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THE BRETHREN



JOURNAL



Vol. 117

July/August 2018

No. 6

40 Pages

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— from the editor

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

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40/July-August 2018

BRETHREN JOURNAL



Before



After

*The Hus School Encampment Kitchen
Before and After Renovation*

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

FROM THE PRESIDENT . . . Dr. Larry Koslovsky

Hus Camp Reflections . . . by Kent Laza

Home . . . by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

Thine to Serve Thee . . . by Jim Pokorny

... and much, much more!

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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From the President . . . Dr. Larry Koslovsky

Hus Encampment Main Building Renovations - Phase 1

Wow!! The updated, upgraded kitchen at the Hus Encampment is fantastically beautiful and certainly a welcomed blessing! Thanks goes to so many people who worked to make the transition from what was to what is. Thank you, thank you... to all who have worked so hard to make it happen by this year's camping season.

In addition to the obvious changes in the kitchen, major upgrades to the infrastructure were also necessary as we plan for future needs and expansion of the camp facilities. The septic system has been moved to the edge of our property, and the gray water is now dispersed across the road thanks to Marvin and Alice Chlapek. This frees up the space we have used for years for outdoor activities but now without dealing with wet grounds and the system going off in the middle of activities. Power to the camp has also been upgraded to handle the additional electric needs now and in the future. While the septic and electric systems are functional renovations, they nonetheless set the stage

for future expansion and needs for years to come.

Hus Encampment Main Building Renovations - Phase 2

By the time you read this article, the camping season will be coming to a close. The hope is that as soon as possible, the second phase of the Main Building renovation can be completed, which entails moving entrances, adding restrooms, completing air conditioning in the dining area, and stabilizing the wall between the dining hall and library/meeting room.

This second and final phase to the Main Building is estimated to cost \$200,000. It would be great to start this phase as soon as possible. The next step is dependent on raising these funds. Prayerfully consider how you can have a part in making this second phase happen quickly so that the total renovation of the Main Building can be complete. Any and all donations will be gratefully received.

Cade Lake Community Chapel

Since the fire, Cade Lake Commu-



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

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Protestant Preaching
in Texas - 1855"



1022 Kramr Rd at Ross Prairie Church Road
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nity Chapel has braved the elements and been meeting in a tent on the property. The original building was a total loss and has been demolished. A survey has been made of the existing property in anticipation of procuring another facility. With the coming of summer heat, worship has been moved to a home of regular attenders at this writing.

Rev. Casandra Wilson of Caldwell has showcased a facility she is using that corresponds roughly to the same dimensions as the previous Chapel (30' x 100'). She has graciously offered her facility for temporary use at no cost, if we so desire. While at a very preliminary stage, the initial planning process has been set in motion. More details will be forthcoming in a timely manner in order to get this mission and ministry back on its feet.

Hurricane Harvey

Once again, by the generosity of individuals and congregations, we

have been able to help individuals and families get back on their feet; some with financial aid, some with help from work crews through the Moravian Church.

Good Shepherd suffered extensive damage due the flooding. They are now back in the sanctuary. While the flood brings its own set of problems, it also brings blessings. Renovations have been made in the rebuilding process. Potential roof problems have been stabilized. Lighting has been improved.

Over the next couple of months two more Moravian work crews will be coming to Texas to help with further repairs in the Port Arthur area.

Halfway to the 68th Biennial Convention

We are now one year away from our biennial convention to be held at Wall Brethren Church. Most of our focus this past year has been on unusual events, particularly Hurri-

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 (PO Box 163, Caldwell, TX 77836) – A Home Mission Project since 10-22-11 – Sunday School at 11:00 AM; Fellowship Lunch at Noon; Worship at 1:00 PM.
– Rev. Kay Polasek
Co-Pastor, Rev. Jim Heckman

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

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

Dime Box – worship at 9:00 AM every Sunday.
– Rev. 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 – worship at 10:30 AM every Sunday.
– Pastor Lisa Johnson



CALDWELL BRETHREN CHURCH

401 South Main Street
(979) 567-7203

Sunday School
9:30 AM

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

Sunday Worship
10:30 AM

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

Church email: lifeatcbc@gmail.com

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

www.lifeatcbc.org

Come as you are . . .

Friend us on Facebook!

Thoughts about giving...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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cane Harvey and the fire destroying the facility at Cade Lake Community Chapel. While two years can seem like a long time, in Brethren time it is very short between conventions, given the challenges of this last year. I am trusting that in this last half of the biennial we can be more proactive in terms of mission and ministry collectively as a denomination.

There are generally only four to five Synodical meetings between conventions. There is a learning curve for those who take on new positions, particularly in the area of contributions and finances. Having served in various capacities on the Executive Committee through the last 37 years, I can attest that the overall management of the Unity is much more demanding and complex. There are more organizational requirements: maintaining status as a 501c3, quarterly reports to the IRS for payroll, financial challenges and equity of the minis-

ters retirement program, local and foreign mission personnel responsibilities, problem solving within Unity boards and organizations, along with the standard standing responsibilities of the executive officers that give oversight to the denomination.

I would simply ask for prayers for the Unity and its leadership – congregational and denominational – and for pastors, as we, like most other denominations, face aging membership, dwindling finances, and a different set of social and spiritual challenges.

The call is not to just survive, but to thrive in promise of Christ... that all may *have life and have it abundantly*. May we seek the Lord's blessing in order to be a blessing to the communities we find ourselves – where the Lord has placed us – that indeed we might be salt and light in a broken and hurting world, bringing love, peace, and hope.

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.

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Reflections on My Experiences at The Hus School Encampment

- by Kent Laza

As I began to write this article about my memories of the Hus School Encampment and its impact on my life, I had the opportunity to read a similar article from last month's *Brethren Journal* written by Reed Olsen. I am at least 40 years older than Reed, but the experiences he described about the friendships he made, the closeness with fellow Christians his age, the nightly adventures to the kitchen, and the acute awareness of the young ladies around him are exactly what I experienced 40 years earlier. I firmly believe that these common experiences which span across generations are the glue that bind so many of us together in our love for the Hus School Encampment.

My oldest memory of camp was on Sunday evening shortly after arriving at Pioneer Camp in June 1971. We participated in what we called "get acquainted" games to help us learn the names of our fellow campers and counselors. In the first game, we

formed ourselves in a large circle with one person in the middle who would walk around the circle, stop and point at one of us, then say "left" or "right" to which we had to quickly respond with the person's name on that side of us. When the finger was pointed at me, I fumbled to get the name out in time and I failed the test, but the person's name that I struggled to pronounce was Kelly Zetak from Taylor. Since then, my relationship with Kelly has grown exponentially – he was a hunting buddy, a partner in crime during college, a groomsman in my wedding, and to this day is still a close friend with whom I correspond often. There are several others from that same camp who have been and remain as close friends whom I will cherish the rest of my life.

