

ORDER OF SERVICE

September 25, 2022

Worship in Fellowship
Worship in Music
Worship in Message
Worship in Communion
Worship in Giving

Wayne Braudrick
Jeremy Mikeska

Assemble And Encourage

Hebrews 10 & 1 Corinthians 12

Activate Series

Life Change: We assemble with and encourage each other.

Confession: I would rather be alone beside a river.

Not assembling as some are in the habit of doing. Heb 10
Disconnection is an ethical issue.

Something about the communal religious experience seems to matter. Something powerful takes place there, something that enhances health and well-being; and it is something very different than what comes from solitary spirituality...Our research suggests that those who neglect to meet together (Heb. 10:25) likely miss something of the religious experience that is powerful, both for health and much else as well. The data are clear: Going to church remains central for human flourishing. – Tyler J. Venderweele & Brendan Case, “The Public Health Crisis No One Is Talking About”

It is not a new problem.

It is unhealthy for the person and the nation.

Not assembling as some are in the habit of doing.
It has little effect on churches committed to scripture.

Our connection in the body of Jesus is the answer. 1 Cor 12
Each Christian is incorporated.

Individualism is developed, not eroded.

Discouragement is rampant. Heb 10
Discouragement can lead to sin. Heb 3

It is not a new problem. Ps 42

It is unhealthy for the person and the nation.

Encouragement in the body of Jesus is the answer. 1 Cor 12
Peritethemi in 1 Cor 12:23 – to clothe in order to show hidden honor

Melos in 1 Cor 12:25-27 – members who need each other

Episynagoge in Heb 10:25 – group where each member fully develops

What exactly should we do?
Be a regular caregiver to self & others. Heb 12:12-13

Be a weekly worshipper. Heb 10:25

Be a daily encourager. Heb 3:13



ACTIVATE

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PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE

Frisco Bible



Sabinal River



Kevin
Middleton
Land of Magic
2014





courtesy Sara Freeman



courtesy Opa's Sausage



courtesy Marisa Pena

Sabinal River



Frisco Bible



Hebrews 10

24 And let us take thought of how to spur one another on to love and good works, ²⁵ not abandoning our own meetings, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and even more so because you see the day drawing near. ^{NET}

Hebrews 10

24 And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, **25** not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching. ^{CSB}



Hebrews 10

²⁵ not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching. ^{CSB}



Greek: ethos ἔθος = habitual way of living; a person's ethical pattern or rhythm that establishes their credibility or lack thereof

Hebrews 10

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Tyler Vanderweele
Professor of Epidemiology
at the Harvard T.H. Chan
School of Public Health



Brendan Case
Associate Director for
Research at Harvard
Institute for Quantitative
Social Science

The most common experience of Christians who don't go to church [involves] a substitution of habits. Put differently, a large share of Christians are opting to go it alone, moving their faith into quarters so private even the church isn't allowed in...About a third of "practicing Christians" [term developed by the Barna Group] have stopped joining corporate worship altogether during the pandemic, and this group reported higher levels of anxiety and depression than those still worshipping in some fashion. – Tyler J. Venderweele & Brendan Case, "The Public Health Crisis No One Is Talking About"

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**8 YEAR OLD KEVIN MCCALLISTER WAS LEFT HOME ALONE
FOR THREE DAYS AND HE STILL MADE IT TO CHURCH.**



SO, YES...

**YOU CAN
MAKE IT TO
CHURCH THIS
SUNDAY.**



Hebrews 10 was penned back in the 1st century. What could have been the cause for weekly decline in assembling habits in the 1st c? They didn't have kid's volleyball leagues or soccer games. They didn't deal with Covid-19 and lockdowns.



