

Reflections



HILLVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

Volume 3, Issue 8

November 2024

Luther, He Nailed It! - by Pastor Norm Bleick



Well, we just got through Halloween and again I was mindful of the age-old question of whether Christians should let their children go trick or treating. October 31 is famous for another reason though: its Reformation Day.

Reformation Day is a protestant Christian holiday observed on October 31st to commemorate the beginning of the Reformation. Reformation was a major movement that sought to reform the Roman Catholic Church in the 16th century. October 31 marks the day in 1517 when Martin Luther, a German monk and theologian, famously nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. These theses/opinions criticized various practices of the Catholic Church, particularly the sale of indulgences, which were said to reduce punishment for sins. Luther's actions sparked widespread debate and ultimately led to significant religious and cultural changes across Europe.

The Reformation challenged the authority of the Pope and promoted the idea that the Bible, rather than Church traditions or clerical hierarchy, should be the sole source of authority for Christians. It also emphasized salvation through faith in Jesus Christ alone, rather than through a combination of faith and good works as taught by the Catholic Church. These ideas resonated with many people, leading to the formation of new Protestant denominations, including Lutherans, Anglicans, the Christian Reformed Church, and in particular, Baptists.

Reformation Day is mainly celebrated in Germany and other countries with a strong Protestant history. In some regions it is a public holiday, with church services, lectures, and educational events. This day is seen as a time to reflect on the impact of the Reformation on the Christian faith, religious freedom, and the shaping of modern Western society.

For many Protestants, Reformation Day is a reminder of the importance of religious reforms and the ongoing need for renewal within the Church. It serves as an occasion to celebrate the core tenets of the Reformation—faith, grace, Scripture, and Christ — while acknowledging the historical divisions it created within Christianity.

To my way of thinking, Reformation Day should be celebrated, or at least recognized in our homes and amongst our families, with greater enthusiasm than a festival for the dead. After all, we know the **One who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life**. That is who we celebrate.



This statue of Martin Luther was erected near the Frauenkirche (i.e. Church of our Lady), Dresden, Germany in 1885. Ed (see also Page 7)

Special points of interest:

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Hi to Warren MacDonald - interviewer Bill Holmes

In the September issue I started a series on our Leadership Council with an interview with Nathan Shessel. They all agreed to participate and this month the privileged person is Warren MacDonald. Warren is the Vice-moderator. For more general information about the Council read either the September or October newsletter.

1. If you weren't a microbulk service/repair technician, what would you be doing for a living?

Most likely mechanic, welder, or machinist; maybe millwright, I think that's all of them rolled into one.

"CLIMB A MOUNTAIN IN THE ROCKIES, NOT ONE THAT REQUIRES ALL THE ROPES AND STUFF."

2. Where did you spend your childhood? What was the best part?

Grew up in Edmonton, Kenilworth neighborhood. I spent weekends and summers at Wizard Lake or on neighbor's family farm. Best part was spending time outdoors fishing, hunting, waterskiing, golfing and snowmobiling.

3. It's Sunday morning, what do you have for breakfast?

Usually bacon, eggs, toast.

4. If you could attend an event or concert, what or who would it be?

A concert – torn between George Strait or Brooks and Dunn.



5. Who was your teenage celebrity crush? Mine was Annette Funicello, just don't tell Joy.

Jan Smithers AKA Bailey Quarters from WKRP in Cincinnati (not SINcinnati) LOL! Don't tell Christine and I won't tell Joy about yours.

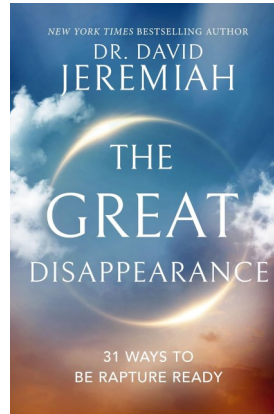
6. What is your favourite TV show? Why?

