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THE BRETHREN



JOURNAL



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March 2022

No. 2

28 Pages

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— from the editor

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

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

28/March 2022

BRETHREN JOURNAL



Photo courtesy of iStock photo.

The Season of Lent Begins March 2 with Ash Wednesday

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THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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Christian Sisters Convention Invitation

The Executive Committee of The Chris-
tian Sisters' Union cordially extends
an invitation to all Delegates, Repre-
sentatives of women's work in the
Church, Members of the local Chris-
tian Sisters' Societies, Ministers of
the Unity, and all friends of the Chris-
tian Sisters' Union to the:

50th Biennial
Christian Sisters Convention
Saturday, April 30, 2022
Hus Encampment, Caldwell

8:30 A.M. – Registration
(A light breakfast will be served)

9:30 A.M. – Morning Worship
Service and Communion
First Session
Lunch will be served
(Free Will donation)

After Lunch:
Memorial Service
Convention

For those wishing to spend the
night at the camp, it will be
available starting:
5 PM Friday, April 29, 2022

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The Christian Sisters' Executive Board

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The Cardinal on My Porch

- by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

I heard a loud thump against one of the glass doors that face out towards my back patio. I've heard that sound before. It was a poor little bird that could not tell that we have glass and was attempting to fly into our home. Guilt immediately rises in that by now we should have taken measures to put up decals or some form of large window coverings to prevent such confusion and, in this case, loss of life. I heard the Lord whisper to me in His still small voice to get up and check on the bird. It might be that I was deeper in prayer at the time than I had been in the past, so I was able to hear the Lord clearly. "Get up and look," He said, and so I did. It was a young male Cardinal. Cardinals are always buzzing around in winter around our yard, zooming from one bird feeder to the next, displaying the joy for life that the Lord God created them to exude.

At first, the young Cardinal flapped his wings wildly as he tried to return to flight, but he could not. Then he tipped his head topped with a bold



red tuft of feathers towards the flagstone patio floor. Much like a heart-beat that is beating wildly one moment and then slowly digresses in rhythm as it nears its final beat, his tail slowed down and finally stopped. My mind raced as to what I could do if anything. Nothing came to mind. He froze in that position as I prayed that the Lord would remove any pain he might be feeling. Tears streamed down



HOUSTON BRETHERN CHURCH

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

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Sunday School 9:15 a.m. – Church Service 10:30 a.m.

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my face. Prayers continued for mercy. Nothing else came to mind. His little head topped with a bold red tuft of feathers was still tipping towards the flagstone patio floor and his tail pointing upwards. Frozen.

A few moments later with an abrupt burst of energy he popped up and stood facing me. I prayed for a miracle, but the Lord said “no.” It was time for the little Cardinal to pass on from this world. He did not move at all again.

Prayer is difficult. We are creatures of flesh and bone with a propensity for sin. We pray with limited knowledge and mixed motives for an array of situations. We pray for what we think is best, but what if we prayed with a loftier perspective? What if I had prayed from a realistic vantage point – that is that God is sovereign over all and His decision in this little Cardinal’s life is what I must pray for?

What if I edited what I recounted about my prayer for the little bird to read something like this:

The young Cardinal “froze in that position as I thanked the Lord that He is the One to be trusted with the life of all creatures and people. I told the Lord God that I was grateful that it is His decision whether to heal the young

Cardinal or not. Cries poured from my soul for the compassion of the Lord to minimize whatever pain the little guy was feeling. Tears streamed down my face. Prayers continued for mercy... I prayed for a miracle, and the Lord said, “The miracle is this moment in which you are speaking to me and showing faith in me, trusting in my judgment in the life of the little young Cardinal. Now trust my judgment over all matters in your life.”

“Trusting God’s judgment over all matters in my life...”

The Lord’s words to me are still swimming through my mind.

My mind immediately wants to cry out in shallowness and despair:

“But I know what I’m looking at, Lord! Why is this happening?”

Death, pain, and struggle come to us all and will continue to do so until we are in Heaven.

So what then are we to do now?
How do we proceed?

How do we begin to trust God with all the uncertainty and devastation that we face?

God sends a ray of light, AN ANSWER, from His Holy Word, as to HOW and WHY TO TRUST HIS JUDGMENT IN ALL THINGS!

