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THE BRETHREN



JOURNAL



Vol. 119

January/February 2020

No. 1

32 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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32/January-February 2020

BRETHREN JOURNAL



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Diversity is Rooted in Faith . . . by Jim Pokorny

Edwin Marek Celebrates 100th Birthday

Ladies' Campference Invitation

Daily Morsels: How Do You Use Them?

. . . and much more!

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Seaton BC Annual Sausage Supper Fundraiser Invitation

The Seaton Brethren Church an-
nual sausage supper fundraiser will
be held Saturday, February 15, 2020,
beginning at 3 p.m. until the sausage
is gone. The menu consists of home-
made pork sausage, sauerkraut, new
potatoes, seasoned green beans,
bread, homemade desserts, and tea or
coffee. Dine-in or drive-thru plates
will be available for \$10 each.

The **LOCATION** of the supper is
at **Seaton Star Hall**, 10842 State Hwy
53, Temple (Seaton). There will be a
bake sale consisting of kolaches, pies,
cakes, strudels, other baked goods &
jellies; a raffle and a silent auction.
Proceeds benefit the ministry of the
church, community and other projects.
The public is invited.

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Diversity is Rooted in Faith

- by Jim Pokorny

The older I get, the less I understand corporate America.

For instance, the president of our local office recently received a PowerPoint presentation to share with the office that included several embedded videos. He asked me to sit with him through his initial viewing to ensure there would be no technical problems during the actual presentation to the staff.

This presentation was about the importance of diversity in the workplace. One video segment offered that clients and potential clients want to see themselves reflected on the other side of the table. Ours is by no means the only corporation to jump on the diversity bandwagon. Many are using social media and websites to proclaim that their business is blazing a trail in promoting diversity.

We encountered no technical issues in this initial viewing. Before summoning the entire staff into the room, my president turned to me and asked in a humorous way, "What's going to happen to old men like us?"

Matching his humor, I replied, "Well, speaking as a Moravian-American..."

I said at the outset that I understand corporate America less. I say that because promoting one's faith in the workplace is still frowned upon. Yet it is that same faith that has reminded me of the importance of diversity all along. Its roots extend back into the Old Testament.

Malachi 2:10 (NET) – *Do we not all have one father? Did not one God create us? Why do we betray one another, thus making light of the covenant of our ancestors?*

It continues into the words of the New Testament and can be found in the letters written by Paul.

Colossians 3:11 (NET) – *Here there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all and in all.*

Romans 12:4-8 (NET) – *For just as in one body we have many members, and not all the members serve the same function, so we who are many*



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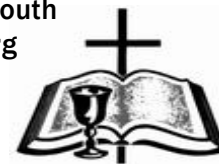
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Mailing Address:

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

are one body in Christ, and individually we are members who belong to one another. And we have different gifts according to the grace given to us. If the gift is prophecy, that individual must use it in proportion to his faith. If it is service, he must serve; if it is teaching, he must teach; if it is exhortation, he must exhort; if it is contributing, he must do so with sincerity; if it is leadership, he must do so with diligence; if it is showing mercy, he must do so with cheerfulness.

Even the Book of Revelation speaks to this. Revelation 7:9-10 (NET) – *After these things I looked, and here was an enormous crowd that no one could count, made up of persons from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb dressed in long white robes, and with palm branches in their hands. They were shouting out in a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”*

Then, there were the words and actions of Jesus. Words as found in the Great Commission.

Mark 16:15 (NET) – *He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”*

Luke 14:11-14 (NET) – *For every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” He said also to the man who had invited him, “When you host a dinner or a banquet, don’t invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors so you can be invited by them in return and get repaid. But when you host an elaborate meal, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. Then you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”*

This is the same Jesus who dined with sinners and tax collectors; the same Jesus who healed those that were outcast by society; the same Jesus who told us to love our neighbor.

I could go on, but the point is that it is my Christian faith that made diversity important long before corporate America made it a selling point. It will remain so, long after it has moved on to the next bandwagon or “buzz” word.

It is faith that turns an employee into an asset. Unfortunately, this is a concept that corporate America still finds a bit too radical.

