

Reflections



THE NEWSLETTER OF HILLVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

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A Deeper Walk - by Pastor Norm Bleick



As we approach the beginning of a new year, many of us reflect on the past and set goals for the future. New Year's resolutions often revolve around self-improvement—better health, stronger relationships, or achieving personal milestones. But how frequently do we resolve to grow in our faith and service to God?

Scripture reminds us in 2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" This verse speaks to Christ's transformative

power, offering us not just a new year but a new heart and spirit.

Our vision for Hillview Baptist Church (HBC) is that we are a church where people live lives of devotion to God, loving the Lord with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength. We want to grow in our faith and exercise it, practically, as we reach out to people who need the Lord.

As we reflect on this, consider making resolutions that deepen your connection with God:

1. Living: Commit to spending time in God's Word and praying daily.

2. Loving: Resolve to let go of past hurts and mend broken relationships.

3. Reaching: Seek opportunities to serve others, showing Christ's love in action.

4. Growing: Make it a habit to count your blessings and share joy with those around you.

As we gather to worship, reflect, and pray for the year ahead, let's seek God's guidance in setting resolutions that matter most - not just for this life but for eternity. Let's begin the new year with hearts open to God's work and ready to embrace His plans for us.

May the new year bring you hope, peace, joy, and love as you experience a deeper walk with Christ.

An Afternoon at Our Food Bank - by Gloria Swain

This is your invitation to come and spend an afternoon with Hillview's food bank volunteers.

We usually arrive around 12 noon. Tables are set up, signs, clothing, Bibles and Christian reading material is displayed and any previous week's left-over non perishable food is brought

out of storage to be returned to the central Food Bank warehouse

When the delivery truck arrives it is all hands on deck. The main job is to unload and assemble the hampers for distribution. All hampers are verified from a check list. We always pray over the ham-

pers. Some of the drivers ask to stay and pray with us, which is a real blessing. At times our pastor shows up to help us unload and bless the hampers. We are now ready to receive the clients. But not before the drivers and vol-

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Reflections

An Afternoon at Our Food Bank

..."CLIENTS INITIALLY SHOW THEIR PAPERWORK TO A GREETER WHO DIRECTS THEM TO THE DESK PERSON WHO CONFIRMS THE IDENTIFICATION.



Larry Hubscher, driving the custom built food cart.

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unteers are fed one of Mo's delicious soups, stews and desserts.

Clients are to arrive at 2.30pm, however if the truck arrives early and if we are ready we will call them and let them know they can get their hamper sooner. We also remind them to bring their identification for each family member and containers to take the food home in. The Food Bank does not supply boxes or bags. The Food Bank boxes are re-used.

Shortly after the last phone call, the clients start arriving. Many times they are

already lined up outside the door. Because of limited space, we can only process three clients at a time.

The process goes in stages: the clients initially show their paperwork to a greeter who directs them to the desk person who confirms the identification. He/she tells the hamper handlers which numbered box is ready for distribution. The clients are responsible to take the box to a table and repack their groceries. A volunteer ensures that clients are assigned a packing table. Any perishable food left behind is available for someone else to take. Non-perishable food not taken is returned to the food bank the following week.

The hamper handlers at the back ensure that once the boxes are empty they are folded up and put away to go back to the food bank next week.

The clients now have their groceries and they are invited to help themselves to a Bible, a Christian book or to check out the Hillview "Clothing Closet". Donald does a fantastic job organizing and running the Closet.

We could write several books on some of the beautiful outcomes as a result of the Clothing Closet. This

often opens doors for us to pray with clients, at their request. We have shared many prayers, tears and laughs with them.

I am sure it sounds and looks like a lot of work - physically and emotionally. It is absolutely true that at the end of the afternoon most of us are virtually out of steam. Nevertheless, you have to be there to experience the joy and fulfillment that comes with being able to give and share.

