

The task ahead of us is never as great as the POWER behind us!

Reflections

Hillview Baptist Church

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Newsletter Issue -- November 2023

We Remember ALL the Fallen

By: Pastor Norm Bleick

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NOVEMBER! The month when everything dies. Even the name of the month is negative: "No"vember! However, November has a few things going for it, not the least of which is my second son's birthday as well as that of many other fine people - Miley Cyrus, Bill Nye and Ryan Gosling. Josh was born on November 5: Guy Fawkes Day. "Remember, remember the 5th of November..." I'll let you research the significance of that. The point being: we celebrate and commemorate significant events "Lest We For-

get." November is most famous for Armistice Day, a.k.a. Remembrance Day. According to Wikipedia... Armistice Day, later known as Remembrance Day in the Commonwealth and Veterans Day in the United States, is commemorated every year on November 11. It marks the armistice signed between the Allies of World War I and Germany at Compiègne, France, at 5:45 am for the cessation of hostilities on the Western Front of World War I, which



took effect at eleven in the morning—the "eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month" of 1918. But, according to Thomas R. Gowenlock, an intelligence officer with the U.S. First Division, shelling from both

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The Cry of Persecuted Christians

By: Kurt Redschlag

Today, it is estimated that more than 300 million Christians are personally and directly suffering for their faith in Jesus Christ. The first Sunday in November has been designated as **International Day of Prayer for the**

Persecuted Church, when Christians in more than 130 countries unite their hearts and stand with their persecuted brothers and sisters in prayer. I would encourage each one of us to take some time on this day to pray for the millions

who are suffering not only persecution, but even martyrdom, simply because they confess Jesus Christ as Lord. Sadly, the persecuted church is increasing daily. Ever since Stephen became the first Christian martyr (Acts 7:54-60),

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We Remember the Fallen

By: Pastor Norm Bleick

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sides continued for the rest of the day, ending only at nightfall. The armistice initially expired after a period of 36 days and had to be extended several times."

A formal peace agreement was reached only when the Treaty of Versailles was signed the following year. The details matter, I suppose, but the bigger picture needs to be kept in view. The war ended. Millions of people died. We never wanted to see another war like it. But the lesson was not learned. In fact the Treaty of Versailles is thought by some to have laid the groundwork for World War II.

Ironic! History drips with irony. How many people have died in the name of the Prince of Peace? Some politicians and others have used the cause of Christ to create and exercise conflict. Some people have died for simply refusing to recant their faith. According to Dr. Todd M. Johnson, professor of Global Christianity and Mission at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary: "We estimate that more than 70 million Christians have been martyred over the last two millennia, more than half of which died in the 20th century under fascist and communist regimes. We also estimate that 1 million Christians were killed between 2001 and

2010 and about 900,000 were killed from 2011 to 2020."

We remember the fallen, those who gave their lives to secure liberties for their fellow citizens. We remember the fallen who gave their lives for the sake of the Gospel and because of the integrity of their faith. And we remember that, "**we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**"
2 Corinthians 5.20-21
ESV.

"Some people have died for simply refusing to recant their faith..."

An Old Fashioned Christmas

December 10 at 5PM
Woodvale Facility Clubhouse
4540 - 50 Street, Edmonton, AB

Adults: \$45.00 per person
Children - \$20.00 (2-12 years old)

Tickets available from -
Liz, Margaret, or Sally

Great Fun!

Great Food!

The Cry of Persecuted Christians

By: Kurt Redschlag

(Continued from page 1)

the church of Jesus Christ has become the object of hatred, persecution, and, martyrdom, something Jesus had clearly warned us about.

It is difficult to estimate the number of Christians who have suffered and died for their faith during the 2,000-year history of Christianity, but it is in the millions. And while we may think the persecution of Christians during the days of the Roman Empire was severe, the fact is that the number of Christians being persecuted and martyred in our day is far, far greater than anything that has occurred in the past. Indeed, it has been estimated that the number of Christians who have been killed for the sake of Christ during the last 50 years is greater than during all of the previous 1,900 years.

