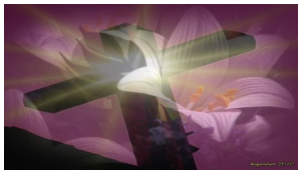


Reflections



HILLVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

Volume 3, Issue 2

March 2024

A Triumphant Entry or a Terrible Catastrophe? - by Dale Hufnagel



I am one of the followers of Jesus and I want to tell you what happened on the way into Jerusalem just one week before the Passover. We arrived at the village where Mary and Martha lived with Lazarus, the man that Jesus raised from the dead. It wasn't dark yet, so Jesus wanted to continue on to Jerusalem. His Father God wanted Him to fulfill a prophecy. Jesus asked me to do a curious thing: He asked me to go with another follower to a specific house and find a young donkey upon which no one had ever ridden. This was peculiar for many reasons.

First, Jesus went everywhere on foot, so why a donkey now when we had almost reached our destination? Second, no one rides a donkey that has never been broken. The donkey would never allow anyone on his back. Third, Jesus sent us to

find this donkey at the house of someone we didn't know; and why would he agree to give us his donkey. Fourth, how did Jesus even know where we were to find this donkey? However, we had already learned not to question the Master's directions. We arrived at the house and were shocked to find everything exactly as Jesus had told us. As we untied the donkey, the owner asked us what we were doing. We told him what Jesus said to say, and he let the donkey go. When we arrived back where the group was waiting, some of us spread our cloaks on the back of the donkey to make a kind of saddle for Jesus. Jesus got on and, to our surprise, the donkey accepted Him without even braying! As we got under way again, I tell you, we were afraid. We knew the Jewish leaders were looking to arrest Jesus and even kill Him if they

could. What would they do to us, His followers? I don't recall when we realized what Jesus was doing, but it hit us like a shock. Tradition was that new kings always proceeded into Jerusalem on a donkey like Solomon when King David crowned him king. We had forgotten that the prophet Zachariah had prophesied that the Messiah would enter Jerusalem on a donkey. It finally hit us that Jesus was fulfilling that prophecy before our very eyes. We were the coronation procession of the Messiah!

As we approached Jerusalem, the people started crying out: "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in Heaven and glory in the highest!" They also recognized the prophecy of the Messiah entering Jerusalem on a donkey. Israel had been waiting for the Messiah for centuries, for Him to deliver us. While the crowds were celebrating, the Pharisees arrived and asked Jesus to silence the crowd. They were afraid of the Roman soldiers who could think that this was the beginning of a revolution. You know that had already happened in the not so distant past. Jesus surprised us again. He told them, "I tell you the truth, if they quieten down, the rocks will cry out!"

(Continued on page 7)

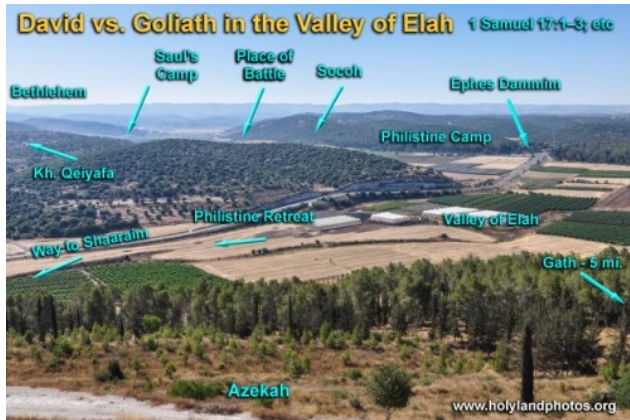
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That the World May Know - by William Holmes



The men's Bible study on Wednesday night is an eclectic group of men. We are involved in a Bible study using a video series that has a completely different approach than your traditional video series. It is called "That the World May Know" taught by Raynard Vander Laan, a teacher and historian. This study is unique because of the location. It is not in a classroom rather the lesson or event being discussed occurs at the very site of the Biblical setting in Israel.



David's slingshot
According to Google, David used a slingshot similar to the one shown. A 1 oz (25gram) stone could reach speeds of over 60mph and at 400 meters (1,300 feet) would do blunt force trauma ... shattering bones, concussions or death. Poor Goliath, he didn't know what hit him!

