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THE BRETHREN JOURNAL



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March 2020

No. 2

32 Pages

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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/March 2020

BRETHREN JOURNAL



Rev. Curtis Holland retired from service as Pastor of the West Brethren Church and to the Unity of the Brethren denomination on December 31, 2019

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Rev. Curtis Holland Retires
Mutual Aid Scholarship Announcement

. . . and so much more!

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EDITOR –

Cathleen Schlechte
3635 CR 225, Caldwell, TX 77836
979-255-8266
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BUSINESS MANAGER –

Ben Polasek
1103 Harrisonburg Ln., College Station,
TX 77845; 979-220-9270
manager.brethrenjournal@gmail.com

BUSINESS COMMITTEE –

President: Angie Hairrell
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Cr., Sealy, TX 77474; mildw@sbcglobal.net;
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Secretary: Stacy Hooker

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS –

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

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And so fulfill the Law of
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716-2578; brad.herridge@gmail.com

Rev. Curtis Holland, 1017 Southwood,
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Rev. David Johnson, 902 Timberlane,
Caldwell, TX 77836.
(979) 567-1838(h),
(979) 220-3822(c);
pastordjbama@gmail.com

Pastor Lisa Johnson, 10221 Centrepark
Drive #737, Houston, TX 77043, (713)
548-4901; writer.johnson@gmail.com

Rev. Lawrence Junek, 3316 Lyle,
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Dr. Larry Koslovsky, 4211 Misty
Timbers Way, Kingwood, TX 77345.
(281) 328-2442 (off),
(713) 594-45 18 (c);
lwkoslo@aol.com

Pastor Ben Kruse, 11714 Needville
Fairchilds Road, Needville, TX
77461; (713) 376-3646;
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Rev. John Kueker, P.O. Box 325,
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Dr. Mark L. Labaj, 3410 Meadow
Creek Lane, Temple, TX 76504.
(254) 774-8179; Baylor Medical
Center, Round Rock, TX,
mark.labaj@utexas.edu

Rev. Denise Mikeska, 409 E. Upshaw,
Temple, TX 76501. dkaym@hotmail.com

Rev. Vanessa Lucia Mitchell, 2070
Carter Lake Drive, College Station,
TX 77845. (979) 574-0268;
lajoiededieu@gmail.com Blog:
notboxingtheair.wordpress.com

Rev. Joseph Polasek, P.O. Box 54,
Snook, TX 77878, (979) 272-1624;
josephipolasek@yahoo.com

Rev. Kay Polasek, 1103 Harrisonburg
Lane, College Station, TX 77845.
(979) 220-1289;
revkaypolasek@yahoo.com

Rev. Mark Sebek, 9235 FM 437,
Rogers, TX 76569. (254) 931-2000;
papasebek@gmx.com

Rev. Thomas Tallas, 3829 Sandstone, San
Angelo, TX 76904. (325) 949-7543;
rev.tjt@gmail.com (h),
rev.tjt@zipnet.us (ch)

Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Terrill, 7 Torch Pine
Court, The Woodlands, TX 77381.
jerryleeterrill@comcast.net

Rev. Ryan Volkman, 4905 Oaklawn
Blvd., San Angelo, TX 76904, (325)
213-0671; ryvolkman@gmail.com

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Bishop Place, Cedar Park, TX
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(011) 52-1-951-145-8947
e-mail: rvthiessen@gmail.com

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

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In Whispers and Breezes

- by Jim Pokorny

In 1 Kings 18 we read of Elijah's great victory over the prophets of Baal. In chapter 19, an outraged Jezebel threatens Elijah's life and the Lord finds him hiding in a cave. God tells Elijah to step out and stand on the mountainside. There, Elijah is subjected to tremendous forces. First, there is a powerful wind that tears at the mountain and shatters rock. Next there is a mighty earthquake. After this, Elijah witnesses a great fire. But God is not in any of these. After the fire, there is a gentle whisper. Elijah finds God in that whisper and reacts accordingly.

It is easy for us to expect (and perhaps even demand) God to reveal Himself in the spectacular. Yet God can be extremely subtle in the way He reveals Himself. So subtle, in fact, that we can easily overlook Him. It happened that way for a man from Arkansas who also ventured into a cave. He went there not to hide ... but to die.

