

THE BRETHREN



JOURNAL



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No. 2

40 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.

If you wish to become a special FRIEND OF THE BRETHREN JOURNAL, please send your donation to the Business Manager (address inside front cover). These donations are tax deductible.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
The Brethren Journal, 705 Woodson Dr., Caldwell, TX 77836.



*The Hus Encampment kitchen
prior to the start of phase I renovation.
(See story inside this issue)*

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

Major Capital Improvement Project Takes Off at the Hus Encampment
The Game-Changer in Powerful Prayer . . . by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell
Letters Home . . . by Jim Pokorny
A Biblical Approach to Stress Management

. . . by Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill

Meet Ms. Sylvia Vavra, the Unity's Eldest Member
Easter Cantata Invitation

. . . and so much more!

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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MUTUAL AID SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

The Mutual Aid Society will award up to \$4000 in the Spring of 2018. The amount of each scholarship will depend on the number of qualified applications received. Candidates must be high school seniors or undergraduate students who will be attending an accredited university, college, or technical school during the summer or fall of 2018. Past recipients may apply again; however, preferential consideration will be given to first-time applicants.

Scholarship application and requirements can be found on the Unity website at:

<http://unityofthebrethren.org/mutual-aid-society/>

Applications must be postmarked by **March 31, 2018**, and mailed to: Mrs. Natalie Outlaw, General Secretary, Mutual Aid Society, 7575 Wixon Road, Bryan, TX 77808.

In addition, an electronic copy of the essay must be emailed by **March 31, 2018**, to Rev. Joseph Polasek at josephpolasek@yahoo.com.

Recipients will be announced after May 1, 2018.

If you would like to donate to the Mutual Aid Scholarship Fund, please send checks payable to 'Mutual Aid Scholarship Fund' to Ruth Ann Wuensche, Mutual Aid Society Treasurer, 2451 CR 405, Taylor, TX 76574.

Sincerely,

Rev Joseph J. Polasek,
President, Mutual Aid Society

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FROM THE PRESIDENT . . . Dr. Larry Koslovsky

Change . . . and I am not talking about the money you might receive after breaking a twenty-dollar bill, but rather the change that simply comes with living. If you don't believe me, just look in the mirror and compare yourself to five, ten, fifteen years ago. See what I mean? Are you still driving the same car you had 10 years ago? Doubtful. Among family, friends, and acquaintances, has anyone moved away? Died?

Some change comes by choice, by a definite personal decision. Some change is inflicted upon us by uncontrollable events and outside forces. Certainly, that is the case with Hurricane Harvey and the fire at Cade Lake. I know for a fact that lives from the flooding of the hurricane are changed and impacted for the rest of their lives.

There is another day to look at change. Change is scriptural; it is a running theme throughout the Bible. Jesus sought change . . .

From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." Matthew 4:17 NIV



When Jesus begins His public ministry, He asks people to repent . . . translated change. It can be a change in attitude, perspective, thoughts, behavior or any other aspect of our life to reflect Christ living in us. Repentance is not a once and done thing, say at the time of confirmation or joining the church. Repentance is a daily event, a daily exercise in spiritual formation and growth, as we become more and more Christlike.

I suspect that all of us as members of the Body of Christ, our congregations and denomination as a whole could use a little more repentance, a little more change, a little more spiritual growth, a little more movement toward being more Christlike.

In just the short time in the leadership position as President of the Synodical Committee, I have recognized that we as congregations and a denomination as a whole need to change if we are to meet the spiritual challenges of the day. No longer can we be turned inward. No longer can we be content with the status quo. No longer can we depend on the habit of

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	Board of Elders President	Youth Directors
Rev. Joseph Polasek	Justin Lewis	Randall & Jonna See
P.O. Box 54	P.O. Box 222	P.O. Box 345
Snook, TX 77878	Snook, TX 77878	Snook, TX 77878
(979) 272-1624	(979) 220-4732	(979) 272-8179

the way we have always done things. No longer can we be locked in to committees, organizations, and groups that were appropriate in their time, but have now outlived their purpose and vitality. Most of all, we can no longer ignore the leadership that lies dormant and untapped among those who are in under the age of 50. The greatest change that needs to take place is the handoff of leadership to the rising leadership of the day. For those of us who have been there and done it, it is time to step aside (change) and fulfill our role as mentors, giving encouragement and support to those to whom we need to pass the baton of leadership.

Capital Improvements at the Camp

Hus School Encampment, in much of its original form, has served the Unity of the Brethren for over 60 years now. The first Hus School class held in the present facilities in the summer of 1957. In addition to Hus

School and the summer camping program, the camp provides a central location for denominational meetings, congregation retreats, youth retreats and pastors meetings.

The master plan, as it has been developed the under the guidance of the Hus School Board Trustees and approved by the denomination through last summer's convention and referendum, is projected to cost \$4.5 million. The initial phase of sewer and kitchen renovation costs \$150,000 and \$183,000 respectively.

Improvements begin February 5 and are scheduled to be completed April 13, just in time for Summer 2018 Camping Program.

Another article in this Journal will give you information on how you can contribute to the Hus Encampment Capital Improvement Fund.

Camp Counselors

This is the time of year when counselors for the summer camp pro-

Mutual Aid Society – Listing of Local Secretaries' Addresses and Phone Numbers

Granger #1: Angie Malicoat, PO Box 362, Granger, TX 76530, 512-859-2837

Taylor #3: Marie Ann Ripple, 2302 Heights Blvd, Taylor, TX 76574, 512-365-6916

West #4: Dorothy Kocian, 107 South Barbara Street, Waco, TX 76705, 254-799-5331, dekocian@yahoo.com

Fayetteville #5: Sandra Stepan, PO Box 145, Fayetteville, TX 78940, 512-468-2396, sandrainAustin@yahoo.com

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Temple #20: Irene Marek, 2900 Pecan Valley Drive, Temple, TX 76502, 254-778-2120

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B/CS #34: Natalie Outlaw, 7575 Wixon Road, Bryan, TX 77808-8085, 979-589-2012, natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com

**Position currently filled by Administrative Board members



+ 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: lifecatcbc@gmail.com

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

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

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

gram are recruited. If you have a
passion for youth and sense a call to
this ministry, please contact Amy
Snelgrove, 979-229-5013, or
agsnelgrove@gmail.com.

Hus camp.org

For information on all these excit-
ing things happening at the camp,
visit the camp webpage at huscamp.org.

Cade Lake Community Church

Cade Lake Community Chapel
burned Friday, December 1, 2018. The
insurance company has determined
that the building is a total loss.

At the present time The Chapel, as
it is known, is meeting for Sunday
worship using tents. Because the
property was under a lease agree-
ment, negotiations are now being
made to secure permanent posses-

sion of the property. Future facilities
for Cade Lake are on hold until the
property issues are resolved and the
Unity has clear title to the present
location.