Please study the world map that is posted on the Missions board, to see the many countries in which persecution against Christians is taking place. It is absolutely staggering that in over 50 nations there is direct persecution of Christians, often with government approval. North Korea, Eritrea, China, Iran,

Pakistan, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Syria and Kazakhstan are among the most dangerous places for Christians. Let me cite a few recent examples.

Several years ago in a prison camp in northern Siberia, two sisters who professed to be Christians were forced to go out in the snow-covered prison courtyard in their bare feet and only in their flimsy underclothes in 25 degree below zero temperature. They were then mocked and jeered at by their fellow prisoners for hours on end. But they testified that they'd rather freeze to death than deny their Lord.

One of the ways persecutions against Christians have been fueled in recent years is by deliberately making false accusations against them, which in turn, makes the Christians the object of increasing attacks and deadly violence. In September of 2018, in one of the provinces of India, a report was televised falsely claiming that Christian pastors in their state were paying for Hindus to convert to Christianity. Hindu radicals were incensed by this news and spear-headed intimidations against Christians across the state. Gangs blocked

roads to churches and vandalized other ones. Angry mobs dragged pastors from their beds in the middle of the night. Police arrested pastors during Sunday services, closed or burned down other churches, and jailed many of the people. But in spite of such oppressions, the believers are becoming even stronger and many Hindus are turning to the Lord.

Our NAB-sponsored mission work among the F*lbe people of Nigeria has been blessed of God, with several small churches being established. Life-saving water wells were built in many locales. We even set up a medical clinic for the people of the region. However, the M*slim population, instead of appreciating such efforts to help their people, are doing everything they can to arouse hatred against this small Christian group. They do this especially through social media. Some have been physically attacked and even killed.

May your heart be burdened for the persecuted Christians around the world, and may you heed their cry and pray for them.



If you would like to become more informed and updated on the persecuted church, you can request a free one-year trial subscription of the monthly magazine, ***"Voice of the Martyrs"***.

I have forms you can use to request your free trial subscription.

Who is my Neighbour?

By: Ardath Effa



From left to right: Jerilyn, Grace, Ardath, Jeanette, Lou, Angie, Elaine, and Viola

never met personally, like Anna, who lives in the end home of our circle. To our delight, who should be seated at our table at the High Tea that we recently had at church but Anna. What a privilege to finally meet her!

In March, I was asked to share my life story at The Women's Connection (formerly Christian Women's Club)

meeting at the Millwoods Golf Clubhouse. I invited my next-door neighbor, Elaine, and to my surprise, she brought 3 neighbors along with her.

The NAB Intercessor, which we use in our devotions every day, challenges us sometimes to pray for each of our neighbours by name. We are glad we can do so. Would you be able to do that?

"In March, I was asked to share my life story ..."

This is a question an expert in the law once asked Jesus. Jesus answered with the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10.

I live with my daughter, Jerilyn, in a cul-de-sac called "Sunrise Village (although it should be "Sunset Village" because it is a 55 plus complex). There are 15 units in our "village."

Angie, who lives at the beginning of our circle, graciously invites all of us for a lunch and get-to-know one another every Christmas time. However, not everyone comes. Jerilyn and I have our own ways of getting to know who is our neighbour. Once we invited everyone to come to our house for a carol sing. This was great. Every special holiday like Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, I

write a poem and, together with some small gift item, Jerilyn distributes this to each neighbour.

This past Easter, in my poem I included the plan of salvation. I recently wrote this poem to welcome a new neighbour and included a little container of homemade jam.

We know everyone by name but some we had



**Welcome to the neighbourhood
We know you'll find that it is good.
We hope you will enjoy your home
And invite you with little poem
Feel free to call on us if you
Have a need or problem, too.
To help each other is our plan
And do whatever good we can
To keep our sunrise village neat
So please enjoy this little treat.**

Do you Hear the Drums?

