side of the wrapper.
4. Calories are units of energy, and Snickers has 215 calories per bar. But guess what? A kid can burn off those calories in only an hour of riding a bike. Snickers may satisfy your hunger, but it's not going to satisfy you for very long. What's more, Snickers can only satisfy so many things. It can't satisfy loneliness, sadness, and the hunger we all feel to be loved.
5. Only Jesus can satisfy the deepest needs of our hearts. Jesus can forgive our sins and give us the Holy Spirit. And yes, Jesus can satisfy us when we are grouchy, tired, or hungry – even more than a Snickers bar.
6. Snickers can satisfy hunger for a time, but only Jesus can satisfy the deepest hunger. When you're really hungry, reach for Jesus.

Living Water

1. Show or describe a recent Snicker's commercial. *Snickers created a Super Bowl ad that became the most popular commercial of the night, featuring classic TV star Betty White as a grumpy, hungry, tired football player. The ad was so popular, they went out and got more TV and movie stars acting cranky and grumpy and grouchy – like the guy throwing the machete into the Brady Bunch's coffee table.*
2. Snickers is a great treat when you're hungry. It is packed with peanuts, caramel, and nougat wrapped in chocolate. But a Snickers bar can only do so much. Snickers has very little nutritional value, and too many Snickers will make you overweight and unhealthy. In short, too many Snickers can make you even more tired and grumpy than if you never had one in the first place! The same can be said for any food. We eat, we feel satisfied, then we feel hungry again. Food is the fuel that gives our bodies energy, and the more energy we use, the more often we get hungry. There is no meal that will ever satisfy us for life because we constantly need refueling.

Rev. Heckman Thankful After Challenging Year Overcomes health problems, still serving



REV. JIM HECKMAN joins Melinda Palicka and Teresa Wallace in getting ready for the Cade Lake Annual Thanksgiving dinner. Heckman says he has much to be thankful for this holiday season.

The year 2016 was supposed to be a time to celebrate some milestones for Rev. Jim Heckman. He was turning 70 years old. He would celebrate 20 years in the ministry and 5 years as pastor of Cade Lake Community Chapel and as president of In God's Hands Ministry in Cade Lake, which have been a huge difference-maker in that community. But last summer, everything unraveled.

Jim experienced a multitude of unexpected health problems before slowly fighting his way back in time to celebrate another Thanksgiving.

Now at a crossroads of his life and career, Heckman has time to reflect on the trials of 2016 and what the future holds. And he is thankful to still be here.

Heckman underwent a successful surgery to remove a brain tumor on June 8. But just prior to that, on May 31, he became dehydrated and passed out and was taken to CHI St. Joseph Regional Health Center in Bryan for treatment. After that, it was a series of setbacks. First there was a toe amputation, later an infection that got into



Brethren Book Store

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

his blood stream. Later there was a kidney failure that led to dialysis and heart failure. It was all a bit much for a man who had enjoyed generally good health for 70 years.

"I turned 70, and all of this happened. It was almost like, well let's just get all of this out of the way," Heckman said with a smile.

It looked like it might be a tough decade ahead. But you wouldn't think it from talking to Jim. Through it all, there was no sense of panic.

"I felt a sense of peace. God was on my side, and we were doing His will," Heckman said. Heckman, a long-time Brethren church pastor, started his Caldwell area ministry at Caldwell Brethren Church, initially established the Angel Food Pantry there, and then launched a new church, supported by the Unity of the Brethren, at Cade Lake.

The people of Cade Lake long ago tugged at Jim and his wife Diane's heart strings.

As one of the county's low-income areas, some residents there have staggering needs. But the Heckmans looked closer and found something deeper. There were hard-working, proud people there who took care of themselves and cared deeply about their neighbors. Many bore their

struggles without complaints.

Diane, while working at Caldwell Intermediate School, was touched by the children and shared her stories with Jim. Eventually, a series of events led to the creation of In God's Hands Ministry, and Jim knew none of them were purely coincidental.

Jim knew he could buy the land on Lakeview Drive for the food pantry by merely paying \$800 in back taxes, but he didn't immediately have the money. The deadline to pay was March 15, and on March 1 he received an unexpected check from the Pension Board Guarantee Corp., for \$850. The pension was from his prior service with Braniff Airlines.

