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THE BRETHREN JOURNAL



Vol. 119

May 2020

No. 4

28 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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The Brethren Journal, 1103 Harrisonburg Ln., College Station, TX 77845.

28/May 2020

BRETHREN JOURNAL



New Tabor Church Pastor David Johnson delivers the message during a drive-in service on Resurrenction Sunday.

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

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Follow After Me . . . by Rhonda Johnson

Invitation to the 50th Biennial Christian Sisters' Convention . . .

NEW DATE

Missionary Updates . . . In Christ's Love

. . . and more!

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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Invitation to the 50th Biennial Christian Sisters' Convention from the Caldwell Christian Sisters

The Members of the Christian Sis-
ters' Executive Committee extends an
invitation to all Delegates, Representa-
tives of Women's Work in the
Church, Members of the Local Chris-
tian Sisters' Societies, Ministers of the
Unity and all Friends of the Chris-
tian Sisters' Union to the 50th Chris-
tian Sisters' Convention on August
29, 2020, beginning at 8:00 A.M. at the
Hus Encampment.

Registration begins at 8:00 A.M.,
followed by a Morning Worship Ser-
vice and Communion beginning at
9:00 A.M. There will be a Memorial
Service after the noon hour. The camp
will be available the night before for
those that will be traveling from out of
town.

More information will be mailed to
all the delegates along with their
packets sometimes in late July. If you
have any questions please email Anna
Wotipka: awotipka58@gmail.com

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Christian Sisters'
Executive Committee

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Articles Wanted

The Brethren Journal is looking for articles to publish about activities that may be taking place in the churches of the Unity of the Brethren.

How is your church helping your members and community during this time of the CoVid-19 Pandemic? What are some of the virtual activities the church is conducting? How are you supporting one another during this time of quarantine?

These are just a sampling of ideas that can be used for articles to be submitted to the Brethren Journal for publication. Also, photographs are welcome in addition to an article.

Please, limit articles to no more than 1000 words due to space limitations. All photos sent may not be included for the same reason.

Please email your article(s) and photos to:

editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com

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Logan Woefel – Taylor BYF
Allyson Cocke – Taylor BYF
Colton Machu – Taylor BYF
Kaylynn Harkey – Nelsonville BYF
Jessica Chervenka – Ocker BYF
Taylor Krcha – Ocker BYF
Grace Jungmann – Ocker BYF

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Dillon Barbisch – Ocker
Jordan Eilers – Ocker
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Anna Wotipka – Caldwell

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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.

What's in a Nickname?

- by Jim Pokorny

When I submitted my last offering to *The Brethren Journal*, I had absolutely no idea that a sequel would follow. The season of Lent was under way and my birthday was on the horizon, both of which gave pause for reflection. I found my thoughts returning to Christ's response to the expert in religious law found in Matthew 22. Attempting to trap Jesus, the expert asked Him which commandment was the greatest. Jesus surprised the expert with a two-fold answer.

Matthew 22:37-40 (NET) - *Jesus said to him, " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."*

I have always been impressed with how Jesus both gets to the heart of the matter and simplifies things for us. In this case, it boils down to relationships. The first is our relation-

ship with God and the second is our relationship with one another. If we could both love God and our neighbor as Jesus commanded us, we would be keeping every law and commandment.

This was still very much on my mind when four days after my birthday we bid farewell to an office assistant who was moving out of state with her family. Like other businesses, we threw her a party and everyone pitched in for a gift.

Our president asked her to say a few words, which she was reluctant to do at first. She began with the usual things. She spoke of how she was going to miss us and how much she learned about the industry from everyone. She then began to speak about conversations she had with her husband at the end of many workdays.

To everyone's surprise, our president interrupted her. "I hate to cut you off, Susanna, but I just want to let everyone know that Jim has a new nickname!" All eyes in the room turned to me. As he told her to continue, I

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 1st & 3rd Sundays. - Visiting Ministers; 2nd & 4th Saturdays at 5 PM - Rev. Mike Groseclose

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.
- Interim Pastor - Rev. Gerald Davis

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

BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION BRETHREN CHURCH

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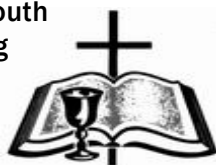
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Rev. Mark Sebek

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Church 9:00 A.M.

