

REFLECTIONS

MARCH 2023

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.

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WHAT WE DON'T UNDERSTAND

BY PASTOR NORM BLEICK

On Saturday, February 18, a metal ball about 5 feet in diameter appeared on Enshuhama Beach in the coastal city of Hamamatsu, Japan. A passerby reported it to police which prompted an enthusiastic yet careful inspection. Apparently, a local man told a media outlet that the ball had sat there for more than a month but that didn't matter. The beach was cordoned off, with officials in protective clothing sent to inspect the object.

Masaki Matsukawa, a representative of the city's civil-engineering office, told reporters that the rust-pocked object had still not been identified. The office said it could be a buoy, — an expla-



Mystery "Beach Ball" Appears in Japan

nation supported by the presence of two apparent metal handles sticking out of it. But on the tail of the media attention around Chinese spy balloons, the ob-

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READING AT HILLVIEW SCHOOL

BY RICK DELEEUW

Some Hillview people have asked me, "What exactly is the Hillview School Reading Program and how did it get started?" The answer, like the activity itself, is so easy to explain - it means taking a little bit of time to listen to children read. That is all - helping children that are having difficulties with their reading and comprehension.

Basically, what most of us did with our own children.

The idea of the Reading program began during some preparations for the White Christmas ministry in 2019. Yvonne Aben and myself arranged to meet with the school principal. During our conversation with the principal, she mentioned that they were always looking for vol-

unteers wishing to read to children that were experiencing difficulties in reading and comprehension. Some of the difficulties could be attributed to cultural differences and understanding the English language.

After several rounds of discussion with the school and getting approval from our

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READING AT HILLVIEW SCHOOL

(Continued from page 1)

church board we organized a group of volunteers and our Reading Program was well under-way. Volunteers were assigned to students and it did not take long to build relationships. We were working with their teachers in helping them to develop basic foundational reading concepts, phonics, and vocabulary skills. From week to week it was a gratifying experience as the children began to gain confidence and begin to develop a love for reading. Many of

"After almost two years we able two re-connect with Hillview School ...

the students became enthusiastic readers and indeed self-motivated to become good readers. Little did we know that this ministry would expand to include tutoring some students in math. Let me assure you, there is no such thing as simple mathematics. Many of us were challenged to leave our comfort zone and embrace what is now called the "New Math". To some of

us this was an exceedingly steep learning curve, but we adapted and added a new ability to our skill set. I must admit I enjoy the opportunity to assist and found math tutoring my gift.

Then came 2020, a New Year, but trouble on the horizon - by March 2020 Covid 19 had altered our way of life. Many schools were closed and our Reading Ministry was suspended until the schools re-opened. After almost two years we were able to reconnect with the Hillview School and continue our reading ministry. Teachers are continually confronted with students not reading at grade level and have asked for supplemental reading support to assist the children struggling with reading and comprehension.

We all recognized that students have different learning curves, therefore commitment and acknowledging success, no matter how small, builds a student's confidence. Building bonds and developing expectations is rewarding. Teachers have shown their appreciation by giving us positive feedback, to many we have made a difference. Children actually look forward to seeing us. Apparently, they sit patiently in the school library. Many thanks to the volunteers.



"It's called "reading". It's how people install new software into their brains."

Rick is a very social type of guy, I know that from personal experience. He is on the deacon's board. He and Jo Legaspi helped establish our Food Bank. And for almost every communion Sunday Rick is early to church in order to arrange the elements, he even makes sure that the people hiding in the production booth are not missed. ed



The library at Hillview School

WHAT WE DON'T UNDERSTAND

(Continued from page 1)

ject has sent social-media users into a flurry of speculation.

