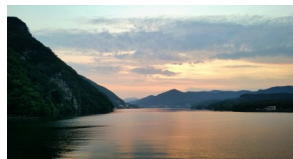


Reflections

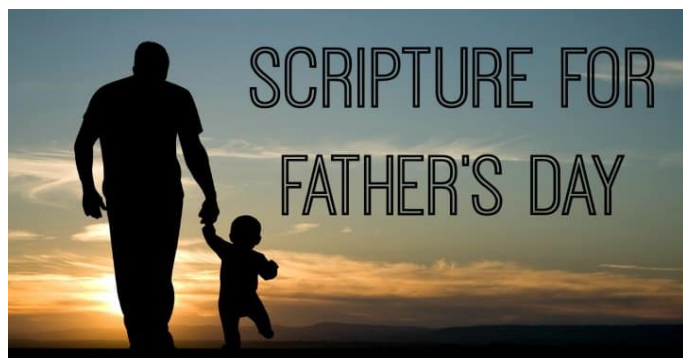


HILLVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

Volume 3, Issue 5

June 2024

God as Father - by Pastor Norm Bleick



Our Father which art in heaven... We all recognize this line; we know where it is from. Of all the titles Jesus could have used, he chose the term "father". There's been no shortage of ink spilled over the subject – the paternity of God. In a progressively liberal culture more and more seems to be made over gender neutrality, especially in the Bible. Terms like "man" were changed to "mankind" and then to "humankind" and who knows what's next. "Brothers" is now brothers and sisters; "sons" is now

sons and daughters as though we were incapable of extrapolating the obvious. What we do know is that Jesus referred to God as "father" approximately 165 times. That's deliberate. Maybe this reflects literature produced in a patriarchal society but what if there's more to it than that? The question that besets us is: what are the theological implications of having God as our father?

- **God is responsible for giving us life** – then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the

ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. Genesis 2.7

- **God adopts us into His family** – he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will... Ephesians 1.5
- **God rewards us for our actions** – And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. Hebrews 11.6
- **God corrects undesirable behavior** – It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left with-

(Continued on page 2)

Special points of interest:

- GOD AS FATHER ATTRIBUTES - PAGE 2
- A YOUNG GLORIA AND SON - PAGE 5
- DADDY AND ARDATH - PAGE 5
- SAVE THE KOALA BEAR - PAGE 7
- ACTIVITY - PAGE 9

Inside this issue:

PRESCHOOL NEWS	4
FATHERS AND SONS	5
WHITE CROSS	6
PLANTING BOXES	6
GENESIS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS	7
LEADER QUIZ	8
EDITORIAL COMMENT	10

A Letter to my Dad - by Jo Legaspi

I thought I would share my two dad story. One dad broke my heart. The other, held it dearly and continues to hold it close to His heart. I sent this letter was sent to my earthly dad in December 2016. Jo

Dear dad,
I can't remember the last time I called you "dad".

When Aunt Marie died in January 2009, I rededicated my life to Christ. During the past two years God, my heavenly Dad, has been pruning me so much. He has

been cutting down the things that are not glorifying to Him and the things that are hindering me from fully grasping His love. He is plucking away all the things that are poisoning me and the things that are

(Continued on page 3)

God as Father

(Continued from page 1)

out discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. – Hebrews 12.7-11

- **God provides our daily needs** – As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. – 1 Timothy 6.17

- **God protects us** – We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him. – 1 John 5.18
- **God has made a home for us** – And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. – Revelation 21.2,3

The argument can be made that mothers fulfill all these roles. That's true from a human perspective, but from a biblical perspective there is no one who can achieve all these things to the degree that God has, does, or will do; that is why He is our God, our Father which art in heaven.

Here are a few other verses to consider:

- "One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." Ephesians 4.6
- "Father of the fatherless and protector of the widows is God in his holy habitation". Psalm 68.5
- "But now, O Lord, you are our Father, we are the clay, you are the potter and we are the work of your hand". Isaiah 64.8
- "See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God, and so we are". 1 John 3.1
- "... but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, Abba! Father"! Romans 8.15
- "I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty". 2 Corinthians 6.18
- "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change". James 1.17

"THAT'S TRUE
FROM A
HUMAN
PERSPECTIVE,
BUT FROM A
BIBLICAL ..."

God the
father is:



Letter to my Dad

(Continued from page 1)

keeping me away from receiving His blessings. He bought me with a price and it has set me free. But I'm still living as if I'm still in bondage.