Sunday School 10:45 A.M.

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VITAL STATISTICS

RECENT DEATHS



PITTMAN, ELIZABETH ANN, 77, of Beaumont, died Wednesday, November 6, 2019, at Harbor Hospice, Beaumont. She was born on August 19, 1942, to Anna Kristine Hegar Junek and Ernest Junek, in Hillsboro. Ms. Pittman was raised in the Brethren Church and active at Wesley United Methodist Church, Golden Triangle Quilt Guild, and The Belles and Beaus Square Dance Club. She was fond of animals, especially shelties. She will be greatly missed. Survivors include her son, Matthew Pittman and his wife Reverend Tommie Stovall of Beaumont; brother, Reverend Lawrence Junek and his wife Barbara, of Waco; ex-husband, Robert F. Pittman of Kountze; and multiple beloved cousins, nieces, and nephews. A family committal was held at Broussard's Crematorium under the direction of Broussard's, 1605 North Major Drive, Beaumont. Memorial contribution may be made to the Julie Rogers Gift of Life Program, 2390 Dowlen Road, Beaumont, Texas 77706.



TYSON, RONNIE DALE, went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, March 11, 2020, in Cypress, Texas. He was born on February 18, 1943, in Wichita Falls, Texas. After graduating from Wichita Falls High School, he served in the US Army for 2 years and was stationed in France. He retired as a Petro Chemical Piping Designer. He was an active member of Houston Brethren Church for many years. Ronnie is survived by his loving wife, Rita, of almost 36 years; his children Sharon Devall and son-in-law Mike, Susan Garza and son-in-law Armando, Adria Golden and son-in-law Dennis, and Kevin Henderson; grandchildren, Kyle, Matthew and Jeffrey Massey, Jared Garza, Sarah Conley, Chris Ottosen, Madilyn Henderson, and Jayden Golden Selph; 7 great-grandchildren, Jaxon and Savannah Massey, Dalton, Addie, and Anna Conley, Abigail Ottosen, Sophia Garza; his brother Donald Tyson and family; many nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by parents, Ervin and Cassie Mae Tyson, and sisters, Janet Griffith and Barbara Dorsey.



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realized that she had already shared something with him before the party started.

I could tell she was a bit embarrassed as she began again. "Well," she resumed, "like all married couples my husband and I talked regularly about how our days at work went. So many times I would tell him how I had to bother 'Sweet Jim' again with yet another technical issue and how he dropped whatever he was doing to help me out."

My amused president then repeated the nickname "Sweet Jim!" The guys in the room either laughed or snickered. I realized Susanna was feeling a bit uncomfortable, so I said to those in attendance: "Laugh it up guys, but I can assure you that I embrace that nickname with both arms."

The party ended a short time later, and we all returned to work.

Susanna had made plans to leave early that day and she said her goodbyes to everyone individually. When my turn came, I stood up to face her. She said goodbye and then apologized. This took me by complete surprise. When I asked her why she was apologizing, she replied that it was because of my newly acquired

nickname. She added that she was certain the guys were going to rib me about it for a very long time.

I told her that there was absolutely no need for apologies. I added that I would wear that nickname like a badge of honor. I assured her that the way she spoke of me to her husband was more than kindness on her part. I considered it an affirmation that I was loving my neighbor the way Christ commanded me. She smiled and we shared one final farewell.

Very soon after this, the threat of COVID-19 raised its head and I began scrambling to get people ready to work from home. For several days I was the only one in the office. On March 23, 2020, I read the news item that Austin would announce the closing of all businesses except those considered essential the following day. Having prepared things for everyone else, I was suddenly left with mere hours to get myself ready to work from home.

People then contacted me by phone or email for support. More than a few began: "Hey, Sweet Jim..." I would just smile and think: "I love you too, neighbor."