That memory and the friendships that were started at my Pioneer Camp are now 47 years old. Since that time, many other friends have come into my life through the experiences we

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for August 2018

By Mari-Anne K. Gordon and Dorothy E. Kocian

From the *New Revised Standard Version* unless otherwise indicated.

1. The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many. Matthew 20:28
2. Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. Psalm 25:16
3. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go. Genesis 28:15
4. The Lord said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." II Corinthians 12:9
5. Return to the Lord your God; then the Lord your God will restore you from captivity and have compassion on you. Deuteronomy 30:2,3
6. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete. John 16:24b
7. Save us, O God of our salvation, and gather us, that we may give thanks to Your holy name. I Chronicles 16:35
8. Reside in this land as an alien, and I will be with you and will bless you. Genesis 26:3
9. You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of Him Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. I Peter 2:9
10. Let us lift up our hearts as well as our hands to God in heaven. Lamentations 3:41
11. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28
12. You must return to your God; maintain love and justice, and wait for your God always. Hosea 12:6 (NIV)
13. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. Isaiah 65:24
14. But God proves His love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Romans 5:8
15. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end. Lamentations 3:22
16. Blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. Matthew 13:16
17. Cast your burden on the Lord, and He will sustain you. Psalm 55:22
18. I thank my God every time I remember you... because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. Philippians 1:3,5
19. What can be known about God is plain to them because God has shown it to them. Romans 1:19
20. God gave Christ Jesus the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend in heaven and on earth and under the earth. Philippians 2:9,10
21. He shall be great to the ends of the earth. Micah 5:4b
22. Having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. Romans 6:18 (NASB)
23. Woe to those who plan iniquity... because it is in their power to do it. Micah 2:1 (NIV)
24. God alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. Psalm 62:6
25. I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; with my loving eye on you I will counsel you. Psalm 32:8 (NIV)
26. I said, "I will guard my ways that I may not sin with my tongue." Psalm 39:1
27. Blessed be the name of God from age to age, for wisdom and power are His. Daniel 2:20
28. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23
29. The heavens are telling the glory of God. Psalm 19:1
30. Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it and to hear what you hear but did not hear it." Matthew 13:17
31. They brought Him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him. Matthew 12:22 (NIV)

TAYLOR BRETHREN CHURCH

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

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

<i>Pastor</i>	<i>Board President</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
<i>James D. Hejl</i>	<i>Bryan Holubec</i>	<i>Mary Kokes</i>
<i>512-365-6890</i>	<i>512-922-5470</i>	<i>M-Th 8 a.m.-noon</i>

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for July 2018

By Mari-Anne K. Gordon and Dorothy E. Kocian

From the *New Revised Standard Version* unless otherwise indicated.

1. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. **Galatians 5:25**
2. He will regard the prayer of the destitute and will not despise their prayer. Psalm 102:17
3. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. John 14:16 (NIV)
4. God, the Lord, is my strength. Habakkuk 3:19
5. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away. Daniel 7:14
6. Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong. II Corinthians 12:10
7. I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Romans 12:1
8. When you were buried with Christ in baptism, you were also raised with Him through faith in the power of God, Who raised Him from the dead. **Colossians 2:12**
9. If I have found favor in Your sight, show me Your ways so that I may know You. Exodus 33:13
10. Jesus said to the disciples, "As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'" Matthew 10:7
11. Lead me, O Lord, in Your righteousness because of my enemies; make Your way straight before me. Psalm 5:8
12. Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one object for special use and another for ordinary use? Romans 9:21
13. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Matthew 5:4
14. Indeed, God is not far from each one of us. Acts 17:27b
15. God said to Jacob, "I am God, the God of your father; do not be afraid. I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again. **Genesis 46:3,4**
16. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel. Colossians 1:5b
17. My lips will shout for joy when I sing praises to You; my soul also, which You have rescued. Psalm 71:23
18. The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps. Proverbs 16:9 (ESV)
19. Bless the Lord, all His works, in all places of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul. Psalm 103:22
20. Now to God Who is able to strengthen you... to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever! Romans 16:25,27
21. They will call on My name and I will answer them. Zechariah 13:9b
22. See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springs up and causes trouble, and through it many become defiled. **Hebrews 12:15**
23. Let each of you look not only to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Philippians 2:4
24. Through those who are near Me I will show Myself holy, and before all the people I will be glorified. Leviticus 10:3
25. If we have been united with Christ in a death like His, we will certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. Romans 6:5
26. O give thanks to the Lord, call on His name, make known His deeds among the people. Psalm 105:1
27. And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? Matthew 6:27
28. Do not cast me off in the time of old age; do not forsake me when my strength is spent. Psalm 71:9
29. "Consider then and realize how evil and bitter it is for you when you forsake the Lord your God and have no awe of Me," declares the Lord, the Lord Almighty. **Jeremiah 2:19 (NIV)**
30. May the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. I Thessalonians 5:23
31. I proclaimed a fast... so that we might humble ourselves before our God and ask Him for a safe journey. Ezra 8:21 (NIV)

shared at the Hus Encampment, including my wife, Tami. I can truthfully say that the relationships developed at the Hus Encampment are among the greatest blessings that God bestowed upon me in my life. When I speak of these friendships with my "non-Hus" friends, they are amazed at the depth and diversity of such long-lasting relationships. They want to know how I've been able to sustain these relationships for so long.

As many of you know, I was raised on a small farm in Tom Green County, where I attended Wall High School and Wall Brethren Church. The Wall community was – and largely still is – a predominately Catholic community, so most of my school friends attended the local Catholic church. Their understanding of faith and Christian living was very different from what I was being taught. This disconnect with most of my peers instilled a great deal of self-doubt and low self-esteem because I didn't fit in with the crowd around me. It wasn't until I began participating more fully in the activities at the Hus Encampment, where I was surrounded by other like-minded Christians, that I began to emerge as a more confident young

man who was far more prepared to face adulthood.

