

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL



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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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In Christ's Love . . . Missionary Updates

. . . and a whole lot more!

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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Joy and Peace, Before Understanding

- by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

How many times in your life have you asked God, whether in tears or even in anger, “What is going on? Help me to understand!” The Holy Bible is a game changer for any person’s life. The Holy Words it delivers often flips our thinking upside down:

We want comfort. We experience pain.

We want understanding. We remain in the dark.

We want healing. We experience more illness.

It is not, of course, that our Loving and Faithful God is ignoring you or me. Pain will come and go. Confusion will surface and recede. Healing and disease will come in many forms. God, however, has a higher goal in view:

To turn our thinking and our hearts over to a continual focus on Jesus so that we may navigate through life with joy and peace.

What is hurting you today?

What is confusing you lately?

What is taxing your body?

The prophet Isaiah speaks holy words to shed clarity on what life is about:

First, seek joy and peace from Jesus, rather than understanding.

Understanding is definitely a valid prayer request, but it can overshadow our closeness to Jesus when we make it our primary pursuit. Seeking understanding as our main goal is all too easy to fall into because of our sin nature. We begin to look at the pieces

of the puzzle of our life to decipher the final tapestry rather than trusting in the One who created our lives, our Jesus, to complete the puzzle for us.

Read these words from Isaiah 55, asking Jesus to open your heart and to open your mind to living life with a focus on Him, on your Holy Friendship with Him, rather than on understanding circumstances, whatever they might be.

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price... Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live... Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near... For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes out from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. In-



stead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle... (Isaiah 55, NRSV)

What is hurting you today?
 What is confusing you lately?
 What is taxing your body?
 Are you thirsty for understanding?
First, seek joy and peace from Jesus, rather than understanding.

Change your life by surrendering control over every single decision to Jesus.

Your joy and your peace will surround you.

Putting together the pieces of the puzzle will not be as important anymore.

What bliss!
 Thank you, Lord Jesus!

In Jesus' Hands,
 Right With You,

Sister Vanessa Mitchell

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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Granger Brethren Church Cemetery Announcement

The Granger Brethren Church Cemetery has historically been limited to members of the Granger church only. Recently, the congregation voted to extend the opportunity to purchase a burial plot to anyone who is a member of a congregation of the Unity of the Brethren. For additional information, please contact Kathryn Adamek at 512-496-9388.

To communicate with the Hus Encampment . . .

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

Dawn Marie Baletk
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**This must be done well in advance.*

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

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 Home: 325-949-7543 Cell: 325-656-8558
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 Church: rev.tjt@zipnet.us
www.wallbrethrenchurch.org

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

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Austin – Bible Study at 10:00 AM
Worship at 11:00 AM.
– Rev. Linda Chandler

Bryan-College Station – worship at
9:00 AM every Sunday.
– Rev. Mark Sebek

Buckholts – worship at 9:00 AM every
Sunday except the 5th Sunday.
Holy Communion on 1st Sunday.
Guest speaker on 4th Sunday.
– Rev. John Kueker

Cade Lake Community Chapel – A Home
Mission Project since 10-22-11 – Sunday
School at 11:00 AM; Fellowship Lunch
at Noon; Worship at 1:00 PM.
– Rev. Jim Heckman

Caldwell – Come as you are! **Sundays** –
explore the Bible @ 9:30 AM (all ages);
KIDS CHOIR practices @ 10:15 AM; &
worship @ 10:30 AM! **Every 1st & 3rd
Wednesday**, join the fun @ Family
Game Night, 6-7:30 PM! Check out
lifeatcbc.org for spiritual resources,
events, videos, & more! Friend us on
Facebook!
– Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

Crosby – 9:00 AM: Worship
10:00 AM: Faith Adventure
– Dr. Larry Koslovsky

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.
– Dr. Larry Koslovsky

Community Christian Church of
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at 10:30 AM.
Wednesdays: 5:30 PM Dinner; 6:30 PM
Bible Study.
– Pastor Ben Kruse

Seaton –
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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.
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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
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– Dr. Mark Labaj
5th Sunday – Visiting Ministers

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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

Life in the Big City

– by Jim Pokorny

Someone once said that inside each of us there is an inner child struggling to get out. In my case, there is an inner old man who occasionally succeeds. I was discussing science fiction with a young friend who is about half my age. Things were going along well enough until I mentioned Jules Verne. At this point my young friend stared blankly at me and asked, “Who?” That’s when my inner old man burst forward and said, “For Pete’s sake! Would it kill you to actually read a book now and then?”

As our scientific knowledge increases it becomes necessary for science fiction to incorporate the new knowledge. That is why there will always be a special place in my heart for the golden age of science fiction. Authors from that era like H. G. Wells, Mary Shelley, Jules Verne, and others were limited only by their imaginations.

It was from that era that a silent movie called *Metropolis* premiered in Germany in 1927. For decades, almost no one remembered seeing it in its original form. When Austrian pro-

ducer Fritz Lang created this epic, it was two and a half hours long. Until recently I had seen only shortened versions of the movie, and even film experts claimed that the original uncut version was forever lost. As it turns out, an almost complete restoration of the film was made possible a few years ago. I was fortunate enough to add this restored version to my collection around Christmas. The film itself has an incredible history which I plan to share in my next article.

Lang’s science fiction epic contains numerous scriptural references. Although some were taken out of context, this still supports my belief that even works of science fiction have lessons to teach.