He was born to poor cotton farmers in 1932, the fourth of seven chil-

dren. As a child, he looked up to his older brother, who stated at a young age that he would pursue the ministry when he grew up. For all intents and purposes, the brother appeared to take this calling seriously and no one doubted that he would one day fulfill that promise.

But that was not meant to be. While attending high school, this boy was pulled into an unguarded table saw that injured him severely. After lingering painfully for a week, the boy died. Later, in a fit of rage and anger, the father told the surviving son that "the wrong boy died." This remark had a lasting impact on the younger brother. Ministry is a calling, so the younger brother made a promise to his mother that he would become a gospel singer some day in tribute to his older brother.

After school he joined the military, where he met his future bride. After an honorable discharge, he and his wife moved to Memphis, where the young man planned to pursue his career in



Fayetteville Brethren Church

Sunday School 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am

For the schedule of visiting
ministers, please visit the
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music. There he met Sam Phillips of Sun Records and auditioned with a few gospel songs. Phillips told the young man to go home and write some songs that would sell. The young man did just that, and Phillips signed him. He and his band quickly produced a series of hits and they began touring. But the road took its toll. The young man began turning to alcohol and pills in order to perform.

By 1967, the music industry was convinced his career was over. Standing at over six feet tall, his weight dropped below 150 pounds. Hospital rooms and jail cells were now a home away from home. He cancelled numerous appearances because his addictions often left him unable to perform. He felt his career and perhaps even his life were nearing the end.

One day he left Hendersonville, Tennessee, in his old jeep and drove east for about an hour. After parking on the side of the road, he staggered through the thorns and brush to the mouth of Nickajack Cave. He entered, and it did not take long before he found himself in complete darkness. Unable to see, he began to crawl ever deeper into the cavern until exhausted.

There in the darkness, he waited to die.

But, like Elijah, God was not finished with this man. Suddenly, a feeling of complete peace came over him. The kind of real peace which the pills and alcohol never provided. There in the darkness, God found him. For the first time he realized he was not in charge of his life; nor was he master of his death. He would die at the time appointed by God. He raised his head and started to move. Without the aid of light, he continued to crawl around in the blackness trusting that God would lead him out.

Just as Elijah found God in a whisper, this man found God in a gentle breeze on his back. He turned around and crawled toward it until he eventually saw light creeping in through the mouth of the cave.

This man's name was Johnny Cash. God called Cash home in 2003 at age 71 after a long and successful recording career that included many gospel songs.

God can find us even in the darkest of places. He still makes Himself known in the subtlest of ways.

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

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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

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

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
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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 –
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10:45 AM.
– Rev. Tim Chaplin

Vsetin – A non-official member congregation
of the Unity of the Brethren – Worship at
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– Dr. Mark Labaj
5th Sunday – Visiting Ministers

Wall – Sunday School (for all ages) at
9:30 AM; worship at 10:45 AM every
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– 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
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**Invitation to the 49th Biennial Christian Sisters’
Convention from the Caldwell Christian Sisters**

The Members of the Christian Sisters Executive Committee extends an invitation to all Delegates, Representatives of Women’s Work in the Church, Members of the Local Christian Sisters’ Societies, Ministers of the Unity, and all Friends of the Christian Sisters’ Union to the 50th

Christian Sisters’ Convention on April 25, 2020, beginning at 8:30 A.M. at the Hus Encampment.

Registration begins at 8:30 A.M., followed by a Morning Worship Service and Communion beginning at 9:00 A.M. There will be a Memorial Service after the noon hour.

Your Sisters’ in Christ,
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brad.herridge@gmail.com

Youth Director
Jennifer Chervenka
(254) 983-1002

Cemetery
Sharon Marek
(254) 482-0498

Rev. Curtis Holland Retires From West Brethren Church

The Rev. Curtis Holland retired as pastor of West Brethren Church on December 31, 2019.

Rev. Holland became interim pastor at West Brethren Church in 2003 and was called to be the permanent pastor in January 2004. Under the leadership of Rev. Holland and his wife Bettye, West Brethren Church has grown not only numerically but also spiritually.



He was born in a small town in Covington County, Alabama, one of 11 children. After completing high school, Rev. Holland attended Baylor University, graduating in 1968. He earned a Master of Theology Degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and continued his ministerial career at several small churches in the Waco area.