Hurricane Harvey Relief

Restoration and reconstruction
continue after Hurricane Harvey.
\$58,580 has been donated to relief
efforts in addition to time from work
crews from the Moravian Church.
Thanks goes to all who have gener-
ously supported these efforts. As a
denomination, we are especially grate-
ful to Rev. Mark Sebek for overseeing
this effort and Aaron Van Der Linden
of the Moravian Church for the onsite
day-to-day operations.

KUBENA Funeral Home
507 South Main St.
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PLEASE JOIN US AS WE

*“Bear ye one another’s burdens
And so fulfill the Law of
Christ.” (Gal. 6:2)*

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President

Major Capital Improvement Project Takes Off at The Hus School Encampment

An exciting renovation and expansion project is underway at The Hus School Encampment. In late January, The Hus School Board of Trustees approved plans to kick off the comprehensive construction project with two expansions. These inaugural projects include a septic system expansion and expansion and renovation of the kitchen. These improvements began February 1st and are to be completed within seven weeks.

At this writing, final plans for the septic system expansion were being completed. Construction was also expected to begin in February at a cost of \$150,000.

The winning bid of \$183,000 for the expansion and renovation of the kitchen was submitted by Built Wright construction based in Waco, Texas. The kitchen project will provide much-needed additional floor space and storage, along with new appliances, countertops, and cooling system, all while maintaining that great camp feel that we all enjoy. Expansion of the kitchen floor space will be accomplished through reconfiguration of the current kitchen, outside storage rooms, and a small portion of the main building.

These two relatively small projects are the first steps in the comprehensive 4.5-million-dollar renovation and expansion plan for the encampment. The comprehensive plan also includes new dorms, a new commons area, and renovations to the main building. The main building renovation will include new bathrooms and central heat and

air. The existing boy's dorm is slated to become a recreational space and game room while the existing girl's dorm will be razed to make room for new dorms and a commons area. (To see site plans and drawings, visit <https://www.huscamp.org/captital-building-campaign>)

The expansion and renovation will increase the camp capacity and serve the Unity for many years to come. Our prayer is that God will continue to bless our denomination and camping program through the people of the Unity, and those outside the Unity, as well. We believe our denominational history confirms that the Hus School Encampment has been one of the most valuable denominational assets and represents the most unifying ministry of the denomination. Since the first Hus School Class assembled in Temple in 1914, the Unity has been preparing Christian leaders for service in the church universal. Countless young people have enjoyed life-changing experiences and forged life-long relationships through the Unity camping program. The Unity of the Brethren has developed hundreds of Christian leaders who have served our denomination and many others. Much of this valuable ministry has taken place through Hus School Encampment programs.

As this building project begins, we fully recognize its success depends on God's continued blessing and the generosity of those who are familiar with the importance and impact of the Hus School Encampment.

VITAL STATISTICS

NEW MEMBERS

REDDING, JEFFREY GLENN, profession of faith at Seaton Brethren Church on November 5, 2017.

RECENT WEDDINGS

PRIYA R. THADANI and JEFFREY THOMAS KIRBY were united in marriage on August 13, 2017, at Seaton Brethren Church. Minister: Rev. Denise Mikeska.

RECENT DEATHS

THOMPSON, ROBERT "BOB" H., age 78, died on Monday, September 7, 2017. He was born on April 29, 1939, to Myrtle and Robert H. Thompson, Jr., in Brockton, Massachusetts. He was a member of Seaton Brethren Church and the Seaton Men's Brotherhood. He is survived by his brother, Kenny Thompson of Rhode Island, and many brothers and sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, and other extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his wife, Madeline, his parents, and brother, Allen. Memorial services were held on September 9, 2017, with burial at Seaton Cemetery. Ministers Rev. Joe Emerson and Rev. Denise Mikeska.

KELAREK, JOHNNY LEE, age 82, died on Friday, September 15, 2017. He was born on January 28, 1935, to John and Angelina Andel Kelarek. He was a member of Seaton Brethren Church. He is survived by his wife, Shirley; two sons, Garry Kelarek of Rogers and Larry Kelarek of Anderson; one brother, Edmond Kelarek of Temple; two grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Graveside services were held at Seaton Cemetery on September 18, 2017, with Garry Kelarek officiating.

TYROCH, GLADYS FLORENCE (JAKUBIK), age 88, died on October 2, 2017. She was born on September 17, 1929, to Olga Lesikar Jakubik and Henry Martin Jakubik. She was a member of the Seaton Brethren Church and the Seaton Christian Sisters. She is survived by 2 sons: Rodney Tyroch and wife, Pam, of Belton; Alan Tyroch and wife,

Roxanne, and their two children; her granddaughter, Susan, and husband, Jeff, and their two children. She is also survived by her sister, Ramona McCall. She was preceded in death by her husband, Benjamin Henry Tyroch in 1996. Funeral services were held on October 7, 2017, at Seaton Brethren Church with burial at Seaton Cemetery. Minister: Rev. Denise Mikeska.

VASEK, MARY IDA (ROSE), age 66, died on January 27, 2018. She was born July 2, 1951, in Texas City, Texas, to Vernon B. Rose and Betty Jean Pierce Rose. She was adopted and raised by William Rose and Annie Turner Rose. She lived in the Joe Lee Community and Rogers all her life and attended Rogers High School. She married Larry Vasek on February 14, 1982. She was a self-employed picture framer and worked as a bookkeeper. She was a member of SPJST at Seaton and the Ocker Brethren Church, where she was the nursery leader. She also volunteered for many years at the Hus School Encampment in the Summer Camping Program. Mrs. Vasek was preceded in death by her parents, adopted parents, and one grandson, Brandon Petty. Survivors include her husband, Larry Vasek of Rogers; one daughter, Tracy Chance and her husband, Jimmy, of Rogers; two sons, Charles Gross of Rogers and David Hammons of Benbrook; two brothers, Vernon Rose and his wife, Margie, of Rogers, and Eran Jones of Sweeny; two sisters, Janet Weiss of Arlington and Melonie Millwood of Arkansas; seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held on February 2, 2018, at Ocker Brethren Church with Mark Sebek officiating. Burial was in Ocker Brethren Church Cemetery.

The Community Christian Church of Rosenberg

5220 Reading Road
Rosenberg, TX 77471
(832) 449-3358

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

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for March 2018

Dorothy E. Kocian

with Mari-Anne Kocian Gordon

Slightly modified from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible* unless otherwise indicated.

