

Reflections

"If I had my way, I'd
remove January from
the calendar
altogether and have
an extra July
instead."
Ronald Dahl



THE NEWSLETTER OF HILLVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

Volume 4, Issue 6

July 2025

The Motif of Summer in the Bible - by Pastor Norm Bleick



Summer in the Prairies is a special time; it's a reprieve from winter, a chance to go to the beach, eat fresh fruit, enjoy long daylight. Summer, with its warm sun, flourishing crops, and vibrant life, carries profound significance in the Bible. The season symbolizes growth, the hope for an abundant harvest, and spiritual fulfillment. It is also a time when the world seems to mirror the promised blessings of God's creation, reminding us of His provision and grace.

In Biblical contexts, summer often represents the culmination of effort and the manifestation of

blessings through harvest. Proverbs 10:5 says, "He who gathers in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame". This verse captures the urgency and responsibility of making the most of the season, aligning our earthly work with divine purpose. By embracing summer as a time for fruitful labor, both physical and spiritual, we honor God's gifts to us.

The parables of Jesus frequently use agricultural imagery to illustrate spiritual truths, and summer plays a central role in these teachings. In Matthew 9:37-38, Jesus declares, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few". Here, summer symbolizes readiness and opportunity—the ripeness of souls waiting to be gathered into God's kingdom. This motif reminds us of our calling to serve as

diligent laborers in the field of faith, actively cultivating and spreading the Word.

Psalms 74:17 beautifully acknowledges God's design of seasons: "It was You who set all the boundaries of the earth; You made both summer and winter". Summer is a testament to God's provision, as the warmth and fertility it brings sustain life. The season invites us to reflect on His unwavering care, both in the cycles of nature and in the seasons of our lives.

As we enjoy the long days of summer, may we not only enjoy its beauty, but also reflect on its spiritual lessons. Whether through acts of service, prayer, or reflection, may this season inspire us to grow in faith, gratitude, and community, bearing fruit that glorifies God and nourishes those around us.

Quizzing Roman and Vicki Gehring - by William Holmes

Roman and Vicki Gehring are Bible translators. A few weeks ago they were at Hillview and gave a presentation of their work in translating the New Testament into the "H" language. As a result of their talk I have some questions, mostly about the technical aspects

of their work. Ed.

1. In your most recent letter you use "H" to identify the people that are to receive the New Testament translation. Why do that?

The people that we are translating for live in a

sensitive area of the world. We want to protect our workers and not publicize where they live.

2. How long did it take to complete the translation – from conception to printing?

(Continued on page 2)

Special points of interest:

- FOOD BOXES/HAMPERS
PAGE 4
- RECOGNIZING GLORIA
PAGE 7
- ISLA'S MOMENT
PAGE 7
- OUR GRAD. - JORDAN
PAGE 8
- ACTIVITY PUZZLE
PAGE 9
- FUNNIES/JOKES
PAGE 10

Inside this issue:

GEHRING INTERVIEW	1-3
APPRECIATION	4
BINS AND FREECYCLES	5
WORKSHOP FOR 12	5
SOMETHING PRECIOUS	7
JORDAN'S MILESTONE	8
TRIVIA - HULA HOOP	10

Reflections

Quizzing Roman and Vicki Gehring

(Continued from page 1)

This is a great question; the answer depends on what you mean by “conception.” I’ll give you the full answer.

Following our Bible and Linguistics training, which took about 6 years, we went to our country of service in May of 1990. We spent the first year learning the National language of the country, then we moved to another part of the country where we did a Language Survey, which took several months. That survey was to determine what languages were actually spoken in the area, how closely they might be related to other languages, especially those with a translation already, and which languages were different enough to warrant having their own Bible translation.

From this survey, we were able to determine a language where a translation was a definite need. We moved into the language area in Sept of 1992 and began to learn the language. As it had no written form, we needed to learn the language “phonetically” i.e. by ear.

The politically and religiously sensitive situation of the area required us to first jump in with literacy (reading and writing) materials, cultural stories, health materials and a dictionary. Finally, in 1995, we were able to start translation very quietly. In answer to the second part of the question “how long until printing?” We have printed the Gospel of Luke in a single volume (2008), a single volume of Proverbs (2014) and another book containing Psalms, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes (2023). The NT is currently at the printers waiting to be printed, so hopefully in the next couple of weeks it will be ready for shipping, Lord willing.