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

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(281) 620-0480

Donna Verwold
Secretary
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(713) 692-0808

Resurrection Day Drive – In Church Service at New Tabor Brethren Church

New Tabor Brethren Church celebrated the resurrection of The LORD this year as never before, Drive-in style. With rain and bad weather predicted, the platform for the service was set up on a 42-foot flatbed trailer. Sound equipment waited until the very last moment when the call was made to go ahead with the service. Just as a prayer for good weather was offered and equipment set up, the sun began to shine.

Carloads of families were shown to their places by social distancing parking lot attendants who worked dili-

gently to get every car in place to view the service. Pastor David Johnson's message included the story of Pontius Pilot symbolically washing his hands of the death of our savior. Pastor Johnson used a basin of water to demonstrate the historic gesture while encouraging the congregation to not "wash our hands" of the responsibility of ministry to our loved ones and neighbors. The call to take up our duty as believers is more important in our current culture than ever before, Bro. Johnson reminded.



To communicate with the Hus Encampment . . .

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

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**This must be done well in advance.*

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for May 2020

By Mari-Anne Kocian Gordon and Dorothy E. Kocian

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

Sundays in bold.

1. Abraham said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes." Gen. 18:27
2. Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer. Gen. 25:21
3. **Moses said, "Show me Your glory, I pray." Exod. 33:18**
4. Hannah was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly. 1 Sam. 1:10
5. The people of Israel said to Samuel, "Do not cease to cry out to the LORD our God for us, and pray that He may save us." 1 Sam. 7:8
6. "Far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you," Samuel said. 1 Sam. 12:23
7. "Regard Your servant's prayer and his plea, O LORD, my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that Your servant prays to you today," Solomon prayed. 1 Kings 8:28
8. I have heard your prayer and your plea, which you have made before Me. 1 Kings 9:3
9. Then Elisha prayed: "O LORD, please open his eyes, that he may see." 2 Kings 6:17a
10. **Hannah said, "For this child {Samuel} I prayed, and the Lord has granted my petition." 1 Sam. 1:27**
11. Manasseh prayed to Him, and God received his entreaty, heard his plea and restored him again to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. 2 Chron. 33:13
12. Therefore, let all who are faithful offer prayer to You; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. Ps. 32:6
13. Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry. Ps. 39:12
14. By day the LORD commands His steadfast love, and at night His song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life. Ps. 42:8
15. Have mercy upon us, O LORD. Ps. 123:3
16. Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, Jeremiah wrote. Jer. 29:7
17. **My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. Isa. 56:7b**
18. Then when you call upon Me and come and pray to Me, I will hear you. Jer. 29:12
19. Daniel... continued to... get down on his knees three times a day to pray to his God and praise Him, just as he had done previously. Dan. 6:10
20. I {Daniel} prayed to the LORD my God and made confessions. Dan. 9:4
21. Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish. Jon. 2:1
22. Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. Matt. 5:44
23. Whenever you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases. Matt. 6:7a
24. **Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. Mark 11:25**
25. If My people who are called by My name humble themselves, pray, seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. 2 Chron. 7:14
26. After Jesus had dismissed the crowds, He went up to the mountain by Himself to pray. Matt. 14:23
27. Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive. Matt. 21:22
28. When Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened. Luke 3:21b
29. Jesus spent the night in prayer to God. Luke 6:12b
30. Bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. Luke 6:28
31. **After Jesus had finished praying, one of the disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray." Luke 11:1**

Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

Save the Dates . . .

July 11-12, 2020 – BYF Convention and Volleyball Tournamet at the Hus Encampment.

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

August 29, 2020 – The 50th Biennial Christian Sisters' Convention at the Hus Encampment. Registration begins at 8:00 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. The camp will be available the night before for those who will be traveling from out of town. More information will be mailed to all the delegates along with their packets some time in late July. If you have any questions, please email Anna Wotipka: awotipka58@gmail.com.

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 12-17**

***Date Change

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.

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**



PLEASE JOIN US AS WE
*"Bear ye one another's burdens
And so fulfill the Law of
Christ." (Gal. 6:2)*

THE MUTUAL AID SOCIETY

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Secretary
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401 South Main Street
(979) 567-7203

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

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Sunday School
9:30 AM

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

Sunday Worship
10:30 AM

Follow After Me

- by Rhonda Johnson

In Exodus chapter 3 we find the account of Moses in the desert and the burning bush. God shared His heart with Moses that day. He told him how His people were suffering and how He heard the cries of their hearts and their moaning in slavery. God always shares His heart and His plan with those He calls and anoints to lead. He called Moses to lead His children out of bondage and slavery and into the Promised Land.

