

HUS CAMP 2020

NEWSLETTER



*Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever.
Psalms 107:1*

WHAT'S INSIDE

- A Message from Hus Camp Board of Trustees
- Spotlight: The Camp Nurse
- Introducing Christ to "Tweens"
- Our 2020 Summer Camps & Amazing Ministry Team
- My Camp Experience
- Children & Youth Ministry Continued... At Hus Camp
- Those Who Came Before Us
- Flashback: Hus School Classes of 1920, 1970, 1995
- Exciting Things Happening At Hus Camp
- Support Hus Camp: Three Ways to Give

*Unity of the
Brethren*





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
- Todd Corporon
- Angie Dolan
- Tami Laza
- James Marek
- Todd Snelgrove
- Rick Weise

AS THE END OF 2020 DRAWS NEAR, one can't help but reflect on the events of the year and contemplate how they changed us. The COVID-19 virus has easily been the most significant source of change in our lives this year, most of which we view negatively but there are positives that have come from this experience as well. The same is true of the Hus Camp. When the year began, Hus leadership was making plans for another year of summer camps. All that changed in March when suddenly we were quarantined and began to realize that camps may not be allowed at all. In May, the Governor gave the green light for youth camps to open, and after much prayer and discussion the Board of Trustees made a bold decision to open our summer camps when most other events were being cancelled. The camps were rescheduled for July so appropriate safety measures could be developed and parents could have time to consider if their children should attend.

As most of you know, five camps were held this summer with no known incidents of COVID-19 infections. We served 104 campers this summer which is about two-thirds of our attendance last year. A great deal of thanks goes to our medical team leader, Connie Janac, for stepping forward to develop the safety protocols for check-ins, monitoring, meals and daily camper interactions. Thanks also goes to the directors, counselors, nurses and other staff for implementing and following these new protocols, many of which worked better than our normal procedures and will likely be used in the future.

As I write this article in early October, the Board has begun working with a contractor for Phase 2 improvements to the Main Building. Contracts are being negotiated and construction is anticipated to begin soon. Bids were higher than anticipated due to rapidly rising construction costs, but we are modifying our plans to match the funds we have and will postpone certain items that can be installed later. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I thank you for the generous support you have shown for this Building Program which led us to the point where we can undertake this project.

Following are some additional changes at Hus Camp over the past year:

- Caretakers Robert & Cathleen Schlechte have resigned from their position after many years of service.
- Alan Haisler has been hired as the Facilities Manager to oversee and maintain the campus.
- A cable fence has been added around the northeast open portion of the campus to improve security
- Several trees have been removed as a result of wind and disease including the large tree that fell on the pavilion at the pond during a windstorm. The pavilion has since been repaired.
- In a partnership with the adjoining property owner, a new fence behind the pond has been constructed.
- Several trees have been planted and trails have been made more accessible.

Lastly, Hus Camp operating expenses have steadily increased while revenue from camp tuitions and operating fund donations have slightly decreased. While recent shortfalls have been easily covered through reserve funds, this is not sustainable for a long period of time. In an effort to address the situation and keep camp tuition affordable for all, the Board of Trustees is seeking your continued prayer and support for both the Hus Camp Operating and Building Funds. Together, let's see that we carry on the camping tradition that has impacted so many of us throughout the years. Thank you!

**KENT LAZA, CHAIRMAN
HUS SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Camp Spotlight

NURSE CONNIE

Thanks be to God for His Hand of Safety over the 2020 Hus Camp Programs!



While often going about their work quietly and unnoticed, Hus Camp Nurses are truly an essential component of all our summer camp programs. These often unsung heroes work behind the scene closely watching over campers and staff. They check to make sure everyone stays hydrated in our extreme Texas heat, they provide medications as needed and patch up cuts and scrapes, they quickly respond to medical concerns, and yes, all too often, just provide a shoulder to lean on when someone's not feeling well, homesick, or having a bad day. They truly are God's angels of mercy for all campers and staff at the Hus Camp.

This year, unlike any other in the history of Hus Camp, our nurses were called to plan and carry out safety precautions to assist in protecting all those attending. With over 40 years of nursing experience and over 20 years of experience volunteering as a Hus Camp Nurse, Connie Janac, better known as "Nurse Connie" was called in to assist. At the request of Board of Trustees President Kent Laza, "Nurse Connie" coordinated the development and implementation of a plan that helped protect both campers and staff from COVID-19 concerns during all 2020 Hus Camp programs.