Since my days as a camper and Hus School student, I have served in numerous roles related to the Hus Encampment and the Unity of the Brethren. My motivation for taking on those roles is largely formulated by a desire to give other young people the opportunity to experience God's love at this very special place. While many of my own experiences at camp have faded with time, I was fortunate to witness changes in the lives of campers while working as their counselor at Pioneer and Discovery Camps. It was highly rewarding to listen to them open up about the struggles they dealt with in their lives, and later to see them blossom into wonderful leaders in their home churches or beyond. When I see them now, I often go back to a small group session, a late-night room discussion, or a special vesper service where these now adults first began to feel the Lord moving in their life.

If you are reading this article, it is likely that you, too, have similar experiences as Reed Olsen and me. I don't know that the experiences Reed and I



BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION BRETHREN CHURCH

2650 Earl Rudder Freeway South

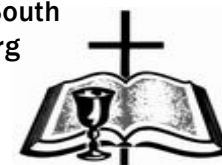
www.unityofthebrethren.org

Rev. Mark Sebek

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 9283

College Station, TX 77842



Church 9:00 A.M.

Sunday School 10:45 A.M.

Off: 979-693-3606

email: papasebek@gmx.com

have attempted to verbalize are unique to the Hus School Encampment, but I am certain it is rare for a place like this to have such a profound influence on people's lives. Opportunities for young people to experience deep Christian growth, both now and 40 years ago, do not happen very often without a commitment from a lot of people, most or whom never see the fruits of their efforts. For me, it was John & Joyce Baletka, Marvin & Alice Chlapek, Frank & LaNelle McKay, Alvin & Velma Kubala, Leroy & Delores Kubala, and Tommy & Donna Tallas. While there were others, these are the ones I remember from my youth who served in leadership roles at the camp as directors, managers, pastors and trusted mentors. I give them the credit for creating an environment that allowed me to experience God's presence in my life and grow as a young Christian.

God has continued to provide talented leaders for our youth who attend the camping programs, and many lives have been changed because of their ongoing work. I encourage you to talk with the young people who have attended a camp program recently to hear firsthand experiences

of how God moved in their lives and about the relationships they developed through camp.

The Hus School Encampment is getting old. The main building and dorms are about 60 years old and in need of upgrades or replacement. At the Unity Convention held last summer in Temple, the denomination authorized the Hus School Board of Trustees to initiate fundraising and building programs for improvements to the Hus School Encampment. That work is currently underway, and this year's campers were the first to reap the benefits from the initial efforts. The kitchen has been remodeled and the campus infrastructure (water, sewer, and electrical) has been upgraded in preparation for future expansion of the facility. The next step in the planned upgrades involves renovation of the rest of the Main Building. That cost is expected to be about \$200,000. New dorms and other remodeling costs are estimated to exceed \$3 million. Undoubtedly, these are large expenses that lie ahead, but they reflect the level of commitment that will be necessary to continue the work that was started by those who went before us.

Over the next several months, the

SAVE THE DATES...

September 22, 2018 – Fall Synodical Committee meeting at the Hus Encampment in Caldwell, TX. Details & Registrations will be sent to each congregation and should be available for download on the Unity Website in August. For more information, call Donna Verwold at (713) 553-5542 or email dmverold@yahoo.com.

October 12-14, 2018 – 24th Annual Prime Timers' Retreat at the Hus School Encampment in Caldwell, TX. Details & Registrations will be sent to each congregation and should be available for download on the Unity website in August. For more information, call Donna Verwold at (713) 553-5542, or email dmverold@yahoo.com.

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

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.

Temple Brethren Church

2202 Birdcreek Drive
Temple, Texas 76502

(254) 778-8759

TempleBrethrenChurch.org

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Worship: 10:45 a.m.

tbc@hot.rr.com

Rev. Tim Chaplin

(254) 718-6094

tpch4359@gmail.com



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Temple, Texas 76501
(800) 727-7578
www.spjst.org

Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

July 1-6 – Challenger Camp at Hus Encampment.

July 4, 2018 – Happy Independence Day!

July 8-10 – Encounter Camp at Hus Encampment.

July 14-15, 2018 – Summer BYF Retreat, Convention, and Volleyball Tournament at the Hus Encampment. On Saturday, the Youth Convention begins at 8:30 a.m., Worship and Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m., Tournament to follow. Visit unityofthebrethrenyouth.org for information, or contact Jennifer Chervenka at email jennchervenka@gmail.com.

July 21, 2018 – 65th Biennial Mutual Aid Society Convention at the Taylor Brethren Church. Contact Rev. Joseph Polasek at josephjpolasek@yahoo.com or Natalie Outlaw at NatalieOutlaw@yahoo.com.

OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

17454 State Highway 53, Temple, TX 76501
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 806, Rogers, TX 76569
Web Address: www.ockerbrethrenchurch.org
Church Email: ockerbrethrenchurch@gmail.com

Preaching the Word, Loving the People

Sunday School 9:00 AM
Worship 10:15 AM

Pastor

Dr. Brad Herridge

(254) 716-2578
brad.herridge@gmail.com

Youth Director
Jennifer Chervenka
(254) 983-1002

Cemetery
Sharon Marek
(254) 869-2845

Brethren Journal will publish more articles like Reed Olsen's and mine from people who will describe their experiences at the Encampment. I ask that as you read them you consider making a financial contribution to the Hus Encampment Building Fund so that this important work can continue for many more years. If you have already contributed, I thank you on behalf of the Hus School Board of Trustees and the Unity of the Brethren. If not, and you feel led to do so, there are multiple ways to donate, which are described on either of the following two websites:

- huscamp.org
- unityofthebrethren.org

The Hus School Encampment is a small piece of land that sits at the corner of two small county roads in Burleson County. To anyone who is unfamiliar with it, the Encampment is nothing more than a cluster of buildings that can easily go unnoticed, but to those of us who have spent time there, we recognize it as hallowed ground where our God lives and where He invited many of us to become part of His Holy Kingdom here on Earth.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Chair: Peggy Hejl – Taylor Brethren, (512) 365-6890, peggyhejl@gmail.com
Debbie Clark – (2014) Crosby Brethren
Angie Hairrell – (2011) Snook Brethren
Sandra Merz – (2016) Nelsonville
Rev. Vanessa Mitchell (2017)
Suzie Dusek – (2017) Wall
Jennifer Chervenka – Youth Coordinator, Ocker Brethren
Synodical Liaison – Rev. Whitney Amos, 3rd Vice-President, chatney@aol.com

Prime Timers' Retreat 2018 Invitation

Mark Your Calendars!

