



ViewPoints

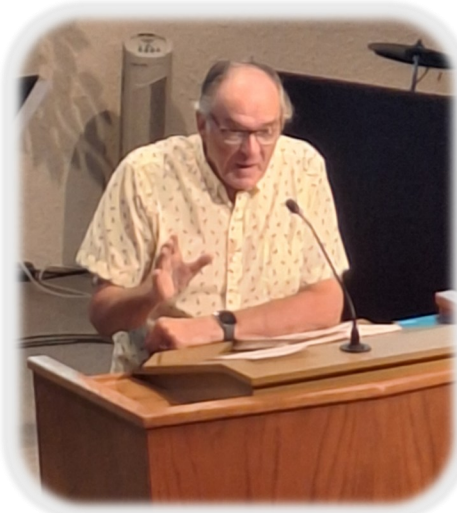


HILLVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

Volume 5, Issue 5

August 2026

Hillview Retrospective - by Mark Morris



The Lord keeps bringing me back to Hillview! It is a journey through a number of decades.

During my college days (1969-71 at North American Baptist College) I attended Sunday worship at Capilano Baptist Church, and helped out with the weekly Boys Brigade ministry. Then years later, in

the summer of 2014 (now retired from fulltime ministry) I was asked by our ABA Area Minister to help out during a transition period at Hillview. That lasted just under two years. Then, in December of 2024, I received a phone call from Pastor Norm Bleick asking if I would be willing to serve the church during his sabbatical in 2026. So... here we are!

It has been a joy and a privilege being with you for these four months. It has, again, reminded me of the rich history here at Hillview. Sixty-eight years ago, the ABA made a decision to plant a church in south east Edmonton. It all began when the first ser-

vice was held at Holyrood Elementary School in 1958. Very soon, the new church realized that they needed a building of their own. In 1968 the newly planted church moved into a new facility, Capilano Baptist Church. Then fifteen years later, 1983, a building program resulted in our present, Hillview Baptist Church.

Because of my past associations with you, my heart is with you. You are in my prayers. May God continue to bless Hillview with:

- Vibrant witness to the community
- Sound biblical teaching
- Visionary biblical leadership
- Joyful fellowship of God's people.

Thank you for the privilege. God bless and keep you.

Special points of interest:

- TRUTH SEARCHER
- BARBECUE PICTURES
- WEDDING HINT
- PEANUTS
- A BABY PROJECT
- ACTIVITY PAGE

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A staggering pile of onesies are needed - see pages 4 and 10 for more information.



An Interview with Bradley Baker

In the July issue of Viewpoints, Brad Baker wrote about his role as Christian Director here at Hillview. He outlined his responsibilities and the wonderful support he has received by the parents, Pastor Norm and indeed the entire congregation. I thought it would be beneficial to learn more about Brad. The following is my interview with him. Ed

1. Tell us about your family?

My family consists of my wife, Mikayla, my mom Marlene, and stepfather Dave. Not to be biased, but they are pretty great.

2. What are your words to live by?

In my case, "the breadth of a pastor's public ministry should not exceed the depth of his private faith". I can't remember where I read that years ago, but it has stuck.

3. Your most favourite hymn and chorus?

"Come Thou Fount", and if a chorus can be more contemporary, "I Surrender" live version by Lincoln Brewster).

4. Do you have a hobby? What is it? Why do you like it?

I have a few, but one of my oldest ones is guitar. These days, I like to make and record relaxing music. The creative process demands focus, problem solving, and imagination, which is why I think I like it so much.



Illustration by
Brian Worobec

5. How many instruments do you play? Self-taught or formal lessons? When did you start? Which is your "go to" instrument? Incidentally, I really like it when you play the bass guitar during worship. You should do it more frequently, but no pressure.