Whenever we encounter something new, something we don't recognize, something we do not understand, we tend to rationalize and explain the phenomenon. The season of Lent began last week reminding us and preparing us for reflection and celebration of the Passion and Resurrection of Christ. The Resurrection of Jesus was, and still is the most significant event in human history. Many people at the time were confused and disturbed with the reality of the empty tomb. Almost instantly theories arose trying to explain the mystery of what happened to the body of Jesus the Nazarene. Some people said that the disciples

came in the night and took the body away. Other people have suggested that Jesus never really died but woke up, rolled the stone away and walked off. Some say the wrong tomb was visited Easter Sunday. And then there is the idea that the people who claimed to have seen, spoken, and felt Jesus post-crucifixion were simply hallucinating.

Unlike the recently discovered metallic orb, the truth of what happened to Jesus is not a mystery. The resurrection of Jesus is foreshadowed and fore-spoken in Scripture; let him, or her, who has ears to hear, let them hear what God has said and perceive what God has done. God is true to His word and perfect in His love and faithfulness. Sometimes we don't know what to make of a situa-

tion, but we have this instruction from Scripture...

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. Hebrews 12.1-3

Jesus is alive; He is risen! He is Lord. Nothing is unknown to God. Let us resist the urge to speculate and theorize, but instead cling to what we know about God and trust God for wisdom, direction, and understanding when we don't know what to do or make of what lies before.

"... the truth of what happened to Jesus is not a mystery."



On Page 6 of the February issue of Reflections there were two mind-bending puzzles submitted by my son-in-law, Matthew, for your enjoyment. I have not heard if Gabriele was bamboozled or not, nevertheless as promised the solutions are as follows: ed

Problem 1. Either A or C is driving the vehicle in the robbery. If the person driving is A, then A was involved in the robbery. Otherwise, the person driving is C, and so A is also involved in the robbery by (b). In either case, A is guilty.

Problem 2.

- (a) Let's consider the possibility that Alice is a Knight. Then Bob would also be a Knight since Alice's assertion is true. But then Bob's claim implies that Alice is a Knave. Since Alice cannot be both a Knight and Knave, we deduce that Alice is not a Knight. Therefore Alice is a Knave. Since we now know that Bob's assertion is true, we deduce that Bob is a Knight.
- (b) Let's consider the possibility that Diane is a Knave. Then all three in the group are Knaves since Diane's assertion is false, and so Charlie's claim is true. But then Charlie must be a Knight. Since Charlie cannot be both a Knight and a Knave, we deduce that Diane cannot be a Knave and, therefore, Diane is a Knight. Since Diane is a Knight, Ed's claim is false. So Ed is a Knave. From this we see that Charlie's claim is true, implying that Charlie is a Knight.
- (c) Whether Frances were a Knight or a Knave, they would not claim to be a Knave. So George is lying, and thus George is a Knave. Since George (necessarily falsely) asserts that Frances is a Knave, we deduce that Frances is a Knight.

FUN AT THE FOOD BANK

We are discovering that being a Food Bank Distribution Centre here at Hillview has an unexpected benefit - it is becoming a place of appreciating the visitors and having some special interactions with them, and them with us. Let me share a couple of these special moments with you.

When the clients arrive for their food hampers and, because the boxes are recycled/reused by the food bank, the hamper contents need to be repacked by the clients into their own containers. As they go through this process, if there is any food item(s) they don't use, they can place it on a designated bench in the sorting area. Above the bench a sign

says "Help yourself to what you can use". This one particular day my job was greeter/door person. A big tall man came in with his wife to pick up their hamper. I had been outside, on a chilly day, and came in to warm up. There was some free space on the "help yourself bench", so I sat down there to stay out of the way. As the man and his wife left, he came up to me, took me by the hand and said, "You're coming with me". The entire place erupted in laughter as Jo rushed to rescue me.

In addition to me, there is literature on the bench that may help the clients, along with some church information, and Bibles. I am happy to report that all the Bibles have been tak-

BY GLORIA SWAIN

en by the clients. Margaret Dolezal has a special and perceptive ability of introducing people to the material and the Bibles. When I mentioned to Al Ben that all the Bibles have been picked up he assured me that we can obtain additional copies from the Gideons' and in languages that may be more accessible to the people in our community. I understand that request is now in process. Please pray for our clients that as they take a Bible, that they will take the time to read it and that it will impact their lives.

