

REFLECTIONS

MAY 2023

**God doesn't call the qualified,
He qualifies the called.**

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GARDENING, NO LIFE LIKE IT

BY PASTOR NORM BLEICK

There is a line in a children's nursery rhyme that doesn't apply in Alberta: April showers bring May flowers. Not here. In Alberta we don't put our gardens in until the May long weekend. Here, people start their gardens indoors. But we still plant gardens. The very act of gardening is an act of faith. You take a seed, stick it in dirt, pour water on it, and put it in the sunshine. Amazingly, something grows. That is eerily close to our strategy for raising our children. It takes a bit of time but something amazing grows. Jesus had a parable of sorts about that Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. – John 12.23-24 (NIV).

For Jesus to be glorified, he had to endure the crucifixion. The crucifixion gives context and potency to the Resurrection, and the Resurrection to the Ascension. From the life and work of one extraordinary man came forth something beautiful: the Church. Some 2.4 billion people around the world claim or identify them-



selves as Christian. That's a lot of seeds.

I'm not much of a gardener for personal reasons stemming from childhood. Added to that, I'm not a huge fan of vegetables so the incentive diminishes all the more. The one exception is tomatoes. I LOVE vine ripened tomatoes. Sliced. On rye bread with cold butter. And salt and pepper. The thing with gardening is all the faith it takes. You go through the exercise of planting and watering and hoping. It's a risk.

I said that to a farmer once with the insight that farmers were the biggest gamblers I know. He asked, "how's that?" I said, "you take most if not all the money you have

and then buy seed; then you stick it in the ground and hope the weather, the weeds, and the weevils won't conspire against you." His response? "Son, I'm betting' on the Lord, and I figure that's a pretty safe bet." I guess I'm betting on a few things too. I bet Jesus has the power to save, that he will return, and that he's going to ask me what I've done with the seed he left me. I'm not responsible for making the seed grow (1Corinthians 3.7-8), but I've been tasked with planting it. And when Jesus comes or calls me home, I hope I've planted all he gave me. I hope that for you too.

RESPONDING TO A DISASTER

On April 1, 2023, Russ and Donalda Nelson, Mo Worobec and myself attended a Samaritan's Purse Disaster Relief volunteer training program at West Meadows Baptist Church, along with approximately 50 other volunteers.



Robert (Bob) Pierce 1914-1978

Samaritan's Purse was started by Bob Pierce in 1970 using the example out of Luke 10. Bob's motto was "Let my heart be broken with the things that break the heart of God." The organization is non-denominational, looking after both physical and spiritual needs. They are in 100 countries globally. Currently they are in the Ukraine and have been

there for one year, having distributed 45,000 metric tons of food. Also in Turkey and Syria where an emergency field hospital has been set up with 25 beds and 75 staff. All of this is not possible without volunteers like you and me.

When Samaritan's Purse responds to a disaster, they rely on people like you to bring hope to hurting families. Churches are essential partners when they respond to disaster and participate in community recovery across Canada and around the World. God uses this partnership to share Gospel hope with people facing grief and uncertainty. At this very informative training session we were exposed to the many and varied aspects of what happens with a volunteer helping in a disaster situation. During the session, a farmer and his wife from Trochu, who have been on at least

20 disaster missions, gave us a detailed account on what to expect as a volunteer on a mission. Samaritan's Purse looks after all of your needs while on a volunteer mission. You must need to get yourself there however, they will provide housing, food, local transportation, protective clothing, etc. Anyone can volunteer that is 18 years of age or older. There is no limit regarding age or ability. They will find a job for you to do that suits your capabilities.

They also have chaplains on hand who are trained with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. These are specially trained volunteers who respond to community wide disasters or personal crises with emotional and spiritual care. One such chaplain was Carol, from Sherwood Park, an ex-Edmonton City Police Officer.

BY GLORIA SWAIN

This training was one of the best I have attended. Presenters were top notch speakers that knew their topics and involved the audience. Well, of course, food was in abundance, along with a tour of their equipment/office vehicle. I left there thinking this organization certainly portrays that Jesus wants only our best. It shone through in every aspect of the training.