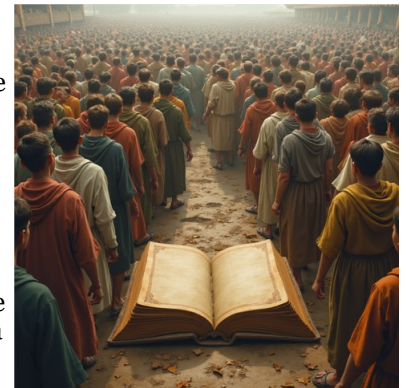


Image by Impact Ink (Brian Worobec)

"WE MOVED INTO THE LANGUAGE AREA IN SEPT OF 1992 AND BEGAN TO LEARN THE LANGUAGE".

3. Also in your recent letter to the Church you mentioned a “red alert for anything that might compromise the meaning or intention from the original New Testament”. I have three questions:

A) What original text do you use? I am assuming the King James version, because everyone knows it is preeminent version – lol.

For the New Testament (NT), the translation is done from the original Greek, and Old Testament (OT) from Hebrew. The translators also consult various English versions; among them are: New American Standard Bible (NASB), King James (New and Old), New Revised Standard version (NRSV), Jewish Publication Society OT only (JPS), NIV, Revised English Bible (REB), Contemporary English Version (CEV), Good News Bible, German versions (8), Persian Versions (5), Urdu, Septuagint (LXX) Greek translation of the OT from which the NT writers quoted the OT.

B) Can you give an example of a specific verse(s) that was difficult to translate and why?

Bill, I will give you 3 examples.

1

2 Samuel 5:13 in the original Hebrew there is the word “Concubines.” The “H” language doesn’t have a word for that. “Another woman” would not have been strong enough, so we used “He took other maid servants and young women as wives.”

(Continued on page 3)

Volume 4, Issue 6

Quizzing Roman and Vicki Gehring

(Continued from page 2)

2

Nahum 1:10 the original Hebrew has: “For until thorns entangled and like their drink drunkards, they will be eaten/consumed like stubble dry full.” *Hmmm.....what!?* (Roman’s remark, Ed.)

REB: “Like a thicket of tangled briars, like dry stubble, they are utterly consumed.”

KJV: “For while they be folden together as thorns, and while they are drunken as drunkards, they shall be devoured as stubble fully dry.”

For the “H” version we wrote: “They like thorns [to each other] tangled-and-entwined. And like wine-drinkers drunk are, so they like dry stubble will be completely burned.”

3

Micah 6:9 the original Hebrew has: “Voice Lord to-city calls.” “And success he fears your name.” “Listen! tribe/rod and who has appointed it.” *Oh boy! What is that?* (another insight from Roman, Ed.)

NAS “The voice of the Lord will call to the city – And it is sound wisdom to fear Your name: Hear, O tribe. Who has appointed its time?”

KJV “The LORD’S voice crieth unto the city, and the man of wisdom shall see thy Name: Hear ye the rod, and who hath appointed it.”

For the “H” version we wrote: The fear of the LORD’s name is wisdom; the voice of the LORD calls to the city and says: “I have appointed the rod [of punishment]; listen [well]!”

C) Do you and your wife ever argue or bicker in determining the correct words.

Haha...yes, but not in the work of translation... 😊 Seriously though, Vicki has never sat with me at the translation desk, because of the logistics of living in a culture that has a strong division between men and women. I have always sat with the men on the translation, and Vicki has been involved with production of literacy materials in the other part of our home.

Our two worlds were divided by a curtain and we never met (for work, that is). We have had many good and sometimes emotional discussions in the translation team over which words to use, but we have always found good solutions together.

4. Proverbs and Psalms – why is it usually included with the New Testament?

Proverbs, because it is such a good teaching tool for daily life: “fear the Lord” “walk in His ways” “wisdom for daily living”. And Psalms because this is the Biblical Prayer Book, and like the Worship Handbook for the church, for the individual believer and for the family.

5. Will the H” translation have those two Old Testament books?

No, we will not be adding them to the printed NT, to some degree because of space, cost and time of printing, and because they are already in their own separate printed volume.

6. Do you think online copies will replace the paper copies for some people sometime in the future?

Right now in the homeland, it is very difficult to get printed copies in. So, yes, the online version will be for sometime the only option. Online will be a good option, until such time as the printed one slowly makes it’s way into people’s hands. Online is safer, but a printed book is still preferred by most people.