There is a shortage of followers in the world today. God has anointed each believer as a priest, and by the blood of Jesus we are made holy; however, when there is work of the ministry to be done, workers to do the heavy lifting in prayer, planning, and execution of the plan, are few. Too often, when people volunteer to help, it is to find out what they are in charge of and then abandon any effort of unity towards what should be the **common goal**. Common goal; the very thing God plants into the heart of the one He has called to lead the work.

Then Jesus told His disciples, *"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."* Matthew 16:24 NIV

When Jesus said in Matthew 16:24 to "deny himself," one way we accomplish this denial is to overcome the temptation to interject what we think is best when we haven't been given the plan or God's heart for a work of God. Suggestions and ideas are a great way to be part of the team. Still, when the leader decides not to implement our ideas, a unified team player follows the leader and accepts that the leader has the vision and trusts that they know how to accomplish best the goal God has given them.

Jesus also said, *"...pick up your cross."* Often, when God calls a person to lead an effort for Him it is at a high cost to the leader. When we jump into a committee or team and begin to make changes to the plan, we need to make sure it is by the leading of the Holy Spirit. "What We Think" is often not God's way of doing things.

Jealousy has been called the green-eyed monster. Jealousy is usually the result of coveting, or wanting, something that someone else has. One of the commandments God gave us is "You shall not covet". There are many examples in the Bible, where people got into trouble because of their jealousy or covetousness. God tells us not to covet what other people have. We should thank God for the things we do have and not worry about what others have. If we remember this throughout our lives, we will be much happier.

DO: *Play a game of Monster Tag:* One person is "it". This person goes around stomping his feet and acting like a "Monster". If he touches one of the kids, that kid then becomes a monster and has to do the same thing. The game ends when all the kids are stomping their feet and acting like monsters.

Say: In this game, we all became MONSTERS! It can be fun to pretend to be a monster, but in real life no one wants to be a monster. Jealousy can make us act like monsters. We need to be happy with what we have and not be jealous of what others have. What are some things that you have that you are happy for? Discuss.

DO: *Rotten Envy:* Immerse an egg in cola overnight. The next day, try to brush the egg with toothpaste to remove the stain. Explain that even though the pop is good tasting, it did some damage to the eggshell. Read Proverbs 14:30. Explain that when we envy "stuff," it can rot the attitude of our hearts, just as the cola will rot the eggshell.

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



A JEALOUS KING

BIBLE STORY

King Saul

Scripture: 1 Samuel 18:5-16

READ or tell the story of how King Saul's jealousy led to murder.

- What did King Saul give to David? (*A high rank in his army.*)
- Why was David given a high rank in the army? (*David successfully completed all King Saul asked him to do.*)
- Why did King Saul become angry with David? (*Because the women sang that David had killed more of the enemy than he did.*)
- From that time on what did Saul do? (*Kept a jealous eye on David.*)
- The next day an evil and injurious spirit came upon Saul. Why? (*Because of King Saul's great jealousy of David.*)
- What did King Saul try to do to David? (*Kill David by pinning him to the wall with his spear.*)

OBJECT LESSON *Green-eyed Monster*: Take out a large candy bar. Say: *I am going to give this candy to my favorite student. My favorite student will be able to answer questions without raising a hand. My favorite student will always get to go first when we play games. How did all of this special treatment for the favorite student make you feel? If you are the favorite, you may be happy. If you are not the favorite student, you may feel mad or angry. You may hold a grudge or be angry even though it was not their fault.*



God has protocols and processes in place which we are wise to honor and obey. In 1 Samuel chapter 16, the prophet Samuel is sent to the house of Jesse to anoint the next King. David is so young and inexperienced he wasn't even called into the house with his brothers to be *considered* as a prospect. Yet, he was God's choice as the next King of Israel. We may not approve of a leader, we may know others who seem more qualified, but we should be very careful to voice our disapproval or act in any way against the anointed of God. David had opportunities to unseat Saul and even kill him, but he would not touch God's anointed even though he had disobeyed God.