The Prime Timers' Committee invites all Unity members and friends to the 24th Annual Prime Timers' Retreat at the Hus School Encampment in Caldwell, Texas, on Friday, October 12, 2018, through Sunday, October 14, 2018.

Details & Registrations will be sent to each congregation and should be available for download on the Unity website in August.

Those who want the full experience can stay in either a dormitory or cabin for the weekend at the camp, while others can come for just the day on Saturday; enjoying worship, Bible study, entertainment, good food, re-connection, relaxation, and fellowship. Our ages range from 40 and above.

Come join the fun, while also supporting the Hus Encampment. For more information, call Donna Verwold at (713) 553-5542, or email dmverold@yahoo.com.

GRANGER NATIONAL BANK

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Hus Camp Needs Your Help Can We Count On You?

– The Need –

Due to continued growth and demand for summer youth camps, and a desire to make the Hus Encampment more accessible for groups of all ages, our **current facilities are in need of renovation or replacement to accommodate the needs of our mission.**

– The Solution –

ALPHA - Phase A (Complete)

Kitchen Renovation/Expansion

Complete Renovation, Expansion and Appliance Replacement in the Hus Camp Kitchen

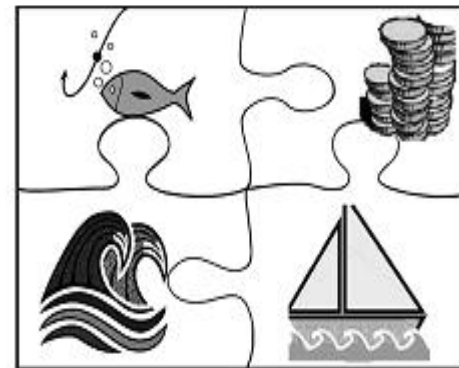
Cost & Status: This \$228,500 project is funded and completed in June 2018

Waste Water Treatment System

Complete Replacement and Expansion of the Waste Water Treatment System

Cost & Status: This \$149,000 project is funded and completed in June 2018

Peter's power came through the Holy Spirit. He could do amazing things. When he spoke about Jesus, thousands of people would get saved at one time (Acts 2). He went up to a man who had been crippled since birth, took hold of him, and had him standing and dancing in the streets (Acts 3:7-11). People of Jerusalem used to walk by Peter, hoping that his shadow would fall on them, because that was enough to heal them from terrible sicknesses (Acts 5:12-16). A fisherman who could probably not even spell very well wrote the Gospel of Peter. Today, millions of people still know about his fame. He was a superhero then, and remains one up in heaven today (Acts 5:12-16).



Fisherman to Miracle Man

Tell the story: Peter's Puzzle

Peter was one of those guys whose life looked very mundane, routine, and not at all interesting. He was not a doctor, lawyer, actor, or anything requiring education or bringing esteem. He was a fisherman in Galilee, which was just a lot of working-class people – carpenters, shepherds, and fisherman. There was a lot of dust, small stone houses... and fish. *Lay the puzzle piece with the fish on it in front of you, facing the students.* Fishing was a sweaty job, and he had fish hook scars on his fingers and callouses on his palms. He went out on his boat every day, but it wasn't any fun. *Lay the puzzle piece with the boat on it in front of you and attach it to the fish piece.* It was to bring home food. There was always the threat of not having enough food. There was always the threat of taxes. *Lay the puzzle piece with the coins on it in front of you and attach it to the boat piece.* At the time, the Roman government was taxing people so much that they barely had enough left over to eat.

The weather was worse for fisherman. Squalls and violent storms could roll in without warning across the Sea of Galilee. *Lay the final puzzle piece with the waves on it in front of you and attach it to the coins and the fish.* A violent storm could rip your boat apart and leave you with no means to be a fisherman. Worse, you could drown. Sometimes when we put all the pieces of our lives together, it may look like God is not involved. It can seem to us like he is "up there watching," and not doing much to help at all. However, we need to remember a very famous poem: "Sometimes God weaveth sorrow, but I in foolish pride... Forget he sees the upper..." *Carefully flip the puzzle over so the image of Peter full of the Holy Spirit is visible. ...And I, the underside.* The whole time Peter was suffering, God was using those things to make him stronger. God was working the spiritual side of Peter, when all he could see... *Carefully flip the puzzle over again...* was his circumstances.



DREAM BIG - Phase B (Current Phase)

Main Building/Dining Hall Renovation

Renovation of the Entire Main Building to Include the Addition of Restrooms

Cost & Status: Final design and fundraising are in progress for this \$200,000 renovation

FUTURE PHASES - Phases C, D, E (Conceptual Designs Complete)

New Dorm/Housing Construction

Addition of a new multi-purpose, ADA compliant housing facility for approximately 200 guests.

Outdoor Gym/Pavilion Common Space

Multi-purpose common space located between the proposed new housing structures.

Parking & Walkways

Designated parking and accessible walkways throughout the campus to maximize space and ensure safety.

Repurposing of Old Boys' Dorm

Utilization of the existing Boys' Dorm as a recreation/craft area.



Knesek Family Funeral Chapels



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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

How Can I Help?

– Be A Friend to the Hus Camp –

Show your support and receive current information about what's going on at the Hus Camp. Simply email your contact information (Name, Mailing Address, Email Address & Phone Number) to: Suzie Dusek at sdusek5@gmail.com

– Make A Monthly/Yearly Donation –

On Line - huscamp.org (click on the donate label for credit card info)

Bank Draft - for a recurring monthly bank draft, email James Marek, james@cnbt.com, or call 512-352-6165.

By Mail - make checks payable to Hus Camp Buliding Fund and maile to Todd Corporon, 5350 CR124, Georgetown, TX 78626

– Volunteer to Serve –

Special Events/Fundraising Social Media Church Presentations Work Days Publicity

Get involved by volunteering to serve on a Hus Camp Committee Simply Email or call us to find out more about working on behalf of the Hus Camp with one of these groups.

James Marek: james@cnbt.com (or) 512-352-6165

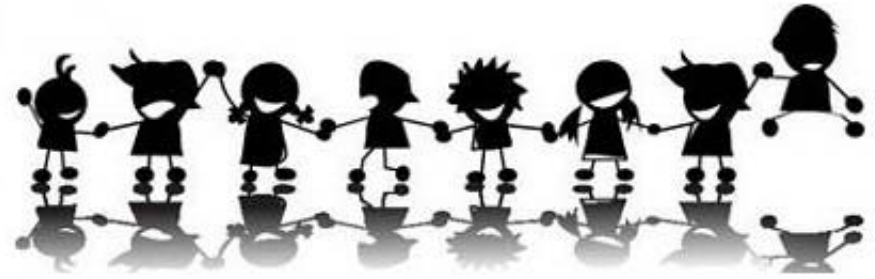
Rick Weise: weise.rick@aol.com (or) 325-656-2620

– Join the Hus Camp Prayer Team –

Become a Hus Camp prayer warrior by signing up to be on our prayer team. Whenever prayers are needed at the camp, you will be notified by email about the prayer request.

