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THE BRETHREN JOURNAL



Vol. 117

January/February 2018

No. 1

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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The Brethren Journal, 705 Woodson Dr., Caldwell, TX 77836.



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

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Your Peace Has Been Paid For . . . by Rhonda Johnson
Some Drops Sparkle . . . by Jim Pokorny
Cade Lake Chapel Fire
Ladies' Conference Invitation

... and much, much more!

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

EDITOR –

Cathleen Schlechte
3635 CR 225, Caldwell, TX 77836
979-255-8266
editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com

BUSINESS MANAGER –

Ben Polasek
705 Woodson Dr., Caldwell, TX 77836;
979-220-9270
manager.brethrenjournal@gmail.com

BUSINESS COMMITTEE –

President: Kayla Marek
Treasurer: Dorothy Milberger, 312 N. Lantana
Cr., Sealy, TX 77474; mildw@sbcglobal.net;
979-885-7129 (h), 979-472-5091 (c)
Secretary: Stacy Hooker

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS –

Daily Morsels: Dorothy Kocian,
107 S. Barbara, Waco, TX 76705-1317.
Sunday School Helper: Angie Hairrell,
11482 FM 2155, Somerville, TX 77879;
Hairrell@gmail.com
Jim Pokorny, jwppsa@yahoo.com;
blog: otherbrotherjim.blogspot.com

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Visit the
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Seaton Brethren Sausage Supper Invitation

The Seaton Brethren Church
annual sausage supper fund-
raiser will be held Saturday,
February 17, 2018, beginning
at 4:00 p.m. until the sausage
is gone. The menu consists of
homemade pork sausage,
sauerkraut, new potatoes, sea-
soned green beans, bread,
homemade desserts, and tea
or coffee. Dine in or drive thru
plates will be available for
\$10.00 each. The **LOCATION**
of the supper is at **Seaton Star
Hall**, 10842 State Hwy 53,
Temple (Seaton). There will be
a bake sale consisting of
kolaches, pies, cakes, strudels,
other baked goods & jellies, a
raffle, and a silent auction.
Proceeds benefit the ministry
of the church, community, and
other projects. The public is
invited.

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76502. (254) 778-5954; tchaplin@hotmail.com
Rev. Joe Emerson, 5404 Southern Crossing Dr.,
Temple, TX 76502. (254) 931-1653;
joe.emerson_ma@yahoo.com
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76567. (979) 739-1393, leave message. If no
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jimheckman46@gmail.com
Rev. James D. Hejl, 309 Cherrywood Circle,
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Rev. Dr. Brad Herridge; brad.herridge@gmail.com
Rev. Curtis Holland, 1017 Southwood, Waco, TX
76712. (254) 776-5886
Rev. David Johnson, 902 Timberlane, Caldwell,
TX 77836. (979) 567-1838(h),
(979) 220-3822(c);
pastordjbama@gmail.com
Pastor Lisa Johnson, (281) 220-0280.
Dr. Larry Koslovsky, 4311 Fir Valley Drive,
Kingwood, TX 77345. lwkoslo@aol.com
(281) 328-2442 (off), (713) 594-4518 (c)
Rev. John Kueker, P.O. Box 325, Buckholts, TX
76518. (254) 605-0434
Rev. Denise Mikeska, 409 E. Upshaw, Temple, TX
76501. dkaym@hotmail.com
Rev. Vanessa Lucia Mitchell, 2070 Carter Lake
Drive, College Station, TX 77845.
(979) 574-0268; lajoiededieu@gmail.com
Blog: notboxingtheir.wordpress.com
Rev. Joseph Polasek, P.O. Box 54, Snook, TX
77878, (979) 272-1624;
josephjpasek@yahoo.com
Rev. Kay Polasek, 705 Woodson Dr., Caldwell, TX
77836. (979) 220-1289;
revkaypolasek@yahoo.com
Rev. Mark Sebek, 9235 FM 437, Rogers, TX
76569. (254) 931-2000;
papasebek@gmx.com
Rev. Thomas Tallas, 3829 Sandstone, San
Angelo, TX 76904. (325) 949-7543;
rev.tjt@gmail.com (h), rev.tjt@zipnet.us (ch)

Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Terrill,
jerryleeterrill@comcast.net
Rev. Larry Zabcik, 2013 Burnie Bishop
Place, Cedar Park, TX 78613.
(512) 992-5824; zabcikville@yahoo.com

SUPPLY OR INACTIVE PASTORS

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TX 76501. (254) 742-2629
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Rev. Al Newby, 2210 Forest Trail, Temple, TX
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Rev. Bill Rinderknecht, P.O. Box 228,
Dennison, OH 44621-0228. (281) 433-7704
(cell); WilliamR90@aol.com
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Military Chaplaincy

CH (Maj) Daniel Husak, 1627 Lakeview
Street, DeRidder, LA 70634.
daniel.husak@aggienetwork.com

MINISTERIAL STUDENTS

Ben Kruse – krusedadb@yahoo.com (CCC of
Rosenberg)
Ryan Volkman (Wall). (325) 213-0671

DIRECTORY OF MISSIONARIES

Carolyn Groseclose
NDO
P.O. Box 630260
Choma, Zambia
e-mail: carolyngroseclose@yahoo.com

Pastor Pavel and Stanya Kozak
Norska 42
77900 Olomouc
Czech Republic
e-mail: Pavel.Ko@volny.cz

Phil & Eunice Raiford
(parents' address in U.S.)
230 SW Sandy Way
Port Saint Lucie, FL 34986
pbmissions@gmail.com