The story of David and Goliath is a good example. We all know about David and Goliath, a boy defeats a giant by using a slingshot. He cheated! Mr. Vander Lann's Bible study begins at the actual site of the conflict, the Valley of Elah. From a hill overlooking the valley he describes the situation. The Philistines are civilized, prosperous and technologically advanced -but they are also a pagan culture with religious practices that were immoral, including child sacrifice. They controlled the transportation corridors along the Mediterranean

Sea, and had advanced iron technology, and therefore better weapons. The Israelis are the backward "hillbilly" people, living in the mountains and trying to scratch out a living raising sheep.

The faith lesson was enlightening for me. The realization of a connection between the role technology plays in shaping culture and the part it should play in achieving our mission as Christians. In this case the Israelites needed the benefits of the Philistines' iron knowledge and technology, but at the same time needing to be careful not to be corrupted by pagan values. The Israelis failed. They were seduced by the Philistine culture and abandoned Yahweh.

This video series was produced in the 1990's, before the internet and hand-held computers. I think we are, to a certain extent, facing a similar dilemma today related to the moral and spiritual implications of modern technologies. Consider Hillview's use of internet to livestream broadcast our church services. These technologies allow us to spread the message of Christianity, if we don't use them our attempts to influence western culture

will probably fail. The challenge, of course, is being true to God's word and in the process not to be corrupted by the technology we are trying to use to spread the gospel.

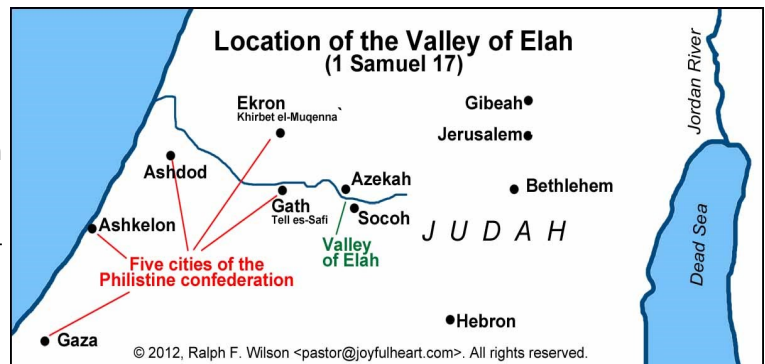
The next series of lessons/videos are:

March 6 Wages of Sin. (Lachish) Lachish was a Canaanite city, conquered by Joshua but destroyed in 587BC by the Babylonians because of sinful choices made by some Israelites. Perhaps a possible warning to us - when God's truths are ignored by the majority, even the righteous experience the consequences.

March 13 The Lord is My Shepherd - the Bedouins in the Negev

March 20 God with Us - Holy of Holies

Dale Hufnagel is our guide and is skillful in leading our conversations as we discuss the implications of these old, well-known Biblical stories from a new and challenging perspective. All men, are welcome to join us every Wednesday at 7pm in the Church Library. You will be welcomed with enthusiasm. And sometimes there is even sugar free, gluten free, calorie free, flavour free healthy snacks.



Book Review - Angels on Call - by Rick deLeeuw

First of all, I am not usually a steady book reader. However, on a particular Sunday after the church service, I was drawn to the stand that displayed a variety of books of different interests. Perhaps it was hindsight, but one particular book drew my attention, "Angels on Call: Inspiring True Stories from the ER" by Dr. Robert D. Lesslie.

The reason for my fascination with this particular book is that it brought back memories of my own experience in an ER. Many of us may have visited the emergency department of a hospital and have our own stories to tell. This book was written by a doctor who dedicated over two decades of working in the ER at Rock Hill Hospital, South Carolina. I was interested in hearing his side of the story of his experiences when it came to treating patients.