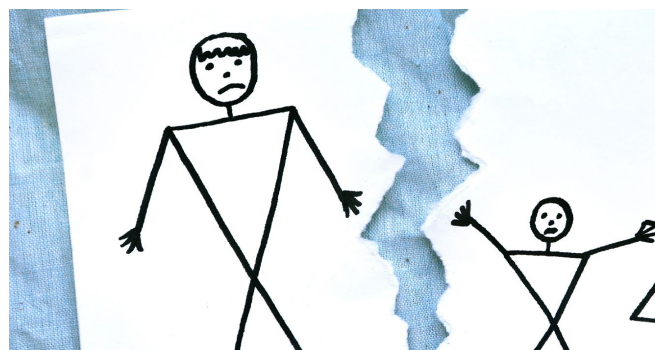
For the past year or so, God has been convicting me of dropping this ball and chain that I've been carrying for so long. Dad, I know I have forgiven you for what you did to our family. But it was with my kind of forgiveness, an incomplete forgiveness. God has convicted me to ask for and give His kind of forgiveness to you. I have to let you know that and God didn't stop there. God also has convicted me of my part of the sin that I need to confess and ask you for forgiveness. My sin is the sin of half-baked forgiveness, my continual bitterness, and my resentment towards you. So for those sins, I'm asking for your forgiveness. Without God's love, grace and mercy, I didn't stand a chance of coming to this point. When we come to God, He is faithful and just to forgive.

My emotional scars are nothing compared to the scars He bore on the cross for both you and I. Our hands nailed Him to the cross because of our sins. He is the one who opened my eyes, that my brokenness is no greater than yours. We are all broken and in need of a Savior. His compassion for me, gave me eyes to see you with more compassion. I thought I couldn't love you because

there was something wrong with you. Then I found out, I couldn't love you because there's something wrong with me. I need to have a relationship with God and let Him work in my life. I need to open up and be obedient to His leading. To just let Him love me. Receive it fully and reciprocate that love.

My prayer is that this letter sets us both free from the bondage that's keeping us chained up and to free us from the past, the fear of rejection and so on. Dad, I have been praying for you and I really do pray that you will pick up your relationship with God through Christ. Do you see where your needs are met? Do you see anything you're thankful for? Aren't you grateful for that cold glass of water you have every morning? Big or small, all good gifts come from God (James 1:17). We should never stop learning and growing in the faith through His word and His love. I'm not pretending that I know everything. We are all on a journey and God continues to work in me. Believe me, God's been working on me to write you since January. Yes, it took me that long to be obedient to Him.

God loves you unconditionally from everlasting to everlasting. That should convict us and not condemn us. Condemnation is not from God. But conviction is. I'm telling you this because I know how it feels to condemn yourself. We need to know who we are in Christ, I am still learning.



This is my prayer for you.

Ephesians 3.16-21

"I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen".

Merry Christmas and God bless.
Jo

Lets keep Jo in our prayers. Jo is the co-chair of the Missions Committee and is the chief organizer of the Back to School festival happening this August. Obviously in spite of life challenges, she is a dynamo, Ed

May 2024 update - My dad and I kept in touch for a little while. But he really didn't want to have a relationship. This year, I decided to let it go and not pursue it.

Nursery/Preschool Changes - by Jonathan Snook

"THE TIMING OF THIS CHANGE PRESENTS TWO POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION FOR THE CHURCH. "

I thought I should inform our congregation about the situation with the Prescolaire des Petits Pas preschool. In September 2022, the church was contacted by a long-established French language preschool downtown. That preschool was receiving a significant number of inquiries from families living on the south side. So, plans were made to start a second location. They asked if they might rent space at our Church.

The Church leadership considered the proposal. We had been praying that the Lord might make ways for us to create connections with stakeholders in the community. The main floor nursery space was not being used to any great extent. It was therefore decided that we would make that space available to the preschool on a shared-use basis. In November of 2022, Prescolaire des Petits Pas began to lease the space for weekday use.

Since then, Suja, the lead teacher of the preschool, has worked hard to grow the preschool. However, this spring, the preschool acknowledged that low enrolment issues have been a persistent barrier to success. Therefore, their board has made the difficult decision to end their lease

effective June 30, and to pursue a merger with another south-side preschool near the Mill Woods Rec Centre. We regret to see Petits Pas leave, however we wish nothing but the best to Suja and her family and the rest of the preschool board.