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Phone: (254) 985-2240

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Sunday School 9:00 AM

Worship 10:15 AM

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Youth Director

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Cemetery

Sharon Marek

(254) 482-0498

Fayetteville Brethren Church

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

Rev. Mike Groseclose

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**

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 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.
– Rhonda Johnson - Pulpit Supply

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.
– Judy Gotcher - Pulpit Supply

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. David 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.
Wednesday – Children’s Awanas, 5:30 PM.
– 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.
– Rev. Gerald Davis

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

From the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, chapter 55, in the Holy Bible:

“Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. **Incline your ear, and come to Me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, My steadfast, sure love for David.** See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for He has glorified you. **Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near;** let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them **return to the Lord**, that He may have mercy on them, and to **our God, for He will abundantly pardon. For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the**

Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. **For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;** and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

What is the Prophet Isaiah teaching us?

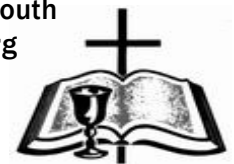
- 1) Call out to God and LISTEN.
- 2) REMIND YOURSELF that He is higher than any thought or step you take.



BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION BRETHREN CHURCH

2650 Earl Rudder Freeway South

www.unityofthebrethren.org



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Off: 979-693-3606
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3) EXPECT that He is the only One who can and will give you joy and peace.

So, I stood there after calling out to the Lord for mercy upon this young Cardinal on my flagstone patio floor. Then God whispered to me:

1) Will you listen to what I have to say?

2) Do you acknowledge that I AM higher than any thought or step that you take?

3) Are you trusting my judgment in this? If you are, then joy and peace will instantly fill you immeasurably.

What “young Cardinal” exists in your life?

What is it that grieves you that you have prayed to God to change?

There is no more suffering for that young Cardinal.

God knows why he had to pass on.

God knows why certain struggles must take place in our lives.

Could God be speaking these words directly to you:

Will you listen to what I have to say?

Do you acknowledge that I AM higher than any thought or step that you take?

Are you trusting my judgment in this? If you are, then joy and peace will instantly fill you immeasurably.

Will you believe Him?

Right With You,

Trusting God's Judgment,

Sister Vanessa Mitchell

She is preceded in death by her parents; sister Georgia Navratil, and husband Louis Kohutek, who passed away June 26, 2017. Survivors are her daughter Karen Beeler and husband Mike of Yukon, Okla; daughter Donna McEntire and husband Larry of Oscar; four grandsons; and three great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held on August 10, 2021, at Seaton Brethren Church with Rev. Denise Mikeska officiating. Burial was held privately in the Seaton Cemetery.



GAEKE, GISELA HANNE-LORE, 84, of Highlands, Texas, passed away on Sunday, October 31, 2021. She was born on December 1, 1936, in Deep, Germany, to parents Rudolf Schmidt and Ella Runge

Schmidt, who preceded her in death along with her beloved husband Wilbert “Sonny” Gaeke; daughter Karen Gaeke; step-brother Stepsol Schmidt; and baby sister Ingrid Levy. Gisela was a long time, active member of the Brethren Church, first attending Pasadena Brethren for many years and later joining Crosby Brethren Church. She loved her church and church family dearly and served on the Church Choir, participated in meals for shut-ins, Christian Sisters, and the Board of Elders. Gisela leaves behind to cherish her memory her children Johnny Gaeke and wife Lana, Becky Reeves and husband Cliff; grandsons Robert Houston LaFerney and wife Samantha, John “J.W.” Gaeke and fiancé Dixie Goode; great-grandchildren Evelyn Laferney and Callie Grace Laferney; sister Helga Hilliard; brother Jurgen Schmidt and wife Ann, along with numerous nephews, one niece, and her beloved church family. A visitation for Gisela was held Thursday, November 4, 2021, at Sterling-White Funeral Home, Highlands, Texas. Funeral services took place Friday, October 5, 2021, at Crosby Brethren Church with interment at Sterling-White Cemetery. Serving the family as pallbearers was Robert Laferney, John “J.W.” Gaeke, Frank McKay, Jr., Bob Ward, Curt Roark, and Mike James. Honorary pallbearers were Gisela's nephews.

GRAVES, DARLENE D., 68 of Troy was born on June 18, 1953, in Temple to Marion L. and Leona (Motl) Bartlett. She died on December 5, 2021. Darlene retired after many years with McLane and was a member of Seaton Brethren Church. She is survived by her husband Glenn; children Stephanie Stevenson of Bedford, Aaron Graves and wife Colleen

of Round Rock, and Emily Thurman and husband Brandon of Denton, and 3 granddaughters. Darlene is also survived by her brothers, M. L. Bartlett and wife Betty, and Gaylon Bartlett; and sister Kay Schwank and husband Ronald. She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, James Bartlett. Services were held on December 9 at Seaton Brethren Church with Rev. Denise Mikeska officiating.