In Dr. Lesslie's words, "I came to the realization that the ER has a lot to teach us about living and dying, about other people, and ourselves. It's a classroom that never closes." He further states, "that one thing never changes, every person who walks, or is wheeled, or is carried into the ER is unique and has a story to tell. Each has something to share, and most importantly, each has something to teach, if we only take the time to listen." The book inspired me as the doctor walks the reader through

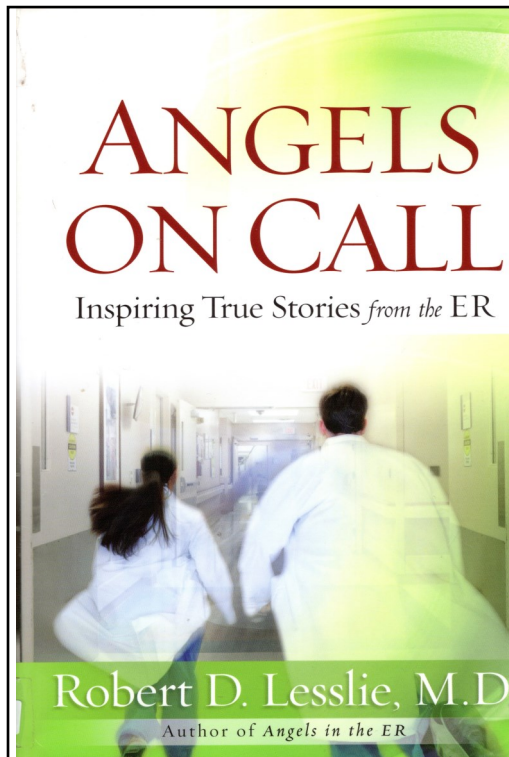
the gravity of many situations where split decision making is the difference between life or death. Dr. Lesslie is a faithful, empathetic physician. He has a heart of compassion and is totally dedicated to the welfare of his patients. He tells it as it is! Direct and to the point. He is a doctor who truly loves his profession, the

do their jobs and give a simple acknowledgement to them when making a difference.

It taught me that doctors are not invincible and can be vulnerable. They do not have all the answers when coming across complex situations, but will exhaust every possible resource to obtain answers. Dr. Lesslie, in the process of taking the corrective course of action, also recognizes that it takes a team of dedicated doctors and nurses working together to obtain the best possible outcome.

For those of us who enjoy real life adventures, Dr. Lesslie shares experiences: some heartwarming, some edge-of-your-seat situations. After reading this particular book, it's given me an appreciation and better perspective for those working behind the scenes, regardless of the occupation. For more reading, Dr. Lesslie has also written a book entitled, "Angels in the ER". These books are a must read, and yes, I agree, there are Angels in the ER. They are the doctors, nurses and common folk like you and me

Rick is an active man. He is involved in the men's Bible Study, helps with the Food Bank and is a semi-retired Deacon. Ed



nurses and colleagues he works with, but most importantly he is dedicated to the people he serves that enter the ER.

In summing up, his perspective made me realize that there are jobs or duties we take for granted; there's a certain expectation from the standpoint that goes far above the job description. This book is full of life's lessons. It teaches that, as patients, we need to let them

"IT TAUGHT ME THAT DOCTORS ARE NOT INVINCIBLE AND CAN BE VULNERABLE AS THEY DO NOT HAVE ..."



Charlie's Angels

The On-going Flood Dilemma - by Wayne Baker

"HOW COULD NOAH FIT ALL THE ANIMALS ON THE ARK? THE SECRET ANSWER IS THIS, ASK THEM ..."

I have been doing a series on creation versus evolution for our Newsletter. This topic is important because the evolution issue is used by some to dismiss the claims of the Bible. This article will begin to outline how the discussion can be used to support the Bible.

The first thing to note, we cannot scientifically prove the Bible. There is evidence to show that the Bible is historically accurate. However, the weight of the evidence for the Bible may be extremely strong, but we do not have time machines to absolutely prove the accuracy of the Bible.

For example, I will use the judgement of God known as the Flood of Noah, found in Genesis chapters 6 to 9.

There are some mythological and some historical features in the account. If God did this, it is historical, not mythological. Mythology is also vague on when the story happened. The Bible does a great job in giving the time of the events. In chapter 6, we learn the Flood began in the year Noah was 600 years old and ended in the year he was 601, lasting just over a year from when the fountains of the great deep opened and the rains began to the departure from the ark. Note the flood waters could, and probably were, still draining from the distant reaches of the continent. Genesis 5 answers the question of how many years after

Creation this event was. The timeline is well defined and therefore not mythology.