Ah, I should have read ahead! I can play guitar, drums, bass, and just a touch of piano. My first love in this regard is the electric guitar, I find it to be the most expressive of the instruments I can play. I was taught for a while by an amazing guitarist, who still has more talent in his pinky than I do, and then from there I built off of that foundation myself. Haha, thank you for the kind words! A lot of the

time I feel like our worship teams are so good and complete already, but, perhaps I will consider it.

6. What is your favourite vacation destination? Your wife's?

We actually bonded early on over our shared disdain for travel. But, in recent years, I've made a few trips out to a cabin in Nordegg with some friends, and I absolutely love that mountainous, forested area. My wife though? I am pretty sure anywhere with a pool.

7. Last book you could not put down?

This year, there have been two: "Luke's Jewish Escha-

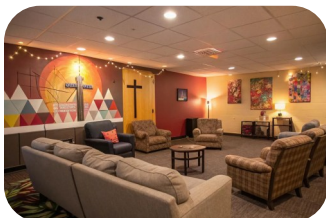
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I CAN PLAY
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BASS AND JUST
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PIANO. MY FIRST
LOVE ...

An Interview with Bradley Baker

(Continued from page 2)

tology" by Isaac Oliver, and, "Jurassic Park", which is so very different from the movie.



8. The church I attended as a teenager had a "youth room" – it had comfy chairs, a couch, a games area and small fridge filled with snacks/pop. Do you think there is going to be a need for a similar room in the near future?

That would be lovely, but for the time being I feel such a room would be a 'want' and not a 'need'. For now, there seems to be something whimsical about making do with what we have. Though we have to roll it out, which is no trouble, Bob and Elaine have donated a ping pong table to us this year, the youth have no issues accessing pop and other snacks when we have them, and the fireside room has been treating us very well. Although, sometimes, I am sure the women's Bible study next door wouldn't mind it if we had our own room elsewhere, perhaps with soundproofing?



9. We all know that you are visually challenged. Is it an issue, good or bad with your responsibilities as CE and Youth Director?

So far, to my shame, I mix up the names of children and families due to my issues with the lighting downstairs. Other than that, things have been great. I know my size, especially relative to the children, so I am careful to move slowly and cautiously in our tight space. And, actually, my seeing-eye-cane has become a good conversation piece and plaything for the kids. The youth have fun with my vision sometimes too, in good spirit. So, if anything, my vision loss has been more of a tool than a hindrance thus far.

10. My impression is that Chelsey absolutely loves being part of this youth ministry. Do you agree, any comments?

Absolutely! Although, I am positive that we love having her even more. Chelsey first crossed my mind as a recruit due to her prior work at a youth drop in center, and her former work in Children's Church at Hillview. There is not enough room in this

newsletter to detail how exceptional Chelsey is. Simply put, we would not have much of a youth ministry at all without her. Chelsey brings a robust and genuine faith, a great big brain, a caring heart, so much creativity and maturity, and a great sense of humor to the table, to name a few things. She has shaped this ministry for the best.

SO, IF
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FAR.



"Welcome, oh weary searcher for truth! Say, have you ever worked with kids?"

ViewPoints

Quilts, Books and Bibles - by Gloria Swain



... BEFORE I LEFT THE CITY I TOOK ALONG PLENTY OF BOOKS AND BIBLES FROM OUR STASH TO SHARE WITH THE WOMEN ...

On Friday, July 17/26 I was blessed to be able to be a blessing at the Women's Shelter in Maskwacis, aka Hobbema.

When I lived out in the countryside during the winter months I would venture over to the Catholic church in Heisler where the women made the most beautiful blue jean quilts to donate to a charity. I wasn't a sewer, so my job was to iron down the patches once they were sewn together, but before the quilt was assembled. Over the past year the Heisler Catholic Women's League have donated over 400 quilts to various women's shelters and other charities.

This year the 21 quilts were going to Maskwacis. I was asked to go with the delivery because Sandra Ermineskin, the director, is a good friend. Before I left the City I took along plenty of books and Bibles from our stash to share with the women in the shelter. What an open door to be able to share God's word along with hope, encouragement and healing.