Upon completion of pastoral care education, Rev. Holland became director of the Pastoral Care Department at Hillcrest Hospital, where he spent more than 27 years caring for the spiritual needs of patients, families, and staff. In 2016, Baylor Scott & White Hillcrest Medical Center created and dedicated *The Curtis Holland Family Room* in his honor. This is a bereavement room located in the Emergency Department of the hospital. Rev. Holland is widely known in the Waco area from his time at Hillcrest

and from having officiated at numerous weddings and funerals over his 63 years in the ministry.

There have been struggles and blessings over the years at the West church. The explosion of the fertilizer plant in 2013 was a tragedy to the community and to the church, but because of a loving and spiritual community of believers, a strong bond

of unity came out of it.

Rev. Holland and Bettye had a vision for West Brethren, and over the years, with God in control, wonderful things have happened. Along with increases in membership, attendance, and stewardship, the church has grown in strong Bible studies, prayer meetings, community outreach, mission projects and, most importantly, growth in Christ centered on God's Word.

Throughout his long career as a minister and a chaplain, Rev. Holland has continually been a witness of God's grace. He was described in a statement from the church as "a pastor of the old school, but his message and the example of his life have reached all ages. He has truly exemplified what it means to be a man of God. West Brethren Church has been truly blessed to have had this man of God as their shepherd for the last 17 years."

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Vice President: Carolyn Beseda, 2515 Lazybrook Dr., Houston, TX 77008. (281) 546-7941; cfillipp@earthlink.net

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

**This must be done well in advance.*

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.

Leroy Parthum, Chair – Westheimer – 713-826-7993;
betty_parthum@yahoo.com

Eugene Haisler, Secretary – Ocker – 254-985-2316, dmheeh@msn.com

Ron Tyson, Treasurer – Houston – 281-373-4376 (home),
rdtyson1@hotmail.com

Lynette Urbanovsky, Unity Treasurer - Synodical Liaison – 4050
Pendleton Dr., Apt. 628, Bryan, TX 77802; (979) 450-1820;
lurbanovsky@gmail.com

Alan Tomasek – 512-859-2197, amtomasek@thegateway.net

HUS CAMP Main Building Renovation

The Impact of Camp Is Eternal... You Can Help Make It Possible!

Due to your generous support of the Hus Camp and its Facility Improvement Capital Campaign, we have completed Phase A (Renovation of the Kitchen) and are now well on our way to starting **Phase B, Renovation of the Main Building!** This phase will not only renovate the interior and exterior of the building, but will also stabilize the structure, add restrooms and insulation, complete air conditioning, and make the building more accessible for a variety of people, functions, programs, and activities. While we hope to begin renovations soon, we can't do it without your help!

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

Estimated Main Building Renovation Cost:	\$380,000
<u>Generous Donations Thus Far:</u>	<u>\$364,512</u>
Additional Funds Needed:	\$15,488

THREE SIMPLE WAYS TO GIVE...

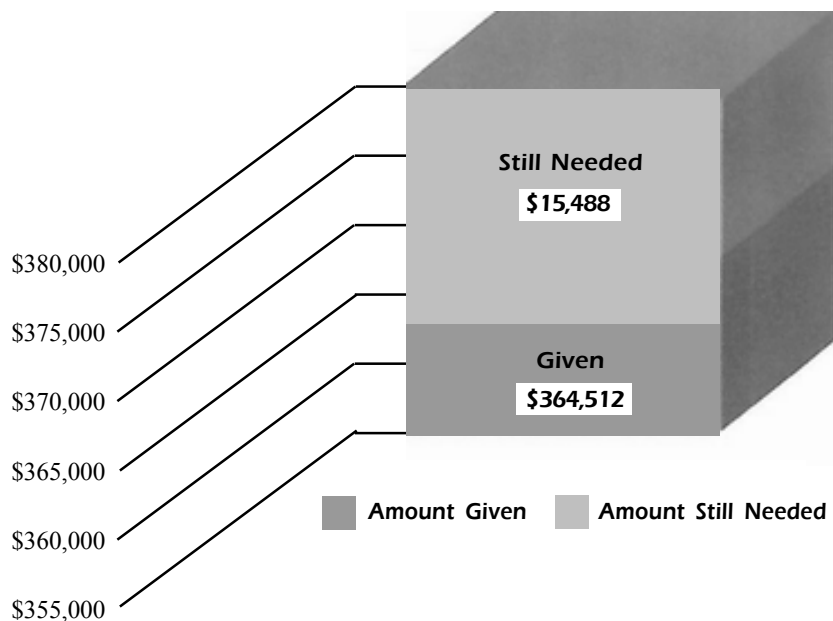
- 1) Make an **online donation** via credit card at: huscamp.org
- 2) Make a **recurring donation** using the pledge form at: huscamp.org
- 3) Send a **one-time gift** to: Hus Camp Building Fund
c/o Todd Corporon, Hus Board Treasurer
5350 CR 124
Georgetown, TX 78626