The story takes place in the year 2026 in a futuristic city called Metropolis. The city is in fact composed of two distinct societies separated by class. The elite class lives above ground in a thoroughly modern city of high rises, libraries, museums, theaters and clubs. A huge tower at the



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center of the city called The New Tower of Babel dominates an already impressive skyline. The working class lives in that part of the city hidden deep beneath the surface of the earth. There they function as slave labor. Their 20-hour day is controlled by artificial light. They toil in 10-hour shifts as mere extensions of the machinery that makes the Utopian life in the upper city possible. The machinery also keeps their underground city from flooding.

The movie opens at a shift change. Two battalions of uniformed workers shuffle in opposite directions along a corridor. With downcast eyes, each man walks sullenly and in step with the others. The only difference between the groups is that those whose shift is over walk at a slower pace due to sheer exhaustion. (Author's Note: In my research, I came across a rather interesting account. In 1943, a group of prisoners arrived at the Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp. As the prisoners ascended the ramp they saw the countless men and women shaved bald and in prison clothing. One of the new arrivals turned to the man next to him and asked, "Do you know *Metropolis*?")

The scene then changes to the upper city with the following intertitle: "As deep as lay the workers' city below the earth, so high above it towered the complex named 'The Club of the Sons' with its lecture halls and libraries, its theaters and its stadiums." There is also an Eden-like garden created for the amusement of the elite. "Fathers for whom every turn of a machine wheel meant gold had created for their sons the miracle of the Eternal Gardens."

One of the two main characters, Freder (played by Gustav Frohlic), arrives at the garden to select his female companion for the evening. As he makes his selection, the doors to the garden open and in walks Maria, (portrayed by Brigitte Helm). Maria is surrounded by a mass of the workers' children. They are dressed in rags and appear underfed. Although Maria's dress is plain her beauty is not. Freder is so overwhelmed that he loses all interest in his chosen companion.

Maria says to the children, "Look! These are your brothers!" She then delivers these same words to those in the garden. The two groups stare incredulously at each other until security arrives and forces Maria and

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

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VITAL STATISTICS

RECENT DEATHS

BENNETT, JOHN BALLARD, age 87, died January 24, 2017, in Kerrville, Texas. He was born on April 1, 1929, in Edinburg, Texas, and was the son of Irene and John Bennett. He was a U.S. Army veteran and served as a Captain in the Judge Advocate's General Corp. Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Mary Frances Chupick Bennett, 2 sons, John Bennett and David Bennett and 5 grandchildren. Services were held on Saturday, January 28, in the Schreiner Chapel at First Presbyterian Church of Kerrville officiated by Rev. Dr. Rob Lohmeyer. Burial was held on Sunday, January 29, at Fayetteville Brethren Church Cemetery, Ross Prairie, Texas.



Hovorak, Doris, age 87 and a member of the Caldwell Brethren Church, passed away on Friday, December 30, 2016, in Bryan, Texas. She was born June 8, 1929, to Joe V. & Albina Sefcik in Burleson County, Texas. Doris married Raymond Joe Hovorak on August 12, 1950, and they resided in Cooks Point. Doris was a member of SPJST Lodge, the Brethren Church, the Czech Museum, and she held the office of Corresponding Secretary in the Christian Sisters at Caldwell Brethren. She worked at Burleson County Tax Office, the County Clerk's Office, the ASCS office in Caldwell, and Texas Engineering & Extension Service which she was at for 22 years before retirement in 1994. Doris was preceded in death by her parents; her husband Raymond; and son Randy Hovorak. She is survived by son and daughter-in-law, Joe & Sandra Hovorak of Caldwell; daughters and sons-in-law, Donna & Lee Martin of Anchorage,

Alaska, Lisa & Glynn Wood of Rockdale, Sherry & Terry Helton of Austin, Texas; sister, Lillie Mae Wright of Marquez, Texas; and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews. Funeral services were on Tuesday, January 3, at the Caldwell Brethren Church with internment at New Tabor Brethren Cemetery, near Caldwell. Minister: Rev. Vanessa Mitchell.

JONES, JAMES E. (MICKEY), age 73, and a member of the Pasadena Brethren Church, passed away May 30, 2016. He was born December 28, 1942, in Wharton, Texas, to James C. Jones and Laura Mae Campbell. He grew up in South Houston, attended Texas A&M University, and was a member of the Corps of Cadets. He married Patricia Jurek on January 23, 1965. They were married for 51 years and raised 3 children. He was an active member of the Pasadena church, served as summer camp director at the Hus Encampment, and served on the Synodical Committee for the Unity of the Brethren. Mickey is survived by his wife, Patricia, and three children, Deborah Jones of Pasadena, Jason Jones of Deer Park, and James and daughter-in-law, Leigh, Jones of Pearland, and granddaughter, Keziah. Minister: Pastor Ben Kruse.

SIMCIK, MARY E., age 100 and a member of the Granger Brethren Church, passed away on January 14, 2017. She is survived by her sons, Bill Simcik and wife, Gracie, and Randy Simcik and wife, Joyce, along with 5 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held on January 19 at Condra Funeral Home in Taylor with burial at the Granger Brethren Cemetery. Minister: Rev. Larry Zabcik.

