

“The of the Matter”

A Monthly Source of Information for the Church

The Light Has Come!

“Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people, but the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you.” Isaiah 60:1, 2

Because of the incomprehensible love for His people, Jesus was willing to be born into this world, and it was the most dangerous mission ever encountered by a baby. Let me set the stage for His entry.

Rome was a corrupt government morally and spiritually. Its sins were shamelessly committed in the open. The Colosseum was an arena of morbid debauchery. The emperors demanded to be worshipped. The gods were lustful and evil. Rome spread the darkness of paganism and immoral influence in every place it touched.

The local ruler in Jerusalem, Herod the Great, was a notorious tyrant. He was appointed king by the Romans and he wasn't even Jewish. While in power, he chose the favor of Rome over his own people. His heavy taxation, which he used to pay for lavish building projects, forced an unfair burden on the Jewish citizens.

The thought of killing all the male babies in Bethlehem under two years of age is shocking to us; however, it was consistent with Herod's compulsive behavior. He executed one of his wives and three of his sons, so why not kill babies in Bethlehem?

Even the religious Pharisees, would become enemies of Jesus. His message would unsettle and irritate them. They would finally conspire and bring about His death in the cruelest way possible—crucifixion!

All of this shows how dark the world was when Jesus was born. Because of the immoral Romans, wicked Herod, and the arrogant religious leaders, it wasn't a place any of us would have chosen to enter. Yet, Jesus voluntarily came into this dark world, knowing what awaited Him, to bring us the light of salvation. **“And the Word became flesh to dwell among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14.**

We must not forget that before we met Jesus, we were also in a domain of darkness, but God sent His Son Jesus to dispel the darkness and bring light and glory to our fallen world. He brought His light to us so that we also may be lights in our world. **“For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” 2 Corinthians 4:6. In 1 Peter 2:9, we read this beautiful verse, “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”**

To be lights in our world, we simply desire to reflect the light that Jesus has brought to us. It isn't usually displayed by grandiose events. It happens in myriads of little bursts of SonLight. It comes through a hug or a smile. It comes through a card, a text, a phone call, or a prayer. It is displayed by random acts of kindness and unselfish generosity. It is seen in the ways His creation is revered and cared for. It is witnessed through humble, obedient followers of Jesus who are led each day by the Holy Spirit. What a beautiful portrayal of having the heart, the mind and the hands of Jesus!

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16. I feel so blessed to be surrounded by a community of people who reflect His light. Amen!

By Donna Faye Anderson

Church News

Sanctuary Worship

What a special privilege to be able to come together each week and worship in the church sanctuary! Let's not ever take it for granted. It is so wonderful to have all ages participating to create worship in honor of our Savior and Lord. Our church family is very blessed with many gifts to share.

Communion

On Sabbath, November 13, the church family celebrated the Communion, the first since the arrival of COVID. To be cautious, the emblems for the bread and wine were pre-packaged. It was a special service of meaningful togetherness.

In lieu of having a Head Deaconess, Kellie Corbett and her two capable daughters volunteered to set up the sanctuary and the foot-washing areas in preparation for the Communion.

Thank you, Kellie, Kate and Tori, for your generous help, along with all the others who participated.

Potato Roast Recap

October 30 was a delightful day for an evening potato roast at Big River Beach in Mendocino. Geoff Rice, Social Committee Chair, did an amazing job of roasting the potatoes to perfection! Evening worship consisted of Margie leading the singing with Pastor Eric W. playing his guitar. Afterwards, he gave an opportunity for people to share how God is blessing in their lives. About twenty enjoyed fellowship, along with five dogs who were very happy they belonged to the group.



Potato roast at Big River Beach.
Photographer Jeni Bushby



Church News, Cont.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Filled With The Holy Spirit,
 Discipling,
 Baptizing,
 Teaching, With Love,
 Preparing All For Jesus' Return

OUR VISION STATEMENT

To Know Jesus
 To Share Jesus
 To Follow Jesus
 Changing Lives Today
 And For Eternity

HOW TO DISCIPLE OTHERS

Study Made Simple

By Claudia & Shamir Sevilla

Have you ever wanted to give a Bible Study but didn't know where to start? That was our experience about two years ago. We wanted to do outreach at a more personal level and concluded that a Bible Study would be the way to go.

Below are some suggestions:

1. Begin by praying that God opens their hearts and accept your invitation.
2. Take the time to get to know them and befriend them.
3. If someone asks about your lifestyle, take the opportunity and say "I base my lifestyle/decisions on what the Bible says.....would you like to study on it?" This opens up the opportunity to refer to a bible verse and get a conversation started on God's Word.
4. Share your testimony and what God has done in your life.
5. Simply offer. Don't hold back the blessings that you have been given through His Word, get the courage and share with others about His soon coming!