Our volunteers are unique in their own way and go over and above what is expected of them. One example is the cart and table trolley that was built by Larry to make hamper unloading and table set up easier. Why? - because these are people who have servant hearts that reach outside our church doors so that others can be blessed.

As the year comes to a close, we are happy to report that we have given out 27,036 kgs of food to 3,300 clients, 246 Bibles, 127 Christian books and over 5,000 items of clothing and kitchen items. Thank you Hillview for your love, support, donations and prayers.

To God be the Glory.

GEM UPDATE



The Greater Edmonton Mission (GEM) event was at Hillview in October. The goal was \$20,000, the final result is in and we blew past that goal. The offering amount was \$26,396!

All About Krista - questions mostly by William Holmes

*I*t is a new year and with that we return to interviewing the people on our Church Leadership Council. Krista Carlberg concludes this series. Saving the best for last.

1. If you weren't a teacher, what would you be doing for a living?

Honestly, I don't know. I love what I do. When I originally came to Edmonton for University, I was interested in occupational therapy (it was not offered in Saskatchewan), but realized it wasn't for me.

2. I know you are on sabbatical this year, but what grades do you usually teach?

I have taught mainly math and some science at the grades 7, 8, and 9 level. I also spent 15 years teaching special needs to those grades, but needed a break from that and am back to regular math and science.

3. What have you noticed change in school life over those years?

This year I achieved 25 years of service with Edmonton public. I can't believe it has been that long and I'm on the downward slope of my career. The biggest changes have been brought with additions of cell phones to students lives, and the increased mental health needs in the classroom.

4. What is the biggest challenge you face as a teacher?

Classroom size and complexity. It's unbelievable the issues kids are coming to school with these days that teachers are just not equipped deal with, especially with 30+ kids in most classes, when you are trying to teach curriculum as well.

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

I grew up in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, and spent large amounts of time playing outside. The best part was that I have sisters close in age (one older, one younger), so always had built-in playmates.

6. It's Sunday morning, what do you have for breakfast? Does Neil make it for you?

Either toast with peanut butter and bananas, or yogurt with granola and berries. Neil does not make it for me, and I don't make his. Sometimes he will start my coffee though, even though he does not drink it.

7. Your most favourite hymn and chorus?

To God be the Glory. I'm an old soul and love hymns. Krista, since you love hymns, there is a quiz on page 8 to test your knowledge. Everyone can try - answers in March issue. Ed

8. Who was your teenage celebrity crush?

I didn't really have one. I devoted my time to hating the "New Kids on the Block" because both my sisters were so in love with them.

9. What is your favourite TV show? Why?

I like crime dramas/police shows. Something with lots of seasons so you feel like you get to know the characters.

10. What are your 3 most favourite action movies?

Much to Neil's dismay, I'm not a movie person although there is a long list he wants me to watch.

11. Last book you could not put down?

I just finished a 7 book crime series by David Baldacci. Easy, entertaining reading. Perfect for a cold snowy day, or the beach in Mexico. *I read David Baldacci too! Ed.*

12. What is your favourite vacation destination? You just got back from Mexico. What was special about this trip?

My top 3 countries, in no particular order, are Iceland, Spain and New Zealand. Yes, we did just return from Mexico and that was wonderful. It was a family trip celebrating my parents 50th wedding anniversary.



Krista basking in Antarctica sunshine!

13. You have visited all 7 continents. Which one would you like to return too? Why?

Antarctica was amazing, as you would expect, but I don't need to return. South America is my favourite continent to keep going back to. I love the people, the culture, and the food.

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

Go on a hot air balloon ride.

15. How long would you last in the wild? Would you need Warren to tag along? (see November issue)?

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Reflections

All About Krista

(Continued from page 3)

I can be resourceful when I need to, but I'd take Warren if I had that option, life would be easier.

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

I love watching sports, but I don't play. I would rather outsmart you at logic puzzles or board games though. That's my forte.

17. How many times did you get a detention in high school? Or were you a "teacher's pet"? Did one of your teacher's influence you to become a teacher?