1. I the Lord do not change. Mal. 3:6a
2. Jesus said, "All things have been handed over to me by my Father..." Matt. 11:27a
3. Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger. James 1:19
4. "Just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, so I will watch over them to build and to plant," says the Lord. Jer. 31:28
5. Your days of mourning shall be ended. Isa. 60:20
6. And Abram believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. Gen. 15:6
7. Your Father knows what you need before you ask Him. Matt. 6:8
8. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Rom. 8:35
9. No one can lay any foundation other than the one which has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. I Cor. 3:11
10. My soul yearns for You in the night; in the morning my spirit longs for You. Isa. 26:9 (NIV)
11. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever disobeys the Son will not see life but must endure God's wrath. John 3:36
12. But You, O Lord my Lord, act on my behalf for Your name's sake; because Your steadfast love is good, deliver me. Ps. 109:21
13. Jesus said, "Everyone then who hears these words of Mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock." Matt. 7:24
14. I am with you always, to the end of the age. Matt. 28:20
15. I am the Lord your God, Who teaches you for your own good, Who leads you in the way you should go. Isa. 48:17
16. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be My witnesses. Acts 1:8
17. We cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard. Acts 4:20
18. Do you not realize that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? Rom. 2:4
19. When Jesus saw the crowds, He had compassion for them because they were harassed and harmless, like sheep without a shepherd. Matt. 9:36
20. My God, my soul is cast down within me; therefore, I remember You. Ps. 42:6
21. Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the Righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. I Peter 3:18
22. My mouth will tell of Your righteous acts, of Your deeds of salvation all day long. Ps. 71:15
23. We must obey God rather than any human authority. Acts 5:29
24. The living God delivers and rescues. Dan. 6:27
25. See, your King comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey. Zech. 9:9 (NIV)
26. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect. Rom. 12:2
27. The Lord is slow to anger and great in power; the Lord will not leave the guilty unpunished. Nah. 1:3
28. The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory. John 1:14
29. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Matt. 6:10
30. God proves His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Rom. 5:8
31. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. Psalms 23:4 (NASB)

We are asking all Brethren, current and former, to join us in supporting this expansion and renovation project. May the Unity continue to serve the Lord through this gift we have come to know and love as the Hus School Encampment.

James Marek, Hus School
Board of Trustees and
Fund-Raising Committee Member

Donations may be made by checks made payable to: Hus School Encampment Building Fund, c/o Todd Corporon, Hus School Board Treasurer, 5350 County Road 124, Georgetown, TX 78626

Donations through bank drafts are also available by contacting Todd at toddcorporon@yahoo.com, or 512-922-9292.

Hus School Encampment Capital Improvement Project

(assumes \$4.5 million total project cost)





SAVE THE DATES...

2018 Summer Camp Dates:

ENCOUNTER

Ages 7-8 years old

Camp Cost: \$250*

Camp Dates: July 8-10

ALPHA

Ages 9-10 years old

Camp Cost: \$350*

Camp Dates: June 10-14

PIONEER

Ages 11-13 years old

Camp Cost: \$350*

Camp Dates: June 17-22

DISCOVERY

Ages 14-15 years old

Camp Cost: \$350*

Camp Dates: June 24-29

CHALLENGER

Ages 16-19 years old

Camp Cost: \$350*

Camp Dates: July 1-6

HUS SCHOOL

Not offered in 2018.

**For more information about the Hus School Encampment go to:
www.huscamp.org**



Insuring & Enriching Lives

**A fraternal benefit society
serving Texans
and their families**

Membership Benefits

- Life Insurance
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- Community Involvement
- Youth Activities and Camp
- Scholarships

*Call us if you have questions
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**

Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

March 3, 2018 – Spring Synodical meeting at the Hus Encampment: 8:00 a.m. - Koloches & coffee; 9:00 a.m. - Meeting begins. Everyone is welcome to attend. Agenda. For more information contact Dr. Larry Koslovsky, President, lwkoslo@aol.com.

March 24, 2018 – Easter Cantata Honoring the Resurrection of Christ! “*I Surrender All!*” at Caldwell Brethren Church. Performance begins at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary with a fellowship meal following. For additional information, please see article in this issue.

March 30, 2018 – Easter Cantata Honoring the Resurrection of Christ! “*I Surrender All!*” at Snook Brethren Church for their Good Friday Service. Performance begins at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary with a fellowship meal following. For additional information, please see article in this issue.

April 1, 2018 – Easter Sunday

April 22, 2018 – 125th Anniversary of the Granger Brethren Church: beginning at 9 a.m., there will be coffee, juice, and pastries. The worship service begins at 10:15 a.m. with Granger native, Rev. Thomas Tallas, delivering the message. Those planning on attending are asked to RSVP to zabcikville@ymail.com.

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.

**ADERHOLD
FUNERAL HOME, INC.**
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A Payne Family Tradition”
West, Texas
254/826-5321

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

Hus Encampment Capital Building Campaign

Pledge Form:

Please accept this joy-filled pledge.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____

Email _____

3-Year Pledge: ☐ \$100,000 ☐ \$50,000 ☐ \$25,000 ☐ \$15,000

☐ \$10,000 ☐ \$7500 ☐ \$5000 ☐ \$2500 ☐ \$1500

☐ Other _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ ☐ Check # _____ ☐ Cash

(Please make checks payable to: “Hus Encampment Building Fund”)

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard – Credit Card # _____

Exp. _____ Security # _____

Remaining Amount: \$ _____ to be paid over the next

☐ 12 months ☐ 18 months ☐ 24 months ☐ 36 months

Monthly Payment Amount: \$ _____

☐ Please charge my credit card monthly ☐ Please bill me monthly

☐ Please use electronic funds transfer from my bank acct. monthly:

Bank Name _____

Routing # _____ Account # _____

☐ The Hus Encampment may list my name and pledge amount in written materials when giving thanks to donors.

Signature: _____

Mail donation to:

Todd Corporon, Hus Board Treasurer
5350 County Road 124
Georgetown, TX 78626

Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

The Game-Changer in Powerful Prayer

- by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

Thanking God for something is not always easy.

It does not often flow out of us naturally.

Fears can intercept the stream of gratitude towards God.

It is precisely at these moments when praying the words of the Holy Bible is one of the most effective remedies to restore our minds, to give us as the Holy Bible promises, the mind of Jesus Christ, our God and our Savior.

Praying the words of the Bible engenders within you a perpetual thankfulness towards God, which in turn gives birth to prayers that are bolder and in greater alignment with God's loving plans for you.

Some practical steps:

1. Speak God's Word out loud.
2. Ask and allow the Holy Spirit to draw you into God's Word.
3. Pray the prayers you are reading in God's Word.
4. Let constant prayerfulness be your "new normal."

Consider David in the desert after the Israelites' captivity:

1 O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever. 2 Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those He redeemed from trouble 3 and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. 4 Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town; 5 hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. 6 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and He delivered them from their distress; 7 He led them by a straight way, until they reached an inhabited town. 8 Let them thank the Lord for His steadfast love, for His wonderful works to humankind. (Psalm 107:1-8)

Consider Hannah in the temple who had been barren:

10 She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord, and wept bitterly. 11 She made this vow: "O Lord of hosts, if only You will look on the misery of your servant, and remem-

Memory Verse: Use these motions to memorize 1 Samuel 17:50a.