Hebrews 10

24 And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, 25 not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching. ^{CSB}

deconstruction

- Personal or social sin causes unrest in a Christian soul.
- Scripture is supposedly wanting/inappropriate/irrelevant for this modern dilemma.
- Missteps of churches in the past serve as proof that churches aren't "safe."
- The Christian decides that he knows better than God & God's people.
- He cuts himself off from the accountability of the assembly, relying on broader social guidance for development & concluding that the worship due God can be better rendered alone.

deconstruction

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Heb 10:25 **not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more  as you see the day approaching. ^{CSB}**

Greek: ethos ἔθος = habitual way of living; a person's ethical pattern or rhythm that establishes credibility or lack of it

Deconstruction

Heb 10:25 **neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing** ^{CSB}

- **Society and self are more trustworthy than the Bible.**
- **Leads to an ever-shrinking life & impact.**

Reconstruction

Php 2:12 **Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear.** ^{NLT}

- **Continually reworking understanding of life according to the Bible.**
- **Leads to an ever-increasing life & impact.**

Reduced Health Risks to Regular Attenders vs. Never-Attenders*

- 84% reduced risk of suicide.
- 29% reduced risk of depression.
- 50% reduced risk of divorce.
- 68% reduced risk of “deaths of despair” for women.
- 33% reduced risk of “deaths of despair” for men.
- 33% reduced risk of adolescent illegal drug use.
- 12% reduced risk of adolescent depression.

* These longitudinal studies covered 70,000 people over a 15-year span.

This research should challenge the growing number of Americans who self-identify as “spiritual but not religious,” or who harbor doubts about organized religion, to consider whether their own spiritual journeys might be better undertaken in a community of like-minded seekers and under the discipline of a tried and tested tradition of beliefs and practices.

– Tyler J. Venderweele & Brendan Case, “The Public Health Crisis No One Is Talking About”

Mainline Protestant churches declined by five million adult members between 2007 and 2014. However, evangelical churches grew by over two million during this same time. The nones are *not* coming from the more conservative Protestant churches. To the contrary, they are people being more honest and accurate in their description of where they have always been in terms of their belief and practice.

– Pew Religious Landscape Survey

The percentage of Americans who attend a local church (not necessarily weekly) has grown: from 17 percent in 1776 to 34 percent in 1850, 51 percent in 1906, and 69 percent today. The number of weekly attenders from all denominations has fallen from 44 percent in the mid-1950s to 34 percent today.

However, nearly all of this decline is found in the liberal churches.

– Rodney Stark [2022 interview with Jim Denison]



Church A – theologically liberal, little scripture use

- June 2020 closed to in-person; giving 80% of pre-pandemic
- June 2021 attendance <70%; giving 100%
- June 2022 attendance 85%; giving 105%

Church B – theologically mixed, mostly biblical

- June 2020 closed to in-person; giving 95% of pre-pandemic
- June 2021 attendance <80%; giving 100%
- June 2022 attendance 90%; giving 110%

Frisco Bible Church – theologically biblical

- June 2020 open to in-person; attendance <50%; giving 105%
- June 2021 attendance 95%; giving 115%
- June 2022 attendance 120%; giving 150%

1 Corinthians 12

¹² For just as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body—so also is Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and we were all given one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ Indeed, the body is not one part but many. ^{CSB}

Luke

John

Act

Rom

1 Corinthians

2 Co

Gal

Eph

Php

1 Corinthians 12

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Latin: en + corpus = made a fully joined part of the body

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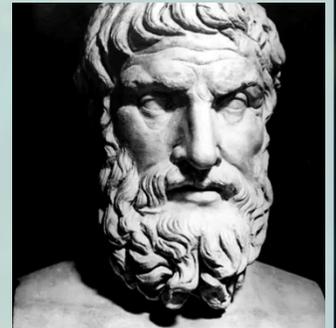


***Conversion of
Saint Paul on the
road to Damascus***
**Bertole Flamalle
ca. 1670**

1 Corinthians 12

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Do you not know that as the foot, if detached, will no longer be a foot, so you too, if detached, will no longer be a man? – Epictetus, Discourse II. 5. 26



Wayne, it is so important for us to grasp the reality that we are part of a living organism, the body of Christ! I recently discussed this with some friends and found that everyone's concept of church was "a community of individuals with a common belief." That is pale compared to what Paul describes: the living organism with us as parts and Christ as the head.