The Hus Camp Board of Trustees

Kent Laza (Chair), Todd Corporon (Treasurer), Jennifer Chervenka, Tami Laza,
James Marek, Todd Snelgrove, Rev. Tommy Tallas, Rick Weise

Hus School Main Building Renovation Project as of 01/02/2020 Goal: \$380,000





CALDWELL BRETHREN CHURCH

401 South Main Street
(979) 567-7203

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

Sunday School
9:30 AM

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

Sunday Worship
10:30 AM

Church email: lifeatcbc@gmail.com

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

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

23. Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly.
Joel 2:15
24. The people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone great and small put on sackcloth. Jon. 3:5
25. When you fasted and lamented in the fifth month and in the seventh, for these seventy years, was it for Me that you fasted? Zech. 7:5
26. The fasts of the fourth month, ...fifth, ...seventh, and ...tenth shall be seasons of joy and gladness and cheerful festivals for the house of Judah: therefore love truth and peace. Zech. 8:19
27. He (Jesus) fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. Matt. 4:2
28. And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Matt. 6:16
29. **Let your fasting be seen not by others but by your Father, Who is in secret; and your Father Who sees in secret will reward you. Matt. 6:18**
30. The day will come when the Bridegroom is taken away from them, then they will fast on that day. Mark 2:20
31. Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints. Rev. 13:10

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

HUS ENCAMPMENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairman: Kent Laza (2017),
(979) 220-1957

Treasurer: Todd Corporon (2016), 5350
County Road 124, Georgetown, TX
77626; toddcorporon@yahoo.com

Members:

Todd Snelgrove, BCS (2013);
rtsnelgrove@gmail.com
Tami Laza, BCS (2015), 4913 FM 166,
Caldwell, TX 77836;
tami.laza@verizon.net
James Marek, Taylor (2017);
james@cnbt.net
Rick Weise, Wall (2017);
weise.rick@aol.com
Angie Labaj, (2019) Temple
Jennifer Chervenka, Ocker (2017),
(254) 983-1002; jennchervenka@farm-
market.net
The Encampment is governed by a Board
of Trustees of 8 members.

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

Non-Voting Appointments:

Programming Director: Amy Snelgrove
agsnelgrove@hotmail.com

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

Facilities Manager: Alan Haisler,
haislera@ymail.com

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

Synodical Committee Oversight:
Rev. Whitney Amos.

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

MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS BOARD (2019-2021)

Rev. Michael Groseclose
(Pastor to the Pastors)
Rev. Whitney Amos
Rev. Tim Chaplin
Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for December 2019

By Mari-Anne Kocian Gordon and Dorothy E. Kocian

All Scripture from the *Holy Bible New Revised Standard Version*, slightly modified.

Sundays in bold.