To join the team, simply email your contact information (Name, Mailing Address, Email Address & Phone Number) to husprayer@gmail.com

Glenda Laza Moreland & Kathy Simcik Harris



Sunday School Helper

But you, LORD, are the true God,
you are the living God.
Jeremiah 10:10

Every superhero had a set of circumstances. Spiderman was awkward and unsure of himself during his transformation. Superman had to serve as the water-boy on the high school football team when he could kick a ball from New Jersey to California! The same is true with Peter. We can't always see what God is doing in our lives until we get the big picture at the end. This month's lessons will focus on how a fisherman turned into a Miracle Man!

Austin Brethren Church Tour

Hosted by Linda and Gary Chandler

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Encounter the Presence of the Lord, meet today's heroes, and fulfill your journey of a lifetime.



Land package: \$2,720.00

Extras

Flight from Austin: \$1,000.00

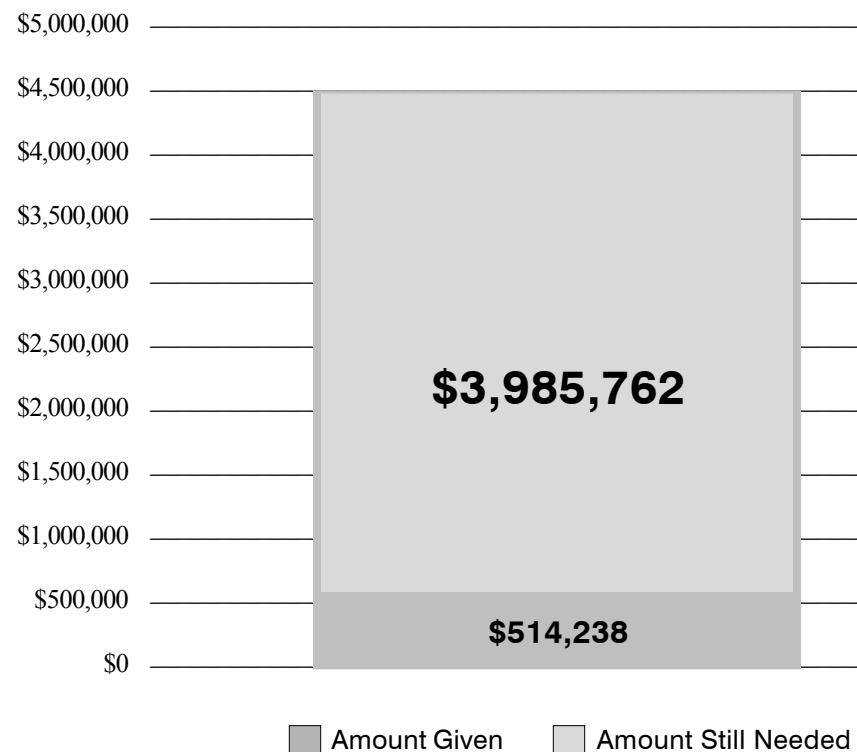
Single Supplement: \$900.00

Tour Includes:

- Overnights at 4-star hotels
Double room occupancy.
- English speaking tour guide
- Site Entrance
- Transportation (air-conditioned bus).
- 2 meals a day
- Basic Israeli medical insurance

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Hus School Encampment Capital Improvement Project as of June 8, 2018



Current Project

Upgrade of Main Building – \$200,000, with A/C and Rest Rooms

Completed Projects

~~Kitchen Appliances & Equipment – \$105,301~~

~~Septic System Upgrade – \$150,000~~

~~Kitchen Remodel – \$183,000~~

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.

His writings of over 900 typewritten (a real typewriter, no WORD) pages have a wealth of genealogical history. It includes parents, children, dates of birth, marriage, death. It also shows the numbers of animals on the farm, from whom they purchased the farm, how much. It also includes other history and details about family members. It is a wealth of detail with cross-references. Some of the history goes back to 1100 AD. There are maps that identify the location of each house and farm in the region, including Kolinec in Bohemia.

I am publishing this 2-volume set totaling about 950 pages in the old quality smythe-sewn of each "16-page signature with thread" so that the book will last forever and can be opened flat, without a gutter or gluing. The set will sell below \$100. The final price is not yet known, and I am absorbing a major expense because this record is so important. I am locally publishing 30 to 50 sets, yet it will have an ISBN and will be copyright for the acknowledgment of the Mara family. Several of these sets will go to the Czech Republic and to my family. It will be a single run.

I would appreciate any help in publicizing this to those who could benefit from its wealth of knowledge. You may call/text me at 512-970-6284, or email brian.sjolseth@gmail.com.

Many thanks,

Brian

Mutual Aid Convention Invitation

The Administrative Board of the Mutual Aid Society extends an invitation to all Ministers, Delegates, and Members of the Society to attend its 65th Biennial Convention to be held Saturday, July 21, 2018, at the Taylor Brethren Church. A warm welcome is extended to visitors who would like to observe the proceedings. We also ask you to remember this gathering in your prayers.

Rev. Joseph J. Polasek
President

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.*

rience for me. We walked through the center of town; he took us inside the Catholic Church and showed us the 7-foot (2 m) tall candlestick that had been donated by Isaac Herrmann, a master butcher and a Jew.

I was so enthused and impressed how much I had learned of “my family” that I wanted to know more. I told him that I would purchase a copy of his book when he publishes it. He calmly said, “Oh, it will never be published.” Without hesitation, I said I would ensure it would be published. We wrote to each other a few more times, but with the delay of letters, the difficulty of research through archives, and with my raising a family and working, my energy to continue this project diminished to zero.

With the advent of computers and the wealth of knowledge available on the internet being a powerful force for good (or for evil), and with my goal to reduce my long 60 hours of work each week, I became reinvigorated. It was time for me to use this miraculous internet to search the name “František Mara.” To my wonderful surprise, there were immediately five entries on my screen. These were substantial documents. Even though I could not read the Czech language, I saw a ‘cross’ indicating that he had died in 1996. I was sad that I had let the years fly by without contacting him. I saw another name, Jan Vich, and was able to send him an email. Within a week I received a response with the email address for Dušan Mara, the nearly-5-year-old son we had met in 1970. I

sent him an email on January 20, 2014, hoping for a response the next day. Day after day, sadly no response.

