

HUS CAMP 2021

NEWSLETTER



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Unity of the
Brethren



Remodeled Camp, Remodeled Lives!

Tommy

In the past 40 plus years that Donna and I have been privileged to be at the Hus Encampment either as campers, Counselors, and/or Directors of the various conferences and Hus School there are a myriad of memories of those experiences. Some of the things I remember are: turtles in the pond; skunks on the road (and spraying some of our joggers!); "rounding up" jackrabbits on the baseball field with the Hus Bus; scorpions on the walls; birds building a nest and laying their eggs in a pair of Levi jeans because they were left on the clothes line too long to dry; trips to the skating rink in Rockdale; the ringing of the bell (whenever the clapper and even the bell itself weren't missing because someone had "borrowed" it); the great meals (with or without "get your elbows off the table" being sung); and spending a week of Donna's and my honeymoon as counselors at a conference...she in the girl's dorm and I in the boy's.

But the memories that mean the most are the vespers by the pond. We gathered on the shore around a campfire. The lighted cross on the opposite side reflected its image on the water and into our lives. It was there most of us felt the nearness of Christ and the love of God. We prayed, we sang, and we were offered the opportunity to make our first profession of faith or renew a previous commitment. Lives were remodeled!

That is why the remodeling of the Hus Encampment is so significant to me. The physical remodeling of the Hus Encampment kitchen and main building into something new and exciting is a testimony of what has happened to so many of us spiritually. Lives that were stale and in some cases broken were remodeled and re-purposed and made new through Christ! That is what has happened to so many lives because of the Hus Encampment program. I know because it happened to me.

II Corinthians says: "Anyone who is joined to Christ is a new being; the old is gone, the new has come." (GNB) It happened to me in the 1960's. My entire life was remodeled and re-purposed at a Winter Youth Retreat. I accepted Christ into my life and was made new! I was given a purpose and direction for my life that remains to this day.

Now we look forward to continued remodeling of the Hus Encampment facilities and of the lives of the many who will attend there. May the Lord bless our efforts!

Donna

Have you seen Jesus, my Lord.... He's here in plain view...

That was my experience at the Hus Encampment the first time I was asked to share my relationship with Christ to a group of campers. I felt Jesus was so close, I could touch Him.

The Hus Encampment bears the fingerprints of the pastors, leaders, and campers who have worshipped, worked, and played there for over 60 years. Each one's touch has served to make the Hus Encampment the spiritual haven that it is. It's where children and youth are led to Christ. It's where life-long friendships are formed. It is the backbone of our denomination.

Submitted by Rev. Tommy & Donna Tallas



Rev. Tommy & Donna Tallas
Pastor Wall Brethren Church



Donna Huser Tallas
A Member of the Hus School Class of 1964
From Granger Brethren Church



Thanks To You We Did It !!!
Renovation of the Main Building Complete



**Give thanks
to the LORD,
for he is
good; his
love endures
forever.
Psalm 107:1**



Precious Memories LaNelle & Frank McKay

Hus School and the Hus camp entered our lives when LaNelle attended the 9 week long Hus School held for the second time at the Hus Encampment during the summer of 1958 after her sophomore year of high school. A few years later, during our courtship, I attended a meeting at the camp when she was state BYF secretary. One of the songs at that meeting was "I Am Not Skilled to Understand." I've instructed my daughter to have that song at my funeral. Later, after we married, she returned as a counselor for the Jr. High camp led by her cousin, Rev. Glenn Jurek and his wife, Robbie in 1968. Unfortunately, she had to leave on Monday after the camp started due to having strep throat.

A few years passed and Brother Dan Marek asked if we would serve as counselors, but we didn't even answer him. Later, Marvin and Alice Chlapek and Ruben and Mary Dean Molina asked us to be counselors and LaNelle pressured me into accepting for the Pioneer Conference in 1970. Thus began our ties to the camp as we served as co-directors with Rev. Eugene and Pearl Kotrla in 1971 at the Jr. High Conference. We subsequently served as co-directors with Marvin and Alice Chlapek, Pat and James Jones, Charles and Mary Londa, and Kenneth and Teresa Long, for the camp years from 1972 through 1983 for a total of 13 summers—mostly at the Pioneer Conference.