1. **Yet even now, says the LORD, return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, weeping, and mourning. Joel 2:12**
2. Jesus said, "My food is to do the will of the One Who sent Me and to complete His work." John 4:34
3. One does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. Deut. 8:3
4. They fasted that day, and said, "We have sinned against the LORD." I Sam. 7:6
5. David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground. 2 Sam. 12:16b
6. When Ahab heard those words, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth... fasted, lay in the sackcloth, and went about dejectedly. 1 Kings 21:27
7. Jehoshaphat was afraid; he set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. 2 Chron. 20:3
8. **I proclaimed a fast there, at the river Ahava, that we might deny ourselves before our God. Ezra 8:21a**
9. When I heard these words, I sat down and wept, and mourned for days, fasting and praying before the God of heaven. Neh. 1:4
10. Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the people of Israel were assembled with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth on their heads. Neh. 9:1
11. In every province, wherever the king's command and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting. Esther 4:3
12. Hold a fast on my behalf, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will also fast as you do. Esther 4:16
13. They had laid down for themselves and for their descendants regulations concerning their fasts and their lamentations. Esther 9:31
14. But as for me, when they were sick, I wore sackcloth; I afflicted myself with fasting. Ps. 35:13
15. **Then I turned to the Lord God to seek an answer by prayer and supplication with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. Dan. 9:3**
16. When I humbled my soul with fasting, they insulted me for doing so. Ps. 69:10
17. My knees are weak through fasting; my body has become gaunt. Ps. 109:24
18. You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting... will not make your voice heard on high. Isa. 58:4
19. Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Isa. 58:6
20. Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning. Joel 2:12
21. Rend your hearts and not your clothing. Joel 2:13a
22. **Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Joel 2:13b**

Three Ways to Give Online by credit card, Recurring Monthly Pledge, or One-Time Gift

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone # _____

Email _____

Donation Amount: _____ [] Recurring Monthly Pledge
[] One Time Gift

If recurring monthly pledge, please provide: Bank Routing #

Financial Institution Name: _____

Account # _____

Signature: _____

[] The Hus Encampment may list my name and donation amount in
written materials when giving thanks to donors.

In memory/honor (circle one) of:

Please provide address for acknowledgment:

Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Please make checks payable to: "Hus Encampment Building Fund"

Mail to:
Todd Corporon, Hus Board Treasurer
5350 CR 124
Georgetown, TX 78626

For credit card donations, go online to huscamp.org and click Donate.

Mutual Aid Society Scholarship Announcement

The Mutual Aid Society will award up to \$2,000 in the Spring of 2020. The amount of each scholarship will depend on the number of qualified applications received. Candidates must be high school seniors or undergraduate students who will be attending an accredited university, college, or technical school during the Summer or Fall of 2020. Past recipients may apply again; however, preferential consideration will be given to first-time applicants. Scholarship application and requirements can be found on the Unity website at: Unityofthebrethren.org.

Application must be postmarked by **March 31, 2020**, and mailed to:

Natalie Outlaw
General Secretary, Mutual Aid Society
7575 Wixon Road
Bryan, TX 77808

In addition, an electronic copy of the essay must be emailed by **March 31, 2020**, to Rev. Joseph Polasek at josephjpolasek@yahoo.com.

Recipients will be announced after May 1, 2020.

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

Sincerely,

Rev Joseph J. Polasek, President, Mutual Aid Society

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.

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.

Pastor
James D. Hejl
512-365-6890

Board President
Bryan Holubec
512-922-5470

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

Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

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 21, 2020 (note change of date) – Spring Synodical Committee Meeting at the Hus Encampment.** More information will be emailed soon to the committee members. All are welcome to attend. Coffee and kolaches at 8 a.m., meeting starts at 9 a.m. Contact Rev. Larry Koslovsky, Synodical Committee President.

April 25, 2020 – The 50th Biennial Christian Sisters' Union Convention at the Hus Encampment – See invitation in this issue.

July 18, 2020 – The 66th Biennial Mutual Aid Society Convention will be held at the Hus Encampment. More information will be available soon.

*****Date Changed**

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.

<i>President</i>	<i>Pastor/Director of Youth</i>	<i>Church Office</i>
<i>Board of Elders</i>	<i>and Young Family Ministries</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
Josh Holik	Ryan Volkman	Libby Lane
325-234-8667	325-213-0671	Tu-F: 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Westheimer Church Sets, Exceeds Giving Goal



On Sunday, Nov. 17, Westheimer Community Church blessed 23 Christmas boxes donated for Samaritan's Purse, and prayed for the children who would receive them.

Twenty-three children around the world had a happier and healthier Christmas 2019 thanks to the generosity and commitment of the congregation at the Westheimer Community Church.

Every year the Westheimer church supports the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child project. In 2018, six boxes were provided, along with a cash donation.

For 2019, the congregation challenged itself to provide 20 boxes filled with hygiene items and small gifts for

children in need. Was the goal met? Nope – it was surpassed, with 23 boxes given, along with a \$25 cash donation.