"So I gave \$800 to Curtis (Curtis Doss, the Burleson County tax collector) and took the other \$50 and took Diane to dinner," he re-calls with a laugh.

Later, the Unity of the Brethren was able to secure a building for the church for \$10,000, and they were able to lease four lots affordably from a landowner now living in Florida, he recalled.

"It all happened fairly close together," he said. With the urging of his wife and Melinda Palicka, a Cade Lake resident, Jim knew that the church was the right move for the community.



But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:33

It's going to be a sweet year! This year we will study several classic stories – all connected to some favorite candy bars. So get ready for some very sweet lessons for a very sweet year of learning about Jesus!

This month we will start with a Snickers bar. The ads say Snickers really satisfy. This month we will learn that we can be truly satisfied with Jesus. We will learn that Jesus is the Living Water.

To communicate with the Hus Encampment . . .

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

Dawn Marie Baletka
3501 Kanati Cove
College Station, TX 77845
(979) 777-9940 or (979) 693-2710
DMBaletka@gmail.com

**This must be done well in advance.*

Pioneer Camp – 2016



Seaton Brethren Church Annual Sausage Supper Invitation

The Seaton Brethren Church annual sausage supper fundraiser will be held Saturday, February 18, 2017, beginning at 4:00 p.m. until the sausage is gone. The menu consists of homemade pork sausage, sauerkraut, new potatoes, seasoned green beans, bread, homemade desserts, and tea or coffee. Dine in or drive thru plates will be available. The **LOCATION** of the supper will be at **Seaton Star Hall**, 10842 State Hwy 53, Temple (Seaton). There will also be a bake sale consisting of kolaches, pies, cakes, strudels, & other baked goods, a raffle and a silent auction. Proceeds benefit the ministry of the church and other projects. The public is invited.

CHRISTIAN SISTERS' UNION OFFICERS

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Jim and Diane had always been drawn to that type of mission work, helping start a similar church in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Over the last five years, Jim has seen lives change in Cade Lake and a renewed sense of hope there. Hope looms large in the Heckmans' lives.

One of his most vivid memories is during the September 11 crisis when some New Yorkers carried signs saying their loved ones had no hope. "I would venture to say that not many of them were devout Christians," Heckman said. "Because you always have hope to know where your loved ones are."

Jim also believes that the church can reach out in other ways. The youth after-school tutoring program was a success, and the annual Thanksgiving dinner at the church is a blessing to many.

Jim gives Palicka much of the credit for creating the Thanksgiving tradition – and for their Make Christmas Happen drive, which has cheered many of the community's children.

So, he feels he has much to be grateful for this year – thanks to an abundant legacy and the hard work of a lot of faithful church members, and he will never forget the multitude of prayers and support he got through the long summer hospitalizations.

"I am thankful that everything was caught so early, and I am thankful for St. Joseph and the VA and staff that took such good care of me," he said. "And there was my wonderful wife, who spent all summer at the hospital. There were very few nights she left me alone."

Fortunately, he also got support from his many friends in the ministry.



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Kay Polasek is helping at the church with the preaching, although Jim remains involved in much of the mission work.

Rhonda Johnson, wife of New Tabor Brethren Church pastor David Johnson, has filled in for him at his other church – Dime Box Brethren Church.

Heckman originally planned to remain in the ministry until he was 75, but the health issues are forcing him to reconsider.

“It has been an eventful year, and one way or another it will be a pivotal year,” he said. “I will either retire or continue.”

Either way, he will always be remembered for starting a church in Cade Lake.

And next Thanksgiving he will still be at peace – and thankful.

(Reprinted with permission, Burleson County Tribune, Roy Sanders, 11.24.16)

WEBSITE SURVEY

Everyone is invited to take a survey regarding the Unity website. The survey will be posted on the Unity website (UnityoftheBrethren.org) and will be open for 2 months (December 1, 2016, through January 31, 2017). Reminders about taking the survey will be sent out by email. Everyone who visits the website is encouraged to participate. Your input is important to us.

If you or your church has any updates, announcements, comments or suggestions, please send them to Liz Ripple, website administrator – lizripple@hotmail.com or Angie Hairrell, Unity Secretary – hairrell@gmail.com, who will forward them to Liz.