MAREK, NELDA, 86 of Cameron was born on June 6, 1935, in the Salem Community in Milam County to Robert and Cleo Sybert Glaser. She died on December 8, 2021. Nelda was a 1954 graduate of C.H. Yoe High School in Cameron. She married Edwin F. Marek. She was a member of Seaton Brethren Church. She was a homemaker. She was preceded in death by a son, Edwin Marek, Jr., in 2009. She is survived by her husband Edwin; sons Donny Marek, Rodney Marek, and Dennis Marek; daughter Beverly Daniels; a brother, Franklin Glaser; a sister, Joyce Hoff; 12 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. Services were held on December 11 at Seaton Brethren Church with burial at Seaton Cemetery. Rev. Denise Mikeska officiated.

MICHALEWICZ, STEPHEN LYNN, 59, of Temple was born on January 28, 1962, in McKinney and adopted by Reuben and Naomi Michalewicz. He died on October 28, 2021. He graduated from Temple High School. He attended Stephen F. Austin State University, and received an associate degree in civil engineering from TSTI/TSTC in Waco. After graduation he worked on various construction projects ranging from roads and bridges to schools and playgrounds. He was a Christian. He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Kerry; a son, Colby; two daughters, Shelby Michalewicz and Taylor Vaught; his mother; a brother Larry Michalewicz, and five grandchildren. Funeral services were held on December 18 at Seaton Brethren Church with Rev. Denise Mikeska officiating. Private burial was held at the Sacred Heart Cemetery in Lott.

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VITAL STATISTICS

NEW MEMBERS

EMERSON, CHRISTI, joined Seaton Brethren Church on April 4, 2021.

HARTBARGER, BOBBIE, joined Seaton Brethren Church on October 14, 2021.

KOSLOVSKY, ALBERT, joined Seaton Brethren Church on October 21, 2021, by transfer from Ocker Brethren Church.

KOSLOVSKY, PATSY, joined Seaton Brethren Church on October 21, 2021, by transfer from Ocker Brethren Church.

THOMPSON, JACKIE, joined Seaton Brethren Church on October 24, 2021.

THOMPSON, JOHN, joined Seaton Brethren Church on October 24, 2021.

RECENT BAPTISMS

GREEN, CALEB BRENT, was baptized at Seaton Brethren Church on May 9, 2021. Rev. Denise Mikeska officiated.

GREEN, COOPER JEROME, was baptized at Seaton Brethren Church on May 9, 2021. Rev. Denise Mikeska officiated.

GREEN, MASON KYLE, was baptized at Seaton Brethren Church on May 9, 2021. Rev. Denise Mikeska officiated.

RECENT DEATHS

AMOS, CHARLES D., SR., 83, Christian, Husband, Father, Grandfather, and Master Electrician, completed his final job on Saturday, September 4, 2021. He was born on a farm near Cartersville, Georgia, to Charlie Clifford Amos and Lula Chambers Amos on December 7, 1937. He learned the meaning of hard work and family values, having 4 brothers, a sister, and 11 half-brothers and sisters. Charles came to Temple at the age of 17, anxious to learn how to be an electrician from his Uncle Tom Amos. He

purchased Amos Electric Supply in 1968. Charles was an active member of Seaton Brethren Church, serving as Chairman of the Board, and felt God called him to take care of it and its members. He had been there so long he knew every nook and cranny of the old building and often worked behind the scene to assure the church's success and continued restoration. Charles is survived by his wife Roberta Amos; son Charles Amos, Jr., his wife Whitney, and grandchildren Carsen & Chip Amos; son Joel Amos, his wife Jessica, and grandchildren Elijah and Ameira Amos; stepdaughter Neely Jones, spouse Paulino Castillo; and brother Marshall Amos of Rome, Ga. Visitation was held on September 9, 2021, at Seaton Brethren Church and a Memorial service was held on September 10, 2021, at Seaton Brethren Church with Rev. Denise Mikeska officiating.

CHLAPEK, MARK A., 59 of Temple was born on December 22, 1960, to Edward Chlappek and Martha Chlappek (Coleman) of Temple. He died on June 6, 2020. He was loved and cherished by many people including his parents; his wife Crystal Shifflett of Temple; and his siblings, sister Pam Tyroch and husband Rodney, and brother Eddie Wayne Chlappek and wife Karen of Temple. He was also cherished by many nieces and nephews. Burial was in Seaton Cemetery on June 12, 2020, with Rev. Denise Mikeska officiating. KOHUTEK, RUTH HELEN (LESIKAR), 91, of the Oscar community and a member of the Seaton Brethren Church, died on August 5, 2021, after an excruciating battle with vascular disease. She was born on April 19, 1930, to Rudolph and Millie Lesikar in Oscar, where she lived nearly all her life. She married her love, Louis Kohutek, on August 19, 1950. After ten years, she decided to be a stay-at-home mom to raise their two daughters. She later began working at King's Daughters Hospital and Clinic where she worked 27 years. She has been a member of the Seaton Brethren Church since childhood. She served as a Christian Sister's President for a number of years, was a member of the choir and served in many other positions. She was a member of SPJST Lodge 47 Seaton and served as ticket chairman for many years, and also served on the resolution committee. She had been an auxiliary volunteer at King's Daughters Hospital for many years.

