

# THE BRETHREN



# JOURNAL



Vol. 120

September 2021

No. 7

40 Pages

## ***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.*

*If you wish to become a special FRIEND OF THE BRETHREN JOURNAL, please send your donation to the Business Manager (address inside front cover). These donations are tax deductible.*



*Pastors Recognized at the 69th Biennial Convention for Thirty or More Years of Service to the Unity of the Brethren  
(Read more about the Convention in this issue.)*

## **IN THIS ISSUE . . .**

69th Biennial Convention of the Unity of the Brethren Report  
*Get That Bug! ...* by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell  
*Returning to the Mount ...* by Jim Pokorny  
Hus School Students Conduct Port Arthur VBS

**. . . and so much more!**

Send address changes to:

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

## THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

### EDITOR –

Cathleen Schlechte  
261 Fieldstone Place  
College Station, TX 77845; 979-255-8266  
[editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com](mailto:editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com)

### BUSINESS MANAGER –

Ben Polasek  
1103 Harrisonburg Ln., College Station,  
TX 77845; 979-220-9270  
[manager.brethrenjournal@gmail.com](mailto:manager.brethrenjournal@gmail.com)

### BUSINESS COMMITTEE –

President: Angie Hairrell  
Treasurer: Dorothy Milberger, 312 N. Lantana  
Cr., Sealy, TX 77474; [mildw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mildw@sbcglobal.net);  
979-885-7129 (h), 979-472-5091 (c)  
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](mailto:Hairrell@gmail.com)  
Jim Pokorny, [jwppsa@yahoo.com](mailto:jwppsa@yahoo.com);  
blog: [otherbrotherjim.blogspot.com](http://otherbrotherjim.blogspot.com)

**RATE** – \$15.00 per year via hard copy/email.  
**(All subscriptions expire December 31st)**  
FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS, RENEWALS, AND GIFT  
SUBSCRIPTIONS, Hard Copy & E-Mail, write  
*The Brethren Journal* Business Manager (see  
addresses above).

**FOR ADDRESS CHANGES** – Include ad-  
dress label from your most recent issue and  
write to: *The Brethren Journal Business*  
**Manager**, 1103 Harrisonburg Lane, College  
Station, TX 77845, or email  
[manager.brethrenjournal@gmail.com](mailto:manager.brethrenjournal@gmail.com).

### FOR ADVERTISING –

Rates (per column inch per year)  
Commercial coverage – \$50.00  
Religious coverage – \$50.00

Write:  
*The Brethren Journal Business Manager*

### FOR ARTICLE AND REPORT

**SUBMISSION** – DEADLINE is the first day  
of the month preceding publication.

Write: *The Brethren Journal* Editor, 261  
Fieldstone Place, College Station, TX 77845,  
or email: [editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com](mailto:editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com).

Permit #064220

*THE BRETHREN JOURNAL* (ISSN 0006-9655)  
is published monthly except for January and  
July, which are bimonthly, at \$15.00 per year  
by The Unity of the Brethren through SuzAnne  
Kurten dba Your Business Center, 1050 S.  
Hwy. 95, Taylor, TX 76574, 512-921-1068,  
periodical postage paid at Taylor, TX. Send  
address changes to *The Brethren Journal*, Attn:  
Business Manager, 1103 Harrisonburg Lane,  
College Station, TX 77845.

## Visit the Unity of the Brethren Website: [unityofthebrethren.org](http://unityofthebrethren.org)

### MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS BOARD (2021-2023)

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

### HUS ENCAMPMENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

**Treasurer:** Susan Marek (2021),  
909 TH Johnson, Taylor, TX 76574

### Members:

Todd Snelgrove, BCS (2013);  
[rtsnelgrove@gmail.com](mailto:rtsnelgrove@gmail.com)  
Tami Laza, BCS (2015), 4913 FM 166,  
Caldwell, TX 77836;  
[tami.laza@verizon.net](mailto:tami.laza@verizon.net)  
James Marek, Taylor (2017);  
[james@cnet.net](mailto:james@cnet.net)  
Rick Weise, Wall (2017);  
[weise.rick@aol.com](mailto:weise.rick@aol.com)  
Angie Labaj, (2019) Temple  
Jennifer Chervenka, Ocker (2017),  
(254) 983-1002; [jennchervenka@farm-market.net](mailto: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 4  
years (Unity of the Brethren By-Laws,  
Article XIV, Sec C, Par.4).

### Non-Voting Appointments:

**Programming Director:** Amy Snelgrove  
[agsnelgrove@hotmail.com](mailto:agsnelgrove@hotmail.com)

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

**Facilities Manager:** Alan Haisler,  
[haislera@ymail.com](mailto:haislera@ymail.com)

**Caretakers:** Open

**Synodical Committee Oversight:**  
Rev. Whitney Amos.

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

## DIRECTORY OF PASTORS

Rev. Charles Amos, 845 Airville Road,  
Temple, TX 76501. (254) 791-9611

Rev. Whitney Amos, 845 Airville Road,  
Temple, TX 76501. (254) 913-5757

Rev. Linda Von Chandler, 13108 North  
Ridge Circle, Leander, TX 78641.  
(512) 836-2712

Rev. Tim Chaplin, 1326 Starlight Dr.,  
Temple TX 76502. (254) 718-6094;  
[tpch4359@gmail.com](mailto:tpch4359@gmail.com)

Rev. Joe Emerson, 5404 Southern  
Crossing Dr., Temple, TX 76502.  
(254) 931-1653;  
[joe.emerson\\_ma@yahoo.com](mailto:joe.emerson_ma@yahoo.com)

Rev. Adolfo Gonzalez, 3913 Brinkman  
Drive, Port Arthur, TX 77642.  
(409) 293-2065

Rev. Michael Groseclose, 352  
Nelsonville Church Rd., Bellville, TX  
77418. (979) 865-3026

Rev. James D. Hejl, 309 Cherrywood  
Circle, Taylor, TX 76574.  
(512) 365-6890

Rev. Dr. Brad Herridge, 5925 Mt.  
Rockwood Circle, Waco, TX 76710.  
(254) 716-2578;  
[brad.herridge@gmail.com](mailto:brad.herridge@gmail.com)

Rev. David Johnson, 902 Timberlane,  
Caldwell, TX 77836.  
(979) 567-1838(h),  
(979) 220-3822(c);  
[pastordjbama@gmail.com](mailto:pastordjbama@gmail.com)

Pastor Lisa Johnson, 10221  
Centrepark Drive #737, Houston, TX  
77043, (713) 548-4901;  
[writerjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:writerjohnson@gmail.com)

Dr. Larry Koslovsky, 4211 Misty  
Timbers Way, Kingwood, TX 77345.  
(281) 328-2442 (off),  
(713) 594-45 18 (c);  
[lwkoslo@aol.com](mailto:lwkoslo@aol.com)

Pastor Ben Kruse, 11714 Needville  
Fairchilds Road, Needville, TX  
77461; (71) 376-3646;  
[krusedadb@yahoo.com](mailto:krusedadb@yahoo.com)

Rev. John Kueker, P.O. Box 325,  
Buckholts, TX 76518. (254) 605-0434

Dr. Mark L. Labaj, 3410 Meadow  
Creek Lne, Temple, TX 76504.  
(254) 774-8179; Baylor Medical  
Center, Round Rock, TX,  
[mark.labaj@utexas.edu](mailto:mark.labaj@utexas.edu)

Rev. Denise Mikeska, 409 E. Upshaw,  
Temple, TX 76501.  
[dkaym@hotmail.com](mailto:dkaym@hotmail.com)

Rev. Vanessa Lucia Mitchell, 2070  
Carter Lake Drive, College Station,  
TX 77845. (979) 574-0268;  
[laiojediedieu@protonmail.com](mailto:laiojediedieu@protonmail.com) Blog:  
[notboxingtheair.wordpress.com](http://notboxingtheair.wordpress.com)

Rev. Joseph Polasek, P.O. Box 54,  
Snook, TX 77878, (979) 272-1624;  
[josephjpasek@yahoo.com](mailto:josephjpasek@yahoo.com)

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

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

Rev. Thomas Tallas, 3829 Sandstone,  
San Angelo, TX 76904.  
(325) 656-8558; [rev.tjt@gmail.com](mailto:rev.tjt@gmail.com)

Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Terrill, 7 Torch Pine  
Court, The Woodlands, TX 77381.  
(281) 744-1147  
[jerryleterrill@comcast.net](mailto:jerryleterrill@comcast.net)

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

Rev. Larry Zabcik, 2013 Burnie  
Bishop Place, Cedar Park, TX  
78613. (512) 992-5824;  
[zabcikville@ymail.com](mailto:zabcikville@ymail.com)

### RETIRED PASTORS

Rev. Curtis Holland, 1017 Southwood,  
Waco, TX 76712. (254) 715-0477

Rev. Lawrence Junek, 3316 Lyle,  
Waco, TX 76708. (254) 714-2622

Rev. Al Newby, 2210 Forest Trail,  
Temple, TX 76502. (254) 778-1860

## DIRECTORY OF MISSIONARIES

Pastor Pavel and Stanya Kozak  
Norska 42  
77900 Olomouc  
Czech Republic  
e-mail: [Pavel.Ko@volny.cz](mailto:Pavel.Ko@volny.cz)

