

REFLECTIONS

APRIL 2023

Peace starts with a smile.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

INTERVIEW - 2
K. WOURMS

LEARNING TO 3
WALK

FINANCIAL 5
TIMES

THE CASE 6
FOR EASTER

PASSOVER 7

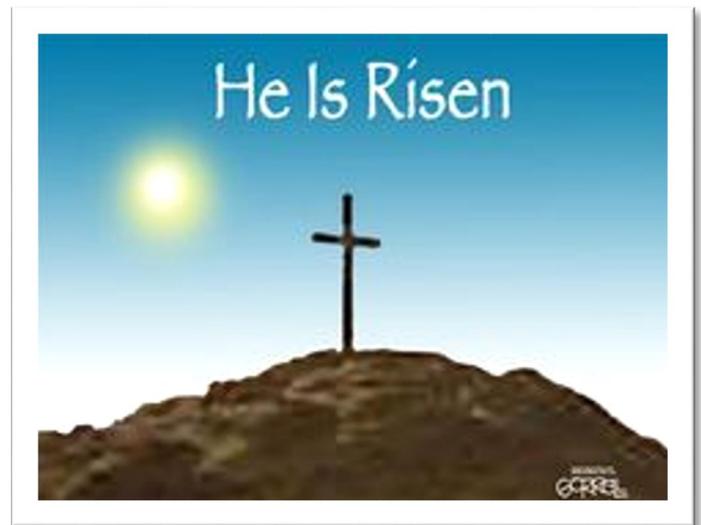
JESUS RE- 8
OLUTION
MOVIE

THE TROUBLE WITH JENNY!

BY PASTOR NORM BLEICK

Every church has at least one unique and memorable individual. The first church I served had a member named Jenny. Jenny was from Russia before it was the Soviet Union. Jenny remembered many interesting moments from history, not because she read about them in books, but because she was there. Jenny had some fantastic high moments in her life and some devastating low moments. Through all her experiences Jenny's faith never wavered, never failed.

Jenny was a teacher, and like most teachers, she was a stickler for accuracy. Jenny loathed Easter, not because she didn't believe in the Resurrection, but because



she did. Jenny argued that Easter was a pagan ritual, and she wasn't wrong. According to Wikipedia, "The English term is derived from

(Continued on page 3)

The best mathematical equation -

1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Rooftop Celebrations - Page 6
- Maze Work - Page 7
- Bad News Solution - Page 8
- Coming Events - Page 8

The deepest foundation of the hope and joy which characterize our faith is the resurrection. Easter, the centre of our worship, is an explosion of joy; the same joy which the disciples felt when they saw their risen Saviour. It was joy at the triumph of life, after the overwhelming sorrow over death - death which even the Lord of life had to suffer when He became man. All things are now filled with the certainty of life, whereas before all had been moving steadily towards death.

Dumitru Staniloae (circa 1978)

Submitted by:
Greg Belesiotis

AN INTERVIEW WITH KEITH WOURMS

This is something new for me. I have never been involved in an interview, except for employment interviews which usually ended in destruction and possible destitution. This was not an in-person interview, but rather I emailed the questions to Keith and he answered them all. I told him he didn't have to, but he just accepted my questions, even the ones that could be wildly inappropriate, somewhat personal or just plain weird and amateurish. My hope is the interview will give you some insights into this very remarkable man.

1. Tell me about your family – spouse, children etc.?

Noreen and I got married in the year 2000 (easy for me to remember our anniversary). We each have three children, some of whom went to school together. We have seven grandchildren. Four of our children live nearby while one lives in the US and one in the UK. Both Noreen and I grew up in Alberta, and started life 'on the farm'. We still have Jarrett at home with us (in Beaumont), which is a constant joy and blessing. PS: I trust you will soon realize that Noreen is the real blessing in this 'appointment'.

2. Describe your Christian journey?

I was adopted by marvelous, but extremely poor Catholic parents. I was active in church as long as I can remember. Divorce 'opted' me out of the Catholic church. A fairly continuous series of bad choices eventually led me to 'accepting my fate' and hiding from God due to the number of times I had broken my promises to Him. To this day, I am not completely sure why He never let go of me, but about 33 years ago, I was 'dragged' back into an Evangelical church in Beaumont. Of course, I sat as far away from the pulpit as I could, but the pastor somehow knew every detail of my life and preached directly to me. I would slink out but for some bizarre reason would end up there the next Sunday. One day however, he preached on Ephesians 2:8 and for the first time ever, I came to know it was ultimately not up to me to earn my way into Heaven. I am not sure if my feet touched the ground as I left the church that day. A couple weeks later, there was an alter

call and I eagerly answered that call. There have been bumps in the road, but God has remained faithful and has exceeded any expectations of restoration.