Bill, just so you know, Vicki has typed all our answers to your good questions. Seriously, it’s great when people ask us questions so that we can answer the things which THEY are interested in (rather than us talking what WE think people might want to know about). We appreciate your initiative and pray that it will lead people to bring their hearts’ requests for the H people to our heavenly Father.

It was good to meet you in person; please give our heartfelt greetings to the Church.

Blessings to you and the whole Church in the name of Jesus our Lord,
Roman

Sailing the Sea of Appreciation - Gloria Swain



... "ALL
GIGGLING LIKE
TEENAGERS AS
WE WERE
ESCORTED TO
TABLES LADEN
WITH TREASURES
OF" ...

On the evening of Thursday, June 5/25 Mo, Margaret and Gloria sailed away to the Edmonton Food Banks main facility to participate in their annual evening of appreciation and thanks to the volunteers working at the various Distribution Depots throughout our City. Hillview is a part of that network.

It was exciting to see some of our drivers acting as greeters. We got lots of hugs from them and they had us all giggling like teenagers as we were escorted to tables laden with treasures of treats and drinks. At 5:30 pm we embarked and got ready for the high seas adventure. The Captain of the ship, Hailey, gave us the traditional Captain's welcome and made announcements. We then enjoyed a Captain's feast of hamburgers and/or hot dogs on home-made buns, baked beans, warm potato salad, roasted yams and Quinoa salad, there was also squares for dessert and a variety of cold drinks; all donated by Friesen Brothers.

The Executive Director, Marjorie Benc, of the Edmonton Food Bank did a presentation of this past year's accomplishments. We should be proud that we are able to be part of an organization that works so rigorously for those in need.

We learned some amazing facts about the operation of this organization. In 2024 - 41,697 recipients received a monthly hamper, 5.6 million kilograms of food was collected, sorted and distributed, the number of visits per person was 5.7 times. Their fleet of vehicles travelled 223,630 kilometers picking up and distributing food; that is the equivalent to travelling the entire Trans-Canada highway, west to east, 29 times!



They do so much more than just the distribution of hampers.

There is a snack program for 100 schools. The "After the Bell" program provides food hampers to families of school aged children during the summer months. They also have a "Beyond Food" program which offers a variety of resources for individuals looking to enhance their skills, thereby improving their chances of securing better employment opportunities.

All of these programs are available because of people like the Brad Shaw family.

They made a remarkable personal commitment to support Edmonton's Food Bank by pledging \$300,000 annually for ten years. This visionary gift, totaling \$3 million, was especially vital in funding child-focused and other nutritious food programs.

Finally, we can't forget our volunteers, like those here at Hillview who show up faithfully each Monday and distribute hampers!

After our "ship-board" feast - the 2025 Depot Service Awards welcoming our newest crew members were presented. These included: The Mustard Seed - Wellness Centre, Beulah Alliance Church - West Campus and South-West Campus. The evening ended with door prize draws. We didn't win a prize, but we felt we were all winners for the opportunity of being part of this great compassionate organization.



Hillview volunteers praying over the food hampers.

BIG Bin - Freecycle Event - by Gloria and Yvonne

On Saturday Morning, May 24/25 Hillview volunteers joined forces with the Woodvale Community League volunteers to host the Big Bin/ Freecycle event. It was a great day with great weather which brought out a total of 18 volunteers and 79 vehicles with loads to dump.



Our Missions Committee had hotdogs, coffee and juice available on the lower level while Woodvale Community provided Tim's coffee, donuts and muffins on the upper level where the bins were located. We also brought out our items from the clothing closet along with our free Bibles and

other books. A total of 9 Bibles were taken and too many items of clothing to count were given away.

This is the second year for the Woodvale Community League's freecycle event. And it was a huge success. There was an estimated 900 pounds of items redi-

rected from the landfill; approximately 500 pounds were rehomed within the community; and the rest was picked up by Goodwill Industries. Clothing, household goods, bikes, outdoor furniture, tools, games, books and more were either distributed to new homes or taken by Goodwill. In addition, Goodwill has partners to ensure most everything received is not taken to the landfill.

All in all it was a really good day collecting three (almost full) bins of garbage and diverting a significant amount of paraphernalia from the landfill. Working with the volunteers from Woodvale Community League was wonderful. We now know them well enough to enjoy a good visit and a few laughs over a cup of coffee and a hotdog.

Thanks to Barry, Woodvale's photographer, for the great snaps. More photos of the event are available on their site. Thanks to our volunteers for helping us with another successful community outreach: Al and Yvonne, Gloria, Esther (Gloria's sister), Mo, Uma, Sally, Hank, Russ and Donald, Howard and Janet, Larry, Bob, Gerald, and Pastor Norm.