Hus and the Gathering Storm

- By Jim Pokorny

Utilizing his authority as synodical preacher, Jan Hus pressed forward in his attempts to purify Church doctrine. Hus also continued exposing the vices of the clergy. On October 18, 1407, Hus delivered a sermon to the clergy based on Ephesians 6:14-15. It was not well received. In fact, it led to his dismissal from office. The clergy and members of other ranks combined their forces and moved against him.

Among his most powerful critics was John the Iron, Bishop of Leitomischl, who formally denounced Hus by accusing him of disobedience to the Church. The Bishop prohibited Hus from preaching and placed an interdiction on the city of Prague. This interdiction resulted in the Church suspending rites and services within the city. No citizen of Prague would receive Holy Communion or be buried on church grounds for as long as Hus continued his ministry. Attacking on a secondary front, the Bishop ordered the public burning of 200 volumes of Wycliffe's writings to be accompanied by the simultaneous ringing of church bells and singing.

Rome intensified the pressure on Hus and appointed commissioners to try him. In response, Prague selected advocates to defend him. Adding to the conflict, the papacy issued bulls against Hus. In response, royal edicts were submitted in his defense. Throughout this period of chaos and turmoil, Hus remained both firm and committed. Utter confusion persisted within both the Church and the state. Three popes each claimed to be head of the Church while three emperors vied for supreme political power. As a result, the Bohemian Reformation thrived and expanded. The movement would not likely have succeeded under more peaceful circumstances.

The University of Prague also experienced momentous change. Despite the intentions of its founders, German nations in the institution had gained a three-vote majority to the Bohemians' solitary vote. The Bohemian Doctors did not take this lying down. They sought the assistance of Nicholas von Lubkowic who was a favored advisor to the King. This



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.

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Reverend David Johnson (979) 220-3822
pastordjbama@gmail.com

resulted in the King's issuance of a decree in January 1409 that completely reversed the situation. In one sudden move, the Bohemian nation possessed three votes to the foreign nations' singular vote. In response, many German professors and thousands of German students left Prague in resentment. Animosity between Germans and Bohemians intensified.

Thus far, the Bohemian Reformation had survived every confrontational attempt to extinguish it. That said, the events that followed could have combined to result in its simply fading away into the pages of history. This began in July 1411 when the Archbishop reconciled himself to both Hus and the King. The ban on Hus and the Interdiction were to be annulled. All suits were to be dismissed. All appeals were to be withdrawn. All disputes were to be eliminated. Hus consented to a public confession of his faith nullifying any accusations of heresy. Thus, the complete pacification of the Church could be reported to Rome. The Archbishop, however, refused to uphold his end of the bargain and died while enroute to claim protection from King Sigismund. His successor was far more concerned with increasing his wealth than he was in tackling any theological issues.

Circumstances quieted. The gales of controversy abated. But, like the eye of a passing hurricane, this period of calm would not last. The storm would return to rage once more with Hus at its epicenter. The sale of indulgences and the execution of three men who protested them would ignite the fuse of controversy once more.

Hus would have to make a determined stand, and no doubt that stand would be firmly grounded in truth. Hus once said, "Seek the truth, hear the truth, learn the truth, love the truth, speak the truth, hold the truth and defend the truth until death." For Hus understood that all truth was of God, and it should therefore be treated as such. The day would come when Hus would willingly forfeit his life in truth's defense. One need only look back to the verses upon which Hus based his sermon to the clergy in October 1407. Through these words we see just how passionately committed Hus would remain in defending truth. We also gain insight into his conviction that truth, all truth, was of God.

Ephesians 6:14-15 (NLT) – Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared.

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.*

2022 Summer Camp Dates

ENCOUNTER

Ages 7-9 years old

Camp Cost: TBA

Camp Date: **June 21-23**

PIONEER

Ages 12-13 years old

Camp Cost: TBA

Camp Date: **July 17-22**

CHALLENGER

Ages 16-19 years old

Camp Cost: TBA

Camp Date: **July 10-15**

ALPHA

Ages 10-11 years old

Camp Cost: TBA

Camp Date: **June 26-30**

DISCOVERY

Ages 14-15 years old

Camp Cost: TBA

Camp Date: **June 12-17**

HUS SCHOOL

In-depth Leadership Program

Ages 16-Adult

Cost: TBA

Date: **Not Held in 2022**

For more information about the Hus School Encampment go to:
www.huscamp.org

Does your church/organization have an activity that you would like to include in this listing? Please send activity information including a contact name, phone number, and/or email address to the Brethren Journal Editor at: editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com. Information must be received by the first day of the month immediately preceding the month of publication.