At the beginning, 20 boxes looked like a tall order for one of the denomination's smallest congregations, but through commitment, compassion, and the leading of the Holy Spirit, it turned out to be more than achievable.

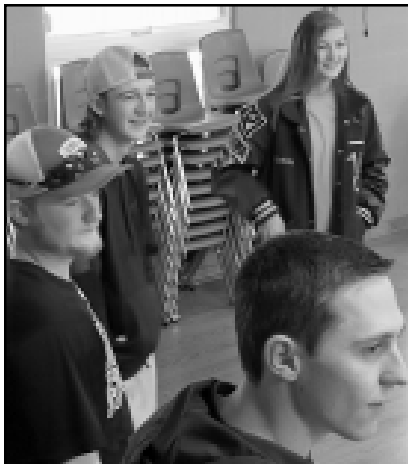
"With God, nothing will be impossible!"

Refresh Winter BYF Retreat: January 4-5, 2020

This retreat was refreshing and reconnecting. Participants reviewed how to study scripture sections and then applied that process to several scriptures relating to prayer. Prayer is honoring God; asking for direction; asking God to meet our needs; asking for forgiveness and willingness to forgive; proclaiming God's love over our enemies; sharing our struggles and weaknesses; and claiming victory in God's power. We can pray in any way, at any time, anywhere. God wants to be in relationship and conversation with us about everything, no matter how big or small, no matter how good or bad.

Participants were given many opportunities to go to God in prayer through many outlets: Personal meditation, group prayer, prayer journaling, interactive prayer stations, and others. Great food, fellowship, and games added to the weekend to make everything extra refreshing!

The next retreat opportunity will be a **Youth Missions and Ministry**



12/March 2020

Retreat March 13-15. This retreat will be housed at Ocker Brethren Church as the mission activities will be in Temple, Texas, and the surrounding areas. Registration is available at campdoc.org. Deadline is March 1st.

Looking ahead: **Summer Volleyball Retreat and Tournament is July 11-12.** All paperwork and registrations must be completed by June 30. We will need adult volunteers to serve as refs. Please let me know if you are interested or available. jennchervenka@gmail.com; 254-913-1244.



BRETHREN JOURNAL

covered in pretty paper or with a big bow, you're getting something pretty special. We give each other gifts on birthdays and holidays because we care for that person. They may be a family member or a friend. We love gifts. They're usually something we want. When you were born, you were given gifts by God specifically picked out for you. We call them talents. Sometimes it involves a sport, a musical talent, or science and math, or maybe you are more artistic. God wants you to serve Him with your talents.

Read: Colossians 3:23-24. What that verse says is that with your gift you can serve the Lord. It doesn't matter what other people think of you, as long as you're doing what God wants you to do. Don't be ashamed of your gift, or try to use a different gift that's not yours. Use the talent God gave you and you can bless others with your talent just as if you're giving them a wrapped gift.

CRAFT

Harp

Materials: Mini embroidery hoop, Rubber bands, Paint

1. Separate embroidery hoops. Paint the outermost rim of the embroidery hoop.
2. Wrap rubber bands around the inner circle of the embroidery hoop. Nest inside the outside hoop so that the rubber bands are perpendicular to the screw. Tighten the screw.



BRETHREN JOURNAL

March 2020/21

Our Talents

BIBLE STORY

David uses his talents

Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:14-23

READ or tell the story of how David would play his harp to help King Saul when he was feeling sad. Review the story with the following questions:

- Who was not feeling well? (*King Saul*)
- Did one of the king's servants know of someone who could play music for the king to make him feel better? (*Yes*)
- Where did David go? (*to play music for the king*)
- When King Saul's head hurt, what did David do? (*David played music for King Saul.*)

DO: Pretend we are David and King Saul. (Let the children pretend to play air guitars or harps.) Appoint half of the children to be David and half of the children to be King Saul. Let the "Davids" play for the "King Sauls," and then reverse the roles. Remind the children that at first King Saul was sad, but after David played for him, he became happy. How can you help someone feel better like David helped King Saul?

PRAY: Dear God, show me how to make someone feel better this week. Amen.

OBJECT LESSON

Scripture: Colossians 3:23-24

Big Idea: God gave you special gifts for a reason.