When the volunteer's work is done on any specific site a Bible signed by all volunteers is presented to the homeowner or community. There is so much more I can say about this inspiring day. For more information or to volunteer go to SamaritansPurse.ca/CanadianRelief.

Remember, when disasters shake the very foundation of life, only the comfort and love of God can offer real, lasting hope.



Russ Nelson, Mo Worobec, Gloria Swain, Donalda Nelson, unknown guy

A NEW PSALM - #151 V1-4

BY KURT REDSCHLAG

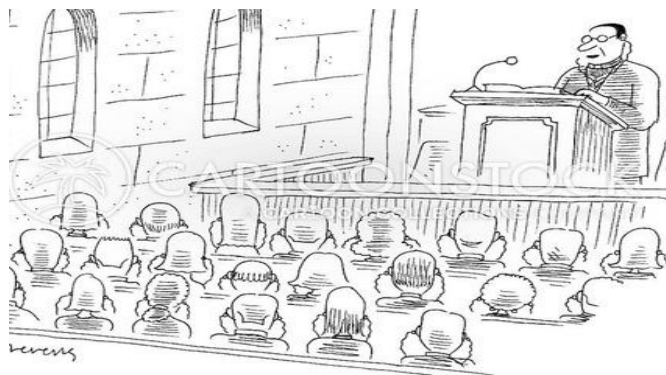
There was another 'Hymn Sing' at Hillview on March 26 (Did you see the outdoor sign?) and as usual Kurt had a very entertaining welcome to everyone attending. This time it was an additional Psalm, Psalm 151. I am sure David and the other original authors will be somewhat satisfied with Kurt's contribution to their book. Ed.

**1. Come, God's people, let us sing
Praises to our heavenly King.
Hearts and voices we'll unite
On this blessed hymn sing night.**

**2. Hymns we love, oh yes, we do -
Those by Watts and Wesley too.
And those Fanny Crosby songs
That have blessed our hearts so long.**

**3. So sopranos, lead the way
And you altos, don't delay.
Join with tenors and the bass
As we sing Amazing Grace.**

**4. Now it's time this psalm to end
And to call on Rick, my friend.
Lead in song this happy bunch
After which we'll go for lunch.**



"Please select hymn number 637 on your phone."

INSIGHTS ON MOMS



What is a godly mother? A godly mother is one who loves the Lord her God with all her heart, soul, mind, and strength and then passionately, consistently, and unrelentingly teaches her child to do the same.
Elizabeth George (she is a Christian author Ed.)

Only God himself fully appreciates the influence of a Christian mother in the molding of character in her children. *Billy Graham*

I don't believe there are enough devils in hell to pull a boy out of the arms of a godly mother. *Billy Sunday*

No man is poor who has a godly mother.
Abraham Lincoln

Submitted by Greg Belesiotis

MOTHER'S DAY QUIZ

- Who was the "mother of all living"?
- What mother "lent her child to the Lord"?
- What mother urged her daughter to ask for a man's head?
- What mother asked Jesus if her two sons could sit on His right and left hand in His kingdom?
- What mother helped her son deceive his father?
- What mother served as a paid nurse for her baby son?
- What 90-year-old woman became a mother?
- What mother arranged for her son to marry an Egyptian girl?

Answers on page 7. Ed.

GOING TO BRAZIL

BY ARDATH EFFA

While pastoring churches, Herman and I often felt God tugging at our hearts regarding missionary work. Even before we were married, we shared our mutual calling to either the pastorate or the mission field. However, at that time, our North American Baptist (NAB) missionary work was primarily in Cameroon and limited to medical or educational ministry. We were not qualified for either.

During the North Dakota Association sessions one summer, our Missions Director, Dr. Schilke, reported that the NAB were now ready to begin a work in Brazil, which would largely involve evangelism and church planting, but there were no candidates. Wow! Right down our alley! After the sessions, we asked Dr. Schilke if he thought we would

qualify. He told us that they were looking for someone with pastoral experience and that we would certainly be qualified since we were in our second church Pastorate.