NHRA Championship Drag Racing. Speed and the acceleration of dragsters

and funny cars, and how everyone on teams work together to tear down a complete engine and reassemble in an hour or two for the next race.

7. What do you think are the 3 best rom-com movies of all time? If necessary Christine can help you with this one.

Pretty Woman, Sleepless in Seattle and the Notebook. (Had significant help from Christine). LOL!



8. Last book you could not put down?

The Great Disappearance – 31 Ways to be Rapture Ready by Dr. David Jeremiah.

9. What is your favourite vacation destination?

Mexico (gone to a few times) – bucket list: New Zealand.

10. What is the one thing you have not done that you would love to do?

Climb a mountain in the Rockies, not one that requires all the ropes and stuff. Warren, how about we book the Berg Lake Trail in Mount Robson Provincial Park or Lake O'hara in Yoho National Park for spring 2025 hike? Ed.

11. How long would you last in the wild?

A long time, did hunter training and survival testing in junior high. I loved it!

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

At this age, possibly golf.

13. How many times did you get a detention in high school?

Never in high school, won't mention junior high or elementary.

14. What are you most proud of?

That I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and became a baptized Christian.



Warren, going for the Albatross!***

15. How would you spend your time if you could not use any devices for a month?

In the great outdoors or with family and friends including brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus.

16. You're in a restaurant, the church is buying. What are you having?

Breakfast: eggs benedict, Lunch: Ruben and fries, Dinner: Lamb with all the trimmings.

(Continued on page 3)

Hi to Warren MacDonald

(Continued from page 2)



17. Your most favourite hymn and chorus?

“Take My Hand, Precious Lord”

18. What is your dream car?

Verdoro Green 1968

Firebird 455 Pro Touring.

19. In the September issue of Reflections, Pastor Norm wrote about having a mission and vision. Nathan also indicated that the Elders will be working on a vision for 2025. Has the Council made any progress on setting goals/vision? What is being considered?

Vision for 2024/2025 as discussed at the previous Leadership Board meeting – more discussion required – ongoing work in progress.

20. What do you see as the biggest challenge facing Hillview?

Congressional growth.

21. Do you have any thoughts on how a small church like Hillview can compete with larger churches like Hope City and Grace Point? Do we even want to?

I don't think Hillview should compete with any other churches; it is its own entity.

22. How can the council empower or encourage committees to be effective and goal orientated?

By giving whatever support we can provide, listening, praying and recognizing their efforts.

23. How does the council encourage feedback and also seek ideas from the congregation. How do they communicate them to you?

Listening closely to ministerial leaders' concerns, past experiences and future expectations. Usually through discussion with ministry leaders, fellowship time conversations or through visitor card comments from the sanctuary.

24. In what ways do the Elders serve others and also encourage the congregation do the same for each other?

Most of the Leadership Board members are involved in other aspects of the church's operations ie: worship, ushering, greeting, New Testament reading, communion service, offering collection. We are here to help in any way possible in hopes that the congregation recognizes this and can do the same.

25. Are we doing enough in the area of training both for the pastoral staff and the lay people?

We have upcoming training already scheduled for Leadership Board members and Norm continues his quest for knowledge.

***Albatross - means 3 strokes under par, also known as a double eagle. Seriously, a major achievement! To learn more about golf watch Robin Williams - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ODGCP7ZFvJk> informative and of course, slightly humorous, Ed

Saying "Hi" to Baby Norah



Louise and Gana have a new addition to their family . This latest arrival is Norah Matondo Moke. She was born on the 19th of October at an convenient time of 13:03 (i.e. 1.03 in the afternoon). She weighed in at 7lbs.

Norah has two sisters and one big brother:

- Emilie Moke: 6 years: birthday: Aug 4th
- Valerie Moke 4 years: birthday: Jan. 26th
- Barack Moke 2 years: birthday: May 4th

Unfortunately for Gana and Barack they are now completely out-numbered by girls! The 2 year scheduling is obviously remarkable planning by Gana!Ed



Apparently, Norah has already captured the heart of one sister, Louise thinks she is Emilie!