By: Bill Holmes



Trevor as Animal, the Muppet

Have you ever notice the drummers on the platform? They are mostly heard and not seen because they are wary like a mouse and hide behind a barrier. Barely noticeable except when using their instrument of choice - drums. I thought we should learn more about our drummers. We have three drummers Trevor Mallett, Darren Hoflin and Brian Worobec (The 3 Musketeers). Unfortunately, Darren was unable to participate, but Trevor and Brian attempted to answer my arduous questions.

1) How long have you been playing? How or who got you started. Were your roommates, or family supportive or where they hoping for something quieter like bagpipes?

Trevor: I have been playing since I was 13.

My family and friends were supportive on and off (mostly off). My cousin played for his worship team and I helped him once and he showed me a thing or two. Parents were supportive, yes.

Brian: I've been playing, occasionally, for around 10 years. I was first introduced to the drums back in grade 7. Our teacher asked us to grab the instrument that spoke to us the most; the drum kit was speaking loud and clear to me that day. My family has been very supportive in my musical journey; my parents bought me my first kit for Christmas when I was 15 years old. I like to believe that my early days of drumming were influential in leading my dad to prayer on my behalf. Or maybe on behalf of his poor ears?

2) What types of music do you enjoy playing?

Trevor: currently I only play worship, I do like things with a faster tempo. I would like to learn to play better.

Brian: At first, I only played rock and heavy metal music. Now, I actually enjoy playing most types of music, except jazz. I don't care much for jazz.

3) How do you feel about the current state of worship music as opposed to the more traditional style we all know?

Trevor: I believe that if we are worshiping the Lord then there should be acceptance of all types of worship. I like the more uplifting worship, but some of the classics should never be lost.

Brian: I am split down the middle when it comes to traditional versus newer Christian music. I love singing traditional hymns and songs, and always will. However, the musician in me also wants to praise our Lord using the gifts He has blessed me with, and play something with a little beat to it. As long as the music is true to the Bible and not twisting God's word I feel it can still be pleasing to God. We should understand that the traditional hymns are rich in history and beautiful,

(Continued on page 8)

'family and friends were supportive on and off, (mostly off)!"

Evolution vs Creation - Part 3

By; Wayne Baker

This is a continuation from previous stories that appeared in the June and October issues of Reflections, Ed

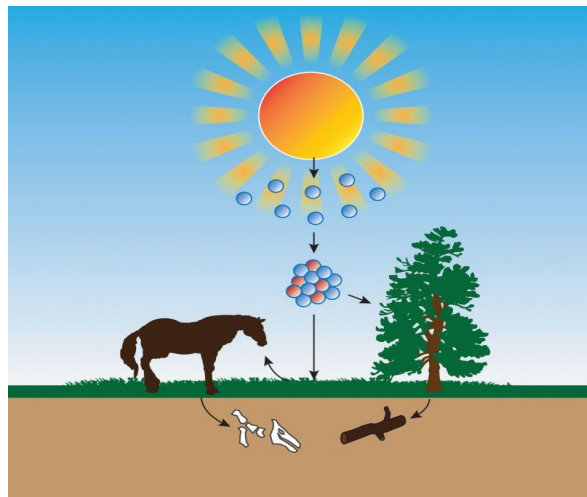
For background information, according to Google, Carbon 14 is important because "Living organisms absorb this carbon-14 into their tissue. Once they die, the absorption stops, and the carbon-14 begins very slowly to change into other atoms at a predictable rate. By measuring how much carbon-14 remains, scientists can estimate how long a particular organic object has been dead". Ed.

Basically more C14 is produced every minute than what decays. (For you technical types - 18.8 atoms per one gram of mass per minute to 16.1 atoms per minute per one gram of mass.) This means the C14 level is increasing, therefore the C14 level during the time of Jesus was less than it is today. This assumes there was not equilibrium until we started testing and using nuclear weapons.