After reviewing all CDC guidelines and restrictions for operating a summer camp in 2020, Connie

and Kent assembled a team of Hus Camp experts consisting of Amy Snelgrove (Camp Program Director), Jennifer Chervenka (State Youth Director), Yadira Mercado (Camp Cook), and Tami Laza (Hus Board of Trustees) to assist in review and implementation of a plan allowing summer camps to move forward. As noted by Connie, "It was a challenge to implement a plan to keep everyone safe while still letting them be kids! We tried to give them as close to a normal camp as possible." After much prayer, a set of Hus Camp COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols were established, and a revised summer camp schedule was adopted by the Board of Trustees.

"THE STAFF AND CAMPERS WHO CARRIED OUT EACH DAY'S CLEANING AND SANITIZING PROTOCOL WERE AMAZING!"

Due to many prayers for safety, the work of this team, and the extra efforts taken by Directors, Counselors, Nurses, Kitchen Staff and Campers, Connie reported that "from check-in to check-out, things at Hus Camp went well, with only a few small bumps in the road. The staff and campers who carried out each day's cleaning and sanitizing protocol were amazing!"

When asked about her experiences at the Hus Camp, "Nurse Connie" noted, "For the last 20 years I have

had the privilege of volunteering at the Hus Camp. While nurses, medications and first aid treatments have changed through the years, the core need of seeing to the health and welfare of the campers and staff has remained the same. Each camp has its challenges: Encounter and Alpha have their homesickness, Pioneer and Discovery have all the bumps and scrapes, and Challenger and Hus are the ones I just get to enjoy! It is always a blessing to be of service at the Camp, a place to help and watch others grow in their faith. As camp nurse, I have the joy of helping those who are in need, whatever that may be, and I am thankful for the opportunity to do so. If you're not involved at the camp, I encourage you to become involved. There are many ways to do so, such as volunteering for summer programs or workdays, supporting financial needs in the capital and operating funds, and of course, the ongoing offering of prayer for the Hus Camp. I have stated it many times, but will gladly state it again, the blessings that I receive from serving at the Hus Camp are far greater than what I give. It is my prayer that our campers, staff, and each of you experience the same blessings and peace that I do each time I hear about, or set foot on the Hus Camp."

Connie Janac lives in Bryan, Texas and is an active member of the Snook Brethren Church.

INTRODUCING CHRIST TO "TWEENS"



BY LAURIE OLSEN BAGBY
PIONEER CAMP DIRECTOR

TIME IS A FICKLE THING. HOW CAN ONE DAY DRAG ON SO SLOWLY, YET THE YEARS FLY BY AS IF THEY HAD WINGS? Wasn't it just yesterday that I was a (very) homesick Pioneer camper, begging my mom to please let me come home? (she wouldn't). And now I look back on 50+ years of involvement with the camping program; from camper to Hus School student to counselor to director. What a journey it has been, and I hope it isn't over. That's the amazing thing about working for the Kingdom; no one is too young or too old. There's a place and a purpose for everyone. Please join me as I reflect on the journey that God has allowed me to take in service to Him.



My earliest memory of Camp is that of a homesick Pioneer camper, away from home for an extended period for the very first time. To say I began the week in misery is quite the understatement. I did beg to go home but my (wise) mother ignored my desperate pleas. She knew if she allowed it, I might never return. Thank goodness for her seemingly cruel decision! By the time Wednesday rolled around I was in the thick of all the activities, homesick no more. Fast forward about four decades, and that experience served me well. As a Pioneer director, I've always done everything in my power to keep a homesick camper from leaving; I knew he or she might never return. I might not have returned either, and I certainly wouldn't be writing these words now. Only God knows how He will work in our hearts and what the result will be.

I was never homesick again, and I, like many others, went through the camping program attending every session that was available. At that time, the only camps that were offered were Pioneer, Junior High (now called Discovery) and Hus School. The absolute best thing about Hus School was that it lasted for five weeks. What a blessing to be able to bond and grow spiritually with friends from previous camps. Remember, the only means we had available to keep in touch between summers was to.....write letters! Perish the thought that we might want to make a "long distance" phone call. Very few letters were actually written, so to be able to spend over a month with friends you knew from around the Unity was priceless. Hus School was where I developed a deep love for music and singing. As a result, worship time became an important and favorite component later as our Pioneer director team planned our weekly schedule. Ample time was always given to worship in song. Any camper who attended Pioneer between 2000 and 2019 can tell you that Mrs. Bagby LOVES worshipping with music!