I wasn't a teacher's pet, I just quietly did what I needed to because school always came easy to me and wasn't a challenge. Most people become teachers because of a wonderful influence, I was the opposite. I had a horrible biology teacher in high school and I became a teacher because I thought no one should ever have to deal with that in school.

18. What are you most proud of?

That I've lived my life to the fullest. I'm careful and a planner, but life is meant to be lived and enjoyed. I have a wonderful family who I'm close to, but I'm also very independent. If there was no one to travel with me or join for activities, I was very content to go at it alone. Now Neil is getting dragged along.

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

Something Mexican with freshly made pico de gallo and guacamole.



Skilled pianist at age 10!

20. You play the piano for many of the worship bands. Why? You obviously took lessons. What grade did you reach? Why did you stop? What do you play when nobody is around?

I finished my grade 10 Royal Conservatory piano and taught for a few years in high school. I stopped because I didn't have a piano in university and my mom said my friends didn't like

me enough to move one. My piano was the first thing I bought once I purchased my first house. I play a lot hymns, but during Covid I pulled out some of my old classical books and enjoyed playing them again.

21. In the November issue of Reflections, Warren answered a number of questions concerning the Church's Leadership Council, their operations and priorities. What did you think of his answers? Do you have anything to add?

We are a group of people who, with God's guidance, are doing our best to make decisions to lead the church forward. We have recently participated in some elders training provided by the NAB to help with clarity and directions in our roles.

22. We understand you have been on numerous short term mission trips. Where have you gone and what did you do?

Mexico – building a house with my dad and people from his church. El Salvador – a week spent digging a water well with Water Ambassadors Canada. Honduras – a week doing well repair with Water Ambassadors. Brazil – a week at Chain of Love with Hillview Church.



Krista, getting to work in El Salvador.

23. What have you learned from your trips?

I have a passion for water projects. No matter how many times I've seen it, being in a community and restoring a pump brings tears to my eyes when it starts to flow because it is life changing to the people. God can use anyone to accomplish His tasks.

24. Any final thoughts for your Hillview Family?

I've attended Hillview for about 9 years and have been incredibly blessed by this congregation. I believe our greatest strength is our people and their love for God and each other. You have all supported me through missions trips, family issues, teaching during covid and meeting/marrying Neil. I am grateful to call you family and friends and look forward to what God has in store for all of us in the future.

What's with the Boxes? - by Gloria Swain



When you give a gift-filled shoebox, it is not just things - you give hope, joy, and the Good News of Jesus Christ to a child overseas. With your love, support and generosity, this year we were able to give 138 children a memorable Christmas.

Many thanks to Donalda Nelson, our Samaritan's Purse Coordinator. She has developed so many inventive, and ambitious ways to jump-start our gift collection. Did you know, she actually begins to collect items in July. Christmas at Hillview actually starts in July and then carries on until Shoe Box Sunday in November.

Many of you filled boxes and others gave financial donations. The money was

used to cover shipping costs. Prior to the collection Sunday a packing party was held in the fellowship hall. Here the purchased and donated gifts were assembled and boxes made up.

What a sight on Shoe Box Sunday, to open the sanctuary doors and see a wall of boxes concealing our oversized pulpit. Even Pastor Norm could disappear behind that barricade of surprises. The boxes were mostly red and green and the display represented a huge heart, which rang out with a song, of "Love, Love, Love". Then some children, with a teacher, came forward and sent the boxes off with a prayer. A prayer that the gift will be a blessing to each child.

Just a note about Donalda

Donalda has been the coordinator of Operation Christmas Child Shoebox ministry for our church for the past three years.

Over the past year, Donalda has also (with the in-

strumental help of others) taken on the organization of Hillview's Clothing Closet. It involves sizing, labeling, and displaying the clothing on Foodbank days.