"LaNelle and I have looked back on our years at camp as the most fun and enjoyable times in our marriage."

At this point in life, it is difficult to choose those times that stand out since there were so many good and great moments at camp. The many friendships that we made with campers, counselors, other directors, pastors, cooks, maintenance personnel, and parents stand out in our memories of a week long immersion living as Christians with no interruptions of news or radio or TV distractions. We fished, played sports, studied, put on skits, prayed, had devotions nightly, served food, cleaned, and made commitments to Christ. The Thursday night devotions stand out as the campers and counselors became more committed to Christ.

Camp always began on Sunday afternoon when the campers arrived. Games of introduction were played and folks got to know one another. Monday began with morning devotionals, flag raising, room cleaning, and classes. Monday night we had a walk to the railroad tracks and on the way back, the "ghosts" always seemed to show up at the cemetery. Part of the camp life that the campers always seemed to enjoy was the "Little Rascals" silent movies that were shown. Afternoons led to "rest time" and craft work. Nightly devotions were always meaningful.



One year when we had a record number of campers it rained the entire week. The sandy soil at the camp was a blessing as the water didn't stand. All of our normal outdoor activities were held inside the main building. Mrs. John Baletka washed camper's clothes the entire Thursday night so that the campers went home with dry clothes.

From time to time a camper would arrive who had never spent the night away from home. We would do all we could to encourage them to stay and give it a try. The most discouraging part of our job was when we failed and the camper left early.

When we arrived home after a week at camp, we slept late on Saturday morning. It took a while to recover.

LaNelle and I always felt that we were privileged to be asked to serve as directors and after a period of time began to feel that we had run our course and it was time to hand the reins over to fresh blood. After a few years when I retired, I thought that maybe I could help the directors by coming to the camp and being a "go-fer" i.e. someone who could go get the mail, help in the kitchen and other duties that would free the directors.

Now in our declining years, we look with gratitude on the service being done for the Unity and the Camp by the former campers. We take pride in the service we see being carried out by those we once worked with and for. Many of our former campers are now grandparents and are continuing the tradition.



LaNelle & Frank McKay
members of Crosby Brethren Church





2021 Summer Camps & Ministry Team

"And whatever you do,
do it with kindness and love."

-1 Corinthians 16:14



Encounter Camp

THEME Built to be Awesome
SCRIPTURE: "For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything."
 - Hebrews 3:4

DIRECTORS

Susan Neal
 Leslie Kinnibrough
 Lance LaBedelle
 Collin Weise

PASTOR

Michael Groseclose

NURSES

Connie Janac
 Sarah Gallander

RUNNERS / HELPERS

Elizabeth Odom
 Shauna Owens
 Whitney Riley

FEMALE STAFF

Leah Snelgrove
 Kaylee Herd
 Abbey Gleinser
 Allie Snelgrove
 Kerrigan Hooker
 Riley Green
 Leah Mlcak

MALE STAFF

Colton Machu
 Philip McSorley
 Carter Tankersley
 Buddy Michna
 Trevor Wuensche
 Alan Haisler

COOKS FOR ALL CAMPS Maria Sanchez, Bertha Arguello, Yadira Mercado



Alpha Camp

THEME Alphalympics
SCRIPTURE "The Armour of God."
 - Ephesians 6:10-18

DIRECTORS

Jenn Chervenka
 Ben Wilde
 Krystal Wilde
 Taylor Brinkley

PASTOR

Brad Herridge

NURSE

Renea Williams

DIRECTORS IN TRAINING

Abby Gleinser
 Philip McSorley

FEMALE STAFF

Johanna McKay
 Jessica Chervenka
 Annabelle Denise
 Riley Green
 Rayle Eilers
 Karley Powell
 Jacelyn Chervenka
 Elizabeth McCormick