Rob and Anne Thiessen
25 E. Camino Nacional
Tlalixtac de Cabrera
Oaxaca, MEXICO 68627
(011) 52-1-951-145-8947
e-mail: rvthiessen@gmail.com

Michael Woo
462 Lockland Avenue
Winston-Salem, NC 27103
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To access their pictures, go to
<http://gallery.mac.com/woofamily>

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(979) 567-3732; rdusekdds@aol.com
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Adviser: Rev. James D. Hejl;
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(979) 450-1820, lurbanovsky@gmail.com
Financial Secretary: Rev. Joe Emerson, PO Box
1295, Belton, TX 76513, (254) 931-1653;
joe.emerson_ma@yahoo.com
Administrative Assistant: Liz Ripple, 311 W.
State Hwy. 71, Fayetteville, TX 78940;
(979) 378-2239, lizripple@hotmail.com
Ministerial Alternate: Rev. Tim Chaplin
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Wall: Suzie Dusek, sdusek5@gmail.com
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West: Roy Janek, grandpajanek@att.net
Westheimer: Leroy Parthum,
betty_parthum@yahoo.com

A Fixed Rhythm

- by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

What do you need to hear today?
What will refresh your mind?
What will cause you to soar as if
on an eagle's wings?
What will heal your heart?

What if someone told you that the
single most important thing for you to
keep before your eyes is a person?

Not your spouse.

Not your beautiful child or niece or
other loved ones.

What if, in 2018, your focus was to
keep your eyes fixed, on Jesus Christ?

Rhythmically fixed like your lungs,
breathing in, and exhaling out?

Night and day.

In sickness and in health.

While in crisis or while at peace.

**Fix your eyes and your heart on
God the Son, on Jesus Christ.**

God is always ready to speak to
you to help you.

God is always ready to refresh
your thoughts, like rebooting a system.

God is always ready to empower
you to achieve your heart's desires as
you are connected with Him.

God is always ready to heal your
heart in a manner that transcends
your linear thinking and your most
complex imaginings.

**Fix your eyes and your heart on
God the Son, on Jesus Christ.**

Listen to what God spoke to those
who early on in the existence of
humanity realized that they needed
His friendship, His wisdom, His sal-
vation. The Book of Deuteronomy,
chapter 11, verse 18, from the Holy
Bible reads:

*"You shall put these words of mine
in your heart and soul, and you shall
bind them as a sign on your hand,
and fix them as an emblem on your
forehead."*

Then God speaks later on to Job,
someone who grasped onto God's
hands and spoke with God persis-
tently amid utter personal devasta-
tion. The Book of Job, chapter 14,
verses 1-3, God speaks to Job:

*"A mortal, born of woman, few of
days and full of trouble, comes up
like a flower and withers, flees like a*



Fayetteville Brethren Church

Sunday School 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am

Pastor – Rev. Joe Emerson
P.O. Box 1295
Belton, TX 76513
(254) 931-1653

FayettevilleBrethrenChurch.org



shadow and does not last. Do you fix your eyes on such a one?..."

After 400 years of silence, God spoke again in the New Testament, and came to us in the flesh, Jesus Christ. After Jesus ascends into Heaven, many churches are formed and we hear God speak to us through the Apostles. The Corinthian Church, cosmopolitan and thriving, yet in desperate need of hearing God's counsel, receives word from the Apostle Paul. The Letter of 2 Corinthians, chapter 4, verse 18, reads:

"So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

God speaks again, to the Hebrews (and to us), in the Book of Hebrews, from the Holy Bible, chapter 3, verse 1. He says:

"Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest."

Whose words linger in your heart and in your mind?

Ask Jesus that they would only be His.

Where do your eyes turn when you feel deflated?

Look up. Look to Jesus. Ask Him to live within you.

What thoughts about temporary things are entangling you?

Let Jesus empty you of each worry. Ask Him. He will.

Who or what do you worship?

Let it be Jesus. Experience just how far, and deep, and wide, is the love of Jesus Christ!

Fix your eyes and your heart on God the Son, on Jesus Christ.

Now and in 2018.

Rhythmically fixed like your lungs, breathing in, and exhaling out.

Night and day.

In sickness and in health.

While in crisis or while at peace.

Just pray. Slowly and often:

Jesus.

Jesus.

Jesus.

Amen.

In Jesus' Hands,

Right With You,

Sister Vanessa Mitchell

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

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

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

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

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

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.
– Rev. Joe Emerson

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.
– Rev. Dr. 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.
– Rev. 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

TAYLOR BROTHERS CHURCH

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

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

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<i>512-365-6890</i>	<i>512-365-1621</i>	<i>M-Th 8 a.m.-noon</i>

VITAL STATISTICS

RECENT DEATHS

KRUSE, CHARLES WILLIAM, of Needville, Texas, born January 17, 1941, went to be with his Lord at the age of 76 in Sugar Land, Texas, December 7, 2017. Charles Kruse was born in Houston, Texas, and raised by his parents in a rural Fort Bend County area known as Clodine. He served his country as a young adult in the United States Marine Corps. Charles and his then wife, Dolores, raised their children, Elveda and Ben, in Alief, Texas. During this time he was a faithful member of the Alief Brethren Church. Charles spent most of his professional life as a machinist, to later become a contractor in the community he loved. Charles loved his God and loved to sing His praises. He could often be heard from his garage, where he practiced for singing engagements, singing hymns and songs he had written about his life experiences and the state he loved. Charles spent his retirement years as a historian. He loved to study, research, discover, and be an advocate for lost and/or forgotten railroads and cemeteries. He strove to make sure, if possible, no person's final resting place would go forgotten. Charles loved his family. He was instrumental in the care of his father and mother in their twilight years. He cared deeply for his children and grandchildren. Charles William shall be missed by many.

