

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL



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36 Pages

Needed: FRIENDS OF THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

— from the editor

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

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Easter Cantata Choral participants standing in front of the St. Joseph Manor in Caldwell, Texas, after their performance for the residents on April 2, 2017. (See story inside this issue.)

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Easter Cantata Performance

... and so much more!

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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Industry Brethren Church Fundraiser Invitation

The Industry Brethren Church in-
vites you to join them on Sunday,
May 7, 2017, for their 28th Annual
Fried Chicken Fund Raiser. The event
will be held at the Industry Fireman's
Hall located at 16632 Fordtran Blvd.,
Industry, Texas. Cost is \$10 per plate
and a free-will donation for your choice
of dessert. You can eat there or pick
up plates to go. Serving is from 11
a.m. until 1 p.m. In addition to the
meal, there will be an auction, raffle,
and country store. For additional in-
formation, please contact Liz Treybig
at 512-217-2140.

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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“It’s Always a Two-Step!”

Jesus keeps crying out, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” (Luke 10:27, NRSV)

Jesus is always speaking out of holy love, “Dance with Me, TODAY! Dance with Me, NOW! Do not delay. I AM here, THIS MOMENT.”

The deepest most fulfilling spiritual life imaginable is a “two-step dance” with Jesus.

Call it a polka or a Texas Waltz if you prefer.

Jesus is saying in heavenly love, “Dance with Me.”

Forget about your to-do list.

Pay no attention to those achy joints.

Get lost in the joy of moving through every second of every day in a two-step dance with Jesus.

Morning stress hits:

Two-step

Afternoon complications arrive:

Two-step

Evening exhaustion kicks in:

Two-step

Middle-of-the-night thoughts race:

Two-step

THIS is praying without ceasing!
THIS is allowing God’s Word to renew your mind!

THIS is knowing the resurrection power of Jesus Christ!

THIS is gaining Christ!

A Prayer:

Come, Holy Spirit. Come and fill us until our hearts and minds have You alone as our rudder. It is as we cry out to You and follow what You say at all costs that our lives ride the wave of Your peace and comfort regardless of what may come. We live by Your blood, Jesus. Upon the blood that You shed, there is absolutely nothing that we cannot overcome. Fear loses its power. Anxiety melts away. Sins that choke us atrophy. Anger and depression are obliterated. Almighty hand of Jesus Christ, we stand in Your power! As we dance with You, our purpose becomes clear and our joy remembers that its source is friendship with You. Come, Spirit. Draw us into this abundant lifestyle of persistent abandonment of the world’s priorities and persevering holy surrender into You.

In Faith in Jesus We Pray,

In the Power of the Blood of Jesus Christ, we dance! Amen.

Jesus keeps crying out, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” (Luke 10:27, NRSV)

Will you do the “two-step” with Jesus, letting Him lead?

In Jesus’ Hands,
Right With You.

Sister Vanessa Mitchell

The Uncle I Never Knew

- by Jim Pokorny

He was but one of the many young men who answered his country's call in World War II. He was also one of the many who paid the ultimate price. He left behind a wife and a very young daughter. His name was Willie Mikeska, and he was the uncle I never knew.

Uncle Willie served aboard the heavy cruiser *USS Indianapolis*, which delivered the components for the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima that led to the war's end. Although a terrible weapon, it forced the surrender of Japan, saving an untold number of lives on both sides by preventing an invasion of the Japanese homeland.

I am unable to tell the story in his words, so I tell it using the exact words of the men who shared in the tragedy and survived. It is a difficult story, but it is a story that needs to be told and retold... lest we forget.

The *USS Indianapolis* was the flagship of the Fifth Fleet. She was 623 feet long, 66 feet wide, and displaced 10,000 tons. She had an illustrious history even before the war. President Franklin Roosevelt used her as his ship of state traveling to various ports around the world. In this capacity, she was more than a ship, she was a symbol of American might and power.

Uncle Willie grew up on a Central Texas farm, and I suspect seeing her for the first time must have been quite an experience. In the words of one survivor: "Oh, it was the biggest thing I ever seen in my life. I looked

at it like that, and I said, 'Oh, my God. Old country boy out there, farm boy, I never seen a tractor that big.'"

The *Indianapolis* was commanded by Captain Charles Butler McVay III. McVay was a career naval officer and the son of an admiral. McVay had the respect of his men and his superiors. It was just a matter of time before he would achieve the rank of admiral. One survivor stated: "You enjoyed being on the *Indianapolis*." Another: "I could have never asked for a better ship and better men." The ship had an impressive service record, earning a total of 10 battle stars. She escorted 21 Matson liners loaded with Army and Marine personnel to Australia. From there she headed to Alaska and the Bering Sea. The men wore heavy winter gear while battling rough seas. One man stated: "We'd go over one wave and under two." Another: "The ship was awash almost all the time." Still another: "We had to go out break the ice off of the life lines."

History books tell us about the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. They often omit the fact that Japanese troops occupied several of Alaska's Aleutian Islands. Upon arrival, the *Indianapolis* sank a Japanese ammunition ship and then trained her 8-inch guns on enemy strongholds on islands such as Attu and Kiska.

She was then ordered to the South Pacific, where she was needed at the battle of Tarawa. According to one man: "I wasn't even 18 years old. They wasn't nothing but a bunch of kids." She saw action in the Marshall

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.

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

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

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

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

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

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. Kay Polasek

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.
Interim Pastor – Brad Herridge

Pasadena – Sunday School at 9:30 AM
and worship at 10:45 AM every Sunday.
– 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.
– Pastor Lisa Johnson

Islands, Saipan, Tinian, Guam, the
Philippine Sea, and Peleliu. The first
week of February 1945, the *Indiana-*
napolis was a mere 30 miles off the
coast of the Japanese homeland in
support of aircraft carriers whose
planes were wreaking havoc in Japan.

From there the *Indianapolis* was
ordered to the Island of Iwo Jima to
take part in the shelling of the island
prior to and during the amphibious
assault. A number of her crew wit-
nessed the historic raising of the
American flag on Mount Suribachi.
Before ground forces had taken com-
plete control of Iwo Jima, the *India-*
napolis was ordered to proceed to
the island of Okinawa, where a brand-
new threat awaited her.

By the time of the battle of Okinawa
the Japanese struggle became a des-
perate one. With few experienced pi-
lots remaining, Japan turned to a new
and frightening form of combat – the
Kamikaze. These were suicide pilots
whose mission was to fly their explo-
sive laden planes directly into their
targets.

The *Indianapolis* was credited with
shooting down seven. As a heavy
cruiser, she was a large target and her
luck could not hold out forever. The

following account is a compilation of
statements made by some of the sur-
vivors: “At Okinawa, there was an
awful lot of Kamikaze planes. Some
days there was a hundred up there.
You know that was a really scary
thing. – You can’t dig a foxhole aboard
a ship when you have Kamikaze planes
coming at you. – And we happened to
be at the tail end of the picket line that
particular day. – It was early in the
morning when the sun was just com-
ing up. – We missed it. It come in right
over the bow. – And a plane come out
of the sun that... No one saw it. –
They just said, ‘Man your battle
stations! Man your battle stations!’ –
I saw the plane, and he looked like he
was coming right to me... – That
thing hit the fan tail and we didn’t
have armor plating on the fan tails. –
And the bomb that the plane carried
went clear through the ship, all of the
decks. – It went down. It didn’t hit
nothing solid till it hit the drive shaft
and then it exploded, and it blew up
underneath. – And that caught all
these guys in their bunks.”

