

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL



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Needed: FRIENDS OF THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

— from the editor

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

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



Rev. Tommy and Donna Tallas were honored for fifty years of service to the Unity of the Brethren on July 5, 2020, during the worship service at Wall Brethren Church.

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

Tallas Fifty Years of Service Celebration

Justice for All . . . by Jim Pokorny

Let's Taco 'Bout Jesus – Alpha Camp Report

In Christ's Love . . . an update from our Missionaries

. . . and more!

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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Matching Technology Grant Program

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

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

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Celebrating 50 Years of Service Reverend Tommy and Donna Tallas



Rev. Tommy and Donna Tallas were honored during the worship service at the Wall Brethren Church on July 5, 2020, upon their 50 years of ministry to the Unity of the Brethren.

Bro. Tommy was ordained in the Granger Brethren Church on May 29, 1970. He and Donna then moved to Wall and served the Wall Brethren Church from 1970 through 1975, at which time they left Wall to serve the Rosenberg Brethren Church. They returned to Wall in 1985, where they continue to minister and serve at the present time.

We at the WBC are honored and Blessed that they have chosen to serve

the majority of these 50 years in our congregation. The celebratory service was led by Rev. Ryan Volkman and included special music by the Tallas' daughter and granddaughter, Christa Tallas Coffman and Rebekah Coffman May.

We thank Bro. Tommy and Donna for their love and dedicated service to Our Lord and to His people. May God continue to Bless and Keep them in the years ahead!

WALL BRETHREN CHURCH

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

P.O. Box 195, Wall, Texas 76957

Phone: 325-651-4444 ~ Fax: 325-651-5100

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Tallas

Home: 325-949-7543 Cell: 325-656-8558

Home: rev.tjt@gmail.com

Church: wallbrethren@gmail.com

www.WallBrethrenChurch.com

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

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

Justice for All

- by Jim Pokorny

A story my mother often shared with me was a memory from her childhood. One day, her family made a trip from the farm into town for necessities. Once there, my grandmother began chatting with a group of ladies. Mom was quite young and still clung to my grandmother's skirt for security. As the ladies spoke, one of them picked up on Grandma's accent. Curious, the lady asked, "What are y'all?"

"We're Czech," my grandmother innocently replied.

One of the other ladies erupted, "Y'all aren't Czechs! Y'all are Moravians, and don't you forget it!"

This took place in the 1920s and had a lasting impact on Mom. Her account taught me a valuable lesson at a young age. Prejudice is often born out of the need for one individual or group to feel superior to another, yet this feeling of superiority is an illusion.

Philippians 2:3-4 (NET) - Instead of being motivated by selfish ambition or vanity, each of you should, in humility, be moved to treat one another as more important than your-

self. Each of you should be concerned not only about your own interests, but about the interests of others, as well.

By my own childhood in the 1960s, the situation had not significantly improved. If anything, it had degraded. I cannot begin to count the number of racial slurs uttered by adults in their daily conversations. Fortunately, God watched over me at this impressionable age and allowed me to see just how foolish this behavior was.

I started school not long after the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which integrated public schools. As children, we easily made friends without taking skin color into consideration. I still heard the racial slurs and thought (mistakenly) how we would leave all this behind us when we grew up.

By my high school years, cases of racism still cropped up. I recalled two students getting expelled for using racial slurs. In hindsight, I realized they were just the ones that happened to get caught.

Like many, I was appalled by the senseless death of George Floyd while

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Worship: 10:45 a.m.

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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.
- Visiting Ministers

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

Vesetn - 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

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for September 2020

By Mari-Anne Kocian Gordon and Dorothy E. Kocian

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

Sundays in bold.