The shelter was not hard to find as it was located just off the highway. It was surrounded with a high chain link fence, and a securely locked gate. Once through the gate security we were greeted warmly and admitted into the facility to unload our gifts.

The quilts are given to each woman when she leaves the shelter; it is to remind her that she has a warm covering and is welcome to return to the shelter at any time. The books and Bibles were examined for content and they all passed inspection. My heart sang as we left the compound to head back to Camrose for lunch.

It was so exciting to know and see first hand how God can use us with various other denominations to reach out into His harvest field. Praising God for every door that He opens. Let us always be willing to walk through that open door so that His name may be glorified in all the earth.

White Cross - On a Baby Mission - by Gloria Swain



It was Tuesday, July 14 and there was Mo and myself at White Cross Headquarters at Taylor Seminary. (*Doing what they always do, helping Ed !*) We were participating in a work bee with 9 other volunteers

The morning started out with the group putting together baby layettes. A layette consists of: a baby quilt, wrap around diaper, onesie and a hat. These are given to the mothers when they leave the hospital after having their babies. Most of these items are hand made by White Cross groups all across Canada. Unfortunately, we soon ran out of onesies and were unable to continue with that project

and were transferred to another part of the building to sort through donated hospital uniforms.

Once that was done we were then given the mammoth task of checking, folding and packing single bedsheets. These sheets were donated from the military base in Penhold that has now shut down. With aching backs, arms and legs we carried on until all the sheets that had been delivered were packed up ready to go into the container .

(Continued on page 10)

Revisiting June 14 Barbecue - a glorious day



The best job, serving ice cream - Gloria Johnson, Chelsey and Stacie Hurst



Janith Ranaweera, Jillian Friesen, Joshua Whymer - Jillian and Joshua are getting married in August.



I want to sincerely thank all the people who gave their time and energy to organize this barbecue. They planned a wonderful time with perfect weather. Good job! Actually we should constantly thank everyone on the Hospitality Team. Ed

ViewPoints

Satan on Gratitude - by Phil Callaway



"...WHAT
WOULD'VE
HAPPENED IF
ADAM AND EVE
HAD MADE IT THE
GARDEN OF
GRATITUDE AND
SAID ...



One of the themes of Laugh Again is gratitude. But perhaps you're not exactly giving thanks today. I can identify. I know I am to be grateful, but a young guy rammed my car. He did. Gratitude didn't immediately bubble to the surface. I was more concerned about the dented car than the young guy. I'm finally able to thank God for insurance, and that we're both okay. But it was slow in coming.

I know I am to be grateful, but things around me keep breaking down. We've got a leaky faucet that won't quit, a running toilet I can't catch up to, a clogged sink, and a foot-sized drywall hole in my basement. Long story.

I know I am to be grateful, but siding needs to be patched, shingles need replacing, and our backyard looks like it has seen more children than grass seed. Last night I read a story, a history lesson that woke me up. Martin Rinckart was a 17th century Lutheran pastor who served in the walled city of Eilenburg, Germany during the horrors of the Thirty Years' War of 1618 to 1648. Eilenburg was soon overcrowded with injured troops and refugees and facing a deadly wave of disease and famine. At the beginning of

1637, the year of the great pestilence, there were just four ministers in Eilenburg. One abandoned his post for healthier areas and couldn't be persuaded to return.

Pastor Rinckart officiated at the funerals of the other two. As the only pastor left in the tormented city, he often conducted services for as many as 40 to 50 persons a day, nearly 5,000 in all. In May of that year, one of them was his own wife. Yet somehow, in the midst of such horrific circumstances, in a world dominated by death, Pastor Rinckart wrote a life-giving prayer for his children to offer to God, a family grace to be said before meals. All these years later, the hymn is still sung at state occasions and national days of remembrance across Germany and also around the world.