Serving as a Counselor was a natural progression for me, as it still is for many attendees of the camping program. Attending as a camper and participating in leadership programs such as Hus School prepares you for the next step: counseling. The first time I counseled was at a Pioneer session, and I remember thinking, "This is just like being here as a camper, only better!" Meaning, it was every bit as meaningful and fun, with the added benefit of mentoring a roomful of young girls as they experienced the excitement, fun, and spiritual growth that a week at camp brings. There followed another stint or two at counseling; one summer as a newlywed with a husband who, although never having been a camper, dove in with enthusiasm. His ability to discern spiritual things and translate that into truths that young minds can respond to is truly a gift. His love for the camping program continues to grow, as does mine, as we see the importance of Kingdom Truths being delivered to youth in a manner that is customized to their level of understanding; not always attainable as they sit in a pew on Sunday morning. Camp is different than Church; the sole goal of camp programming is to meet kids where they are with Truth they can internalize.



THEN AND NOW, EACH OF THOSE CAMPERS IS THERE FOR A REASON. GOD HAS A PURPOSE AND A PLAN THAT HE WILL WORK OUT FOR EACH OF THEM.

The years passed, and no longer newlyweds, Don and I were approached by a church friend in the mid 1990's who needed some help with the camp she was directing. After discussing and praying about it, we felt it was time to move ahead in our service to the camping program. In the beginning, we served in a secondary capacity, but that soon changed, and for several years we found ourselves providing the primary planning and leadership roles for Pioneer Conference. During those years we were privileged to work with many amazing co-directors, pastors, and counselors. As a team, we strove to plan activities and lessons that would speak to the hearts and minds of the kiddos that came to us each summer. Then and now, each of those campers is there for a reason. God has a purpose and a plan that He will work out for each of them. I can't help but believe that He allowed me to experience the camping program as a camper and Hus School student to prepare me to eventually join the director team so that I could be a part of His plan for others.

The primary purpose of Pioneer Conference, as set forth by the Board of Trustees, is to introduce Christ to "tweens" so they will come to know Him in a personal way. Our team spent many hours through the years of our partnership praying, planning, and preparing for our week at Pioneer Camp, trusting and believing that God would take over and nurture the seeds we planted in the hearts of those campers. And nurture He has! We have witnessed many lives turned over to Him. God has now grown those tweens into maturity and adulthood, many of whom have joined us as CITs, counselors, director trainees, and co-directors, sharing in our efforts to further His Kingdom during a single week at a humble little campground that we call Hus.



2020 SUMMER CAMPS & MINISTRY TEAM

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”
-John 8:12



ENCOUNTER CAMP

THEME S'more Time For Praying
SCRIPTURE "Pray without ceasing."
 -1 Thessalonians 5:17

DIRECTORS
 Susan Neal
 Lance LaBedelle
 Kelsey Carr
 Selene Kellam

FEMALE STAFF
 Ashton Corporon
 Kaylee Herd
 Elizabeth Odum
 Jenna Snelgrove
 Leah Snelgrove
 Allie Snelgrove

PASTOR
 Bro. Michael
 Groseclose

MALE STAFF
 Nate Engstrom
 Kelton Hooker
 Colton Machu
 Buddy Michna

NURSE
 Connie Janac



ALPHA CAMP

THEME Wanna Taco 'Bout Jesus
SCRIPTURE "Then he said to them all:
 'Whoever wants to be my
 disciple must deny themselves
 and take up their cross daily
 and follow me.'"
 -Luke 9:23

DIRECTORS
 Jenn Chervenka
 Ben Wilde
 Krystal Wilde
 Taylor Brinkley

FEMALE STAFF
 Jacelyn Chervenka
 Anabelle Denise (CIT)
 Riley Green
 Grace Jungmann
 Sandy McAdams
 Johanna McKay
 Karley Powell (CIT)

PASTOR
 Bro. Larry Koslovsky

MALE STAFF
 Micah Stewart
 Trent Wuensche

NURSE
 Renea Williams



PIONEER CAMP

THEME My Lighthouse
SCRIPTURE *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*
—John 8:12

DIRECTORS
 Patrick McSorley
 Bethany McSorley
 Kayla Marek

PASTOR
 Bro. Ryan Volkman

NURSE
 Connie Janac

FEMALE STAFF
 Allyson Cocke
 Leah Constanza (CIT)
 Abbey Gleinser
 Rebecca Olson
 Lindsey Olsen (CIT)
 Carlee See

MALE STAFF
 Lex Dusek
 Jon Farrow
 Colton Machu
 Philip McSorley
 Sean McSorley



DISCOVERY CAMP

THEME Love God, Love People
SCRIPTURE *"Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.'"*
—Matthew 22:37-39