In total, 9 men were killed aboard
the *Indianapolis* with another 30 in-
jured. Funeral services were held on



Temple Brethren Church

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

Tim Chaplin, Interim Pastor
(254) 718-3898

the quarter deck. The bodies were respectfully loaded aboard landing craft and taken to Okinawa for burial. The island was still far from secure and the American forces there were under sniper fire from a number of unknown locations. American forces took possession of the bodies for future burial.

The damage to the *Indianapolis* was extensive and she had taken on a good deal of water. Listing at 17 degrees, she made her way to Guam for spare parts before limping back to the United States for repairs. She continued to list for the duration of the trip. This made it difficult for the men to stand or to do any work.

She passed under the Golden Gate Bridge on her way to the dry docks of the Mare Island Naval Yard in San Francisco. The men were given leave while the 30-day repair work was performed. Many visited home, including my Uncle Willie, who had just enough time to visit his family before returning.

A number of men reported premonitions of an ill-fated journey. According to Mother's accounts, her brother Willie had such a premonition. One man stated: "The last day I was home, my mother was sitting on the front porch. She said, 'Oh, yeah, I know something's wrong. You don't act like yourself.' And I said, 'Well, I'm dreading going back this time. I feel bad about it.' And she said, 'Well, I wish I could go for you, but I can't. I wish I could go with you, but I can't.' And she said, 'But we know who can.' And I said, 'Yes, Mother. Jesus.'"

I can imagine similar conversations taking place between many sons and mothers throughout the United States, including perhaps my uncle and grandmother.

After 30 days, repairs to the ship were complete. She departed the next day under orders to proceed to Hunter's Point to pick up special cargo for delivery. Upon arrival, a huge crate

Community Christian Church in Rosenberg, TX. Services was held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 21, 2016, at the Community Christian Church in Rosenberg, TX, with Reverend Ben Kruse officiating. Following the funeral service, a graveside service was held at the Czech National Cemetery in East Bernard, TX.



TRCALEK, JR., BEN FRANK, age 70, was born February 13, 1946, in Bryan, Texas, to Ben F. Trcalek, Sr., and Martha (Hovorak) Trcalek. He was baptized at Cooks Point Brethren Church at an early age and confirmed in the Caldwell Brethren Church in 1959. He graduated from Caldwell High School in 1964. He attended Texas Christian University 1964-1969 on a football scholarship. He graduated in 1969 with a B.S. in Physical Education/Biology & Science. Ben taught for a short time in Ft. Worth, then spent 14 years teaching and coaching at Spring Branch ISD in Houston. All but one year was spent at Westchester High School, where he was Head Football Coach 1979-1984.

He moved back to Cooks Point in March of 1984 to begin his career as a rancher, businessman, investor, and civic leader. He owned and operated with his parents the Rocking T Ranch in and around Cooks Point, and was a founding director of Peoples National Bank. Ben was a long-time member and supporter of Caldwell Brethren Church, serving on the Board of Elders and various committees several times while also serving in many other community organizations.

Ben died Saturday, February 11, 2017, and was preceded in death by his parents, Ben & Martha Trcalek; grandparents, B.K. Trcalek & Anna F. (Vavra) Trcalek and Joe F. Hovorak & Albina H. (Luksa) Hovorak; and by two aunts, Esther Trcalek Zavodny and

husband George, Lottie Hovorak Drgac and husband Frank; and two uncles Willie Trcalek, Raymond Hovorak and wife Doris; and cousin Randal Ray Hovorak. He is survived by aunt, Gladys Trcalek Hejl, and many cousins, acquaintances, family, and friends. Funeral Services were held at the Caldwell Brethren Church with Rev. Vanessa Mitchell officiating.

ZETAK, ELIZABETH ALICE, 84, of Temple was born in Taylor, Texas, to Edwin Maly and Albina Simcik Maly on December 25, 1932. She passed away in Temple on February 5, 2017. She married Stanley Zetak September 4, 1954, and lived in Taylor for 46 years and then moved to Temple. She had been a member of Taylor Brethren Church, Granger Brethren Church, and Temple Brethren Church. She was preceded in death by her husband, Stanley, her parents, three sisters, and one brother. Survivors include two sons, Scott Zetak of Temple; Kelly Zetak and wife Susan of Franklin, Tennessee; one daughter, Paula Vasek and husband Gary of Temple; one sister, Georgia Tyrock of Taylor; and three granddaughters. Graveside services were held at Central Texas State Veteran's Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Granger Brethren Church. Minister: Rev. Mark Labaj.

ZRUBEK, JOSEPHINE A. (VITEK), age 101, and a member of the Granger Brethren Church, passed away on March 16, 2017. She is survived by a daughter, Georgie Moldenhour of Georgetown; two sons, Darwin Zrubek and wife Katherine of Taylor, and Eugene Zrubek and wife Patsy, also of Taylor. There are also five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Graveside services were held on March 19 at the Granger Brethren Cemetery. Condra Funeral Home in Taylor was in charge of the arrangements. Minister: Rev. Larry Zabcik.



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!

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.*

Station, TX. Officiating Pastors: Rev. Thomas Tallas, Dr. Rev. Larry Koslovsky, and Rev. James D. Hejl.

Memorials may be made to the Hus Encampment – Baletka Memorial Fund, c/o Todd Corporon, 210 Phillips St., Hutto, TX 78634.



DICKEHUT, MAXINE ESTELLE, 87, of Rosenberg TX, passed away peacefully on September 17, 2016, in Galveston, TX. She was born to the late Arno Frank and Norma (Mewis) Frank on January 8, 1929, in Bellville, TX. Maxine graduated from Bellville High School and married her high school sweetheart, Lawrence Dickehut. They were married for 36 years until his death in 1983. Maxine loved God, her family, and life. She was a Member of Christian Sisterhood, AARP, and Brethren Church in Rosenberg. Maxine was preceded in death by her father, Arno Frank; mother, Norma Frank; and daughter, Angela Hafer. Survivors include her son Dave Dickehut and wife Mary; her sister, Bernice Blum; 4 grandchildren, William Dickehut, Sara Hawkes and husband Matt, Kristie Diaz and husband Mark, Kim Browning and husband Scott; and six great-grandchildren, along with extended family and friends. A memorial service was held on September 23, 2016, and officiated by Brother Larry Koslovsky at the Rosenberg Brethren Church.

DOCKAL, LESLIE EDWARD, lived at Cade Lake, Texas. He is the son of Jesse and Winnie Bender Dockal. He was born on August 3, 1943. They lived near Willow Springs, TX (Schoenau Community). He attended Bellville Schools. Leslie was married to Shirley A. Phillips. He was confirmed at the Industry Brethren Church by Rev. Henry Beseda, Jr. He died August 16, 2014 at his home. He was 71 years of age at death. His service was held at Strickland Funeral Home on August 23, 2014. He is buried at the Industry Brethren Church Cemetery.

DUVE, MARTIN L., was born June 19, 1954, and died January 8, 2015. He is buried at the Industry Brethren Church Cemetery beside his parents. Martin's parents are Roy Dean Duvé and Bessie Anna Koslovsky Duvé. He was married to Barbara G. Cunningham and lived in Austin. He has a sister, Mary (Wesley) Eisenman, and brothers, Allen (Donna) Duvé, Gene (Holly) Duvé, and James (Cindy) Duvé.