Charles was preceded in death by his father, Ben Kruse, and mother, Irene Kruse. He is survived by his daughter Elveda Kruse, son Ben Kruse, daughter-in-law Candace Kruse, grandchildren Brandon Kruse, Christian Kruse, and Jada Kruse.

Services for Mr. Charles Kruse were held December 13, 2017, at the Garmany and Carden Chapel, 3103 School Street Needville, Texas 77461. Charles was laid to rest after services in an intimate family graveside event at the Needville Public Cemetery.

Unity Archivist

Clint Machann

c-machann@tamu.edu

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Treasurer: Todd Corporon (2016), 210
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(512) 922-9292;
toddcorporon@yahoo.com

Members:

Todd Snelgrove, BCS (2011);
rtsnelgrove@gmail.com

Tami Laza, BCS (2015), 4913 FM 166,
Caldwell, TX 77836;

tami.laza@verizon.net

James Marek, Taylor (2017);
james@cnet.net

Rick Weise, Wall (2017);
rick.weise@cosatx.us

Rev. Tommy Tallas (2017), (325) 656-8558;
rev.tjt@gmail.com

Jennifer Chervenka, Ocker (2017),
(254) 983-1002; jennchervenka@farm-market.net

The Encampment is governed by a Board
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Terms: 2 years, may be re-elected/re-
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Non-Voting Appointments:

Programming Director: Amy Snelgrove
agsnelgrove@hotmail.com

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

Facilities Manager: Contact Kent Laza,
Chairman

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

Synodical Committee Oversight:
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Your Peace Has Been Paid For...

- by Rhonda Johnson

*Isaiah 53:5 "...the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him,
and by His wounds, we are healed."*

Jesus suffered and experienced turmoil at its deepest level to give us peace at the deepest level. Jesus took punishment He didn't deserve, as if He was guilty, so we could have a worry-free life. He "served the sentence" for us so we could be free from dread, stress, worry, and fear. He did this to give us a life of perfect rest.

A few years ago I was on my way to work after a 24-hour fast for blood work. Before I went to the office I went through the drive-through of a fast food chain to get some food; I was hungry. I ordered a breakfast sandwich, some fruit, and a drink. and pulled forward to receive my food. As I reached out to hand the cashier my money, she held up her hand and said, "Oh, your food has been paid for!" I was confused. how could it have been paid for? Then she said, "The car in front of you wanted to pay for your food today to bless you." I said, "Thank you," *took my food*, and enjoyed my blessing. Jesus has said to us, "Your peace is paid for,

to bless you." For believers to live their lives in any way other than peace is as if to say, "No thank you" to the suffering and terrible price Jesus paid for us. He paid it forward for us to have a drama free, worry free life. Our response should be to *take our peace* and enjoy our blessing.

If we give The Father our cares, He will give us His peace. Most of our worries, cares, and concerns are based on fear. Don't live beneath your spiritual means and live with turmoil in the pit of your stomach. We have the means and ability to live our lives in peace. We can accomplish great things, with The Lord's ability in us. Our lives as believers can be reflective of God's might and power, not our own abilities. Let The Lord's peace and power enable you to overcome fear and live in peace every day.

Love and Happy New Year



Rhonda Johnson
Life of Love Ministries

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**This must be done well in advance.*

Some Drops Sparkle

- by Jim Pokorny

As a rule, I am not a fan of Hollywood musicals. One of the two exceptions I have made is the movie *Camelot*, which Warner Bros-Seven Arts released in 1967. I really must turn the clock back a few years (before I was born, really) to 1960, when *Camelot* opened on Broadway. Based upon the book *The Once and Future King* by T. H. White, the stage production of *Camelot* was a product of the team of Lerner and Loewe. Loewe wrote the music for the production and Lerner wrote the lyrics. The story revolves around the legendary King Arthur of England, Queen Guenevere, and Sir Lancelot, Arthur's friend and knight of the Round Table.

The Broadway cast featured some heavy hitters, including Richard Burton as Arthur, Julie Andrews as Guenevere, and Robert Goulet as Lancelot. After a somewhat shaky start, *Camelot* ran for 873 performances on Broadway alone. In December 1960, an original cast album was released as an LP that remained a top seller in America for 60 weeks.

The album was released just one month after the election of President John F. Kennedy. Kennedy, a class-

mate of Lerner's at Harvard, frequently listened to the album before retiring for the night. His favorite lines were from the closing number Arthur sings to a boy whom he hopes will pass the story on to future generations...

"Don't let it be forgot

That once there was a spot,
For one brief, shining moment
That was known as Camelot."

This began the association between the Kennedy presidency with *Camelot*. According to one writer, this "epitomized everything that was glamorous and popular about the new administration's 'brief, shining moment'."

For President Kennedy, the moment was indeed brief. Kennedy was assassinated in November 1963. This tragedy shocked and saddened the entire nation. In fact, Kennedy's televised funeral procession is one of my earliest childhood memories. I was far too young to understand what it was all about, but I do remember Mom crying as she watched the procession on television. In December 1963, *LIFE* magazine published an article entitled *For President Kennedy: An Epilogue* by T. H. White. In the article Jacqueline

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for February 2018

Dorothy E. Kocian

with Mari-Anne Kocian Gordon

All Scripture from the *New International Version* unless indicated.

1. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good. Rom. 12:9
2. You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? Mt. 5:13
3. It is I, Jesus, Who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star. Rev. 22:16
4. **The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me: Your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Ps. 138:8**
5. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that He may be merciful to all. Rom. 11:32
6. O Lord, You are my God; I will exalt You, I will praise Your name; for You have done wonderful things. Isa. 25:1
7. To the humble the Lord shows favor. Prov. 3:34
8. Live in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Eph. 5:2
9. Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today. Ex. 14:13
10. I will make with you an everlasting covenant. Isa. 55:3
11. **See, I have taken your guilt away from you, and I will clothe you with festal apparel. Zech. 3:4**
12. I can do all things through Him Who strengthens me. Phil. 4:13
13. God said to Abraham, "As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come." Gen. 17:9
14. The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom rules over all. Ps. 103:19
15. How great are His signs, how mighty His wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and His sovereignty is from generation to generation. Dan. 4:3
16. He is your praise; He is your God. Deut. 10:21
17. In the Lord my heart trusts; so I am helped, and my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to Him. Ps. 28:7
18. **I have put My words in your mouth and covered you with the shadow of My hand. Isa. 51:16**
19. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Acts 2:6
20. Do not be wise in your own estimation. Rom. 12:16
21. Be patient with everyone. 1 Thess. 5:14
22. Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! Rom. 9:14
23. I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them. Ezek. 11:19
24. Blessed be the Lord, Who daily bears us up; God is our salvation. Ps. 68:19
25. **Make known His deeds among the nations; proclaim that His name is exalted. Is. 12:4**
26. Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble with it. Prov. 15:16
27. Jesus said, "I have come to call not the righteous but sinners." Mt. 9:13
28. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for He is our God. Josh. 24:18

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DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for January 2018

Dorothy E. Kocian

with Mari-Anne Kocian Gordon

All Scripture from the *New International Version* unless indicated.

1. Do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one. Mt. 6:13
2. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. Rom. 8:18
3. You guide me with Your counsel, and afterward You will receive me with honor. Ps. 73:24
4. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Rom. 15:13
5. The Lord says, "He will call upon Me, and I will answer him." Ps. 91:15
6. The wise men saw the child with Mary His mother; and they knelt down and paid Him homage. Mt. 2:11
7. **Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Phil. 4:4**
8. When the wise men saw the star, they were overjoyed. Mt. 2:10 (NIV)
9. Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation. Ps. 38:22
10. The Lord knows our thoughts, that they are but an empty breath. Ps. 94:11
11. The Lord is my strength and my might, and He has become my salvation. Ex. 15:2
12. Jesus said, "Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." Mk. 11:24
13. Can mortals make for themselves gods? Such are no gods! Jer. 16:20
14. **I will sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously. Ex. 15:1**
15. You must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour. Mt. 24:44
16. Be exalted, O Lord, in Your strength! We will sing and praise Your power. Ps. 21:13
17. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rom. 12:11
18. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. I Tim 1:17
19. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. Rom. 6:22
20. Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. Mt. 7:7
21. **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. Ps. 19:14**
22. O Lord, do not let the downtrodden be put to shame. Ps. 74:21
23. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. Col. 3:16
24. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Ps. 139:3
25. Our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Phil. 3:20
26. Blessed be God Who has sent His angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him. Dan. 3:28
27. Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Ps. 150:6
28. **All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted. Mt. 23:12**
29. Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God Who justifies. Rom. 8:33
30. Keep awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour. Mt. 25:13
31. It is God Who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for His good pleasure. Phil. 2:13

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Kennedy reaffirmed the President's fondness for the album. The connection between the Kennedy's and *Camelot* was forever cemented. In fact, the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum has a collection of papers classified as the "Camelot Documents."

By the mid 1960's, Jack Warner was the remaining brother of the original Warner Bros. founded in the 1920's. Jack was also the last of the Hollywood movie moguls. After selling a large block of stock to Seven Arts, Jack realized his days as a movie mogul were winding down. Jack wanted to go out a winner, and based on the studio's previous success with the musical *My Fair Lady*, Jack decided a movie production of *Camelot* would allow him to do just that.

Jack Warner decided he would produce the movie himself. He secured Alan Lerner to write the screen-

play and hired Joshua Logan to direct it. Logan decided to cast the movie with up and coming talent rather than established box office veterans. He cast Richard Harris in the lead role as Arthur, Vanessa Redgrave as Guenevere, and Franco Nero as Lancelot.

The movie was to be Jack Warner's final epic, but Logan quickly found himself both behind schedule and over budget. As the weeks went by these problems only worsened. Warner was under almost constant pressure from Seven Arts about continuing cost overruns. With two weeks of filming still scheduled, Warner contacted Logan and firmly insisted that filming was to wrap up that day. Despite Logan's protests, the new deadline remained fixed. Logan met with the cast and crew and filming



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went on until 4 a.m. Logan was then forced to cobble together some parts of the movie from the footage available.

The movie premiered with all the pomp and circumstance expected. Although the film grossed \$31 million, it still failed to turn a profit. America in 1967 found itself embroiled in the Vietnam War. Culture clashes within its borders and violence in its streets was becoming a more frequent reality. Americans had relegated the days of optimism, Kennedy, and *Camelot* to the past.

It was about this time that a small boy in Taylor was granted access to his parents' music collection. Already gravitating to fantasy and science fiction, he found among the albums one in a brightly colored sleeve depicting a castle, a king, a queen, and a few knights. He carefully placed the album on the spindle and listened to the powerful voice of Richard Burton sing the title theme of *Camelot* for the first time and was immediately hooked.

I first saw the movie some years later when it appeared on network television. Now as a man, I have read many different accounts of the legendary King Arthur and watched numerous film adaptations of the story. Yet there is something about the musical that I return to time and again. I now listen to the album digitally and pop in the DVD of the movie whenever the mood strikes me.