TAYLOR BRETHREN CHURCH

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

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

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

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 AM: Worship
10 AM: Faith Adventure
– Dr. Larry Koslovsky

Dime Box – worship at 9 AM every Sunday.
– Rev. Kay Polasek

Fayetteville – Worship at 10:30 AM every
Sunday except the 5th Sunday. Sunday
School at 9:30 AM.
– Visiting Ministers

Good Shepherd Moravian – Worship at
11:30 AM and 6:30 PM every Sunday.
– Rev. Adolfo Gonzalez

Granger – Bible Study every Sunday at 9
AM with worship service following at 10
AM. 5th Sunday - Sing-along led by the
Elders and Christian Sisters.
– Visiting Ministers

Houston – Sunday School at 9:15 AM;
Worship at 10:30 AM every Sunday.
– Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill

Industry – worship at 9 AM every Sunday
with Sunday School for all ages
following.
– Visiting Ministers

Nelsonville – Sunday School at 9 AM
Worship at 10:15 AM
– Rev. Michael Groseclose

New Beginnings (PO Box 163, Caldwell,
TX 77836) – A Home Mission Project
since 10/22/11 – Sunday School at 11
AM; Fellowship Lunch at Noon;
Worship at 1 PM.
– Rev. Kay Polasek

New Tabor – Sunday School at 9 AM &
Worship at 10 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 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 –
Sunday: Adult Bible Study and Sunday
School for children at 9 AM; worship at
10:30 AM.
Wednesday: 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.
Sunday School 9 AM every Sunday with
free breakfast every 5th Sunday at 8:30
AM.; Friends Fellowship (seniors) 4th
Tuesday (except Nov. & Dec.) at 2 PM.
– Rev. James Hejl

Temple – Cross Church on Birdcreek –
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 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 AM every Sunday.
Sunday School follows.
– Rev. Michael Groseclose

West – Sunday School at 9 AM and
worship at 10:15 AM every Sunday.

Westheimer Community – worship at
10:30 AM every Sunday.
– Pastor Lisa Johnson

Matching Technology Grant Program

The Synodical Committee approved an application for a Matching Technology Grant for all Unity churches. Churches may apply for a matching grant up to \$1,000.00. This is to assist churches who are seeking to enhance their worship experience through the use of technology and A/V equipment.

The deadline to apply for a grant is Dec 31, 2020. The application can be found on the Unity website at UnityoftheBrethren.org. Contact Us – click on Forms. If you need one mailed to you, please contact the Unity Secretary, Angie Hairrell. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Executive Committee.

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Fayetteville & Industry Brethren Churches “Honor our Veterans” Service

Industry and Fayetteville Brethren Churches honored 180 area veterans on Sunday, November 10, 2019. This was the 10th Anniversary of the service that was begun as a vision of Elizabeth Treybig (Industry Brethren) who passed away in December of 2018. Harvey Treybig, her husband, served as master of ceremonies and gave a tribute to her at the end of the service.

The service was held at the Industry Firemen's Hall and started at 9 a.m. with the ringing of the bell followed by the Posting of Colors by American Legion Post 602 of Shelby/Fayetteville. Jerry Kubala (A.L. Commander Post

602) led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Lynette Urbanovsky (Caldwell Brethren) led everyone in the singing of “The Star-Spangled Banner.” The invocation and Lord's Prayer were given by Emil Vasicek, Chaplain, A.L. Post 602. The welcome was given by Harvey Treybig.

The guest speaker was Colonel Kennard G. Karr. Colonel Karr graduated from Texas A&M in 1966, was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, and served two tours of duty in Vietnam and combat tours in Panama, Desert Storm, and Somalia. After retiring from the Army in 1995, he was hired as a senior pro-



Phil Stein, AL - playing Taps



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**This must be done well in advance.*



Posting of colors by American Legion members

gram manager for nuclear explosives at Pantex and was the Chief Operating Officer of American Ordnance for Iowa and Milan Army Ammunition Plants. He and his wife, Cheryl, currently reside near La Grange.

There were 140 deceased veterans that were recognized, including Unity of the Brethren deceased ministers: Rev. Milton Maly, Rev. Gordon Hejl, Rev. Daniel Marek, and Rev. Henry Beseda, Jr. After each name was called, a bell was rung by Barnell Marek (Industry) and a candle was lit by family members and friends. Kayla Marek (Taylor), Lynette Urbanovsky and Joe Coufal, Jr., (Industry) assisted with the lighting of the candles. After the names were called, Phil Stein, A.L. Post 602 member, rendered Taps on his trumpet.