1. When the king takes the throne, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of the Law. Deut. 17:18
2. The king is to read the scroll with the Law all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the LORD his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees. Deut. 17:19
3. Assemble the people of Israel – men, women, children, and foreigners living in your towns – so that they can listen to the Law, learn to fear the LORD your God, and follow carefully all the words of this law. Deut. 31:12
4. Their children must hear the Law and learn to fear the LORD your God. Deut. 31:13
5. Let My teaching fall like rain and My words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants. Deut. 32:2
6. **Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the LORD, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel. Ezra 7:10**
7. Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel (teaching) of the wicked. Ps. 1:1a
8. The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. Ps. 19:7a
9. I will set before my eyes no vile thing. Ps. 101:3
10. Great are the works of the LORD. They are pondered by all who delight in them. Ps. 111:2
11. I will praise You with an upright heart as I learn Your righteous laws. Ps. 119:7
12. I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You. Ps. 119:11
13. **Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance. Prov. 1:5**
14. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline. Prov. 1:7
15. The LORD gives wisdom. From His mouth come knowledge and understanding. Prov. 2:6
16. Wisdom calls aloud in the street, she raises her voice in the public squares. Prov. 1:20
17. Turn your ear to wisdom and apply your heart to understanding. Prov. 2:2
18. Call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding. Prov. 2:3
19. Look for wisdom as for silver, and search for it as for hidden treasure. Prov. 2:4
20. **Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Prov. 3:5**
21. Listen, my child, to your father's instruction, and do not forsake your mother's teaching. Prov. 1:8
22. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. Prov. 3:7
23. Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding. Prov. 3:13
24. Preserve sound judgment and discernment, do not let them out of your sight. Prov. 3:21
25. The discerning heart seeks knowledge, but the mouth of a fool feeds on folly. Prov. 15:14
26. Not only was the Teacher wise but he also imparted wisdom to the people. Eccl. 12:9a
27. **Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from Him comes to Me. John 6:45b**
28. You then who teach others, do you not teach yourself? Rom. 2:21
29. The wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. 1 Cor. 3:19a
30. There were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. 2 Pet. 2:1a

being taken into custody by Minneapolis police in May 2020. Video of the tragedy captured on a cell phone was quickly picked up by news networks and broadcast via television and the Internet. Protests were quickly organized around the nation. Although many desired to protest this injustice peacefully, many protests quickly escalated into destruction of property and clashes with police. This added fuel to an already volatile mixture. As if without thought, the mantra “De-fund the Police” was quickly taken up. In some areas it was just as quickly replaced by “Disband the Police”. Civic leaders around the nation began adopting similar mindsets as well. In fact, over \$11 million formerly allocated to the police was cut in the proposed City of Austin budget. Although this proposed cut was massive, outspoken critics cried out that it was insufficient.

Good police officers now undeservedly find themselves in a virtual no-win situation. They are under intensified scrutiny and many are choosing early retirement. In one large city, fires continued to be set by rioters and police vehicles were vandalized. In another, clashes with police continued and officers were injured in the line of duty. In addition to the demonstrations, the number of

violent crimes requiring police response is on the rise in many metropolitan areas. In one weekend, 59 people were shot in Chicago. On one Sunday in New York City there were 15 separate shooting incidents. Two teenagers were among the eight killed in that spree. That same city recorded 745 shootings through July 26, 2020.

Let's be honest. What happened to George Floyd should never have happened. Every profession has bad elements and those individuals must be held accountable for their actions or their inaction. Video evidence brought Floyd's injustice to light, but this is but one of countless injustices that have occurred over many years. Injustices of which we know little or nothing.

I have heard it said that it is hoped that God will use the COVID-19 pandemic to reboot the church. Perhaps He will use the church to both seek and promote justice for all once again.

But if not the church, who? And if not now, when?

Acts 10:34-35 (NET) – Then Peter started speaking: “I now truly understand that God does not show favoritism in dealing with people, but in every nation the person who fears him and does what is right is welcomed before him.

To communicate with the Hus Encampment . . .

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

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

**This must be done well in advance.*

Redeemed

- by Rev. Larry Zabcik

On this my 67th birthday, I've posted my favorite hymn as sung by the David Crowder Band. I was adopted and have lived with the name of Zabcik, which is of Czech origin; however, I'm actually 67% Scot/Irish/Welsh according to a DNA test. The tune that the Crowder Band uses really struck a chord with me.

After all these years, just a few short weeks ago I decided to finally try and determine why I have lived a life of fear and of anxiety attacks. I had become so sick and tired of my struggles. I am receiving professional assistance in unlocking, or perhaps better said, in understanding a nightmare that occurred over and over and over again as a child. I remember being sexually abused once when I was about twelve years old on the kitchen floor of the home that I grew up in. And now I am learning that our minds can protect us from bad memories by repressing those memories. My nightmares were actually recurring times of sexual abuse.