Phil & Eunice Raiford  
(parents' address in U.S.)  
230 SW Sandy Way  
Port Saint Lucie, FL 34986  
[pbrmissions@gmail.com](mailto:pbrmissions@gmail.com)

Rob and Anne Thiessen  
25 E. Camino Nacional  
Tlalixtac de Cabrera  
Oaxaca, MEXICO 68627  
(011) 52-1-951-145-8947  
e-mail: [rvthiessen@gmail.com](mailto:rvthiessen@gmail.com)

Carolyn Groseclose  
NDO  
PO Box 630260  
Choma, Zambia  
e-mail: [carolyngroseclose84@gmail.com](mailto:carolyngroseclose84@gmail.com)

Joel & Teresa Jelski  
Mazkeret Moshe  
19  
Jerusalem 9431619  
Israel

## PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

**Chairman:** Jon Farrow; (254) 718-1938;  
[jfarrow@hotmail.com](mailto:jfarrow@hotmail.com)

Dan Merz (2021), Nelsonville  
James Marek; (512) 844-8520;  
[james.marek@cnbt.bank](mailto:james.marek@cnbt.bank)  
Anna Wotipka; (979) 218-9043

**Advisors:** Rev. Whitney Amos &  
Rev. Charles Amos

**Synodical Committee Liaison:**  
Dr. Larry Koslovsky

## HOME MISSIONS BOARD

Chair: Rev. Mark Sebek  
Beth Dusek; [bethbrenham@gmail.com](mailto:bethbrenham@gmail.com)  
Clarence (Tillman) Clark;  
[foxfire890@aol.com](mailto:foxfire890@aol.com)  
Rev. Larry Zabcik; [zabcikville@gmail.com](mailto:zabcikville@gmail.com)  
Jerry Dove (2019), Fayetteville  
Gerry Davis (2019), West  
Jon Farrow (2019), Temple  
Rev. Mike Groseclose (Liaison)

## SYNODICAL COMMITTEE

**President:** Rev. Larry Koslovsky, (713) 594-4518  
**1st Vice President:** Rev. Michael Groseclose  
(979) 277-4816

**2nd Vice President:** Angie Hairrell, 11482 FM  
2155, Somerville, TX 77879, (979) 219-1582;  
[hairrell@gmail.com](mailto:hairrell@gmail.com)

**3rd Vice President:** Rev. Whitney Amos,  
(254) 742-2629, [chatney@aol.com](mailto:chatney@aol.com)

**Secretary:** Contact Administrative Assistant with  
any questions.

**Treasurer:** Lynette Urbanovsky, 1711 Gray Stone  
Dr., Bryan, TX 77807; (979) 450-1820,  
[lurbanovsky@gmail.com](mailto:lurbanovsky@gmail.com)

**Financial Secretary:** Kayla Marek, 1804 Mallard  
Ln, Taylor, TX 76574, (512) 944-2619;  
[kmarek2012@gmail.com](mailto:kmarek2012@gmail.com)

**Administrative Assistant:** Liz Ripple, 311 W.  
State Hwy. 71, Fayetteville, TX 78940;  
(979) 378-2239, [lizripple@hotmail.com](mailto:lizripple@hotmail.com)

**Ministerial Alternate:** Rev. Ryan Volkman

**Pastor to Pastors:** Rev. Michael Groseclose

**Non-Voting Lay Alternate:** Taylor Brinkley,  
Ocker

### Lay Members:

Austin: Darrel Kolinek, [dkolinek@yahoo.com](mailto:dkolinek@yahoo.com)

BCS: Alan Haisler, [haislera@ymail.com](mailto:haislera@ymail.com)

Buckholts: Charlene Vogelsang,  
[cakv@hotmail.com](mailto:cakv@hotmail.com)

Caldwell: Lynette Urbanovsky (Treasurer); Martha  
Huffman, [marthahuffman@gmail.com](mailto:marthahuffman@gmail.com)

Crosby: Debbie Clark, [foxfire890@aol.com](mailto:foxfire890@aol.com)

Dime Box: Roberta Brinkman,  
[superblues123@gmail.com](mailto:superblues123@gmail.com)

Fayetteville: Sandra Stepan,  
[sandrinaustin@yahoo.com](mailto:sandrinaustin@yahoo.com)

Good Shepherd: Lorenzo Wilson,  
[lorenzowilson911@gmail.com](mailto:lorenzowilson911@gmail.com)

Granger: Vacant

Houston: J.T. Verwold, [dmverwold@yahoo.com](mailto:dmverwold@yahoo.com)

Industry: Harvey Treybig, [harvey.treybig@gmail.com](mailto:harvey.treybig@gmail.com)

Nelsonville: Jenell Zettel, (979) 203-8390

New Tabor: Robert Campbell,  
[robertfcampbell05@yahoo.com](mailto:robertfcampbell05@yahoo.com)

Ocker: Taylor Brinkley, [taylorbrinkley@yahoo.com](mailto:taylorbrinkley@yahoo.com)

Pasadena: Becky Lively, [rebecca.lively1@comast.net](mailto:rebecca.lively1@comast.net)

Rosenberg: Alice Kocurek,  
[katalice8@gmail.com](mailto:katalice8@gmail.com)

Seaton: Doug Rowald, [dougrowald@yahoo.com](mailto:dougrowald@yahoo.com)

Snook: Angie Hairrell (2nd VP); Yvonne Kovar,  
[ykovar@outlook.com](mailto:ykovar@outlook.com)

Taylor: Carol Raesz, [jcraesz@gmail.com](mailto:jcraesz@gmail.com)

Taylor: Kayla Marek, [kmarek2012@gmail.com](mailto:kmarek2012@gmail.com)

Temple: Deborah Schiller,  
[dschiller1123@gmail.com](mailto:dschiller1123@gmail.com)

Wall: Paul Beatty, [pbeatty@gmail.com](mailto:pbeatty@gmail.com)

Wesley: Mark Surovik

West: Roy Janek, [grandpajanek@att.net](mailto:grandpajanek@att.net)

Westheimer: Leroy Parthum,  
[betty\\_parthum@yahoo.com](mailto:betty_parthum@yahoo.com)

# Unity of the Brethren 69th Biennial Convention

The 69th Biennial Convention of the Unity was held on July 9, 2021, at the Hus Encampment, Caldwell, Texas. The Convention theme was “The Heart-beat of Worship and Work.” Registration began at 8:00 a.m. The worship service began at 9:00 a.m. The Rev. Dr. Larry Koslovsky, President of the Synodical Committee, greeted the Convention. The opening hymn was “This is the Day.” The Gathering Prayer was given by Kayla Marek. Songs of praise were led by Lynette Urbanovsky. The Responsive Reading was led by Angie Hairrell. The Offertory Prayer was given by Rev. Whitney Amos. Special music was sung by Lynette – “*The Heart of Worship*.” Rev. Koslovsky gave the message with scripture taken from Romans 12:1-2. Rev. Koslovsky asked us “when does worship start? Worship is the way we live, and we can be living sacrifices for God.” Holy Communion was administered to all by Rev. Michael Groseclose who was assisted by Rev. Ryan Volkman and Rev. Charles Amos. The pianist was Elizabeth Rypl.

After the worship service, Session 1 of the convention began. Rev. Dr.

Elizabeth Miller, President - Provincial Moravian Church Northern Province, Pennsylvania, sent a video message with greetings from the Northern and Southern Provinces and from the Board of World Missions. Other greetings were extended from Rev. Tim Chaplin, Dorothy Kocian, Dorothy Hinson, the Mutual Aid Society from Rev. Joseph Polasek, the Raifords, and the Mexican Network of Missionaries. Kent Laza, on behalf of the Hus Board of Trustees, welcomed everyone to the convention.

Reports from the Synodical Committee Officers, Board/Committee Chairs and other denominational organizations were presented in the Convention Booklet. All congregations were asked to give a one-minute flash report of what has happened in the last year. Twenty congregations gave reports, along with a report from Rev. Dr. Mark Labaj on Vsetin Czech-Moravian Brethren Church in Hallettsville, a non-official congregation of the UOB. There were no reports from Austin, Buckholts, Port Arthur, and Seaton.



Rev. Dr. Brad Herridge gave the blessing for the noon meal. Everyone enjoyed pork steak, loaded mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, rolls, apple cobbler, and tea. Pastors were asked to join in the library for the selection of the Pastor to the Pastors. Elected was Rev. Whitney Amos and Rev. Charles Amos, who will serve jointly.