The 40 living veterans that were in

attendance were then recognized, including WWII veterans Laddie Ripple and Otto Kunze. Ripple, age 97, was the oldest veteran in attendance. All veterans recognized received a lapel pin, small memento flag, and handshake from Col. Karr.

The inspiring service closed with the singing of "My Country, Tis of Thee." Musicians were Liz Ripple and Sharon Spiess on the keyboard, and Alicia and Tim Kulhanek, playing sax and trumpet. Afterward everyone enjoyed food and fellowship. It was estimated that there were 150 people that attended this event.

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Edwin Marek Celebrates 100th Birthday



Edwin Marek of Rosenberg, Texas, and a member of Community Christian Church of Rosenberg celebrated his 100th birthday on September 20, 2019. He was surrounded by his large family and numerous friends at a party in his honor at the church on September 28, 2019.

Edwin was born in Alief, Texas, to Bessie and Joe Marek. A graduate of Rosenberg High School in 1939, Edwin was the first soldier drafted from Fort Bend County at the onset of World War II.

A proud World War II veteran that served in the Army, he fought in the Battle of Attu, the only World War II battle on American soil. Edwin received awards during his service for helping to defend his country, including the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign medal with a bronze star attachment, an American Defense Service Medal, a medal for good conduct, World War II Victory medal, an American Campaign medal, an honorable service lapel

button, and a Sharpshooter Badge with a rifle bar.

At the conclusion of the war, he returned to Rosenberg, Texas. On October 12, 1946, he married his wife, Millie, and they raised three children. Edwin, a dedicated and hard-working farmer, was a draftsman for the Texas Highway Department for over 30 years. Now, Edwin spends his days with his second wife of 28 years, EmmaLee Marek, at the Cambridge Square Assisted Living Center watching sports on TV (the Astros are his favorite) and playing Bingo with the other residents.

His family is incredibly proud of all his accomplishments, but his most endearing accomplishment is being a wonderful, caring, loving, and inspirational “grandpa” to his children, grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

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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Please prayerfully consider your support of the Hus Camp and its growing ministry by making a donation to the Building Fund.

| | |
|--|------------------|
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| Additional Funds Needed: | \$ 57,518 |

THREE SIMPLE WAYS TO GIVE...

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- 2) Make a **recurring donation** using the pledge form at: huscamp.org
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DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for February 2020

By Mari-Anne Kocian Gordon and Dorothy E. Kocian

From the *Holy Bible New Revised Standard Version*, slightly modified.

Sundays in bold.

1. Let the little children come to me...
To such as these belongs the kingdom of heaven. Luke 18:16
2. **He was in the world, and the world came into being through Him, yet the world did not know Him. John 1:10**
3. I am the vine, you are the branches. John 15:5a
4. Those who abide in Me and I in them bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing. John 15:5b
5. The free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus. Rom. 6:23
6. The weapons of our warfare are not merely human, but they have divine power to destroy strongholds. II Cor. 10:5a
7. I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. II Cor. 12:9b
8. I pray... that you may know... the immeasurable power for us who believe, according to the working of His great power. Eph. 1:17, 19
9. **I pray that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through His Spirit. Eph. 3:16**
10. Now to Him Who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to Him be the glory. Eph. 3:20
11. Be strong in the Lord and the strength of His power. Eph. 6:10
12. Set your mind on things above, not on things on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. Col. 3:3
13. Our message came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. I Thess. 1:5
14. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. I Cor. 13:13
15. Are not all angels spirits in the divine service, sent to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation? Heb. 1:4
16. **Indeed the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword. Heb. 4:12**
17. He is able for all time to save those who approach God through Him. Heb. 7:25a
18. He always lives to make intercession for them. Heb. 7:25b
19. You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. Heb. 12:22
20. Be content with what you have. Heb. 13:5b
21. He has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Heb. 13:5c
22. We can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid." Heb. 13:6a
23. **The kingdom of God is among you. Luke 17:21**
24. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more. Rev. 21:4
25. Jesus said to him, "I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6
26. I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not hide my iniquity... you forgave the guilt of my sin. Ps. 32:5
27. No one who conceals transgressions will prosper, but one who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy. Prov. 28:13
28. Nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. Luke 12:2
29. If we confess our sins, He who is faithful will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. I John 1:9