It truly is a delight to serve, assist and, indeed, be the hands and feet of Jesus.



"... the Food Bank Distribution Centre here at Hillview has an unexpected benefit ..."

ALEXANDRA UPDATE



It is time to reintroduce Alexandra Pyerina Borja from Peru. Alexandra has been a member of our Hillview Family since 2017, when we decided to sponsor her through Compassion Canada. Kurt Redsclag last communicated with her when he was the Chair of HBC Missions Committee in 2019. Then COVID came along and we lost touch with Alexandra for about 2 1/2 years. However, the Thursday morning prayer group continued to pray for her safety and well being during this time.

BY GLORIA SWAIN

Now the lost has been found! We reconnected with Alexandra again in September, 2022. She is doing well, continuing in her studies, which is equivalent to our first year of University. She is taking language arts and is active in her church. She thanked us for our donations of birthday and Christmas money. With these funds her and her family were able to purchase: two tracksuits, yogurt, milk, cheese, ham, rice, sugar, noodles, potatoes, flour, chickpeas, Milo (chocolate drink), Chuno (dried potato), oil, tuna

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"Now the lost has been found! We reconnected with Alexandra in September ..."

ALEXANDRA UPDATE

(Continued from page 4)

and two chickens. During our last letter writing session here at Hillview last fall, we were able to mail to Alexandra six Christmas cards from some of our church family members and a drawing from Lilly Snook.

We receive periodical updates on Alexandra from Compassion headquarters and from their Partnership Facilitator in Peru. Govanna Martinez, Alexandra's Partnership Facilitator, has recently written us and reported on how active the church in Peru has

been during Covid in meeting the needs of many people because of the financial support provided by Hillview and other faithful sponsors. According to Govanna, the church became an unstoppable force in the midst of so much pain and despair. They were able to establish strategies to assist people with shortages, and confinement and this continues as the church persists to serve those in need.

Our support of Alexandra not only benefits Alexandra, but her entire family - a single parent home. We

love to receive mail and so does Alexandra. However, our mail to her takes six weeks to process. The letters must first travel to Compassion's head office in London, Ontario for translation into Spanish. Please consider dropping Alexandra a note, card, letter or postcard in the near future. Please leave it in my mailbox and I will ensure it gets forwarded.

Deadline for Easter cards is March 12 and Birthday Cards is April 2 for her May 20th birthday.

In the meantime let's continue to pray for Alexandra and her family.

"... the church as become an unstoppable force in the midst ..."

FAMOUS PAIRS - NOT ALL BIBLICAL

Fill in the blanks with the name that completes the pair.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Joseph and _____ | 6. Andrew and _____ | 12. Uriah and _____ |
| 2. Adam and _____ | 7. Ardath and _____ | 13. Ahab and _____ |
| 3. Hannah and _____ | 8. Aquila and _____ | 14. Neil and _____ |
| 4. Leah and Sister _____ | 9. Zipporah and _____ | 15. Vashti and _____ |
| 5. James and _____ | 10. Isaac and _____ | 16. Boaz and _____ |
| | 11. Abraham and _____ | |



Pysanky Painting Party for all ages

Jonathan Snook will be hosting a Ukrainian Pysanky egg painting session. All are welcome. Please bring a snack to share. Does NOT have to be holubtsi, varenyky and/or kutia.