One of the most striking differences between the movie and the stage production is how the story opens. Lerner chose to open the movie near the conclusion of the Arthurian saga. For the sake of honor, Arthur finds himself preparing to go to war against his friend Lancelot in France.

From out of the darkness and distress Arthur speaks aloud to Merlyn, a magician, mentor, and Arthur's teacher when he was a boy: "Merlyn, why is Jenny in that castle behind walls I cannot enter? How did I blunder into this agonizing absurdity?"

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Home: 325-949-7543 Cell: 325-656-8558
Home: rev.tjt@gmail.com
Church: rev.tjt@zipnet.us
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Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

DON'T FORGET!...

December 31, 2017 – Your Brethren Journal Subscription expired! Don't forget to send in your renewal!

January 6-7, 2018 – BYF Winter Retreat at the Hus Encampment. Registration deadline December 15, 2017.

January 26-28, 2018 – Ladies' Conference at the Hus Encampment. (See flyer in this issue!)

February 17, 2018 – Seaton Brethren Sausage Supper Fundraiser. (See invitation in this issue.)

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Suddenly he hears the disembodied voice of his ancient mentor telling him to think back; back to where it all began. This causes Arthur to recall the day he first met Guenevere. The movie then flashes back to a much happier time when Arthur was a young and reluctant king who was terrified of meeting his arranged queen. Guenevere is not happy about the arranged marriage, either. When the opportunity arises, she runs away from her escorts and encounters Arthur, whom she does not know. When her escorts find Guenevere with Arthur, they kneel before the king. Despite the awkwardness of this introduction, Guenevere warms to the idea of marriage, and soon the two are wed.

After the wedding, Arthur tells his queen about his plans for the kingdom. Knights from throughout the kingdom will be invited to Camelot to begin a new order of chivalry. One where might no longer means right. The new order means might will be used only for right and justice will be for all. These knights will all sit at the same table with Arthur. Guenevere states that they will argue over who is to sit at the head of the table. Arthur

decides that the table must therefore be round.

The invitation to Camelot spreads throughout the kingdom and beyond. It even reaches across the channel into France, where Lancelot du Lac resides. Lancelot considers himself to be the absolute paragon of virtue and morality. With his page he travels to Camelot to join Arthur. In a rather awkward encounter, a hurried Arthur practically runs Lancelot's horse off the road. Lancelot challenges this unknown upstart to a joust. An intrigued Arthur accepts the challenge, and Lancelot quickly unseats his armored opponent. When Arthur is revealed as the king, a mortified Lancelot begs forgiveness. Arthur laughs the incident off and asks how Lancelot acquired his skills.

Lancelot replies, "My skill comes from training, my king. My strength from purity." Arthur responds with a raised eyebrow.

Arthur introduces Lancelot to Guenevere. Lancelot suggests that the Round Table must have a standard physical and a standard moral. The queen asks whose standard should apply. Lancelot answers, "Certainly



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not mine, milady. It would not be fair. I would never ask anyone to live by my standards, milady. To live your life in the tortured quest for perfection in body and spirit, oh, no. I would not ask that of anyone."

Guenivere hatches a plot to bring Lancelot down a peg or two. She convinces the three finest jousters in the kingdom to challenge Lancelot in the next tournament, certain that at least one of them will defeat him. The king protests and asks the queen to have the challenges withdrawn, but she refuses. At the tournament Lancelot defeats his first two challengers before mortally wounding the third. Lancelot kneels and cradles the lifeless form in his arms and prays fervently. To everyone's amazement, the wounded knight revives. This comes with a great price. Guenivere falls deeply in love with Lancelot. Lancelot also falls in love with Guenivere, despite his code of morality.

Arthur suspects the two have fallen in love. He knights Sir Lancelot anyway and admits him to the Round Table. Arthur hopes in vain that circumstances will simply blow over. Alone, he tells himself that Guenivere is the only woman he could ever love.

He then adds that if there is one friend whom he could choose to be his brother, it would be Lancelot. Yet each has betrayed him and caused him tremendous pain. He concludes that for the good of Camelot and its ideals, he will be civilized. He swears before the sword Excalibur that he will be a king and that they will face this challenge together.

Difficulties arise. Although Arthur says nothing, some of the knights begin to accuse Lancelot and Guenivere of treason and infidelity. Lancelot defends the queen's honor and defeats each opponent. With each victory Lancelot hands their fate over to the king, who grants them clemency. As a result, they are banished from Camelot.

As his kingdom falls apart, Arthur decides to enact civil law to protect the three. Whenever an accusation is made the matter will be tried before a jury. If no proof can be offered the matter will be dismissed. Arthur knows that the only proof that can be offered would be for an eyewitness to catch the pair alone. Arthur vows to never leave the castle without one or the other to prevent this.

While Camelot continues to erode

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Pharaoh: Are you crazy?? I am not letting the people go! What kind of a stupid moron are you? Get out of here! Moses threw down his staff and it turned into a snake! **Pharaoh:** What on earth are you doing! Get that disgusting thing out of here. And guess what else? I'm not letting the people go! **Moses:** You'll be sorry Pharaoh! You are messing with the wronggggg people! **Pharaoh:** Yeah, right. I guess that's why you've been our slaves for over a hundred years. But Moses would take up his staff and wave it! He struck Egypt with all these plagues... Go through each of the plagues with the images. You may need to break this up over several lessons. **Pharaoh:** Huff, huff, huff, bloody all right. You can go! But you have to leave all your cattle... since your stupid plagues killed most of ours!! One thing about a superhero is that he generally remains a gentleman, even after the bad guys have been evil. **Moses:** I'm sorry, but. No. (#10 Plague of the Death of the Firstborn) Strike Moses' staff to the ground. So then came the biggest, hugest plague. It was the death of the firstborn of all the people and animals. It missed the Israelites! Oh boy, what a terrible plague. This was by far not the last miracle from superhero Moses. It was just the beginning. Some superheroes can't fly, and they can't breathe fire or transform into armored tanks. But they can get oceans to separate so that the good guys can get across on foot (that's all of Israel) and the bad guys can drown (that's all of Egypt's army). **Moses:** Part, Red Sea, part!