... "BINS OF GARBAGE AND DIVERTING A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF PARAPHERNALIA FROM THE LANDFILL".

Evangelism Workshop - by Gloria Swain

The morning of June 7 found 12 disciples gathered in the "cellar" of Hillview Church to learn how to go into the world and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. Saji Jacobs from ShareWord Global (formerly The Gideons Ed.) was our instructor for the day. He shared the skills of evangelism with us through the use of videos, teachings and a great hand out. There are 4 basic skills we need to know to be suc-

cessful in doing evangelism:

1. Connect with People.
2. Tell our Story
3. Share Christ's Story
4. Give God's Word

These were discussed in some detail, exploring The Model, The Skills, Jesus on the Grid and Six Spiritual Conditions to look for in our relationships. We had the opportunity to ask questions and participate

in the discussion by sharing our own experiences. Saji made us aware of the many resources that ShareWord has available, including scripture magazines themed around hope, and redemption, and the Gospel of John. People will meet Jesus Christ in the pages. They also have phone applications - New-

(Continued on page 6)



Image by Impact Ink

Reflections

Evangelism Workshop

(Continued from page 5)

Life app as well as topical eMagazines with appropriate links. There are many ways to connect with people that you are concerned about spiritually.

At noon Sally, Yvonne and Gabby served a delicious bunwich lunch with all the trimmings. Thank you ladies.

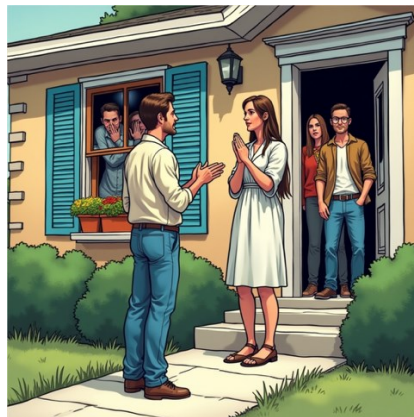


Image by Impact Ink (Brian Worobec)

Then it was our turn to go out and practice what we were taught. Tension was high as we did not know what to expect, or how we would be received by our neighbors. However, our vision at Hillview is for our community, retreat is not an option, but only forge ahead. We broke up into 3

groups and went to different parts of our community. Door knocking was not fun. Many people were home, but did not come to the door. Those that did answer were not interested, however some did take the "Hope" magazine we were giving out.

An hour later we were back in the "cellar" to share our experiences. Most of us

had the same outcomes. Wayne and Wayne ended up in the middle of a Gay Pride event and were able to give out a few magazines. Roddie and Saji went door to door across the street and out of 14 homes, only one door opened to them and the man was angry, but took a magazine. Pastor Norm and I went to the townhouses across from the school. We gave out a few magazines and left some in mailboxes. Then at the end of our street we had success. A young lady came to the door and was saying she was too busy until the word 'pray' was mentioned. She changed her mind and we were able to pray for her

mom who has just had a heart condition diagnosis. The woman said that she had just picked up the Bible the other day as she needed something. She said she reads the words on our church sign every time she goes by. Many tears were shed during the prayer time and she kept saying, "this was so timely, you have no idea how much I needed this. Thank you for coming."

On the way home we popped into the local pub and I met Jonesy. I am taking him on as my personal mission project. He kept saying God didn't want him, but I kept telling him that God wants all of us. Please pray for Jonesy and everyone who had a HOPE magazine left in their hands or in their mailboxes. The word will not return void.

A Great experience for all involved. Sunday morning Saji shared in the morning service. He is an engineer and has more titles behind his name than an astronaut. But he made it very clear that the only title that really matters is being a child of the Living God. And we all agree!

SHE KEPT SAYING, "THIS WAS SO TIMELY, YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH I NEEDED THIS."



EFB Recognizing Gloria - by Rick de Leeuw

As many of you know, Gloria Swain is a volunteer with our food bank. Annually "The Edmonton Food Bank" (EFB) recognizes individuals who go above and beyond their expectations. The Janet Hughes Award is a prestigious award presented every year to those who possess the willingness to go the extra mile. The award recognizes those individuals who demonstrate a positive impact to insuring those in need receive the food and support they require. One needs to demonstrate resilience, adaptability, and dedication to serving the community and those around them.