Carbon 14 (C14) dating requires knowing the level of C14 in the organism when it died to determine the age of the fossil. Obviously, there was no measure-

ment taken at the organism's death, so how is the amount of C14 at death determined?

- If they calculate the discrepancy effect, and use that to determine the C14 level, it would require one knowing when the or-



The carbon 14 cycle

- Was the original C14 determined to be the same as the current level? We know this is inaccurate unless the imbalance was caused by something that occurred just before Dr. Libby published his work on C14 dating in 1952. There would still be some discrepancy between the original and current C14 levels.
- Samples of the atmosphere from sap bubbles, ice core air bubbles and the like. To choose the right sample though, one would have to know the age of the fossil. In conclusion, C14 indicates the earth is

younger than 30,000 years old. The imbalance between the specific build and decay rates supports this, but there are valid explanations. It is up to the evolutionists to prove these explanations. C14 works only on organic organisms, it works by assuming the C14 in the organism is not added to upon death, so the decayed product is not replaced. Even with this assumption, the age of the fossil is required to accurately determine the C14 level at the death of the organism. There is no way to know the amount of C14 at death, without having some way to determine it. The previous paragraph outlines the problem.

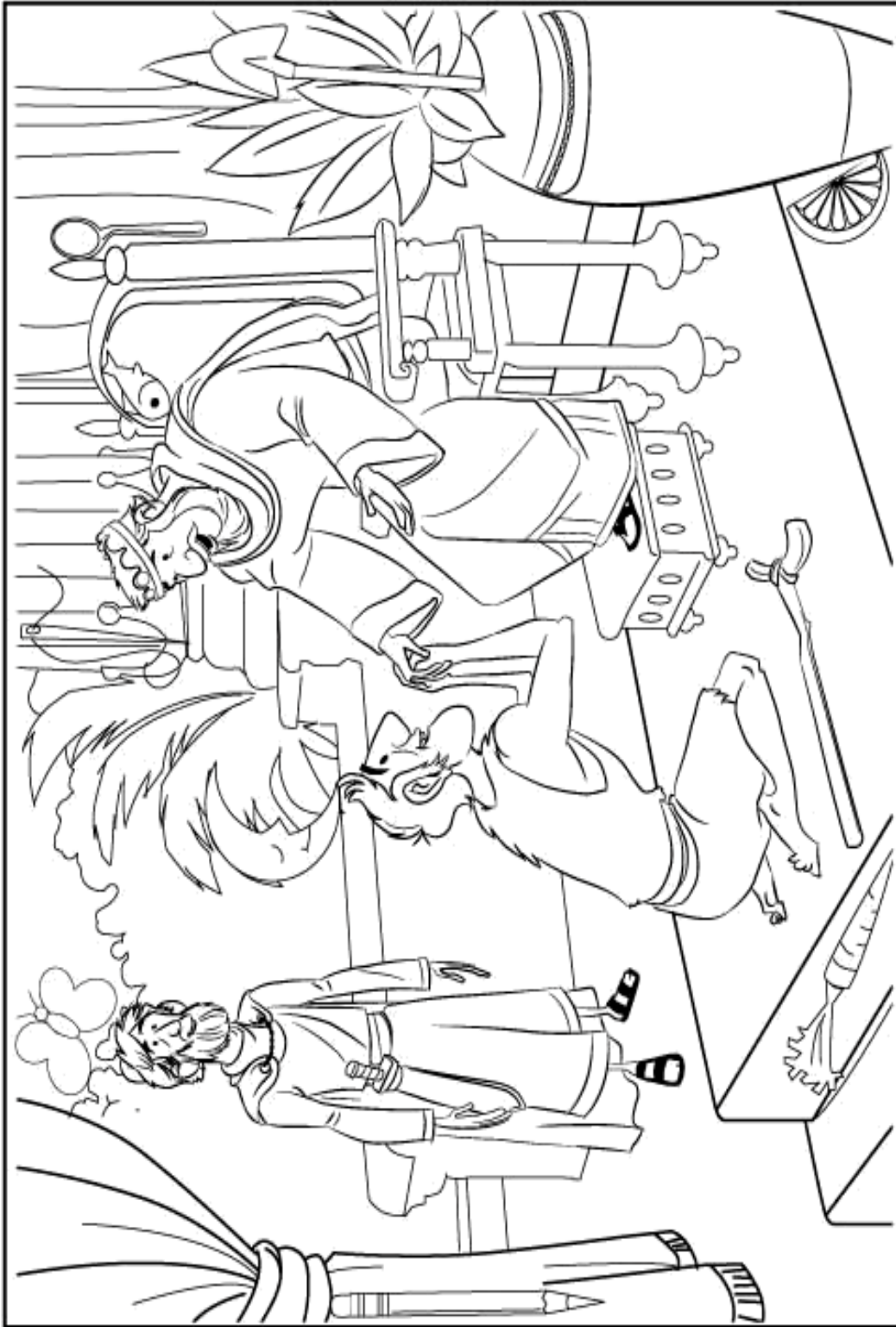
If you are looking for more information, the book "The New Answers Book" by Ken Hamm answers over 25 questions on evolution, creation and why this topic matters to your life. It is available from Amazon. Ed.