Session 2 began at 1:15 p.m. with the Rededication of the Hus Encampment Main Building led by Rev. James D. Hejl who opened with prayer. The Call to Worship was taken from Psalm 24. Song of praise was *For the Beauty of the Earth*. Comments on behalf of the Hus Encampment Board of Trustees was given by Kent Laza, Board of Trustees Chair. The "Act of Rededication" was inspired by the original *Act of Dedication* of the Hus School Encampment held on June 30, 1957. Special recognition was given to Joyce Baletka who with her husband, Rev. John Baletka started the Hus Encampment; David Dusek, Designer & Project Manager; Mark Dudley, Owner of Dudley Construction, Gary Zdunkewicz and Mike Donaldson; Robert and Sam Polasek – Polasek's Air Conditioning; and Sebek Paint-

ing. A key to the main building was presented to Rev. Larry Koslovsky. Special thanks were given to Kent and Tami Laza for all the work they have done these last few years. Everyone joined in the singing of *Pass It On*. A special Benediction from a Franciscan Blessing was given by Rev. Hejl. All those who had attended Hus School were invited to join in the singing of the full Czech version of "Hoj Věry V boj" accompanied by Elizabeth Rypl.

Approval was given for Synodical Representative changes for Houston – J.T. Verwold to replace Ron Tyson; (Temple) Cross Church on Birdcreek – Jim Hiles to replace Deborah Schiller; West – Roy Janek to replace Shara Davis.

Approval was given to raise the salary of the Youth Coordinator from \$23,000/yr to \$24,500/yr with an expense allowance of \$1800/yr. This is about a 6.5% raise. The last raise was given in 2015. License renewals were granted for David Johnson – 5-year license to New Tabor, and Lisa Johnson – 1-year license to Westheimer. Ben Kruse was approved for a 5-year license to Rosenberg. Bro. Larry explained how important our process is



## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

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

Bryan-College Station – Sunday School at 9:15 AM and Worship at 10:30 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](http://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 10:00 AM. on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays.  
– Rev. Mike Groseclose

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

Granger – Worship service Sundays, 10 AM. Bible Study Wednesdays, 5:30 PM.  
– Visiting Ministers

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

Industry – Worship at 5:00 PM on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Saturdays.  
– 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 10:30 AM; Worship at 11:45 AM; Lunch after the service.  
– 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 – Kids' 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.  
– Visiting Ministers

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

## VITAL STATISTICS

### RECENT DEATHS



JURCHAK, SYNDEY SALBY, age 97, went to be with the Lord Jesus on Wednesday, June 2, 2021. He was born on July 10, 1923, to John and Otilie Jurchak in Nelsonville, Texas. He was baptized at the

Nelsonville Brethren Church and confirmed in the Rosenberg Brethren Church. He attended Seiler School and graduated from Lamar Consolidated High School in Richmond. He served in the Army Air Force during World War II from 1942 to 1945. Sydney married the love of his life, Georgie Josephine Barta of Fairchilds, Texas, on August 4, 1945, while still in the service. They made their home in Houston, Texas, where they raised three children. Sydney was employed by Folger Coffee Company for 37 years. Sydney and Georgie lived in Louisiana until his retirement in 1983. They moved back to Houston in 1985. Sydney was a member of the Houston Brethren Church, where he served as Chairman of the Board of Elders and teacher at the Adult Sunday School. He also was a very active member of SPJST Lodge 88. He served on the Board of Trustee's and was a member of the entertainment committee for 14 years. He was a member of the American Legion Post 271 in Rosenberg. Preceded in death by parents John & Otilie Jurchak, wife Georgie Josephine Jurchak, daughter Beverly Ann Sommer,

brother Darwin Delbert Jurchak, and sister Lonie Jurchak. He is survived by his son Ronney Jurchak (wife Glenda), daughter Vicki Zajicek (husband Larry), and Lyndon & Betty Sommer, whom Daddy lovingly always called his incredibly special daughter & son, and two grandchildren, Lee Ann Lawrence & husband Brian and Lesley Sommer & wife Heather. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Bleiblerville Volunteer Fire Department, 3342 FM 2502, Bleiblerville, Texas 78931/PO Box 151.

FILLA, HELEN E., of Taylor and a member of the Granger Brethren Church, died July 9, 2021. She was born May 22, 1940, in Dallas to Joe and Frances (Slampa) Skrahak and moved to Taylor for her senior year in high school. She married the love of her life, Dan Filla, on March 19, 1960. They had five children, Daniel Jr., Albert, Danny, Edward, and Robert Filla. She also helped raise her brother-in-law, Milton Filla. She was preceded in death by her parents, in-laws, Leo and Vlasta Filla, two sons, Daniel Jr. and Robert, and sister-in-law, Helen Raesz. She is survived by husband, Dan; sons, Albert, Danny (Jan), and Edward (Adria); along with daughter-in-law Lisa Filla; eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Funeral services were held on July 16 at Providence Funeral Home in Taylor with burial at the Taylor City Cemetery. Minister: Rev. Larry Zabcik.

for pastors to serve churches in the Unity of the Brethren – they are credentialed and approved by the Synodical Committee and can be one of three standings: Ordained, an Associate, or Licensed. Rev. Gerry Davis will be examined in the Fall to serve at West Brethren. Retirements were accepted from Rev. Curtis Holland and Rev. Lawrence Juneke.

Rev. Dr. Mark Labaj is serving under the call of the Synodical Committee to Specialized Ministry as a Hospital Chaplain. This is required by the Association of Professional Chaplains (APC). Approval was given to renew Rev. Dr. Mark Labaj's Specialized Ministry as a Hospital Chaplain under the Unity of the Brethren.

A special time of recognition was given to pastors in the Unity who have served 30+ years and include: Rev. Thomas John Tallas (51 years); Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Terrill (51 years, serving the Unity since 1982); Rev. Lawrence T. Juneke (48 years); Rev. Dr. Mark L. Labaj (41 years, Hospital Chaplain 5 years); Rev. Dr. Larry W. Koslovsky (40 years); Rev. James D. Hejl (40 years); Rev. Joseph Polasek (31 years); Rev. Adolfo Gonzalez (30 years); and Rev. Michael R. Groseclose

(30 years).

Elected to serve on the Executive Committee for 2021-2023: President – Rev. Dr. Larry Koslovsky, 1st VP – Rev. Joe Emerson, 2nd VP – Lance LaBelle (Wall), 3rd VP – Rev. Vanessa Mitchell, Secretary – Angie Hairrell (Snook), Treasurer – Lynette Urbanovsky (Caldwell), and Financial Secretary – Kayla Marek (Taylor). The Ministerial Alternate is Rev. Ryan Volkman and the Lay Alternate is Taylor Brinkley (Ocker). Serving as the Administrative Assistant to the Executive Committee is Liz Rypl. Other positions elected were: Board of Christian Ed. Chair – Kari Raesz (Taylor); Home Missions Chair – Rev. Mark Sebek; Foreign Missions Chair – David Miller (Wall); Hus Encampment Chair – Kent Laza (BCS); *Brethren Journal* Editor – Cathleen Schlechte; *Brethren Journal* Manager – Ben Polasek; Pastoral Relations Committee – Jon Farrow (Temple) – Chair, James Marek (Taylor), Anna Wotipka (Caldwell), and Dan Merz (Nelsonville); Ministerial Credentials Board – Rev. Charles Amos, Rev. Tim Chaplin, Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill; and Pastor to the Pastors – Rev. Whitney Amos and Rev. Charles



## TAYLOR BRETHREN CHURCH

Seventh Street at Sloan in Taylor, Texas – 512-352-6423

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 351, Taylor, TX 76574

Church email: taylorbrethren@sbcglobal.net

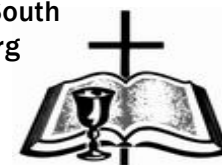
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. Worship: 10:15 a.m.

<i>Pastor</i>	<i>Board President</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
James D. Hejl	Daniel Knippa	Mary Kokes
512-365-6890	512-844-0208	M-Th 8 a.m.-noon

## 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

Sunday School at 9:15 A.M.  
Church at 10:30 A.M.  
Off: 979-693-3606  
email: papasebek@gmx.com



Amos – serving jointly. Approval was given to donate the offering of \$582 to the Hus Camp. Kent Laza announced that Robert and Anne Thiessen will be ending their work in Mexico. Robert and Anne were recognized for their work. They have been serving in Mexico for 30 years and have been supported by the Unity for over 20 years. They are not retiring and will still be associated with Mexico, but they will now be based in Ontario, Canada. The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

The Unity of the Brethren is made up of 24 congregations located from the coast to the plains of North Texas. Entrusted with the sharing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the maintenance of His body – Church, we as Brethren joyfully cooperate with all Christian denominations in those efforts, in the spirit of the motto of the

Unity of the Brethren: “In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; and in all things love.” The 2023 Convention will be held in July in Navasota, Texas, at Camp Allen Conference and Retreat Center. This center was established in 1921 by the Episcopal Diocese of Texas.

There were 80 people in attendance as follows: **63 VOTING MEMBERS present: 19 Pastors:** Revs. Charles Amos, Whitney Amos, Joe Emerson, Michael Groseclose, Jimmy Hejl, Brad Herridge, David Johnson, Lisa Johnson, Lawrence Juneke, Larry Koslovsky, Ben Kruse, Mark Labaj, Vanessa Mitchell, Joseph Polasek, Kay Polasek, Mark Sebek, Tommy Tallas, Jerry Terrill, Ryan Volkman. Eight Pastors Absent: Revs. L. Chandler, T. Chaplin, A. Gonzalez, C. Holland, J. Kueker, D. Mikeska, A. Newby, L. Zabcik.