DIRECTORS
 Kathryn Laza
 Beck Gibbs
 Amy Snelgrove
 Mark Olsen

PASTOR
 Bro. Ryan Volkman

NURSE
 Connie Janac

FEMALE STAFF
 Kate Weise
 Ally Jordan
 Carolynn Thompson

MALE STAFF
 Travis Hejl
 Shane LaBedelle
 Riley Milberger
 Todd Snelgrove
 Collin Weise
 Matt Wilde



Challenger Camp

THEME Stronger Together
SCRIPTURE "He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."
 –Micah 6:8



DIRECTORS
 Jenn Chervenka
 Taylor Brinkley
 Dillon Barbisch

PASTOR
 Bro. Brad Herridge

NURSE
 Taylor Brinkley

FEMALE STAFF
 Deanna Hairrell
 Jordan Barbisch

MALE STAFF
 Dillon Barbisch



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



2021 HUS SCHOOL JUNE 20-JULY 2



In the event of unforeseen circumstances, all dates are subject to change.

2021 STATE BYF SUMMER RETREAT & VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

JULY 3-4

2021 HUS CAMP DATES

Mark your calendars today to attend one of our awesome summer camps!
 You can register online at huscamp.org starting January 1, 2021.



ENCOUNTER

Ages 7-9
JULY 5-7



DISCOVERY

Ages 14-15
JULY 11-16



PIONEER

Ages 12-13
JULY 18-23



ALPHA

Ages 10-11
JULY 25-29



My Camp Experience

SPENDING A PORTION OF THE SUMMER AT HUS CAMP HAS BEEN A PART OF MY LIFE FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER. My mom, Kimberly Corporon Stewart, attended Hus School growing up and loved it so much that she later became a Director along with my dad Curtis. During one of their early years directing, I was born just two months before the start of camp. I can honestly say that from my youngest days Hus Camp has been a part of my life.

As the kid of a camp director, I spent a lot of time watching the older campers, playing at the playground, causing a little trouble, but most of all, wishing I was old enough to be a camper. After what seemed like an eternity, I was finally old enough to attend Alpha and get a true taste of what it was like to be a “real camper.” From sleeping in the dorms to playing games and making new friends, I loved it all! And once it was over, I was sad to leave and couldn’t wait for Alpha the next summer, and Pioneer the summer after that.

As a week-long camp, Pioneer was where I was able to focus on understanding Jesus as my personal savior. During this camp, with the helpful guidance of my counselor, I accepted Jesus into my heart. It was a very important moment for me, and I still get emotional just thinking about it.



BY MICAH STEWART
ALPHA CAMP COUNSELOR

Moving on to Discovery, I found it different from my other experiences at camp, but in a good way. Everyone was older and able to understand what we were learning better. Things at camp were more serious yet also more fun, and Thursday night vesper, while emotional, is where hearts were changed. We learned the importance of ministering to others and even visited a local neighborhood park where we put our words into action through a children’s ministry program. It was exciting to see our faith in action as we learned the importance of giving back.

During Challenger, I also took on the responsibility as a first-year counselor in training (CIT) for Alpha camp. What I saw and learned that summer as both a CIT and camper, motivated me to continue my volunteer ministry service at the Hus Camp to this day.

At Hus School, I experienced two full weeks of what I would consider my favorite camp of all time. I learned about the history and heritage of the Brethren Church, how to prepare and present a sermon (which I actually presented during the 2019 Unity Convention), and that it is possible to play volleyball every single day for two weeks. What an amazing time!

In 2020, I once again had the privilege of serving as an Alpha Camp counselor. The excitement of sharing God’s story with a group of kids, while having a great time at Hus Camp, is something that just never gets old. Just as my Pioneer counselors inspired me, I hope that I can inspire the youth that I am blessed to work with each year. It is my desire that they not only accept Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior, but that as they grow, they too choose to share their faith by returning to the Camp as counselors themselves.

As a former camper and Hus School student (Class of 2019) I am thankful for the Hus

IT WAS EXCITING TO SEE OUR FAITH IN ACTION AS WE LEARNED THE IMPORTANCE OF GIVING BACK.

Camp, its programs, campers, supporters, and those who had the vision to establish it so many years ago. It is truly an amazing place where lives are changed, friendships are made, and future generations of Christian leaders are trained. It is my prayer that each camper who sets foot on the Hus Camp grounds will have the same wonderful life-changing experience that I have encountered there, experiences that transformed me into the Christian that I am today.