- bill watterson

Hidden Pictures in David the King

Find these objects hidden in the picture below: butterfly, canoe, carrot, fish, moon, needle and thread, orange slice, pencil, shovel.



Do you Hear the Drums?

By: Bill Holmes



Brian with specialized drum sticks

(Continued from page 5)

yet we should still be reasonably open to newer music and praising God authentically, without being constrained by tradition for the sake of tradition. I personally feel that drums add a lot to music in general. They provide power that other instruments are not capable of, and can create and/or establish a tone and texture to a song.

4) *As a drummer what is your favourite secular and/or Christian song to play?*

Trevor: Because I only currently play for worship, anything with a good beat. My favorites I can't play, and are way faster and harder than we currently play.

Brian: Christian - Kadosh (Paul Wilbur & In-

tegrity's Hosanna!), Child of Love (We the Kingdom), Secular - What Else is New (Cody Jinks), Perfect Strangers (Deep Purple).

5) *Can you share an interesting fact about yourself as a drummer?*

Trevor: I appreciate the congregation and Keith's patience and guidance as I make this musical journey with

you. As for my understanding of the formal aspects of music, I leave it up to the Lord to lead me.

Brian: I am self-taught and am just now trying to learn how to read music.

Keith, our Worship Director had the following perspective on drumming and our drummers. Ed

As far as we know, although I am not that old; percussion (and vocals) were the genesis of what we now label as music. If you align that with how it is apparent that music is certainly a key gift from God. It help us in so many ways, which includes enhancing our ability to express our love to Him, and to each other. It would seem hard to make an argument against percussion as part of a worship celebration. But, as with all things good, too

much is too much, so drums and the person "beating" on them, need to present an offering that supports and enhances and doesn't distract. If you watch closely, you will see many times, especially during an intimate worship song, where there are no drums at all.

Most churches, eastern and western; incorporate percussion (including tambourines) with more traditional formats such as hymns. Jewish and African celebrations of worship are extremely lively. At Hillview, of the time, we tend not to have drums during hymns, especially with "team 3", but that is not 'written in stone'.

We certainly are blessed to have Darren, Trevor and Brian as drummers in our church. I truly appreciate their commitment, and faithfulness and willingness to share their abilities with us.



The Problem with Signs

By: Bill Holmes

Over the past few weeks have you noticed our church signs? They are being altered, getting a facelift. That's the problem with wood signs, they get old, dilapidated and need some TLC. Some guys with artistic abilities (who knew?) noticed and took action. They have been diligently sanding, painting and staining our unique street sign. The following pictures shows the progress and the work involved in making our sign beautiful once again. There may be others to thank, but I only know of these three talented artistes, the three amigos - Larry Hubscher, Dale Neale and, of course, Howard Adam. Ed



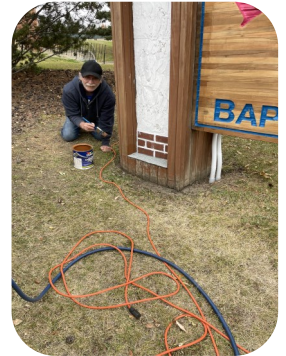
Before the work.