1 Corinthians 12

¹² For just as the body is **one** and has **many** parts, and all the parts of that body, though **many**, are **one** body—so also is Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by **one** Spirit into **one** body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and we were all given **one** Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ Indeed, the body is not **one** part but **many**.^{CSB}

Sandy Cheeks
Stephen Hillenburg
1999





courtesy Nickelodeon



courtesy Nickelodeon

Sandy Cheeks
Stephen Hillenburg
1999



courtesy Nickelodeon

Hebrews 10

²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching. ^{CSB}

Hebrews 3

13 But encourage each other daily, while it is still called *today so that none of you is hardened by sin's deception. ^{CSB}**

[*Ref. to Psalm 95, quoted twice earlier in the book]

Psalm 42

⁵ Why, my soul, are you so dejected?

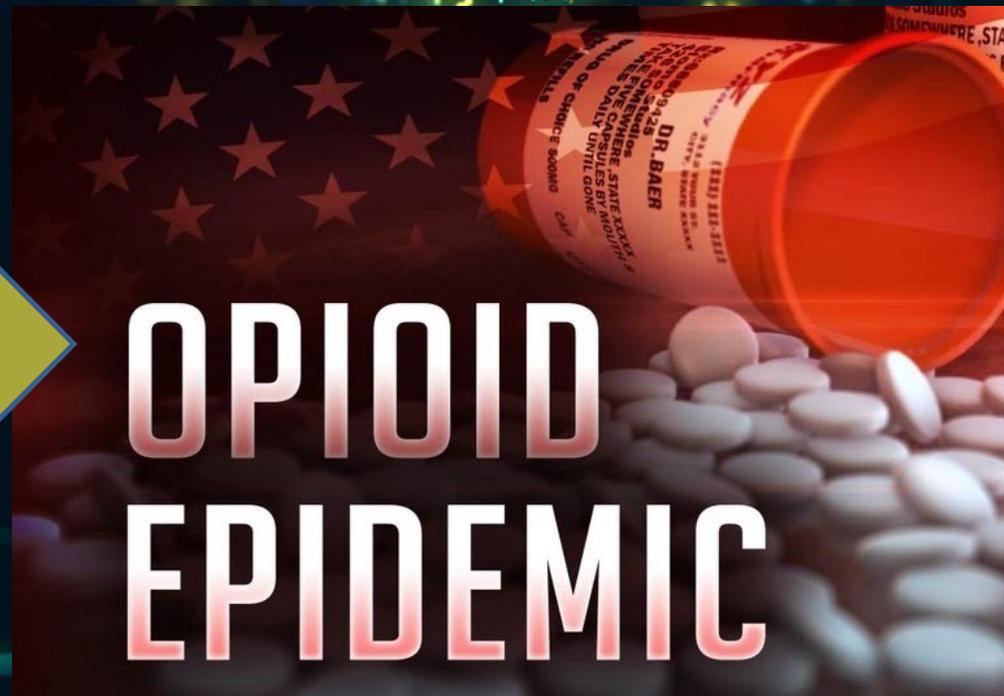
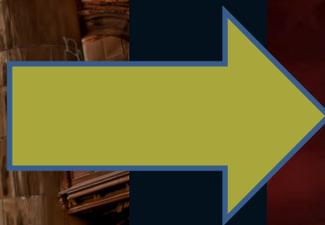
Why are you in such turmoil?

**Put your hope in God, for I will still praise him,
my Savior and my God.**

**⁶ I am deeply depressed;
therefore I remember you ^{CSB}**



courtesy patheos



The most common response to discouragement is alcohol or drug abuse, and the cost to society is staggering. In the US alone, the CDC estimates that addiction costs the country \$750 billion a year in increased healthcare costs, lost productivity, and higher crime.

Hebrews 3

¹³ But encourage each other daily, while it is still called *today*, so that none of you is hardened by sin's deception. ^{CSB}



Nihilism
Uur Pala
2017

courtesy deviantart (how appropriate!)