Then, with his response of January 25, I cried with tears of joy. This is not an exaggeration, I really cried real tears! I responded on January 27 with questions, to which he responded with the translation assistance of his English-fluent daughter Adelá. A responding letter dated February 5 began a series of miracles. I told a friend at church about my excitement. Now the next miracle occurred: This friend was going on a business trip to the Czech Republic two weeks later, and he would make contact and visit my new Czech friends.

Eighteen months later my son, Brent, convinced Laurie and me to visit Norway with them in June 2016. We said, “Yes,” and extended our trip to include the Czech Republic with Prague and Kolinec and other small cities to make it a once-in-a-lifetime expedition. With such a joyous experience, I felt a prompting from the Holy Ghost that I needed to fulfill my ‘1970 promise’ to Grampa František. Even with scans of all of his original typed documents, I had no idea how much time and work and expense would be involved. His efforts of tens of thousands of hours must not be lost and must be preserved in a hardbound book in addition to being on the Internet. Electronic media can disappear in a fraction of a second. Humans will always want to have real books. This is my gift to this dear man, František Mara, and to his family.

Home

- by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

The famous line from “The Wizard of Oz” film: “There’s no place like home. There’s no place like home.” It resonates in the heart and mind of all of humanity, really. We all long for the feeling of “home”. We all recall the aroma of oven-baked chicken, and maybe even some dewberry cobbler. We even recall the scent of Momma’s perfume and Daddy’s cologne. There is no place like home. Nonetheless, “home” has not always been a place of fond memories. “Home” can be a place of emotional struggles and difficult experiences. Jesus, however, wants to be your perfect “home”. Jesus is your perfect “home”.

How can Jesus be “home” to anyone?

How can Jesus be “home” to you?

That place that is supposed to be peaceful, safe, restful, replenishing, familiar...?

It is often said that, “Home is where the heart is.”

Jesus says that He is your home and mine.

Wherever you may find yourself:

In the hospital,

In your house – alone or surrounded by loved ones,

On vacation,

In the middle of hard times or good times,

Jesus is your home and mine.

The Gospel of John, chapter 14, verse 23, in the Holy Bible (NRSV) states it clearly:

Jesus said, *“Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.”*

Home is not just where the heart is.

Home is where the Lord Jesus is.

Home is not just where you hang your hat.

Home is inside of you – the Lord Jesus indwelling you as God the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said, *“Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.”*

Jesus is your home.

Close your eyes, wherever you are.



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Whether you're in a hospital,
In your house,
Among loved ones,
On vacation,
Or in the middle of hard times or
good times...

"Home" comes when you pause
and say:

"Jesus, You are my home."

"Jesus, You are with me."

"Jesus, You have got THIS... what-
ever THIS is."

Home sweet home.

Jesus is your home and mine.

Jesus is that safe place of comfort
and replenishing

Jesus is the One who lives in you
to strengthen you for whatever is at
hand.

Jesus is your home.

Jesus is with you.

So walk through this day in peace,
trusting that Jesus is right with you.

Jesus said, *"Those who love me
will keep my word, and my Father*

*will love them, and we will come to
them and make our home with them."*

No need to click your ruby red
slippers together like Dorothy to find
your way home.

No need to smell your momma's
oven-baked chicken or dewberry
cobbler.

No need to sniff an old bottle of
your dad's cologne.

Jesus is your home... your safe
place... where your present and your
future are in His capable hands.

Feel Him with you now.

Just pray:

"Jesus, be my home.

Jesus, I need You.

Jesus, I know that I have you.
Amen."

In Jesus' Hands,
Right With You,

Sister Vanessa Mitchell

Meeting of František Mara in 1970

- By Brian Sjolseth

I have always been interested in
my Norwegian and my Bohemian an-
cestry. In 1967, I discovered that I had
family from Croatia and from Czecho-
slovakia. On August 22, 1968, my
brother Dan followed up by going to
Kolinec, where he wandered the vil-
lage. Someone approached this 24-
year-old Westerner asking why he
was interested in cemeteries. Dan was
given the name and address of František
Mara as a man who was writing the
history of each parcel of land in the
Kolinec [Kolinetz, Kolinice] and vi-
cinity. Although they never met, I
took the opportunity to write František
about his efforts. Mail was slow, yet
we traded a few letters. My interest
was piqued, and I planned a visit to
Europe in 1970.

Sunday morning, May 24, 1970, my
wife, Charlotte, and I arose early,
driving through the German border
and 20 minutes later arriving in Chodský
Ujezd, near Mariánské Lázně and Plana.
Even though this was a very small
hamlet, I was surprised that I found
his home so quickly.

It was 9:30 when he met us and
invited us into his lovely home for a
small breakfast treat. Being a school
teacher and well educated, he spoke
fluent English, yet his wife and chil-
dren did not. After a few minutes of
conversation and a delicious home-
made treat, I invited his family to
drive with us to Kolinec, about 60
miles (100 km) southeast. We were

excited that they would spend their
Sunday with us as we traveled in our
1970 VW Westphalia camper.

During the trip, I asked him how
often they would visit their family in
Kolinec. I will never forget his re-
sponse. He said, "We save our money
for an entire year so we can take **one**
bus ride to visit them." That one
comment had a profound influence on
me. It was so "sobering" to me that
there was such poverty of money, but
not the poverty of love of family. We
were to drive there and back in one
day and thought it to be a normal
weekend activity for an American.
With them living in the poverty of
WWII and the control of communism,
they needed to be so very frugal.
They had a love for people that money
cannot purchase.

As we arrived, and I saw the road
sign "Kolinec", we stopped the VW
and I took pictures. I was deeply
emotional with joy to see "where my
ancestors had lived." We spent the
entire day there, with František being
a marvelous tour guide. He showed
us a building across an open field that
was used to manufacture shoes. He
said, "In communism, we are often
told what our careers will be." He also
showed us the Jewish cemetery on
the hillside, where my great-great-
grandparents. Isaac and Katharina
Herrmann [Hermann] were buried.
Again, it was a very emotional expe-



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Wall Brethren Church Cinnamon Roll Bake

The Wall Christian Sisters baked 51 dozen cinnamon rolls in May. The proceeds will be used for outreach and various ministries. Plans are to have another bake in the Fall.