MACHAC, MARTIN, is buried in an unmarked grave at the Industry Brethren Church Cemetery. Born about 1833 and died 1892. Father of Frances Machac Coufal, Annie Machac Schumaker, and John Machac (buried at Bila Hora Cemetery). Husband of Annie Haslac Machac (believed to be buried at St. John's Lutheran Cemetery, Fayetteville; and Evelyn Roznoviak Machac (2nd wife, buried in Bila Hora Cemetery). Rev. Henry Juren officiated at Martin Machac's funeral.

SOMMERLATTE, ISABELLA COUFAL, was born May 11, 1921, at Fayetteville, Texas, to Alvin and Adela Menking Coufal. She was baptized June 12, 1921, at Haw Creek, Texas, and confirmed on October 18, 1936. She was married to John Sommerlatte, Sr., on June 8, 1941. She has a son, John Sommerlatte, Jr., and daughters, Pauline Zwerneman (James) and Frances Merkel (Delphine). Grandchildren are Scott & Crystal Zwerneman, Lisa & Randy Dobias, Delta & Richard Kolajajak, Deanna & Stephen Schaffer, and Korbin Kolajajak; brother & sister-in-law, Alvin Henry & Verna Jean Coufal; sister, Earline Coufal (Lester); and sister, Madeline Movan (preceded her in death). She worked for 22 years at Woodson Lumber Company. She enjoyed crocheting, needlework, and baking pudding cakes, kolaches, and coconut pies. Isabella died March 7, 2013. Services were held by Memorial Oaks Funeral Home in Brenham. She resided at the Oak Haven Nursing Home in Industry in her later years. She was an avid Houston Astros fan. The funeral service was held on March 11, 2013, at the Welcome Lutheran Church with Rev. Michael Groseclose presiding. She is buried at the Industry Brethren Church Cemetery.

SONTAG, LILLIE, age 93, passed away peacefully on April 15, 2016, at her residence in Rosenberg, TX. She previously resided in Sugar Land, TX, for more than 30 years. Lillie was born on October 27, 1922, to Olga Provacek and John Witek. She was predeceased by her husband, Johnnie Frank Sontag, as well as her parents. She is survived by her daughter, Betty J. Ragsdale of Rosenberg, TX; grandchildren, Steven Smelly of Cleveland, TX, Brian and Brandon Ragsdale of Rosenberg, TX, and Brandy Hemphill of Needville, TX. She also leaves behind her sisters Evelyn Hansen of Webster, TX, Doris Milam of Sacramento, CA, and Ann Romano of The Woodlands, TX, as well as her nephews, nieces, cousins, and a host of friends. She was a member of the

was brought aboard complete with a detachment of Marines to guard it. This crate held the components of the atomic bomb. A lead container was brought aboard and taken to the admiral's quarters, where it was welded to the deck. The captain was given the order that should anything happen to the ship, this container was to be put aboard a life raft before anything else.

All of this was Top Secret. The sailors began to speculate as to what was in the large container and some wagering took place. One thought it contained a Cadillac for General MacArthur. Another speculated it contained whiskey for everyone to celebrate the end of the war. The most imaginative was that the crate contained 20,000 rolls of scented toilet paper for the good general.

The *Indianapolis* was ordered to travel at best speed without an escort to Pearl Harbor. Averaging a speed of over 29 knots, she arrived at Pearl Harbor in 72 hours for refueling; a record for that size ship that still stands today.

From there she was to proceed to Tinian, where the cargo would be offloaded. As the mission was top secret, the *Indianapolis* would still not be provided with a destroyer escort. She arrived at Tinian without incident and offloaded her top-secret cargo. According to one man: "There was more brass on the dock that day than I ever seen before."

She set course for Guam to resupply, and there McVay received orders to proceed to Leyte Gulf in the Philippines. With the mission successfully completed, McVay requested a de-

stroyer escort. This was denied even though the journey was to cover some 1,500 miles. According to one survivor: "They told him no. Says, 'You don't need one There are no enemy submarines in the area where you're going.' So, we proceeded without one."

The premonitions felt by the men were about to become reality. Visibility became poor so McVay issued the order to discontinue zig-zagging until conditions changed. Just after midnight on Monday, July 30, 1945, the *Indianapolis* crossed paths with the I-58 commanded by Captain Hashimoto. It was one of the few remaining operational submarines in the Imperial Japanese Navy. Hashimoto felt no need to use his manned suicide torpedoes known as Kaitens. He fired a spread of six torpedoes at two second intervals and waited.

At ten minutes after midnight one of the torpedoes struck the bow and the resulting explosion sheared it off. Two seconds later the second torpedo struck amidships. The resulting explosion ignited the aviation gasoline and knocked out the ship's electrical power. As a result, the engine room did not receive the order to stop the engines. Travelling at full speed with no bow, the *Indianapolis* was taking on water at an incredible rate.

Captain McVay quickly assessed the situation and gave the order to abandon ship, but with no electrical power the word had to be passed from man to man. "Captain said, 'Pass the word to abandon ship.' Well, all we could do is yell and scream, 'Abandon ship! Abandon ship!'" Some men



sensing the ship was doomed did not wait for the order. "I says, 'Go get us some life jackets,' so he went and he came back in a few minutes, and had one. So, he gave me that one. I didn't ever see him again." The ship began its death roll and nosed down into the water. An explosion threw Captain McVay clear of the *Indianapolis*. Ten minutes after the first torpedo struck, the aft section of the cruiser slipped beneath the waves.

"I was scared to death. I just remembered my mother saying, 'We know who can go with you,' so it prompted me to pray a little short prayer. Said, 'Lord, help me,' and when I did, I had a feeling of calm and wellbeing."

There were 1,916 aboard the *Indianapolis* when she left Guam. An estimated 880 men managed to get off the ship, but their ordeal had just begun. Scattered across an area covering 20 square miles, the more fortunate found themselves in one of the six or seven

groups. "What do we do sir? What do we do sir?" Well, you know, being an officer, I didn't know what to do, really, I'd never been through this before." The remainder found themselves all alone in the largest ocean in the world.

The badly wounded clung to life for a few hours. Many men were covered with unheated oil that now had the consistency of tar. With daylight, some of the men found scattered life rafts and cargo nets. Those in groups spoke of distress signals and a rescue that was surely just hours away. As the hours passed, thoughts turned to their expected arrival. Surely when the ship failed to arrive a search would begin immediately. These hopes were doomed. Standard procedure was for arrivals to be noted. Non-arrivals were not.

Planes in the distance were seen from time to time. The men yelled and thrashed the water. This merely sapped them of their strength. They were too

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.

VITAL STATISTICS

NEW MEMBERS

Temple Brethren had three new members join in January: Betty Marek, Norman and Gladys Hluchan. They have been long-time active participants and we rejoice that they chose to become Members.

DEATHS



BALETKA, JAMES (JIM) CRAIG, age 61, completed his earthly journey and went to join his Lord on January 28, 2017. He was born August 30, 1955, to William John Baletka, Jr., and Joyce Siptak Baletka in Temple, Texas, where his father was the minister of the Brethren Church. Jim received his degree in Agriculture Economics from Texas A&M in 1977 and began his career in banking and real estate appraising in Victoria. Later he moved to Austin and purchased a bar-b-q restaurant. His love of A&M led him back to College Station as a member of the University Housing staff, followed by employment at On-Line Real Estate.