Growing up, I always believed that I was extremely shy, especially around

girls. My shyness was almost crippling in its intensity. I now have only recently discovered that I was actually ashamed of who I was. The Holy Spirit brought the word shame and then ashamed to me so powerfully on Wednesday, May 13th. Growing up in the 50s and 60s as an adopted child was not easy, at least not for me. I so often heard the comment, especially at family reunions, which were big in those days, as follows: I would be walking by a group of ladies and would hear one of them say, "There's that Zabcik boy. He's not really theirs, you know." So, then I began to wonder, whose I was?

Early in my life, I battled an addiction to alcohol. In my adult years, I battled an addiction to the nicotine in tobacco by using smokeless tobacco. Those addictions were most difficult to overcome; however, if you have never battled the guilt associated with shame, I personally cannot describe it to you adequately with just mere words. The shame of being adopted compounded by the shame of sexual abuse.

HOUSTON BROTHERS CHURCH

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YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO WORSHIP WITH US
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VITAL STATISTICS

RECENT DEATHS



MCNEIL, CAROLE JEAN (STOVER), age 76, member of the West Brethren Church, died on June 16, 2020. Carole was born September 17, 1943, in Dallas, the daughter of Milton and Helen (Foit) Stover. She was a 1962 graduate of West High School, where she was a cheerleader. On November 6, 1982, she was united in marriage to Alan McNeil in West. She worked as a bookkeeper in Houston for several area businesses and started her own Bath, Body and Candle Company called Bugtussle Lane Candle Company. Carole was preceded in death by her parents and her stepfather, Edmund Kudelka. Survivors include her beloved husband of 38 years, Alan McNeil of West; her children, Sherri Willig Jones of West and Donald Willig and wife Holly of Corsicana; a sister, Patricia Cloud; 3 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends. Memorial services were held Saturday, June 20, 2020, at the West Brethren Church. Ministers: Rev. Gerald Davis, Rev. Curtis Holland, and Rev. Lawrence Junek.

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

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TAYLOR BROTHERS CHURCH

Seventh Street at Sloan in Taylor, Texas
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 351, Taylor, TX 76754
512-352-6423

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

Pastor
James D. Hejl
512-365-6890

Board President
Daniel Knippa
512-844-0208

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

Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

SAVE THE DATES:

**Summer 2021 – Class of 1968
Hus School Reunion** at the Hus
Encampment. For information,
contact Arnold Cuba at
512-247-8019.

**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 informa-
tion including a contact name,
phone number, and/or email
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Editor at:
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Open seat

Open seat

Jennifer Chervenka – Youth

Coordinator, Ocker

Synodical Liaison – Rev. Whitney Amos,
3rd Vice-President, chatney@aol.com

Now I digress for one paragraph. I
have married way over my head twice
in this life. First to Jaclyn Dae Ledbetter
for 37+ years until Almighty God took
her home in October of 2011. She was
my earthly rock and the most dedi-
cated, loving mother! And then, God,
I believe, most literally saved my life
later that year when He brought Karen
Gail Pelzel Self back into my life. We
met on a blind date my first summer
out of high school and dated for
about one year before she graduated
from C. H. Yoe High School in Cameron
and headed to Austin. I then met
Jackie and, until her death, I had not
seen Karen, even at a distance, for
over 38 years. I honestly don't know
if I would still be here if not for God
bringing Karen back. I was basically
an emotional and mental wreck. You
see, she had been divorced for 13
years when we reconnected through
an aunt of hers and also her brother,
who are both now deceased.

I post this today not to elicit sym-
pathy. I met yesterday in Hillsboro
with Donica, Emmy, and John to tell
them about what I am telling you, my
friends on FB. A father could not
possibly ask for the blessing of chil-
dren any more wonderful and sup-
portive than the three aforementioned
now young adults. Thanks be to God
that they had the wonderful, positive,
God-fearing influence of Jackie in
their formative years! Between them,
they are now raising seven children
of their own and are in their own right
wonderful, dedicated, God-fearing par-
ents who wrapped their arms around
me and loved on me yesterday and
supported me, etc...