God told Noah to build the ark. He brought the animals to the Ark. He caused the flood to happen, He ended the flood, and presumably He controlled where the Ark drifted and protected the Ark

and others he employed in the building of the Ark. With the Ark built, God brought the animals. This answer solves several problems. God would know which animals had the greatest genetic diversity among the animals to be on the Ark, greatest fertility, healthiest animals, free from contagious diseases. How would Noah know the best animals to select? How could Noah fit all the animals on the Ark? The secret answer is this, ask them how many do they claim Noah had to fit on the Ark, how much room there was on the Ark and the size of the animals. In addition, how many fit into the



from the greater damage of the storm. If there is a God, and He is the one revealed in the Jewish scriptures, these "mythological features" or events would be expected of the God who acts in history. Now to get to other issues, how can we answer these issues questions in a credible way?

First, Noah building the Ark. Some suggest they had no technology for such an enterprise, that is how to build such a massive ship. Ken Ham of "Answers in Genesis" points out, we do not know what technology they had, what Noah's skills were, how many of his extended family

Biblical classification of "kind"? God intended the ark animals to fill the earth with their offspring. He would have brought animals which would be extremely fertile. This suggests young animals, not fully grown mature animals, were directed by God to enter the Ark. (to be continued next month Ed)

Q. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?
A. Noah, He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation



Letters to the Church

Dear Sponsor Gloria and Hillview Baptist Friends

I greet you with lots of love to thank you for the Family Gift with which I bought supplies such as tuna fish cans, oil, rice, quinoa, milk, noodles, sugar and more. Also thank you for the birthday gift with which I bought food such as cheese, yogurt, hotdogs and eggs. I bought these items because they

are of great help to me and my family, and I am very grateful to you.

My health is good, I have been studying to be a bank cashier. I did finish the course, but I do not have my certificate yet. I will get it soon so I can start working. To answer your question, I do not have a garden since here in my country the dengue disease is going around, so we cannot have humidity

sources. I want to tell you that the weather here in my country has been changing, sometimes it is cold, sometimes it is hot. What season are you in? I ask for your prayers for my family, and I will wait for your answer soon. I hope you are all well and wish you a lot of health. I say goodbye with a tight hug and blessings.
Alexandra - Peru



Dear Editor,
In Brazil the second Sunday in December is "The Day of the Bible", or Bible Day. Our church in Brazil decided to observe this by publicly reading through the entire New Testament nonstop. We began Saturday afternoon by going to the town square and inviting people to come to our

church beginning at 7 PM to participate in this. We also announced the event through our loud speakers attached to our car as we drove up and down the streets.

This was a "come any time and go any time" event. Church members signed up to read in various time slots

throughout the entire time. One new Christian, Anildo, stood at the door with Bibles the entire time, ready to give the open Bible to anyone who came in the door. As he did so, he would indicate where we were in our reading. This went on all night and all the next day, which was Sunday. We ended the event Sunday evening with all of

those present, standing and reading together the last chapter of Revelation. Some were crying, others so choked up with emotion they could hardly read. A lot of hugging took place after we finished. This was a moving experience and one we have never forgotten.
Ardath Effa

Dear Editor,
I have an update on Hillview's Bible Distribution: Over the past ten months we have distributed 115 Bibles! A big thank you to everyone who helped us with this endeavor by donating Bibles.