What was the real reason that Moses was a Superhero? He wanted to please God! He believed that God was strong enough to help when the world had gotten into a terrible state. God wants you to understand that the strength and power of all superheroes and all people comes from him! If it weren't for God and Jesus, there would be no power. There would be no miracles. There would be no superheroes.

Squirt Gun Tag

Will you stay dry like a Hebrew... or get drenched like an Egyptian! Supplies: 2 squirt guns, water, duct tape
Just like regular tag! Select 2 people to be it. They get the squirt guns. Everyone else runs across the "Red Sea" (area you taped off!). If you get wet, you are out. Last one not wet, is the winner. Pick 2 more people to be it, and play again!

Check out the blog and for more ideas and links!

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



A Shepherd Kicks Pharaoh's Butt

Preparation: Make puppets to represent Moses and Pharaoh and print images of each of the plagues. You can find images of each of the plagues here: <https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B3uNEVAAKowpWHctSzQ4Mllpd2c/edit> and <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B3uNEVAAKowpQ3RFc01rOW1RMEE/view>

Say: Today we are going to learn about a superhero. Who are some superheroes you know? Our superhero today comes from the Old Testament. He was a shy man who took care of sheep. He also couldn't speak very well. We think he may have stuttered. But God used him in some really SUPER ways!

Tell: You'd have thought Moses was a really hip, rich guy. He was raised by Pharaoh's daughter! But Moses was Hebrew. His parents were slaves. He got his life saved by Pharaoh's daughter after his real mom put in him a basket and sent him down the Nile River. That's because the Pharaoh was ordering that all boy Hebrew babies be killed. So Moses never fit in with Pharaoh's family. They saw him as weird and dorky. Moses heard the Hebrews cry out to God: SAVE US FROM ALL THIS HARD WORK and slavery! Moses thought: "Hm. Maybe God sent me into Pharaoh's house to live because someday I'll be a great judge who can rule over Israel." So... he saw an Egyptian slave master beating on a Hebrew. He freaked out and killed the guy! He had to run away and hide in Goshen. Now he was going to be a shepherd. But then, God spoke to Moses by the burning bush. **God:** I want you to lead the people of Israel to freedom from the bad Egyptians. You're my guy. I will give you great powers. **Moses:** Uh... I don't speak very good. **God:** You have to tell Pharaoh to "let my people go." **Moses:** What am I supposed to say to Pharaoh?? He's got ALL the power. **God:** Excuse me. Who has all the power?? Really?? Stop being ridiculous! Go tell Pharaoh to "let my people go" and see who has the power and who doesn't. Go! God gave Moses the power to be a huge superhero. He was like Clark Kent. He was like Peter Parker. The Hebrews said he was the most humblest person they knew. Then, when needed, he could become like Superman, Captain America, or Spider-man. All these guys could fly. Moses' power was in his staff and it came from God.

from beneath Arthur, his illegitimate son Mordred takes matters into his own hands. The king has not yet officially recognized Mordred as his son, still hoping to turn him from his evil ways first. Mordred tricks the king into his own trap. He states, "Isn't your civil law marvelous? No proof, no crime." He then challenges Arthur to leave the castle for an overnight hunting trip to prove this is not the case. Arthur rashly accepts the challenge and Mordred informs the kingdom. He personally informs Lancelot himself. Knowing that Lancelot and Guenevere will be tempted to meet that night, Mordred assembles a few soldiers and waits to entrap the pair.

Too late, the king realizes what is bound to happen and hastily returns to Camelot. When Lancelot and Guenevere meet, Mordred springs the trap. Lancelot manages to escape, but the queen is arrested just as Arthur returns. According to the king's new

civil law, Guenevere is tried by jury and convicted of treason and infidelity. Guenevere is to be burned at the stake.

The execution is scheduled to take place at 5 a.m., at which point Arthur, as king, is to appear at his window. This will signal the executioner to ignite the pyre. As the hour approaches, both Arthur and his kingdom hope that Lancelot will rescue Guenevere. As Arthur enters his room, he asks his advisor if there is any sign of Lancelot. The advisor replies that there is no sign. As a bell ominously tolls the hour, the advisor reminds him, "I'm afraid you must come to the window, Arthur. The executioner is waiting."

Suddenly, the sound of hoofbeats shatters the silence. Lancelot and his men thunder into the courtyard. The opposing factions battle each other, resulting in numerous deaths on each side. Lancelot rescues Guenevere. As





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they ride away, Arthur is filled with relief. This relief is short lived, as Arthur knows that honor now demands he go to war with Lancelot.