A few days later three of our volunteers picked up and delivered the boxes to a collection centre here in the City. Rick, Hank & Trevor, thank you for your willing hearts and big hands. From there the boxes were sent to Calgary, where they are checked and then shipped to countries all over the world.

It doesn't end there. Once the kids receive their shoebox they are invited to become a faithful follower of Christ by attending the 12 lessons of "The Greatest Journey", a discipleship course. Each child also receives a New Testament in their language upon graduation!

Most of us will never get to go on a mission trip to another country. However, I like to believe that one day, in God's great glory, a small child will come and thank you because you cared enough to give and they came to know Jesus.

A thankful and blessed New Year to one and all at Hillview.

...TO OPEN THE
SANCTUARY
DOORS AND SEE
A WALL OF
BOXES
CONCEALING
OUR ...

And finally, she occasionally assists Barb with the church library. Obviously a very dedicated member of our congregation with definite focus on helping others. Ed



The Impact of Noah's Flood - by Wayne Baker

"THE BREAKUP OF PANGEA WOULD BE ONE OBVIOUS IMPACT OF THE FLOOD. ANOTHER IMPACT IS ..."

I will start with some personal opinion. This is not supported by any research but is my own speculation.

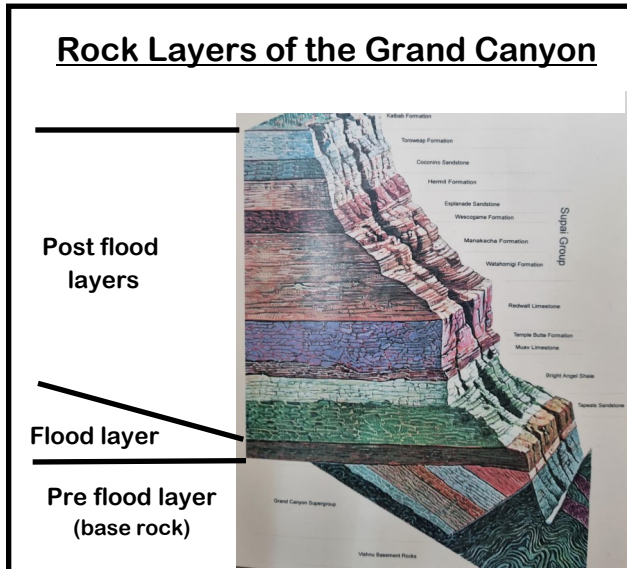
During my study on Genesis and evolution I have developed my own theories. My speculation is the energy from the geological turmoil and massive lightning storms may have caused radioactive decay to be accelerated and any fusion activity may be the source of most of the radioactive material on earth. If true, then using radioactive dating is not accurate. Creationists suspect there was at least one period of greatly accelerated decay. This also may be a partial explanation for the decrease of human life spans, because of the greater radiation in the environment. This ends my personal conjecture.

The question is, what was the impact of the flood? If you were to travel back to the days before the flood, the earth that you would see, would be totally different. Creationists propose that the earth before the flood consisted of a single landmass called Pangea. (see *November 2024 issue Ed*) Today, the earth consists of several continents and many islands. The breakup of Pangea would be one obvious impact of the flood. Another impact is the formation of sedimentary layers. Evo-

lutionists say the sedimentary layers are the result of millions of years of very slow deposits of sediment. Young Earth Creationists (YEC) say the flood deposited most of the sediment. Heavy sedimentation continued for a time following the flood as the flood waters receded.

In general, creationists say the base rocks are from Biblical creation, whereas the layers above the thin sedimentary line are from

that there were massive floating forests along the coast line of Pangea extending far into the ocean. The tsunami waves, earthquakes, volcanoes and storms would have destroyed this floating forest creating vast vegetation mats as rafts for animals and man to spread out across the planet. It has also been suggested that this vast floating forest may have created the coal beds of today. Oil deposits could also be part of the legacy of the flood. The Bay of Fundy has fossil evidence of this vast floating forest. In addition, the flood would account for the massive amounts of fossilization. Evolutionists argue that the abundance of fossils were the result of catastrophic impact of a meteorite.



the flood and post flood. An example can be found in the Grand Canyon. Photos of the canyon show base rock at a steep angle with a line of sediment forming a flat surface. Evolutionists and creationists alike call this the "Great Unconformity". The rocks above this sediment are generally flat and level.