MINISTRY CONTINUED

At Hus Camp



JENN CHERVENKA

STATE YOUTH DIRECTOR

The decision to continue a summer camping ministry in the light of a pandemic was not an easy decision to make for our trustees. Seeking God's will through prayer, looking to state and local guidance, and taking a leap of faith, the summer camping program was pushed back into July, modified, and given the go. And the rest is history, so it is said. God turned the Hus Encampment into his mission field and lives were changed.

The number of camp participants was much lower than years past, but just as Jesus left the 99 to find one and bring him back safely, the trustees recognized the need for a safe place for our campers to connect with God. No matter the numbers, knowing that if only one life was changed, if only one heart was stirred towards the love of Jesus, the camp had fulfilled its purpose.

Rather than dwell on the significant decrease in the number of campers, programming directors found blessings in the ease of being able to social distance and keep areas and buildings disinfected. Schedules and activities were modified to allow time for cleaning and to allow smaller group participation. Moreover, the smaller groups led to a much more personal camping experience for all involved as there was a new level of intimacy within each camp family.

Camp family. Every year bonds are made between campers and staff as well as campers and their peers. Those bonds continue for years, sometimes for a lifetime. God made each of us for relationship. He made us first to have a relationship with Him, and then to have a relationship with one another. He made us first to have a relationship with him, and then to have a relationship with one another. We are made to be social creatures. We need to feel valued, supported, and loved. We need to know that we aren't alone in our struggles. We need encouragement. We need the wisdom of those who have already traveled the road we are on, and we need empathy and understanding from

those who are walking right beside us. We also need the opportunity to share our own experiences so that God can use those moments as witness to his all-encompassing love and mercy.

How great it was to be able to provide an environment for campers, elementary through senior high, to be able to share their fears, their frustrations, their confusion, and their anger! How great to be able to hear about their joy, their hope, their dreams, and their plans for the future!

How great as staff to be given the same environment and opportunities to share with one another! AND – how great to be able to point to God's word and God's promises and work together on how it applies to each of us!

God's word is alive and active. God's word is useful for teaching and rebuking. God's word is sharper than a double-edged sword. Looking at God's word together gives guidance and assurance, but it also allows us as individuals to find the things (thoughts, actions, speech, etc.) that we need to change. God's word doesn't change, even though the world around us does. Camp gives everyone the opportunity to talk about what is going on in the world around us and how we, as Christians, have our part in it. Camp provides a safe place to really dig in and openly discuss how God's word applies to the here and now.

Camp is a safe place for many: campers and staff. It provides a place to reconnect with God, to refocus on his word, and to relax away from the chaos of the world. Camp is a welcome escape. This summer, campers and staff were able to relax in the security of the camp and just be campers. They were able to fish, golf, ride bikes, craft, bake, play games, learn archery, and have fun and fellowship with one another without worry or fear. Campers were able to be campers.

And so, I want to say thank you. Thank you to the trustees for taking a leap of faith and allowing this ministry to happen this summer. Thank you to each of you who support the camp financially so that there is a safe place and means to provide this ministry. Thank you to each of you who support the camp with the power of prayer. Your prayers were heard; your prayers were answered; and God is still working in campers' lives even though camps have ended. The biggest thank you and the greatest praise to God who continues to work through volunteers of all ages and through the camping program to change lives and provide salvation for so many.

As this year treks on and another year is on the horizon, I am reminded that God never leaves us and never forsakes us. And though the world around us seems dark and despairing at times, there is a light. It's the light of Jesus! Just as it shone at camp this summer, it shines through each of us now: pointing to the author of hope, spreading joy and love, and leading those around us to salvation and a peace that surpasses understanding. THANK YOU FOR BEING THE LIGHT!

Those Who Come Before Us

THE STORY OF A STUDENT IN THE HUS SCHOOL CLASS OF 1920 AND HOW HE PUT HIS FAITH INTO ACTION



BY RICK WEISE

HUS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

In the summer of 1920, a young man named John E. Stefka was part of a 26 member Hus School class that assembled in Caldwell, Texas. His name is probably one that you have never heard of, and most likely you have no idea where he lived, what he did, or why he is mentioned in this article. Yet if you are reading this today, he and his wife Lydia, along with B. K. and Anna Trcalek, have most likely impacted your life or the life of someone you know in a very special way.