TAYLOR BRETHREN CHURCH

Seventh Street at Sloan in Taylor, Texas – 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.

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

March 2, 2022 – Season of Lent/Ash Wednesday

March 19, 2022 – Spring Synodical Committee Meeting at the Hus Encampment – 9 a.m.; refreshments served at 8 a.m. with a light lunch served at noon. If you have any questions, contact Dr. Larry Koslovsky, 713-594-4518.

April 18, 2022 – Resurrection Sunday/Easter

April 30, 2022 – Christian Sisters' Convention at the Hus Encampment, Caldwell. Registration begins at 8:30 AM (a light breakfast will be served). Morning Worship Service and Communion will be at 9:30 AM. Lunch will be served (Free Will donation), and after lunch will be a Memoiral Service. For those wishing to spend the night at the camp, it will be available starting 5 PM Friday, April 29, 2022.

Save the Dates . . .

July 9-10, 2022 – BYF Retreat and Volleyball Tournament at the Hus Encampment. Be looking for more information coming in Spring 2022.

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 (Retired)
Cell: 325-656-8558
Home: rev.tjt@gmail.com
Church: wallbrethren@gmail.com
www.WallBrethrenChurch.net

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

<i>President</i>	<i>Director of Youth</i>	<i>Church Office</i>
<i>Board of Elders</i>	<i>and Young Family Ministries</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
Lance LaBedelle	Position Vacat	Libby Lane
325-227-9900		Tu-F: 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

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

From Carolyn Groseclose

February 8, 2022

Dear Friends,

The last few months have been slow. Covid hit New Day on two separate occasions. Our area of Zambia has been hit with heavy rains and thunderstorms. Because of the rains and storms, we would go without electricity for a day or two. Also, the bridge would wash out and we would not be able to cross to go to Choma.

But the Lord is forever faithful, and we know that He is with us each and every moment.

Even though things have been slow, we keep busy. This past November our Grade 7 class wrote their examinations for Grade 8 and passed with flying colors. Grade 6 class wrote the same exam for practice, and they too passed with flying colors. The boarding school allowed them to skip Grade 7 and enter into Grade 8 with the other students. We now have 18 students in boarding school ranging from Grade 8 to Grade 12. Of course,

this does not count the children from Pre-K to Grade 6 here at New Day.

We then had a Birthday Party for Jesus as well as those with birthdays in December. Christmas Eve was a challenge for the adults. There was a major thunderstorm during the night. Many electrical poles were knocked down, about five fell into the river. Now remember, Zambia has only one electric company. So, we did not have power until late Christmas Eve. Cooking was a challenge. There are only two gas cooking stoves. One of them is in the "Ark". Ask John Brinkley about the Ark. The other one is at Wes and Laurie Wilcox's house. We were able to have a very nice dinner, but again it was a challenge.

Life here is unique. It is wonderful. Hearing the children as they work and play is amazing. God Is Good All The Time and All The Time, God Is Good.

Blessings to all from Zambia.

Teacher Carolyn



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<https://www.crosschurchonbirdcreek.org>

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Worship: 10:45 a.m.

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

From the Kozack's

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
First, let us greet you in the Holy Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We also send you our warm greetings from cold Moravia!

In the beginning of our report let us say what a privilege it is to share with you how our Father God is using Stania and me in the Czech Republic/Moravia. Very humbly saying it is really a big Grace of God to be His ministers and share His Love and Good News in the Gospel among the people.

Praise God, we are so happy to say that we had THREE professions of faith last year! Three young people did open their hearts to the Lord Jesus in the faith and trust to be saved. We provided regular Bible study meetings for them too. It is very good that there are many kids around them, and each could hear the gospel and be ministered to by Stania and me.

This is our main ministry goal, to serve and minister to the kids and adults (parents) in our location. We praise Father God for the privilege to do this ministry. Most of the time we

are just outside somewhere in the parks, where are many kids also with parents. Great opportunity to share the Gospel with them! In the time from the spring to the autumn we are ministering up to 20+ kids together with some adults.

For your better understanding about the kids' ministry, let us say this: All the kids are from unbelieving and divorced families. No Christian parents. So, when they come for a first time to the "club" as we call it, they know zero about Lord Jesus, and because they do trust us, many times they share with us their problems and sorrows rather than with their parents. They see us many times like their "second" parents.