One interesting theory from the YEC regards plants. The organization "Is Genesis History" proposes

What about the Garden of Eden? Can it be found? No!! "The Great Unconformity" shows the pre-flood world was completely destroyed. Clearly any identifiable landmarks were totally consumed by the erosive power of the great flood.

The arrival of the ice age ends Noah's flood. It is thought the amount of ice on the continents lowered

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The Impact of Noah's Flood

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sea level by over two hundred feet. The change provided many land bridges, geological activity in the Himalayas Mountains, and climate adjustments. Indeed climate change may be the result of the earth still recovering from the disaster of the global flood.

Following the flood, and there are many more impacts from the flood, mankind and the animal popu-

lations recovered. Man still liked the idea of remaining together, but migrated from the valley Noah and his family settled. They decided to build a city and, in the city, the Tower of Babel. This seems to have been near or in the area the great civilization of Babylon developed. God stopped the building of the tower, creating different languages. It is noted that linguists have divided languages into about ninety different language families, the Bible indicates there

should be about seventy different languages. It is possible that further research will narrow the languages from ninety to closer to the seventy.

Sources: Check out the "Answers in Genesis" website or **Creation.com** by "Christian Ministries International"

"THE ARRIVAL OF THE ICE AGE ENDS NOAH'S FLOOD. IT IS THOUGHT THE AMOUNT OF ICE ON THE ..."



An actual scene from the movie.

The movie "Mountains After the Flood" follows Dr. Del Tackett as he joins a team of creation scientists who discover amazing new evidence for a recent global flood. You'll stare up at folded rock layers, climb high mountains, and fly over the Grand Canyon. By the time the journey is over, you'll have a completely new understanding of what the Flood did to create the world we live in today.

Here is the link --- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hqIWhyEIXmc> or enter

Mountains After the Flood into Google

Letter to the Church from Peru

Dear Friends at Hillview,

I greet you with much affection hoping you are all in good health. I want to tell you that I am feeling well and I have reactivated my chocolate business in order to generate income. I plan to study a course of injectables to be able to meet my needs and help my family.

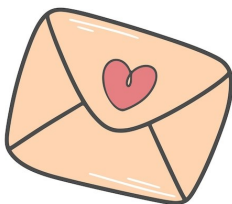
Thank you for your letter and the Birthday monetary gift. I was able to buy groceries like rice, noodles, milk, tuna, cookies, yogurt, butter oil, and menestra. (see comment Ed)

I ask you to pray for my family and me. I say goodbye with a big hug wishing you all many blessings.

Alexandra

Menestra is a type of vegetable stew.

Hillview has been sponsoring Alexandra for over 10 years through Compassion Canada. It will conclude as of May 2025 because the sponsorship will have expired. According to Gloria the budgetary support will be diverted to another missions project. Ed



A 2024 Christmas Story - by Emerald Enamine



I woke up to the sound of laughter and made my way downstairs, there I was met with smiling faces and gift wrappers littered across the floor. My heart leaped with joy as my family saw the presents they were given. I set up the ta-

bles and opened up the candy trays for everyone. Later that day our family friends came over.

In conclusion this Christmas was a day filled with joy and laughter, and while the children played and ate to their hearts content the adults made small talk and cooked together. Of course this Christmas was different than the last one because my dad had come to

visit. He lives in England and is training to be verified as a doctor when he comes to Canada.

The rest of my family has been in England for almost 3 years and it was the first time my dad had visited us for Christmas since we moved to Canada. Family friends came over, phone calls were made and introductions happened. Although we have no Christmas traditions it was still merry and filled with love and adoration.