Brethren Book Store

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Diane Heckman, Manager

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for March 2017

Dorothy E. Kocian

1. How much better to get wisdom than gold, to choose understanding rather than silver. Prov. 16:16
2. He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; he who cherishes understanding prospers. Prov. 19:8
3. The wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. James 3:17
4. The foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength. 1 Cor. 1:25
5. **Wisdom says, "Whoever finds me finds life and receives favor from the Lord." Prov. 8:35**
6. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Jn. 1:1
7. The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth. Acts 17:24
8. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – His eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen. Rom. 1:20
9. In these last days God has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things. Heb. 1:2
10. Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. Col. 1:15
11. The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. Jn. 1:17
12. **No one has seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made Him known. Jn. 1:18**
13. Praise be to the Lord, for He showed His wonderful love to me. Ps. 31:21
14. Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. Rom. 8:14
15. Show me Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths. Ps. 25:4
16. In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps. Prov. 16:9
17. The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord. Prov. 16:33
18. We ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world. Jn. 4:42
19. **This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out His commands. 1 Jn. 5:2**
20. Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Ps. 37:3
21. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer. Mt. 21:22
22. "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." Jn. 3:16
23. "Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up." Jn. 1:14
24. "...that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life." Jn. 1:15
25. Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, he who believes in Me has everlasting life." Jn. 6:47
26. **"I am the way, the truth, and the life." Jn. 14:6a**
27. "No one comes to the Father except through Me." Jn. 14:6b
28. The Apostle Paul said, "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ." 1 Cor. 11:1
29. Jesus prayed, "Sanctify them (the disciples) by the truth; Your word is truth." Jn. 17:17
30. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another" Jn. 13:35
31. "If you hold to My teaching,...then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." – Jesus Jn. 8:32-33

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the children to leave.

Freder is smitten. He leaves the garden in search of Maria. His search leads him to the workers' city and the Machine Halls; neither of which he has ever seen before. He witnesses the workers toiling away at the massive machinery for the very first time. He watches in disbelief as one worker collapses from sheer exhaustion. As a result, the machine goes critical and explodes. Freder is thrown against the wall by the blast. After witnessing the carnage, Freder experiences a frightening hallucination. Before his eyes the massive machine is suddenly transformed into Moloch. This is a reference to the Old Testament pagan god Molek to whom the ancients sacrificed their children by passing them through fire. In Freder's vision, a mass of workers is forced up the machine ramps. There they are sacrificed to Moloch in a vain attempt to appease it.

Once the vision passes, Freder feels that he must tell his father and master of the city, Joh Fredersen, what has happened. Freder asks a driver to take him to the tower that lies at the heart of Metropolis – The New Tower of Babel.

Freder's father, Joh Fredersen (Alfred Abel) is dictating the business of the city to a team of men who take down his every word. Freder enters and informs his father of the explosion. His father asks him, "What were you doing in the Machine Halls?"

Freder answers, "I wanted to look into the faces of the people whose children are my brothers and sisters... Your magnificent city, Father – and you the brains of this city – and all of us in the light... And where, Father, are the people whose hands built your city?"

Joh flatly answers, "Where they belong..."

A shocked Freder then asks, "... in the depths? What if one day those in the depths rise up against you?" A shocked Freder leaves his father to return to the worker's city. Joh summons a spy known simply as "The Thin Man". He orders the spy to watch his son and report his every movement.

Freder returns to the Machine Halls. Upon entering, he notices a worker toiling away at a large clocklike machine. The worker must constantly move the two enormous clock hands



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Snook, TX 77878	Snook, TX 77878	Snook, TX 77878
(979) 272-1624	(979) 220-4732	(979) 272-8179

to extinguish the indicator lights as they are turned on by the machines. Exhausted, the worker collapses into Freder's arms. The worker revives and pleads: "Brother... the machine... Someone has to stay at the machine!"

Freder willingly takes his place at the demanding apparatus. He states, "Someone will stay at the machine... ME! Listen to me... I want to trade lives with you!" Freder and the exhausted man also trade clothing. Freder gives the exhausted man his address and instructs him to wait there for him. After the man leaves, Freder finds a piece of paper in his uniform which turns out to be a crudely drawn map. Another worker sees this. He walks over to Freder and informs him that a meeting is to take place there once the shift is over. Freder then begins moving the clocklike hands as dictated by the machinery.

Freder's father has confiscated copies of the map but does not know what to make of them. He seeks out an inventor and genius by the name of Rotwang to explain them. Rotwang first shows Joh the project he has been working on... the Machine-Man. The project is near completion. Rotwang boasts that within 24 hours,

no one will be able to tell the difference between the Machine-Man and a living human being. Turning his attention to the maps, Rotwang takes some measurements. He then informs Freder's father that these maps depict a portion of the catacombs that lie deep beneath the Machine Halls.

Freder's father wants to know what the workers are doing in the catacombs. Rotwang knows of another entrance and he and Freder's father make their way there. From a secret perch they watch as a group of workers arrive after the shift change. This portion of the catacombs has an almost church like quality to it. The tired workers either sit or kneel. Among them is a now thoroughly exhausted Freder.

Suddenly, Maria appears and speaks to the workers: "Today I will tell you the legend of THE TOWER OF BABEL... Come let us build us a tower whose top may reach unto the stars! And on top of the tower, we will write the words: Great is the world and its Creator! And great is Man! But the minds that had conceived the Tower of Babel could not build it. The task was too great. So they hired hands for wages. But the hands that built the

Save the Dates . . .

July 22-23 – Brethren Youth Convention and Volleyball Tournament at the Hus Encampment.

July 6-8, 2017 – 67th Biennial Convention of the Unity of the Brethren at the Temple Brethren Church. Contact Kent Laza for information (kent.laza@verizon.net).