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

From Robert & Anne Thiessen
. . . Missionaries in Mexico

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

A Day in Rosa's Life

Dear friends,

I was just in Guerrero, making the long, 1000-kilometer (20 hours of driving, over 5 days) swing through the areas we used to live in. I visit friends of all sorts – carpenters, humble believers, pastors (both indigenous and latin), missionaries (that translate, or church plant, sometimes both), and business people. I stay in their homes and eat their food and listen to their stories. We talk about everything, sometimes into the wee hours of the night, even after starting conversations before the breaking of the dawn. They tell me about their children's struggles, their own battles with illness and loss, the vagaries of local and federal politics, and their joys and hopes. We talk about God, His Kingdom, our doubts, the varieties of Religious Experiences (although the title of a famous book by William James, here meant to get at the range of ways we all have to follow God). My role is not to solve anything, nor



provide absolute answers; just listen, commiserate, encourage, sometimes suggest.

Rosa, wife of Lamberto, from Ometepe, friends from when we used to live there almost 20 years ago, tells me this story:

She is waiting for the local tiny buses, in the center of town, to take her to her outlying neighborhood. The bus is late, nothing unusual. She watches an indigenous woman with a small child in her arms, clearly agitated. The child has vomited and is now limp, unresponsive. The woman comes from up in the mountains,

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DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for January 2020

By Mari-Anne Kocian Gordon and Dorothy E. Kocian

From the *Holy Bible New Revised Standard Version*, slightly modified.

Sundays in bold

1. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1
2. All things came into being through Him. John 1:3
3. The LORD GOD formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. Gen. 2:7
4. They heard the sound of the LORD GOD walking in the garden. Gen. 3:8
5. **I am God Almighty; walk before Me and be blameless. Gen. 17:1b**
6. I will make a covenant between Me and you. Gen. 17:2b
7. Do not be afraid, for I am with you and will bless you. Gen. 26:24
8. I will not leave you. Gen. 28:15b
9. Now go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you are to speak. Exod. 4:12
10. My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest. Exod. 33:14
11. The cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Exod. 40:34
12. **I appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat. Lev. 16:2b**
13. The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face to shine upon you. Num. 6:24-25a
14. The LORD your God brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. Deut. 8:14
15. There is none like God, O Jeshurun, who rides through the heavens to your help. Deut. 33:26
16. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you nor forsake you. Josh. 1:5
17. The battle is the LORD's, and He will give you into our hand. I Sam. 17:47
18. He reached from on high, He took me, He drew me out of mighty waters. II Sam. 22:17
19. **The LORD opened the eyes of the servant, and he saw. II Kings 6:17**
20. For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the entire earth, to strengthen those whose heart is true to Him. II Chron. 16:9
21. Because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Ps. 16:8b
22. The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. Ps. 23:1
23. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters. Ps. 23:2
24. He restores my soul. Ps. 23:3a.
25. The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry. Ps. 34:15
26. **In Him was life, and the life was the light of all people. John 1:4**
27. Do not fear for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. Isa. 41:10
28. My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me. Dan. 6:22
29. "The virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name Him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." Matt. 1:23
30. Where two or three are gathered in My name, I am there among them. Matt. 18:20
31. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Matt. 28:20

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

ing the most effective publishing and distribution methods.

I pray that the Spirit will use the selection of Scripture within the Daily Morsels to help draw you closer to Him and build you up for His Kingdom's work. Certain strategies may prove useful as the Lord uses this small yet powerful tool in your life, however, and whenever you need it. Perhaps you will keep the DMs at your breakfast table to help jumpstart your day. Or by your bedside to contemplate with evening prayers. Or in your backpack to inspire you as you do homework. Or by your mirror to empower you before you face the world. Or in your car to give you peace before you drive to work. Or with your calendar as you consider daily plans. Or on your desk to copy

by hand and memorize. Or with your Bible, journal, or computer to accompany longer Bible study or devotional readings. Or as a photo in your phone to consult any time.

How do *you* use the Daily Morsels to start a daily conversation with God, and let Him take it from there?

May the Lord richly bless you as you walk with Him. May His word be a lamp to your feet and a light to your path. Psalm 119:105.

Thank you greatly, dear brothers and sisters. I earnestly covet your prayers and look forward to hearing your input c/o Cathleen Schlechte at editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com.

He is faithful.