So, what next? The timing of this change presents two possible courses of action for the church. There is another preschool nearby,

Sunday mornings during the worship service. The present pre-school lease permits us to make use of the pre-school room during non-preschool hours. However, there have always been hurdles to overcome in terms of storage of toys, use and movement of furniture, cleaning, etc.. Anyone who has had young children may attest – God bless them – that they love to explore and make a mess when given the opportunity.



This poses challenges in a shared space. Moreover, as we continue to pray that God will grow this church and bring more young families to join us, we must anticipate greater and not less need for Sunday

morning space. We are praying for His wisdom as we make a decision on how to proceed. Would you take some time to pray that God will make clear the path He wants us to take? Finally, decision aside, we praise the Lord for such questions as these, as they are positive indicators of growth and opportunity. May He continue to grow his church.

Little Hands, their lease is expiring and they find themselves needing to move. Having established connections with many families in Hillview, they hope to find a way to remain in the neighbourhood. They have asked whether they might take over leasing the space that we've been letting to Petits Pas. This is a distinct opportunity. It would be wonderful if we could continue to participate in the cultural fabric of the community in this way, putting to use this building that we are so blessed with.

On the other hand, we are considering where and how we make space for nursing mothers and toddlers on

morning space. We are praying for His wisdom as we make a decision on how to proceed. Would you take some time to pray that God will make clear the path He wants us to take? Finally, decision aside, we praise the Lord for such questions as these, as they are positive indicators of growth and opportunity. May He continue to grow his church.

"LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME, AND DO NOT HINDER THEM, FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN BELONGS TO SUCH AS THESE." – MATTHEW 19:14

Fathers and Sons

MEMORIES OF MY SON

My only child, my son David, and I had this amazing connection. He was the kindest, giving soul that always looked out and cared for mom, however he was killed on his Harley motorcycle in 2010.

David was one to never forget special events and Mother's Day was one of them. He always made sure Tiger Lilies were always a part of his gift. In the 13 years that David has been gone, I have never been forgotten on Mother's Day. Flowers always arrived from somewhere. On the farm, many times I would come home from church only to find a bouquet of flowers on my deck. Another year I went to the community hall for the Mother's Day Brunch and I won the door prize draw, a planter so large the donor had to deliver it in his truck.



Gloria on Mothers Day -1993
David was 23

And then again this year. I hadn't entered the sanctuary for more than a minute when a dear sweet soul greets me with a hug and

says, "We have flowers for you"! This is the awesomeness of our amazing God He promised that He would never leave us and because of His faithfulness, I have never been forgotten on Mother's Day or any other special day!

To God be the Glory, He is true to His word!

Gloria Swain

MY FATHER

I could write a book about my father, but to summarize it, my father was:

Faithful – to God and to his family. Mom and Dad were married 69 years. We lived 3 miles from church and sometimes the weather was so severe that even the town people couldn't go to church but we never missed and were always the first ones there Sunday mornings.

Affectionate – When I was little, when dad would come into the house after finishing all the chores, I would always run and get his slippers for him. He would hug me and call me his Valentine!

Teacher – He taught Sunday School for years but also taught us valuable lessons as kids, like honesty, hard work, punctuality (we were always at any function or appointments much too early!!). He insisted that all 3 of us girls take piano lessons and sing in the choir!

Hard Worker – As a farmer, his work was never finished. He worked long hours each



Ardath and her dad,
John Schmierer

day. He was honest, truthful, loving, kind. We were poor and really had nothing extra but he still paid for my tuition through 4 years of Bible College.

Respected – For years he was on the town school board because they trusted his leadership, input, and handling of funds.

I thank the Lord for an earthly father that resembled my Heavenly Father!!

Ardath Effa

DADDY'S PRAYERS

I come from a family of 12, ten of us kids and mom and dad. We were raised military style. As dad had to serve two years in the Russian army when he turned 18, we then served too under his command. He was not a mean man, but there was no fooling around with him. When he asked you to do something, you knew he meant business.

In spite of his commando style of fathering he, like his mother, had a heart for

(Continued on page 7)

"...AND
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"WHAT AN
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ING TOGETHER
MAKING ...