In one of the donated Bibles there was a special prayer. It

was found in the shirt pocket of a dead soldier in a fox hole. The title was, "No Atheist in a Fox Hole"

*Dear Lord,
I hope you hear me today even though this is the first time I ever prayed, but you see I've been told you didn't exist. And, like a fool, I believed all of this. But tonight, in my fox hole, I'm looking at your sky and I know that they've been telling me a lie. I see the galaxies your hands have made and I know now I need to be*

saved. So now, Jesus, please take me by the hand and somehow I feel like you do understand You know, it's funny, it took all this hellish place to show me I need your wonderful grace. Well, I guess there isn't much more to say but I'm sure glad I met you today. And I guess the final hour will soon be here but I'm not afraid now since I know you are near. Tonight they tell me it will be a horrible fight and who knows,

*Lord, I may come to your home tonight. But now that I've found your love for evermore I know you will be waiting at heaven's door. Jesus, I'm crying, I'm now shedding tears but I wish I'd known you all these many years. But I've got to go now, so Jesus, now that I've met you I'm not afraid to die.
Amen*

I thought this was too special not to share it. Hope you enjoyed it as much as I did.
Gloria Swain.



Family Adventure - Mexican Style

- by Bob and
Elaine Tweed



Recently I asked Bob Tweed if he would write about his first vacation experience in Mexico. He readily agreed and provided the following story. Ed

In November, Elaine, Adrianna, Lisa, Spencer, their girls and I left for Mexico. The trip was quite uneventful except we were supposed to fly to Calgary then to Mexico but Air Canada changed it to Toronto. We got to Cancun about noon their time. Boy was it ever hot when we got off the plane.

Caught a shuttle to our resort to start our vacation. It was beautiful. Spent the rest of the day hanging around the pool going for walks, exploring the resort and eating.

Elaine, Adrianna and myself all spent our birthdays there. When it was Elaine's birthday we went to this restaurant and at the end of the meal the waiter came over and we sang Happy Birthday

to her, then the waiter put a drink in front of her and she had to down it .After she was finished the waiter took her napkin and wrapped it around her head and wiped her mouth with it. You should have seen the look on her face!

On the first day Adrianna returned to the room and you will never guess what she saw - there was a monkey in the room eating the fruit and chocolates. What a surprise! She even got a picture of it. We also saw a big cockroach.

Another day the kids went snorkeling. I went on the boat with them but didn't go snorkeling myself. We also took a shuttle into Playa del Carmen and saw all the little booths where the locals sell their wares. That was interesting. We saw geckos, mon-

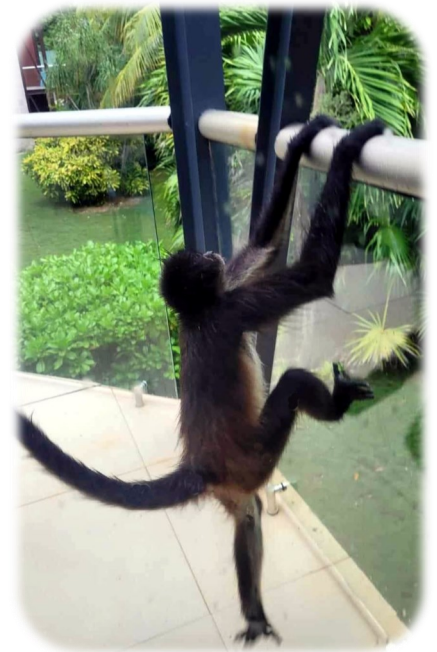
keys, quanta (not sure whether that's spelled right) lizards, raccoons and cats.

Our holiday quickly came to an end and a shuttle took us back to the Cancun airport. The plane left a little late so when we got to Montreal we only had 45 minutes to make our connection. You want to see two old people trying to keep up with the rest to make our connection. We made it, phew.

We got back to Edmonton around midnight. The only bad thing that happened was my phone was stolen so I had to replace it. Kind of a downer. All in all we had a great time and I'd do it again.

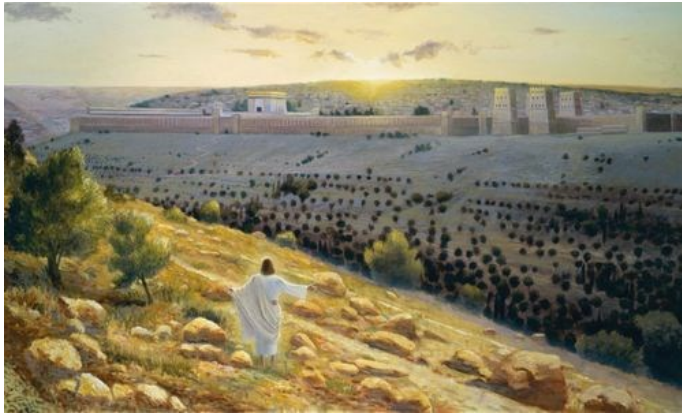
Adrianna and Lisa are Bob and Elaine's daughters. Lisa is married to Spencer and they have two daughters. Ed

"ON THE FIRST
DAY ADRIANNA
RETURNED TO
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YOU WILL NEVER
GUESS WHAT
SHE SAW ..."



and the thief escapes!