Mari-Anne Gordon

obviously so because of her dress and that she can't speak much Spanish, only using the disparaged indigenous language, Mixtec. Rosa happens to know a little of it, since this is her husband's heart language. The woman is trying her best to ask for help at the counter of the pharmacy on the other side of the street from Rosa, but the owner is shooing her away. This lady is the sister of a previous state governor, wealthy, and doesn't want to be bothered by this dirty Indian from the hills. She commands the clerk to drive the woman out of the store, not making even the barest attempt to show sympathy, if not for the mother, then at least for the sick child.

Rosa crosses over to help, but even her attempts, in Spanish, go unheeded. The owner is now hardened to any appeal. So, Rosa flags down a taxi, much more expensive than the local buses, but available. She bundles the mother and child in, and together they make their way across town to the hospital. Rosa charges in with the pair, straight to the reception desk, and gets through the red tape sufficiently enough that a doctor comes out and examines the child. Rosa doesn't really know what was eventually diagnosed, except something like dehydration from parasites, but anyway, the child is interned overnight. The mother holds vigil beside the bed, on the floor. Rosa returns the next day to see how things are going, and helps them check out, since the child has recuperated enough to leave. Rosa does all the paperwork for the lady, since of course, she also doesn't read. Rosa explains to the lady what medicines

she will need, but realizes that this, too, will be a big challenge, so they march over to the pharmacy and Rosa gets the required medicines. She pays for those, as well as for the small fee that the hospital charged. After she is sure that the woman understands which medicines and when (Rosa has drawn some little pictures and figures on the hospital papers that indicate the right doses and times), she gives her enough money to take a taxi back to the truck that will take them to the mountain village.

I hear this story, with Rosa sitting on the rough stairs to the roof, over breakfast in the concrete breezeway, surrounded by heaps of corn and old brooms and plastic Coke bottles making for a real Still Life. She also tells me about the two villages where she is visiting, infrequently but when possible, and the dozens of children and mothers who flock to her to hear the stories of Jesus, and God's goodness.

These are the friends (each with such wonderful stories) that I am privileged to know, to journey with, as we all together work toward God's Kingdom coming to earth as it is in Heaven.

Thank you for your part in all this, and may you be as blessed as we are.

Robert



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...and from the Home Missions Field

**From Pastor Kay Polasek
... Caldwell, TX**

**December 2019
New Beginnings**

Dear Friends,

New Beginnings (previously known as Cade Lake Chapel, 1008 Elm Drive, Caldwell) continues to grow! We now have 11 young children and 3 teenagers. And several younger new family units. God has truly been blessing us! And, I am reaching out to you for your help if you are able:

1. We have started the process of building a **playground** for the children. We got the fence up and one small monkey bars (dome shaped). This past Sunday it was hard to see the openings because the children were all over it! If you have or know someone who has **playground equipment** that they want to donate, sell for a reasonable price, or donate money toward the cause, please ask them to call me (979-220-1289). We could use a new basketball goal for the older kids.

2. We are seeking donations for Christmas gifts for the children of those families who cannot afford presents.

3. **Prayer** for an **addition** to our building for more dining space and a place for the children to meet for Sunday School or other activities. Our current dining area seats about 24 and we have, at this point, more than 30 coming.

4. **Prayer** for this mission. I just learned that 2 of our little girls (4 and

6) have **NO** grandparents (one called me "Grandma" this past Sunday. Talk about melting your heart). Our children range in age from 2-10 and 14-16.

What a privilege it is that our denomination supports this worthy home mission. In the great commission, Jesus told us to go out and tell the world starting at home sharing the gospel. At New Beginnings we are starting where this people group is, and who knows, maybe one day one or more of our children will go out into the world to preach the word. This reminds me of the song that Randy Travis sang called "Three Wooden Crosses". I am so proud to be a part of this spreading of the gospel. Thank you all for helping us make the world a better place for our children!

It would warm our hearts dearly if you could come and fellowship with us one Sunday! 11 a.m. Sunday School, 12 noon Fellowship Meal (if we have leftovers, they go to shut ins), and 1 p.m. Worship. Exception: 12/22 we won't meet until 2 p.m. for Worship and then other activities, ending with a children's program and candlelight service.

I am awed by the fact that those who come linger, they don't run off, they want to "stay awhile." I would not say that this work is easy, because it is not. But I feel so blessed to be here, and you all are the reason why.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas!