Gloria, to many of us, fosters a relationship that is positive and brings out the best in people. Her careful attention and nurturing demeanor make a meaningful difference to the many lives she touches. She has continually volunteered every week, giving us the flexibility to slot her into any position when required. After receiving this award Gloria gave praise to the others in the team and (I quote,) "To tell you, I share this honor with my colleagues who are equally deserving and I feel such a privilege to be selected among other recipients for this award. Therefore, I share this honor with you!" (End of quote)

CONGRATULATIONS, Gloria! Thanks for all you do....

The fellow handing out the awards is Doug Hughes. He is the son of Janet Hughes, for whom the award is named. He is also on the Board of Directors with the Edmonton Food Bank.



Something Precious - by Joy Holmes



It was on Sunday June 22 during the hotdog lunch, when a note was passed around for the "ladies". It read in part, "Richard Garrett would like you to have a piece of Rose's 'Precious Moments' collection as a keepsake in her memory."

There were only two ornaments left when Gloria approached our table. I chose one and then noticed 8 year old Isla's (*pronounced EYE-la Ed.*) eyes light up as she look intently

at the last one. Both Gloria and I asked her if she wanted it, she beamed and reached for it.

What a wonderful gesture from Richard for those who knew Rose. And that little girl was delighted to have something so beautiful and "Precious". She probably didn't know Rose or even Richard, but that doesn't change the fact that for Isla something special happened that afternoon, thanks to Richard's kindness and thoughtfulness!

Reflections



Jordan Reaches a Milestone - by William Holmes

Jordan Shessel has attended Hillview, with her family for many years. You have probably seen her "shadowing" her little brother. She has just graduated from high school. Our congratulations! This accomplishment needs some recognition, hence the following interview, with Grad photograph! Ed.



1. What are your plans for September?

Honestly, I haven't thought that far ahead yet, but I'll probably be working at the daycare.

2. What was your favourite subject? I am guessing art? If correct, what was your second favourite?

You're right—art is my favourite subject! My second favourite would be science, especially forensic science.

3. Which subject did you just despise?

Math has never been my strong suit. It's definitely the subject I struggle with the most.

4. What are you really good at?

I'd say I'm pretty good at painting, especially landscapes and abstract pieces.

5. Your favourite musician, band, and/or movie?

My favourite movie is Pixar's Wall-E. It's such a heartwarming story.

6. In your opinion, what is the best song ever recorded?

For me, it's "Songs About You" by Jomm. It really resonates with me.

7. What are you dreading most about becoming an adult?

Definitely taxes. They seem overwhelming!

8. Your favourite fast food?

KFC—there's just something about their chicken that hits the spot.