Taylor Brethren Church 2016 Kolache Bake

- by Jim Pokorny

On Saturday, October 29, 2016, members of the Taylor Brethren Church held their annual Kolache bake.

The kitchen was fully staffed with members of all ages. Working together the dough was mixed, rolled and put into 250 pans of 15. Once formed into the classic kolache shape, they were filled and baked. Cinnamon rolls were also prepared.

After baking, the goods were transferred to the serving counter, where toppings and glazes were applied. The pans were then transferred to racks in the fellowship hall and allowed to cool prior to wrapping. After wrapping, they were laid out on tables, labeled, and awaited pickup.

People from Taylor and surrounding communities look forward to this

annual event and ask well in advance when they can place their orders. It's a pity that all they ultimately see is the final product.

It requires a great deal of hard work to make a good kolache, yet everyone worked with smiles on their faces and the sound of laughter filled the fellowship hall. Perhaps the difference between an ordinary kolache and a great kolache is the amount of love that goes into it.





CALDWELL BRETHREN CHURCH

401 South Main Street
(979) 567-7203

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

Church email: lifecatcbc@gmail.com

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

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Sunday School
9:30 AM

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

Sunday Worship
10:30 AM

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Taylor Brethren Annual Church Picnic



The Annual Taylor Brethren Church annual picnic was held Sunday, October 23, 2016 at the cabin of Ken and Paulette McConchie on the San Gabriel River in Circleville, Texas. Fellowship began at 4 PM. A meal of grilled

hamburgers was served at 6 PM. The picnic was sponsored by the Sunday School as a gift to the congregation. Over 60 members and guests were in attendance. Photo by Jim Pokorny.

MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS BOARD (2015-2017)

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(Pastor to the Pastors)
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Clint Machann

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Thoughts about giving...

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

Caldwell Brethren Church Activities

The Caldwell Brethren Church has had several church activities this past month.

Our Church Family had fun practicing for the Christmas program! Thank you, Jesus, for this special time of year!

Sunday afternoon, December 4, the KIDS CHOIR along with church family had the JOY of visiting local nursing home residents and giving lap blankets as gifts while singing Christmas carols! We thank Jesus for this great blessing!

Rev. Vanessa Mitchell



back to normal and I have had no more pain. We spent two nights in the hospital, arriving back home on Sunday.

Please pray:

For the presence of Jesus to fill our time together on Friday.

For complete healing for those who come and seek His touch.

For us as we change my diet, and treatments. Lord give us wisdom and direction.

For Caroline to be able to sleep 8-10 hours each night. She has been waking up at 4 a.m.

For Caroline to de-stress, lots.

For us to adjust to our new home.

We praise God for so many people who have helped us in so many ways. Thanks to all of you who have helped with our new home, moving, organizing, giving us food, flowers, furniture, etc.

Blessings,

Caroline and the Woos

... from the Home Mission Fields

Keeping you informed of what is happening at Cade Lake Community Chapel.

Pastor Kay is continuing to preach each Sunday with a prayer meeting before each sermon. Pastor Jim is ministering to members during the

week. The attendance has been from 20 to 40 people each week, with about 11 young people. Plans are being made for a family game night once a week. The young people practiced every Tuesday night, preparing for their Christmas program, which was on December 28, 2016.

The new roof and wood repairs have been completed. There was a work day on December 10, 2016, for the congregation to clean inside and outside the chapel. Everyone was welcome to help. Ben Polasek has been at the chapel repairing chairs. Thank you, Ben. We are getting bids for having sheet rock repairs done after December. The women of the chapel will plan a raffle and have garage sales to help with paying for the loan granted by the synodical committee in October. If you would like to help with the loan, please write Home Missions, ROOF on your check.

Rev. Jim and Pastor Kay will continue to minister together in the coming months. Rev. Jim is continuing to heal and getting stronger each day.

Martha Dove
Home Mission Chair

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in You. Show your power Jesus. Show off your love, grace, and power.

We ask you would fill all the Woos and their home with:

Faith
Joy
Hope
Healing
Love
Peace
Strength

Good sleep – I'm on steroids now and they keep me awake and jittery.

A will to live and not give up.

We command Caroline's T cells and immune system to wake up and go do exactly what it was made to do and go kill the cancer in her body. We pray Caroline can abide and rest in Your love and truth Jesus.