## CROSS CHURCH ON BIRDCREEK

2202 Birdcreek Drive  
Temple, Texas 76502  
email: [ccb@crosschurchonbirdcreek.org](mailto:ccb@crosschurchonbirdcreek.org)  
<https://www.crosschurchonbirdcreek.org>

(254) 778-8759  
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
Worship: 10:45 a.m.

Rev. Tim Chaplin  
(254) 718-6094  
[tpch4359@gmail.com](mailto:tpch4359@gmail.com)

18. If any want to become My followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me. Mk. 8:34
19. **For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for My sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. Mk. 8:35**
20. Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all. Mk. 9:35
21. Whoever welcomes one such child in My name welcomes Me, and whoever welcomes Me welcomes not Me but the one who sent Me. Mk. 9:37
22. Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. Jas. 3:13
23. The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. Jas. 3:17
24. A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. Jas. 3:18
25. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Jas. 4:7
26. **Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Jas. 4:8**
27. Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Jas. 5:13
28. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. Jas. 5:14
29. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Jas. 5:15
30. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Jas. 5:16

## OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

17454 State Highway 53, Temple, TX 76501  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 806, Rogers, TX 76569  
Web Address: [www.ockerbrethrenchurch.org](http://www.ockerbrethrenchurch.org)  
Church Email: [ockerbrethrenchurch@gmail.com](mailto:ockerbrethrenchurch@gmail.com)  
Phone: (254) 985-2240

### *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](mailto:brad.herridge@gmail.com)

#### *Youth Director*

**Jennifer Chervenka**

(254) 913-1244  
[jennchervenka@gmail.com](mailto:jennchervenka@gmail.com)

#### *Cemetery*

**Sharon Marek**

(254) 482-0498

# DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

## Daily Morsels for June 2021

By Mari-Anne Kocian Gordon and Dorothy E. Kocian

From the *Holy Bible Revised Standard Revision*.

### Sundays in bold.

1. In vain do they worship Me, teaching human precepts as doctrines. Mk. 7:7
2. You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition. Mk. 7:8
3. For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. Mk. 7:21-22
4. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world. Jas. 1:27
5. **The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Ps. 27:1**
6. I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long. Ps. 146:2
7. Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. Ps. 146:3
8. Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God. Ps. 146:5
9. (The LORD) made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them. Ps. 146:6a
10. (The LORD) keeps faith forever. Ps. 146:6b
11. (The LORD) executes justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry, and sets the prisoners free. Ps. 146:7
12. **The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims His handiwork. Ps. 19:1**
13. The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. Ps. 19:9a
14. The ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. Ps. 19:9b
15. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer. Ps. 19:14
16. The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced. Isa. 50:7a
17. Therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame. Isa. 50:7b

### 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  
325-656-8558  
Home: [rev.tjt@gmail.com](mailto:rev.tjt@gmail.com)  
Church: [wallbrethren@gmail.com](mailto:wallbrethren@gmail.com)  
[www.WallBrethrenChurch.com](http://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	Rev. Ryan Volkman	Libby Lane
325-234-8667	325-213-0671	Tu-F: 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

**16 Lay members** (15 churches): Bryan/CS – Alan Haisler; Caldwell – Lynette Urbanovsky, (M. Huffman – absent); Crosby – Debbie Clark; Fayetteville – Sandra Stepan; Houston – J.T. Verwold; Industry – Harvey Treybig; New Tabor – Robert Campbell; Ocker – Taylor Brinkley; Rosenberg – Alice Kocurek; Snook – Angie Hairrell, Yvonne Kovar; Taylor – Kayla Marek (C. Raesz absent); Temple – Jim Hiles; Wall – Paul Beatty; West – Roy Janek; Westheimer – Leroy Parthum. Nine churches absent: Austin, Buckholts, Dime Box, Granger – no rep, Nelsonville, Pasadena – no rep, Port Arthur, Seaton, Wesley.

**26 Delegates:** Bryan/College Station – Chris Biggs; Caldwell – Rose Autrey; Crosby – Tillman Clark; Fayetteville – JR (absent); Houston – Rita Tyson; Nelsonville – Sandra Merz, Carrie Mlcak.; New Tabor – Shirle Urbanovsky, Lillie Chafin; Ocker –

Lisa Sebek, David Sebek; Pasadena – Philip Michalik; Snook – Yvonne Kovar (Synodical), Ann Sebesta; Taylor – Leo Camden, Jr., Allen David, Joan Kautz, Kimberly Knippa, Daniel Knippa; Temple – Gayle Farrow; Wall – Susan Neal, Elizabeth Odom, Brenda Beatty, Sarah Gallander; Wesley – Beth Dusek; West – Terry and Debbie Crawford; Westheimer – Carolyn Beseda. Eight churches w/o delegates: Austin, Buckholts, Dime Box, Good Shepherd, Granger, Industry, Rosenberg, Seaton.

**Committee Chairs** (2): PRC – Jon Farrow (Temple); Hus Encampment – Kent Laza (BCS).

Non-Voting Guests – 17. Lunch was served to over 90 people.

Respectfully submitted to the *Brethren Journal*, September 2021 issue,

Liz Ripple, Unity Exec. Assistant



### Insuring & Enriching Lives

**A fraternal benefit society  
serving Texans  
and their families**

### Membership Benefits

- Life Insurance
- Annuities
- Family Activities
- Community Involvement
- Youth Activities and Camp
- Scholarships

*Call us if you have questions  
about naming your church  
or a Unity of the Brethren  
agency as a beneficiary  
in an existing or new  
SPJST insurance certificate.*

**SPJST**  
**520 NorthMain Street**  
**Temple, Texas 76501**  
**(800) 727-7578**

## Get That Bug!

- by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

The flying cockroach was my enemy as a small child in the humid climate of Miami, Florida. These bugs were not too common but made enough cameo appearances that I remember fearing that one might land on my face while I was asleep in my beautiful 100% pink bedroom. The truth is that into my adult years, the fear of flying bugs in general has not abated my spirit. Nonetheless, if I do encounter one, I have a few tactics that have proven effective:

- 1.) Just run.
  - 2.) Cry out for my husband to come get the bug – which he does so calmly by trapping it in his hands and setting it free outside.
  - 3.) If alone indoors, grab the nearest bottle of Lysol or other aerosol to spray the bug until it can't move.
- I agree with you. It is ridiculous to be afraid of bugs to this extent. My rationale, of course, is that I do not want to risk being stung, bit, or even just have the bug crawling on me. I am sure that some of you understand fully what I am feeling. This translates

into our spiritual life in Jesus Christ. The devil is in attack mode towards us around the clock. The “bugs” that he sends our way are lies that creep into our thoughts. While the devil cannot possess a person who has received Jesus Christ as Savior, he certainly studies us as his prey. His goal is to cause us to fall for lies about who we are, who God is, who others are, and how to live. The more lies that he sends that I allow to become protocol in my mind, the weaker I am as a disciple of Jesus Christ. **We can only fight lies with truth. We can only knock out the devil's lies with the truth of God's Word, the Holy Bible.**

A couple of questions to see if you can self-diagnose whether you are currently being ambushed by lies from Satan:

- 1.) Are you stressed and not completely sure why?
- 2.) Are you struggling with a specific thought, person, situation, or habit?
- 3.) Are you resisting spending time

## Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

**October 16, 2021 – Fall Synodical Committee Meeting at the Hus Encampment** – 9:00 a.m.; refreshments served at 8:00 a.m. with a light lunch served at noon. The newly elected officers for 2021-2023 will be installed and the results of the referendum votes from the 69th Biennial Unity Convention will be canvassed. If you have any questions, contact Dr. Larry Koslovsky, 713-594-4518.

**Decisions for Referendum and Election of Lay Representative** – The referendum decisions passed by the 69th Unity Convention have been sent to all congregations for referendum vote. These items should be acted upon in a congregational meeting called for this purpose along with the election of the Synodical Representative (Constitution – Art. V. Administration, A.2.). All congregations are asked to please return these results to Liz Ripple, Executive Assistant, by September 30.

**For more information about the Hus School Encampment go to:**  
**[www.huscamp.org](http://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](mailto:editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com). Information must be received by the first day of the month immediately preceding the month of publication.*

## Fayetteville Brethren Church

**Worship on the  
2nd and 4th Saturdays  
10:00 a.m.  
Rev. Mike Groseclose**

**[FayettevilleBrethrenChurch.org](http://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**

### 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**

*Donna Verwold*  
*President*  
325 Sunnyside St.  
Houston, TX 77076  
Cell: 713-553-5542

*Rita Tyson*  
*Secretary*  
22015 Golden Cedar Dr.  
Cypress, TX 77433  
Cell: 713-899-8272

## Thoughts about giving...

**Remembering the Unity of the Brethren or any of its ministries is a fitting testimony to your faith. Your gift leaves a legacy that continues to support the mission or ministry of the Unity that is important to you.**

*You can give without restrictions and let the funds be used for the most pressing needs. You may also designate to a particular ministry.*

*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. The Executive Committee of the Synodical Committee receives and manages special gifts, grants, and bequests in coordination with the Synodical Committee. For more information or to make a donation, contact the Unity President.**

Rev. Dr. Larry Koslovsky, Executive Committee President  
4211 Misty Timbers Way  
Kingwood, TX 77345  
(713) 594-4518  
lwkoslo@aol.com

alone with God praying and reading the Bible to learn from it?