Something to Think About - by Brad Baker

Apostle Paul as a Tailor - A Follow-up Question

In the September issue of Reflections, Brad Baker began a two part series on "tailoring" Biblical doctrines to the people we are trying to reach with the Gospel. He used Paul's letter to the Thessalonians as an example of fitting or explaining the Gospel to the people with different cultures and traditions and yet still retain the inherent truth of the Gospel.

As editor I was curious about the possible negative repercussions and asked Brad the following question:

Brad, I very much enjoyed your article on tailoring the gospel to the people needing it as part of the series "Something to Think About". But I have a concern - Do you think that tailoring the gospel can lead to deviating from Biblical truths, and in fact might lead to false teaching? For example, how some churches responded to the Covid restrictions, affirming homosexuality, and/or focusing on "church" being entertaining etc.

As a fundamental principle, I do not think it follows that "tailoring the gospel" may become cause for one to "deviate from Biblical truths". In practice, however, things may be different. That is because when we talk about "tailoring the gospel", we assume that we are indeed talking about "tailoring the gospel" not changing the gospel.

ing the gospel". Often, presenters of the gospel are not knowledgeable enough of its content, shape, and form to distinguish it from other beliefs or worldviews. Those fundamental doctrines we can or should be 'tailoring' become lost, ignored or outright tossed in these scenarios. The problem is further exacerbated when the "client", or follower, loves

or prefers the "denim" rather than the 'silk'. The question, "should we tailor the gospel?" is fair. Based on the precedent I see with Paul and other New Testament authors, the answer seems to be a resounding "yes!". If this is so, then we must answer both emphases of the question are "we

tailoring **the true Gospel**", or "are we just tailoring **a gospel**". Evidently, as we see all around us, one way of asking this question is not the same as the other.

Brad has been part of Hillview for 5 years. He is married to Mikayla. Brad is visually impaired, but apparently that is not an overriding issue for him. A white cane helps him maneuver around the church. He is a student at Taylor Seminary and a pretty good guitar player. So many accomplishments, he puts me to shame! Ed.



Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves (Gospel of Matthew 7:15, King James Version).

It may be hazardous to rest on the presumption that we are bringing the gospel to bear on a given situation, when in fact we may not be. Allow me to illustrate via our metaphor of a tailor. Suppose a tailor sets to work on modifying the measurements of a client's silk jacket. But our tailor doesn't know his trade very well and has a hard time distinguishing between different fabrics. In the end, if the confused tailor hands their client back a denim jacket, something went wrong. Upon receiving the jacket, the client would undoubtedly protest, "this is not my jacket!". And they would be right. It's a different garment.

I think this is part of the problem when it comes to "tailor-

"THE PROBLEM IS FURTHER EXACERBATED WHEN THE "CLIENT" OR FOLLOWER LOVES OR PREFERS THE "DENIM" ... "

Always Giving Thanks - by Dr. Jerry Shepard



A few weeks ago, Pastor Norm and I had breakfast. We talked about God's sovereignty. I mentioned to Norm on one occasion I composed a prayer that combined the two ideas of thanksgiving and sovereignty. He asked if I would be willing to share that prayer during the Thanksgiving church service.

In May 2011, my wife Cheryl was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at the University of Alberta Hospital on account of a severe bacterial infection. To treat her, they put her in an induced coma. Even though she was not conscious, we gathered around her bed every day and night, prayed for her, read stories to her, and sang hymns. Doctors and nurses mentioned that every time they came into work, they expected to hear that

she had died. But she recovered. She was in the hospital for 12 weeks before she was able to come home.

In the fall of 2011, we held a special thanksgiving, and a celebration of Cheryl's 60th birthday. For that occasion I composed a prayer of thanksgiving.