Hope for next steps:

We do have 3 options for treatment that will be coming up possibly in the next weeks.

Lord, we pray for those working on these treatments. Give them wisdom from you. Give them crystal-clear understanding in how to kill Caroline's cancer. Protect them and their families in the Name of Jesus. Help these treatments to come about quickly with nothing blocking them. We ask for your complete protection around those working with Caroline. Lord, if there is anything else that you want the Woos to seek out, give them wisdom and direction.

We have moved into our new home. It's beautiful. Please keep sending encouraging words and prayers. I can get so down, and need you all so much. Thanks for standing in the gap.

Come by for a visit and a prayer.

We will be having prayer at our new home on Friday, 7 p.m. if we are not on the road for treatment. I'll send out an email. Our new home is 462 Lockland Ave., Winston-Salem, NC 27103. We do believe our home is set apart to be a healing home. Let it begin with me.

I'm sure many of you are stuffed from Thanksgiving. You could fast and pray one meal or a whole day for us. Instead of eating, take that time to pray.

Love you all. We couldn't do it without you.

Caroline

If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. Romans 14:8. Praise the Lord!

December 5, 2016

Merry Christmas,

We had a crazy weekend. Michael and I went up to Virginia on Thursday to see a new doctor. We were planning on coming home on Friday. I had been having stomachaches that would come at night and keep me awake all night because of pain. I thought it was my diet.

On Thursday night we spent the night with some friends. by Friday morning I felt like I was dying. I had never had that much pain before. We went to a local hospital and they discovered I had a stuck gallstone that was giving me pancreatitis. They took the stone out with a scope down my mouth, and my pancreas went



Fayetteville Christian Sisters Send Quilts to the Woo Family

The Fayetteville Brethren Christian Sisters were able to send 5 hand-made quilts to the children of Carolyn and Michael Woo. The quilts were specially made by Ann Heintschel.

The quilts were blessed on November 20 during the worship service by Rev. Joe Emerson. Pictured are ladies that were present for the blessing of the quilts and Rev. Emerson.



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. . . from the Foreign Mission Field

From the Woo's

November 26, 2016

Dear friends,

We hope your Thanksgiving was great.

On Wednesday we started to move house, and Caroline's head started to have pressure build up. So much so that she threw up lots and felt awful all night.

By midday Tuesday we went to the emergency room. We spent one night. They gave me meds for pain, swelling in the brain, and nausea. We came home on Friday and spent our first night in our new home last night.

They did do a MRI and found that my spots had grown a bit. The largest one was 1.3 ml and is now 1.8. Boo.

So, needless to say I'm a little down. I guess we all just look around with our physical eyes and if things are going great we are happy, and if they are not we are depressed, angry, or complain. I mean, how many of you, who don't have brain cancer, are filled with joy and dancing around the room right now? Probably not many because you, too, have things going on that you don't like very much. The truth is, we all, even the sick ones, should count it ALL Joy! Rejoice in the Lord always. Why is this so difficult?

Here is how you can pray.

Resist the devil:

Satan we stand beside Caroline

and the Woos and we resist you in the Name of Jesus. You have no right to mess with the Woos. Caroline is a daughter of the High King of Heaven. Hands off Caroline and the Woos in the Name of Jesus. Lord Jesus surround Caroline and the Woos with your warring angels. We ask that you send them to come and fight on behalf of Caroline. Free her from the snare of the devil. It is a spiritual battle. The battle belongs to the Lord. Protect and heal her body. Help all their thoughts to be focused on You, Your truth, Your joy, Your Word!

We tell the following things to leave in Jesus Name:

Satan
Fear
Sickness
Fever in Isaac to leave
Hurt foot in Samuel to heal
Cancer
Hopelessness
Pain in Caroline's brain
Caroline's trouble reading, speaking, and writing
Seizures of all kinds
Stuffed up ears
Messed up vision
No more headaches
Fear in the Children

Swelling and inflammation in the brain:

Lord, we ask that all inflammation in Caroline's brain would completely be gone. We ask in the mighty Name of Jesus that all the cancer would be destroyed. You, Lord Jesus, are bigger than cancer. You are not afraid of cancer. We are victorious in You. Caroline and the Woos are victorious