Thine to Serve Thee...

- by Jim Pokorny

It was my privilege to lead our VBS adult class in June. For material, I selected a favorite from my video library, *Pilgrim's Progress: Journey to Heaven*. This 2008 movie is a modern adaptation of John Bunyan's classic Christian allegory *The Pilgrim's Progress*. Bunyan wrote his classic while serving a 12-year prison sentence for preaching the word of God. First published in 1678, Bunyan's classic has been translated into over 200 languages and has never been out of print.

The story tells of a man named Christian from the moment he realizes he is in need of salvation to the moment he enters the very gates of Heaven. Christian represents every believer who has ever lived. Undoubtedly based on Bunyan's own pilgrimage through this world, the allegory not only speaks of Christian's successes, but his failures, as well. It is this honest approach that speaks to believers in every generation.

"I saw a man clothed with rags standing by a path with a book in his hand and a great burden upon his back. His face was turned away from his own house which stood nearby. I saw him open his book and read, then begin to weep. No longer able to contain his feelings, he broke out in a mournful cry, saying, 'What shall I do?'"

According to Bunyan, his childhood was a happy one. His parents made certain that he learned to read and write. He quickly developed an interest in the world around him. In

his teens, he accompanied his father and learned the tinker's trade. Although happy, Bunyan had no Christian upbringing and admitted to having numerous vices.

Bunyan was a youth of 14 when the English Civil War erupted. Two years later he joined the side of the Parliamentarians headed by Oliver Cromwell and fought against the Loyalists of Charles I. Even brushes with death were not enough to change Bunyan. He later confessed, "But God did not leave me, but followed me still."

After the war, Bunyan married a Godly woman. In 1650, their first child was born. She came into this world blind and they named her Mary. This made Bunyan think. He began attending Elstow Parish Church regularly to gain the favor of God. He admitted looking to religion instead of looking to Christ.

One day, Bunyan heard a voice asking, "Wilt thou leave thy sins and go to Heaven, or have thy sins and go to hell?" Although shaken, he mistakenly concluded that he was too great a sinner for Christ to pardon. Relying on his own reasoning, he concluded that he may as well be condemned for many sins as for a few.

Fortunately, God led Bunyan to an independent minister in Bedford by the name of John Gifford. As an independent minister, Gifford was not tied to the demands of the state church. Gifford spent countless hours answering Bunyan's questions.



Gifford's influence on Bunyan was truly remarkable. Bunyan's behavior changed. He began feeling as though he were right with God for the first time. This feeling was not to last. Bunyan's feelings concerning his own salvation changed continually. One day, thanks to Gifford, Bunyan experienced an epiphany. He realized that his salvation was not dependent on his feelings, but rather by what Christ had already done on the cross. This knowledge freed Bunyan from the burden he carried for so long, and this became an integral part of *The Pilgrim's Progress*.

When Christian arrived at the gate and knocked, he was admitted by a man named Goodwill who told him "We do not reject any who come. No matter what they have done before coming, they are in no wise cast out." Goodwill then showed Christian the path he should travel. He added, "When you have gone a distance from this gate, you will come to the Interpreter's house. He will welcome you and give you a lot of valuable information."

Experts agree that Bunyan had John Gifford in mind when he created "The Interpreter". Bunyan joined Gifford's church and was asked to speak. It took much persuasion, but Bunyan eventually agreed. He found that his speaking encouraged people. Soon, Bunyan was preaching throughout the region until his arrest. These words have been attributed to Bunyan: "Thine to serve thee with that little I have."

Bunyan's classic still stands the test of time, but one wonders whether it would even exist were it not for the tireless efforts of John Gifford.

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She married the love of her life, Donald Kitchen, in 1963. The couple, beginning in 1966, served in the mission field for over 50 years both overseas in Latin America and Spain, and in missions administration at home.

In addition to her husband, Don, Martha is survived by three children, Donald Mark Kitchen, husband of Susan (Butler) of Ephrata, PA; Diana Martha Striver of Lancaster, PA; David Matthew Kitchen of Ephrata, PA; eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Martha was preceded in death by her parents.

She was gifted by God with a beautiful voice, which she was blessed to use as part of her ministry both in the missions field and in the choir at Calvary Church Lancaster. She was very active in the life of the church and was a skilled educator. In 1994 she received her PhD in Religion and

Society from Oxford Graduate School.

Friends gathered for a viewing and funeral service at Calvary Church Lancaster, 1051 Landis Valley Rd, Lancaster, PA, Saturday, June 16, 2018. Reverend Robert Kilgore officiated. A time of fellowship took place following the service.

In Lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Calvary Church Global Ministries.

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Martha Lois Kitchen First Unity of the Brethren Missionary

Editor's Note: *The following tribute was written by Mr. Donald Kitchen, widower of Martha Lois Kitchen. Martha Lois was a very special member of Temple Brethren Church, becoming the first Missionary from the Brethren denomination in 1961 serving in Honduras. Joyce Baletka confirmed that Martha was the first Brethren Church member to be a Missionary, although the Brethren Denomination had supported missionaries prior to Martha becoming one. Martha & Donald Kitchen were married by Reverend John Baletka at Temple Brethren Church December 14, 1963. Martha's obituary follows his letter.*

Dear Family and Friends,

I write to tell you with both the most profound human sadness and yet highest eternal joy that my beloved wife, and partner in life and ministry for over 54 years, has gone to be with the Lord at 8:00 A.M. on Monday morning, June 11, 2018.

After a nine-year battle with Alzheimer's disease which ravaged her body but never touched her spirit, she is now "absent from the body and present with the Lord," whom she

dearly loved and served with all her heart, soul, mind, and strength.

There are no words adequate or sufficient to describe either my sense of loss, or yet at the same time of the grace, peace, hope, and joy Martha and I are both experiencing in the steadfast and sure promises of God, she in heaven and me here.

Yours in His love and grace,
Don Kitchen



Martha Lois Kitchen
October 7, 1938, to June 11, 2018

Martha L. Kitchen, 79, of Ephrata, PA, went to be with the Lord, whom she loved and served as a missionary since 1961, on Monday, June 11, 2018.

Martha was born in Temple, TX, to Louis L. Havlik and Anna (Mares) Havlik on October 7, 1938.

In God's Hands Ministry

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Everyday Ministries to Meet Everyday Needs
A Home Mission Work to Cade Lake and Burleson County

In Christ's Love

...From the Foreign Missions Field

From the Kozak's ...