Although Jim had remained a bachelor well into his 40s, on May 1, 1999, he married Dawn Marie Zak Hayes at the Hus Encampment and became both a husband and a dad. His children (Megan, Brynn, and Michael) meant the world to him. He taught them to

fish and to hunt, and play dominoes, but more importantly he taught them to love, to be thankful, and to have a giving heart.

Jim was a man of great faith and greater love. He enjoyed the simple things of life: being with friends and family, fishing, hunting, and witnessing God's handiwork in a quiet sunrise or sunset. Jim held many roles in life, but there were two that meant more than any others. The first is that he was a Christian man who placed God and family above all else. The second is best said from the slogan on his favorite non-Aggie T-Shirt, "There Aren't Many Things I Love More Than FISHING, But One of Them is Being PAPA." Being PaPa to John Wayne, Nolyn, and Peyton brought joy and happiness to Jim beyond any measure. The sound of their voices or a glimpse of their faces overwhelmed Jim with love each and every time. Some men talk about faith – Jim lived his. Some profess love – Jim inspired it. Some claim honor – Jim gave it to all he met.

Jim is preceded in death by his father, John; brother, Bill; and grandparents. He is survived by his wife, Dawn Marie; daughters, Megan Elizabeth Bright and Brynn Victoria Biggs; son-in-law, Chris Biggs; son, P. Michael Hayes; grandson, John Wayne Bright; and granddaughters, Nolyn Elizabeth and Peyton Faith Biggs. Also surviving is his mother, Joyce; brother, Mark Baletka; and his wife, Susan.

Funeral Services and Celebration of Life were held at the Bryan-College Brethren Church with his final resting place made in the Aggie Field of Honor Cemetery, College



HOUSTON BRETHREN CHURCH

6207 North Main, Houston, TX 77009 – (713) 864-6707

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO WORSHIP WITH US
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 Skrivanek
Secretary
P.O. Box 1605
Bellaire, TX 77402
(713) 626-0522

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for May 2017

Dorothy E. Kocian

with Mari-Anne Kocian Gordon

1. Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Rom. 5:1
2. God commended His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Rom. 5:8
3. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. Rom. 10:17
4. Let the peace of God rule in your heart. Col. 3:15a
5. Grace and truth came by Christ. John 1:17b
6. Our fellowship is with the Father and His Son. I John 1:3
7. **Incline your heart unto the Lord. Josh. 24:23b**
8. All that the Lord said, we will do. Exodus 19:8
9. Pray that you will not fall into temptation. Lk. 22:40
10. Seek the Lord while He is near. Isa. 55:6
11. Blessed is the King that comes in the name of the Lord. Lk. 19:38
12. Peace be unto you. Lk. 24:36b
13. I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ. Rom. 1:16a
14. **God said, "Walk before Me and be perfect." Gen. 17:1b**
15. "I establish my covenant with you," said the Lord. Gen. 9:9
16. God gives grace to the humble. James 4:6b
17. All that is within me, bless His holy name. Ps. 103:1
18. God is the strength of my heart. Ps. 73:26b
19. His mercy is on them that fear Him. Lk. 1:50
20. May the God of peace be with you all. Rom. 15:33
21. **Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Ps. 96:9a**
22. In Him we live and have our being. Acts 17:28a
23. Be perfectly joined together in the same mind. I Cor. 1:10
24. Turn to the living God. Acts 14:15
25. All have sinned and come short of God's glory. Rom. 3:23
26. The Lord is my strength and song; He has become my salvation. Exodus 15:2a
27. He is my God, and I will exalt Him. Exodus 15:2b
28. **Jesus Christ is Lord of all. Acts 10:36b**
29. Though therefore be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. II Tim. 2:1
30. I will sing praise to the Lord God of Israel. Judges 5:3
31. Those that wait on the Lord will inherit the earth. Ps. 37:9b

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

far away to be seen much less heard. For the moment their biggest problem was the lack of water. Some ration kits containing spam were found. Unfortunately, this only served to make the men thirstier.

Under a blazing South Pacific sun, the men suffered from sunburn and skin lesions. They prayed for the cool of night. Shortly after dark the men would feel cold and prayed for the sun to come up again. Dr. Haynes, the chief medical officer, wanted to help the wounded and dying but had nothing to give them. He was forced to take on the role of coroner for his group. If a man was thought to have died, Dr. Haynes would confirm this. He would collect the dog tags of the deceased and remove his life jacket so that another could have it.

Then the sharks came. A few at first, then more. They circled cautiously at first as if they were not sure what to make of it all. In time, they became more aggressive. Some of the men were bleeding. These men often found themselves abandoned by their comrades for fear of shark attack.

Then the sharks moved in. "First day, I think we lost maybe 20 the first day. The second day was carnage all over. – There were hundreds of 'em. Hundreds of sharks. – You had to stay in a group. If you was out there by yourself, the shark had you." Being in a small group was no guarantee of safety. A number of small groups also became prey.

"And Tuesday came and we knew they weren't coming. – The third day seemed to be the hardest and we lost the most men."

The ship's chaplain, Father Tho-

mas Conway, gave his all before giving out himself "And Father Conway, he'd run into these men, and they'd be burned and dying and he would try to comfort them and do what he could, and he exhausted himself completely. He became incoherent and he died from exhaustion."

According to one survivor: "I saw some great heroism, and I saw some great fright, and I saw some... things that I would never want to talk about."

Then, just as the last of their strength and will began ebbing away, a miracle happened on Thursday, August 2, at 10:25 a.m. A PV-1 Ventura piloted by Lt. Chuck Gwinn was headed directly toward one group of survivors. Some 150 miles from his base, Lt. Gwinn was flying at an altitude of 8,000 feet. Taking in about 20 square miles in his field of vision he spotted a man's head surrounded by a gray kapok life jacket. Gwinn referred to this as a miracle. A survivor referred to this as the providence of God. Refocusing his gaze, he spotted another, and another and another. In no time the scope of the situation became clear. Gwinn went into a dive to signal the men below that they had been seen. One man later said, "Most beautiful plane you ever saw in your life."

Gwinn sent a coded message to the base at Peleliu to send surface ships to the area immediately. A short time later a PBY Catalina piloted by Lt. Adrian Marks arrived on the scene to investigate. After assessing the situation, Marks radioed the base: "Make emergency flank speed. Minutes mean lives." His crew busied themselves



dropping supplies out of the back of the plane. They reported to Marks seeing men being attacked by sharks. Marks and his crew decided to ignore standing orders and attempt a water landing despite 8 to 12 foot swells.

Marks landed the plane, but it was clear from the damage incurred that it would never take off again. He radioed his exact location and then taxied his plane around as his men brought the survivors aboard. They focused their efforts on lone individuals assuming they made the easiest prey for the sharks. Once the body of the plane was filled, additional survivors were placed on the Catalina's wings.

Around midnight the first ship arrived. The *USS Cecil J Doyle* moved in and shined her light up into the clouds to illuminate a wider area and to give the men hope. The *Doyle* was joined by the *USS Bassett*, the *USS*

Ralph Talbot and the *USS Ringness*. The men were transferred from the plane to the *Doyle*. The PBY was then sunk and the *Doyle* headed for Peleliu.