We prayed much for God's leading in this. After the necessary forms were filled out and many extensive interviews, we suddenly found ourselves off to Brazil!!! Dick and Beth Rabenhorst were also can-

didates and were appointed to work in Brazil. Unlike present missionaries, we did not have to first raise our support because the Missions Department was financially well supported and funds were available. We spent the first year in language school in Campinas, Sao Paulo. Our children attended Brazilian school and were quick to pick up the language while we struggled with perfect tenses, pluperfect tenses, past tenses, future tenses, feminine or masculine endings along with the corresponding right end-



ings of the articles and adjectives, besides all the vocabulary. I could write a whole article on some funny mistakes we made in trying to use what we were learning!

After language school, Herman and Dick made a trip to the southernmost state of Brazil, which our denomination had decided was the neediest area. We chose to begin ministry in the city of Caxias do

Sul and the Rabenhorsts in Bento Gonçalves, a 30-minute drive apart. Both were well established Italian cities located in the State of Rio Grande do Sul. We knew this would be

a big challenge! *As editor, I was curious about this "challenge" because all mission work must be a challenge to me. I decided to ask Ardath if Caxias do*

Sul presented some unique difficulties? Did "Italian" mean the area has a predominately Catholic population? The following is her reply to my query. You guessed right. Caxias do Sul is a robust Italian city with a significant Catholic population, as are several other cities in the surrounding area. There is also a lot of Spiritism (occult) prevalent

because when African slaves were brought to Brazil, they were forced to become Catholic but secretly practiced their voodoo while outwardly Catholic. These slaves were the ones who cared for their owners' children and passed their beliefs down to these children. As a result, Catholicism in much of Brazil is a very mixed up religion and it is not unusual to have fami-



"these slaves were the ones who cared for their owners' children and

....

(Continued on page 5)

GOING TO BRAZIL (NOT WINNIPEG)

(Continued from page 4)

lies with Catholic crucifixes in their homes along with occultic emblems. One of our families in a nearby small city became converted and members of our church. Every day, the statue of Mary or Jesus was passed around to the next home in their small town until they made their rounds but as believers, they refused to accept the statues and it upset the whole system and caused quite the confusion but they stayed strong in their convictions. Interestingly, we recently received the wonderful news that there are now eight Baptist churches in that city where we struggled to plant the first Baptist Church.

The mission bought us a pickup truck and Herman built the sides and closed the top, creating a platform that we would use for outdoor evangelism. He built speakers into the four corners of the truck

and wired it all to a generator so that we could climb on top with our instruments and sing and preach anywhere. We also used it to show Moody Science and Billy Graham films.

When I think of missions, I like to think of the four men in Mark 2 who brought a paralytic man to Jesus for healing. They could not get near Jesus due to the crowd, so they climbed on to the roof, opened it up and lowered the cot carrying the man down in front of Jesus. He was healed. I believe these men demonstrated the ingredients of missions!

The C's made it work! First, there was Mr. Compassion. "Poor man, I feel so sorry for him." Then Mr. Conviction steps in and says, "Let's do something for him. He needs help. Let's take him to Jesus." Along comes Mr. Cooperation. "Sure, I'll help you carry him." And he took

hold of his corner of the bed. But when they got to where Jesus was, there were so many people, they could not get the poor man anywhere near Him. Undaunted, Mr. Commitment decides that they should go up on the roof, open it up and lower the man down to Jesus' feet. Result? Jesus healed the man, the Bible recounts, "because of their faith." Not the faith of the sick man but rather the faith of the men who brought him to Jesus.

Missions demands we have compassion for the lost who need Jesus. Conviction says we have to do something about it. Cooperation means sharing the burden by our giving, praying, going, and sending. Furthermore, conviction stirs us to keep on keeping on until everyone has a chance to hear the Good News that Jesus saves! May we all do our part in getting the Gospel out to our lost and needy world.

... they refused to accept the statues and it upset ...



**The Diocese of
Caxias do Sol**

AN INTERVIEW WITH NOREEN WOURMS

In the April issue of "Reflections" I had an interview with Keith Wourms in which he frequently mentioned his wife, Noreen. I thought it would be a good idea to follow-up with Noreen and ask some questions based on Keith's answers to some of my enquiries. She graciously agreed.