So David (put hand out showing someone who isn't very tall)

Won the fight (raise arms above head as though you won something)

Against Goliath (put hand out showing someone who is very tall)

With a sling (act like you are pulling a sling back)

And a stone (hold up 1 finger)

1 Samuel 17 (hold up ten fingers and then seven fingers)

50 (hold up five fingers on one hand and make a "0" with the other hand)

Sling the Stone (Pin the Stone on Goliath)

Preparation: Outline or picture of Goliath. Make a bullseye on this forehead; "stones" from playdough; blindfold.

1. Students line up six to 14 feet away from the picture of Goliath, depending on their ages and abilities.
2. Have them take turns trying to "slay" the giant by aiming the clay stones to hit him in the forehead or blindfold students and have them try to stick the stones to Goliath's head.
3. The bulls-eye on Goliath's forehead indicates whether a student should get 1, 2, or 3 points. Watch closely when the clay hits because the clay will not stick.
4. The student with the most points wins.

Bravery Bags

Have different lunch bags with items hidden in them. Put things with different textures like: cotton balls, yarn, paper, etc. Have the children put their hand in the bags, without looking, and guess what is in the bags.

Streams and Stones

Materials: celery stalks, raisins or M&Ms, cream cheese or yogurt, plastic knife

1. Use a plastic knife to spread the cheese or yogurt on a celery stalk.
2. Students place 5 raisins (5 smooth stones) on their snack.

TAYLOR BROTHERS CHURCH

Seventh Street at Sloan in Taylor, Texas

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 351, Taylor, TX 76754
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

A Shepherd Kicks A Giant's Butt

Tell the Story: Since this is a common, well-known story, retell it from any source you have available (book, video, etc.).

Super Size Me!

Goliath was very large. Use the following examples to help children understand his size. **Materials:** Three 5-lb. bags of sugar or flour, garbage bag, cinderblock

- According to the King James Bible, Goliath was 9 feet, 9 inches. Use butcher paper to show how tall this is or make a mark on the wall, if your ceilings are tall enough!
- 1 Samuel 17 tells us Goliath's breastplate was 125 lbs., probably as much as David! Have two students about 60 lbs. each stand up. Have another student kneel on all fours. Have the first two students ride his back like a horse ride. Ask the kneeling student to try to stand up with the two students on his back, piggyback style. That would be like carrying 125 pounds of weight.
- The tip of Goliath's spear weighed 15 lbs. Bring out the sacks or flour or sugar and let students take turns feeling how heavy it is.
- Goliath's helmet weighed 25 lbs. A cinderblock weighs about 28 lbs. Let students feel how heavy it is or even how hard it is to just push it.

God made David into a Superhero! Superheroes are generally not big, strong people in real life. Think of some of your favorite superheroes. When they are not being superheroes, what are they like? Help them think of Peter Parker (Spiderman) and Clark Kent (Superman) and Bruce Wayne (Batman). They are normal people, even a little bit dorky or underestimated.



*ber me, and not forget Your servant, but will give to Your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head." 12 As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. 13 Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore Eli thought she was drunk. 14 So Eli said to her, "How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine." 15 But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord. 16 Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time." 17 Then Eli answered, "**Go in peace;** the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to Him." (1 Samuel 1:10-17)*

Consider Jonah in the acidic depths of the belly of the fish after he had run from God's task for him - to speak to the Ninevites about their wickedness:

"I called to the Lord out of my distress, and He answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and You heard my voice. 3 You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all Your waves and Your billows passed over me. 4 Then I said, "I am driven away from Your sight; how shall I look again upon Your holy temple?" 5 The waters closed in over me; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped around my head 6 at the roots of the mountains. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever; yet You brought up my life from the Pit, O Lord my God. 7 As my life was ebbing away, I remembered the Lord; and my prayer came to You, into Your holy temple. 8 Those who worship vain idols forsake their true loyalty. 9 But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to You; what I have vowed I will pay. Deliverance belongs to the Lord!" (Jonah 2:2-9)

Consider the prophetess Anna who spoke of Jesus when He was brought to the Temple by His parents to be presented to the Lord:



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

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



1022 Kramr Rd at Ross Prairie Church Road
P.O. Box 11 • Fayetteville, TX 78940

36 *There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37 then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and **prayer night and day.** 38 At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.* (Luke 2:36-38)

Thankfulness is a game-changer in powerful prayer.

It causes you to feel God's love and peace.

It enables you to see God's answers to your questions.

It converts praying into an irresistible habit of blessing.

Some practical steps:

1. Speak God's Word out loud.
2. Ask and allow the Holy Spirit to draw you into God's Word.
3. Pray the prayers you are reading in God's Word.
4. Let constant prayerfulness be your "new normal."

Your life will be blessed.

Your prayers will have power.

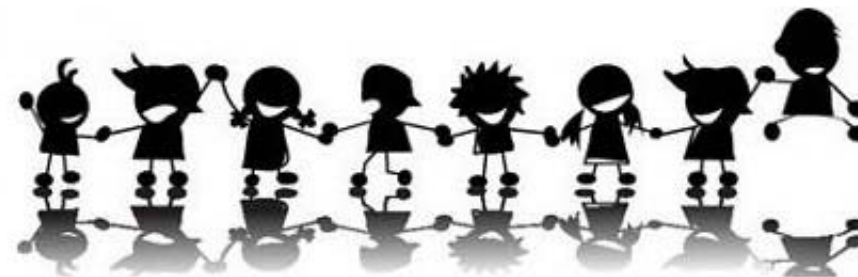
You will feel faith in Jesus surge within you.

You will feel your fears melting away.

In Jesus' hands,

Right With You,

Sister Vanessa Mitchell



Sunday School Helper

So David won the fight against Goliath with a sling and a stone.

1 Samuel 17:50a

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

DAVID! He was a SUPERHERO. He defeated the giant Goliath with just his slingshot and a stone... and God! David is such a superhero that 4,000 years later people like you and me still know who he is. Other superheroes are myths. They aren't real people. David is historical. He is a real person who was made a superhero by God so that Israel could continue to exist, and Jesus could eventually come.

The lesson activities for the story of David include practicing being brave (like David), understanding just how big a giant is, and playing Sling the Stone!

Sometimes it just takes one challenging sentence. Now these friends are overseas serving an unreached people group.

Memorial Tribute of 2017

Five influential people who passed away last year:

Gep Chin – My great uncle. A generous man who encouraged us, nieces and nephews, with huge college tuition gifts. An uncanny personality and a favorite uncle growing up.