**Wow. That's
depressing
even for me.**

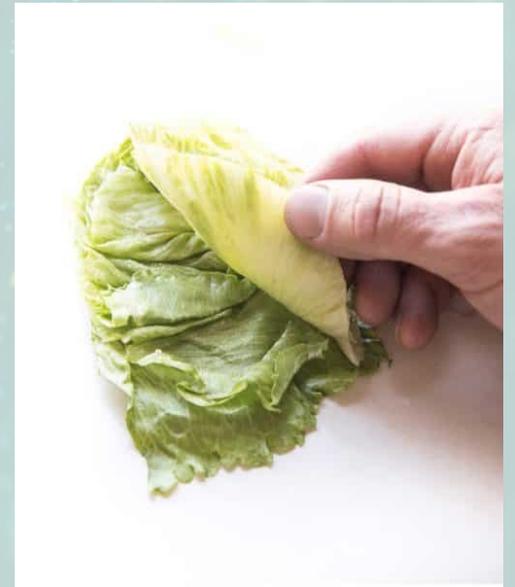
1 Corinthians 12

²³ And those parts of the body that we consider less honorable, we clothe these with greater honor, and our unrespectable parts are treated with greater respect, ²⁴ which our respectable parts do not need. Instead, God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the less honorable, ²⁵ so that there would be no division in the body, but that the members would have the same concern for each other. ²⁶ So if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and individual members of it. CSB

1 Corinthians 12

²³ And those parts of the body that we consider less honorable, we clothe these with greater honor, and our unrespectable parts are treated with greater respect

Greek: περιτίθημι peritethemi = originally, to peel back and reveal good things inside; later to clothe in order to show hidden honor



1 Corinthians 12

²³ And those parts of the body that we consider less honorable, we clothe these with greater honor, and our unrespectable parts are treated with greater respect

Greek: περιτίθημι
peritethemi = to clothe in order to show hidden honor



discouraged



encouraged



courtesy sharpdressedman

discouraged



encouraged



courtesy sharpdressedman

1 Corinthians 12

²⁵ so that there would be no division in the body, but that the **members** would have the same concern for each other. ²⁶ So if one **member** suffers, all the **members** suffer with it; if one **member** is honored, all the **members** rejoice with it. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and individual **members** of it.



Greek: μέλος melos = interdependent; members who need each other



courtesy Ellie Taramoto



courtesy David Smith

I spent the first 3 decades after God gave me new birth trying to become the perfect Christian on my own (i.e., me applying the Bible as a how to book,) and I participated in Church because that's what you do, and it is lovely to be part of a community. It never occurred to me that I *needed* the body to grow into Christ and the rest of the body needed me. More than that, I never thought that we must work together as a living body under the headship of Christ to impact the world for the glory of God. – David Wade

**We are redeemed community
Doing the great commission
By the power of the Holy Spirit
For the glory of God**



Frisco Bible Church

Hebrews 10

24 And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, **25** not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.

**Greek: ἐπισυναγωγή episynagoge = a group where every member is fully developed
[epi – force multiplier + sunagoge – clan]**



courtesy Brandon Vogt

grew alone



grew in community



We spur each other on toward love, good deeds, assembly, and encouragement.

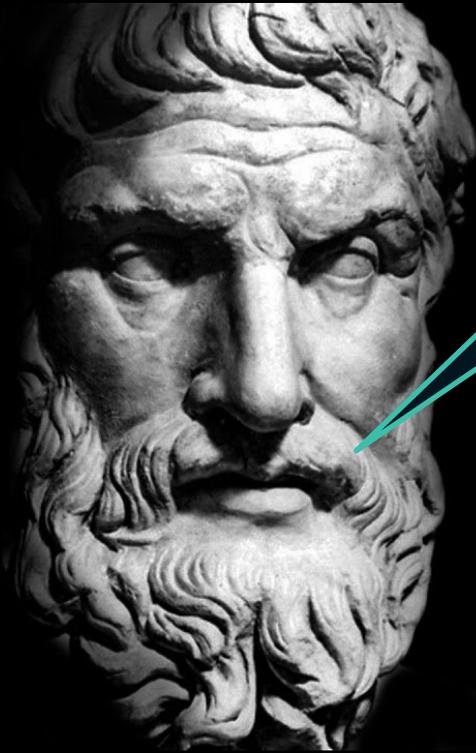
- **Reactionary hatred is conquered by love.**
- **Evil is conquered by doing good.**
- **Isolation is conquered by God and celebrated in assembly.**
- **Discouragement is undone by encouragement.**



Hebrews 10

²³ Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, since he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching. ^{CSB}