What this is? It's a gift. You know if you get something



Visit the
Unity of the Brethren
Website:
unityofthebrethren.org



Knesek Family Funeral Chapels



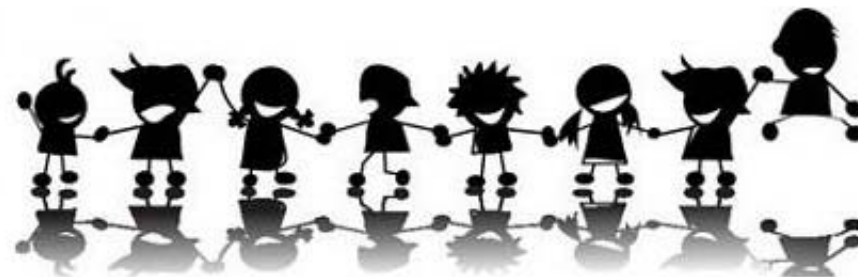
**"Neighbors helping Neighbors
Since 1914"**

- Service all Pre-Arranged Funeral Plans
- Share Plan Concept with Pre-Arranged Funerals
- Sponsor Mission Pre-Arranged Funeral Plans

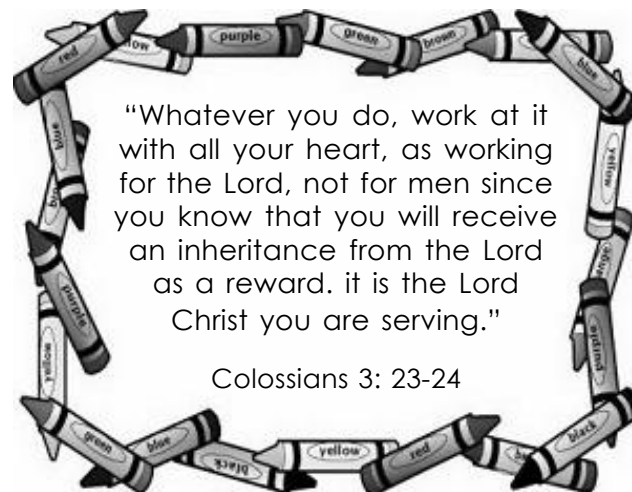
Bellville Sealy Wallis
865-3121 885-3535 478-6311

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Chair: Deborah Schiller – (2019)
Temple, (254) 721-2735;
dschiller1123@gmail.com
Debbie Clark – (2014) Crosby
Deanna Hairrell – (2019) Snook
Jordan Eilers – (2019) Ocker
Open seat
Open seat
Jennifer Chervenka – Youth
Coordinator, Ocker
Synodical Liaison – Rev. Whitney Amos,
3rd Vice-President, chatney@aol.com



Sunday School Helper



"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. it is the Lord Christ you are serving."

Colossians 3: 23-24

We continue our theme of Crayons!

Bible Character
David

Theme Color
Gray

King Saul began to experience some very **gray** times, but he could always rely on David's music (one of David's gifts) to lift his spirits. This month we will learn that when we use our gifts to serve God, He uses them to help others.

We have very good house parents to keep them in their culture. We try hard not to allow American ways or things influence them.

We want these children to grow up to be good Christian leaders in their country, not only to each other but to all here in Zambia.

With God's help leading us the way these ideas will allow the children to have good Christian morals and set the example for all people around them.

As I have asked before, please continue to pray for New Day. Lives are being touched daily by God. It is only through Him that we can do what needs to be done here at New Day.

Blessings to all,
Carolyn Groseclose

FOREIGN MISSIONS BOARD

Chairman:

David Miller (2015), Wall; cell 325245-5616,
dm103157@wcc.net

Unity Representatives:

Reesa Ueckert (2015), Nelsonville; 979-472-0559, reesa@hrueckert.com

Paula Wagner (2015), Taylor; 512-996-8846, paulak1121@sbcglobal.net

Arnold Cuba (2015), Taylor; 512-247-8019, arcuba188@yahoo.com

Erin Brinkley (2015), Ocker; erinbrinkley@yahoo.com

Alan Haisler (2019), BCS

Daniel Vojtek (2019), BCS

Synodical Committee Liason (First

Vice-President: Rev. Mike Groseclose

Advisors:

Rev. Lawrence & Barbara Juneke (Unity at large)

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

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

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

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

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

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, sebestaa2015@outlook.com

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



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

SPJST
520 NorthMain Street
Temple, Texas 76501
(800) 727-7578
www.spjst.org

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- Scholarships
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ADERHOLD

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

Unity Archivist

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

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

From Carolyn Groseclose . . . Missionary in Zambia, Africa

February 2020

Greetings from New Day, Mapanza, Zambia, and Teacher Carolyn,

Many people in the Unity wonder, what does Carolyn do at New Day?

