

ONE: Don't miss the boat.

TWO: Remember that we are all in the same boat.

THREE: Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

FOUR: Stay fit. When you're 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big. FIVE: Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

SIX: Build your future on high ground.

SEVEN: For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

EIGHT: Speed isn't always an advantage.
The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

NINE: When you're stressed, float awhile.

TEN: Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

ELEVEN: No matter the storm, have faith ... there's always a rainbow waiting.

~Author Unknown

The Bird Nest

by Sis. Sarah D. Ledger Bartow, Georgia

My husband was clipping the shrubbery in the back yard when he noticed a small round orange object in one of the bushes. When he retrieved it, he discovered that it was a bird's nest. However, it was not made out of the usual materials that the birds collect around the yard and garden, but was made almost entirely of orange plastic baling twine, the kind used to tie pine straw used for landscaping

When we farmed, we had a saying that almost anything could be fixed with duct tape and baling twine, but the little bird that built this nest had fixed something truly remarkable. My husband thinks that he may have run over the twine with the mower, but

somehow she had separated it, so that the strands were not much thicker than a sewing thread. These were woven in and out, almost as a craftsman would weave a basket. When it was finished, it was very sturdy.

We love the little creatures that inhabit our yard and garden and when the seeds and insects are gone, my husband keeps feed in their feeders. We know from its size that this nest was made by a really small bird. When I look at it, I think about how hard she must have worked preparing for eggs that had yet to be laid, and babies that were yet to be hatched. And after the babies came, she would be busy all day feeding them. She was doing all

this to care for her little ones, yet we hear about human babies that are abandoned, abused, neglected, shaken, left in hot cars. And millions are killed before they are born. Something seems very wrong about this. Maybe we could learn a lesson from this little bird.

We kept the little nest. I'm not sure what we will do with it. I have a little feathered bird from the craft store, so I am thinking of displaying it in a shadow box. It will keep me reminded of just how good God is.

Thank you, Lord, for showing us a bird nest.