**"Now thank we all our God,
with hearts and hands and
voices, who wondrous
things hath done, in whom
this world rejoices, who
from our mother's arms
hath led us on our way,
with countless gifts of
love, and still is ours to-
day".**

I've sung these words from an upholstered pew, far from disease and suffering. Next time I sing these words, I hope to remember that they were forged in the fires of grief by a saint who practiced what he preached. More than 100 times the Bible models and teaches

gratitude. Some say that the original sin was pride, and I think it was ingratitude. Adam and Eve had it made. Picture perfect sunsets, a perfect world. They lived next to the ultimate produce aisle, all complementary. A zoo just around the corner. Then along slithered Satan, who had the patent on ingratitude... Why worship when you could be worshiped? He hissed. You could have more.

Imagine what would've happened if Adam and Eve had made it the Garden of Gratitude and said are you kidding, you slimy little snake? Are you slithering too close to the ground to notice what God has given us? Look up. These are God's awesome gifts to us. Instead, discontent entered the world as the first humans focused not on what they knew they had, but on what they thought they lacked. Ever wonder how different their world would've been if they chose gratitude? Ever wonder how different our world would be if we did the same? Let's change course today. Whatever we're facing, let's look for the good things and tell others what we're grateful for.

Makayla's Life with her Dogs



At the June barbecue I had a short conversation with Makayla and met her dog, Bruce. Makayla is Mary Anne and Herb's niece and is an active member of our youth group. Her mom died in May 2024 and her dad in January 2026. She is starting Grade 12 this September.

Bruce was a very rumbunctious puppy. Makayla was so patient and delighted with her pet. I thought others might also be interested learning what has brought so much joy in the life of this teenager. Ed

1. Tell us about your dog. Name? Breed? Age? Where did you find your dog?

I actually have two dogs! Bruce is a German Shepherd and Enzo is a Great Dane-Mastiff mix, also known as a Daneiff. We found both of them through an online dog adoption and rehoming website. Bruce is about 7 months old, and Enzo is almost 5 months old.

2. Does he or she have a quirk? What is it?

Bruce is full of energy and loves to chew on just about anything he can find! Enzo is the complete opposite - he's a big cuddle bug who would happily spend most of the day snuggling or sleeping.

3. Where did your dogs' names come from?

Bruce's name is special to me because it reminds me of my dad and a memory we share together. My dad was a lifelong fan of Batman. (ie Bruce Wayne). Enzo's name was simply one that we felt fit him perfectly when we met him.

4. What research did you do before choosing your dogs? Did Mary Anne and/or Herb help? What was their advice?

I'd always wanted a German Shepherd because they're intelligent, loyal and eager to learn. I'd also always wanted a Great Dane mix, so when I found Enzo, I knew he was the right fit. Mary Anne and Herb didn't really help with choosing either dog because they didn't know I was getting them, and they didn't have any advice before I brought them home.

5. What is special about your dogs?

I love that they both have completely different personalities. Bruce is very outgoing, friendly, and loves meeting people. Enzo is much more reserved and tends to form a really close bond with one person. Even though they're different, they're both amazing in their own ways.

6. Is the saying "fighting like cats and dogs" true in your house?

No really! We also have cats, but I don't let the dogs

have free run of the house all the time so the cats have their own space. They don't interact very often. Some of the cats aren't huge fans of the dogs, while others don't really seem to mind them.

7. What do your dogs love to do?

Bruce absolutely loves going for walks and exploring outside. Enzo's favourite thing is cuddling up and taking long naps. They're happy doing completely different things!

8. How do you deal with good and bad behaviours?

I reward good behaviour with praise and affection. When they do something they shouldn't, I usually give them a short timeout and then calmly redirect them. I joke that I treat them like little kids because I like teaching them with patience instead of getting angry.