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

Temple Brethren Church

2202 Birdcreek Drive

Temple, Texas 76502

(254) 778-8759

tbc@hot.rr.com

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Worship: 10:45 a.m.

Tim Chaplin, Interim Pastor

(254) 718-3898

Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

March 26, 2017 – The Seaton Brethren Church Christian Sisters' 100th Anniversary Celebration at Seaton Brethren Church. Church service is at 10:30 a.m. with a meal and fellowship afterward. Everyone is invited to come and help the Sisters celebrate their 100th anniversary.

April 1, 2017 – Synodical Committee meeting at the Hus Encampment. Meeting at 9 a.m., coffee and kolaches at 8 a.m. For more information, contact Angie Hairrell at hairrell@gmail.com.

Camp Dates ENCOUNTER

3-day/2-night beginner camp
for ages 7-8 years old
Camp Cost: \$250
Camp Days: Thursday to Sunday
Camp Dates: June 8-10, 2017

ALPHA

5-day/4-night camp for
ages 9-10 years old
Camp Cost: \$350
Camp Days: Sunday to Thursday
Camp Dates: June 11-15, 2017

PIONEER

6-day/5-night camp for ages
11-13 years old
Camp Cost: \$350
Camp Days: Sunday to Friday
Camp Dates: June 18-23, 2017

DISCOVERY

6-day/5-night camp for ages
14-15 years old
Camp Cost: \$350
Camp Days: Sunday to Friday
Camp Dates: June 25-30, 2017

CHALLENGER

6-day/5-night camp for ages
16-19 years old
Camp Cost: \$350
Camp Days: Sunday to Friday
Camp Dates: July 9-14, 2017

**For more information about
the 2017 camping season
or to register, go to:
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Tower of Babel knew nothing of the dream of the brain that had conceived it. BABEL. One man's hymns of praise became other men's curses. People spoke the same language, but could not understand each other. HEAD and HANDS need a mediator! THE MEDIATOR BETWEEN HEAD AND HANDS MUST BE THE HEART!" (Author's note: Although different from the Biblical account this is central to the story.)

One of the workers hints of a coming revolution. Maria tells him to be patient as the Mediator has not yet come. The worker says they will wait, but not for much longer. The crowd begins to disperse. Freder is convinced that he must be the Mediator of which Maria speaks. Who better to bring the two sides together than the son of the master of the city; a young man of privilege who willingly accepts their labor.

Joh Fredersen then instructs Rotwang to complete the Machine-Man in Maria's image. He will use her to convince those in the depths to rise up. Once this happens, Joh can claim the right to use force against them.

Once Freder and Maria are alone,

he convinces her that he is the Mediator they have been waiting for. The two fall hopelessly in love. Maria instructs him to meet her in the cathedral. Once Freder departs, Rotwang abducts Maria and takes her to his home to complete the Machine-Man in her likeness. Once this is done, the real Maria is held captive by Rotwang and the false Maria is sent to Joh Fredersen.

When Freder arrives at the cathedral a monk is preaching. (Author's note: Unfortunately this scene is lost forever. No footage discovered was deemed salvageable. Only the text survives.) "Verily, I say unto you, the days spoken of in the Apocalypse are nigh! And I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet beast having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color, having a gold cup in her hand. And upon her head was written a mystery: BABYLON THE GREAT, mother of abominations of the earth. And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints." In an adjoining area, Freder discovers a statue of Death flanked by statues of the Seven Deadly Sins – Gluttony, Avarice, Pride, Lust,



TAYLOR BROTHERS CHURCH

Seventh Street at Sloan in Taylor, Texas
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Pastor
James D. Hejl
512-365-6890

Board President
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Secretary
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M-Th 8 a.m.-noon

Envy, Anger and Sloth. Freder addresses the statue of Death: "If you had come earlier, you wouldn't have scared me. But now I beg you, stay away from me and my beloved."

At this point, Joh Fredersen gives his instructions to the false Maria: "I want you to visit those in the depths, in order to destroy the work of the woman in whose image you were created."

The false Maria goes to the catacombs and waits. When the workers arrive, this Maria does not speak of peace. Harkening back to the monk's prophetic sermon, she incites rebellion. "You know that I have always spoken of peace... but your mediator has not come. You have waited long enough! Your time has come! Who is the living food for the machines in Metropolis? Who lubricates the machine joints with their own blood? Who feeds the machines with their own flesh? Let the machines starve,

you fools! Let them die! Kill the machines!"

The workers and their wives leave their children in the city and set out in a frenzy to destroy all the machines. This includes the Heart Machine which keeps their city from being flooded. The man in charge of the Heart Machine pleads with them, but to no avail. Whipped into a frenzy, they destroy the machines, giving no thought to the children they left behind.

The real Maria escapes the clutches of Rotwang. Freder finds Maria and together they enter the workers' city just as the flooding begins. Working together, they gather the children and lead them to the only possible means of escape – the city's air shafts. Freder and Maria manage to save the children just as the workers' city is destroyed in a cataclysmic flood.

Meanwhile, The Thin Man reports to Joh Fredersen that his son Freder

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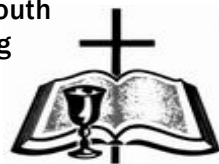
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Rev. Mark Sebek

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 9283
College Station, TX 77842



Church 9:00 A.M.
Sunday School 10:45 A.M.
Off: 979-693-3606
email: papasebek@gmx.com

Not only were they satisfied, but there were leftovers! *They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.* - Matthew 14:20-21

Even today, God will satisfy all our needs. Unlike this bag of M&Ms that will only satisfy your hunger for a little while, God will be there always.