Born in Burleson County, Texas in 1904, John E. Stefka Sr. grew up on the family farm near New Tabor. Known for his tall stature, giving spirit and commanding presence, John was a hard worker and spent many days as a young man tending cotton and corn crops with his dad and brother. Additionally, the men regularly gathered lumber from a nearby family piece of land known as “The Woods.” At the age of 16, John attended Hus School which was held in the Caldwell High School Auditorium during the summer of 1920. Students from throughout central Texas were part of the class including Taylor, New Tabor, Cooks Point, West, Dime Box, Wesley, Snook, Caldwell, Shiner, Temple, Bellville, Ocker, and Ennis. It was during this time that John strengthened his commitment to Christ, perfected his skills as a Christian leader, and established a foundation that would sustain him for life. Instructors for the Hus School Class of 1920 were Rev. Joseph Hegar and Rev. Frank Horak.

In 1921, due to the death of his father, John was forced to quit school at the age of 17 and totally devote his attention to running the farm in support of his family. As noted by John’s daughter Lillie Bell Chafin, “His ability to persevere

CLASS OF 1920



FRONT ROW LEFT TO RIGHT: Edwin Jancik (Caldwell), John Mrnustik (New Tabor), John Stehlik (Ennis), Joseph Schovajsa (Ennis). ROW 2: Fannie Kamas (Wesley), Rev. Hegar, Mrs. Katherine Horak, Rev. Frank Horak, Sr., Milady Mrnustik (New Tabor), John H. Surovik (New Tabor), Lillian Marek (Ocker). ROW 3: Robert Fojt (Snook), Milady Prazak (Caldwell), Louise Schovajsa-Hruska (Shiner), Mary Maresh-Siptak (New Tabor), Lydia Drgac (Cooks Point), Libbie Sebesta (Snook), Clara Marek (Temple), Amalie Rubac-Cernosek (Snook), Albina Surovik-Krupala (Bellville), Frank Luksa (Snook). ROW 4: Marie Michalik (Taylor), John Skrabanek (New Tabor), Olga Luksa-Jez (Cooks Point), Walter Hegar (West), Kornelia Marek-Polasek (Dime Box), John E. Stefka (New Tabor), Alice Hruska-Fojt (Wesley), Adolph Horak (West).

during this time of extreme hardship was due to his firm Christian foundation. A foundation that was fostered not only by his parents, but by his regular attendance at church and participation in Hus School.”

In 1926 John married Lydia Sefcik in the New Tabor Brethren Church. The two remained in the New Tabor area where they farmed and raised a family of their own. John and Lydia were well known for their generosity, willingness to help neighbors, and commitment to the Church. In telling their story, daughter Lillie Bell Chafin noted that “mom and dad were sticklers about attending church, and strongly believed in the importance of spiritually training children.” As active members of the New Tabor Brethren Church and surrounding community, John and Lydia put their faith into action. John’s passion to train children in the Christian faith is seen through his service as a Sunday School teacher, and as Sunday School Superintendent for over 40 years. Additionally, he served on the New Tabor Board of Elders, on the Hus Camp Board of Trustees, and as a local Justice of the Peace. Lydia, known for her kindness and hospitality, took great joy in gardening, canning, and preparing and sharing family recipes. She regularly hosted meals for visiting pastors, organized domino parties for friends, sang in the church choir, and took an active role in the New Tabor Christian Sisters organization, where she was a charter member.

In the early 1950’s, when the Unity of the Brethren began planning for the construction of a permanent camp facility, a call was issued for assistance. It was at that time that John and Lydia Stefka decided to offer 14 acres of their land known as “The Woods” for the proposed new

“His ability to persevere was due to his firm Christian foundation. A foundation that was fostered not only by his parents, but by his regular attendance at church and participation in Hus School.”

Hus Camp site. Additionally, fellow parishioners from New Tabor Brethren, B. K. and Anna (Vavra) Trcalek, who owned adjoining property, offered an additional 3 acres to complete the current 17 acres of today’s Hus Camp. When asked why John and Lydia chose to make such a generous donation, daughter Lillie Bell Chafin simply noted “They were grateful for the many blessings they had received. The lands they were entrusted to care for had provided livelihood for their family, and this was another way for them to give back to God.”

While writing this article and reflecting on the lives of these individuals, I was reminded how each of our lives are affected by those who come before us. Like the Stefkas and Trcaleks, who put their faith into action, each of us have something to offer in support of the Hus Camp. Whether it be volunteering for programs, offering of prayers, or contributing financial support through cash, land, minerals or stock donations, the Lord uses each of our gifts to accomplish His purpose. And while we, like John, Lydia,

B. K., and Anna, may never see the full impact of our gift while on this earth, we trust in what the Bible tells us:

We are confident that God is able to orchestrate everything to work toward something good and beautiful when we love Him and accept His invitation to live according to His plan (Romans 8:28).