A Triumphant Entry or a Terrible Catastrophe?



(Continued from page 1)

A few minutes later, with the city stretched out before us, Jesus started to weep. We were dumb-founded, especially when He addressed the city itself as if it was a person. He said: "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation." We didn't know what to think. Jesus wept because Jerusalem and the nation would be destroyed. How could Jesus present Himself as the Messiah and then weep about the destruction of the city and nation at the same time?

Arriving in the city, Jesus went directly to the Temple. We had been there with Him several times, but this time,

Jesus was different. I looked into His eyes as we mounted the steps. He looked at the outer court of the temple that was to be reserved for the Gentiles who came to pray and His face suddenly transformed into a rage that I had never seen. I looked around to see what had upset Him, but I saw nothing out of the ordinary. The court was being used like normal, as a market for the sale of the animals, birds, and other products to be offered in the temple. I mean, how else would travelers be able to bring the appropriate offerings and sacrifices to the temple? I turned back to Jesus and saw Him running toward the vendors with a whip in His hand. He knocked over the tables with an incredible ferocity and, swinging the whip, he chased the animals and the vendors out of the court. I had never experienced this kind of fury from Jesus and the chaos was massive! Stopping at the top of the

steps, Jesus vented His fury in a way that has marked me for life. He cried out the words from Isaiah 56:7 and Jeremiah 7:11: "It is written, My house shall be a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of robbers."

God had destined the temple to be a place of prayer, not only for Israel, but for all the nations who would seek Him. However, the very days when people should come to pray and seek Him, the Gentiles would find no place to do so but instead would find a noisy, smelly market place. In addition, the vendors were dishonest, taking advantage of the travelers who needed to purchase the sacrifices they came to give.

When Jesus cleaned out the outer court, I realized what He saw as the Son of God. I



understood and began to feel His fury. How could I not have seen this? I was so blinded that I accepted as normal what God detested! O Lord, forgive me. When Jesus was done, His fury spent, we headed off to spend the night at Martha

(Continued on page 8)



"HE KNOCKED OVER THE TABLES WITH AN INCREDIBLE FEROCITY AND, SWINGING THE WHIP, HE CHASED THE ANIMALS AND THE ..."

A Triumphant Entry or a Terrible Catastrophe?

"I SAW THAT THE
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(Continued from page 7)

and Mary's place in Bethany. As we retraced our steps up the Mount of Olives, I saw that the very people who had praised Jesus an hour or two before, now looked at us with hatred and reproach. They could not accept that He would attack their sacred market place.

I think that is the same problem everywhere. We have this preconceived notion of what Jesus should be or how He should perform, but sometimes He is not at all

what we imagine. The question then is, "Will I always submit myself to His view and His way, or will I be like those that abandoned Him the moment they realized He doesn't fit their expectation?"

* * * *

We are the temple of the Lord. Are we turning our relationship with the Lord, even our personal worship of Him, into an exercise of self-advancement, like the vendors in the outer court? Does our version of Christianity, even our corporate worship, hinder the unbeliev-

er from seeking the Lord?

So whether your tradition begins with the observance of Lent, or with Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, or Good Friday to conclude with Easter Sunday, be clear that the reason for, and focus of, your celebration is Christ Risen living in you.

*Dale originally wrote this Palm Sunday message for their congregation in Cameroon. He discovered storytelling was a good way to communicate to a people that liked stories.*Ed

What Is Easter To You?