MALE STAFF

Micah Stewart
 Trent Wuensche
 Tanner Murrow
 Joshua Green



PIONEER CAMP

THEME **Arms of God**

SCRIPTURE "The Lord will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God."
- Isaiah 52:10



DIRECTORS

Patrick McSorley
Bethany McSorley
Kayla Marek

FEMALE STAFF

Rebecca Olson
Allyson Cocke
Leah Constanza
Lindsey Olsen

PASTOR

Ryan Volkman

MALE STAFF

Alan Haisler
Sean McSorley
Philip McSorley
Trevor Wuensche

NURSE

Connie Janac

RUNNERS / HELPERS

Jon Farrow
Abbey Gleinser
Don Bagby
Laurie Bagby



DISCOVERY CAMP

THEME **Battling Giants**

SCRIPTURE "Don't be afraid or discouraged because of this vast Army. For the battle is not yours, but Gods."
- 2 Chronicles 20:15



DIRECTORS

Kathryn Laza
Matt Wilde
Carolyn Thompson
Travis Hejl

MALE STAFF

Ryan Volkman
Colton Machu
Riley Milberger
Colby See

PASTOR

Dale Weise

NURSE

Gwen Kraus

RUNNERS / HELPERS

Amy Snelgrove
Taylor Hejl

FEMALE STAFF

Carlee See
Michelle Rios
Allyson Cocke





2022 State BYF Youth Retreats

Make plans now to attend a variety of youth functions at Hus Camp...

January 21-22 (Age) 6th Grade & Up

February 26 (Age) 5th Grade & Below

July 9-10 (Age) 6th Grade & Up

2022 Hus Camp Summer Camp Schedule



Alpha
Ages 10-11
JUNE 26-30



Pioneer
Ages 12-13
JULY 17-22



Discovery
Ages 14-15
JUNE 12-17



Encounter
Ages 7-9
JUNE 21-23



Challenger
Ages 16-19
JULY 10-15

Celebrating our Hus School heritage



Hus School Class of 1971

Row 4 Eddie Holik, Jr. (Wall), Mark Labaj (Austin), Alfred Boudny, Jr. (Rosenberg), Rev. Eugene Kotrla, Jim Baletka (Austin), Keith Brinkman (Dallas), Nelson Mikeska (Nelsonville), Larry Marek (Austin)

Row 3 John Hajdik, Jr. (Houston), John Marek (Pasadena), Roland Chupik (Houston), Henry Rubach (Houston), Alan Laza (Wall), Kenneth Talasek (Dallas), Darwin Dusek (Wall), Gary Motl (Houston)

Row 2 Carl Peiper, Jr. (Rosenberg), Mrs. Judy Maly, Ginger Maly, Rev. Milton Maly, Michael Maly, Rev. John Baletka-principal, Mrs. Joyce Baletka, Rev. Tommy Tallas, Mrs. Donna Tallas, Christa Tallas, Wesley Springer (Pasadena), Alan Macik (Rosenberg)

Front Row Theresa Schiller (Temple), Martha Polasek-Huffman (Caldwell), Ablina Holik (Wall), Kathy Simcik (Wall), Shirley Michalik (Wall), Bill Baletka, Cyndi Watipka (Crosby), Debra Ruzicka (Buckholts), Peggy Vasek (Temple), Carol Kretschmar (Buckholts), June Anderson (Taylor) **Not Pictured** Mary Schiller (Temple)



Hus School Class of 1921

Row 3 Albina Labaj-Voznický (Granger), Olga Zabcik-Bedrich (Dcker), Mathilda Machalek-Porter (Buckholts), Milady Matyastik-Orsak (Buckholts), Annie Zabcik-Marchak (Dcker), Lillie Rypel-Machacek (Cistern)

Row 2 Henry Skrabanek (Granger), Edwin Sebesta (Snook), Ben Chlapek (Seaton), Henry Labaj (Granger), Joe Mikulencak (Granger), Will Hejl (Seaton), Bertha Mikulencak-Coombes (Granger)

Front Row Vlasta Slovacek (Snook), Mathilda Marek-Juren (Dcker), Rev. Hegar, Rev. Barton, Hermina Trlica-Lehman (Granger), Marie Martinets-Holubec (Granger) **Not Pictured** Fannie Zabcik (Dcker)

The Impact

of Hus Camp



BY ANNABELLE DENISE

OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH
HUS SCHOOL CLASS OF 2021

"I THINK THAT IT IS SAFE TO SAY THAT BEING AT THE HUS ENCAMPMENT HAS FULLY CHANGED MY LIFE."