EPICTETUS



**What exactly
should we
do? Give me
specifics!**



ASSEMBLE & ENCOURAGE

1 CORINTHIANS 12

Hebrews 12

12 So take a new grip with your tired hands and strengthen your weak knees.

13 Mark out a straight path for your feet so that those who are weak and lame will not fall but become strong. ^{NLT}

Care for self and others

Hebrews 12

¹² So take a new grip with your tired hands and strengthen your weak knees. ¹³ Mark out a straight path for your feet so that those who are weak and lame will not fall but become strong. ^{NLT}

Galatians 6

² Carry one another's burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ... ⁵ For each person will have to carry his own load. ^{CSB}



ASSEMBLE & ENCOURAGE

1 CORINTHIANS 12

Hebrews 3

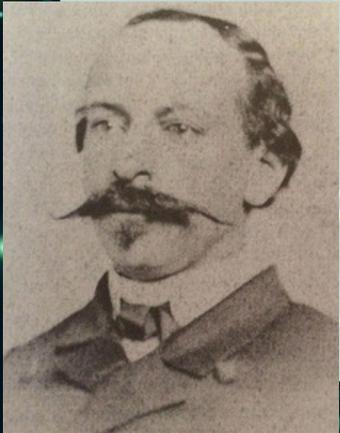
¹³ But encourage each other daily, while it is still called *today*, so that none of you is hardened by sin's deception. ^{CSB}

Kevin
Middleton
Land of Magic
2014



Henri Castro

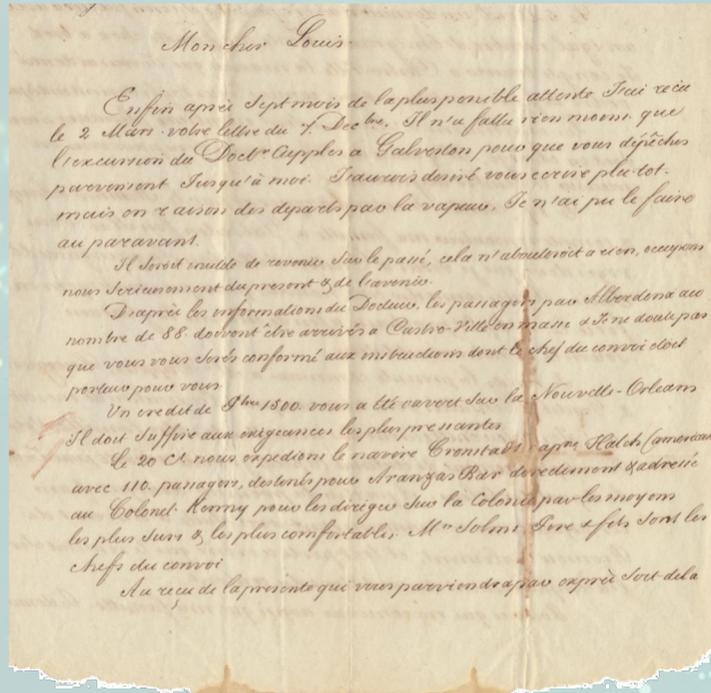
- An Alsatian Jew who emigrated to become a proud citizen of the Republic of Texas.
- Castro purchased a huge land grant and encouraged settlers to come from Switzerland & Alsace – the Franco/German area of western Europe.
- Over 2000 came. They settled, farmed, flourished, and built four towns.



**The original
church in
D'Hanis, TX,
partly funded
by the Jew
Henri Castro**



Part of a letter from Henri Castro to Ferdinand Louis Huth, March 15, 1846



Among business matters, it asks Herr Huth to meet the new immigrants and encourage them.