In our body here at Hillview, over the past few years, we

have lost a number of our members to various illnesses. Others have gone through potentially life-threatening illnesses, and have recovered, and are still with us. Others of us are going through such crises even now. Whatever your situation, I hope there will be something in this prayer that will be encouraging for you.

Gracious God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

we give you thanks because, in your gracious providence and tender mercy, you spared Cheryl's life this past summer. We acknowledge that you are sovereign. All things are under your control. You are the God who kills and makes alive. You bring down to the grave and you raise up. You form the light and create darkness. You bring peace and create disaster. You rend, but you also heal. You injure, but you also bind up. You sweep men away in the sleep of death. And yet you also satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

Cheryl's illness did not take you by surprise. Nor did you merely allow or permit it to happen. Nor were you powerless to keep it from happening, and decided to somehow bring good out of evil. Rather, in your inscrutable wisdom you designed and ordained it for your glory, for Cheryl's ultimate good, and that we might be conformed to the image of your Son, whom you did not spare, but gave up for us all, and by whom you have graciously given us all things. We praise you for hearing and answering our prayers. And we confess that you have been with us, and that you have been good to us; and we bless you for that goodness. And yet, we also hope that if you had chosen not to answer our prayers in the way which we asked, our response would nevertheless have been, "The LORD has given, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." And we hope that our confession still would have been that you are, indeed, a good God.

As more than one of your servants has recently reminded us, calamities and illnesses like heart attacks, cancer, and "severe bacterial infections" are not to be wasted. Rather, they are to be used as occasions to be more conformed to the image of Jesus Christ, to deepen our faith, to draw closer to you, and to avail ourselves of the opportunity to testify to your goodness and to sing the praises of your marvelous grace and extravagant love and mercy. Of course, we are a forgetful and sinful people, and all too easily we forget the things you have done for us. But we pray that, by the merits of your Son, Christ Jesus and his sacrifice of atonement on our behalf, you would forgive us our sins, make us holy and pleasing in your sight, and bring us safely into that blessed rest and that glorious place where we will remember with thankfulness, during times of seeming hopelessness, having drawn great comfort from singing these words:



Jerry and Cheryl

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrows forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Amen

Neighbourhood Thanks - by Ardath Effa

Hi Bill, I didn't have the newsletter in mind when I sent you this item. I just wanted to share with you what we do with our neighbours on special days and

maybe give others ideas about how they can be in touch with, or get to know, their neighbours better. I write a poem and we give it to the neighbours along with

a seasonal gift. In addition, we deliver them in person. In that way we also get to know them better.

- Ardath



Happy Thanksgiving!

*Jesus healed ten lepers
Who came to Him one day.
But only one of them came back
His thanks to Jesus say.
In Canada we are so blessed
And thankful we should be
For the peace and safety we enjoy
And that our land is free.
Instead, we often times complain
Of taxes, cost of food
Forgetting all our blessings and
Our Neighbors kind and good.
So, "Thank you, Sunrise Village folk
And thanks to God above
For all the good things we enjoy,
And blessings of His love.
May your Thanksgiving Day be blessed
With family and friends
And don't forget to give Him thanks
For all the good He sends."*

Rebuilding Frauendirche - by Bill Holmes



The above picture of Frauendirche is actually the third church on this site. The first church built in 1727 was Catholic but became a protestant church during the Reformation. It was replaced by a larger Lutheran Church in the 18th century. It was destroyed during World War II. After the war ended, the East German government decided to leave the ruins as a permanent war memorial. This decision was amended after the reunification of Germany and re-construction began in 1994. The exteri-

or was completed in 2004. In observance of Reformation Day the church was reconsecrated over two days - October 30 and 31. Presently, there are two devo-

tional services every day and two liturgies every Sunday. (from Wikipedia Ed)

The amazing thing was the statue of Martin Luther was not destroyed by the bombing. The adjacent church was destroyed as was much of Dresden, but the statue remained intact with only superficial damage. There are perhaps three possibilities to consider:

- It was just plain luck that they missed the monument.