Here are some typical lies Satan may whisper to us:

Lie: "You should be afraid."

Lie: "You're never going to catch a break."

Lie: "You're not enough. You'll never measure up."

**TO SMASH THESE 3 BUGS, GOD HAS EQUIPPED US WITH TRUTH TO LIVE IN HIS PEACE AND VICTORY!** Running away will not work. A family member with bug-catching skills cannot clear your path. A bottle of Lysol or bug spray will not dampen the effectiveness of Satan's lies. **We can only fight lies with truth. We can only knock out the devil's lies with the truth of God's Word, the Holy Bible.**

***NOW look at the 3 lies from Satan noted above along with TRUTH STATEMENTS from the Holy Bible!***

Lie: "You should be afraid."

**TRUTH:** "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1)

Lie: "You're never going to catch a break."

**TRUTH:** "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

Lie: "You're not enough. You'll never measure up."

**TRUTH:** "But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O (INSERT YOUR NAME HERE), he who formed you, O (INSERT YOUR NAME HERE): Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return



### NEW TABOR BRETHREN CHURCH

2439 County Road 225 Caldwell, TX 77836  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 262, Caldwell, TX 77836  
(979) 272-3008

Website: newtaborchurch.com Facebook: New Tabor Church  
Sunday School: 9 a.m. Worship: 10 a.m.

*New Tabor Brethren is here for you. We're not only a church. We're a fellowship of believers coming together to declare the glory of the Lord.*

**Reverend David Johnson (979) 220-3822**  
**[pastordjbama@gmail.com](mailto:pastordjbama@gmail.com)**

for you, nations in exchange for your life.” (Isaiah 43:1-4)

TAKE THESE TRUTH STATEMENTS FROM THE HOLY BIBLE AND **FIGHT IN PRAYER** WITH JESUS TO SMASH SATAN’S LIES:

I have nothing to fear because I have You, God!

I will experience Your rest, Jesus, while I’m moving through life because this is what you give me when I honestly cry out to You!

I do not need to measure up to any self-imposed standard or any individual’s expectations of me. I am Your treasured possession, God! You view me as precious, honored and You love me!

**Spend some time alone with God, right now**, however you feel led to do so. Just do it. Go for a walk. Sit on your porch. Work in your garden. Grab a journal and pen. Talk to Him. Some guidelines to maximize your talk with God:

1.) Thank Him for as many things as come to mind. Work hard on this. The more you thank Him, the greater the peace that will well up within you.

2.) Confess to Him specific things and ask His forgiveness. Then, be sure to tell Him that you accept His forgiveness of your sins. Tell Him that you believe that He views you as completely forgiven. Be sure to not take any shortcuts here. Confession of sins is serious business. If anything is unconfessed, it will hinder your progress.

3.) Ask God what lies the devil has been tempting you to believe about yourself. Persevere in this step until you can come up with at least 2 or 3. You might need to sit in silence a bit until you can hear God clearly on this one. The devil will be trying as you pray to cloud your thoughts. God will help you gain clarity. Ask Him for it.

4.) Ask God for a Bible verse for each lie – a word of TRUTH from the Bible that will smash and boot out

## Paperplate Pizza

Color or paint a paper plate red (for the sauce). Cut out red circles for pepperoni, yellow strips for cheese, green strips for peppers, etc. One on pepperoni, write “Taste and see the Lord is good.”



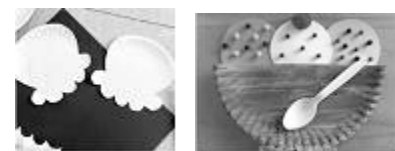
## Paperplate Recipe Card Holder


Write Proverbs 34: 8 or John 6:35 on the plate. Let children decorate their plate with markers, crayons or stickers. Cut a U-shape near the bottom of the plate to hold a recipe card. You can fold another paper plate like a taco to create a back support.



## Paperplate Sundae

Cut a paperplate in half to create a bowl. Write Proverbs 34: 8 or John 6:35 on the bowl. Let students decorate their bowl. Cut out ice cream scoops from another paper plate. Glue to bowl. Decorate the scoops. Add a spoon for fun.





# CALDWELL BRETHREN CHURCH

401 South Main Street  
(979) 567-7203

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

Church email: lifeatcbc@protonmail.com

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

www.lifeatcbc.org

Sunday School  
9:30 AM

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

Sunday Worship  
10:30 AM

Come as you are...

Friend us on Facebook!

# Taste and See

## BIBLE LESSON

Scripture: Proverbs 34:8

## Taste and See

## OBJECT LESSON

The Bible tells us to taste and see that the Lord is good. Look at this orange. How would you describe how an orange tastes? (*if children say sweet, ask if it is sweet like chocolate; if they say juicy, ask if it is like a steak*) What is the one way to really know how an orange tastes? (*To eat it.*) Peel the orange. Give each child a section. Eat the orange. Say, the only way to understand how sweet, juicy, and delicious an orange tastes is to actually taste it. The only way to really know the goodness of God is to experience it. But the Bible is telling us that we shouldn't just stand around and watch others experience how good God is, He wants us to get a "taste" for ourselves. He wants each of us to know how much He loves and cares about us.

## Game: White Out

Break children into teams. Have a plate of oreos for each team. In relay fashion, one person from each team runs to the plates, eats the filling out of the oreo, then comes back and tags the next person. First team to "white out" their oreos, wins! Oreos are really good, but God is even tastier!

## CRAFTS:

There are several paperplate craft choices to remind us to taste and see that the Lord is good.



each lie. If you're not sure where to look in the Bible, search online for Bible verses that connect specifically to counter each lie. Ask a friend for help too, if needed.

5.) Thank God for revealing the lies of the devil to you that have been tripping you up and read out loud each lie with each Bible verse that refutes it. Reading something out loud adds a whole new dimension to the reality of it. We want to internalize this step of faith toward smashing the lies. Engage all of your senses: touch, sight, hearing, smell, and taste. Touch the pages of your Bible or the computer screen with the verses listed. Look at the words of the bible verses. Take a deep breath and remember how the room smells where you are. Take a sip of whatever you might be drinking. Engrave this time in your mind. God is meeting with you; it's something you will want to remember and practice again and again.

6.) Keep these lies and truth state-

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

Rev. Joseph J. Polasek, President  
Daniel Vojtek, Vice-President  
Natalie Outlaw, Gen. & Jr. Dept.  
Secretary, 979-589-2012  
Ruth Ann Wuensche, Treasurer  
Dorothy Hinson, Board Member  
Ann Sebesta, Board Member  
Synodical Liaison: Kayla Marek, 2nd  
Vice President

ments handy. Pray to God for His protection over your mind and your heart regarding these things daily. The devil doesn't take breaks, but God is God. God will free you and fuel you to move forward in peace and JOY.

Get those bugs!

Just remember...

Running away will not work. A family member with bug-catching skills cannot clear your path. A bottle of Lysol or bug spray will not dampen the effectiveness of Satan's lies. **We can only fight lies with truth. We can only knock out the devil's lies with the truth of God's Word, the Holy Bible.**

I am praying for you.

In Jesus's Hands,

Right With You,

Sister Vanessa Mitchell  
(fellow "bug smasher")

## CHRISTIAN SISTERS' UNION OFFICERS

**President:** Paula Wagner, 10506  
Mourning Dove Dr., Austin, TX  
78750. (512) 632-6644;  
[paulak1121@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paulak1121@sbcglobal.net)

**Vice President:** Carolyn Beseda,  
2515 Lazybrook Dr., Houston,  
TX 77008. (281) 546-7941;  
[cfilipp@earthlink.net](mailto:cfilipp@earthlink.net)

**Secretary:** Anna Wotipka, 652  
County Rd. 324, Caldwell, TX  
77836. (979) 218-9043;  
[awotipka58@gmail.com](mailto:awotipka58@gmail.com)

**Financial Secretary:** Lydia Faust,  
P.O. Box 125, Snook, TX 77878.  
[lydiavajdakfaust@gmail.com](mailto:lydiavajdakfaust@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Paige Hearn, 17150 FM  
971, Granger, TX 76530. (512)  
567-1436; [usmcmom@ymail.com](mailto:usmcmom@ymail.com)

**Synodical Committee Liaison:**  
Rev. Whitney Amos, 3rd Vice  
President

# Returning to the Mount

- by Jim Pokorny

Like others, I hold history and heritage in high regard. That is why I was delighted when Brother Jimmy Hejl incorporated the Ancient Unity's emphasis on right action as opposed to right belief in a recent Sunday message. He also reminded us that their social ethics was based on the Sermon on the Mount.