Caroline Woo – My wife. My best friend, partner in ministry, and mother to my 5 precious children. An inspiration to many people.

Christine Rose – My greatest prayer supporter. Organized the weekly prayer

meeting for the Shan Dai in Winston-Salem.

Cheryl Wilkins – My Spiritual mentor. Taught me about trusting God for big things and walking in the Spirit. Missionary to China & Nepal.

Helen Woo – My grandmother. An inspiration of someone who truly lived a full life.

Please continue to pray as we partner in reaching the unreached in southeast Asia. Praise the Lord that He restores and renews what He has already started by His grace.

Serving together,
Michael Woo, Samuel,
Ian, Zach, Isaac, Salem

Beautiful Mural Adorns Granger Church Sanctuary Wall



This is a picture of a painting done by Suzanne Huser on the back wall of the sanctuary at Granger Brethren. Suzanne is a well-known artist in this area, the Secretary of the Granger Brethren Board of Elders, and our pianist.

Letters Home

- by Jim Pokorny



Among my most treasured possessions are two pieces of note paper yellowed with age. I treasure them because they contain a letter and a portion of a letter written by my father to his youngest brother Edmond and to another brother whose identity is forever lost to time. Dad's brother Edmond came into possession of that second fragment and kept both. Dad wrote both letters exactly one week before Christmas 1945, when he was a young 18-year old soldier in the U. S. Army.

I would like to share Dad's exact words with you from over 70 years ago.

Dec. 18, 1945

Ft. Sill, Okla.

Dear Brother Edmond

How are you getting along? Hope fine. I got your letter the other day and I didn't have time to answer it and I really was glad to hear from you.

I guess you like school pretty



Temple Brethren Church

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

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

Tim Chaplin, Interim Pastor
(254) 718-3898

good. You said the dog is big. I guess he is. I bet he is pretty and you have a lot of fun with him. How are the little pigs doing? I guess they are growing fast.

Well I am sorry, but I got to close for I got to clean my gun.

So long and answer soon.

*Your brother,
Henry Pokorny*

From what survives of the second letter...

... after dinner it cleared out. I am glad it didn't snow. It started to a little in the morning.

It's 25 minutes till 9 and I'll have to clean my gun yet (ho ho). We got to clean our guns every night. Some of the boys sure are cussing about it (ho ho).

43 boys reenlisted for the regular army and they asked how many more of us want to reenlist. But they ain't gonna get me to reenlist. They said if they got enough reenlisted they will let draftees go. So I hope they get enough and let me go (ho ho).

I'll have to close cause I ran short on news. But one thing, don't expect me at home for Christmas. Cause I

guess they will give us guard duty as that's the way they do. But I'll try to come home.

So long and answer soon.

*Your Brother,
Henry Pokorny
P. S.*

Tell Daddy and Mother and Sister and Joe Jr. and Edmond a big hello for me.

Dad did not go home any time soon. Instead he found himself in Germany as part of the army of occupation. Just like every other soldier, sailor, airman, or marine, Dad had his share of experiences while serving his Uncle Sam. Like the others, he managed to bring home a few stories.

Upon arrival in Germany, he and the other men were issued new uniforms as winters there can get bitterly cold. Some weeks after his arrival Dad broke out in a rash that perplexed the doctors who examined him. Not one of the treatments prescribed worked. In fact, a few only made Dad more miserable. It finally dawned on someone that perhaps Dad was having an allergic reaction to the wool uniforms. A different set of uniforms was issued to him and the rash subsided.

that makes us better people. And so we talked together, these 14 women from different backgrounds, and I hope, and pray, that Jesus and His haunting message came through. Join us for next month's breakfast: Quiche and Mexican Friars.

Thanks for all you do that keeps us here!

Love, Anne.

From the Woo's . . .

January 31, 2018

Dear Friends and Family,

Lately I have been thinking about Nehemiah and the rebuilding of walls, but what I'm really thinking about is how the Lord rebuilds our lives. The word that pops into my head is Restoration. He restores what was lost, but also makes all things new at the same time. My prayer is that you have experienced this type of grace in some capacity in your own life.

The most amazing demonstration of this grace for me is my recent engagement to Naomi Porter. Last month I introduced you to this amaz-

ing woman. This month I am happy to announce that she is my fiancé. During her visit to NC I proposed to her on January 1 under the Moravian stars on the Old Salem bridge. Wow. God has brought us together in the midst of the most unusual set of circumstances. We plan on marrying in CO on June 11. During the summer we will travel to NC and MA and hopefully have opportunity for you to meet her. We plan on living in Winston- Salem, NC, while she adjusts to living with 5 kids and a new husband.

To hear her perspective, visit her blog at: <https://1218naomi.wordpress.com/2018/01/25/his-ways-are-higher/>

Another form of restoration is my calling back into mission-related work. Helping with the Perspective mission course in Winston-Salem has reminded me of the missional call given to each believer. How are we involved in proclaiming the Good News to people who have never heard?

As an OMF mobilizing equipper, it taps into my passion to see the kingdom move forward. I will begin working with potential mission candidates in a few weeks. In many ways I have already had a chance to see the importance of this role. During Urbana 2012 we mobilized a couple who are now serving in China. They had many basic questions at first, but over a few years' period we were able to encourage them along the difficult journey. We were even a place they visited in China as they explored some of their options. Another opportunity we had in mobilization was challenging friends who postponed their mission calling.



HOUSTON BRETHREN CHURCH

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Bellaire, TX 77402
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Christ child, and today they showed up with our tamales.

We were 14 women from different religious backgrounds – Evangelical, Catholic, Jewish, Atheist, New Age – laughing and eating tamales together. One of them mentioned how she had overheard a nine-year old girl in a baking class they were taking together suggesting to other children in the class that they go online and play “Charly, Charly,” a Mexican version of Ouija, because you got what you asked for... and she claimed she had. I was as appalled as Irma, the mom telling the story.

It was the perfect lead-in for my talk. Let me explain. One of the women on my mission team, Vasti, is spectacularly gifted at gathering people together. She’s one of those hubs that makes the “7 degrees of separation” work. She knows practically everyone on Oaxaca, and her mom met a past Mexican president, so I’m just one degree from everyone in this city and two degrees away from all our world leaders (ok, minor hyperbole). She and I do evangelism together.

Vasti has organized a monthly breakfast for women to talk about...things, and I am the main speaker. We’ve talked about introversion, about modernism, about the value of women, and about how Christians believe that we are actually “extraterrestrials” with alien resurrection holy ghost blood in our veins. Today the topic was “literary interpretation,” and we analyzed Walter de la Mare’s ghostly poem “The Listeners.” I was helping them see that interpreting art or literature (or the Bible) is an ongoing, community process that *strives to draw closer and closer to the origi-*

nal author’s intent. In other words, it’s NOT a free-for-all-believe-what-ever-you-want affair. (Ask my English students how far *that* strategy got them.) NOR is it a weapon to impose our own interpretation: “My Bible says...”