9. How has having a dog changed your normal routine and overall well-being?

(Continued on page 8)



Enzo is focusing on something, probably one of Mary Anne's feline friends!

WHEN THEY DO
SOMETHING
THEY SHOULDN'T,
I USUALLY GIVE
THEM A SHORT
TIMEOUT AND
THEN CALMLY
REDIRECT ...



This is Bruce, taking a rare and short-lived moment of calmness.

ViewPoints

Makayla's Life with her Dogs

(Continued from page 7)

Having dogs has given me a routine and a reason to get outside every day. They need to be fed, walked and cared for, so they encourage me to stay active. They've also brought me a lot of happiness and companionship.

10. What is the most rewarding part about the connection between you and your dogs?

The bond we've built is my favourite part. I've had Bruce since he was nine weeks old, so we've grown up together and he knows me so well. I feel the same way about Enzo. They're more than just pets--they're my best friends.

11. What is the biggest lesson your dogs have taught you?

Well...they definitely taught me not to leave my retainers lying around because Bruce turned them into an \$800 snack! But, on a more serious note, they've taught me what unconditional love looks like. Dogs don't care what kind of day you've had or what mistakes you've made--they're just

happy to see you. They've reminded me how important it is to love others without judging them, and that's something I'll always be grateful for.



A German Shepherd, Doberman and a cat have died. All three are faced with God who wants to know what they believe in.

The German Shepherd says: "I believe in discipline, training and loyalty to my master." "Good," says God. "Then sit down on my right side. Doberman, what do you believe in?"

The Doberman answers: "I believe in the love, care and protection of my master." Ah," said God. "You may sit to my left."



Then he looks at the cat and asks, "And what do you believe in?"

The cat answers: "I believe you're sitting in my seat."

Coming in the September Viewpoints

1. A report from Pastor Norm on his sabbatical
2. The Leadership Council (Elders) will be outlining their personal and corporate goals, priorities and/or plans for the coming year.
3. The importance of Sunday School for all ages
4. A July financial report
5. The topics to be discussed in Men's and Woman's Bible Studies
6. Rick's Trivia about yellow cabs???

Due Date: Wednesday, August 26

ViewPoints

Visiting Sherri is nice in Nice, France (Part 2) by Marcy and Dale Hufnagel

This story is continuation of Dale and Marcy's trip to Nice, France to check-out the sights but mostly to visit their daughter Sherri. Sherri is a missionary supported by Hillview and is one of my most favourite people. Although France is usually considered a Christian country and has a Christian heritage, 53% of the population identifies as non-religious or agnostic. For more on Sherri see ViewPoints - Volume 4, Issue 10 (November 2025). Ed.

May 10 we had a great time worshipping in French with Sherri's church, sharing communion, and an agape (potluck) afterwards in the courtyard. Nathalie shared her testimony in the form of an interview with the pastor with an appeal for financial support for her ministry. You may remember that Nathalie is the co-manager of the café with Sherri. Sherri shared how she has ministry support from her friends, family, and churches in Canada and now Nathalie is raising her support from her friends, family, and churches in France. Pray for her as she does this. She really has a heart for reaching people through the café ministry.

May 11 was another day for us to see the sights around Nice. This was a special day as a retiree, Jean Pierre, drove us to a village called Sospel. It was a beautiful day of driving winding roads up into the mountains. Jean Pierre, having lived in the area for more than 70 years, had a wealth of

information about the history of the

area so close to the Italian border and about their role in previous wars. We visited a beautifully maintained old church (there are many throughout the region), saw the narrow streets on which donkeys used to carry loads of salt from the salt mines. When we commented on a group of men playing pétanque (bocce ball) in an open area, Jean Pierre even pulled his set from the trunk of the car and we played a game before heading back through the mountains. It was a wonderful day with a new friend.