M&M Prayer

Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably More than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work in us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever. Amen. Eph. 3:20-21

Give each child a baggie with an M&M of each color. As you pull an M&M out of the bag, model how the color can remind you to pray for someone or something.

GREEN M&M: Thank God for one gift or one good thing in your life (Family, Love, Health, enough, etc.)

BLUE M&M: pray for a friend or neighbor who needs help or who needs to know Jesus.

RED M&M: pray for someone you love.

YELLOW M&M: pray for our leaders or those God has put in charge of something (Church, School, Government)

ORANGE M&M: pray for someone who is sick or hurt and needs healing.

BROWN M&M: Pray for yourself. Tell God something you are sorry for, something that's worrying you or something you need help with.

You can eat the M&M after you have prayed!

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: Four things about M&Ms:

1) *M&Ms are marked with an "m".*

First of all, Christians are marked or sealed with the Holy Spirit of God (Eph. 4:30). But we are also marked for a purpose and focus. We're marked for ministry! (Hebrews 12: 1-3)

2) *M&Ms come in a variety of colors.*

God has created each of us unique in many ways, too. Although we are all called to ministry, we each are uniquely gifted, have different backgrounds, different personalities, etc. (1Corinthians 12:4-6). We vary in our colors too: Some are RED – they are red hot and bold, competitive. Some are BLUE – calm, dependable, solid. Some are YELLOW – friendly, positive, creative, encouraging. Some are GREEN – analytical, organized, practical, decisive. Some are ORANGE – assertive, outgoing. Some are BROWN – warm, inviting, trustworthy, wholesome. God has His way of blending our background, personality, & spiritual gifts into unique, individual ministers for His Kingdom!

3) *M&Ms are filled with chocolate – the best part!*

Christians are filled with God's love! Like an M&M, although we may all look different, we are all created to be filled with God's love – even better! Without the chocolate, an M&M is just a fragile shell with really no taste. Even so, we, without God's love, are fragile and empty, too (1 John 4:9-16).

4) *M&Ms are made to be shared.*

Also, because of how M&Ms are made, they are easily shared with others. God's love is made to be shared through sharing the Gospel – the Good News of Jesus Christ!

Bible Story: Jesus Feeds the 5000

Matthew 14:13-21

Show a snack to share with everyone (fun size bag of M&Ms). Tell the story of Jesus feeding the 5000 with only 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. What did the people need? How did Jesus satisfy that need? Jesus met the needs, or satisfied the needs of so many people.



was reported to have returned to the workers' city which now lies under water. Joh shouts, "I must know! Where is my son?" The Thin Man replies, "Tomorrow, thousands will ask in fury and desperation: Joh Fredersen, where is my son?"

Only after the machines are destroyed do the workers realize that their children have likely perished. They embark on a witch hunt. They pursue and capture the false Maria and burn her at the stake. Only when the flesh is burned off do they see the machine that now lies dead beneath it. At this point Freder and Maria arrive to inform the workers that their children are safe. Freder's father arrives and is relieved to find that his son is also alive. At this point the head of the workers and Joh wish to

make peace, but each is reluctant to make the first move.

Maria says to Freder, "Head and hands want to join together, but they don't have the heart to do it. Oh, mediator, show them the way to each other." Freder joins the two together and *Metropolis* ends with: "THE MEDIATOR BETWEEN HEAD AND HANDS MUST BE THE HEART!"

Although 90 years old, *Metropolis* provides some insight into the problems of today. Although an object lesson in class struggle, I take two additional lessons from *Metropolis*. First, mankind has a desperate need for a mediator, namely, Jesus Christ. Second, often our heads understand what needs to be done for our fellow man. It must be our hearts that stir our hands into action.



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Seaton Brethren Church Activities

The Seaton Brethren Church & Christian Sisters have been busy these past few months. The first Saturday of November the Sisters had their annual bake sale & quilt show. December was a busy month with the all-church dinner, Christmas candlelight service, and singing Christmas carols to our members in care centers and the Temple VA Nursing Center. Fleece blankets, which were cut, made, and prayed over by the members of the church, were delivered to the Rainbow Room, Child Protective Services, and foster children.

The church is also very involved in the Santa Pal program each year. This year we supported 16 families

with 32 children and 25 foster children. Gifts of clothing, toys, food, fleece blankets, and gift cards were distributed to all. We thank God that He has blessed us with the ability to minister to those in need.

Upcoming activities to look forward to:

The Seaton Brethren Church Christian Sisters will be celebrating their 100th anniversary on Sunday, March 26, 2017, at Seaton Brethren Church. Church service is at 10:30 a.m. with a meal and fellowship afterward. Everyone is invited to come and help the Sisters' celebrate their 100th anniversary.



We love because He first loved us.

1 John 4:19



Who doesn't love the colorful candy that melts in your mouth and not in your hands? And who knew that there were so many Biblical truths in that tasty bag of chocolate candies. This month we will use M&M's to learn how to pray, to learn how God can satisfy all our needs, how God made us unique, and a reminder to share the Gospel!

Thoughts about giving...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Eugene Haisler, Secretary – Ocker – 254-985-2316, dmheeh@msn.com

Ron Tyson, Treasurer – Houston – 281-373-4376 (home),
rdtyson1@hotmail.com

Harvey Treybig, Unity Treasurer and Synodical Committee
Liaison – Industry, 512-327-2504; htreybig@austin.rr.com

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

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

Caldwell Brethren Valentine Outreach

We had the JOY of preparing for our February Outreach a little early at our last Family Game Night!