Larry sanding.



Painting letters.



Dale staining.

'A Little Table Prayer

By: Kurt Redschlag



prayer as the powerful hymn. "Now Thank We All Our God." The first verse goes as follows:

In the darkness of the Thirty Years' War, a German Lutheran pastor by the name of Martin Rinkart, exemplified the spirit of a thankful heart like nothing I have ever come across. During this bitter war, the economy, disease, pestilence, and famine were ravaging Europe, and millions died. In the year 1636 alone, pastor Rinkart buried 4,480 of the citizens from the village of Eilenburg (near Leipzig), including his own wife, sometimes as many as forty to fifty a day. Yet in the midst of that horrible darkness, with the cries of anguish and death being heard outside his window every day he, incongruous as it seems, sat down and, inspired by the Holy Spirit, wrote a little table prayer ("Ein Tisch-Gebetlein") of thanksgiving for his children to pray at mealtimes. Set to music and later translated into English, today we know this table

**Now thank we all our God Who, from our mother's arms,
With heart and hands and voices; Hath blessed us on our way
Who wondrous things hath done, With countless gifts of love
In whom His world rejoices. And still is ours today.**

Oh, that God might grant us such hearts of thanksgiving.

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Dates to enter into your phone:



November:

- ◆ Coffee most Sundays
- ◆ 7th - write letters to missionaries (7PM)
- ◆ 11th - Remembrance Day
- ◆ 12th - no coffee, sigh! But a chance to drag someone to your home for lunch, - **final day for Christmas Shoeboxes**
- ◆ 19th - potluck lunch
- ◆ 20th - last day for Christmas themed newsletter

stories - send to hillvieweditor@gmail.com. People pictures are grand!

- ◆ 25th - Christmas card and ornaments (4-6PM)
- ◆ 26th - last day - items for Hope Mission

December:

- ◆ Coffee most Sundays
- ◆ 10th - Christmas Banquet - see advertisement Page 2
- ◆ 16th - games night - anyone have Pegs and Jokers?
- ◆ 24th - morning service as usual
- ◆ 25th - Christmas



Dear Father,

You are the God of love and I thank You that You are with me in every change and transition.

I trust in Your Word that says, "the Lord Your God goes with you."

Therefore, as I enter into this new season, I will not be anxious of the uncertainty, but I declare Your Word that says, I must not be anxious for anything but in everything through prayer and supplication, I will make my requests be made known unto You.

Amen."

**DEUTERONOMY 31:6,
PHILIPPIANS 4:6**

womans day

Joy and Bill Stuff a



cils and a small pencil sharper. For some inexplicable reason it made us happy. I think it was because we had to put some rigorous thought into it. Our children, Mark and Meredith simplified our shopping by providing lists, sometimes multiple lists. They really didn't need the stuff and usually the toy was all but forgotten by Family Day.

We wanted the Shoebox child to have something fun, and something useful. Quality was also important. No point in giving a gift that would not last. We didn't know it's

final destination. It is almost like placing a note in a glass bottle, sealing it and throwing it into the ocean. Where it would go and who would get it was a complete mystery. But you also know that you did a decent thing. You made a child's Christmas a much better day.

Joy and I will once again brave Walmart and shop for a child because we really do enjoy shopping for that anonymous child. If you haven't, give it try - pack a box! And also thank Donalda for her work as coordinator and motivator!

The first shoebox Joy and I packed was a few years ago - a deflated soccer ball and small pump. We had no

idea what we doing, but it was so much fun. Not much else would fit in the box but we added a toothbrush, some pen-