What does Easter mean to you?
Eggs? Lilies? Chocolates, too?
Or maybe ham and scalloped potatoes
Or a salad of lettuce, cucumbers, tomatoes?
Sounds so good but Easter's much more
For God has only our future in store.
So, Jesus died upon the cross
To pay for our sins at terrible loss!
But at Easter He arose from the grave
To show that He paid for our sins, and to save
Us from eternal death and hell.
But we must do our part as well.
Ask Him to now forgive our sin
And enter our life so we can win
Victory from temptation, self-will and pride
And faithfully to walk by our side
And hold us close and take our hand
Until we reach that Promised Land.

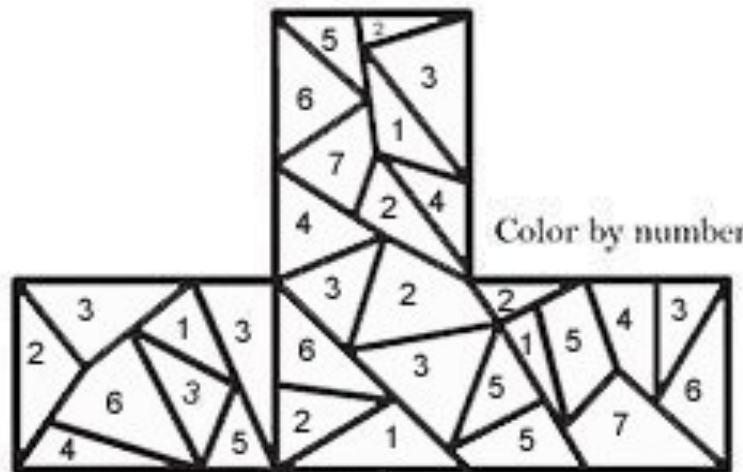
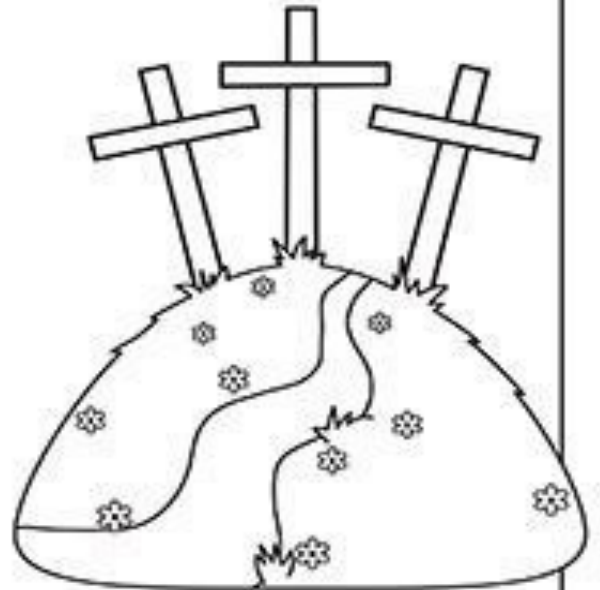
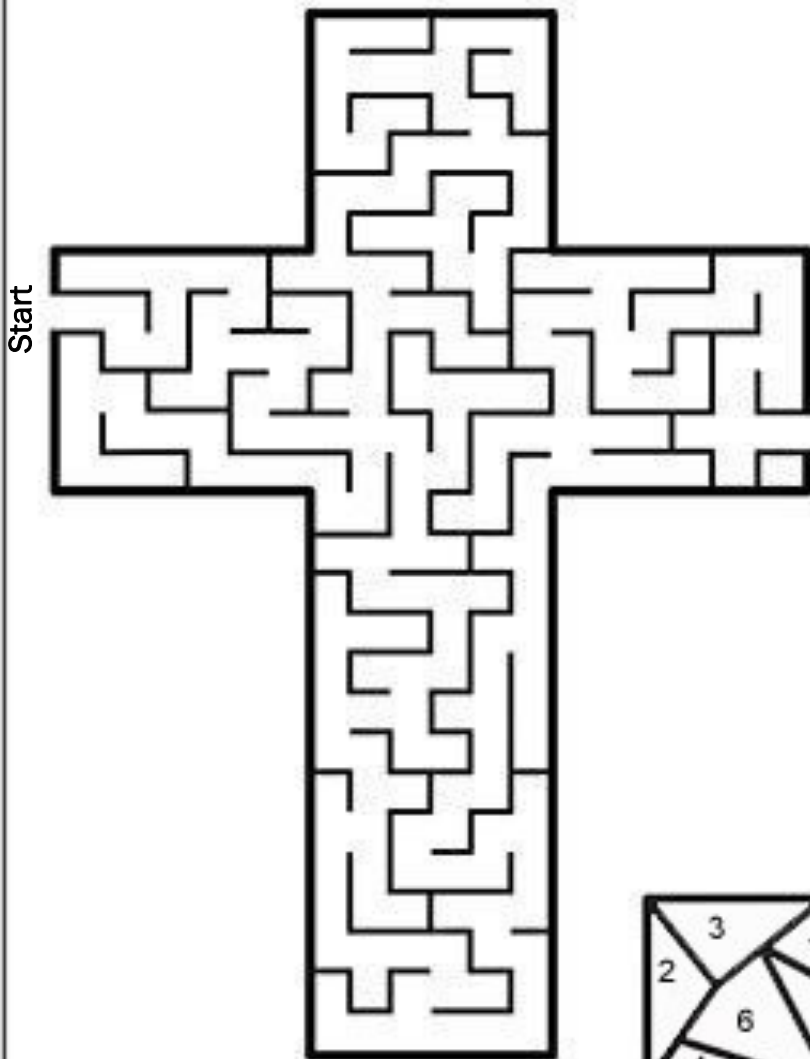