Thank you, Jesus, for the resources to make and give these Valentine Thank You Gifts to the loving staff at the St. Joseph Cancer Center in Bryan, TX! What hard working Valentine “elves” in our Church Family! What beautiful appreciation and joy from the caring and dedicated staff at the Cancer Center! It was awesome to show a little love to these amazing folks who bring comfort and hope to so many every day!



West Brethren Mission Project

One of the mission projects of West Brethren Church is to pack shoeboxes each year to send to needy children in foreign countries. This program, *Operation Christmas Child*, is made possible through Samaritan's Purse, a program headed by Franklin Graham, son of Dr. Billy Graham. These boxes are distributed during the Christmas season to provide material gifts to children who otherwise would have no Christmas. The main purpose is to open the door to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and to help spread the Gospel worldwide.

West Brethren has been involved in this program for

several years, and on November 13, 2016, 80 boxes (40 boys and 40 girls) were dedicated to the glory of God and to help spread His Kingdom in 100 countries.

If there are other churches in the Unity who would like to get involved in this ministry, please contact Rev. Holland at (254) 776-5886 or go to www.samaritianspurse.org for information.



Left to Right: Rev. Curtis Holland, Bryce Thomas, Brooklyn Thomas, Brittany Martin, Ashley Martin, Connie Croll and Dorothy Lightsey. Brooklyn, Brittany, and Ashley are modeling 3 of the 40 dresses Connie and Dorothy made to put in the 40 girl's boxes.



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- Ephesians 4:17-32
- Ephesians 5:1-21
- Colossians 3:1-17.

Everything we do in our lives should be to fulfill God's divine purpose. He has a plan and a purpose for each of

us. He has gifted us with special talents and desires, and when we use those to further his kingdom, we fulfill His purpose. Living out Loud for the Lord is all about living a GOOD life to bring God glory and point others to His saving grace.



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

From the Woos in the U.S.A.

January 22, 2017

Hello wonderful friends and family,

We are doing well. Here is a more detailed update on us to guide your prayers.

We praise the Lord that Caroline is feeling stronger this week. She is still dizzy and feels like she could fall down, but she has been up and out and doing more and eating more. She feels stronger and stronger.

Since Thanksgiving Caroline was in and out of the ER about 5 times having to spend the night many times. For a while she would go once a week. One time being for a swollen brain, headache and vomiting. The next time would be for a painful gallbladder, stomach and vomiting.

Caroline hates going to the ER. It brings her down and makes her want to give up and go see Jesus. So we are working hard to not have her brain swell nor her stomach hurt. Her stomach started to hurt last night, but we got it under control. The Doctors want to take her gallbladder out, but currently we are just eating low fat and praying. Gallbladder be healed in the mighty name of Jesus!

Caroline had a brain MRI a week ago. We will get the results this Wednesday. We have not had a full body PET scan yet. She had four skin bumps on her chest that we got biopsied of to see if it was cancer. It was not cancer. Caroline has had her blood drawn to see if there are any

floating cancer cells spreading around her body. There are no floating cells spreading. So, praise God for both of these things.

One of Caroline's treatment is a magnet therapy, and she gets too excited and does it too much. It causes pain, swelling, and she thinks puts her in the hospital. So, pray that we can slowly and wisely know how to use it. She is taking it slowly and has not gone to the ER for this in weeks. If you tried this therapy you would not feel it, so we think it is a good thing that she can feel it doing something.

Caroline's spine and nervous systems is in complete alignment after working on that for 4 months. Her neck feels soft now and not like a steel bar. Now her brain can tell the immune system to do its job. In fact, Caroline's immune system is very strong. She has not had a cough, fever, or bug for over 2 years, even when Michael and the kids get it. T cells and white blood cells, we command you to kill the cancer cells in Caroline's body just exactly how God created you to.

In her spirit, body and soul, the Lord is doing a GREAT work in Caroline. She is daily drawing near to Jesus. She can't get enough of Him. He has renewed her thinking, and corrected her thinking about how she sees Him, healing, and that He is truly a good, good Father. She has gone from doubt that He might not heal her, to not being able to find a reason why he



would not heal her. We are drawing huge hope and strength from the Lord's Supper and seeing it as a healing service. Not only is the blood poured out for our sins, the body was broken for the healing of our bodies. By His stripes we are healed. Praise Jesus! Take eat and eat the life Jesus gives us! We try to take communion every day as a family.

We are still having many prayer groups throughout the week. Friday night is still so sweet and special with 10-40 people coming from many different churches. The presence of Jesus is so sweet and filling. Please join us, 7 p.m. Fridays, kids welcome, 462 Lockland.

We are reading and proclaiming Psalm 91 as a family out loud. Join us. Our loving covenant keeping God has a lot for us in this Psalm.

A HUGE prayer request is for our sleep. Caroline and Michael need to sleep through the entire night, not waking up at all, going to sleep easy. Our bodies heal while we sleep. Pray for good naps during the nap and deep healing, peaceful rest at night, sleeping from 9-7 or something like that every night.

We LOVE our new house. School is going great for the boys.

Please pray for the Lord's leading for Michael. We are asking God to direct us for his future work and ministry. Currently Michael is full time taking care of me and the kids. I'm doing better, but I can't drive. I only go out once a day. Mostly I do treatments and rest. We have great hope. Jesus has already done the work. He longs to heal me. He came to destroy the works of the devil including sickness and death. Praise the

Lord that we can't add to His completed work of grace and love.