When we decide to deny ourselves, pick up our cross, and follow

Jesus, it's an opportunity to live in peace and see the blessings of The Lord coming to us and going out of us every day. When Jesus says to "Follow Me," it's so He can give us abundant, great life. Let's lead when we're called to lead and follow when another is anointed by The Lord.

To sign-up for Life of Love Ministries Weekly Email Devotions, send a message to LOLdevo4me@gmail.com.

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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) 482-0498

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

**Robert & Anne Thiessen . . .
Missionaries from Mexico**

March 23, 2020

The Seventh Simple Church

Dear friends,

Unprecedented events are overtaking all of us, and rural southern Mexico is finally beginning to feel the effects. Our little town (pop. 70,000) has just a couple known cases, but the nations' schools, including universities, were shut down last week and young people from all over are coming home. I imagine in the next two weeks we will see serious changes here. So far, the majority are going on with life as normal.

The Sin Fronteras Missions training school started a week ago, with 12 students. They come from all over, too (4 are indigenous). Alejandro, the director, made the decision last Saturday to run the school in isolation. The base, a 2000-foot house built last year, is in an ideal place for that. It's

on the edge of town in a sparsely populated neighborhood, with plenty of room for the group to keep their distance from each other. The leaders will take extra precautions to wash thoroughly each time we enter the base and try to keep ourselves fairly "distanced" in our other settings. There were going to be guest teachers every week, but some of that is on hold, and we are going to be taking the lead in their place.

This week is Anne's and my scheduled time to introduce them to church planting and language learning. This is always a "rug moving" time as we challenge students to think through, from a close study of the NT stories, the basics of church. Few have ever been challenged that their way of doing church is not necessarily close to the way the apostles carried out their commission. Our emphasis is not about changing anything back home, but about giving freedom to new believers in new places to respond simply to the basic message and commands of Jesus.

TAYLOR BROTHERS CHURCH

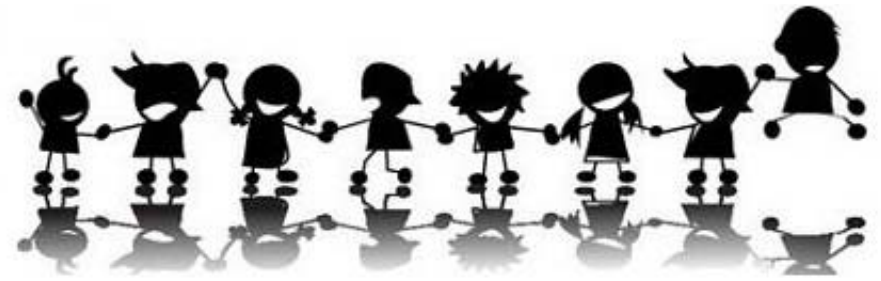
Seventh Street at Sloan in Taylor, Texas
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 351, Taylor, TX 76574
512-352-6423

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

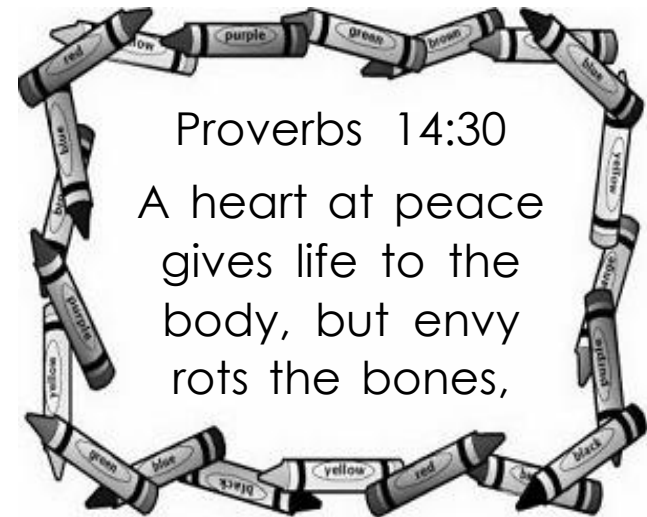
Pastor
James D. Hejl
512-365-6890

Board President
Daniel Knippa
512-844-0208

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



Sunday School Helper



Proverbs 14:30

A heart at peace
gives life to the
body, but envy
rots the bones,

We continue our theme of Crayons!