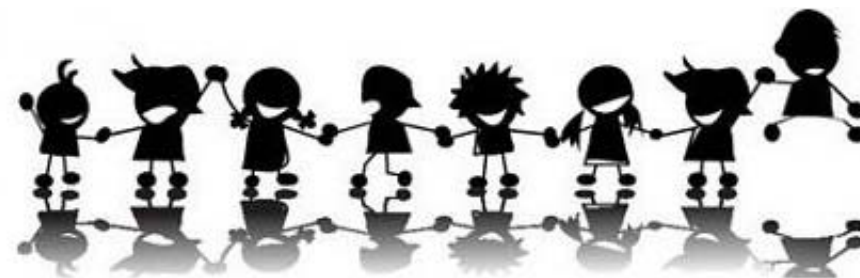
The story returns to the predawn hour before their final battle. In a prearranged meeting, Arthur meets privately with Lancelot and Guenevere. The two are now both willing to turn themselves in and face execution. Arthur declines the offer. He states that his knights no longer seek justice. What they want instead is revenge, which Arthur describes as "the most useless of causes." Arthur tells Lancelot that their armies must now meet in battle, and adds that it will be for God to decide the outcome. The two friends shake hands one final time, and Lancelot departs to join his forces. Arthur and Guenevere share a final, tearful goodbye, and Guenevere departs for a convent where she will spend the rest of her life.

Arthur is left alone with his hopes and dreams for Camelot in ruins.

As he is about to join his men, he hears a noise in the brush. He orders the intruder to come out. A boy emerges from the brush armed with a bow. When questioned, the boy identifies himself as Tom from Warwick. He

admits that he stowed away on one of the boats that crossed the channel. He informs Arthur that he wishes to become a knight by fighting for the Round Table. When asked why, the boy answers because of the stories... Might for right... Right for right... Justice for all!

Arthur is moved. The last faint embers of optimism and idealism are rekindled. Arthur wields Excalibur and knights the boy as Sir Tom of Warwick. He orders the boy to run behind the lines and return to England... and live. In the closing song, he commands the boy to tell the story of Camelot to everyone he meets. Arthur's advisor appears and asks who the boy was. Arthur replies that he is but one of what we all are, and adds, "Less than a drop in the great blue motion of the sunlit sea. But it seems that some of the drops sparkle! Some of them do sparkle!"



Sunday School Helper

Exodus 7:16

The LORD, the God of the Hebrews,
has sent me to say to you:
Let my people go...

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

SUPERHEROES! We love them. They are in movies, comic books, toys, cartoons, everywhere. Why do we love them so much? Maybe it is because they rise above their personal weaknesses and circumstances to face and defeat great challenges and do great things! So what better way to spend 2018 than learning about the Superheroes of the BIBLE! There are many people in the Bible who had significant challenges, but with God did GREAT things! We will find heroes in both the Old and New Testaments. By the end, our children will see the power of the living God! We will start with Hero #1: MOSES.

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Caldwell Brethren Church Christmas Celebrations

We are in awe of You, Holy Jesus, with the way you brought blessings overflowing this past December in our Caldwell Brethren Church Family! The Christmas Cantata performed in churches and nursing homes in partnership with other local churches flooded all with JOY as we gave all praise to you, Lord Jesus! We rejoiced as we shared in Christmas

Fellowship meals! The Taylor Czech Chorus' performance during our worship with our KIDS CHOIR members in the Nativity filled us with the spirit of Advent! Thank You, Light of the World, Holy Jesus, for these immeasurable gifts! What a blessing to have one another! What a greater blessing to have You! You are our Salvation, Jesus, our Joy, our King! Amen.





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

From the Woos' . . . December 2017

Dear friends and family,

THE Good News

There is only one true hope... Jesus Christ.

He is the only true answer we have to cling to as we go through life. This holiday season has been difficult with the loss of Caroline. Setting up the Christmas tree. Buying presents. Going to events. Many things are different. But the time is still rather hectic.

Does the holiday season seem overwhelming? Have we missed the meaning and hope that Christ offers? Take some time to reflect on the real meaning of Christmas and let it sink in. Maybe we don't have to stress out over presents and parties and family.

And with that hope, let it be a reminder that billions do not have the hope of Christ that we so often take for granted. I can't even image my life right now if I didn't have this hope.

Work - Good News

With this continued burden to reach the lost, I am excited to announce my continued relationship with OMF. I have officially accepted a USA home side field mobilization position.

My new job will include:

1. Officially I will be a part of the Mobilizing Equipping team. This role is basically discipling people towards the mission field. As people consider long-term missions, they need to find the right match. Is OMF the right organization? Also, what areas in their

lives do they need to work on to prepare to undertake this task?

2. I will be able to use my 13 years' experience to coach & disciple people through this process towards south-east Asia.

3. We will be able to live in Winston-Salem, NC, because most of the work can be done over Skype and phone, with some travel.

4. I will have flexibility as I am still raising 5 kids full time.

5. This is still a missionary support raising salary.

- Therefore, I am still inviting you to continue to partner with me financially and prayerfully as we undertake the unfinished task of bringing the gospel to the unreached nations.

- There will be a period of Partnership Development where I would like to reconnect with you to share this enlarged vision. I will also be reaching out to supporting churches and small groups.

- Check out the new OMF support page: <https://partnerhub.omf.org/MW3>

Other - Good News

God has been more than gracious to bring a new relationship into my life. I met Naomi Porter in 2009 when she came to China to teach English at our language school. We kept in contact through Facebook and various events over the years. This Labor Day she visited my family, and we have been pursuing a relationship ever since. Naomi's love for Jesus, heart for missions, and giftedness with kids makes this an amazing story.

out the years. The losses also included his father-in-law's study Bibles, which included many notations, Heckman said. But the ministry will go on, Heckman and Polasek say.

Community Chapel is popular in Cade Lake due to its welcoming approach, and it has ministered to many there with major needs.