Thank you for fasting for us for this month. We can feel the power.

Love to you all

Caroline and Michael and the boys

Pray an extra blessing on Samuel tomorrow. Turns 14!

From Carolyn Groseclose in Zambia...

January, 2017

Wow! Time flies by when you are in God's Word and Will and you are having fun. I cannot believe another school year is about to end.

This school year I taught 1st Grade, 5th Grade, and 6th Grade Language Arts. The 1st Graders are Gertrude, Glory, and Malilwe. The 5th Graders are Ben, Kelitah, Laurie, and Sibasiso. The 6th Graders are Caedmon and Machila. I also taught Caedmon and Cambree Old World History and Geography, and Cason Our American Heritage: People in United States History.

Teaching from January to December, to me, is a lot better than teaching from the end of August to either end of May or first of June. The students and teachers have holidays in April, August, and December. However, there are learning activities and field trips that are taking place.

This past April the children were divided into 4 groups. The oldest girls went to Livingstone with "Papa Wes and Mama La-La". The oldest boys went to Lake Siavonga on a fishing trip with Uncle Blu, Uncle

LOL! Live Out Loud!

Winter Youth Retreat Summary January 14-15, 2017

Forty-two youth and ten adults packed the camp as they learned to live out loud for the Lord.

The weekend started with a recap of Love. Then we dove into various scriptures to learn how we can live out loud for the Lord by living a GOOD Life – God 1st, Others 2nd, Ourselves last, for a Divine Purpose.

We put God first and love Him with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength when we follow the first four commandments. We make Him a priority and seek His will above our own selfish desires. We have to remember that our lives and our speech should bring Him honor. We should consider

it a privilege to worship Him and grow in His grace and knowledge.

We put others second and ourselves last when we live out commandments 5-10. We must love our neighbors as ourselves.

We studied various scripture selections to learn even more:

- Galatians 6:1-10
- Romans 12:1-8
- Romans 12:9-21
- 1 Peter 5:1-10
- 3 John 3-11
- James 1:19-27
- James 2:1-13; Matthew 7:1-6
- James 2:14-26



... from the Home Mission Field

Cade Lake Community Chapel will now be served by Rev. Jim Heckman and co-pastored by Rev. Kay Polasek. Rev. Polasek will conduct Sunday morning worship services, Sunday school for the youth, and family game night during the week. Rev. Heckman will serve by visiting members and prospects, counseling, home visits, marriages, and funerals. He will maintain church financial records and give detailed monthly reports to the Home Mission Board chairperson. All other responsibilities will be shared.

Their compensation package is as follows:

Rev. Heckman: Housing and Utilities Allowance, \$1,083.33; Car Allowance, \$83.34 per month.

Rev. Polasek: Housing and Utilities Allowance, \$1,125.00; Professional Expense \$41.67 per month. Neither will receive a personal salary.

All these changes were approved

by the Home Mission Board

Sunday morning attendance at Community Chapel has reached 40 members. Sunday school class has started for the youth people and a family game night is held during the week.

Repairs are continuing to be done on the chapel. The new roof is finished, a new front door was installed, and the next large project will be repairing windows in sanctuary.

The Community Christian Church of Rosenberg

5220 Reading Road
Rosenberg, TX 77471 →
(281) 342-3060

Sunday School 9:00 AM
Worship Service 10:30 AM
Wednesday Eve. 5:30 PM
Prayer Service and Bible Study

Youth Minister: Position open



CALDWELL BRETHREN CHURCH

401 South Main Street
(979) 567-7203

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

Sunday School
9:30 AM

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

Sunday Worship
10:30 AM

Church email: lifeatcbc@gmail.com

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

www.lifeatcbc.org *Come as you are...* *Friend us on Facebook!*

Mulanga, and Papa John Tembo. The middle children also went to Livingstone. Blu and Darbi, Diana, Hildah, Abby, and myself had fun with this group. Besides eating out each day and swimming each day, we also went to Victoria Falls. The youngest children went to Choma. They had a fun-filled day playing and eating pizza.

In August, we had fun learning activities for the children.

In December, there will be Christmas activities planned. I know that some of you will chuckle, even laugh, but I will be teaching a cooking/baking class with some of the children. This is always a fun time.

Darbi and Blu, with Debbie's help, have a wonderful program for the children. Each Saturday, village children come and play at NDO with NDO children. They also hear a Bible lesson taught by Darbi or Blu. Then, they eat supper. I help with the dishes. When one has between 150 to 250 children eating, everyone pitches in to wash dishes.

Every Thursday evening, we all gather together for a time of singing praises to God and a time of prayer.

The New Day Family keeps growing. Little Emmanuel, Luyando, and Edna are our newest additions. Mama Yolantah has joined us as the newest House Mother.

Life here is good. Yes, there are days when it is Praising God, going to school, doing our work, or playing. However, there are days when we get a new child, or a team from the United States comes to help.

Life is good, God is good, and we just praise His Holy Name for all He has done. →

From the Thiessen's in Mexico...