3. Why did you decide to help Hillview with their music/praise element of worship?

To be honest, I was quite surprised when the possibility of this 'adventure' came up. As many of you may know, Noreen and I attended Hillview for some time, and even when we selected another 'home church' in Beaumont, Noreen has faithfully continued her wonderful ministry associated with Hillview. I was here to meet with her one day, and Pastor Norm invited me into his office, and started this discussion. I confess to not being as gracious or accepting immediately as I could have been, but over the next couple discussions and with much prayer, it seemed God was leading 'us' here. I was leading at several other churches, but have laid that aside to focus on this ministry.



"Please disregard the music director's admonition to 'clap your hands, stomp your feet, and boogie till you drop' during the next hymn."

4. Do you have answers or insights to the never ending and constant hymns vs chorus quarrel? This question on chorus vs hymns may be problematic. It might actually require a standalone essay or story to be published in a later issue.

As you mention in your email, this seems to be virtually synonymous with the 'western' Christian congregations. It would indeed take more 'room' than I have in this one article to address the scope and nuances (and solutions?), but I cautiously portray this in the too easy context of generations. That delineation can fail us though, as I have seen fervent younger

Christians pour out their hearts to God through hymns, as there is inherent truth and power in them, and like the King James Bible, a sense to some that this is the language God speaks. So to many of my generation, it is integral to our faith journey. I have detected that the resistance in some 'circles' may not solely be based on familiarity, but may be tied to a perceived lack of appreciation for what wealth of experience and faith is available to the community through those who have 'walked a few more miles'. But this 'vehicle of praise' preference extends beyond the hymns vs choruses saga. I personally view the 'stadium experience' as a

(Continued on page 4)

THE TROUBLE WITH JENNY!

(Continued from page 1)



the Saxon spring festival *Ēostre*.” *Ēostre* was an ancient West Germanic spring goddess. As Christianity took hold in Europe, the church quickly appro-

priated the holiday and sanctified all spring time pagan rituals to come in line with Passover and the Resurrection.

Jenny could not reconcile what chocolate bunnies and hard boiled eggs had to do with the Resurrection of her Lord. Fair question. I’m sure there’s a rebuttal. But here is the thing: in the midst of traditions and festivities lies the veracity of the most significant event in history. The entire weight of the Christian faith hangs

on the truth of the Resurrection. The apostle Paul argues in 1 Corinthians 15, that if the Resurrection of Jesus is a fallacy, then our faith is a sham

and we are to be more pitied than all of humanity. I am not ready to toss out the traditions of elaborately decorated (or not so elaborately decorated) eggs and I am strongly in favor of keeping Lindt chocolate bunnies.

Jenny wasn’t wrong, but she might have been missing key elements to some of the traditions. We know that Easter is something special to celebrate; it is the fulcrum of our faith. So we gather on April 7th to remember what is required to save us from the consequence of sin and on April 9th to celebrate that we have been delivered from the dark domain.

We will rise because:

He Is Risen! He Is Risen, Indeed.

LEARNING HOW TO WALK

*B*ack in the 1940’s, in a log house, built by my father and grandfather, delivered by my grandmother, a midwife, a scrawny little baby girl was born - me - Gloria Joy. Born with a few abnormalities, I was not able to walk, or even stand, by myself at age 2.

I was grandpa’s girl and he was determined to teach me to walk. He went out and cut down a tree that fit from the floor to ceiling in our home. He also found a willow branch that could be easily bent and yet strong enough to hold my body. And he set about building

me a walker. The top of the tree slipped into the heat hole in the ceiling, as this was how they heated the bedrooms upstairs. Grandpa would slip me into the willow ring attached to the tree and round and round I would go, hanging by my armpits. His persistence eventually helped me build strength in my legs and eventually I learned to walk. But there was someone who loved me more than my grandpa and that was Jesus Christ. He died on a tree so that I could have eternal life. There is no greater love than someone giving up His life for me and you.

That walker has travelled with me every time I have moved. I have used it in many vacation Bible School & Sunday School sessions to demonstrate the love of Jesus to the kids.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only son...John 3:16

According to a reliable source Gloria is always looking for ways to help people, is a bit of a joker and constantly offers words of encouragement to others. Ed.