On Sunday, December 3, a church service was held outside, with attendees using folding chairs. "There were a lot of folks that drove by, waved and honked their horns," Heckman said. "You get a sense of good community support. The town is all supportive."

And other churches and ministers are rooting for Community Chapel and its mission.

Fred Hornaday, pastor of Friendship Baptist Church of Caldwell, said he wishes them well.

"This is a wonderful ministry that is desperately needed," Hornaday said. "Their efforts have fostered a great youth program, and they are ministering to folks that would not normally

have an outlet like Community Chapel at Cade Lake."

The ministry hopes to again have a building, but for now they will likely seek a large tent, similar to the old tent revival style, to conduct weekly services, Heckman said. "The outside services are going to be week-to-week, depending on the weather," Heckman said. "But we are just going forward. We are not going to let this stop us."

Polasek agreed, saying something good can come out of the tragedy – reinforcing the ministry's mission. "This is God's work. He started this work, and He will continue it," Polasek said. "This is a time for us to come together as a county. It is a challenge, but we are not going to stop now, not ever."

Polasek said anyone wishing to contribute to the ministry may do so at this address: Unity of the Brethren, Rev. Joe Emerson, P.O. Box 1295, Belton, Texas 76513, notation – CLCC Fire.



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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gine and two firefighters, Caldwell with an engine, a rescue truck, and six firefighters. Deanneville responded with a tanker and four firefighters, Pevehouse said.

Two Cade Lake residents were on the scene as firefighters arrived and had forced open the doors. The building was probably burning for a while before anyone noticed it, Pevehouse said.

Pevehouse said firefighters got most of the blaze out within about 45 minutes, but they remained on scene until about 6 p.m. washing it down. Though the exterior was still standing, the interior was seriously damaged, he said. Firefighters went in and out of the building manning Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) gear to avoid smoke inhalation.

Cade Lake residents and church members steadily arrived at the scene, expressing sadness for the loss of a building that gave so many residents hope.

Cade Lake is a mostly lower income community, and the ministry has helped many local residents strug-



gling with many problems. A food pantry, In God's Hands Ministry, is also a mission supported by UOB.

Heckman said many contents inside were lost, either due to heat or smoke damage. That included Heckman's 30-year book collection, a valuable asset to his ministry through-



Cade Lake Chapel Damaged by Fire

Leaders say Cade Lake Ministry Will Continue

(Editor's Note: The following article is reprinted by permission from the Burleson County Tribune with minor editing.)



In a shattering setback for Cade Lake residents, the Cade Lake Community Chapel was seriously damaged by a Friday, December 1, fire that gutted most of the interior.

The chapel, a mission of the Unity of the Brethren denomination at 1005 Elm Drive, has given Cade Lake residents a boost throughout the years, offering weekly church services, a pastor, and a gathering place for the community.

The cause of the fire remains unknown, and the church's insurance carrier and the State Fire Marshal's Office are investigating, said David Pevehouse, fire chief for Cade Lake and Caldwell.

Pevehouse said foul play has not been ruled out.

The fire, noticed by a passerby, was reported at about 3:05 p.m., and

Cade Lake, Caldwell, and Deenville firefighters responded.

Pevehouse, the first firefighter to arrive, said heavy smoke and flames were coming out of the front and back of the building and part of the roof as firefighters arrived. The fire seemed to have originated in the center of the building, although a specific location has not been determined, he said.

Pevehouse and Rev. Jim Heckman, the church's founding pastor and co-pastor, said nothing had been left on in the building. The building included a sanctuary and pastor's office, a children's Sunday School room, a kitchen and fellowship area, said co-pastor Kay Polasek.

The first firefighters, from Cade Lake and Caldwell, arrived in about eight minutes.

Cade Lake responded with an en-

Small Churches Host Big Event to Honor Veterans

- by Elaine Thomas

Although Industry Brethren Church and Fayetteville Brethren Church have only about 40 active members between them, they once again hosted a moving "Honor Our Veterans' Day" observance on November 5. More than 170 veterans were singled out at last Sunday morning's program at the Industry Firemen's Hall before a full house.

"What sets this Veterans' Day event apart is we call each veteran by name," explains Liz Treybig, who leads the extensive planning for the event every year.

One by one veterans in attendance came forward to receive a patriotic handmade lapel pin, a miniature American flag, and an envelope containing copies of congratulatory letters from state and federal elected officials. These including greetings and congratulations from Texas State Senator Lois W. Kolkhorst, Texas House of Representatives Speaker Joe Straus, United States Senator Ted Cruz, and Texas Governor Greg Abbott. In addition, a letter from former United States President George W. Bush was read

aloud.

A family member representing each deceased veteran listed in the program lit a votive candle in memory of his/her loved one. By the end of the ceremony, the table of remembrance was glowing with flickering lights. Each representative also received a miniature flag and a package of letters. This year I had the honor of shaking the hand of every honoree or family member before our photo was taken by Bryan Branam.

Texas A&M Singing Cadets; Alicia and Tim Kulhanek, who played the trumpet and saxophone, respectively; and organists Liz Ripple and Sharon Spiess; as well as the American Legion Shelby Post 602, which lead the pledge of allegiance, added special meaning to the tribute.

Industry Brethren Church held the first "Honor Our Veterans' Day" in 2010 when 32 veterans were recognized during its regularly scheduled service. The number of honorees has grown every year to encompass those of several different church affiliations



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over a wider geographic area. This has necessitated the move to a more spacious venue of the Industry Firemen's Hall and added support from local businesses such as Hruska's

Bakery, Industry State Bank, and Woodmen of the World, as well as several individuals.

After the service, attendees enjoyed delicious food and refreshments.