Blessings,

Pastor Kay Polasek

BRETHREN JOURNAL

ing options. The *Life with God New Revised Standard Bible* has been especially useful. Indeed, here in North America, 2020 A.D., we have the technology and freedom to read the Bible in countless formats and languages. Daily devotionals and verse-of-the-day options abound on paper and on-screen. In this setting, what purpose do the Daily Morsels serve? Should they continue to be published?

Recently I have asked the Lord and wise fellow believers these very questions. At least for now, He seems to be gently indicating that the DMs continue, not for some human reason (such as a denominational tradition or family legacy), but as His tool to accomplish His purposes and ongoing work, along with the writings of other godly *Brethren Journal* contributors. *Brethren Journal* Editor, Cathleen Schlechte, has suggested that "even with the abundance of

Bible studies available, sometimes less is more... The Morsels are just enough to start the conversation with God, and He takes it from there." Amen. May it be so.

Now I am asking you. Honestly, what purpose does the Daily Morsels serve in your life? Your walk with Christ? Your family? Your church? Your community? What fruit have you seen? How long have you used the Daily Morsels? What are your spiritual goals? In which spiritual discipline do you hope to grow the most this year? What are your demographics (congregation/location, age range)? Would you prefer to use the DMs on paper (current format), on a screen (electronic copy), or both?

Your answers to these questions will help me interpret the Spirit's leading in selecting and submitting future Daily Morsels. Perhaps they will also help with editorial decisions regard-



WALL BRETHREN CHURCH

12 miles east of San Angelo, Loop 570, Wall, Texas

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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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What Purpose Does the Daily Morsels Serve in Your Life?

- by Mari-Anne K. Gordon

New year's blessings, dear Daily Morsels reader!

As another decade begins, here is a bit of DM history, an outline for the year ahead, and a request for your prayerful input and support.

The purpose of the Daily Morsels is to glorify God by edifying His people within the Unity of the Brethren as they daily read, meditate upon, and grow spiritually from His Word, the Bible, one verse at a time, as we draw closer to our Lord Jesus Christ, the living Bread. We ask the Lord to "give us this day our daily bread." Matthew 6:11

While the purpose of the DMs has remained the same, over time its writing process has changed. For decades Brethren writers, including my distant relative Reverend Josef Hegar, grandparents John and Emily Hegar, and mother Dorothy E. (Hegar) Kocian, prayerfully studied Scripture and selected each week's Daily Morsels based primarily upon the coming

Sunday's International Sunday School Lesson (ISSL), so as to prepare readers for in-church Bible study. Over time, however, apparently fewer and fewer Brethren churches used the ISSL. The writers came to select DM verses based on such broader themes as Lent, Thanksgiving, Advent, and the fruit of the Spirit, using such Christian reference tools as hymnbooks and previous Moravian Daily Texts.

The 2020 DM theme is **spiritual disciplines for growth in our life with God**. This first issue (January-February) emphasizes the nature of God, the foundation of our relationship with Him, and the discipline of confession. Future months will include fasting, sacrifice, silence, celebration, prayer, guidance, service, simplicity, study, meditation, and worship, D.v.

As the current primary DM writer (along with my mother), I selected this theme after prayerfully soliciting wise counsel, especially from my husband, Dr. Bruce Gordon, and research-

HOUSTON BRETHREN CHURCH

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We're making big plans with interesting workshops, tasty food, heart moving worship, and time in God's Word that we're praying will change your life forever.

Set aside this time for yourself and come learn strategies to live a life full of joy!

Registration is open now at: <https://ExpectJoy.ticketleap.com>

Email: RhondaJohnsonMinistries@gmail.com for more information.