I began as a camper at Pioneer Camp six years ago, and have continued my camp journey through Discovery Camp, Challenger Camp, and finally Hus School. I have also had the wonderful privilege of serving as a Counselor-in-Training and this summer, a counselor. The experiences have been amazing, and I have made lifetime friends.

Camp has given me a full understanding of God and his wondrous works. Before Pioneer camp, I was not educated or religious at all. I was invited by a friend to attend camp for the first time when I was 11 years old. The only thing that came to my mind was a normal and stereotypical vision of a summer camp where I wouldn't fit in because I didn't know God, the Bible, or have friends there. That made me nervous, but I would soon learn that I was mistaken. Camps at the Hus Encampment were different.

My first year at Pioneer camp warmed me up and introduced me to God. It was a little confusing at first, considering I barely knew anything about the Bible. It all made sense when I learned about the miracles and stories that Jesus did. Being a camper opened my eyes to God's Word and made me a good listener, as I want to know more. It also made me want to become a better person. I saw everything that took place in my life and connected it to God. It was all part of God's plan for me. The hardships that I have endured have only made me the stronger person that I am today. Taking my friend's offer and going to church camp with her was honestly the best decision I could've made.

As the years have passed, camp has become part of me. I think being at camp is the place that I feel the most connected to God. Everything has such a welcoming feeling to it. The worship, the food, and even the dirt beneath my feet feels different from anywhere else. I also found it a little funny that I could never take a nap

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anywhere else except the camp. I could even say that the camp is my second home. Camp has helped me shed my shy self and form bonds with not only God, but many friends that I hope I know for the rest of my life: my camp family.

This summer I attended Hus School. It was such an amazing experience! I learned about our denominational history, and even more about Christian leadership and service. Part of our experience was putting together a VBS for the Good Shepherd Moravian Church and traveling to Port Arthur to share the love of God with their children. After Hus, I served as a counselor at Alpha Camp where we worked with children ages 10-11. Showing these children, and even myself, the grace of God was such a blessing! It was a summer I will never forget. Also, being a counselor has really taught me how to become a leader and connect with others. Being able to enlighten kids and help them begin a journey with Christ has always given me a good feeling. It's crazy to see that I was around that age when I started to learn about God, and now I'm teaching others to follow in Jesus's footsteps.

Being at camp and attending Hus School has definitely helped me understand the foundations of the Hus Encampment and of myself. Camp has taught me how to look at the Bible and see a masterpiece instead of an old book. Camp has taught me how to break bread with the ones around me. But most importantly, Camp taught me how to build my faith in God and let him have all my worries and fears. I've learned to love myself and the ones around me thanks to the camp. It's honestly hard to go a day without saying even a small prayer to God. I still know that I have a long way to go, but I hope that my faith only continues to grow. The Hus camp will always be a safe place for me, and I hope that I can continue my involvement in the future. Perhaps, I can lead camps as a director and be an even bigger part of the camp than I am now.

Hus School Class of 2021

Training the Spiritual Leaders of Tomorrow



Back: Trent Wuensche, Brayden Micha, Jacelyn Chervenka, Riley Green, Joshua Green, William See
Front: Jaiden Beasley, Allie Snelgrove, Karley Powell, Anabelle Denise, Trevor Wuensche
Director: Jennifer Chervenka ♦ Staff: Dillon Barbisch, Jordan Barbisch, Taylor Brinkley, Connie Janac



PORT ARTHUR GOOD SHEPHERD MORAVIAN CHURCH BIBLE SCHOOL
LEAD BY HUS 2021



“For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. -Isaiah 55:12



Hus Camp Stewardship

Hello all! I am responsible for the facilities and grounds at the Hus Encampment. I am constantly updating my list of maintenance items, repairs, and improvements at the camp. I want to take this opportunity to tell you about some of my obvious projects at the camp, and some of which you may not know about.