The survivors in the water were now extremely weak. Men from the rescue vessels bravely jumped into shark infested waters to help them aboard. As they were brought aboard, the crews of these vessels took care of them. Captain McVay was eventually rescued, but he insisted his men be treated first.

Out of a crew of 1,196 men, an estimated 880 made it into the water on July 30. Of these, only 317 survived their ordeal at sea.

World War II ended just weeks later.irate family members wanted answers. The Navy, rather than take the blame for not looking for the *Indianapolis* or denying her an escort, court-martialed Captain McVay.



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about naming your church
or a Unity of the Brethren
agency as a beneficiary
in an existing or new
SPJST insurance certificate.*

**SPJST
520 NorthMain Street
Temple, Texas 76501
(800) 727-7578**

Save the Dates . . .

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

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

October 13-15, 2017 – Primetimers' Retreat at the Hus Encampment. More info to come 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

Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

May 5-7, 2017 – Annual Youth Fishing Retreat in Port O'Connor, Texas. Youth 12 years old and over. Must have a saltwater fishing license if you are over the age of 16. Contact Jennifer Chervenka for more information at jennchervenka@farm-market.net, or (254) 983-1002.

May 7, 2016 – 28th Annual Fried Chicken Fund Raiser for Industry Brethren Church at the Industry Fireman's Hall (16632 Fordtran Blvd., Industry, TX). Eat there or plates to go serving 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Auction, desserts available, country store, and raffle. For more info, contact Liz Treybig at (512) 217-2140.

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

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

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

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

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

**For more information about
the 2017 camping season
or to register, go to:
www.huscamp.org**

Brethren Book Store

P.O. Box 321

Caldwell, TX 77836

(979) 200-0513

Diane Heckman, Manager

He faced two charges and remains the only captain in the history of the U. S. Navy ever to be court martialed for losing his ship in a time of war. They even brought in Captain Hashimoto of the I-58 to testify. The survivors felt that this was an affront to the crew as well as to McVay. McVay was found guilty of failing to zig-zag even though Hashimoto testified he still would have sunk the *Indianapolis*. Many felt that although the proceedings were perfectly legal, justice had not been served.

Captain Charles Butler McVay III took his life in 1968.

Over 50 years after the tragedy, 12-year old Hunter Scott made this the subject of his school project for National History Day. He interviewed many survivors and even testified before the U. S. Congress. In October 2000, Congress passed a resolution stating that the late Captain McVay should be exonerated for the loss of the *USS Indianapolis*. This was signed into law by President Clinton. In July 2001, Secretary of the Navy Gordon R. England ordered McVay's official Navy record purged of all wrongdoing.

Additionally, a Veterans Memorial Committee suggested that the Navy award Father Thomas Conway the Navy Cross. This was denied in 2015.

According to Peggy Campo, the daughter of a survivor, "There were many, many men that worked so hard during the war, and the real heroes are the ones that didn't come home."

John 15:13 (NET) – No one has greater love than this – that one lays down his life for his friends.

His name was Willie Mikeska, and he was the uncle I never knew.

HUS ENCAMPMENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairman: Mark Olsen (2009), 1316 Howard St., Taylor, TX 75674; (512) 630-5153; olsenemcee@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Todd Corporon (2016), 210 Phillips St., Hutto, TX 78634; (512) 922-9292; toddcorporon@yahoo.com

At-Large: Phil Michalik, 15918 Brook Forest Dr., Houston, TX 77059; pmichalik1@peoplepc.com

Christian Sisters' Union Executive Committee Reps:

Paula Wagner (Chr.Sis. 2015), 10506 Mourning Dove Dr., Austin, TX 78750; (512) 632-6644; paulak1121@sbcglobal.net

Carolyn Beseda (Chr.Sis. 2016), 2515 Lazybrook Dr., Houston, TX 77008; (281) 546-7941; carolyn.beseda@att.net

Board of Christian Education Rep: Tami Laza, 4913 FM 166, Caldwell, TX 77836; tami.laza@verizon.net

Brethren Youth Fellowship Leadership Team Rep: Jordan Eilers

Friends of the Hus Encampment Rep: Todd Snelgrove; rtsnelgrove@gmail.com

The Encampment is governed by a Board of Trustees of 8 members.

Terms: 2 years, may be re-elected/re-appointed for a maximum of 4 terms or 8 years (Unity of the Brethren By-Laws, Article XIV, Sec C, Par.4).

Non-Voting Appointments:

Programming Director: Amy Snelgrove agsnelgrove@hotmail.com

Unity Youth Coordinator: Jennifer Chervenka; jennchervenka@farm-market.net; (254) 983-1002

Facilities Manager: Jim (TxNFish@aol.com) & Dawn (DMBaletka@gmail.com) Baletka; (979) 693-2710; 3501 Kanati Cove, College Station, TX 77845.

Caretakers: Robert (rschlechte@hotmail.com) & Cathleen (schlechte86@msn.com) Schlechte; (979) 324-5560 or (979) 255-8266.

Synodical Committee Oversight: Rev. Larry Zabcik.

Hus Encampment Address: 3635 County Rd. 225, Caldwell, TX 77836; (979) 272-8176.

Spring Synodical Committee Meeting April 1, 2017 – 9:00 a.m. MINUTES

The Spring Synodical Committee meeting was held Saturday, April 1, at the Hus Encampment. There were 55 in attendance. The meeting was called to order with prayer at 9 a.m. by President Kent Laza.

With the loss of Jim Baletka, BCS Synodical Committee Representative, the BCS elders appointed Valerie Sebek. A motion was made to appoint Valerie Sebek as the Synodical Committee Representative for BCS by Rev. Mike Groseclose, seconded by Rev. Lawrence Junek and APPROVED.

The attendees then broke up into groups by regions (Houston, Austin County, Caldwell, Temple, and Taylor) and discussed ideas for regional coordination and sharing of resources. This activity was very well received by attendees. It was suggested to continue the talks at the Convention in July. Copies of the minutes from the Fall 2016 meeting were provided in print. Additionally, to save time, other reports (financial, *Brethren Journal*, Youth) were also provided in print form.

Rev. Dr. Mark Labaj was issued a call by the Synodical Committee to Specialized Ministry as a Hospital Chaplain at BS&W in Round Rock. Dr. Mark Labaj was issued a call by the Synodical Committee to Specialized Ministry as a Hospital Chaplain by Robert Berry. This action serves to endorse Rev. Dr. Labaj to the Association of Professional Chaplains, seconded by Rev. Lawrence Junek and APPROVED. He also requested

the Unity do what is required to be a recognized faith group by the Association of Professional Chaplains. A motion was made to proceed with necessary actions and reports to enable the Unity of the Brethren to become a recognized faith group by the Association of Professional Chaplains by Rev. Jim Heckman, seconded by Rev. Lawrence Junek and APPROVED.

Mark Olsen announced that the family of Rev. Albert Michalik is offering a small library to someone who could use it, especially pastors. It was stated that since Wall was his home church, it should go there. Wall Church is willing to take the library.

Mark Olsen presented a report from the Hus School Planning Committee. Materials were distributed to all in attendance. Much information was shared regarding the plans for the future. A full report will be given at the Convention. A motion was made to endorse the plan, to have it presented at Convention, and recommend for passage at Convention by Rev. Tommy Tallas, seconded by Rev. Joe Emerson and APPROVED.