BY GLORIA SWAIN



Gloria with the contraption invented by her grandfather.

AN INTERVIEW WITH KEITH WOURMS

(Continued from page 2)

concert and not an intimate time with the Lord on a Sunday morning. I have done 'sound' at Breakforth, and that is one example (for me). I believe the solutions already exist in Hillview, and that has been reinforced just by the grace shown me in my return. Just as in families and business management, where one should always take into account personalities and strengths and what structures etc would uniquely empower and engage 'each person', a leader should strive to provide that fairly in this context. I have seen seniors engage fully in choruses and newer Christian songs, and as mentioned, post-boomers connect with hymns. Part of that is the understanding and acceptance of what I briefly described above, which is a real appreciation and joy to be engaged with different generations. Part of it also comes to presentation, which needs to be authentic and suitable.

5. On Sunday, you played the electric guitar, an acoustical guitar and a harmonica. What is your favourite instrument? Why?

I play a number of instruments, but am most familiar with the ones I played on Sunday. This ties in with what I consider my role as a team leader, in encouraging and building up each member, so the 'instrument – including our voice' becomes transparent or doesn't distract us (or the congregation) from communication with God. For me, it also comes down to what presents a faithful production of the music itself and fits with the other players.

6. What is the name of the band you play in? What style of music? Would the band be willing to do a concert at Hillview?

It is called 'FREEDOM Band', based on Galatians 5:1, which is appropriate as most of our ministry has been directed towards the inner city and people with addictions etc. We actually played very recently for a 'private function' in the basement here. You can ask Noreen the details, but we do love to bless people in a variety of settings. We enjoy many 'styles' and we incorporate that, largely based on context.

7. Where would you most like to live? Why?

I have been blessed to travel the world, and have engaged with so many wonderful people, but never fail to be so grateful that God planned for me to be born and live here in Alberta. If I were forced to move elsewhere, I would choose Spain where I was 'stranded' for most of last summer, and am heading back to in a few weeks for work.

8. Your favourite vacation spot. Why?

Oceanside, California. For much of our early years together, Noreen and I traveled by motorcycle so the road trip was the vacation. We were surprised with an opportunity to spend time in Oceanside 'right on the beach', and discovered that relaxing in one beautiful place may not be so bad.

9. What sport or physical activity could you defeat most anyone at?

I travelled a lot for sports at the provincial team level, but that was certainly days gone by. I guess if I were to attempt an answer here, it would be carrying band equipment. 😊

10. What is a movie or TV show you're ashamed to admit you watched?

mmm... James Bond?

11. What is something that made you sad this year?

Oh my. I think as we age, more opportunities suddenly appear for that. I used to react with anger to much of what we see 'become normal' in this world, but more and more I grieve the blindness that allows or promotes this.

12. I think you have been frequently on stage, what is the strangest thing you have seen or heard?

Mmm, Noreen may edit this, but back in my Rock days, bar fights between women always threw me for a loop.

13. Are you a movies fan? From your perspective what is the funniest movies of all time?

I have liked a couple Eddie Murphy comedies.

14. You obviously have musical talent, which other talent would you like to have?

Mmm, I could use the overworked cliché and say, 'understand my wife all the time', but beyond that, music takes up much of my time.

15. How will you measure success at Hillview?

I am more of a one day at a time person, so again don't have perhaps a suitable answer to that. I would be content with affirmation that I have heard and followed the Lord in this endeavor. Some of you may have heard me half-jokingly say; "I have a philosophy". I believe that God does not hold us accountable for success, only obedience.

"... most of our ministry has been directed towards the inner city and people with addictions."

THE FINANCIAL TIMES-HILLVIEW VERSION

BY BILL HOLMES

Jesus is famous for his stories. Did you know that 16 out of 38 parables given by Jesus dealt with the topic of money? We can therefore assume it is “ok” to discuss financial issues and that is what I, as Treasurer, with my limited skills, would like to do.

Introduction:

At the Elders meeting on March 20 it was decided to provide an update on the church’s financial situation because it is simply a good idea to keep the congregation informed. In addition, there has been personnel changes – in April 2022, Richard Garret, after many years of faithful service as chief number cruncher decided to retire, Summer Shessel took over until September and then Bill and Joy Holmes came on board. With the personnel changes it was also discovered that our software program was becoming obsolete and no longer supported by QuickBooks. It took many months to transfer and reconcile the financial data with the updated program. We really enjoyed this part of the job! NOT! There is still some fine-tuning required, which should be completed before the annual general meeting.