Date: Saturday March 31, 2023

Time: 7PM

Location: Fellowship Hall

Details: to follow in Church Bulletin

Answers to Famous Pairs:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Joseph and Mary | 6. Andrew and Peter | 12. Uriah and Bathsheba |
| 2. Adam and Eve | 7. Ardath and Herman | 13. Ahab and Jezebel |
| 3. Hannah and Elkanah | 8. Aquila and Priscilla | 14. Neil and Krista |
| 4. Leah and Sister Rachel | 9. Zipporah and Moses | 15. Vashti and Ahasuerus |
| 5. James and John | 10. Isaac and Rebekah | 16. Boaz and Ruth |
| | 11. Abraham and Sarah | |

MARATHON MARRIAGE

BY ARDATH EFFA



**“You’re supposed to say ‘I do,’
not ‘I’ll try.’”**

Many times, when people find out that Herman and I were married for 68 years, they ask me, “What is your secret?” We had no secrets but being born again believers was the foundation towards our long and happy marriage. Some of our bonding took place while we were dating. We always ended our dates by praying together, seeking God’s will and direction for us as a couple.

After our marriage in 1953, one of the first things we established was having devotions together after breakfast, or later, when the children had to hurry to get to school, after supper. We used “Our Daily Bread” or other devotionals and always prayed

for the missionary whose prayer card was in the front of our plastic prayer card holder, then put the card in the back and the next morning prayed for the next one. We asked North America Baptist Conference(NAB) to send us a packet of prayer cards and also asked the missionaries to send us their regular prayer letters so we could pray for their particular needs and ministries.

Another decision we made was to faithfully give our tithe each month to the church and/or other charitable ministries. At first, this was difficult since I was the bread-winner in the family while Herman attended college and seminary. In those days, women were very poorly paid,

but we persisted and always had our needs supplied, sometimes in surprising ways! When our son, Allan, was born in 1958, I quit my job. Our only income was from whatever ministry assignments Herman could pick up in between studies. While I was still in the hospital, men from First Baptist Church, Chancellor, South Dakota (SD) came to interview Herman to become their pastor while continuing his studies at the seminary in Sioux Falls, SD for another year and a half. We moved to the parsonage in Chancellor. The commute was 25 miles, but there was no rent to pay and a steady income!! Wow! God supplied just when we really needed Him to.

As pastor and wife, we did everything together – visiting, counselling, teaching, singing, evangelistic meetings, taking programs to senior meetings or homes or church services. As missionaries on home-assignment we shared our ministry with many NAB churches. We also prepared the programs for our travels with the Brazil Praise Singers all across North America. We visited all of our mission fields when Herman was Director of NAB Missions. (me on personal expense),

Herman officially retired in 1998, but he was only pretending. During our retirement years, we led 22 work teams to Brazil and

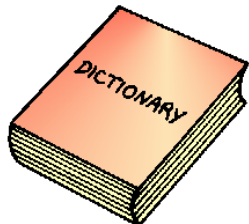
Mexico. Serving the Lord together was very fulfilling and I feel that this added to our happy and long-lasting marriage! Many marriage partners complain that their partner doesn’t meet their needs!! That’s “human love.” wanting to get, get, get!! “Divine Love” uses God’s example. “For God so loved the world that HE GAVE!” True love demonstrates itself in GIVING, not RECEIVING. Giving to each other enriches both partners whereas, always wanting to GET has the opposite effect. May we always demonstrate DIVINE Love in our marriages. It worked for us for 68 years!!

"As pastor and wife, we did everything together - visiting ..."

This is the second of the "M" trilogies by Ardath. The first was on music in the February issue. Ardath is a treasure that we are lucky to know. She occasionally plays the organ reminding us of the majesty of that instrument. ed

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,



While struggling to relax in the Yuma, Arizona. I read this and thought you would find it insightful.

In a linguistic competition held in London and attended by, supposedly, the best in the world, Samdar Balgobin, a Guyanese man, was the clear winner with a standing ovation which lasted over 5 minutes. The final question was: 'How do you explain the difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED in a way that is easy to understand? Some people say there is no difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED.