- The bombardiers on the allied planes purposely missed, but in WW 2 bombing was not particularly accurate.
- God decided to protect the statue because ??

As editor, I would be so thrilled if someone at Hillview has visited this church/statue and would be willing to tell about their experience and thoughts for a future issue of Reflections.

Martin Luther was so crucial to the Christian faith that there are many Martin Luther statues and monuments scattered through the world including Brazil, Copenhagen, Washington DC, and even Camrose, Alberta.



Why go to Church? - submitted by Al Aben

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

He wrote: "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time. Furthermore, preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all".

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column. Much to

the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: they all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something!

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible!

Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!



**BIBLE -
SIMPLY MEANS:
BASIC
INSTRUCTIONS
BEFORE
LEAVING
EARTH**

Reflections

Clothing Store Miracle - by Gloria Swain

"... SOMEONE TOLD HER OF A CHURCH THAT PROVIDED GRADUATION DRESSES. RELUCTANTLY SHE WENT ..."



A few weeks ago as I was leaving a business, the receptionist, a beautiful, put together young lady, told me how much she loved the red jacket I was wearing. I told her about our Hillview Clothing Closet. And the many items of clothing we give away weekly. She then proceeded to tell me her story.

As a 17 year old she found herself pregnant. When the father of the child found out he bolted, leaving her to figure out a life for herself and her unborn baby. She was determined to keep the

baby and finish high school as she knew she would need an education if she was to raise her baby on her own. She transferred to a high school here in the City that provided day care. This meant she was able to both

finish her education and take care of her baby.

Graduation time came around and she could not wait to walk across the stage to receive her diploma. But what could a single mom, on welfare afford to wear on her graduation day?

She tried to sew a dress, but that didn't turn out. Then someone told her of a church that provided graduation dresses. Reluctantly she went to the church and was surprised how warmly she was welcomed. And her perfect dress was there

waiting for her with no alterations needed. Graduation night was a success thanks to a church's clothing give away.

Fast forward 17 years later and it is her daughter's turn to graduate from high school. Her daughter was so grateful to her mom that she had kept her, raised her and gave her an education that in honor of her mom she was wearing mom's free graduation dress.

By now this mom was in tears and said the dress looked better on her daughter than it did on her. She thanked us for what we do with our Clothing Depot. I left there with tears in my eyes, hugging my own free clothing store red jacket!



Notable Christmas Events

--as mentioned by Mr. Claus, beginning on November 3:

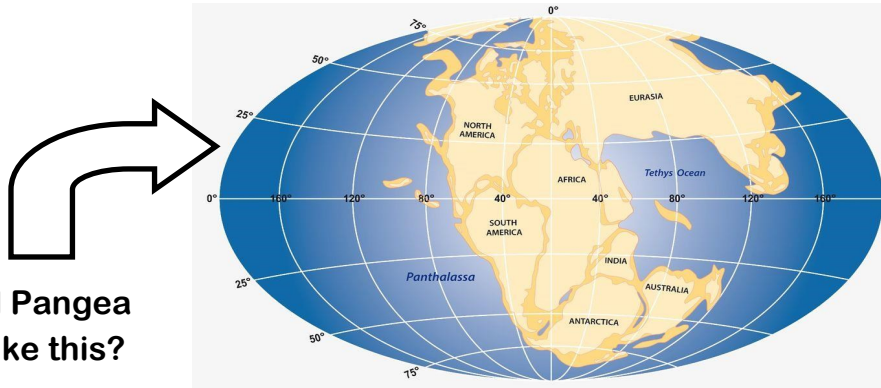
- 4 days to Shoebox packing party (Nov. 7)
- 6 days to men's breakfast (Nov. 9)
- 14 days to Christmas Shoebox Collection (Nov.17)
- 35 days to Hillview's Christmas Banquet (Dec.8)
- 51 days to Christmas Eve Service (Dec. 24)
- 52 days to Christmas and presents (Dec. 25)

The picture of our outdoor Christmas display was slightly modified by colouring the cross a seasonal and joyeous red, instead of the usual white. Ed.