Budget:

To review, the approved budget for this fiscal year (July 2022 to June 2023) is \$239,000.

Present Situation:

The following figures are current to February 28, 2023

◆ Expected budgetary expenses -	\$160,000.00
◆ Actual expenses to date -	\$151,482.00
◆ Tithes and Offerings -	\$125,594.00
◆ Deficit (offerings - expenses)	-\$25,888.00

Conclusion :

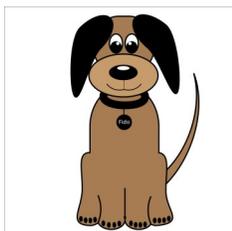
We have been using surpluses from previous years to cover 2022/2023 expenses. Our challenge is to cover our anticipated expenses until year end. In addition, a supplementary goal would be to create a financial “cushion” for unexpected expenses and/or for revenue shortfalls. For the peace of mind of the Treasurers and Elders it would be wonderful to have a balance of 3-4 months of expenses in the bank.

As of February 28th we need a total of \$113,400 to achieve our budgetary goal of \$239,000, That is approximately \$28,000 per month over the next 4 months, including March, because we do not have March donation figures.

© Randy Glasbergen
glasbergen.com



"Due to the recent budget cuts, there is no room in our budget to implement the recent budget cuts"



(Money will buy you a fine dog, but only love can make it wag it’s tail!
Source: Richard Friedman)

ROOFTOP CELEBRATIONS



Easter time always reminds me of the Easter Sunrise Service we always had at the Christian Training Institute in Edmonton. Early in the morning, we all would make our way to the roof of the school through the inside stairway for our Easter Sunrise Service. We had a portable little pump organ that we used to accompany the

singing, which I had the privilege to play once in a while. As the sun began to rise, we would sing heartily, "Up from the grave He arose!" I'm sure we awakened all the neighborhood, but it was a very meaningful time for the entire student body as we remembered Jesus' resurrection



BY ARDATH EFFA

BOOK REVIEW - THE CASE FOR EASTER

BY BILL HOLMES

Did Jesus really die? Did he really rise from the dead?

To the uninformed, the entire Easter story sounds like a fairytale, science fiction or simply an assortment of mis-information and/or fabrications. However in the book "The Case for Easter" author Lee Strobel examines the evidence for the death and resurrection of Jesus. The book consists of 3 main aspects :

- The medical evidence
- The evidence of the Missing Body
- The evidence of his appearances.

To prove that Jesus died and rose again he interviews three experts in the fields of forensic pathology, medical research, and experts on the resurrection. Together, they consider all the possible alternatives to explain what happened to Jesus and outline why these theories lack any basis in truth.

Lee Strobel was a lawyer, editor and an atheist. After his wife became a Christian, he decided to investigate this "cult" and to prove Christians were wrong, that their faith was a combination of fable, myth and legend. He failed. Instead he ended up proving that Christiani-

ty was true, that Jesus did die on the cross, he rose from the dead and that he interacted with people before ascending to heaven.

The other intriguing aspect is the disciples. A rag-tag group of unexceptional people that almost overnight changed and committed themselves - that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. All but John were executed in gruesome ways. It is said people will die for something they believe is true, but nobody dies for something they know is false. Absolutely, without a doubt, the disciples knew the resurrection happened. It was real.

" Lee Strobel examines the evidence for the death and resurrection ..."

You can find this book in the church's library - east wall, bottom shelf. Ed

PASSOVER, COMMUNION AND CHRIST

BY WAYNE BAKER

We just celebrated Communion and are heading into Easter. To gain a better understanding of the meaning of Communion, we need to understand where Communion came from. This brief article is to whet your appetite and encourage you to look at the meaning of this ordinance.

Communion came about from the last Paschal or Seder that Christ shared with his Disciples before his death, in fact it was the last meal of our Lord before his Crucifixion. The Paschal or Seder meal is a Jewish meal with significant ritual attached to it, differing from our Com-

munion in many ways. The Paschal or Seder was celebrated by the family in the family's home, led by the father. Despite the significant differences, there are very deep similarities between the two .

The Paschal or Seder was ordered by God. Israel was to have the Paschal meal as a remembrance of the delivery of the people of Israel from the Egyptian bondage. The Communion is ordered by Jesus Christ that we are to do this in "Remembrance of Christ".