Here is his astute answer:

"When you marry the right woman, you are COMPLETE. When you marry the wrong woman, you are FINISHED. And when the right one catches you with the wrong one, you are COMPLETELY FINISHED!" He won a trip around the world and a case of 25-year-old Scotch.

Howard Adam

Dear Editor,

In last month's newsletter, we mentioned that a French language preschool would be setting up to operate (Mon-Fri) out of the church's main floor Nursery space. Before this could happen, some moderately extensive renovations were required in order to open up the room. Thank you to Howard and to AI for their commitment of

time and labour to make that happen! As of this time of writing, "Les Petits Pas" Preschool has begun to move in their materials and furniture and they expect to begin enrolling students around the middle of February. By September of this year, they hope to have 24 morning and 24 afternoon students enrolled.



We warmly welcome the staff, students, and families of Les Petits Pas and pray that the preschool will be a wonderful space for children to grow, have fun, and to begin their (bilingual) learning careers.

Jonathan Snook (Church Moderator)



Dear Editor,

The students and staff at Hillview School are so grateful for the return of volunteers through the Hillview Baptist Church. During the week, classrooms benefit from the time and support of five dedicated volunteers who provide encouragement to children around both reading and math. The one-on-one support is a highlight for students who shine with this kind attention. We thank these volunteers for their generous spirits.

Karen Steinhauer (School Principal)

Recipe Central - Coconut balls

- 1½ cups unsweetened coconut
- ¾ cup cocoa powder
- ½ cup raw honey (or you can use ½ cup maple syrup or ½ cup Agave)
- 1 tablespoon coconut oil, warmed slightly (or coconut butter)
- ½ teaspoon vanilla
- ¼ teaspoon sea salt (I roll the balls lightly in the sea salt instead of mixing it in)

1. Mix everything together.
2. Roll into tablespoon sized balls.
3. Place in freezer 1/2 hour



Our thanks to Yvonne Alben for introducing to us, even more calories! ed

HILLVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

253 Woodvale Road West
Edmonton, Alberta
T6L 1E5
Phone: 780-461-5393

Church email:
office@hillviewchurch.ca
Newsletter email:
hillvieweditor@gmail.com
Website: hillviewchurch.ca

A GRAVESIDE LAMENT



As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Nova Scotia back country. As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost and, being a typical man, I didn't stop for directions. I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late.

I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play. The workers put down their lunches and began to gather

around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man. And as I played "Amazing Grace", the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together. When I finished, I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head was hung low, my heart was full. As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the works say, "I never seen anything like that before, and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."

Apparently, I'm still lost...it's a man thing.

**Time is like a river.
You cannot touch the water twice, because the flow that has passed will never pass again. Enjoy every moment of life.**

Submitted by Al Zuch



Sunday March 5 - Bridal non-shower event in the Fireside Room for the women after church. The men are not invited, we are relegated to the Fellowship Hall

Sunday March 12 - Easter greetings to Alexandra in Peru

Sunday March 12, 26 - after church coffee/snacks

Friday March 17 - St. Patrick's Day My wife made me a green hamburger today to celebrate St Patrick's Day. I asked how she coloured it and she said she didn't know what I was talking about.

Sunday March 19 - Soup and buns

Saturday March 25 - Krista and "what's his name's" wedding, see invitation below

Sunday March 26 - Hymn Sing at 3pm. Lets all discover if Bill will be on-time, this time! (for more info, see February story on page 8)

Saturday March 31 - Pysanky Painting Party (check page 5 for details). All are welcome.

Sunday April 2 - Birthday cards for Alexandra's birthday on May 20. It would be so neat to overwhelm her with cards and notes.

Neil Carlberg
and
Krista Zirk

Would be honoured to have you attend their wedding ceremony and help celebrate their special day.

Saturday **March 25** 2023 1:00 pm

Hillview Baptist Church
253 Woodvale Road W, Edmonton, AB

Refreshments and fellowship to follow in the church basement.
The ceremony will be livestreamed via the church's website.