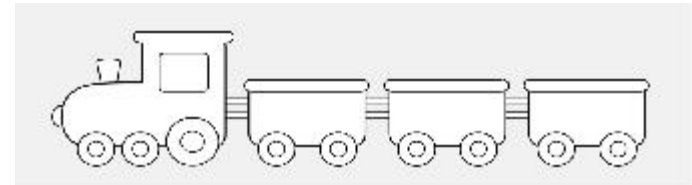
In our last newsletter I shared with you about our little Michaela. She came to the club when she was 5. She is a very sweet girl with a wonderful heart for the Lord. But as I mentioned before, her family is unbelieving, with many pains. Last year a baby boy was born into the family with a Mongolia disease. The father is just a boyfriend of the mother. And because of his bad acting (criminal) he just went to the prison for three years.

The mother and mainly Michaela

Ask the following questions:

- What kind of job did Matthew have?
- How did people feel about Matthew?
- How do you get a ticket to follow Jesus?
- Why is it important to follow Jesus?
- Is there anyone God does not love or want to save?

Name Train

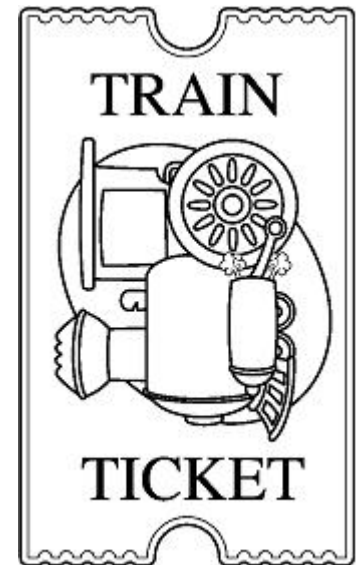


Materials: Train picture, construction paper, Life Saver Candies, cotton balls, markers

Directions: Give each child a train engine picture (see above for an example) and a train car for each letter of their name. Have children decorate their trains. Add cotton balls for puffs of smoke and Life Saver candies for the wheels.

Train Tickets

Materials: Train ticket outline, markers, glitter, jewels, etc. Decorate Train tickets. Write John 14:6 on the tickets.



SNOOK BRETHREN CHURCH

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

COME WORSHIP WITH US

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

Pastor

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

Board of Elders President

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

Youth Directors

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

Matthew Follows Jesus

The Ticket

Materials: A ticket (plane or train)

Ask if anyone has traveled by plane or train. Did you go through security? What do you need to travel? Lead children to answer, a ticket.

If you travel by train or plane, you have to have a ticket. They will not let you on the plane or train without a ticket.

God wants us to ride with Jesus. He wants us to have Jesus on our journey with us through life. The tickets didn't come cheap! But Jesus already paid our tickets! Does anyone know how Jesus purchased our tickets? Jesus died on the cross. God wants us all to accept our ticket and ride with Jesus. If we accept, we'll experience the life that comes from knowing Jesus and eternal life in Heaven. The Ticket has been bought and you are invited to ride with Jesus!

Give each child a ticket that says "Ride with Jesus".

Matthew Gets On Board

Scripture: Matthew 9:9-13

The Calling of Matthew

Read: The story of Matthew (Matthew 9:9-13)

Explain: Matthew was one of the disciples. He also wrote the gospel of Matthew. However, Matthew was not very well liked. He was a tax collector. That meant he was probably greedy and charged people too much in taxes. This made people ask Jesus why he was hanging out with sinners. Jesus explained that He offered new life. No matter what your sin or past, you have a ticket to ride. Just like Matthew, you can follow Jesus!

are really down and devastated. This is why Michaela loves to be with us, with the Word of God, with God's Peace in Christ.

Of course, all the kids who are attending the club regularly know the Biblical stories spoken by Lord Jesus very well. Also, we do study all parables with them and are having explanations for them what it means for each of us. Their faith is growing. It is very important that they know the Gospel. They then speak about their faith with their parents and with their school mates. They know what Lord Jesus did for them on the Cross.

Of course, we have many, many fun activities with them. Like workshops, paintings, drama, trips, sports, etc. If a kid has a birthday, we always buy a present for him/her, together with a cake and with some sweets. Their parents are always welcome!

In this year we already started guitar classes or lessons for the kids. We found some suitable guitars and they already had a first lesson! They have learned some simple chords and Stania will try to play some simple Christian songs soon!

The next BIG PART of our ministry is sharing the Gospel among the young

people and among the students in Olomouc. In Olomouc there is a big university and many high schools. I think about 30,000+ students! We have our mission team (four of us) and we do regular mission ministry among them. We do share the Gideon Bibles with them too.