Craig D. Atwood in *The Theology of the Czech Brethren from Hus to Comenius* (2009) put it this way: "The Brethren placed greater emphasis on orthopraxy (right action) than on orthodoxy (right belief). Christianity was not a theoretical science for the Brethren; it was the art of following Christ in the real world. This means that social ethics (based on the Sermon on the Mount) was a part of Brethren theology in a more intense way than it was for other Protestants. The Brethren disagreed with Luther over the importance of the Epistle of James for Christian teaching. They based their theology and praxis on the Epistle of James, which asserts that without works, faith is dead. The Unity's moral teaching may be understood as an interesting blend of Anabaptist

and Reformed ethics, but its doctrine predated both of those Christian traditions and was Christocentric in its development of ethics. The Brethren called themselves Brethren of the Law of Christ, and they maintained this identity despite the criticism of Protestants and Catholics alike."

John Hus viewed the true church as the body of those elected by God (rather than by human choice) and the Brethren held to that view. They also believed that people are saved by faith which is completed in love. For the Brethren, love was not a temporary emotion. It was tangible action in the world. In short, it is a rejection of the worldly and an adherence to the law of Christ. It was an adherence to the Sermon on the Mount. The Golden Rule reminds us to love our neighbor, whereas the Sermon on the Mount reminds us to love our enemies. Peter Chelěický, a forerunner of the Brethren, taught that such divine love is what separates Christians from the worldly.

In 1500 Matthew, the first bishop of the Unity, died. With him died the first generation that personally knew

## 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.



# Sunday School Helper



**Bible Story**  
Taste and See

**Bible Reference**  
Proverbs 34:8

The Bible has many references to food. In this lesson, we focus on the importance of knowing God for ourselves, not relying on what we have been told or see. We need to experience God's goodness.



baking cookies in December for distribution among the community. Soon we will begin to practice with the kids for a Christmas play/program. We will be celebrating with communion and a candlelight service.

On September 4th Ben and I will have been married 50 years, which we'll celebrate on September 10th with a dinner and dance to include family and close friends.

Please continue to pray for us as we reach out to the people in the Cade Lake Community. Please support this mission by donating to the Unity's Home Mission fund, stating that your donation is for Home Mission's New Beginnings (NB). This community of kids need NB to remain a lighthouse, a safe place to go, and most of all learn that Jesus loves them.

If you have any questions, please contact me by calling or texting 979-220-1289, or by emailing revkaypolasek@yahoo.com.

Peace to you and yours,  
Pastor Kay, New Beginnings  
at Cade Lake Community



its founder, Gregory the Patriarch. Leadership passed to Luke of Prague. Although university educated, Luke rejected the comfortable life offered by the Utraquist Church. Despite opinions to the contrary, Luke did not abandon the Unity's social ethics when he engaged them with the larger world. He did not reject Chelěický's insistence that the Sermon on the Mount was intended for every Christian. Rather, he placed them in a broader biblical context. This granted them more flexibility in the swearing of oaths and the defense of others from violence. "The ideal that the Brethren held up for the community was still characterized by the rejection of worldly values of domination, control, violence, power, and invulnerability. The blessings associated with salvation and the gifts of the sanctifying Spirit remained those of the beatitudes: poverty of spirit, gentleness, mourning, hungering for righteousness, mercy, purity of heart, peacefulness, and redemptive suffering."

Some look upon the Sermon on the Mount as an ideal that we cannot but fail to live up to. To them, the Sermon on the Mount merely condemns us of

our sin. This was not so with the Ancient Unity who looked upon the Sermon on the Mount for what it is: commands from Jesus Christ on how He wants us to live.

Perhaps this is one reason why I also gravitate to the writings and sermons of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Bonhoeffer made his position clear in the *Exposition of Matthew 5*. In it, he demonstrated that being a Christian meant following Jesus and doing what He commands. That means removing all self-invented piety. Only then can the words of Jesus be understood for what they really are: commands from the Son of God. Following those commands results in a community of the church. Bonhoeffer concluded his exposition this way: "Here at the end of the Beatitudes the question arises as to where in this world such a faith community actually finds a place."

Today's world needs to reexamine the Sermon on the Mount and see the words for what they truly are – words to live by. We have an advantage. We can call upon our history and heritage. Those who preceded us based their social ethics upon them and we would do well to follow their example.

## 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	Board of Elders President	Youth Directors
Rev. Joseph Polasek	Yvonne Kovar	Randall & Jonna See
P.O. Box 54	P.O. Box 66	P.O. Box 345
Snook, TX 77878	Snook, TX 77878	Snook, TX 77878
(979) 272-1624	(979) 219-0375	(979) 272-8179

## Hus School Makes a Splash With Port Arthur VBS

The Hus School Class of 2021 traveled to Good Shepherd Moravian Church in Port Arthur on Saturday, June 26, to put on a Vacation Bible School Program. The Hus School students selected a few of their favorite Bible stories that were set along a beach or ocean theme and developed lessons, crafts, games, and dances to music for each of the stories. Several younger children as well as several teenagers from the Port Arthur com-

munity attended the program on Saturday. It was so much fun!

The Hus School students and staff would like to express appreciation to Crosby Brethren Church for letting us sleep in their sanctuary Friday evening. They would also like to say many thanks to Good Shepherd Moravian Church for allowing us to host the event and providing the lunch for the day.



heavenly home on August 2nd.

We post all events on Facebook in three different sites so that we can spread the word about our activities and invite others. Once the children attending New Beginnings had their school supply needs met, using Facebook we invited others in the community to come by the church to finish filling their school needs.

We have met every Wednesday evening during the summer break for fellowship, small meal, and games. This gave the kids and the adults time to interact and share summer experiences. Two new adults joined us in the last two weeks. The kids had a great time being together and joining in the “adult” game of Chicken Foot. Ben introduced the board game “Sequence”, which couldn’t compete with the water balloon event. I think they liked being together the most!

Every Sunday at noon and Wednesday evening we serve a meal much appreciated by adults and children, thereby providing physical and spiritual food. Our goal is to do outreach for the kids by hosting events that are appealing to them. We believe that New Beginnings needs to reach the children, which will hopefully bring the adults also. I’m excited to be officiating the first wedding in the new building on Friday, August 20th. They have not been coming to our church thus far but recently have shown interest in our church events. He lives next door to the church and has struggled with addiction for as long as I have known him. Our church riding lawnmower is all but dead (I inherited the mower from my dad 11 years ago). Our neighbor has offered to mow the lawn for a while and only

wants gas money. If you or someone you know has a riding mower that they would like to donate, we would gratefully accept it.

New Beginnings is in the process of planning a small Harvest Festival (instead of celebrating Halloween). In November we will host our second annual Spaghetti Fundraiser on the 13th to help Cade Lake children have a Merry Christmas. We will have a sign up for three Sundays so that we know what is needed for whom. Last year we raised enough to cover all the children that signed up. The local store, Grandpops, even collected toys for this event. What a blessing! We are still in discussion about Thanksgiving and what we can do for the community. Any ideas?

Every third Sunday we celebrate Communion, and every fourth Sunday we will have a potluck lunch. To spread Christmas cheer, we will be

### FOREIGN MISSIONS BOARD

#### Chairman:

David Miller (2015), Wall; cell 325-245-5616, [dm103157@wcc.net](mailto:dm103157@wcc.net)

#### Unity Representatives:

John Brinkley

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

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

Erin Brinkley (2015), Ocker; [erinbrinkley@yahoo.com](mailto:erinbrinkley@yahoo.com)

Alan Haisler (2019), BCS

Daniel Vojtek (2019), BCS

#### Synodical Committee Liaison (First

Vice-President: Rev. Mike Groseclose

#### Advisors:

Rev. Lawrence & Barbara June (Unity at large)

he has seen tremendous spiritual growth in many over the last 1-2 years, including in his own life. George was an inspiration to many with his acknowledgment that he had thrown away much of his life. George had spent time in prison and was still reporting to a parole officer at the age of 72. His favorite song was “Why me, Lord? George told me over 6 years ago that he had been diagnosed with terminal cancer. He stated that he was sure God allowed him to live so that he could make his life right. George encouraged me by his honesty. George went to Heaven on July 23rd. With great sadness, we said goodbye to George with a Celebration of Life last Sunday afternoon, 8/15/21, which included a balloon release. Our children along with the adults were excited and in awe as the helium balloons floated into the clouds, possibly reaching 20 miles above the earth.

In November and December of 2020 I had two heart ablations, one in College Station and one in Houston. They didn’t work, so there was one more try in January, and it was successful! In April, I was finally able to have all the metal in my ankle removed, which allowed me to walk with much less pain. Praise the Lord!

#### BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Chair: Kari Raesz (Taylor)  
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](mailto:chatney@aol.com)

On Resurrection Sunday, April 4th, we had 19 kids come. We hosted a special meal, egg hunt, and a pinata event. Before this we were at an average of 4-6 children per Sunday. Since then, all but one have been back, and that’s because she doesn’t live in Cade Lake.

May 27, 2021, we hosted a “School’s Out Bash” and invited the Cade Lake kids. There was a devotion, singing, and games outside.

Ray, Laurie, Brenda and Ross Griggs and friends offered to do a fish fry for us. We decided that we would have it on June 5th. Rev. Joseph Polasek and Yvonne Kovar were instrumental in securing the Snook Brethren Church to facilitate this event. The group wanted to help the children to go to camp without the need for scholarships. We agreed that all the proceeds would go towards “Camp for Kids.” The joint effort was a great experience for all and raised \$1,955. Based on feedback received, we will be doing this again.