June 2017

Missionaries in Moravia

Our Dear Brothers and Sisters, dear God's Family! It is our first, and indeed big privilege to present our ministry in the *Brethren Journal* for you! For years, when I was reading the *Brethren Journal* articles there, I said to myself, "How about when dear folks in Texas could read something about Pavel and Stania Kozak from the Czech Republic!"

We are sure that most of you know us, and also most of you know more or less about what our ministry looks like... Please let us share a little review of our 16 years of full-time ministry within the Czech Republic.

In the beginning, Stania and I ministered in North Bohemia to the Gypsy people. It was very special, very interesting, and a fruitful ministry for us. In just several years the Maranatha Church, which we planted from scratch, had more than 60 members with many kids. The biggest part of this ministry was about sharing the Gospel among the Gypsy young people, drug abusers, mafia guys, criminals, and among the young roughs. We spent our time ministering on the streets and in the local ghettos where we spent our time. After a time, Stania and I moved to Moravian and left behind three Gypsy churches.

During our ministry here in Moravia,

we are continuously focused on the youth and on the kids' ministry. The big truth is that the situation concerning the faith in Christ Jesus is really bad here. In the Czech Republic the situation concerning the "faith in God" is very bad and is – I would say – alarming!

Young people are raised in atheistic families, and atheists are producing atheists again... And when we do share the Gospel among the young people and among the students, many times we can hear this: "...No thank you, we are NOT interested in any religion..." The Czech Republic is officially the MOST atheistic country in Europe and maybe in the world...

The truth is that there is almost NO desire of the Czech/Moravian believers to share the Gospel publicly. Churches here are mostly VERY separated from the unbelievers, and so to meet an Evangelist while ministering outside the Church today is almost a miracle!

When comparing our ministry in Bohemia and Moravia, the Moravians are a bit more open to hear the Gospel than the Bohemians are. Also, people here in Moravia have a bigger respect for a minister and are open to listen to the message of the gospel.

Currently, Stania and I are ministering in four places. In North Bohemia we are serving and helping the Maranatha Church in **Decin** to grow and to stabilize. Also, the Maranatha Church is our spiritual base which is covering our Christian ministry across the whole country.



The other places where we serve are **Olomouc, Prostějov, and Trinec**. In Olomouc we have many contacts with young people and have meetings with them. Our main focus is sharing the Word of God among the high school students. There is a tremendous amount of walking each day as we meet with these students in front of the schools or in the parks.

Olomouc is a pretty big city, and we have determined that the youth from a city like this are much wilder compared to the youth from a little city.

Ministry in Prostějov is similar to that in Olomouc. The city is much smaller and most of the young people are recruited from surrounding villages. The ministry there is much more calm and smooth for us. Most of the kids and youth from the village are more polite and calm, compared to the ones from the city...

There is a nice park in Prostějov, and the students used to go there to kill time... Mostly they smoke, talk, drink... Which is a great opportunity for us to come and start a conversation about the Lord Jesus. We are always pleased when we hear that they KNOW that Lord Jesus died on the cross for their/our sins... As "dry" information they know it! But if I ask them "are you willing to believe it from your whole heart?" They say, "NO", or "I do not know" ...

The biggest excuse they have today is that they say, "Sir, we are young and we wish to enjoy our lives"... I normally say: "OK, tell me please what you mean ENJOY life?" They say, "We like to party, alcohol, sex, marihuana, etc..." and it is very hard for them. They are in a very

strong bondage of sin and are slaves of it! Because the devil lied to them, he persuaded them that it is much "better" than God's Kingdom! How sad.... but this is common today over the whole of Europe, not only here in Czech Republic!

In Prostějov we rent a small, nice room, which we call a "Christian Club". We regularly invite students and kids to join us and participate in the program! Stania is VERY GOOD at working with the kids, and provides workshops for them having some hand crafts, homework help, and fun stuff too! Then we do have a Bible study for the beginners to know the basics about Lord Jesus and about God's Grace! That's so important for them. Each Sunday afternoon we do have a worship service for the youth.

Our newest and special ministry region is in Trinec. Trinec, according to the state census, is the most "religious" city in the Czech Republic! Trinec is located in the North of Moravia/Silesian region. Honestly, I am very surprised how open people are to talk about Lord Jesus! Not everybody, of course, but mostly the talks are nice and peaceful. Not many rejections for us.

During our time in Trinec, we pray and do some steps to rent a similar room, which could serve for meetings with the people! We need it! We really do trust to the Lord Jesus that He may use us to plant a new Church from scratch for the future!

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Stania and I would like to say how much we do HUMBLY appreciate from the bottoms of our hearts your LOVE, PRAYERS, SUPPORT, FRIENDSHIP, and ENCOURAGEMENT! We are so

proud that we can serve as your supported missionaries! It means so much for Stania and me! It was so nice to meet with some of you last year during our visit in Texas, mainly during the Biennial Convention! What a special and sweet time for us! Thank you so very much for your kind invitation for us!

In the end, let us please to say once again our BIG, BIG THANK YOU dear Brothers and Sisters for ALL that you do for Stania and me and for the lost Czech Republic!

If some of you would like to see our Facebook profile, it is easy to find us at: pavel.kozak.980

If you wish to receive our newsletters, please send us your email address. I will put you on our mailing list. Our email address is: pavel.ko@volny.cz

We love you, we miss you, and we are looking forward to meeting you one day again! May our Lord Jesus Christ Bless you and yours richly!

Humbly in Christ,

Pavel and Stania Kozak

...From the Home Missions Field

Home Missions Board

Synodical President Dr. Larry Koslovsky, Liaison Rev. Mark Sebek, Rev. Jim Heckman, Rev. Kay Polasek, Ben Polasek, and Home Mission Chairperson Martha Dove, met in June to make plans for the future of Cade Lake Chapel.

After the insurance funds for the fire at the chapel were received, the balance of the loan made for the roof of the old chapel was paid. A new

survey was made on the property, and a bill of sale was received from the original owner.

Discussion was made for a metal building with concrete foundation. A draft will be sent to an architect to make the final plans. A committee of four people will work on getting the work started.

Arrangements are being made by Revs. Heckman and Polasek to find a place to meet with air conditioning as the services have been held in tents. They are looking at a building in Caldwell that has been offered to them. Even with the heat, the attendance has been around 20 people.

Please keep our brothers and sisters of Cade Lake Chapel in your prayers.

Thanks so much for the financial help that has been given. Financial Officer Ben Polasek has done a great job keeping up with funds.

Martha Dove

Home Mission Chairperson

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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