1. According to Keith, you are the real blessing in his appointment as Worship Director at Hillview. Can you explain what he meant by that?

I believe Keith should answer this question, but Keith and I are a team, both in marriage and ministries, each with our own strengths, gifts and focus.

2. He indicated you have a "wonderful ministry" at Hillview. What is that ministry? Does it involve others? Who? How long have you been doing this ministry?

Keith and I were involved with Celebrate Amazing Freedom at Hillview 2007 for a few years. We held evening Bible Study once a week with Pastor B. Once a month we had a potluck, testimony & praise night with all who were attending Celebrate session(s). Since 2010, I have facilitated a Ladies morning Bible study at Hillview. During the COVID era we were on zoom. I have been so blessed with these unique ladies the Lord has brought together. Not only are they hungry for God's word, they are powerful pray warriors. A few ladies from other churches join us as well.

3. I asked Keith about his band, "FREEDOM Band". He said that the band recently played at Hillview for a "private function". He suggested that you would be able to provide details. What was the purpose of the concert, when was it, did you consider it a success? January 21, 2023 we held an afternoon birthday High Tea with a twist, Freedom Band provided the music. It was a special event to celebrate my birthday with the Hillview Bible Study Ladies, family and friends.

4. Keith's favourite vacation spot was Oceanside, California. What is your favourite spot? If you have a different beloved place, who wins?

Several years ago Keith's cousin invited us to Oceanside, California to stay at a gated community condo with the ocean as our front lawn. We both were so pleased with the accommodations, the view, etc. that we have incorporated it as our once a year getaway holiday.

5. Did you edit/censor question 12? Keith said that you might.

No I did not need too...lol

6. Are you into music too? As a singer, musician, or listener. Do you have a favorite/preferred song sung by "FREEDOM Band"? What is it? And why?

Music has always been a love of mine, from very young. I used to listen to all genre, from rock to classic to classical, with a few blues now and then. My Mom introduced me to Beverly Shea, Gaithers and Pavarotti. I developed a love for Andrea Rieu, however Christian gospel mainly plays in our home.

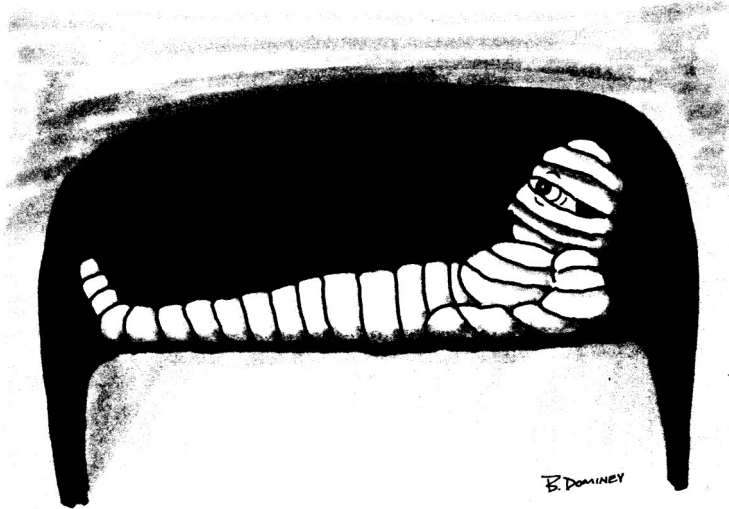
Most mornings start off listening to 930 CJCA (early 6-8 AM) which has wonderful hymns and prayers; evenings with Keith & Freedom Band practicing. I'm a Keith devotee, as a listener, an avid singer in the car and with the church congregation. Keith has probably written over a 100 Christian songs, and I have several favourites, however two stand out the most "People Rejoice" and "Living Water". Several years ago, during the night, I was woken up by the light on and my husband sitting on the side of the bed writing. The Lord was giving him the words for "Living Water", so precious.



FREEDOM Band

THE PASSOVER PLOT AND PLAYING DEAD

BY WAYNE BAKER



This is an interesting read despite being totally antichristian.