Deanna Hairrell, a member of Snook, shared information on her upcoming mission trip (July 2017) to the Czech Republic. She will travel with Forney Baptist Church to Plzen, CR, to do English Camp with Larry and Melissa Lewis Deanna; asked for prayers as she prepares to go. Also, if anyone felt led, to provide financial support for this mission trip. Deanna is also,



Left to right, back row: Rose Autrey, Ginger Hejl, Bettie Poehl, Mary Polasek, Robin Dickey, Lynne Blinka, Joel Mitchell, Rev. Joseph Polasek, Daniel Vojtek, Rev. Vanessa Mitchell, Dr. Ron Dusek, Rev. Jim Heckman.

Left to right, front row: Bonnie Chandler, Ann Sebesta, Bonnie Walker, Barbara Drgac, Rachel Matcek, Lillian Matcek, Martha Huffman, Anna Wotipka, and Cindy Vojtek. Director: Lynette Urbanovsky.



Rev. Vanessa Mitchell with Choral Director, Lynette Urbanovsky

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Chair: Tami Laza – (2011) Bryan-College Station; Representative to Hus Board of Trustees
Peggy Hejl – (2014) Taylor Brethren
Debbie Clark – (2014) Crosby Brethren
Angie Hairrell – (2016) Snook Brethren
Angie Labaj (2016)
Sandra Merz (2016) Nelsonville
Jennifer Chervenka – Youth Coordinator, Ocker Brethren
Synodical Liaison – Rev. Larry Zabcik, 3rd Vice-President

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Easter Cantata

The Blood Will Never Lose its Power

Local area churches came together from Burleson and Brazos counties to form an Easter Cantata celebrating the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ this past April. The Cantata is called "The Blood Will Never Lose its Power" and has a lovely mix of traditional hymns and praise music. Sunday, April 2, 2017, the Cantata was performed for the residents at the St. Joseph Manor nursing home in Caldwell, Texas, as an outreach performance, and the Holy Spirit's Presence was tangible throughout. What a great honor to be able to share the love of Christ with the residents! The Cantata was also performed at Caldwell Brethren Church on Saturday, April 8th, and on Good

Friday at Snook Brethren Church. The Cantata has been a blessing to the performers as they share that "Jesus is Alive."

The Cantata was hosted by Caldwell Brethren Church and had participants from Caldwell Brethren Church, Cooks Point Brethren Church, College Station Brethren Church, Dime Box Brethren Church & Cade Lake Community Chapel, New Tabor Brethren Church, Lyons Evangelical United Church of Christ and Snook Brethren Church. There were even three of the local area Brethren ministers, Rev. Vanessa Mitchell, Caldwell; Rev. Jim Heckman, Dime Box & Cade Lake; and Rev. Joseph Polasek, Snook, who performed in the Cantata!



selling t-shirts to raise funds for the trip.

A report was presented by Rev. Tommy Tallas on the Minister's Retirement Program. The program will officially begin in April. Leonard Mikeska resigned from committee. A motion was made to appoint Liz Ripple to the Minister's Retirement Committee by Leonard Mikeska, seconded by Roy Janek and APPROVED. There was discussion on the differences in the amounts that congregations contribute. That will be worked on by the Executive Committee.

The Pastoral Credentialing brought forth five names for discussion. Tim Chaplin was considered for ordination. He has completed his seminary work. He is licensed to Temple and has served there for 4 years. Tim addressed the group. A motion was made to approve Tim Chaplin for ordination by Rev. Jim Heckman, seconded by Tommy Tallas and APPROVED. Tim will be ordained the Saturday of Convention. Rev. Dr. Larry Koslovsky prayed over Tim. The Credentialing Committee recommends licensing Lisa Johnson for one year to Westheimer. Lisa addressed the group. A motion to license Lisa

Johnson for one year to Westheimer Church was made by Rev. Joe Emerson, seconded by Rev. Tim Chaplin and APPROVED. Rev. Dr. Larry Koslovsky prayed over Lisa. Rev. Brad Herridge has been in Ocker since January as Interim Pastor. The 6-month get-acquainted period will be an opportunity for him and us as a denomination to explore the walk forward. He attended Baylor University and then Truitt Seminary. His denominational background was Baptist. He has been in ministry about 20 years. Brad addressed the group. Rev. Jimmy Hejl and Rev. Dr. Koslovsky will serve as mentors to Brad. At the Fall Synodical Meeting we will go through the licensing procedure. Sunny Langlinais and Dr. George Creamer will serve as pulpit supply.

Martha Dove report the pastoral duties are shared by Rev. Kay Polasek and Rev. Jim. Heckman. The board needs someone to replace Rev. Kay Polasek. If anyone was interested in serving on the Home Mission Board to contact Martha Dove. Repairs to the roof of the Cade Lake Chapel have been completed. The Board asked to spend the remaining loan money to



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512-352-6423

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

Pastor
James D. Hejl
512-365-6890

Board President
Buddy Michna
512-365-1621

Secretary
Mary Kokes
M-Th 8 a.m.-noon

repair the ceiling of the chapel, which was approved. A motion was made to add \$10,000 to the present budget of the Home Mission Board for additional salary for Rev. Kay Polasek and Rev. Jim Heckman by Rev. Mike Groseclose, seconded by Debbie Clark and APPROVED. Rev. Jim Heckman thanked everyone for their prayers over the past year.

Rev. Dr. Larry Koslovsky and Rev. Jimmy Hejl reported that the updated Catechism is 99% complete. It will be distributed to pastors for review. Next, Rev. Hejl and Rev. Koslovsky will write the companion to expand on the information in the Catechism. The updated Catechism will be introduced at Convention and approval will be asked for at that time.

The Executive Committee recommends bringing the funds of the Board of Grants & Bequests under the Unity Treasurer and the Executive Committee to manage. President Kent Laza

solicited the opinions of the Synodical Committee. This is a Convention Bylaw change. A motion was made to recommend to the Convention to dissolve the Board of Grants & Bequests and move remaining funds under the Unity Treasurer by Sid Srmensky, seconded by Dorothy Hinson and APPROVED.

A draft report from the Unity Questionnaire was shared by Secretary Angie Hairrell. She thanked the churches for sending in information. A full report will be provided at Convention.

Financial Secretary Liz Ripple reported that current assessments are \$35 per member. Some churches are paying different amounts or are behind. Minister retirement funds are also not being paid by some churches.

The Executive Committee recommends Liz Ripple for the Administrative Assistant position. In the job description, the administrative assis-

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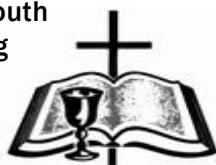
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Rev. Mark Sebek

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

Understanding the Story

Ask them how they got to church today. Did they arrive by car? Did they walk? Did they ride a bus? Allow children to respond and explain how they got to church. There are many different ways to get to church, but you all had to follow someone to get to church. Today we are going to learn about a man who had to follow God to get where God wanted him to be. But he wasn't going to church, but to a faraway place that he had never been to before. He had to trust that God knew what was best for him and follow God.

Tell the story of Abraham leaving his home and following God. You can read it from Genesis 12:1-7 or retell it in your own words. Emphasize that God had a plan for Abraham to be the father of a great nation – God promised Abraham that he'd have more descendants than all the stars in the sky.

Ask children if they can count the number of stars in the Milky Way? God's plans are always greater than we can ever imagine or dream. Just like God had great plans for Abraham, God has great plans for each of you.

As you give each student a Milky Way, tell them that God has great plans for (their name).