submitted by Ardath Effa

A few weeks ago, the men's Bible study heard a recording of a **1965** radio broadcast by Paul Harvey. Paul Harvey worked for ABC News from 1951-2008 and was famous for his "The Rest of the Story" segments. This broadcast was titled "If I was the Devil" is almost prophetic. To listen to it either copy the link below to your browser or enter **Paul Harvey If I were the Devil**. Click on the link with the words **If I were the Devil Song by Akira the Don** and be prepared to be concerned at his insight, Ed

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9NoQHgJM_0&ab_channel=CCV%28Christ%27sChurchoftheValley%29

Easter Cross Maze



Color by number:

- 1 = red
- 2 = orange
- 3 = yellow
- 4 = green
- 5 = blue
- 6 = purple
- 7 = pink



Easter
cross

Living, Loving, Reaching, Growing,

HILLVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

253 Woodvale Road West
Edmonton, Alberta
T6L 1E5

Phone: 780-461-5393
Email: office@hillviewchurch.ca
hillvieweditor@gmail.com
Website: hillviewchurch.ca



Janet and Howard in either Yuma or Valley of Fire, Arizona



Bill on February 26, 2024 in Edmonton
"I am growing icicles!"

Just not fair!

A Student Field Trip to White Cross - by Gloria Swain

A long time ago, in November 2023, the White Cross group at Hillview had some homeschool students come over on a fieldtrip. We were excited to have six students and two moms join us this morning.

Upon arrival the students were given a snack of Tim Bits and juice. While they enjoyed their snack, Marci Hufnagel gave them a brief introduction to White Cross, using two short videos. The children were then introduced to Irma Heidemann, our White Cross enthusiastic overseer. Irma welcomed the children and thanked them for coming. We then took them into the work room and let them have a look at the ladies in action, cutting used bed sheets into strips and then measuring the strips and cutting them into bandage or gauze size strips. Then the children got to work. Some were on the rolling machines, rolling the bandages and others were counting the gauze pads in piles of 25 and tying them up with yarn.



With a little help the children caught on quickly and soon we were in mass production. We then switched off and the rollers became counters and the counters became rollers. While we worked, discussions went on about how the missionaries in Cameroon felt when they received these medical supplies. We told the children how they could not go and be missionaries but they could be missionary helpers here at home.

Soon it was time to go, and they thanked us for having them and wondered when they could come back. What a privilege to instill in our children the joy of helping others. And an even greater joy to see their enthusiasm!

You can actually participate, to learn how and for more information contact Gloria Swain or Irma Heidemann. Ed