White Cross Update - by Gloria Swain

On April 30 we had our White Cross wrap-up event for the summer. We will start up again in the fall. What an enjoyable time we had over this past winter working together making medical supplies for the hospitals in Cameroon. The group knitted together with laughter, prayer and hard work. Not sure how many pounds of supplies were actually packed in the container for shipment. All in all a most satisfying group to be a part of.

For our wrap up event we had lunch together. Irma showed up with German potato salad, German sausage and 3 desserts, enough to feed the entire Hillview Community. Others brought vegetables, fruit, juice & water.

Pastor Norm, Katie, Howard and Bob were also on the receiving end of the feast. Irma has been involved with White Cross for over 35 years. She is passionate about this outreach and it



shows by all she does. She can't thank us enough for showing up each week. We come weekly because we feel as passionate about White Cross as she does. A great reward would be to be able to be at the hospital in Cameroon when the container arrives!

A week prior, on April 23, we had 9 children and 2 adults from The Home School Program come and help us roll bandages. Marcy borrowed some bandage rollers from headquarters, so we had enough for each child to be able to roll. After the bandages were all rolled the children made cards for the hospital workers and those were put in with the bandages. The children had a great time enjoying snacks and learning about White Cross and being missionaries for a few hours.

The visitors also had some great questions for us! Before they left we placed hands on the box and prayed over the bandages, the people who will be using them and the patients needing them. A very enjoyable morning for all of us. And a great way to end the season!

Planting Planters - by Gloria Swain

Saturday, May 4 was garden planter/plot distribution day. We had a beautiful sunny day for the event. All garden plots are spoken for! Fifteen excited gardeners showed up to be assigned their planters and review the regulations and make suggestions for changes. Jonathan looked after this part of the program. Pastor Norm stopped by to meet the community and encouraged everyone to enjoy their plots.

As usual homemade sandwiches, lemonade and

treats were made available. Food is always a big part of any event, especially at Hillview.

Each gardener also received a garden trowel and a package of seeds from the Missions committee. Jonathan ended the afternoon with a prayer blessing over the gardeners and their garden plots.

The planters were so well "cleaned-up" by some of our Hillview men last September that many of the gardeners were able to immediately

begin planting their seeds and plants.

A couple of the plots will be planted with root vegetables to donate to the Food Bank in the fall. Just another way to reach out into our community.

Bill, I am so sorry that we never took any pics. Irma tried, but her iPad didn't want to work. And my camera was on the fritz.

Gloria, that is "ok". The story is good! Ed.



Fathers and Sons

(Continued from page 5)

Jesus and for prayer. Most Sunday mornings would find us in some far away little country church or in a dilapidated community hall, ministering to a handful of people. That was our church upbringing.

The one thing about my dad that I will never forget was his early morning prayers. He woke up early each morning and did his devotions before he left for work. He always ended his devotions with prayer.

That prayer was always spoken out loud. I remember laying there in bed as a kid at 5 or 6 a.m. listening to my daddy's prayers. He always prayed for each one of us ten kids, mentioning each one by name: Bill, Esther, Gloria, Danny, Harvey, Sharon, Virginia, Ronnie, Bobby & Gerry. He would ask God to bless us, take care of us and if he knew we were struggling with something, or having an exam that day, he would also mention that in his prayers.