Bible Character
Saul

Theme Color
Green

Saul was green with envy because the people loved David. Kids will learn that when we let envy into our lives, it can destroy us.

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. 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 December 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.

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

Granger #1: Angie Malicoat, PO Box 362, Granger, TX 76530, 512-859-2837	koehns72@yahoo.com
Taylor #3: Marie Ann Ripple, 2302 Heights Blvd, Taylor, TX 76574, 512-365-6916	Temple #20: Irene Marek, 2900 Pecan Valley Drive, Temple, TX 76502, 254-778-2120
West #4: Dorothy Kocian, 107 South Barbara Street, Waco, TX 76705, 254-799-5331, dekocian@yahoo.com	Rosenberg #21: Cathy Kuritza, 5220 Reading Road, Rosenberg, TX 77471, 281-344-1386, michael-pruett@sbcglobal.net
Fayetteville #5: Sandra Stepan, PO Box 145, Fayetteville, TX 78940, 512-468-2396, sandrinaustin@yahoo.com	Westheimer #22: Betty J. Parthum, 3620 Ave O, Rosenberg, TX 77471, 713-826-7993, betty.parthum@yahoo.com
Dime Box #6: Marvin Chlapek, PO Box 1163, Caldwell, TX 77836, 979-272-9102, mjcarc@airplexus.com	Houston #23: Dorothy Hinson, 7331 Misty Morning Drive, Humble, TX 77346, 281-620-0480, dorothy.hinson@hotmail.com
Snook #7: Ann Sebesta, Box 115, Snook, TX 77878, 210-244-3362, sebestaa2015@outlook.com	Wall #25: Sharon J. Hohmann, 222 Crestwood Drive, San Angelo, TX 76903-9106, 325-651-5884
Ocker #8: Eugene Haisler, 19081 Cyclone Branch Road, Burlington, TX 76519, 254-985-2316	Caldwell #27: Brenda Schroeder, 4193 FM 696, Caldwell, TX 77836, bschroeder@caldwellisd.net
New Tabor #13: Connie Surovik, 1701 St Hwy 21 E, Caldwell, TX 77836, conniesurovik76@gmail.com	Crosby #28: Gisela Gaeke, PO Box 599, Crosby, TX 77532, 281-426-5506
Nelsonville #14: Peggy Peschel, 8000 Hwy 159 W, Bellville, TX 77418, 979-865-5095	**Austin #32: Natalie Outlaw, 7575 Wixon Road, Bryan, TX 77808-8085, 979-589-2012, natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com
Seaton #16: Joyce Skrabanek, 7157 FM 2086, Temple, TX 76501, 254-984-2283, jjskrabanek@aol.com	Pasadena #33: Betty Orsag, 5118 Coventry Ct, Friendswood, TX 77546-3001, 281-482-1501
Sealy #17: Esther Breeden, 2728 Osborn Appt #1002, Bryan, TX 77803, 979-779-3835	B/CS #34: Natalie Outlaw, 7575 Wixon Road, Bryan, TX 77808-8085, 979-589-2012, natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com
Wesley #18: Elaine Koehn, 9053 Learning Oak Lane, Brenham, TX 77833, 979-836-5196,	

**Position currently filled by Administrative Board members

So, yesterday Anne and I started another new church, the seventh iteration of Simple Church.

This year, however, because of the isolation, this church will be their only church for the next three months. I have always wanted this kind of experience, but sorry it took a crisis to make it happen. After all, everyone has experience of “normal” (to them) church (with its accumulation of cultural adornments). Most mission training programs instruct their participants to avoid imposing their culture, but how many have them experience church so simple that it can easily be “planted”?

Simple Church here will have its own leaders from the beginning who will involve everyone in church life. They will only use 1st and 2nd Luke as their Scripture (and they will only have one copy of that) and they will focus on an oral interaction with those books. They will participate in

the Lord's Supper weekly (with local elements). They will come up with their own songs and simple instruments and will be able to use a few hand-copied psalms that they add to slowly. They will encourage giving that goes beyond money. It's going to be hard to evangelize and baptize new believers, but we'll see what happens.