On Easter Sunday, Pastor Norm mentioned several explanations for the empty tomb, one being that Jesus fainted on the cross, was pronounced dead, buried, and recovered consciousness. He rolled the sealed stone aside, exited the tomb, overcame the guards and left.

"The Passover Plot" has a variation on this answer. The book presents a very in-depth, historical study of the era. The author tries to fit the life of Christ into this predetermined historical situation. The author also argues that Jesus' birth was between 6BC and 6AD, his ministry 34 to 35AD and the crucifixion in 35AD. Traditionally, though, I never have seen

a suggested date for the Crucifixion, Christians would probably place the date about 28 or 29 AD and ministry 26 AD to death.

The book identifies Jesus as a historical figure, a great teacher who believed himself to be the Messiah. The author is suggesting that Jesus was aware of all the Biblical Prophecies he needed to fulfill in order to be perceived as the Messiah, and planned His ministry accordingly. The author does a great job in presenting an informative, and documented historical backdrop to the life of Christ, which set the stage for Jesus to appear,

From the book, we can gain insight into the message Christ presents. As Christians we are told that

God had Christ come when the time was right. The book expands in great detail as to why this was the perfect time. The Jewish people were looking for a Messiah to free them from the tyranny of Rome, and there were many false pretenders presenting themselves as the Messiah. In Judea the

Messiah was expected to forcibly evict Rome. The Galileans stressed the Suffering Servant aspects of the prophecies concerning the Messiah. Christ grew up in Galilee and focused on the latter perspective, with his personal modifications.

For mature Christians this may present a view that helps explain some of the New Testament. One can see how the setting, as described in the book, was very conducive to the "Right Time" which God chose for the coming of His Son to save the world.

Wayne Baker is almost too active in the church. He is a member of the men's Bible study and the technical team. He operates the projection computer. Plus other things in the Church. Ed

The book identifies Jesus as an historical figure, a great teacher ...

Answers to Mothers Day Quiz

1. Eve (Genesis 3:20)
2. Hannah (1 Sam 1:22,28)
3. Herodias (Matt 14:6-8)
4. Zebedee's wife (Matt 20:20, 21)
5. Rebekah (Gen 27:6-9)
6. Jochebed (Exod 2:1-9; 6:20)
7. Sarah (Gen 17:15-17)
8. Hagar (Gen 21:17, 21)

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Editorial Comment:

There will be respite from the newsletter for July and August. The next issue will be in September which means I will not be bothering you for stories until August. In addition, we all need to determine if this newsletter experiment should continue after the summer break. Many thanks to all of you who contributed stories, letters and pictures, and also for the ideas, comments and criticisms.

Have a grand summer!

Bill Holmes

Sunday May 7 - no after church service coffee

Friday May 14 - Mother's Day - no coffee, take your favourite mom to a crowded restaurant. Reserve soon,

Sunday May 21 - Victoria Day

Sunday May 28 - Celebration Sunday for birthdays and anniversaries

Monday June 5 - Annual General Meeting

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Gloria and Hillview Family.

I hope you are all well. Thank you so much for the correspondence you sent me. Also thank you for the money. I bought chocolates to start my own business of Chocotejas, it is a traditional Peruvian sweet. I was also able to buy sugar, rice & noodles. I am also working in a photocopier business to continue supporting my mom. What kind of Christmas did you have? Do you know Peru? This Christmas was a time to be with family because we were not together because of the pandemic. Please pray for my family. Hugs from a distance. I hope to hear from you again. May God Bless you all. Alexandra.



If you would like to drop a note or a card to Alexandra please leave it in Gloria Swain's mailbox. I wonder if we could order some of Alexandra's Chocotejas - they look rather delicious, I am sure Pastor Norm would devour them! Ed



I love my mom.
She has lots of good ideas. She reads to me,
and is nice to me. She is good at teaching and
music. Thank you mama for all the things you
do for me. - Jared

I love MY Mum. MY Mum
loves Me. she is kind.
she is generous. she is so
nice to me. Happy Mother's
Day Mama! Love Lilly