I said that we had to approach the Bible in the same way that we approached poetry, listening for what the (apparently) silent, invisible author is saying to us. We pore over the original context, asking who is talking to whom, and why. We check with one another, and with the experts (in this case – Wikipedia and me) to try and get it right, and we each bring our own history to the table. Adriana as a child had been afraid of hauntings, and she brought that to the discussion. Irma suggested that perhaps it is not God who seems absent and silent, but we who refuse to respond to His knock, knock, knock at the heart’s door. I’d never thought of that.

We talked about various books of faith – the Koran, Torah, the New Testament, and how they differ. Christians believe that God is all about communicating and using the newest translations and versions of the Bible to get His message across. I mean, not even the gospel writers wrote in their mother tongue. The very first writing of the gospel was already a translation from the original Aramaic that Jesus spoke into Greek (insight from Andrew Walls). We talked about the Christians’ book’s number one purpose is not to make us better people or make us believe things, it’s to point us to that guy who died and came back. He takes it from there, putting that alien blood in our veins

I also have in my possession a photo of Dad taken shortly after he received his new uniforms. Another much taller soldier is in the photo with him. Dad wrote on the back: “The other boy is from Hereford, Texas.” I suppose two Texans in that part of Germany was a photo opportunity too good to pass up.

Dad did manage to find a great way to serve both his country and help others in need and it came about in a most remarkable way. World War II had created large numbers of refugees. Those fortunate enough to survive found themselves trying to make their way back home. It seems like the military has initials for everything. These people were assigned D.P. status which stood for Displaced Persons.

One day, Dad and a few men from his outfit were doing guard duty at a processing station that was doing its best to handle the tide of humanity. Language was a problem. A Polish man was becoming rather exasperated with an American officer who did not understand the language. Having spoken Czech as a boy, Dad picked out the occasional word here and there. Dad approached the two and told the officer what he believed the

man was trying to get across.

“Do you speak Polish?” the officer snapped.

Dad suddenly feared that he just might just have gotten himself into a world of trouble. “No sir!” he offered apologetically. “But I do speak Czech and some of the words are similar.” (Author’s Note: I have not heard much in the way of Polish, but I have noticed similarities between Czech and Russian.) Thus began Dad’s career as a translator in Uncle Sam’s army. As a result, many people who spoke Polish and other Slavic languages were sent his way for processing. Dad told me that if he could get the speaker to slow down enough, he could get the gist of what was said.

Although Dad was able to help people, the job came with an inherent risk. More than a few people in Germany had been charged with war crimes and were looking for ways out of the country. Dad admitted to a twinge of anxiety whenever he was checking someone’s papers, for it was at that moment that he had to take his eyes off them. Anyone facing war crimes could have been desperate enough to produce a pistol or

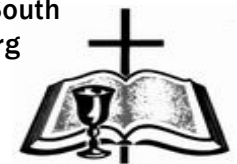


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2650 Earl Rudder Freeway South

www.unityofthebrethren.org

Rev. Mark Sebek



Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 9283

College Station, TX 77842

Church 9:00 A.M.

Sunday School 10:45 A.M.

Off: 979-693-3606

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knife at that point without his being aware of it. Fortunately that did not happen, and Dad was able to help many displaced people continue their journey home.

Of course, every soldier has some funny stories to tell, and Dad was no exception. Perhaps the funniest story he shared with me was the night he and another soldier were on guard duty. An old man wearing a railroad uniform came running up to them through the snow. The old man was speaking German rather excitedly. This, coupled with the old man trying to catch his breath made it impossible for his German to be understood. Finally, the old man began gesturing wildly for someone to follow him. Dad volunteered to accompany the man while the other soldier reported it.

The run back had slowed to a jog due to the man's age coupled with the fact that he had already been running. At one point the old man suddenly stopped while Dad jogged on a few paces. Noticing his newfound companion was no longer with him, Dad stopped and looked back. There stood the old man. A bit confused, Dad motioned for him to come forward, but the old man merely shook his head. He simply refused to venture a single step more.

Dad wondered why the old man refused to go any farther. He decided to investigate and took a few more steps. By this time, Dad's eyes had become more accustomed to the darkness and the reflective nature of the snow also helped. In the distance he caught the glimmer of a camp fire. Not knowing what to expect Dad held his rifle at the ready and continued his cautious approach. As he got closer he could make out the forms of two men warming themselves at the fire. Approaching still nearer, Dad made out a train that had stopped on the tracks just beyond the pair. A few more steps and Dad suddenly realized why the old man had been so excited. He also understood why he would get no closer. This train was carrying live ammunition.

Dad broke into a full run and as he entered the glow of the fire the two men literally jumped out of their skins. With his heavy boot, Dad began kicking snow into the fire and in no time the fire was completely extinguished. These men were quite upset with Dad both for scaring them and for putting out their cozy fire and they made their frustrations known.

Dad's command of the German language still had a considerable way to go. So, Dad just pointed to the train

duced seem to be just what they need. In at least one area they have started a new church with its own leader already, and that outlying area now has a witness to God's goodness.

After 60 years of effort (many interruptions along the way), the Metlatonoc Mixtecs will finally have a complete New Testament. There is going to be a major party on March 18th, and you are all invited. Seriously. If anyone wants to come, please write us. It should be a great time, and of course we will be marking a milestone in the Good News coming to these people.

Our mission agency published a book on missions from our Mennonite perspective a couple years ago, and is now in the process of getting it out in Spanish. The last few months of 2017 I started the final checking process, which I hope to finish by the end of January. The book has 45 chapters and is almost 700 pages long, so it is quite a bit of work. We wrote one of the chapters, on ministry among animists. I will attach it here (in English) if any of you want to read it. You may not be familiar with the term "animist", but part of my conjecture is that most of the world fits into the religious category of being animist. Even to a minor degree Western Christians. It's not a bad thing – just a worldview. We want the book available by July, when many of the Latin American Mennonite Brethren training leaders (us too) will come together in Paraguay for meetings aimed at unity and refinement.

Elai (RuthE) finished her studies at Wheaton last semester (she'll have a Bachelor in Communications) and the other three finish this semester. They

will all graduate in May, starting with Philip in Texas the first Saturday, Elai and Mikael the very next day in the Chicago area, and a week later Cailey in Vermont. After that, the 19th Philip and Cailey get married in the Denver, CO, area. They are all doing very well in their studies, and Mikael already has a job lined up. Philip will be working on that these next months. Know anyone wanting a mechanical engineer who is smart, good with people, and practical? All this means our May is full of flying, driving, and partying. We hope to visit friends and supporters in Ontario and North Carolina after, in June and July.