If you have visited the camp recently, you know the newly renovated building looks great. However, the drainage around it still needs work. I will be fixing it by installing several area drains between the main building and classroom over the next few months. This should mitigate the erosion and the standing water between the sidewalks. Then, I will work on redirecting the water as needed.

Did you know that the camp operates our own water system? I test the water weekly and submit a sample to a laboratory monthly. This fall, I want to bring the new pump house online to replace the tiny shed and old equipment that the camp has been using. The water will still be from the same well, but the reliability of the delivery system will be much improved.

The picnic tables have fallen on hard times. I have had help at various times with replacing boards, but now some of the frames have weakened from rust damage. I would really like to see the camp purchase 8 new commercial grade tables coated in thermoplastic. They would be virtually weatherproof, but I would still store them under various roofs in the off season to keep them in top condition. The problem is, they cost about \$900 each. If you have been wanting to make a donation where you can see exactly where the money is spent, this may be a good option.

As far as the grounds are concerned, I have a new initiative I want to tell you about. I am going to start planting butterfly gardens. These are areas of native plants chosen for their ability to attract butterflies. These will not be highly manicured. My goal is for most of the native plants to get established and require little care other than trimming each fall and a little reseeding. To attract monarchs each year, I may have to mulch, fertilize, and reseed more. Once the gardens are established, we can even get certified as an official Monarch Waystation. I think this will bring much enjoyment to young and old alike, while helping some of God's creatures that are struggling with habitat loss.

In Christ,

Alan R Haisler
Facilities Manager





A Message from the Hus Camp Board of Trustees

“Watch to see where God is working and join Him in His work.”

—Experiencing God by Henry Blackaby (LifeWay Press ©2014)



2020-2021 Board Members

Kent Laza,
Chairman

Jennifer Chervenka

Susan Marek

Angie Labaj Dolan

Tami Laza

James Marek

Ben Wilde

Rick Weise

As we approach the end of 2021 and reflect on recent events at Hus Camp, it is an understatement to say that it was merely a busy year. The second phase of construction on the Main Building began in December 2020 and was completed in May 2021, just as the camping programs were set to begin. While we had a few minor growing pains as we moved into the new building, we were able to easily adjust and move directly into the camping season.

Hus Camp hosted 135 campers in 2021 through the five camping programs we offer. The numbers are beginning to rebound from our low last year of about 100 during the Covid crisis. We experienced larger numbers of young campers at Encounter and Alpha Camps this year which is a positive sign that our attendance at the older camps should also improve in the coming years. The Board of Trustees wishes to thank the directors, pastors, counselors, nurses, cooks, helpers, babysitters, and others who made the camping programs a success once again. These are the front-line people who are leading our youth in their walk with God while at Hus Camp.

On July 9th, the Unity held its 69th Biennial Convention at Hus Camp. This was the first time in the history of the Unity that its convention was held here. It was a one-day event attended by approximately 100 people that gave all who came an opportunity to see the new facilities. One of the special guests that day was Mrs. Joyce Baletka who was able to come for lunch and participate in the singing of Hoj Verni v Boj. For those who may not know, Mrs. Baletka and her husband, Rev. John Baletka, were the pioneers who had the idea for Hus Camp at its current location and oversaw its construction in 1956. Together they managed the facility for the Unity until the early 2000's.

Historically, Hus Camp has been supported by the Unity and many generous donors. The Board wishes to thank all of them for their ongoing prayers and financial gifts. Over the past four years much of that support has been directed toward the initial two phases of the Capital Improvement Program, which raised approximately \$1M.

As we catch our breath from that work and begin to develop plans for the next phase, we once again need to focus our attention on the annual operating expenses of the facility.