CALDWELL BRETHREN CHURCH

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9:30 AM

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

Sunday Worship
10:30 AM

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, sandrainastustin@yahoo.com
 Dime Box #6: Marvin Chlapek, PO Box 1163, Caldwell, TX 77836, 979-272-9102, mjcarc@airplexus.com
 Snook #7: Ann Sebesta, Box 115, Snook, TX 77878, 210-244-3362, bfsinc@tconline.net
 Ocker #8: Eugene Haisler, 19081 Cyclone Branch Road, Burlington, TX 76519, 254-985-2316
 New Tabor #13: Connie Surovik, 1701 St Hwy 21 E, Caldwell, TX 77836, conniesurovik76@gmail.com
 Nelsonville #14: Peggy Peschel, 8000 Hwy 159 W, Bellville, TX 77418, 979-865-5095
 Seaton #16: Joyce Skrabanek, 7157 FM 2086, Temple, TX 76501, 254-984-2283, jjskrabanek@aol.com
 Sealy #17: Esther Breeden, 2728 Osborn Appt #1002, Bryan, TX 77803, 979-779-3835
 Wesley #18: Elaine Koehn, 9053 Learning Oak Lane, Brenham, TX 77833, 979-836-5196, koehns72@yahoo.com
 Temple #20: Irene Marek, 2900 Pecan Valley Drive, Temple, TX 76502, 254-778-2120
 Rosenberg #21: Cathy Kuritza, 5220 Reading Road, Rosenberg, TX 77471, 281-344-1386, michael-pruett@sbcglobal.net
 Westheimer #22: Betty J. Parthum, 3620 Ave O, Rosenberg, TX 77471, 713-826-7993, betty.parthum@yahoo.com
 Houston #23: Dorothy Hinson, 7331 Misty Morning Drive, Humble, TX 77346, 281-620-0480, dorothy.hinson@hotmail.com
 Wall #25: Sharon J. Hohmann, 222 Crestwood Drive, San Angelo, TX 76903-9106, 325-651-5884
 Caldwell #27: Brenda Schroeder, 4193 FM 696, Caldwell, TX 77836, bschroeder@caldwellisd.net
 Crosby #28: Gisela Gaeke, PO Box 599, Crosby, TX 77532, 281-426-5506
 **Austin #32: Natalie Outlaw, 7575 Wixon Road, Bryan, TX 77808-8085, 979-589-2012, natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com
 Pasadena #33: Betty Orsag, 5118 Coventry Ct, Friendswood, TX 77546-3001, 281-482-1501
 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

2020 SUMMER CAMP DATES:

ENCOUNTER

Ages 7-9 years old
 Camp Cost: \$250
 Camp Date: **June 28-30**

PIONEER

Ages 12-13 years old
 Camp Cost: \$350
 Camp Date: **June 14-19**

CHALLENGER

Ages 16-19 years old
 Camp Cost: \$350
 Camp Date: **July 5-10**

ALPHA

Ages 10-11 years old
 Camp Cost: \$350
 Camp Date: **June 7-11**

DISCOVERY

Ages 14-15 years old
 Camp Cost: \$350
 Camp Date: **June 21-26**

HUS SCHOOL

In-depth Leadership Program
 Ages 16-Adult
 Cost: \$550
 Date: **Not held in summer 2020**

**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.

SNOOK BRETHREN CHURCH

9882 FM 2155/P.O. Box 247, Snook, TX 77878
 Church Phone – (979) 272-3303

COME WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday School – 9:00 AM; Worship – 10:15 AM
 Bible Study – Each Tuesday, 9:00-10:00 AM

Pastor

Rev. Joseph Polasek
 P.O. Box 54
 Snook, TX 77878
 (979) 272-1624

Board of Elders President

Yvonne Kovar
 P.O. Box 66
 Snook, TX 77878
 (979) 219-0375

Youth Directors

Randall & Jonna See
 P.O. Box 345
 Snook, TX 77878
 (979) 272-8179

CROSS CHURCH ON BIRDCREEK

2202 Birdcreek Drive
 Temple, Texas 76502

email: ccb@crosschurchonbirdcreek.org
<https://www.crosschurchonbirdcreek.org>

(254) 778-8759

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

Rev. Tim Chaplin

(254) 718-6094
tpch4359@gmail.com

Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

January 4-5, 2020 – Winter BYF Retreat at the Hus Encampment. See more information in this issue or go online to www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.org.

January 24-26, 2020 – Ladies' Campference at the Hus Encampment. See this issue for more information.

February 15, 2020 – Seaton Brethren Church Annual Sausage Supper Fundraiser. See this issue for more information.