John and Lydia Stefka

While I am certain that these generous forebears had no idea how many lives their gift of land would touch, I am also confident that they gave their gift with a generous heart, trusting that the Lord would orchestrate something beautiful. How is the Lord calling you to be part of His ministry at the Hus Camp?

Flashback: Hus School Classes

CLASS OF 1970



FRONT ROW LEFT TO RIGHT: Mike Emery (Austin), Debbie Marek (Houston), Marie Surovik (Nelsonville), Connie Jasek (Crosby), Annie Polasek-Runnels (Caldwell), Pam Machalek (Temple), Pattie Hoot (Pasadena), Sandra Jurek (Pasadena), Nina Lednický (Snook), Elizabeth Pomykal (Wesley), David Zabcik (Temple), Mark Baletka (Austin). ROW 2: Donna Machann (Pasadena), Peggy Buls (Rosenberg), Brenda Plagens (Wall), Elaine Surovik (New Tabor), Jimmy Hejl (Temple), Alfred (Bubba) Boudny, Jr. (Rosenberg), Geraldine Dusek-Polasek (Wall), Susan Hejl (Houston), Paula Jeter (Temple), Beth Simcik (Wall). ROW 3: Ronnie Bravenec (Temple), Mrs. Judy Maly, Michael Maly, Rev. Milton Maly, Rev. John Baletka-principal, Mrs. Joyce Baletka, Mrs. Marie Marek, Rev. Daniel Marek, Rev. Tommy Tallas, Mrs. Donna Tallas, Gary Lancaster (Houston).

Class President: Mark Baletka, Vice President: Mike Emery, Secretary/Treasurer: Debbie Marek, Historian: Elaine Surovik.

CLASS OF 1995



FRONT ROW LEFT TO RIGHT: Heather Sanders (Taylor), Kelly Williams (Temple), Lindsey Tinkler (Wall), Jennifer Ashcraft (Seaton), Jennifer Kubala (Taylor), Kerri Niemeyer (West), Kourtney Moore (Taylor). ROW 2: Kevin Dusek (Wall), Tim Beasley (NewTabor), Charity Comstock (Wesley), Lisa Haag (Granger), Penny Batts (Wesley), Melody Piel (Temple), Andrea Martin (Wall), Matt Wilkinson (San Diego), Steven Polasek (1st Baptist-College Station), Darren Maly (Wesley). ROW 3: Spencer Srnensky (Taylor), Chris Martin (Rosenberg), William “Obie” Fuchs (Crosby), Eli Merz (Nelsonville), Angela Riemenschneider (staff-Wall), Douglas Polasek (Bryan/College Station), Matthew Huffman (Caldwell), Byron Hogan (Wesley), Chris Fojt (Snook), Curtis Hickman (Taylor). ROW 4: Paul Michalik (Temple), Melinda Michalik (Temple), Bro. Jimmy Hejl (Taylor), Joyce Koslovsky (Temple), Mike Kocian (West), Kim Stewart (New Tabor), Curtis Stewart (New Tabor), Bro. Skip Stutts (New Tabor). NOT PICTURED: STAFF: Bro. Mark Labaj (Temple), Bro. Milton Maly (Wesley), Dale Weise (New Tabor), Bro. John Baletka, Joyce Baletka, Bro. Larry Koslovsky (Crosby), Dr. Laura Lewis, Bro. Joseph Polasek (Bryan/College Station, Jim Weiderhold (New Tabor), Melissa Weiderhold (New Tabor), Becky Turner (Taylor). CAMPERS: Tonya Banker (Wesley), Jennifer Prasek (Crosby).

Class President: Kelly Williams, Vice President: Darren Maly, Historian: Charity Comstock.

EXCITING THINGS

HAPPENING AT HUS CAMP!

Main building renovation to begin soon!

Due to your generous support of Hus Camp and its Facility Improvement Capital Campaign, we have completed Phase A (Renovation of the Kitchen) and are now ready to begin construction on Phase B, Renovation of the Main Building!