Spot 11 differences in Noah's Ark



A Flood Changes Things- by Wayne Baker



Would Pangea look like this?

"ALMOST EVERY CULTURE INCLUDING BRONZE AGE AND NEOLITHIC PEOPLES HAVE A MYTH, ..."

Introduction:

The story of Noah's Flood begins in Genesis 6:5

5 The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. 7 So the Lord said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them." 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

And with that the story of the flood began. It was in the 9th Century BC, when the Hebrew God Yahweh decided to flood the earth because mankind was so corrupt. However, God found a righteous man in Noah and his family and told him to build an ark to preserve both the human and animal species. This account of the Biblical flood is not limited to the Hebrew culture and the Middle East. Almost every culture including Bronze Age and Neolithic peoples have a

myth, or a legend of a flood that covered their world. There are a number of accounts saying there were eight survivors. Others tell of the survival of one family or just a husband and wife. Many include the saving of animals. Other stories have a family saved in a cave, but most are saved in a canoe, or a circular vessel.

The "Epic of Gilgamesh", tells the story of Uruk (a city in present day Iraq). The City was destroyed by a huge flood, that lasted one week. It was written between 2,100-1,200 BC.

Frequently, these "stories" state the flood was sent by a god(s) to destroy their world because of people's wickedness. These cultures lived in isolation from one another and a flood covering their land would probably be perceived as covering the entire earth. Even groups not living near the sea like the Hopi Indians in the American southwest and the Incas in the Andes mountains have stories of a great flood. Flood stories can also be found in Hinduism, Greek myths and the beliefs of some American Indian tribes.

In the 9th century BC the world probably looked quite different than how it appears from the international Space Station. Antonio Snyder, in 1851, an American published in France a book suggesting the earth began as a single land mass, he called it Pangea. He further proposed Pangea broke up during Noah's Flood. The traditional view by Geologists and earth Scientists is that our present world of seven continents and their landscapes were formed over a very long period of time – essentially billions of years. It is their equivalent to the Theory of Evolution. Creationists believe it was Noah's flood that created our continent and the landscapes that we are so familiar with, like the Great Lakes, and the Grand Canyon

7:11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened 12 And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights. 17 The flood continued forty days on the earth. The waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. 18 The waters prevailed and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the face of the waters. 19 And the waters prevailed so mightily on the earth

(Continued on page 11)

A Flood Changes Things

(Continued from page 10)

that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered. **20** The waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep. **24** And the waters prevailed on the earth 150 days.

8:1 But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided. The fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained. **3** and the waters receded from the earth continually. At the end of 150 days the waters had abated, **4** and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. **5** and the waters continued to abate until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month the tops of the mountains were seen. **13** In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried from off the earth. And Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and behold, the face of the ground was dry. **14** In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth had dried out. **15** Then God said to Noah, **16** "Go out from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you."

The Timeline

Day one:

The ark door is closed by God in the second month 17th day, Noah is only 600. Volcanoes and earthquakes begin causing the breakup of Pangea. Young Earth Creationists (YEC) theories have the earthquakes lasting two to four hours and are part of the fountains of the great deep bursting forth. The earthquakes were powerful with numerous events happening each day. The frequency these natural events probably began to abate or lessen after day 40 but definitely after day 150.

Days 2-40:

The floodwaters begin to cover the landscape. The ark is floating by the end of day 40. The dominant worldwide rains let up, but local rains probably linger. The volcanoes and earthquakes persist and the floodwaters continue to rise.

Day 50:

Based on a computer simulation, the breakup of Pangea landmass is completed and the land masses are drifting further apart.