You can see we aren't planning on going back “home”, wherever that is. We are taking all the precautions we can and laying low in almost every other aspect of what we do in Mexico (visiting leaders in Guerrero, mostly). In some ways this training school for SF comes at the right time for us to continue our ministry in Mexico. Wouldn't be much else to do otherwise.

Please pray for our health, and that of the students and other teachers. Also, that the few Christians of south-



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Worship: 10:45 a.m.

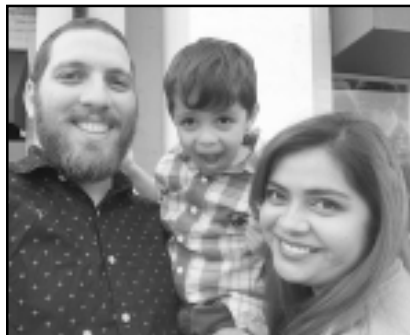
Rev. Tim Chaplin
(254) 718-6094
tpch4359@gmail.com

ern Mexico rise to the challenge of radiating peace and hope in this time.

Thanks for your faithfulness, even in hard times.

Robert and Anne

Joel & Teresa Jelski . . . Missionaries from Israel



April 2, 2020

Fields of Wheat Ministry

Dear friends,

I hope and pray that you are doing well. As you are probably aware by now, most of Israel is in complete shutdown and people are not allowed to leave their home for the most part. We had to cancel our Passover youth camp a few weeks ago which was supposed to start tomorrow. We have been in our home now for a few weeks only going out for food. I have never experienced or seen anything like this, not in Israel or anywhere else. This is quite unprecedented for my generation. At this point, the spread of the virus is our government's main concern and keeping the death count low and not overwhelm the health

system. But it's also clear that Israel's economy (along with other countries), is going to take a big hit in the coming months, with almost a million people unemployed in a country of 9 million. I know this is affecting many of you, as well. I pray that the Lord guards you and your family, continues to provide for you and your family, and shows you His love during this season. Please pray for Israel during this time (as we pray for you, as well). May God use this season and circumstances to glorify His name through you and me and His body worldwide.

I wanted to write some of what has been happening with our family and ministry over the past few months. I know it's a bit long, but I had some things I felt it was time to share. For us, you are not strangers, but brothers and sisters who care about our lives. Thank for allowing us to open up concerning our struggles, as well as celebrating the victories.

Some Family Updates

I want to share some of our journey as a family going back about half a year. As many of you know, in 2017 Teresa had 2 miscarriages in a matter

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

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

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If recurring monthly pledge, please provide: Bank Routing #

Financial Institution Name:

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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.

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
Generous Donations Thus Far:	\$379,328
Additional Funds Needed:	\$ 672

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

of 6 months (she has had 3 miscarriages overall, one before Boaz). Since then we have been desiring to have more kids, but that has not happened. In the summer she started a simple hormonal treatment as a first step to see if that would help, but it hasn't. I won't lie, it's been a difficult journey with many questions. For Teresa especially, the end of last year was brutal. While dealing with a lot of disappointment with not getting pregnant, she had 3 family members – an uncle, grandmother, and stepfather pass away. This led to a real struggle with depression and feeling the distance from her family. At the same time, I was dealing with frustration not knowing how to deal with all this and help, dealing with my own questions to God, while giving much of my time to the discipleship program and the outreaches we did. The program was incredible, but balancing that while Teresa was really struggling was pretty difficult.

Financially, the past year has been hard. I realize part of it is my fault since my communication has gone down the past half a year. For that I apologize. Please forgive me. You have been faithful to us; and I want to

be faithful to you. It's something I am working on now to improve and get back to regular communication with partners and friends. Our monthly income has simply not been enough to keep us above board. All of this put a lot of strain on us individually and on our marriage. It was really difficult to stay positive and focus on the work the Lord was giving us and not get drowned by the storms going on around us and in us emotionally.