There was something powerful about hearing my

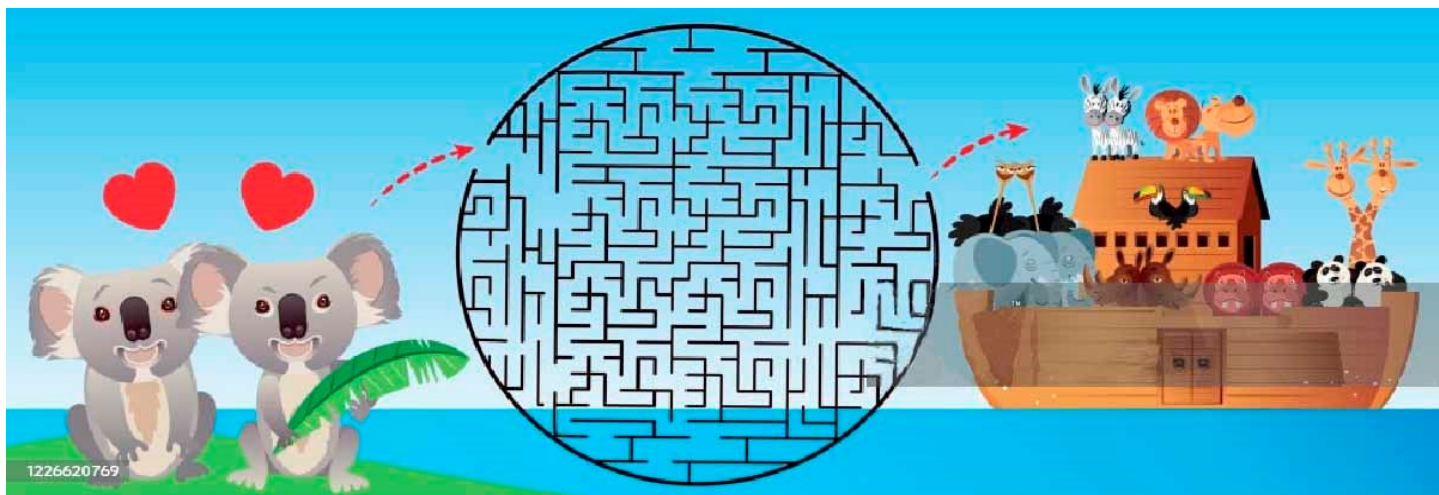
dad mention my name. So I laid there quietly listening for that "Bless Gloria today". Once I heard that I knew everything would be ok and I could go back to sleep for another hour.

It was no wonder that on a Father's Day service 66 years ago I totally committed my life to Christ and have never looked back. I believe my Daddy's prayers had something to do with that! Thank you Jesus, Thank you Daddy!

Gloria Swain



Genesis Questions and Answers - by Wayne Baker



How many animals were on the ark and what about space?

You (Noah) are also to bring into the ark two of all the living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. Two of everything from the birds according to their kinds, from the livestock according to their kinds, and from the animals that crawl on the ground according to their kinds will come to you so that you can keep them alive.

Genesis 6:19-20.

This would include dinosaurs and every other kind of animal God created but would not require every species. Kind is defined in Genesis as those able to have fertile offspring together. "Answers in Genesis" determined there would be less than two thousand animals based on the definition of "kind". In addition, the animals would probably not have been adult. Pre-adult animals would be smaller and would not have offspring until after leaving the ship.

(Continued on page 8)

Genesis Questions and Answers

(Continued from page 7)

What about the impact of the flood?

The rains lasted for forty days, but the waters rose for 150 days. The flood did not happen overnight, but was a progressive flood - The flood continued for 40 days on the earth; the waters increased and lifted up the ark so that it rose above the earth. The waters surged and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. Then the waters surged even higher on the earth, and all the high mountains under the whole sky were covered. The mountains were covered as the waters surged above them more than 20 feet. He wiped out every living thing that was on the surface of the ground, from mankind to livestock, to creatures that crawl, to the birds of the sky, and they were wiped off the earth. Only Noah was left, and those that were with him in the ark. And the waters surged on the earth 150 days. **Genesis 7:17-20, 23,24.**

Before the flood the landscape probably consisted of plains and some low mountains, similar in size to the Eastern Slope foothills, but the mountains, including the Rockies and Himalayas were created during the receding flood waters, or very shortly after the end of the flood. In addition, the volcanoes and hot springs may have heated the ocean by 20 to 50 degrees Celsius. The magma may have heated the sea floor causing it to rise. The two major Young Earth Creationist theories are:

- the Hydroplate theory - this theory proposes that before Noah's flood, there was water under Earth's crust, this subterranean water ruptured earth's crust and the escaping water flooded the Earth.
- the Catastrophic Plate Tectonics - According to CPT, the pre-flood world likely was roughly a single supercontinent. During a possible catastrophic event the heavier ocean crust started to sink rapidly. While this was happening, the single continent broke apart and the continents were arranged similarly to their modern placement.

The waters receded for 220 days. The flood lasted for 370 days.

Next issue: The Ice Age!

The ice age is not in the Bible, but can it be deduced. According to science or nature, there was an ice age. Can Noah's flood have anything to do with it? Could the ice age have been used by God? Stayed tuned!

Leaders Quiz

On Monday, June 10 it is our Annual General meeting (AGM). Always such good fun! At this meeting we will be voting on candidates to join the Church's Leadership Council. It therefore seems appropriate to have a quiz on your knowledge of Biblical and church leaders. As usual, the answers are in plain view somewhere in this newsletter. Only church members who correctly answer all 10 questions can vote Ed.