My spiritual life changed in Sep-
tember of 2009 at a Hem of His Gar-

ment Healing School in Grand Prairie
that was presented by four ministers
from the Bethel Church in Redding,
California. My eyes were especially
opened during those two-and-one-
half days to the workings of the Holy
Spirit. I know that I am a son of the
Most High God, that Jesus Christ is
my Lord and Savior, and that the Holy
Spirit now dwells within me and coun-
sels me and reveals the truth to me. I
know that my home is truly in heaven
and that Jesus Christ is coming back
one day in power and in glory with
the heavenly hosts to set all things
right.

And yet, in spite of that knowl-
edge, I had to face my fears, my
anxieties, and the reality of my child-
hood recurring nightmare. I had put it
off for way, way too long. Writing this
today, I believe, is a part of my
healing process. If you have taken
the time to read this, I thank you
sincerely. I only ask for your prayers
for healing and for the shame to
totally and completely fall away. I'll
now go back to YouTube and share
with you what has become the an-
them of my life. It's a song by Big
Daddy Weave, and it's entitled "Re-
deemed". God bless you all.

Fayetteville Brethren Church

Sunday School 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am

**For the schedule of visiting
ministers, please visit the
church website.**

FayettevilleBrethrenChurch.org

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



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

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

Let's Taco 'Bout Jesus

Alpha 2020

There is no normal. COVID-19 has changed everything. Campers who came to summer camp experienced new procedures, new ways to dine, new rules for social distancing in sessions and in the dorms, and learned to disinfect everything really, really well. However, some things never change: Good faith, food, and fellowship.

In the midst of all the change, campers were still able to come away to the Encampment and escape the world's craziness. They were able to connect to one another and just be

kids, having fun for the summer. Alpha campers spent the week talking about Jesus: Who he was, what he did, who he is, and what he is doing in their lives today.

It was definitely a FIESTA! Campers made taco pinatas, tie-dyed shirts, played tons of games, and even got to cool off with water activities.

Thank you to all the volunteers and staff who made camp possible. Thank you for helping share the love of Jesus with energetic 10 and 11 year olds!



- The Amalekite man was killed for claiming to kill King Saul, the LORD's anointed. What do you think happened to these two men who had killed King Saul's son? David was very angry because they had killed a righteous man in his own house upon his own bed!
- It was a way of life for new kings to come into the old king's palace and kill all of the old king's family, anyone who would be a threat to the new king. **David did not do that.** He honored the LORD's anointed and, as we will see, takes care of Saul's family. The Bible calls David a man after God's own heart, and this was one way that David showed his love, kindness, and compassion.

DO: RAOK (Random Acts of Kindness) Cards

Materials: Index Cards, Stickers, Markers

Option 1: Create RAOK cards before class and pass out to students.

Option 2: Have students create RAOK cards.

RAOK Ideas: Hold the door open for someone. Donate some of your unused toys. Give candy to your bank teller. Help make dinner. Feed the birds. Plan something. Give someone a hug coupon. Send a care box to a service member. Set the table for dinner. Give a candy bar to the bus driver. Clean your room without being asked. Return someone's grocery cart. Send a card to someone at a nursing home. Pass out stickers to kids waiting in line at the grocery store. Write a thank you note to your mail carrier.

DO: Happy Sad Snack

Provide each child with a plain sugar cookie, white icing, M&Ms, and thin strips of red licorice. Use M&Ms to add eyes and a nose to the face. Use the licorice to make a happy or sad face. Remind children that Jesus is with us when we are happy and when we are sad. Helping others can make us happy. **Enjoy!**



Helping Makes You Feel Better

BIBLE STORY

Helping Mephibosheth

Scripture: 2 Samuel 4:1-12

TELL the story of how David takes care of Mephibosheth, even though he was sad he lost his best friend Jonathan.

<http://undavid.org/bible/know-your-bible4/know4-4.html>

- When Israel's King Ishbosheth, Saul's son, heard that his great-uncle Abner was dead, he couldn't or wouldn't do anything. Abner had been the power behind the throne, not Ishbosheth, and all of Israel was troubled.
- Jonathan, King Saul's son, and David were best friends. Jonathan had a young son who had a very long and hard name. His name was Mephibosheth. *Me. Phib. O. Sheth.* Mephibosheth. A long name for a little boy.
- The day that Mephibosheth's family heard that Jonathan and King Saul had died in the battle with the Philistines, Mephibosheth was five years old. Everyone panicked. Mephibosheth's nurse hurriedly picked him up and was running with him when his nurse fell. Mephibosheth fell, too, and his feet were hurt so badly that he could never walk again. David was very kind to his friend's son and how he took care of him.
- Ishbosheth's two captains of his army went into Ishbosheth's house in the middle of the day. Ishbosheth was laying on his bed at noon because it was so hot and his two captains came into his room and killed him. Thinking that David would reward them for killing his enemy, the captains headed over to see David and tell him that they were the ones who had killed Ishbosheth.