Emerald is the 14 year old daughter of Gift Avwomakpa. Emerald is a quietly confident young woman. She is learning to be a livestream operator and Al and I really hope that works out. We need her.

Gift sings with our worship teams. She also attends the women's Bible Study. I have heard she hates winter driving.

Her son Gabriel read the story at the Christmas Eve service. Ed.

Hymn Challenge

Draw a line from the group/organization to the correct hymn as shown in the example.

For those who like to speed on the highway, a few hymns:

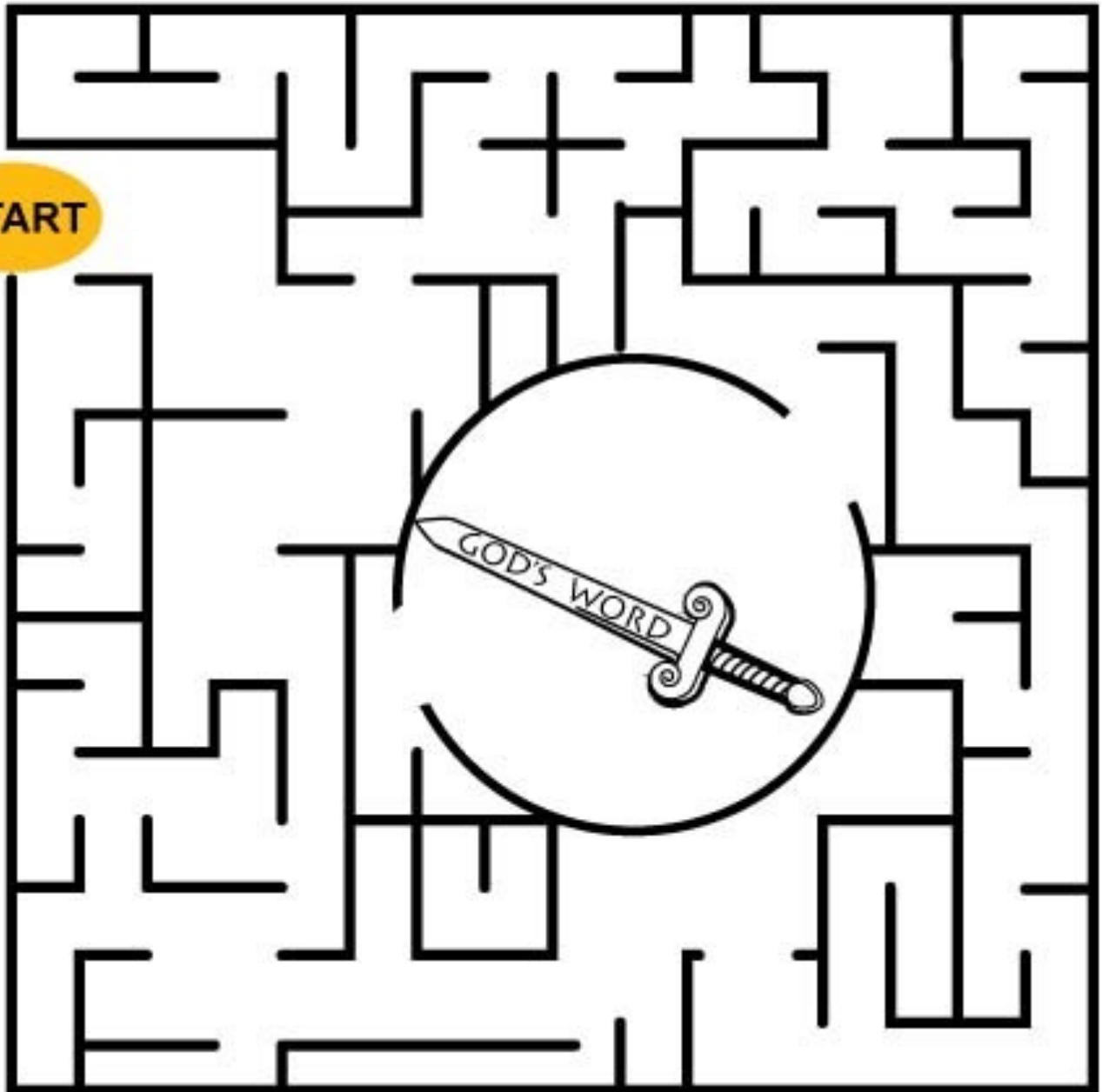
90 kph Lord, I'm Coming Home
135 kph God Will Take Care of You
160 kph Nearer My God to Thee