Also, we pray and minister in some other surrounding places near us. Very often we do travel to Luhacovice city (near Zlin) where there are many patients who takes their procedures in the local spa. For us it is a great privilege to share the Gospel with them during their rest in parks. It is a very nice ministry.

Our next ministry city is Brno. It is a huge city in the south of Moravia with many, many unsaved people who need to hear about Lord Jesus.

We minister to the students in Trinec/Silesia/North Moravia. Stania's parents are living nearby, so it is always very nice to go to the main square, where big groups of young people are killing their time. To share the Gospel with all of them takes hours many times. Great is that they have lots of questions and like to talk about God.



The Community Christian Church of Rosenberg

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(832) 449-3358

Sunday School 9:00 AM
Worship Service 10:30 AM
Wednesday Eve. 5:30 PM
Prayer Service and Bible Study

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Also, we minister by encouragement to the believers in Decin/North Bohemia. There is a nice mission group of believers who share the Gospel on a DAILY basis with unbelievers.

Our next mission area is in Dresden/Germany. There is a diaspora (dispersion) with many Czech people and some of them are Christians. And because they do not know the German language well, they have a problem to find a suitable church. They are learning how to be sound Lord's disciples. Because most of them know Stania and me very well, they are always very happy when we are about to come and have very nice time together in Christ. Our Lord is always preparing somebody who is open and willing to trust to the Lord and be baptized! Of course, we do minister to them online with encouragement and with some teaching.

We also cooperate with a Brethren Church locally on the Food Bank.

They do organize food collections in local supermarkets to collect as much as possible food for the needy ones. If we are well, we always go and minister with them.

We are extremely grateful to Father God in Christ Jesus that we are still OK, we are WELL and healthy, and that we still can minister in this crazy Covid time. Those TWO last years were very difficult for us! Huge restrictions, fear of the parents to send the kids to the club, so many sick people, many died.

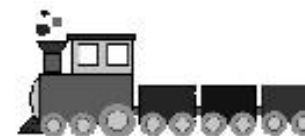
We just humbly PRAY, and we do TRUST to the Lord Jesus that one day all things will go back to normal. We HOPE!

We trust the Lord and we do PRAY and FAST for this year. We really wish to see that people are MORE OPEN for the Lord Jesus as their Savior. The spiritual situation in Czech Republic is very bad!

Our dear Beloved Brothers and Sisters, let us say our BIG and HUMBLE

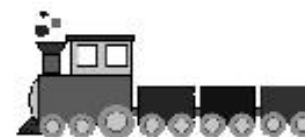



Sunday School Helper



Jesus answered, I am
the way and the truth
and the life. No one
comes to the Father
except through me.

John 14:6





CALDWELL BRETHREN CHURCH

401 South Main Street
(979) 567-7203

Sunday School
9:30 AM

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

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

Church email: lifecatbc@protonmail.com

Sunday Worship
10:30 AM

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

www.lifecatbc.org

Come as you are . . .

Friend us on Facebook!

Sin keeps us from God. But God sent Jesus to fix that. Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead for us. He became our way, our ticket to heaven, when we put our faith in Jesus. Jesus wants us On Board! He wants us to follow Him!

been a huge blessing to our ministry. We are extremely thankful and grateful for your generosity and faithfulness to our ministry. We are working hard to get new social media posts out at least every week now that our internet is back up and running in the village. I understand that Covid has affected the Unity as well, and we recognize that. We humbly ask the board to consider our ministry this year. We have always been willing to receive what is in the heart of all our donors. Our budget for 2022 is \$29,720. That includes:

Rent:	\$9,220
Food:	6,000
Gas/car:	2,160
Ministry:	2,400
Travel (US and documents):	6,500
Education:	2,000
Communication:	1,440

We have been living in Juquila for eight years now. Our ability to share Jesus grows every year that we are here. People seek us out for spiritual advice and every other type of advice as well. The seeds are planted, and we are seeing some begin to sprout. Pray for Nahum to keep growing in Christ and that he may bring alongside him others that we have been trying to reach over the years. Our goal has always been to bring a church to Juquila from within its own people. We are getting closer to that goal. Blessings to all of you and thank you for your support. We will see you soon!

Blessings,
Phil Raiford

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH for your kindness, prayers, love, friendship, open hearts, and mainly for your FINANCIAL SUPPORT, which means so, so much for us.

Thanks to you and your generous support we can continue, we can go "ahead" in the ministry. We humbly pray for you, for your Families, for your dear Churches and Members. BIG, BIG THANK YOU that you still do remember the Czech/Moravian heritage and roots through your love, ministry, and support.