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

From The Raiford Family . . . Missionaries in Mexico

June 27, 2020

Raiford Family Update

Hello everyone,

First, I hope that you are all safe and healthy. We are doing well and have been in the village since March. It has certainly been an uncertain time in the world, and here in Mexico we have felt the effects of the corona virus. Thankfully, we have not seen any cases here in our village, but the town has been on edge for these past few months. We have basically been in quarantine here in the village, but is not so bad, we at least have the ability to go out and enjoy nature and we have plenty of food. In the beginning of the pandemic Eunice and I were very concerned about an outbreak in our village and ordered lots of medicine preparing for the worst. God has been good and spared us so

far, but we are ready if the time comes to act.

While the world has been in crisis, we have seen God do so many good things here in Juquila. The time in isolation has brought many people to our door looking for guidance and help. We are now working with three new families and our relationship with the others has grown even deeper. As I imagine for you in the US, the people here watching the news began to feel immense stress. Many came to us for a new perspective on life and we would share with them about God's love, and to take advantage of this time with the people you care about. We also organized exercise routines for people who needed to be in better shape to potentially fight the corona virus. As time has passed, the air of uncertainty still lingers as if we are holding our breath that bad things will eventually come here. We have faith in God that He will protect us as we serve our community, and our friends are finding comfort in Him as well.

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

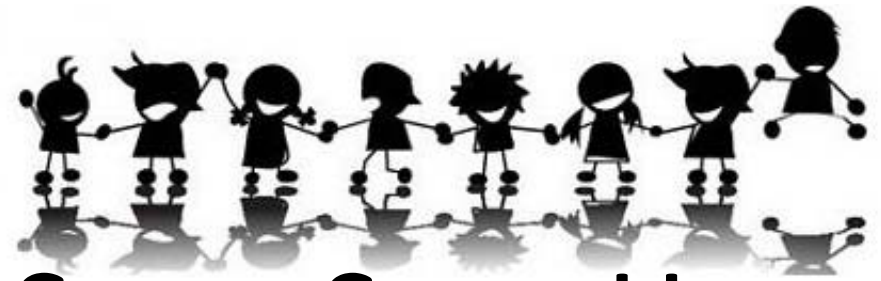
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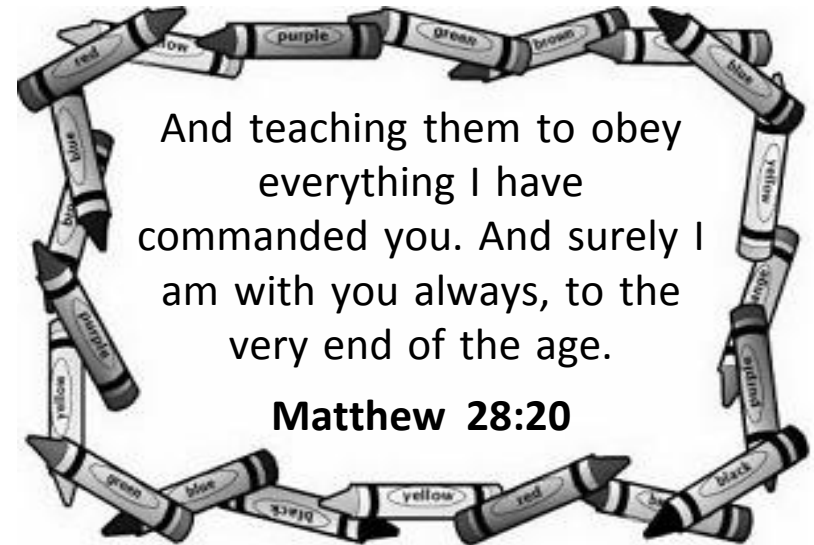
Yvonne Kovar
P.O. Box 66
Snook, TX 77878
(979) 219-0375

Youth Directors

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



Sunday School Helper



And teaching them to obey
everything I have
commanded you. And surely I
am with you always, to the
very end of the age.