Thank you all for the many ways you support us in this ministry. We really appreciate it all.

Blessings, Robert

February 10, 2018

Hello, Friends,

Today, just a few days late, 14 of us women ate tamales de rajas steamed in corn husks, and tamales de mole steamed in banana leaves. Both were yummy. For those of you who don't know the custom, on Kings' Day, January 6, Mexicans serve a bread roll with candied fruit on top and little white plastic dolls inside – the Christ child. This is one of the earliest holidays of the early church, because it represented the revelation of God to Gentiles (the kings). It's MISSIONARY DAY! Whoever finds a Christ figure in her chunk of rosca brings tamales to eat on February 2 (the day celebrating the presentation of Christ in the temple). So last time we met, a month ago, two women found the



To communicate with the Hus Encampment . . .

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

Kent Laza
4913 FM 166
Caldwell, TX 77836
(979) 220-1957
Kent.laza@verizon.net

**This must be done well in advance.*

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

From the Thiessen's . . .

Wednesday, January 10, 2018

Dear friends,

Our busy family visiting season is over (family photo attached) and we can take some time to look at the New Year ahead. Which is also a good time to look back, to both celebrate the good things and to refine plans for what is coming.

As 2017 unfolded, our efforts turned increasingly towards mentoring several networks of pastors and missionaries. Three groups of pastors (about 25-30 churches) and the group of missionaries (around 25) are here in the state of Oaxaca. That sometimes means trips of over ten hours just to get to a central village, which then ends up being three or four days total. When I take public transport there are many moments of meaningful conversation with other passengers, and when I take my car I can be

more of a help with local economic development. Some of the pastors sustain themselves through small variety stores and others have trades like carpentry and steel fabricating, so I bring goods to be sold, and a machine I made for sharpening saw and planer blades, and am a source of hardware and tools they wouldn't otherwise have access to. Mentoring involves a balance between meeting with individuals and groups and between Biblical teaching and application. It is also focused on these leaders reproducing that discipleship to other leaders, or to raising up new leaders in new areas, so it is all still directly missional. Most of these pastors are in Mixtec areas with few churches.

The other network of pastors is in Peru, and we will be visiting a few times this coming year. They are getting more confident in their own abilities, and the discipling tools (ideas and study booklets) that we intro-

and said one word that translated quite well: "BOOM!" The men looked at each other in disbelief and according to Dad they grew noticeably paler even in the darkness. An officer arrived on the scene with a handful of men. The pair were brought in for questioning and Dad got yelled at for investigating things on his own. All things considered, he considered the matter a good trade as he rather enjoyed telling this story.

I remember asking Dad if he had any regrets from this period in his life. He had but one. From the moment he found himself in Germany he longed to visit the Black Forest. Unfortunately, the opportunity to do so never presented itself.

One evening in the 1970's, the Taylor VFW honored Dad and his many brothers who served. Their service and their safe return were commemorated. The brothers all wore white shirts and dress slacks that

evening, and a group photo was taken. Standing from left to right were the Pokorny brothers: Ben, Louis, Willie, Emil, Edmond, and my father Henry.

Dad passed away in 1981 and was laid to rest on the day I turned 19. He, like others who served their country, acquired certain qualities because of their military service... patriotism, a sense of duty, camaraderie, and so on. I will always treasure these two letters because they give me another perspective on Dad's life, a glimpse into the thoughts of a young man a third my age who wanted one thing more than anything else - to come home to those he loved and who loved him in return. I imagine everyone who has worn a uniform has felt the same way.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur once said, "The soldier above all others prays for peace, for it is the soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war."



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: wallbrethren@gmail.com

www.WallBrethrenChurch.com

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

President
Board of Elders
Lance LaBedelle
325-227-9900

Pastor/Director of Youth
and Young Family Ministries
Ryan Volkman
325-213-0671

Church Office
Secretary
Libby Lane
Tu-F: 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Rosenberg Christian Sisters



The Rosenberg Christian Sisters collected 500 stuffed animals and donated them to the nursing homes in Rosenberg and Needville. Pictured are Betty Ragsdale and Lee Brandt.



The new Officers for the Rosenberg Christian Sisters are: Treasurer, Cathy Kuritza; President Mary Jane Kocurek; Vice-President, Alice Kocurek; and Pastor Ben Kruse. Seated: Secretary, Virginia Macik. Not pictured is Corresponding Secretary, Lee Brandt.

Meet Ms. Sylvia Vavra The Oldest Unity of the Brethren Member

Sylvia Vavra is a member of the Houston Brethren Church and SPJST Lodge 169. Born in Wesley, Texas, at the family farm on December 13, 1915, Sylvia was delivered by her uncle, Dr. Tom Hruska, also from Wesley. Sylvia is the youngest of four children. She lost one baby brother soon after birth. Her parents were Thomas J. Vavra and Frances Hruska Vavra.

Sylvia attended the first original Czech Moravian Brethren Church and taught Sunday School in the historic church as well as the new church building. She also played the piano. Her two brothers, Edward G. and Jerome J. and sister, Annie Huebner, are all deceased. Sylvia retired from working in varied companies in Houston in 1995 and has been active in the Houston church since. She was an officer of the Sunset Heights Civic Organization for many years. She never

drove a car; used public transportation and walked a lot. She also loved to make kolaches, cook, and read.



Today, Sylvia loves getting the *Brethren Journal* and the SPJST newsletter, the *Vestnik*. She loves to discuss old times, especially going to school in Wesley with her siblings and being in the same room with her sister in several grades (she listened & learned a lot). She now stays at the Monument Hill Nursing Rehab in La Grange. Age at 102 has caught up with her. She uses her wheelchair, and she can race you to the mess hall for a meal. She says she only prays in her Houston Church and worries about her home in Houston. Sylvia seldom watches TV, and is always packed hoping someone will save her and take her home to Houston and her church. She is a lovely person, was active and busy all her life.

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(979) 200-0513

Diane Heckman, Manager

rience nourishment and fellowship, go for a walk to clear your head and experience the kicking in of your endorphins for the struggle ahead, the gospel informs us to take charge of our stress. After doing all that you may humanly do, you take charge of your stress. Mark 14:42, "...He said to them. Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

Ninth, peace and calm. Once the decision had been made, Jesus felt a sense of calm and peace. He did not recriminate; "I should have, I ought to have done this or that, made different choices, lived a different life." Jesus felt an inner peace and calm. He got up and went forward to do His Father's will.