Milky Way Craft

Give each child a piece of black construction paper and star and planet stickers. Allow them to make a "Milky Way". Talk about how many stars and planets they have on their paper. Now rub all the empty spaces with a glue stick and allow them to sprinkle on glitter (messy, but worth it!). Now discuss the number of stars in the Milky Way and how God knows each of them!

Check out the blog and for more ideas and links!

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



Candy in the Bible Game

This is a fun game, especially for the tweens and teens.

Buy the following candy bars: 100 Grand Bar, Baby Ruth, Butterfinger, Crunch Bar, Hot Tamales, Kit Kat Bar, Lifesavers, M&M's, Nerds, Smarties, Snickers, Sour Punch, Starburst, and a Twix Bar.

Tell the students that each candy bar actually represents a character(s) in the Bible. To make it easier, you could provide the answers and have students match the character(s) to the candy bar.

Clues:

- Did you know that M&M's are in the Bible? *It's Mary and Martha!*
- Who is Baby Ruth? *It's Boaz' wife when she was just a wee little thing.*
- Who had the worst "Butterfingers" in the Bible? *Adam and Eve! They let Paradise slip right through their hands!*
- Who was caught "Snickering" in the Bible? *Sarah, of course, when she heard that God would give her a baby in her old age.*
- Were there any "Kit Kat's" in the Bible? *Just ask Daniel. He had to spend a night with several of them!*
- Who were the three "Hot Tamales" in the Bible? *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! They might have been hot in that furnace, but they didn't get burned!*
- When was the "Crunching" sound heard in the Bible? *Every time John the Baptist bit down on a locust!*
- Who thought they were a bunch of "Smarties"? *The Pharisees! They thought they were a bunch of know-it-alls!*
- I bet you don't know who the "Twix" were in the Bible? *Isaac had a couple of them – Jacob and Esau.*
- Who knows when there was a huge "Starburst" in the Bible? *It happened when Jesus was born! The wise men followed it to His manger.*
- Who took a "Sour Punch" in the Bible? *Goliath! Right between the eyes!*
- How can a "100 Grand Bar" remind us of what Jesus did for each of us? *He paid the price for our sins.*
- Who is the greatest "Lifesaver" of them all? *Jesus!*
- Who are the "Nerds" in this world? *Anyone who doesn't believe in Jesus! Let's pray for them right now.*



tant cannot be a Synodical Committee Representative. There is a 3-month period where she would still be a Synodical Committee Representative. A motion was made to allow overlap until the Convention by Dorothy Hinson, seconded by Rev. Tim Chaplin and APPROVED.

President Kent Laza presented an overview of Convention planning. July 6 will be reserved for pastors and their wives. The general convention will begin July 7. A primary goal of this convention is to make it less business oriented and more educational, similar to a conference with sessions. The ordination of Rev. Tim Chaplin is currently set for Saturday. A memorial service for the 3 pastors we lost is planned for Friday evening. Convention fee estimate is \$250 per delegate. The Thiessens (preaching in Temple day after Convention) & Raifords will attend the Convention.

Contact David Miller, Chair of Foreign Mission Board, if you would like any of the missionaries to come and speak.

In other business, Carolyn Woo is not doing well; the cancer has metastasized to brain. They are back in North Carolina and we are still supporting them financially. President Kent Laza asked that we pray for them.

The Brethren Journal reported they made the last payment on their loan.

Wesley and Nelsonville Picnic will be April 30th. Southern Gospel Quartet Concert. Fayetteville is joining in. The Golf Tournament is scheduled for June 5th at the Brenham Country Club. Rev. Lawrence Junek shared about Kairos ministry in the prison. Jennifer Chervenka shared a prayer request. Elizabeth Schiller.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Rev. Jim Heckman.

Unity Archivist

Clint Machann

c-machann@tamu.edu

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

From the Thiessen's in Mexico...

Rachel's Spiritual Warfare

March 28, 2017

Dear friends,

I (Anne) don't come from a background where spiritual warfare was mentioned much. At least not in those terms. I knew my brothers and sisters in Honduras did constant spiritual battle, but they used different words about the divisive attacks on young churches and the prayer and fasting and teaching that went into defending them.

Our recent visit with the pastor who is raising up a work in Rachel's town made me realize again how spiritual warfare can come in so many guises. The town is not far from the St. Peter town that we wrote about in the last letter.

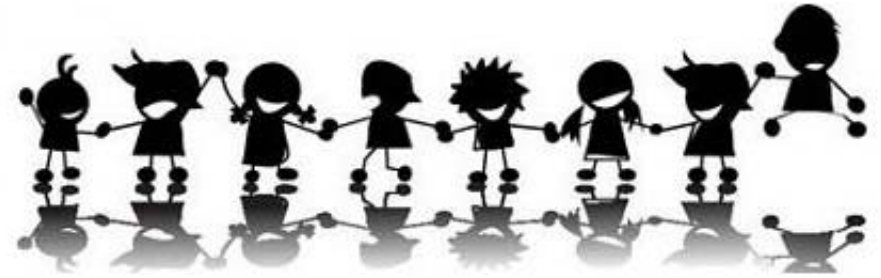
After our last meeting with this same pastor, who visits Rachel's Mixtec town every week, he took our counsel to heart and immediately baptized Rachel and her husband Felix. It was perfect timing, because Rachel and Felix had decided to broach the subject on that visit. They were wanting to take this next step of commitment! Yay God!

And our pastor friend shared his vision with Rachel and Felix that they would be the new leaders of a new church in that town. They would no longer depend on outsiders to run their worship services for them. The

first test of this leadership came when the pastor suggested that the few believers in the town take turns hosting the meetings in their homes (there is no building). That's when the pastor figured out that there are divisions in the town (pretty normal for Mixtec communities) that keep certain families from visiting certain other families unless an outsider (like the Hispanic pastor) organizes the meeting, making it neutral ground. What to do? So-and-So won't come to So/So's house and vice versa. How do you build a church out of that?

This reminds me of Paul's exasperation with the Corinthians, "I hear from Chloe's family that you can't come to an agreement." Or his urging of his beloved Philippians: "I beg you, Euodia and I beg you, Syntyche, please find your common ground!" It makes me think that if Paul could get the querulous Corinthians to form a united church and get two strong women ministers in Philippi to agree on their love for Jesus, then we, too, have hope with communities that are traditionally divided.

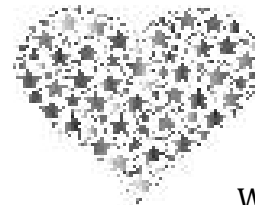
But this means war. Because it is the Enemy that has pit us against one another, and he will do *anything* to keep us from restoring broken relationships. And he will do *anything* to keep the brokenness from coming under the light of Christ. We committed with the pastor and his wife to help him tackle this spiritual battle with fasting and prayer. I ask you to join us in our prayers for Rachel and Felix and their new church that God



Sunday School Helper

He decided the number of stars and
calls each one by name.

Psalm 147:4



What is bigger than the Milky Way?
What is greater than the stars in our solar system? In this candy lesson, you will use a Milky Way bar to remind children of the vastness of the universe and also that God has plans for us; plans that are greater than ANY of us could imagine! Our Bible story will be from the Old Testament, The Call of Abram in Genesis.