May 12 we visited the nearby St Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral before heading down to Café Alfred for lunch. Then, Dale and I roamed the streets of Old Nice enjoying the shops, churches, streets, and gelato. In the evening we enjoyed a lovely visit over pizza and coffee with more of Sherri's friends, an Iranian immigrant family. Pray for a clear commitment to the Lord.



Visiting Sherri is nice in Nice, France (Part 2)



May 13 we were able to do a little reno project for Sherri, then strolled on the Promenade des Anglais one more time and had gelato and crepes in Old Town Nice.

May 14 we said our early morning goodbyes and flew home to Alberta.

**WILL YOU GO TO
FRANCE AGAIN? OF
COURSE, "WINE" NOT!**

**THERE IS ONLY ONE
NICE CITY IN
FRANCE.**



Marcy, Sherri and Dale



*Checkout
the pink
box. Please,
lets fill the
box to
overflowing! Note -
adult sizes not needed.*

White Cross - On a Baby Mission - by Gloria Swain

(Continued from page 4)

In September the container will be shipped to Cameroon and the supplies will be distributed to various medical facilities. In spite of all our aches it felt wonderful to be doing something that we know will benefit someone in another country. We all said what a privilege to be involved in reaching out to the other side of the world in a very practical and significant way.

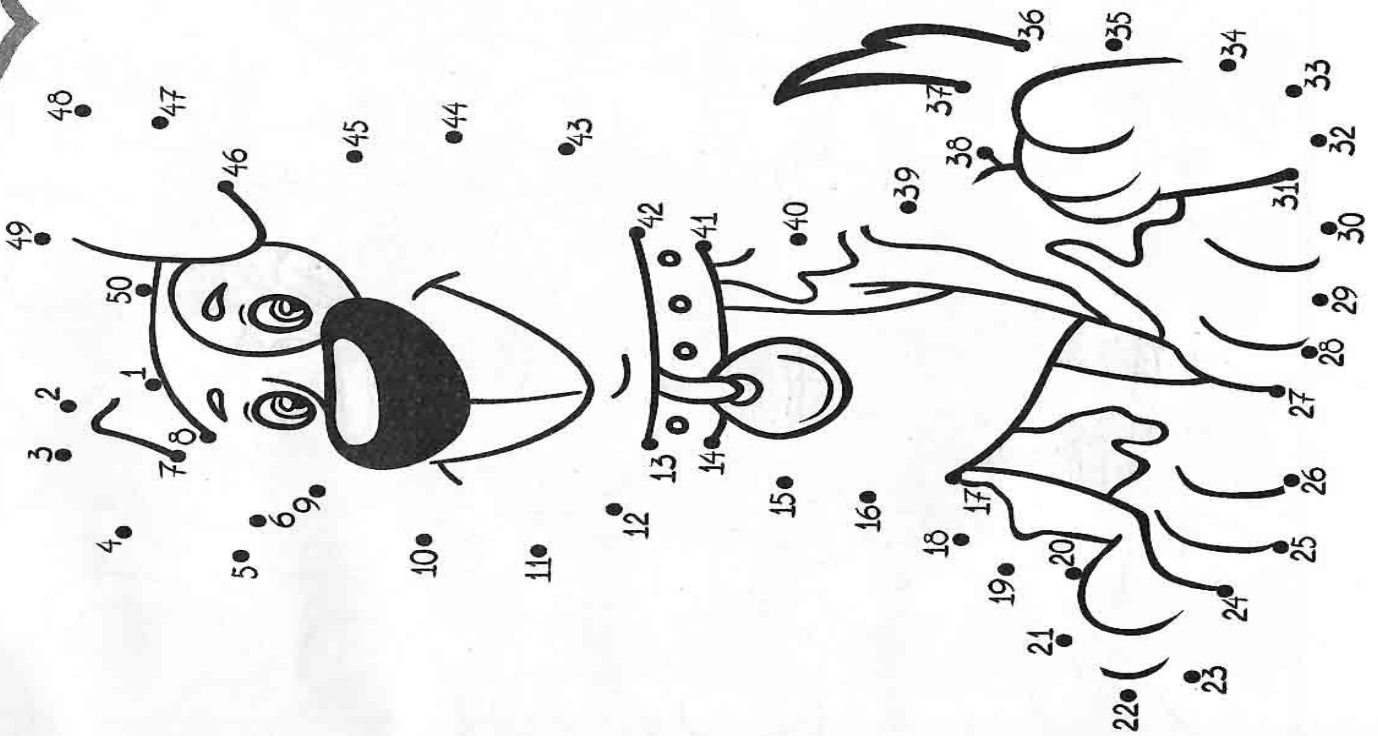
Anyone interested in donating some onesies to this White Cross project is invited to do so. They should be new and around a size 12 months. Please deposit them in the White Cross box in the church foyer before the next work bee day of August 18. Thank you.