I teach Language Arts. I have also taught Bible, Science, Geography, Math, and when the Tidwell children were here, American Social Studies.

In 2018 I took over and taught grades 2, 3, and 4 when Dee Winsman left. The areas in L.A. are phonics, reading, grammar, writing, spelling, and penmanship. Phonics is taught in grade 2, but not in grades 3 and 4.

The school year here in Zambia starts in January and ends in December. We have the months of April, August, and December off as holidays.

In January 2019, I taught grades 2, 3, and 4 Language Arts and grade 2/3 Math. The classes are small, and we have teachers who can teach L.A. and Math. We are able to divide classes where students who need extra help or who can move a little

faster are able to do so. For example, there are 4 students in grade 2. Two of them needed extra help in L.A. The class was divided to allow the students to receive the help needed.

In the same class, one student was moving faster in math. At the beginning of the new school year, 2019, I taught Luumuno math. He was in the middle of the school year; he was in the middle of grade 3 math.

During the months we have off, activities are planned for the students.

April is usually the month we go on field trips. We have taken them to Lusaka, the nation's capital, and to Livingstone several times. These are always enjoyable as well as a learning experience.

August is usually not as busy as April. We have planned learning activities and the library is open so they can come and read or be read to.

December, we have Christmas activities for all the children. On Christmas Day we all gather in the dining area so they can open their presents. The children also give presents to their house parents. We also have a New Year's Eve party. Games are

played, snacks enjoyed, while we count down to the New Year.

In this new school year, 2020, I will again be teaching Language Arts. I will have Grades 4, 5, and 6. I haven't taught Grade 6 in a couple of years. It will be a challenge for me.

Even though I spend most of my time planning and teaching the children of New Day, there are other activities I am involved in.

On Saturdays, we have a program called Kids Club. Children from the area come to New Day. They play and interact with our children. We start at 3:00 and go until 6:00 p.m. During that time, there is play for all. We then have about an hour of Bible study. Songs are sung, Bible verses are recited, and a story from the Bible is read.

I do the Bible Story time. Afterwards, the children then line up according to age and they have mealtime. We have anywhere from 150 to 400 children at Kids Club.

I do attend Sunday School and Church. On several occasions I have taught Sunday School to the children. I also like to participate in the Sunday School/Bible Study with the adults.

Life is not dull here at New Day.

There is always something to do, especially with the children.

When I felt God's calling to come to New Day, I didn't know what to do or to expect, but God has and will continue to guide me in every aspect. God is in everything we do here at New Day. Nothing gets started until we have prayed to God for guidance. He is faithful. As we have all stated, "God is Good All the Time, All the Time God is Good." And He is.

Please continue to pray, not only for us at New Day, but for the people around us in the area. It is our goal at New Day to lead each child/student to Christ. To give each child/student the best possible education. To keep them grounded in their Zambian culture.

All of this is done through Bible classes at school, daily devotions in their homes, Bible lessons on Saturdays at Kids Club, Prayer and Praise each Wednesday night, and Sunday School and Church each Sunday.

We use the best possible curriculum at school so they can learn and fully comprehend. We have good teachers to not only teach the Zambian curriculum, but also the English/Language Arts curriculum.



HOUSTON BRETHERN CHURCH

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

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO WORSHIP WITH US
Sunday School 9:15 a.m. – Church Service 10:30 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Terrill

Dorothy Hinson
President

7331 Misty Morning Lane
Humble, TX 77346
(281) 620-0480

Donna Verwold
Secretary

325 Sunnyside St.
Houston, TX 77076
(713) 692-0808

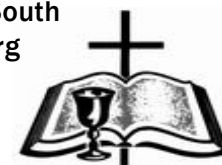
BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION BRETHERN CHURCH

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