"Leadership experience? I have
13 people following me on Twitter!"

1. After Moses' death, who became the new leader of the Israelites?
2. What imprisoned religious leader was released from jail by an angel?
3. What fugitive, while hiding in a cave, became the leader of hundreds of rebels?
4. Who refused to lead men into battle unless accompanied by a woman?
5. Who led a group of frightened men to Jerusalem?
6. What leader had problems with his followers?
7. After murdering a king, who blew a trumpet, mustered an army, and led them against enemy Moabites?
8. What leader obtained permission to escort a second colony of Jews to Jerusalem?
9. What military leader refused to be made king?
10. Who has been Hillview's moderator extraordinaire for the past 2 years?

Activity Page for all Ages

Animal Puzzle Sums



Add and subtract the things in the windows to find the answer. Each puzzle on this page is the name of an animal.



Sample Puzzle Here is one worked out for you to show you how it is done.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \text{Bowl} & - & \text{Owl} & + & \text{Ear} & = & ? \\
 \text{BOWL} & - & \text{OWL} & = & \text{B} & + & \text{EAR} & = & \text{BEAR} \\
 \text{The animal is a} & \underline{\text{B}} & \underline{\text{E}} & \underline{\text{A}} & \underline{\text{R}}
 \end{array}$$

Puzzle 1

$$\text{Crescent Moon} - \text{O} + \text{Key} = ?$$

The animal is a _____

Puzzle 2

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \text{C} & + & \text{Goat} & & & & \\
 - & \text{Cat} & + & \text{P} & + & & \\
 + & \text{Rabbit} & + & \text{R} & - & \text{N} & =
 \end{array}$$

The animal is a _____

Puzzle 3

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \text{Clock} & - & \text{Lock} & & & & \\
 + & \text{Rat} & & & & & \\
 - & \text{R} & = & & & &
 \end{array}$$


The animal is a _____

Living, Loving, Reaching, Growing,

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Country Living

*"Happy Father's Day
to all the dads, the not
yet dads, the stepdads,
the moms who are dad,
the adoptive dads, the
grandads, and the dads
who are no longer
with us."*

—Unknown



Editorial Comment:

This issue concludes "Reflections" until September, when it will return with more stories, and anecdotes about the people of Hillview Baptist Church, along with the occasional cartoon.

As editor I want to thank everyone who contributed items to our newsletter. Without your participation the newsletter would not exist. Hopefully, it has achieved a goal of helping us to get to know one another a little better and have some chuckles and fun along the way. I also apologize for any editorial revisions that went awry or were simply wrong, lets just blame the software! Ok?

The deadline for submissions for the September issue is August 15, NOT August 20. Lets all have a wonderful summer!

Bill Holmes

PS. In the May issue I accused my son of using some software to write his Mother's Day tribute. He was insulted and has insisted that I write a retraction or he will punish us by not eating our food or allow Maple, his dog, to visit our backyard. Mark obviously does not understand what constitutes a penalty.



- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|-----|---|
| 1. | Joshua (Josh. 1:1-2) | 6. | Moses (Numbers 20:3-5) |
| 2. | Peter (Acts 12:3-11) | 7. | Ehud (Judges 3:16-28) |
| 3. | David (1 Sam. 22:1-2) | 8. | Ezra (Ezra 7) |
| 4. | Barak (Judges 4:5-9) | 9. | Gideon (Judges 8:22-23) |
| 5. | Jesus (Mark 10:32) | 10. | Jonathan Snook (with a whole bunch of thanks) |

Why is the elbow bone called the funny bone?



It's not even a teeny bit funny when you hit yourself hard on what people call the funny bone. And it's not a bone, either. It's called the ulnar nerve and it runs through a groove in your ulna, which is one of the two bones in your forearm. This place of extreme pain is

in your elbow, where the nerve and the bones are really close to the surface. Since they stick out extra far, it is even easier to whack yourself on the funny bone. Believe me, whacking a nerve is far worse than whacking a bone. It's like a gigantic crazy session of pins and needles and pain all jumbled up, so much so that you might cry and laugh at the same time. That's one of those theories of why it's called the funny bone. (Some people think it's called the funny bone because the bone that the ulnar nerve runs through is your humerus bone. GET IT-HUMORUS!)



This funny trivia moment is brought to you by the peculiar mind of Rick deLeeuw. Ed