The first Passover had a lamb slain and the blood used to mark the lintel or door posts of the homes

of the Israelites. Thinking about this, could Egyptians have done the same? Christ's Blood is the atonement for our sins. Christ said He is the Door, "No man cometh to the Father except by me".

The Seder is done once a year, communion has no set frequency, except that whenever we do this, do in remembrance of Christ. The Seder is for all of Israel, no end given, Communion is for any believer, until the return of Christ. Both are deeply rooted in the theology of redemption and God's (Christ's) redemptive work.



HILLVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

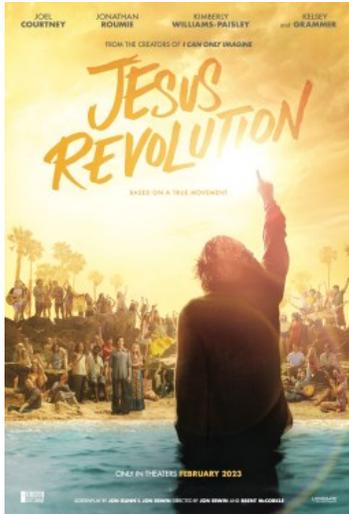
253 Woodvale Road West
Edmonton, Alberta
T6L 1E5

Church Phone: 780-461-5393
Email: office@hillviewchurch.ca
Website: hillviewchurch.ca



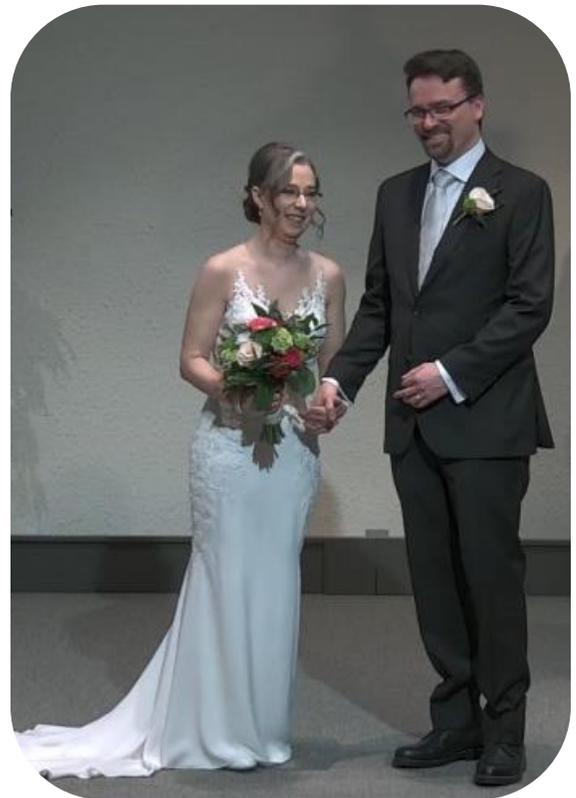
- Sunday April 2** - no coffee after church service, heavy sigh
- Friday April 7** - Good Friday, church service at 10.30am
- Sunday April 9** - Easter/ Resurrection Sunday with an delicious and nutritious breakfast - details to follow in bulletin
- Sunday April 16,23** - coffee returns, yea!
- Sunday April 30** - more coffee and birthday cake, so good!

JESUS REVOLUTION MOVIE



This movie tells the story of a young Greg Laurie (Joel Courtney) being raised by his struggling mother, Charlene (Kimberly Williams-Paisley) in the 1970s. Laurie and a group of young people descend on sunny Southern California to redefine truth through all means of liberation. Inadvertently, Laurie meets Lonnie Frisbee (Jonathan Roumie), a charismatic hippie-street-preacher, and Pastor Chuck Smith (Kelsey Grammer) who have thrown open the doors of Smith's languishing church to a stream of wandering youth. What unfolds becomes the greatest spiritual awakening in American history. Rock and roll, newfound love, and a twist of faith lead to a JESUS REVOLUTION that turns one counterculture movement into a revival that changes the world.
Source: Internet Movie Database

Rated PG-13 for strong drug content involving teens and some thematic elements. Highly recommended by Donald and Russ Nelson.



**Congratulations to Krista and Neil Carlberg
March 25, 2023**

*Not exactly
as shown.*



Do you know of a house that is available for rent?

Type: Entire house, 2-3 bedroom, 2 bath preferred
Rent: \$1,500 - \$2,200 (with or without utilities)
Location/area: southside - Millwoods to Capilano areas
Occupancy: **May at the earliest**
Contact: **Brian Worobec at 780-966-8107**