Currently, revenue sources supporting the Hus Camp include donations, camper fees, approximately \$6,000 in oil revenue, and an annual contribution of \$11,000 from the Brethren Fund. As operational expenses outpace income by about \$13,000 annually, the Board has drawn upon reserves over the past few years to cover this deficit. But it is not a policy that we can continue much longer. In order to maintain low camper registration fees, and a healthy operational account, we are asking that our supporters redirect donations back to the Operating Fund until such time that we are ready to initiate a fundraising effort for the next phase of construction. For anyone who wishes to make monthly contributions, the Board has set up an automatic payment system that sends money directly to the Hus Camp account. All that is necessary is to complete the accompanying form and send it to Susan Marek at the address shown.

Hus Camp continues to serve its ongoing mission of providing a Christian setting where people of all ages can gather and experience God's Kingdom. This has been the fundamental goal since its inception over 60 years ago and it has touched thousands of lives since that time. The Board thanks all who have contributed their time, talent, and treasure toward this wonderful place, and we ask that you continue to lift it up in your thoughts and prayers as together we move forward.

**Kent Laza, Chairman
Hus School Board of Trustees**

Support HUS Camp 4 ways to give

1. **Recurring Monthly Donation** - fill out and mail the form below to Susan Marek
2. **One Time Donations** - mail checks to:

Susan Marek
1304 T H Johnson
Taylor, Texas 76574
3. **Online Donations** - make donations via credit card at **huscamp.org**
4. **Planned Giving** - Designating Hus Camp as a beneficiary in your estate allows you to determine how your gift will be utilized. To evaluate ways your gift can specifically be designated to support Hus Camp as part of your final wishes, please contact:

Kent Laza (979)220-1957 kent.laza@verizon.net ♦ James Marek (512)352-6165 james.marek@cnbt.bank ♦ Rick Weise (325)656-2620 weise.rick@aol.com

All donations help in maintaining low Hus Camp registration fees, while providing a safe environment for youth and young adults to learn and grow in Christ.
No child is ever turned away for failure to pay.

Hus School Encampment Monthly Contribution Authorization Form

I hereby authorize a monthly withdrawal from my checking account for the benefit of the Hus School Encampment. My contribution is the tangible demonstration of my support for the Encampment and the ministry it continues to provide. Please debit account # _____ in the amount of \$ _____ on the ____ day of each month. My bank's routing and transit number is _____ and the name of my bank is _____ located in City _____, State _____.

I will contact the treasurer of the Hus School Encampment should I ever want to discontinue my recurring financial support.

Name of Contributor

Signature of Contributor

Contributor Email address

Contributor Telephone Number

Please mail this completed form to:

Susan Marek, Treasurer
1304 T H Johnson
Taylor, Texas 76574

**HUS CAMP: A PLACE WHERE
LIFELONG FRIENDS ARE MADE**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!





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CONTACT US

FACILITIES Kent Laza (979) 220-1957 | kent.laza@verizon.net

DONATIONS James Marek (512) 352-6165 | james.marek@cnbt.bank
Rick Weise (325) 656-2620 | weise.rick@aol.com

PUBLICATIONS If you would like to update your contact information, be added to the Hus Camp Publications, or be removed from the mailing list, please email Rick Weise at weise.rick@aol.com.

PRAYER TEAM Support Hus Camp needs through prayer. Sign up by sending your name and contact info to Glenda Laza Moreland at husprayer@gmail.com.

ABOUT HUS CAMP

Hus Camp is a facility operated and supported by The Unity of the Brethren. The primary purpose of this facility is the advancement of the Kingdom of God on Earth according to the commandment of Jesus Christ. The programs offered by the Camp:

- **Seek** to challenge young people to respond positively to the good news of God's redeeming love,
- **Teach** and encourage young people to become Christian leaders, and
- **Provide** a place of wholesome Christian recreation.

The encampment offers summer programs for youth (ages 7-19). These camps lay a Christian foundation in which to build their lives, create lifelong friendships, and give kids a chance to experience what we think is a little glimpse of heaven on earth!