"White Cross is a humanitarian ministry of the North American Baptist Conference, operated by

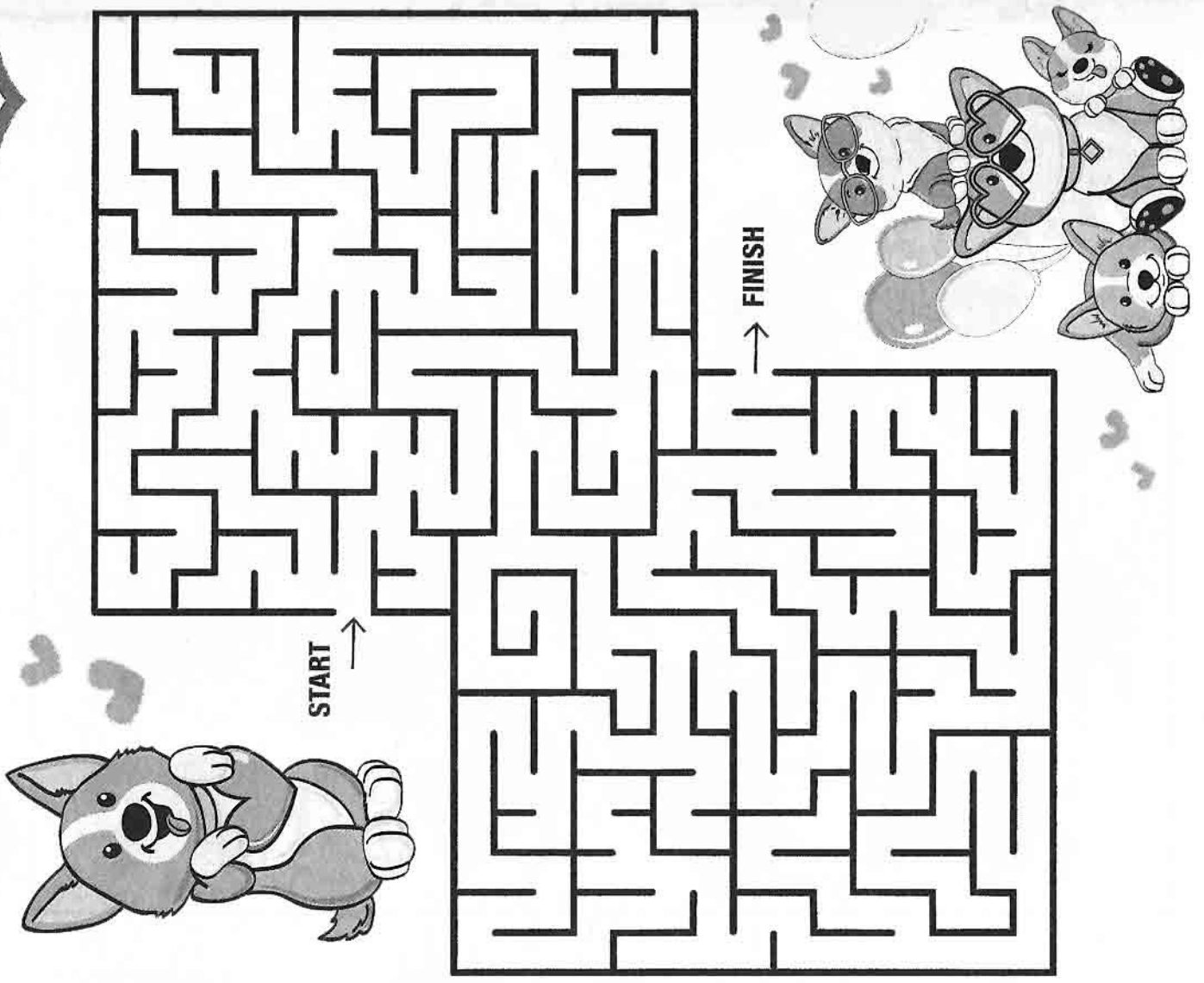
the Alberta Baptist Association in Canada. White Cross provides medical supplies and relief goods to hospitals, health centres, and rest houses in West Africa, with a primary focus on Cameroon and Nigeria".