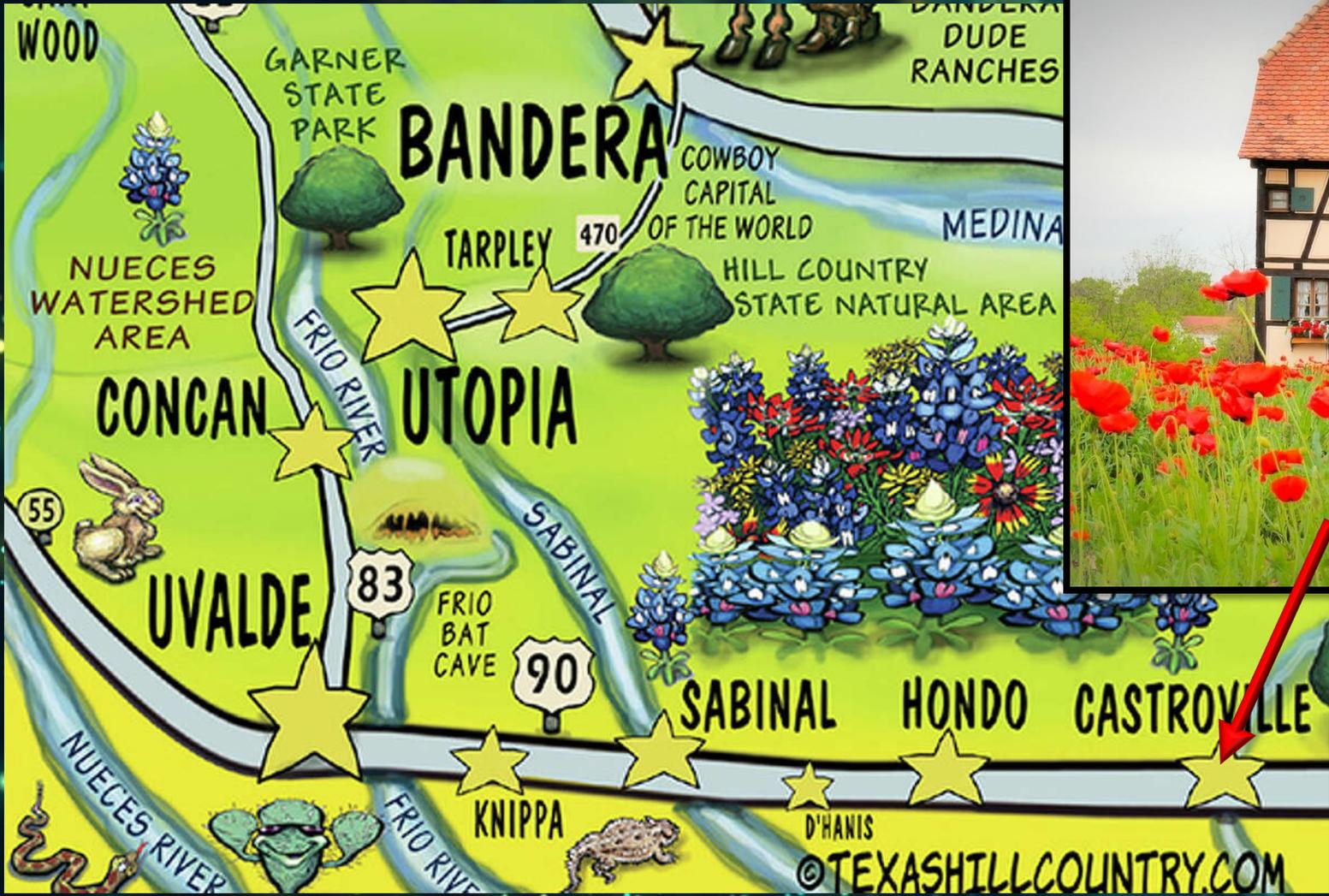
Despite his scholarship, his exceedingly great energy and aptitude for work, Henri Castro was exceptionally encouraging. He expended his own money freely – more than \$200,000 – for the welfare of his colonists, furnishing them cows, farm implements, seeds for planting, medicines, and whatever they really needed that he was able to procure for them. Castro had unbounded faith in the capacity of intelligent men for self-government.

– TX State Historical Assn. Archives





Area settled by Henri Castro



courtesy Steinbach House Museum, Castroville



ASSEMBLE & ENCOURAGE

1 CORINTHIANS 12

A central globe of the Earth is shown with a glowing green network of lines and nodes overlaid on it. The globe is surrounded by a dense field of glowing green and yellow particles, creating a sense of digital activity or data flow. A circular light effect, resembling a lens flare or a ring of light, surrounds the globe and the text. The background is dark with a subtle grid pattern.

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