Dealing with life's stressors is never easy. Our military veterans may come home with symptoms of PTSD. In times of great stress suicide may seem like the best way out, but our Lord Jesus Christ has shown us a better way to deal with the traumas that present in our everyday lives. We can make choices, decisions to move forward. Jesus Christ has shown us the way to do so.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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Suzie Dusek – (2017) Wall
Jennifer Chervenka – Youth Coordinator, Ocker Brethren
Synodical Liaison – Rev. Whitney Amos, 3rd Vice-President, chatney@aol.com

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Treasurer: Todd Corporon (2016), 5350 County Road 124, Georgetown, TX 78626; toddcorporon@yahoo.com

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Todd Snelgrove, BCS (2011); rtsnelgrove@gmail.com
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Rick Weise, Wall (2017); rick.weise@cosatx.us
Rev. Tommy Tallas (2017), (325) 656-8558; rev.tjt@gmail.com
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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: Contact Kent Laza, Chairman

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

Synodical Committee Oversight: Rev. Whitney Amos.

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

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Rev. James D. Hejl
(Pastor to the Pastors)
Rev. Mark Sebek
Rev. Whitney Amos
Rev. Joe Emerson

YOU are Invited to Participate in a Cantata Honoring the Resurrection of Christ! "I Surrender All!"

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Caldwell Brethren Church will be hosting an Easter Cantata this year honoring the Resurrection of Christ! We would like to invite you to come and be a part of this time to serve and honor our Lord. If you enjoy singing, please come and join us! The Cantata is a 25-minute mini-musical called "I Surrender All." The Cantata has a powerful narrative and moving songs, I Surrender All is an Easter musical that declares the truth we find in Christ! The songs are:

Jesus Saves! With Lift High the Lord Our Banner and Hosanna; No More Waiting; Lamb of God; I Surrender All; Christ Is Risen Finale (Lord, I Lift Your Name on High with Christ the Lord Is Risen Today)

All are welcome, whether you have experience or not! The simple series arrangement is easy for every voice to learn. Please come and join us for this amazing time of fellowship and service! If you are interested, please let your church representative know, or contact 979-450-1820 by text or voice, or email lurbanovsky@gmail.com. The cost of the books is \$6.99 per person.

Weekly Schedule:

- On weeks with a Fellowship Meal: Fellowship Meal from 6:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. – Caldwell Brethren Fellowship Building. Practice from 6:45 to 8:00 p.m.
- On weeks without a Fellowship Meal: Practice from 6:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. – Caldwell Brethren Church Sanctuary.

Performance dates:

- Our main performance will be at Caldwell Brethren on Saturday, March 24, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. in our Sanctuary with a fellowship meal following.
- We will have an additional performance at Snook Brethren for their Good Friday Service on March 30, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. in their Sanctuary with a fellowship meal following.
- We will have outreach performances at Copperas Hollow Nursing Home and CHI St. Joseph Manor Nursing Home, in Caldwell, Texas; these dates are to be determined.

Practice Dates:

- Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 6:00-8:00 p.m. We will have a Fellowship Meal.
- Tuesday, February 20, 2018, 6:00-7:45 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 27, 2018, 6:00-7:45 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 6, 2018, 6:00-8:00 p.m. We will have a Fellowship Meal.
- Tuesday, March 13, 2018, 6:00-7:45 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 20, 2018, 6:00-8:00 p.m. We will have a Fellowship Meal.
- Thursday, March 22, 2018, 6:00-7:45 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 27, 2018, 6:00-7:45 p.m. at Snook Brethren 6:00-8:00 p.m.

A Biblical Approach to Stress Management

- by Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill

We live in time of great stress, personally and globally. The world around us is changing, ISIS wreaks havoc with Christians being beheaded and churches blown up. In 2001 America began undergoing the longest war in its history in Afghanistan and Iraq. Recent events in America regarding evolving civil unrest is being compared to the 1960's era in America.

Thankfully we have a biblical example in how to deal with stress in the person of Jesus Christ. In the events leading up to the Garden of Gethsemane we learn how to effectively manage stress; physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

We most often think of stress being negative. Stress may be positive as in graduation ceremonies, what will I do next; a new career, a promotion, marriage, a new car, how will I pay for it, the birth of a baby. Stress may be real, or in one's imagination, one's perceived reality, creating a sense physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually of anxiety, worry, fear, and pain. In this definition, an individual experiences mental and emotional distress. It is often borne out physically through symptoms of

distress creating a need to retreat from the world, isolating ourselves from our families and communities of support.

The first step in stress management is found in Matthew 18:20, here we learn that wherever two or three are gathered together we create a family, a koinonia of faith and trust. It is important to never face a crisis by one's self. Jesus was facing one of His most pivotal moments in His life as a teacher, Rabbi, and man. It was the night of the Passover meal in Jerusalem, less than twenty-four hours before His betrayal in the garden.

When we are facing life's trials and traumas, it is vital to gather family and friends around us to face the upcoming stressful traumatic situation. On the night before His betrayal, Jesus gathered His family of disciples around Him in the Upper Room.

Second, it is important to take in nourishment, even if we do not feel like eating. Mark 14:16-18 shares with us that Jesus ate a meal with His family. In breaking the bread together, Christ and the disciples shared a momentary time of fellowship and relaxation before going forth into the

world with its procession of trials and stressors.

Third, a key component in dealing with stress is to get adequate exercise. After eating a meal with His disciples, Mark 14:26 informs us that Jesus went for a walk. Jesus walked to the Garden of Gethsemane. Recent studies have demonstrated that walking improves our physical well being. Modern day medicine informs us that walking helps our blood pressure, inhibits diabetes, creates a reduction in our cholesterol, and helps us lose weight. It has been shown to improve memory, cognition, and self-confidence. It often is a key ingredient in elevating our mood psychologically, emotionally and spiritually.

Fourth, fight or flight. Fight or flight is a classic response in dealing with stress. Does one stay and fight, by making the best of the situation through fighting it; or engaging in flight, running away? This may be physically running away, or it may involve denial through the use of substances such as drugs or alcohol. It may also mean standing firm and engaging in the defeat of the traumatic stressor. A young shepherd boy by the name of David stood firm

when the lion and the bear threatened his sheep. I Samuel 17:34-36. Our Lord Jesus Christ stood firm and faced His enemies.

Fifth, share your problems. In Mark 14:32-33 we learn that Jesus was "deeply distressed and troubled." In dealing with and facing stressful or traumatic situations, it is important to share your problems with persons you can trust to give you support and good counsel. Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him to focus on the problem. Mark 14:34. "My heart is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," "stay here and keep watch."

Sixth, focus on the problem. Jesus went to a quiet garden, the Garden of Gethsemane in Mark 14:32. When facing a life-challenging, life-changing experience, a major time of crisis, it is good to go to a quiet place to have a personal time with God. Here in the garden our Lord did so.

Seventh, prayer and meditation. In Mark 14: 35-36, Jesus went, "a little further and fell down to the ground and prayed." Jesus prayed, "Father, everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." Three times Jesus prayed.

Eight, take charge of your stress. Mark 14:41. After prayer and meditation, after discussions with your family and friends, eating a meal to expe-



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