On Wednesday, August 11th, we hosted a back-to-school celebration. We ate chicken nuggets, tater tots, corn, topped off with ice cream. Before heading home, they cooled off with a massive water balloon and water sprinkler event. Yes, we sent them home wet with towels they brought.

On July 27th, Rev. Michael Groseclose met me in College Station and presented school supplies collected during VBS. Nelsonville supplied our kids still needing supplies.

We said goodbye to Jerry Grant on August 7th after a long battle with Alzheimer’s. Jerry was a wonderful, loving, generous man. He left for his





### 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

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

What I expected to be a short prayer, turned into 1 hour of ministry time with so much deep healing and restoration for many teens. This was exactly our prayer before the camp – we knew that a year and a half of physical isolation would have a toll emotionally and spiritually. It was amazing to watch God bring healing into those places.

At the end of the camp we found out that, even after all our efforts, one of the teens who attended had been carrying COVID. We found out Thursday evening, after everyone was on their way home or already home. To this point we have had 62 people confirmed sick (out of 110 partici-

pants + leaders), me included. This meant I must be in isolation until August 9th, therefore having to delay my trip to the U.S. Thankfully after a few miserable days over the weekend, I now feel better (except for the loss of taste and smell.)

Please pray for all the leaders and teens who are sick right now; 3/4 of the camp participants are in mandatory quarantine. This is not how we hoped to end, but what the enemy wished for evil, the Lord can use for good.

You helped make this possible!

Blessings, and thank you,  
Joel and Teresa

## ...From the Home Missions Fields

**From Rev. Kay Polasek, Pastor at New Beginnings Church in Caldwell, TX.**

**August 18, 2021**

In the years since I became the lead pastor, I personally have witnessed some miracles, major changes in behaviors, and definite spiritual growth. On October 13, 2019, we dedicated the new building, baptized 3 members, celebrated with many Unity leaders, and enjoyed a delicious meal together.

Our group dreamed of a playground for our children. So, we hosted a bake sale outside of Walmart in Caldwell. We raised enough to purchase a used wooden playscape, that members picked up from College Station, then set it up at the Chapel and brought in the necessary material to make falls

safe. At the time, we had about 2-4 children attending. The playground is being enjoyed by a growing number of children.

In February 2020, the church sponsored 5 people (3 men and 2 women) to go on the Walk to Emmaus, which is an adult Christian leadership conference. They testified that the experience has changed them, renewed and refreshed their faith. One man, George McKay, came back glowing and he told me that he always thought that he knew God and was close to him. But, through the Holy Spirit this experience worked a mighty work in George, and he came home a new man, saying that he had never known God like this. At the time of this writing, we plan to sponsor 1-2 men, and 2-3 women in October. George told us during a Sunday worship service that





our Katzir summer youth camp. The camp was a huge success. Thanks to a great team of leaders, we hosted 85 teens from all over the land.

The theme and name of the camp was “connected”. It was all about dealing with the difficulty of being disconnected and isolated for a year and a half, overly connected to the wrong things, but above all, learning to connect with God in a deep and meaningful way in our lives. Interestingly, we also found ourselves doing the camp in a beautiful location in the

desert, where biblically speaking, was THE place to disconnect, connect with God, and be transformed.

One of my highlights was the last evening on Wednesday. We had incredible breakthrough and a real outpouring of the spirit that evening. After the teaching, I felt led by the spirit to ask who in the room feels lonely or isolated. Slowly, many kids, boys and girls, raised their hands. Then, we had them stand in the middle of a circle and have everyone else shower them with prayer and love.



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

**From Robert and Anne Thiessen... Missionaries in Mexico**

**June 24, 2021**

### Good Time to Leave

Dear faithful supporters,

One of the last difficulties a missionary faces is how to leave well. There are many reasons why a missionary leaves; the best being that the work is done. And the best time is when love and respect abound on all sides. We are at that place now, to begin to end.

Thirty years ago, while we were still preparing to leave Ontario for southern Mexico, we wrote out a plan for our ministry. There were several major aspects, or phases, that we trusted God to see us through.

First was, of course, to engage with an unreached people group and learn their language and culture. We worked at that from 92 to 96.

Second was to share the Good News in appropriate language and forms and help new churches develop. That was most of our efforts till '04.

The final phase that we envisioned was to help Mexican Latin churches

raise up their own cross-cultural missions. Even while in the second phase we began working towards this last part. Some of you will remember that we partnered with Acapulco churches from '99 to '04 in market-city migrant outreach (in Ometepe). Once we moved to Oaxaca City this last part of our ministry became our primary focus, while maintaining some involvement in the previous two parts.

Over these last 15 years we've had the privilege of working together with many different groups. YWAM, Moravians & Unity of the Brethren, Nazarenes, Baptists, and others. Along the way we've learned a lot, about both direct ministry and how to help others get involved. Sometimes this second part is harder than just doing the work yourself. Perhaps the hardest part is helping groups change course, because that always means changing ideas and patterns. Everyone finds that hard to do.

Which is why working with Sin Fronteras has been such a blessing. In case you missed who they are, this is a group of Mexican missionaries from all over the country, but mostly the mid-to-north part. Their sole focus is church planting among unreached indigenous of Mexico.



**ADERHOLD  
FUNERAL HOME, INC.**  
"Thoughtful Service –  
A Payne Family Tradition"  
West, Texas  
254/826-5321

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

Alejandro and Sayra, the main leaders, started ministry here 25 years ago. Their dedication and charisma slowly brought more and more workers to these vast fields, and with the eight that were added this spring, there are over 30 members. About a third are indigenous themselves, an added plus.

At the beginning, over 10 years ago, our friendship developed slowly. As we proved we weren't interested in taking over, Alejandro brought us in more and more. He already had much of the same missiology but realized that they were weak at filtering out their own cultural patterns of church. He welcomed our input in walking with them, refining their practice and ideas along the way. We concentrated our efforts in the areas of language learning, missiology and field practice, and bivocational development.

And now they are at the place where we can help them better from a distance. We want them to develop their own outworking of the ideas and "best practices" that we've been able to share with them. They're more than capable.

So, we are starting the process of leaving Mexico. We will be here till July, be gone till next spring, and then spend a final three months, helping one more time with their training school, packing up, and saying goodbye. Not a final goodbye since we intend to visit once or twice a year for the foreseeable future.

The final and hardest part for us about all this is figuring out what to do next. We are right at 60, with no intention of retiring, still wanting to work in God's Kingdom as much as

possible. We've become very specialized in a quite small field (with few employment opportunities). There are some possibilities in Ontario where our mission agency has begun outreach among the First Nations people.

We are still, and for the foreseeable future, full-time missionaries with Multiply. We are in dialogue with leaders there to explore how best we fit into several areas of missionary preparation and field training, both in Canada and beyond.

Thank you for your care and support over these many years.

We recognize that there are many ways of understanding what is full-time missions ministry, and we respect the choices you make about helping us in the future. We have been richly blessed to receive from you, our friends, some for the entire 35 years since I left Ontario in 1988 to go to Honduras (Anne was self-supported till we married). And this was all through your own initiative, as you generously asked how you could help. We also recognize that behind and above the financial help has been many other kinds of support, not least your prayers. Many of you have hosted us in your homes, or lent vehicles, and other gifts. You have been part of making the Matt. 19:29 passage (about leaving houses and families and receiving a hundred times more) so very true for us.

We could never have undergone these many years of both difficulties and joys without you as our partners, and you will share in the blessings and rewards too. You have given us far more than a cup of water, and even that was important to Jesus.

Please feel free to ask whatever

Eunice continues to inspire the women here to be bold and not be afraid to stand up for their rights. She is the trusted doctor and great advice giver to all she meets. She has seen over 2,000 patients over the last two years from 5 different villages. I have a disciple, Nahum, who is proving to be quite the businessman and highly motivated to follow God. He is a naturally moral man who has been inspired through our relationship to be a man who seeks the Holy Spirit to guide him. I am praying that he may be the leader of the new Christians here. I am thankful to have him as a friend.

Every day we work to get closer to our goal: a self-sustaining church here in Juquila. God has blessed us enormously with good friends both here in Juquila and abroad. Our ministry is the combination of hard work here on the ground and back home with you, our partners. The Unity has been a cornerstone of this ministry since the beginning. You have shown us hospitality, generosity, and have inspired us to be dedicated to the Word and mission of Jesus Christ. We are sad to miss our first convention in 10 years, but please forgive us, we will be back to see you as soon as we can. I don't know how long I can go without some fresh kolaches and brisket.

I almost forgot a quick update on the kids. Ian will be eight in August and Hannah is four. They love to ride their bikes and go climbing in the mountains. They are full of energy and have been giving us a run for our money with the home-schooling situation. Please pray for Eunice and I. Hopefully they go back in the fall! Ian

is reading quite well in both languages and Hannah is right behind him. We also have a new member of the family, our cat Shadow, who is great and puts up with Hannah dragging him around like a teddy bear. They both miss you as well. You really make our kids feel special and loved.

Thank you to the Unity of the Brethren and thank you David Miller for all of your support. Please give Robert and Annie a hug for us, we miss them already.