January 25, 2017

Dear friends,

The Catholic church near where we were holding our mentor sessions was celebrating their patron saint with much ringing of bells and fire crackers powerful enough to shift the tiles on your roof. St. Sebastian was a guard for the Roman Emperor Diocletian. When Sebastian became a Christian, Diocletian ordered him taken to a field and tied to a tree where he was used as target practice. He was left for dead, his body so full of arrows Diocletian called him a porcupine. But somehow he survived, rescued by a Christian named Irene. After he recovered, he encountered and reprimanded the Emperor for persecuting Christians and was beaten to death for his affront. His body was thrown into the sewers. The people throwing fire crackers in his honor and handling his statue for good luck probably knew little about his life, or the faith he died for – twice. As Protestants, we aren't much better. I had to look him up on Wikipedia. It would do us good to know about the faith of our spiritual ancestors.

During one of our mentoring sessions, I saw St. Sebastian's kind of faith at work. A Mixtec believer, Rachel, was tested by her village. The authorities gave her a choice. She could parade the statue of the village's patron saint around the village for three days, going door to door, allowing people to handle the statue for good fortune, or she could serve in a medical clinic for an entire year. They



knew she had turned away from faith in statues to follow a living Christ, but they wanted to see how far her faith would go. She took the year-long job. In Mexico, Indians who choose to follow Christ still may face persecution: extra work in the community; fines; jail time; loss of their homes; exile; sometimes even death. Rachel showed the seriousness of her commitment to Christ.

I learned about Rachel during a mentoring session with the pastor who visits her village. There are no other believers there. He was describing how he goes weekly to study the Bible with her family. I asked him if he had envisioned this family as a start of a new church that could reproduce in the surrounding villages. Did he have faith to envision Rachel and her husband as leaders (pastors) of a tiny congregation (where two or three are gathered) that would grow and reproduce itself? I told him the story of Alfonso in Honduras, many years ago, who, looking at the mountains surrounding his village home stated, "I am asking God to give me all the villages I can see as new church homes." At the end of our conversation, the pastor said. "You have started me thinking. I wonder if we haven't been going about things wrong. I wonder if we aren't treating Rachel's family like the government does, carrying her along with us, making her dependent on us forever. I wonder if we couldn't train her family to lead, instead." We talked about the next steps: baptism for the family; prayer and fasting as leaders are named; weaning them of Bible studies led by an outsider; passing on to them the privilege of meeting as a church around

the Lord's table...

Our second mentoring session of the day was with Mariano, who had an announcement to make. "After ten years of living in the village, I have finished my missionary task and am making plans to leave the village and start work elsewhere." Mariano, from northern Mexico, had moved into an unreached Mixtec village, carrying the gospel in his words and daily life. He invested ten years in that village. Now he is leaving two Mixtec elders (Pedro One and Pedro Two, he calls them) to carry on. We helped Mariano make plans to recognize the Pedros and their small band as a church through the same steps we had outlined for Rachel's family: baptism, commissioning leaders, and meeting as a church around the Lord's table. The steps sound so simple, but each is so difficult for Mixtec believers to take under threat of persecution. Mariano is already wondering if the Pedros will pay fines or spend time in jail for taking any one of these steps. They've already talked about this possibility and are willing to face it. Please pray for Rachel and her family and the two Pedros!

Boom! Boom! The firecrackers continued in the background. I told Mariano that God was celebrating His faithfulness in that village and the birth of a church there. Mariano, a quiet, gentle, persevering saint, just smiled. He was only doing his job.

Anne

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

February 13, 2017

Dear friends,

Often when we sense the presence of God most is during corporate worship. But for me these days, I feel the power of the Spirit most when I am meeting with the pastors and missionaries who work in these Oaxacan mountains in small, indigenous villages. Though it looks like we are just having an ordinary conversation about life, I feel as if I am standing on holy ground.

Yesterday I met with three pastors who have committed to training up new leaders who will take the gospel to new places. Pepe and Francisco are mentoring Pascual, who is visiting Yuxia, and Ilarino, who is visiting La Laguna. Marcos is mentoring two couples: Luis and Conchis, who are visiting Guerrero, and Eduardo and Gladis, who are taking their witness to Abasolo. Together we committed these new leaders to God and asked for them to be the start of a multiplication of churches in their area.

Today we met with the missionary Mariano, who is planning for the birth of the church in his town San Pedro. In two weeks we will be honored to go to San Pedro, where he and others will baptize and lay hands on the two men he mentors, recognizing the gift of leadership God has given them. We are invited to go to this holy birth, but we are not sure if this is advisable, since we don't want the local authorities to perceive this new church as belonging to outsiders. We will wait to see what Mariano decides. Both of the new leaders, as you might recall from a former letter, are named Pedro. There are probably many more called

Pedro in this town, because Peter is their patron saint, the defender of their town and their identity. Each year the village holds a week-long festival in Peter's honor, and the entire town chips in to help, and people come from surrounding villages to visit and catch up on the latest news, and festivities, and market wares. It is an important and cherished week, much like a Superbowl.

As we talked to Mariano about his work in San Pedro, he mentioned that he has used their veneration of Peter to help them understand the true Peter and his part in the gospel story. In this way, the two Pedros came to Christ, and in this way, the two Pedros also witness to others, retelling the story of Peter and his relationship with the living Christ. Brainstorming together with Mariano, we talked about creating a list of Bible stories, all Peter's experiences, that would help people understand the basics of the gospel and the life of the early church. We would create a colored brochure with illustrations from these stories, titled *The Life of St. Peter*, to give to the authorities of the town as gifts, and also to the two Pedros for use in evangelism, when they would tell the stories in Mixteco. It would be an opportunity to find common ground with the town by respecting Peter's faith and setting the example of sharing the gospel through telling relevant Bible stories they've never heard in their native tongue.

Surely this is holy ground?

Blessings,
Anne