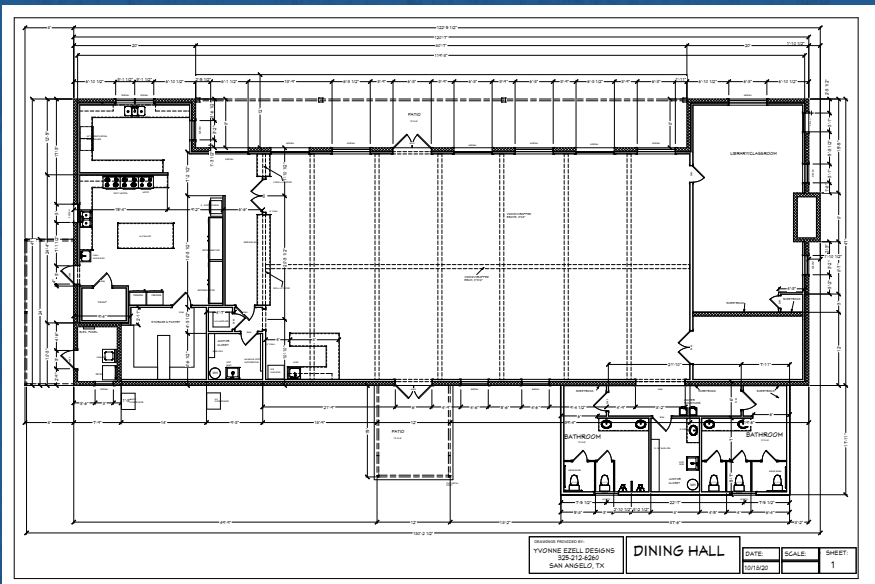
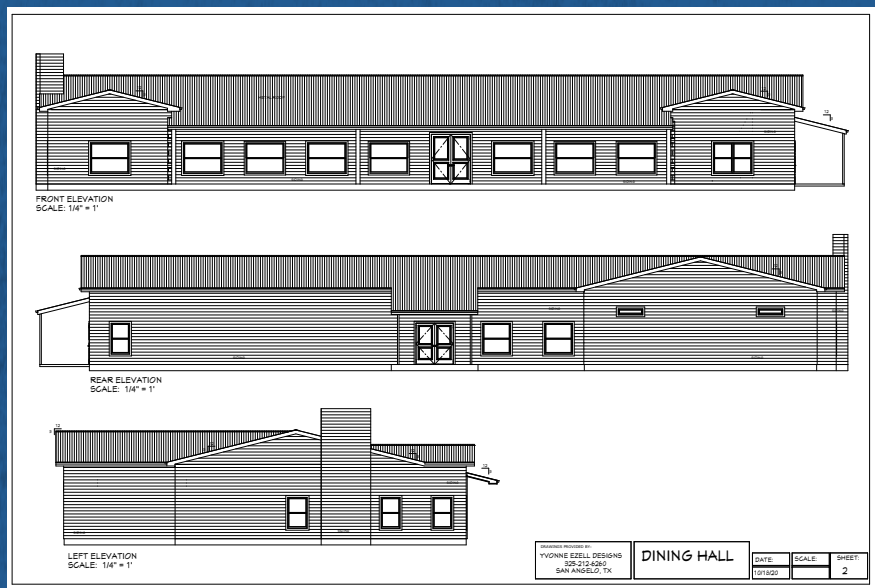
Complete renovation of the interior and exterior of the Main Building will begin this fall. The project is scheduled to complete before the 2021 camping season. As part of the renovation, we will be adding restrooms and audio/video technology to the facility. Through the addition of proper insulation, new windows, flooring and ceilings, energy efficiency within the building will be greatly improved. Exterior porches will be reconstructed, and the building's facade will get a fresh new look.

What's next? Phase C of our Facility Improvement Campaign will focus on Housing. Watch for more information to come as these plans are developed.

Thanks to you, we did it!



Learn more about our Main Building Renovation



SUPPORT HUS CAMP



3 WAYS TO GIVE

- 1 Make an **online donation** via credit card at huscamp.org.
- 2 Make a **recurring monthly pledge**. Go to huscamp.org and mail in the pledge form, or contact James Marek via email at marek1304@hotmail.com or by phone at (512) 352-6165.
- 3 Send a **one-time gift** using the adjacent donation form.

Donation Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Your gift may be applied to:

- **Hus Camp Operations** - 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.
- **Facility Improvement Fund** - Phase C of our Facility Improvement Capital Campaign will focus on new lodging facilities at the Hus Camp.
- **As Directed by the Hus Board of Trustees** - Please place my donation where it is needed most.
- **Hus Camp Operating Fund** as well as the **Facility Improvement Fund** help us strive to keep camps affordable for all.

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: Hus Camp

Mail to: Tami Laza, Hus Board of Trustees
4913 FM 166, Caldwell, Texas 77836

Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Hus Camp

A Place Where Lifelong Friends Are Made

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!





NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTIN, TX
PERMIT NO. 2222

3635 CR 225
Caldwell, TX 77836

HUSCAMP.ORG

CONTACT US

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

DONATIONS James Marek (512) 352-6165 | marek1304@hotmail.com
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 camp 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!