"While the original focus of the ministry was to meet the physical needs in West Africa, the ministry has grown to facilitate local & global community development by connecting communities through preparing and sending medical supplies and relief goods to West Africa". Taken from White Cross website. Ed.

EASY



MEDIUM



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Rick's Trivia - More About Dogs - by Rick deLeeuw

Does anyone really know how many different breed's of dogs there are in the world? In my research their are between 340 to 400 different breeds. The exact number varies because different international registries and kennel clubs have their own specific criteria for what constitutes an officially recognized breed.

There are 7 main types of dogs:

1. Sporting (or Gundogs) -

These are active, alert dogs originally bred to assist hunters in finding and retrieving game birds or waterfowl.

Types: retrievers, spaniels, and pointers. Popular Breeds: Labrador Retriever, Irish Setter

2. Hounds -

These dogs were originally bred for hunting by tracking or sight. They generally fall into two categories: scent hounds (which have an incredible sense of smell) and sight-hounds (which rely on speed and vision). Popular Breeds: Beagle, Bloodhound, Greyhound

3. Working -

Bred to perform practical, heavy-duty tasks, these dogs are highly intelligent and strong. Their jobs

have historically included guarding property, pulling sleds or carts, and acting as police or rescue dogs. Types: guard dogs, sled dogs, rescue dogs. Popular Breeds: Rottweiler, Siberian Husky, Great Dane.

4. Terriers -

are spirited, energetic dogs bred to hunt, track, and catch vermin. They often have a strong prey drive and are known for their feisty and courageous personalities. Types: ratter dogs, burrowing dogs. Popular Breeds: Jack Russell Terrier, Bull Terrier, Scottish Terrier.

5. Toy Group -

As the name implies, these dogs are tiny in size. They were historically bred as devoted, com-

pact companions and lapdogs, making them ideal for apartment living or smaller spaces. Types: companions, lapdogs. Popular Breeds: Chihuahua, Pug, Pomeranian.

6. Herding - (or Pastoral)

Formerly classified under the working group, these dogs are bred to control and move livestock (like sheep and cattle). They are highly trainable, energetic, and exhibit natural instincts to circle and direct movement. Types: livestock herders, cattle dogs. Popular Breeds: Border Collie, German Shepherd, Pembroke Welsh Corgi.

7. Non-Sporting Group -

This is a diverse "catch-all" category for breeds that do not neatly fit into the other six specialized categories. These dogs vary greatly in size, coat, and personality, but are typically kept as companions, watchdogs. Popular Breeds: Bulldog, Dalmatian, Poodle.

The number one dog breed depends on where you live. In Canada, the Labrador Retriever holds the top spot as the most popular breed. The French Bulldog reigns as the most popular in the United States.