Breakthrough

Then, in January it felt like we finally experienced some breakthrough emotionally, relationally, and spiritually. We are obviously still needing some growth and breakthrough, but we felt like we came out on the other side of what seemed like an endless tunnel. A big prayer request is to our desire to have more children. We have a doctor's appointment with a specialist coming up May (we had to delay it because of what is happening) as we try and figure if there is something medical going on, as well as praying for God's direction concerning this issue.

On the financial side, we had been



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

praying for Teresa to be able to find a part-time job that would do two things – one, to give her motivation, challenge her, and help her be active. Secondly, we needed the income for our family, and just as we were praying, a position opened up at a ministry called ARC – Aliyah Return Center (which actually was part of Fields of Wheat before it was decided it was better to continue separately) where they needed a part-time administrative assistant. Since she took this job, Teresa has flourished. She loves her work there, and it has challenged her and driven her to learn and apply new skills and be motivated in a way she hasn't been for some time.

I was hoping to take a partnership development trip in May or June for a few weeks, but at this point, with all that is going on, I'm just hopeful something in the summer or fall can work out. Please join us in praying that God would continue to open up new doors for us for our partnership development, and that He would bless Teresa's new job.

Ministry Update

Olive tree discipleship – In January it became clear that the brother

who started the discipleship program and has been leading it for 8 years will be moving with his family this summer and going back to working a full-time job outside of ministry. This also left me with a lot of questions, as well. It's not clear if I'll be able to run the program on my own, and we left Jerusalem mainly for this purpose. So, since he is stepping back and the program has been handed off to me, we have some decisions to make soon. We need to decide if I should proceed with the discipleship program this year in the fall and not stop the momentum we created with last year's amazing program and all that happened, or should we take a hiatus this year and use the fall to do some fundraising for our family and Fields of Wheat and work on growing in other areas of our ministry – some of it listed here below. Please pray for wisdom on how to proceed this year and what the Lord has in His heart for us to do.

Fields of Wheat

We found out that a clerk at the tax authority really didn't like our work as believers and she decided to block our non-profit, which means until we

receive their approval we can't hire and pay salaries and we may need to go to court to fight this decision. Please pray for this to be resolved quickly! This is a huge hindrance on the growth and progress of the work and ministry of Fields of Wheat.

On a more positive note, we have something exciting happening! There is a plot of land, about 1000 acres(!), that has presented itself as a possible site for our equipping and training center, and we are currently investigating the details and building permits to see if this can become a reality. That's all I can share at this point, and if things move forward, I will be updating with more clarity where it is and what it means for us. Please pray for this extremely important development!

Katzir Youth

I'm continuing as the director and team leader of this wonderful national youth ministry that serves some 40 congregations throughout Israel. Please pray that we'll be able to hold our Summer Conference, which will be so important for the youth, especially after our Passover Camp had to be cancelled because of the virus.

And finally, please continue to keep Teresa, Boaz, and myself in your prayers, both individually, our marriage, and family. We are deeply grateful for your prayers and support during this time.

We are praying for you during this time.

With much love and appreciation,

Joel and Teresa

Pavel & Stania Kozak . . . Missionaries from the Czech Republic

April 10, 2020

Happy Easter Time

Our precious friends, Dear Sisters and Brothers,

With our humbled hearts my wife Stania and I do send you our warm greetings from Moravia! In this very difficult time we all are praying and trusting our Father God in Christ Jesus that He will, thanks to His Grace, bless each of us and that He will protect our beloved ones, our Family members, Pastors, Churches, and countries.

We pray for you daily in this time as we trust to His Word. We trust that this hard time concerning the coronavirus and quarantine will end as soon as possible and that all things will come back to normal by His will.

In this quiet time of the Remembrance of crucifixion of our precious Lord Jesus Christ, when we are humble ourselves, we are also heartfully praising our Lord that He paid the Price, His Holy life and Blood for us, for our Salvation!

Dear Friends, let us say our BIG THANK YOU for your prayers for us, for our ministry we do here in Czech Republic and also BIG THANK YOU for your Friendship, love, and support!

We LOVE YOU, and may our precious Lord Jesus Christ protect you and provide for you in this difficult time!

In His Name with Prayers,

Yours,

Pavel and Stania

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