May our Lord Jesus Christ richly bless each of you abundantly! Humbly with Love and Prayers,

Yours, Pavel and Stania Kozak

From the Raiford's

January 29, 2022

Hello, I hope all of you are having a good start to the new year. It has been really cold here. As I write this,



I am wearing a jacket and wool socks to keep warm. We are looking forward to our visit this summer with you all, but for now we have an update on the last few months.

First, Covid has turned our world upside down for sure. One of the major issues we have dealt with is that our children are still not in school. Eunice and I are not naturally gifted teachers for young kids, and it has been stressful teaching our kids from home and maintaining our ministry duties. Oaxaca does not have plans to return to classes until possibly next year. We have been making it work and are getting used to the new schedule. Also, alongside Covid we have had an unusual amount of rain this past year which made travel even more difficult. The dirt roads outside of town frequently collapsed and we were stuck in the village for months at a time. Thankfully, we thought ahead



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

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because of Covid and had bought large amounts of medicine for possible Covid surges. Those surges did not come to our town until this fall.

September saw a big wave of cases (the first we had seen) and tore through our village. Eunice was flooded with patients because the government clinics were not seeing Covid patients out of fear, and private clinics that are hours away were charging extreme amounts to see patients. Only rich people were being treated at those hospitals, costing thousands of American dollars for a short stay. She was left with the entire burden of treating patients from Juquila and the other surrounding villages. Eunice was extremely courageous and treated all the people who came to our clinic. Of all the people she treated, none of them died. She had been talking to other doctors about treatments and we had found what works. She personally treated over 25 patients old and young. She was out all hours of the day and night checking up on patients because they could not leave their houses. Eunice worked tirelessly for this community, and we are extremely proud of her. In our village only four people died of Covid, all of whom were older and refused treatment. Eunice and I were finally fully vaccinated in November with the Astra Zeneca vaccine (mostly used in Eu-

rope). It was the only one available to us.

Our ministry has had to adapt as well during the last year. Like everyone, we had to meet in smaller family gatherings and try to do more things outside. Eunice has become a great comforter to many families, encouraging them through this tough time of illness. I have been able to continue work with my friends because all of them work outside already. This past year has been some of the most fruitful times in a long while. God has really blessed me with a great friend and disciple named Nahum. Since we met it has been amazing to see how and why God brought us together. Not only did Nahum ask God to meet me, but put on his heart to serve others in the same way our ministry works to serve this community. He has had a vision to create a cattle ranch that works differently than the traditional ones here in Oaxaca. He comes from a ranching family, but his family has always rejected his new ideas. I have been working for years helping develop new ways for people to do jobs that already exist. Some have worked and others have not, but now I have a disciple that looked for me and my knowledge without knowing that developing new businesses was my passion and ministry. God is good! We have been working together for the last nine months and things are going great. Every day working together, we

share about trusting God and putting our faith in Him. Nahum shares my ministry vision in making this business a place where young men can come to work, learn about God, and provide for their family. We both want this ranch to be an example of the community and share in its blessings. His heart is open to God and he is sharing that with his family and with the young men we work with. This year we also expect to see our work on the ranch grow. We have a network of about 6 men who work on and off for us, and this year we would like to see at least two of them work with us full time. I have found that to reach men you must work alongside them, and we are creating a business that can grow with others and allows for a lot of discipleship time. Over the years we have seen that there is no better way to disciple in these villages than by working with men in their field of work. Where else do you get eight hours of time with people to share Christ and show them how Christian men speak and act. We are able to meet so many people doing this kind of work: farmers, field workers, cattle distributors, and all types of retailers for supplies. Our attitude and Christian nature do not go unnoticed. I am thankful for Nahum and his serious commitment to bringing this vision of a truly Christian life to reality here in Juquila. He will make a great leader for his people one day.

As we say often, everything we do, we do for the Lord!

2022 will hopefully look more normal than the past couple of years. Right now, we are securing all of the documents needed to travel to the US and see all of you in person. Eunice is waiting on her visa, and we still need to renew passports for the kids. Everything in government has been backed up and we are still waiting on just getting an appointment. We have been calling for the last few months and they just keep telling us to call back. We really want to visit you all this summer since it will have been three years since our last visit. We trust in God that all our travel plans will work out. However long it takes, we will see you in 2022.

Eunice and I are also working on a cooking ministry, where we cook food and teach others how to cook and sell that food in the village. It is a fun ministry for us, and it gives practical skills to our neighbors. So far, we are doing pizzas, Chinese rice, and cheeseburgers. Everyone loves our Chinese rice. Our kids are also out selling Jell-O and cupcakes to make a little extra money. It is never too early to learn good principles about money and hard work.

Our budget has not changed in the last few years. The Unity has always



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