Matthew 28:20

Bible Characters

David & Mephibosheth

Bible Reference

2 Samuel 9:1-13

Theme Color

Blue

David was blue when he learned that his friend Jonathan was dead, but he became happy again when he was able to show kindness to Jonathan's crippled son, Mephibosheth. Kids will learn that when we serve others, it helps us recover from the blues.

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:

Account # _____

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☐ 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.

Some of you may have heard that we had an earthquake here in Oaxaca a week ago. We are fine. As far as we have heard there has been minimal damage around the state. It was one of the longest we have ever felt and scared the kids. Thank you for your prayers after hearing the news.

Please know that we have been praying for all of you back home. It has been an interesting change seeing what is happening in the US and feeling helpless in this pandemic. We were hoping to come this summer and visit some of you, but that will have to wait for another time.

Eunice is working hard to keep our village healthy and she is preparing to possibly deliver babies for the first time since we have been in Juquila. The hospitals have told mothers who can give birth naturally to have them in the villages and not go to the hospitals to avoid infection. She is both nervous and excited to help these new mothers. I have been growing a garden preparing for a food shortage and we have been giving away some of the extra plants to people in our village to help those who have lost jobs. Also, I have been working construction for a couple

months and have made three new friends who are trying to become better fathers and husbands through our talks.

Please pray for wisdom as we serve our community during this tough time. Pray for strength as we guide our friends through this stressful time. Pray for courage as Eunice brings new life into this world. And as always, we pray for you back home, and thank you for your support even through hardship as we bring the gospel to those who do not know it. God bless us all as we serve Him.

Blessings,
Phil, Eunice, Ian, and Hannah

Phil and Eunice Raiford
Donate by mail:
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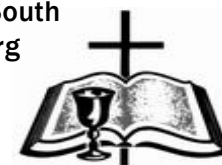
BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION BRETHREN CHURCH

2650 Earl Rudder Freeway South

www.unityofthebrethren.org

Rev. Mark Sebek

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 9283
College Station, TX 77842



Church 9:00 A.M.
Sunday School 10:45 A.M.
Off: 979-693-3606
email: papasebek@gmx.com

From The Jelski Family . . . Missionaries in Israel



July 6, 2020

Moving Day and Major Breakthrough!

Dear friends,

We hope this update finds you and your families well. We know it's been crazy all over the world, not just Israel or the U.S. We carry you in our hearts constantly and pray for you and your families – for God's grace, strength, and provision during this season of shakings around the world. The verse that continues to come to mind is from Haggai 2:5-9:

"...My Spirit remains in your midst. Fear not. For thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Yet once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry

land. And I will shake all nations... and I will fill this house with glory... The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former,' says the Lord of hosts. 'And in this place, I will give peace,' declares the Lord of hosts."

I believe the lord is allowing some shakings to take place all over the earth in order to allow us to better prepare our heart for the days to come, and for God to purify and equip his body for the days ahead. If we see more shakings, we can also be sure there will be greater glory!

Here in Israel, the government is considering another shutdown and stay at home orders. There are already a million people without work (in a country with 9 million people), and another shutdown could cause a severe economic collapse as the economy is already greatly suffering. Please pray for wisdom for all of our leaders during this time – the decisions they make will greatly impact all of us. We are still praying and waiting to decide to go ahead with our Katzir summer youth camp. We are really hoping some of the limitations lift in time for us to be able to do our camp. We already had to cancel our Pass-



12/September 2020

BRETHREN JOURNAL

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.

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,
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BRETHREN JOURNAL

September 2020/17



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agency as a beneficiary
in an existing or new
SPJST insurance certificate.*

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



over camp, so I know a lot of youth are really looking forward to being able to be in a youth camp since most have been cancelled.

On a personal note, we wanted to update you on our upcoming move. We found a beautiful house in a city on the Golan Heights, Katzrin, for an amazing price. The other family who is moving (today) to the Golan Heights to work with us will be about 15 minutes away in a different village. We decided we wanted to stay central in the Golan – Katzrin is right in the middle, making it easy to travel to wherever any future ministry center would be. Also, one of our hopes is to buy a house in the next few years, so one of our goals was to rent cheaper and start saving and get rid of our debt. We are praying we can achieve those goals in the next 2 years. We move on July 15th, so in exactly 10 days. Please pray for a smooth transition, especially Boaz, who will be in a new kindergarten and will have to make new friends. Also, Katzrin is about half religious, so pray that we will have grace with locals there and

be able to openly share our faith with those we meet.