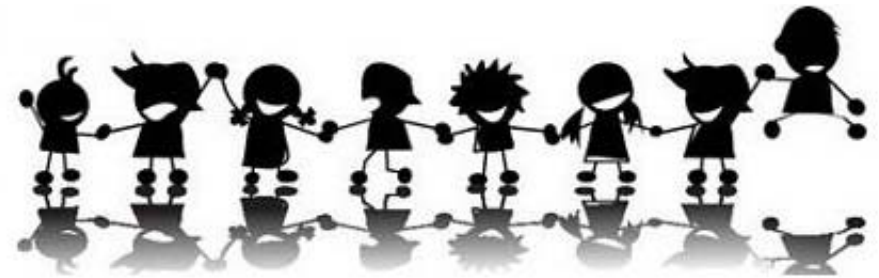
February 22, 2020 – State Children's Rally at the Hus Encampment. Registrations due January 31. For more information go online to www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.org, Facebook: State BYF Retreats, or email: jennchervenka@gmail.com

Save the Dates . . .

March 7, 2020 – Fayetteville Brethren Christian Sisters Fundraiser: On the square in Fayetteville at the Old Fire Station from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. – breakfast tacos, bake sale, country store, and raffle. Love donation of \$2 per ticket or \$10 for 6. Top prize is a \$250 VISA Gift Card. For information, contact Liz Ripple (979) 378-2239 or lizripple@hotmail.com or visit: FayettevilleBrethrenChurch.org.

March 28, 2020 – Spring Synodical Committee Meeting at the Hus Encampment. More information to come in a later issue.

| Fayetteville Brethren Church | |
|---|--|
| Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am |  <p><i>"Site of the First Czech Protestant Preaching in Texas - 1855"</i></p> <p>1022 Kramr Rd at Ross Prairie Church Road P.O. Box 11 • Fayetteville, TX 78940</p> |
| For the schedule of visiting ministers, please visit the church website. | |
| FayettevilleBrethrenChurch.org | |



Sunday School Helper



Welcome to a new year! The theme of 2020 will be Crayons! We're starting a very colorful series about the colors you find in a crayon box, and all of those colors have to do with just one man. The Bible is full of colorful characters. Some of them only appear for a chapter or two, like Gideon. Some have stories that stretch on for many chapters, like Joseph and Moses. Some have entire books dedicated to them, like Ruth. But there's one whose story stretches on not for two books. His sons and grandsons would become kings, and one of his descendants would become the earthly father of Jesus. David had ups and downs in his life. As we look at David's life, we're going to see just how colorful life can be when we place our trust in God.

GOD'S PLAN!

BIBLE STORY

Samuel Anoints David

Read: 1 Samuel 16: 1-13

David's adventure begins with the color purple. It's a strange place to start, because when we first meet David, he's just a boy tending sheep for his father. Shepherds didn't wear the color purple, but kings did, and God had a very big plan in mind for young David.

The people of Israel had asked God for a king, and God had chosen a man who turned out to be a disappointment. Israel was God's country. The people were God's chosen people, and the man who led Israel needed to be a man after God's own heart. God knew that he needed to choose someone new, to start over. God sent his prophet Samuel to the house of Jesse to anoint the next king. Jesse and Samuel both assumed this new king would be one of the older sons. He would be tall and strong and handsome, just like Saul. But God looked at the heart of Jesse's sons, and he chose David. David was just a boy. He had done nothing to show he was someone special. He hadn't even faced off with a certain giant yet. But God knew David was the one to wear purple. He had a plan for David, and the same God has a plan for each one of you.

OBJECT LESSON

Purple Crayon

Ask: Who likes the color purple? What are some things that are purple?



Purple is one of the brightest colors in the crayon box, but it is not a very common color in the real world. Do you see a lot of business people wear purple? What about sport teams?

Purple was a favorite color of kings. Purple cloth was very difficult to make and very expensive. Purple stands out in a crowd. So in ancient times, if you wore purple, it meant you were a very rich and very important person.

When David was just a boy, God anointed him king. Even though everyone around him saw a small shepherd boy, God saw a king. You may just be a kid in the eyes of the world right now, but God sees something great and special within each of you. You may not be kings and queens, but if you trust God with all your heart, like David, He will do great things through you!

GAME

Stand 'Em Up

Supplies: Box of 12 or 24 crayons per person

Lesson: God chose David to "stand up" and become king of Israel, even though he was just a boy.

The object of the game is to open the box of crayons and stand them all on their flat end on a table. You can make this a race or give children 60 seconds and the one with the most crayons standing wins. Another option would be to do this as a relay race, giving each member of the team 30 seconds to stand up as many crayons as possible.