Home Missions Board Report

The pastoral responsibilities at Cade Lake Community Chapel are being shared by Rev. Kay Polasek and Rev. Jim Heckman. Pastor Kay preaches on Sunday morning, has a young people Sunday School class, and has started a youth choir. Pastor Jim oversees the pastoral care of the congregation by visits and taking members to doctor appointments, etc. He also maintains the financial records by turning in receipts to Home Mission Board Chairperson each month.

As Pastor Kay is taking over duties at the chapel, she will no longer be a member of Home Mission Board. She is being replaced by Clarence Tillman Clark from Crosby Brethren.

At the Synodical Meeting in April, the Home Mission Board asked for a budget amendment of an extra \$10,000. Since the 2017 budget was cut by \$19,000, there was no allotment for salaries. This amendment would be for salaries of \$5,000 for Rev Heckman and \$5,000 for Rev Polasek. The amendment was approved, which makes the total 2017 budget \$58,000.

The Home Mission Board was granted a loan of \$10,000 for roof replacement and repairs. Projects are being planned to help repay the loan. If anyone would like to help with this project, please send a check through your congregation with a memo of Cade Lake Loan. This would be greatly appreciated.

20/May 2017

BYF LEADERSHIP TEAM 2016-17

Youth:

Krystal Dusek,
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Jordan Eilers,
eilers.js@gmail.com
Deanna Hairrell,
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Kelton Hooker,
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Grace Jungmann
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Montgomery Raesz,
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Kari Raesz,
kari.raesz@dps.texas.gov
Tammie Reithmayer,
triethmayer1972@gmail.com
Anna Wotipka
awotipka58@yahoo.com

Pastoral Advisor:

Bro. Mark Sebek,
papasebek@gmx.com

Appointments:

ForeignMission Board Rep.
Erin Brinkley (2nd year of 1st term). erinbrinkley@yahoo.com
Hus Board of Trustees Rep.
Jordan Eilers (2nd year of 1st term). eilers.js@gmail.com

State Youth Coordinator:

Jennifer Chervenka,
jennchervenka@farm-market.net

MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS BOARD (2015-2017)

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

BRETHREN JOURNAL

would break down the walls of enmity dividing new believers in that town and unite them in the supernatural love of Christ. It seems impossible. It just doesn't happen in these ancient towns with these ancient grudges. But we have the power of the Holy Spirit in these newly baptized believers on our side and all the promises of our God to fight for us.

Robert now: We are back in Oaxaca after three weeks of travel to Thailand and California. Anne is mentally writing a letter about that. Maybe she will have some time when she is teaching all next week in a church-planting course in Chiapas for a group of Mexican missionary candidates. Or the week after when she teaches another full week with the Sin Fronteras group here in Tlaxiaco. Maybe after Easter we can slow down a bit.

Blessings, Anne and Robert

From the Woo's in the U.S.A. ...

April 6, 2017

Greetings friends,

I have had no negative effects from the Gamma Knife. In fact, here are my MRI results over the past months.

* Sept. – 20 spots and they said radiate whole brain and die – which we said said no to.

* Nov. – 20 spots and growing, and we were just doing Jesus and natural.

* Jan. – 18 spots growing, 2 gone,

and one shrinking, and we were just doing Jesus and natural.

* March – 2 weeks ago before the Gamma Knife, 18 spots, all stopped growing, several shrinking

* Gamma Knife killed 3 biggest ones and all the swelling they had, so down to 15, all stopped growing and some shrinking.

* 2 more weeks and we will do another scan.

So we praise Jesus! In our hearts we KNOW I am healed.

My biggest issue right now is these steroids. I'm coming off them. My body is addicted to them. I used to take 4 a day. Slowly, slowly, I'm coming down. Today I start 2-1/2 each day.

It seems that every time we have these crazy downpour rains like we did last night and all last week, the next day I cannot even walk. I don't have pain, I just have zero muscle in my legs. The weather is affecting my health.

So please pray:

* Jesus, we come against the diz-



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Worship Service 10:30 AM
Wednesday Eve. 5:30 PM
Prayer Service and Bible Study

BRETHREN JOURNAL

May 2017/17

ziness in Caroline's head and the swelling in her face and command it to go in Jesus Name.

* Lord, strengthen her muscles and legs, when she is weak you are strong.

* Lord, these steroids have no negative effect on her in the Name of Jesus, by your stripes she is healed.

* Lord we praise you for what you are doing to the cancer. It is all dead in the Name of Jesus. Glorify yourself among the doctors and hospital. At the next scan may all the cancer be gone in Jesus Name.

* Lord, strengthen the Woo's friend Cheryl. Fill her body with oxygen and give her a new set of lungs in the Name of Jesus.

* Lord, heal Dave of all his cancer. He has had some new tumors on his lungs. Thank you for your body that was broken for us and for Dave. By your stripes Dave is completely healed!

* Lord praise you that among the Shan there have been baptisms done by lay people. May your kingdom spread and grow!

Love you all, we could NOT do this without you.

Caroline for the Woos

Foreign Missions Board Spring Report

Greetings Unity of the Brethren,

As part of my duties as Chairman of the Unity Foreign Mission Board, I attended the Moravian BWM (Board of World Missions) in Winston-Salem N.C. They have 2 meetings a year, a spring meeting in the Southern Province and a fall meeting in the Northern Province. I was familiar with about half or more of the board members from my previous visits. The Unity has had a long relationship with the Moravians, particularly through shared missions projects, most notably with the hospital in Ahaus, Honduras.

FRIDAY:

We began with introductions, and then we heard from the keynote speaker, Barbara Howard. Her expertise was walking the board through their mission statement and projects (domestic and abroad) to discern if they were fulfilling their goals. She started by prioritizing the projects of the BWM: 1. Antioch; 2. Global partners; 3. Medical Missions; 4. Missions outreach; 5. Likewise Ministries; 6. Mission Engagement. She organized a poll, and found the board

was by far more passionate about Missions Engagement (getting local congregants involved in missions through short-term missions) and Missions Outreach (discipleship and supervision of mission areas). It was noted these two were circular in that when short-term crews shared their expertise in outreach areas, they came home feeling as blessed as those they sought to bless in the target areas.

It was further noted that all the other ministry areas (Antioch, Global Partners, Medical Missions, and Likewise Ministries) were avenues to connect Missions Engagement to Missions outreach and vise versa. It was further noted that all areas of work, whether ongoing or new, would have to go through this filter for continuation or to be considered for a new work.

SATURDAY:

Summary of Friday's project, committee reports along with any action requested, and other board member reports. Although the BWM focus is primarily on Missions Engagement

and Missions Outreach, it was reported that the Unity of the Brethren are supporting five missionaries abroad and Cade Lake as a home mission, and the Moravian Mission Society are supporting 15 missionaries abroad. Next meeting this fall in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Overall, the good folks in N.C. made me feel at home and very welcome.

Linda and I arrived in Winston-Salem a day early to bring greetings from the Unity to Michael and Caroline Woo, missionaries to China now home on medical leave. We had a good visit and had a chance to lay hands on and pray over them along with Rev. Kevin Frack. Caroline is inspiring with her positive attitude and faith in Jesus. Also, Friday she had an appointment at Wake Forest Baptist Hospital to receive the Gamma Knife surgery she sought from the beginning. Surgery went well. If you are interested—YouTube: Gamma Knife Wake Forest Baptist...

Submitted by David Miller,
Chairman, Foreign Mission Board

In God's Hands Ministry

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