Blessings,  
Phil, Eunice, Ian and Hannah

## **From The Jelski Family... Missionaries in Israel**

**August 3, 2021**

I am sad to announce that I will be delaying my trip to the States to August 26-September 13 (most likely, not final yet). I will update once I change the flights. Explanation as to why is below.

Thank you for all who prayed for



## **From Phil and Eunice Raiford... Missionaries in Mexico**

**July 8, 2021**

Greetings Brethren,

Our family would like to first thank all of you for your steadfast support of our ministry and we are grateful for your generosity and prayers throughout the years. We also will sorely miss our time with you this summer, as we always have such a wonderful time with you all and how you always make us feel right at home.

We all have gone through the challenges of the last year together dealing with COVID, changes in lifestyle, and certainly a good deal of stress. However, God has certainly been looking over our family and ministry through those tough times. Remarkably in our village of Juquila there have been no direct cases of COVID in the last year. Family members of our friends in other areas have suffered and some died, but none in Juquila. Praise God! That blessing has allowed our ministry over the last year to grow and become more impactful amongst our friends in Juquila.

Lola, Clio, Flavio, Paty, Mayra, Vasty, Nacho, Indovani, and Nahum, to name a few, are some of our friends who have grown immensely over this last year. For months we had to stick together as we watched the world around us fall apart. For many people who are animists, this type of fear of the unknown is normal. But the way we all went through the same fear at the same time was a unique experience, and one where the power of

God was able to be felt and known. Our time here in Juquila has been important and we never know how God will work or when, but He faithfully showed up for us this year.

Eunice and I fulfilled our purpose among our friends during this time of crisis. Eunice kept the people up to date on medical advice, easing their worry. I began times for families to exercise and play games together. Later on we began helping others to create small businesses to keep money coming in while travel was restricted across the country. But most importantly it gave us time together to seek out God and His good plan for each of our lives. Alongside the small businesses, we now have people actually reading Christian books and starting to explore the Bible more seriously. That is a big deal!

Over the years we have attended many parties, family events, and village gatherings, getting the acknowledgement of the villagers. This year we showed them through action all of the things we had been speaking to them about. When times got tough, we acted on our faith in Jesus and never abandoned them, and like Jesus shepherds us through dark times, we guided our friends to a path of light and hope in Him.

I say these things humbly to you all, knowing how far we still have to go. Eunice and I have seen and felt the tide turn over the last few months. A more diverse group that we never thought we could reach are beginning to warm up to us. Our goal is to bring those people and families together to worship God as one body. That is our next and final chapter here in Juquila.

questions you might have. As the general letter says, we continue with Multiply, and your donations can continue, if you choose, to be sent exactly as they are now.

Thankful for everything,

Robert and Anne

## **From the Kozaks... Missionaries in the Czech Republic**

**June 27, 2021**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

First, let us greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We also send you our very warm greetings from Moravia!

It is always a special time when we all are remembering life, teaching, ministry, sacrifice and the legacy of our precious and dear Brother, Master Jan Hus. The same as for many Christians also for us here in Czech Republic, his life, guided by the Holy Spirit to start a new formation or re-formation of the Church is very significant and motivated even today!

The same as in his days, maybe today more and more, we all must stay firm in the Biblical fundamental Truth, in the Words of our Lord Jesus Christ and in the other letters and epistles of the New Testament/Bible.

We are humbly privileged and honored to serve as the Lord's disciples and ministers! You surely know that our country, the Czech Republic, is known as the most atheistic country in the world! We do not know why, if "thanks" to the communism which

put this nation into captivity for so many years, or "thanks" to the "materialistic" freedom and liberalism we have right now... Probably all together...

As we mentioned, we are humbly thankful that we can serve people in the Gospel. Our major tasks are the KIDS and their families and the PUBLIC sharing of the Gospel among young people.

Praise God that right now the situation concerning restrictions is much better and we feel freedom to be with people and not keeping the social distancing strictly. Praise God most of the kids did return to the club, and we are preparing meetings and activities for them outside, mostly in the parks.

We really appreciate that the kids who do attend the club for years already do take some of their friends to the club too, so we do have still new coming kids to minister. Probably each kid is from a dysfunctional family, where parents are divorced, where there is a big problem with alcohol and violence...

In most cases Stania and I are like their "step" parents... They do trust us and many times they share their problems and pain which they have inside. We always pray for them and try to give them the best advice we can.

Very important for their lives is to hear the Word of God. We have regular Bible reading with them, mainly the parables and stories from the Gospels. They love to hear about Lord Jesus and for us it is a great privilege to introduce Lord Jesus to them in the truth, as the Son of God, who loves them and who is always



ready to do His best for them. Each kid knows that He died on the Cross for their sins. What a Grace!

Also very important is that their parents are coming to the park to meet with us, to talk, and so it is great time for fellowship with them. They know that we are Christians, and some are listening carefully when we read from the Bible. We pray the Holy Spirit is touching their hearts by His Truth and Love.

And as you already know, we are also focused on the public Gospel sharing ministry. We do minister in this way in SEVEN cities. One city is Dresden/Germany, where there is a group of Czech Christians, and we minister regularly to them. We call them "our missionaries". They do a mission ministry in their place and that's great! We do plan to go over there and encourage them in July for a short mission trip.

We did extend our ministry to other cities in the Czech country. We minister in Decin, where there is a small church which is doing great street Gospel sharing ministry to the lost people. They are very bold and happy to serve to the people.

All the other cities are here in Moravia region. Next one is Trinec, which is in North, Silesia district. This city is known as the very "religious" city in Czech Republic. So we are always happy to be with the people over there and share with them. There

are many young people there too and that's great! Mostly the talks about Lord Jesus are for hours! They always are having many questions and that's great!

Near our place we do minister in Olomouc, in Prostějov, Brno, and in Luhacovice. In Prostějov is our nice and blessed ministry to the kids, and in Olomouc, Brno, and in Luhacovice it is again public Gospel sharing ministry to the people. We do have nice memories when Brothers Ron Winsman and Larry Zabcik came to visit with us about 10 years ago; we took them to Olomouc and to Luhacovice. It was so super and a BLESSED time to be with them here and minister together! What a Grace of Father God!

We see that we do live in such a time when many things are kind of chaotic. The Covid had made lots of troubles to many, many people, so many people died, and so many people lost their beloved ones, jobs, or businesses. Now they have questions about the future, economy, about the next mutations of Covid...

And we do understand. It is NOT an easy time, not an easy situation. We pray and try to do our best to minister to those people best we can. We know they need to "meet" with Lord Jesus. We know they need to hear and understand God's Plan of Salvation for mankind.

This ministry is very much about sowing the seeds. Of course, we wish

to reap the harvest, but in this way God's Word speaks as it speaks. Sowing, watering, harvesting... The same as on a farm. Maybe one day, maybe somebody else in the future will reap, will be harvesting. This is what we pray. One day... Our God knows... Praise God!

In the end of our letter let us say please how much we are HUMBLY THANKFUL that we can be supported as the missionaries to the Czech/Moravian people here. What a privilege!

Thank you, dear Unity of the Brethren, Sisters and Brothers in Christ Jesus for your PRAYERS, MINISTRY, LOVE, FRIENDSHIP and SUPPORT! Thank you for your hearts! We LOVE you and we PRAY for you too. May our dear Lord Jesus Christ repay you back all the blessings you do for others, for us.

In His Holy Name with PRAYERS,  
Yours, Pavel and Stania Kozak.

## From Carolyn Groseclose... Missionary in Zambia

July 15, 2021

Greetings from Zambia and New Day.

Everyone is doing very well here at New Day. We are in the middle of the second term of school. This school year I am teaching Language Arts to grades five, six, and seven. Because one of our Zambian teachers, Memory, is leaving to start nursing school, I will be taking one of her classes of LA and finish out the year with this group.

Laurie Wilcox is doing very well. She had a very good report from her last doctor's visit.

Laurie is the school administrator and along with her husband, Wes, are the directors for New Day.

With Laurie's help, I applied for a new work permit. It took a few weeks, but I was granted a new one. I will be able to continue the work here at New Day for two more years.

God has truly blessed us. Covid is on the rise because of the cold season. There are new cases in Choma. Yet everyone here is doing well. (Choma is the town where we do all of our shopping.)

Please continue to pray for us as we enter this month of July. Elections will be held soon and some of the Zambian staff are concerned about riots occurring even in Choma. Hopefully, this will not happen. The elections will take place without any violence. A president and other officials will be elected, and harm will come to no one.

This past May, we all participated in a group devotion entitled "How to Guard Your Heart." This was a very good devotion. Because of this, one young boy accepted Christ as his personal Saviour. What a joy and blessing that was. Laurie is hoping to find another devotion similar to this.

My email has changed. It is carolyngroseclose84@gmail.com. I hope the Unity Church Convention goes well.

My prayers are with you all.

In His Name,  
Teacher Carolyn

**KUBENA Funeral Home**  
507 South Main St.  
Hallettsville, Texas 77946  
Pre-Arranged Funerals  
Phone 361-798-3271

**GRANGER NATIONAL  
BANK**  
Ryze Ceska Banka, Member F.D.I.C.  
Granger, Texas  
www.grangernationalbank.com