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Dentist's Hymn | Open My Eyes That I Might See |
| 2. Weatherman's Hymn | Standing on the Promises |
| 3. Contractor's Hymn | How Deep is the Father's Love |
| 4. The Tailor's Hymn | Send the Light |
| 5. The Golfer's Hymn | I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop |
| 6. The Politician's Hymn | The Church's One Foundation |
| 7. Optometrist's Hymn | The Great Physician |
| 8. The Tax Man's Hymn | There Shall be Showers of Blessing |
| 9. The Electrician's Hymn | There's a Green Hill Far Away |
| 10. The Realtor's Hymn | He Touched Me |
| 11. The Massage Therapist's Hymn | Crown Him with Many Crowns |
| 12. The Doctor's Hymn | I Surrender All |
| 13. The Miner's Hymn | Holy, Holy, Holy |

Sword of God's Word Maze

Find your way to the center of the maze and claim the sword.

START



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

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Lord, we bring our plans for this year before you. Bless them, make them holy, and may they come to fruition in accordance

Rick's Trivia - by Rick deLeeuw

Why is a Giraffe's Tongue Purple?



What does it matter? I could ask you "Why are Giraffes so slow to apologize?" It takes them a long time to swallow it's pride. Better yet...Why didn't they invite the giraffe to the party? He was a pain in the neck.

Purple or blue-black, the giraffes tongue is enormous and muscular. It can be up to 54cm long, (that's 21.2598 inches) and is designed especially to scoop up the acacia leaves giraffes love so much. That tongue needs to be strong, since the giraffe will often eat for 16 to 20 hours a day. A giraffe can maintain itself on less than 7 kilos of leaves, but it often will eat up to 29 kilos (that's 63.9341 pounds) of the feathery type foliage a day. But why

is the tongue that colour? No one really has a definitive answer. Dr. Carter, an evolutionary biologist at the state of Washington University, says it may be genetically linked to some other random trait found in giraffes. Brian Keating at the Calgary Zoo thinks the dark tongue colour might be a form of sun protection. Because the giraffe's tongue is outside of its mouth so much (eating all those acacia leaves) this theory makes sense to me, though so far there is no way of knowing for sure. I could go on...but I may be stretching my neck out on this trivia? *Rick*

Editorial Comment



Rick's Christmas Ornament

There will not be a February issue of Reflections. I will be away. Hopefully, a March issue will be possible. Stories for the March issue must be submitted to hillvieweditor@gmail.com by **February 20**.

In the December issue of Reflections I suggested a story idea for you all to consider. Basically I asked for a picture and a short comment on your most favourite Christmas orna-

ment. I would save them for the December 2025 issue. However, only Rick deLeeuw thought it was a good idea. Since there is just one, I am including it in this issue. He supplied a picture and wrote - - "we have a Christmas ornament that has hung on our tree for many many Christmas-es. It's over 72 years old and is one of 2 left. We originally had 6 but through time and moving the others didn't make it. When we migrated to Can-

ada in 1953 it hung from our very first Christmas tree in Canada. It has followed me through the many years".

At this time I would like thank everyone who have contributed stories and to you, the readers, for reading it. I have appreciated the feedback, story suggestions and the overall lack of criticism. You all have been too nice. *Bill*