Day 150:

The waters peak at fifteen cubits, or about 22 to 27 feet, above the mountain tops.

Day 151:

The waters are now receding or draining. The speculation is mountain ranges begin to form.

Day 370:

Noah, his clan, and the animals begin debarkation.

The Flood

This event, as described in Genesis, generates a number of questions.

Where did all this water come from?

From the Biblical verses the "windows of Heaven" is probably rain. The "fountains of the great deep" are understood to be springs of water, released because of volcanoes and earthquakes.

How much water was needed?

Jacque Cousteau said the earth's existing water could cover the land to a depth of 1.7 miles, if the land was perfectly level. The organization, "Is Genesis History", suggests the water was an average of 1 mile deep. This is based on the expansion of existing water from the heat, and other sources of water such as springs.

What happened to all that water?

Basically the flood waters became our oceans, glaciers, ice caps and fresh water because of the breakup of Pangea. The land was modified by the flood from an essentially single, mostly flat land mass to an earth now consisting of seven continents with various terrain features including mountains. Some water could have been drained into the mid-ocean ridges, - a continuous underwater landform that extends around the earth. The most famous is the Mid-Atlantic Ridge.

To be continued:

The flood had significant impacts on the earth's landscape, and the people. God also made new promises. In the January 2025 issue of our newsletter Wayne will outline some of these impacts and provide some insights to explain how God affected the world during Biblical times.
Ed

"THE ARK IS FLOATING BY THE END OF DAY 40. THE DOMINANT WORLDWIDE RAINS ..."



Leaving the ark after 370 days

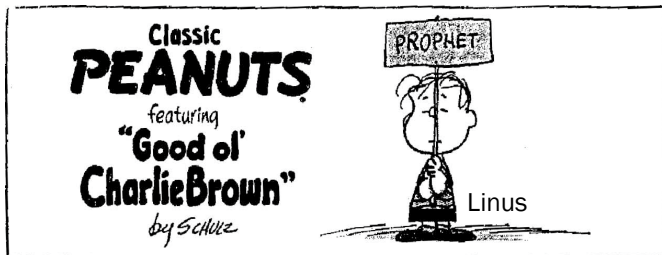
Some minds are like concrete. Thoroughly mixed up and permanently set!

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Come to Sunday School - by Rick deLeeuw



Truly it is not too late to join us in the Adult Sunday School class. Dr. Jerry Shepherd is guiding us through the Book of Psalms. Psalms gives us the message that in light of God's unfailing love and faithfulness there is a song to be sung. In fact, it is a grand

song for all God's people - whatever their circumstances, whatever their emotions, or whatever their adversity.

In just a few weeks we are benefiting by gaining a better understanding of the greatness of God. It affirms God's faithfulness in times

of trouble, and reminds us of the absolute centrality of His word. God is love, merciful, faithful, a keeper of promises, and protects us from the enemy.

You are welcome to join us. We meet at 9:15am prior to our Sunday wor-

ship service in the Fellowship Hall.

Dr. Shepherd is Emeritus Professor of Old Testament at Taylor Seminary. So, he actually knows what he is talking about just like Linus! Ed

Somewhat Revolting Trivia - by Rick deLeeuw



HOW DO WORMS SEE IN THE DARK UNDERGROUND?

They don't, because worms have no eyes. They simply move slowly and feel their way around. Despite their lack of eyes, they do sense light, because they have light-sensitive organs on their heads and tails.

Why do they care about light if they can't see? Sunlight would dry out their skin and eventually kill them, so that's why they live underground.

What do worms eat down there? According to Agricultural researcher Mary Fauci, worms living near the soil surface eat organic matter like fallen leaves and dead grass. They do eat small organisms like bacteria or fungi that live on plants. As well as eating, they excrete (or "cast," as the gardening industry puts it when it is trying to sell worm castings). These castings are very nutritious for plants. That's why you want worms in your soil and in your compost.