We will be establishing new community life with other believing families there, as there are no congregations that we know of in that area. There are 3 other families moving to that area within 20 minutes of us in the next month, which really tells us the Lord is directing young families in that direction for a reason. This is a really important aspect in order to be up there – to not be isolated and to have faith-based community life to strengthen and encourage one another.



OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

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

Preaching the Word, Loving the People

Sunday School 9:00 AM
Worship 10:15 AM

Pastor

Dr. Brad Herridge

(254) 716-2578

brad.herridge@gmail.com

Youth Director

Jennifer Chervenka

(254) 983-1002

Cemetery

Sharon Marek

(254) 482-0498

other and to minister to the lord together, building an altar of worship and prayer and hosting His presence in an area where there are very few believers at all.

Also, we have an important ministry update! We shared previously that our non-profit was being blocked by the tax authority, so we were limited in our scope of work and we couldn't hire workers. After 2 years of being blocked and not receiving answers, we finally got the breakthrough we were waiting for and got the necessary approvals. This is a huge breakthrough! We will be allowed now to operate freely and move forward. Thank you for praying with us for breakthrough!

Thank you for your prayer and support during this time. We deeply appreciate and love you, and pray the Lord bless you and your families and may His presence and peace surround you during this time.

Joel, Teresa, and Boaz

From The Thiessen Family... Missionaries in Mexico

July 22, 2020

Big Boats Move Slow

Dear friends,

Our view for the last six days, and for the next eight, is the last lift bridge on the Welland Canal in southern Ontario. We get to watch massive lakers, the cargo ships that transverse the five Great Lakes, move along in either their last or first part of the journey to get past Niagara Falls.

They rise or descend more than 300 feet over 27 miles along this waterway, almost 200 years old now. As they slip past the second-story window here, their incredible size makes it hard to believe they're moving at three miles an hour.

We're in quarantine in an apartment in Port Colborne, a sleepy little city on Lake Erie. Can't leave for anything or have visitors. A couple friends stocked the place for us and have come by a time or two to add the small forgotten things, like coffee filters (paper napkins did fine in the interim). One of them had arranged the place through another mission organization based here.

We're catching up on sleep, reading, and watching TV series. We run up and down the 21 steps 30 or more times, and some other exercises.

We're also talking with our agency (Multiply) about what comes next. Our leaders are trying to figure out what it means to have one in five of the hundred missionaries now "sheltering in place" in North America instead of their adopted countries.

Everyone's lives have been affected deeply by this pandemic, and we know we have privileges and blessings that make this easier for us than many others in the world. Our Sin Fronteras missionary friends have a



BRETHREN JOURNAL

very thin safety net, both in terms of their support and health infrastructure. Two of the newest ones weathered COVID-19 and are back on track to being the first SF missionaries to go out of the country, to Nepal (once all this settles down).

Our travel visas running out forced us to leave Mexico, but regardless, we were more and more restricted from movement around Oaxaca and interaction with people. A lot of what we do involves meeting with people in places outside our town, and since the training school finished in early July there was little ministry opportunity immediately in our area.

Who knows when things will get better (everyone's question!)? This is what we are processing with our agency and other leaders, so please pray with us that we will find effective ways to continue in Kingdom work no matter where we are. One significant arena is in training new and existing missionaries. Multiply is developing

courses for people in the field, and this time of restrictions may be ideal for continuing education for all of us, both receiving and developing. And we're beginning to draft an outline for a collaborative book that explores missiology in the midst of post-modern ambiguity (how to do missions when there are so many different, and often conflicting, ideas about who God is, who we are, and what He wants us to do).

Those massive ships hardly look like they're moving, until you can give them a land-based reference. Hopefully, the world-scale problems that look insurmountable will begin to resolve themselves as we all humbly work together. And our very small problems will work out, too.

Thank you for your ongoing support throughout this uncertain time. You all make this possible.

Blessings,
Robert and Ann



CALDWELL BRETHREN CHURCH

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

Sunday School
9:30 AM

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

Sunday Worship
10:30 AM

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

BRETHREN JOURNAL

September 2020/15