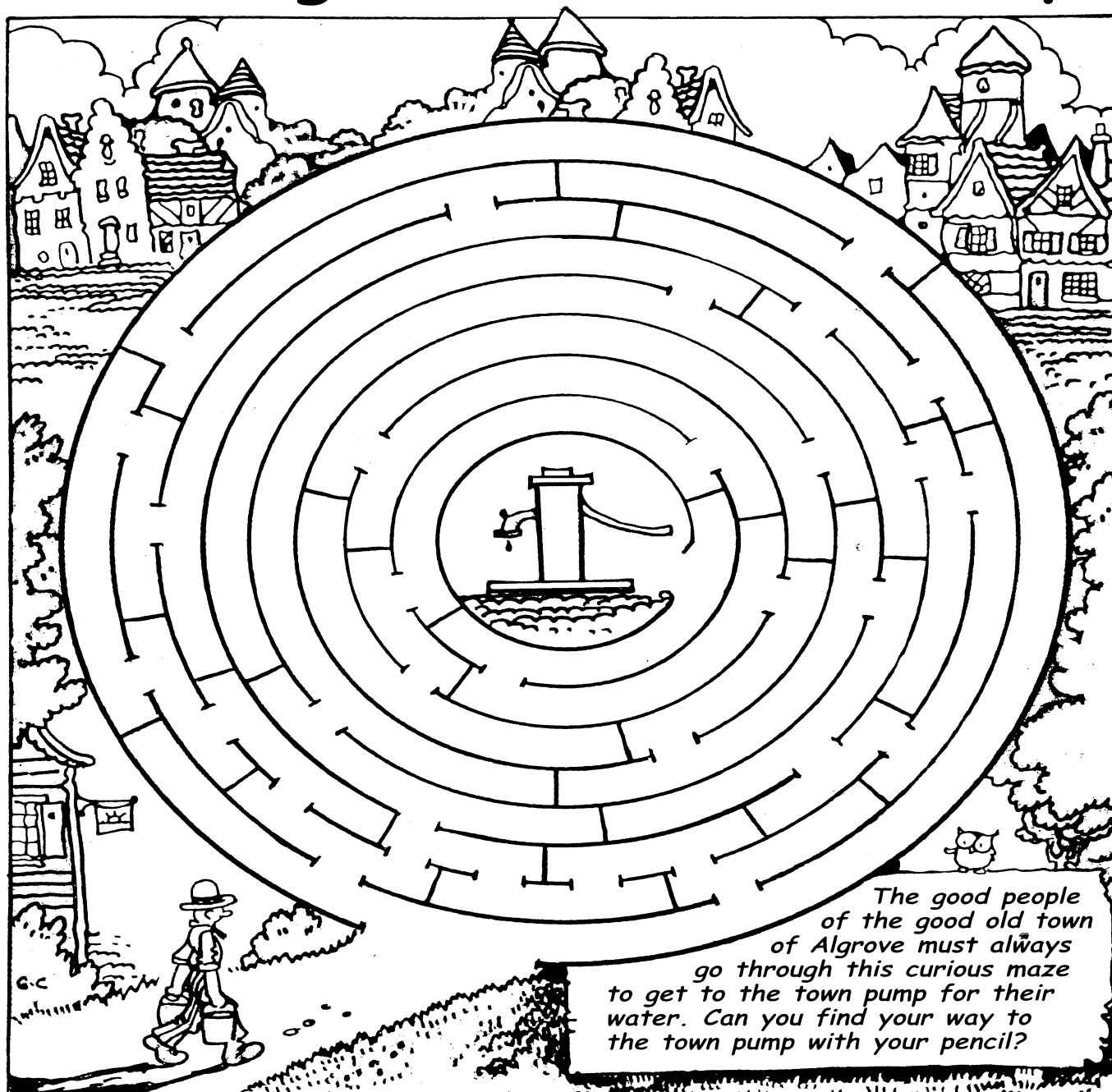
9. We published one of your paintings in the newsletter. I really liked it. Are you going to continue to paint/draw/do art?

Thank you! Yes, I definitely plan to keep painting and exploring my creativity.



Usually the newsletter takes a sabbatical during July and August. However this year there could be a August edition. Stories need to be submitted by **Friday, July 18**. Thanks

The Algrove Old Town Pump



At first, make your lines lightly, so you can erase if you must.

*When you have finished finding your way to the pump,
you can colour this picture.*

We're called to be witnesses, not lawyers nor judges.

HILLVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

253 Woodvale Road West
Edmonton, Alberta
T6L 1E5

Phone: 780-461-5393
Website: hillviewchurch.ca
Church office email:
office@hillviewchurch.ca
Newsletter email:
hillvieweditor@gmail.com

Note: all previous issues of the newsletter are on the church's website.

Don't blame me, these are from Yvonne. Ed.

At what time of day was Adam created? A little before Eve.

What kind of lights were on Noah's Ark?
Floodlights.

How do we know the disciples drove a Honda?
Because Acts 2.1 says they were all together in one **accord**.

And now one from the editor - frequently told by my dad:

What is the name of Lazarus' dog? It is "**Moreover**", according to Luke 16:21 (KLV),
"Moreover, the dog came and licked" ...



Ricky's Trivia - by Rick de Leeuw

The Hula Hoop



The Hula-Hoop is a toy hoop that is twirled around the waist, limbs and neck. It can also be wheeled along the ground like a wheel with careful execution and practice. They have been used by children and adults since at least 500 B.C.

The modern hula-hoop was inspired by Australian bamboo hoops. Common lore posits the creators of the plastic hoop witnessed Australian children playing with bamboo hoops while driving past in an automobile. The new plastic version was popularized in 1958 by the Wham-O Toy

Company and became a fad.

Hula-hoops for children generally measure approximately 70 centimeters (28 in) in diameter while those for adults measure around 100 centimeters (39 in). Traditional materials for Hula hoops include willow, rattan, (flexible and strong vines), and stiff grasses. Commercial hoops are usually made of plastic tubing.

Hula-hooping offers numerous benefits, including cardiovascular health, increased core strength, improved balance and coordination, and calorie burning. It's a low impact exer-

cise that can be enjoyable and affordable, making it a great way to incorporate physical activity into your routine. It especially helps your core muscles like your abdominals. Did you know that Hula-Hooping increases trunk body mass more than walking.