We have experienced that being flexible with the time and day of study goes a long way and inviting them over to our home is what worked best for us. It's good to find a place where there are minimal distractions.

Some examples of Bible Studies that you can use:

Amazing Facts Bible Study Guides

www.amazingfacts.org

Discover Bible Study Guides

www.voiceofprophecy.com

Prophecy Seminar Bible Study Guides

www.seminarsunlimited.org

Sunlight streaming through the fog which reminds us of Jesus's love shining through the darkness.

Photo by David Anderson



Church News, Cont.

December Change Jars

Since 1956, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency has been the international humanitarian arm of the Seventh-day Adventist church serving in 118 countries. Its work empowers communities and changes lives around the globe by providing sustainable community development and disaster relief. ADRA's purpose is to serve humanity so all may live as God intended.

Change jars will be collected the last two Sabbaths in December and the first two in January. Your donation will help ADRA respond immediately to urgent needs and be flexible as those needs change. Your "Love Gift" may provide shelter to a family in a disaster, access to essential medical care, food for those in a hunger crisis, or any other urgent need that arises.

Intentionally ask God to direct your decision about your participation in this very worthwhile effort.

Financial report

By December 31, 2021, we need to raise \$128,489.87 to meet our budget. Your envelope needs to be postmarked or date stamped in the office before or on December 31, 2021. There are several ways to give your tithes and offerings.

1. Online. Go to the church website ukiahsda.com. Click in the online giving, and go from there. There are no fees charged for using this site. Your whole gift is deposited into our church bank account.

2. Mail your check to the church. If you have a tithe envelope, put your check into it and be sure to fill out the front. If you don't have a tithe envelope, write your information on a piece of paper and mail it back with your check to the church. If you need some tithe envelopes, let me know and I will see that you get some.

3. Bring your check to the church. Someone is in the office from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm Monday through Thursday.

Thank you to each of you for your faithfulness in returning your tithe, and supporting the church budget. May God bless each of you for the rest of this year and beyond as we wait for His blessed return. David Anderson, Treasurer

Christmas Cantata

The 30th anniversary Cantata, *The Glory of Christmas*, will be held on December 12 at 3:00 and 6:00 pm. Come celebrate the birth of Jesus, as the Sanctuary and Youth choirs perform with the symphony orchestra in a colorful and majestic Christmas Cantata. For questions about tickets, please contact the church office, 707-462-5455. Masks will be required for the safety of everyone.

Cantata Photo by David Anderson



Church News, Cont.

Youth ATV Day

by Pastor Eric Kablanow

On Sunday November 14 we had a youth ATV day at the Wilsons. Seven youth showed up, most of them were from 7th and 8th grade at UJA. It was a beautiful day for an outdoor activity and the youth had a great time outdoors. We had food and yard games, but they spent most of their time taking turns riding the ATV's around the Wilson's property. It was a lot of fun for all of us and we are looking forward to the next event.

Next Potential Event: Rock Climbing on December 5



Youth and their ATV's. Photographers unknown.

Caroling

The Social Committee is planning a special evening on **December 18**. Plan to **meet at the church at 5:00 pm** to sing carols to our neighbors. Afterward, there will be cider and cookies and the opportunity to play games at the gym. All ages are encouraged to come and enjoy sweet fellowship.

Christmas

Since Christmas Day is on Sabbath this year, a special holiday breakfast is planned, utilizing the Chapel and foyer, followed by a beautiful musical worship program. This will provide sweet and meaningful fellowship on Christmas Day. Specific information will be shared during the month.

Agape Feast

On January 7, 2022, the Social Committee is planning an Agape Feast. More information will be coming.

The Heart of the Matter is edited and produced by David and Donna Faye Anderson. You may contact them at 707-234-9234 or online davendonnaa@icloud.com

UJA News

Campus Beautification

Because of a generous donor, the campus is alive with vibrant flowers, some new trees and park benches. Volunteer gardener, Jeff Lauritzin, is following the work of Jerry and Noni Chaney, who faithfully cared for the campus landscaping for more than two decades.

Jeff has been having a great time replanting the big pots along the entrance stairway and the hanging baskets in the upper garden area, as well as creating new “beauty spots.”

Enjoy the pictures to see what Jeff’s been busy doing.



UJA

Beauty Spots

Photos by David Anderson



UJA News, Cont.

Appreciation of Our Teachers
 Both students and parents are happy to be part of the UJA experience. They are so positive when they express their love and appreciation for our phenomenal team who create a place where kids want to be! Here's a small sampling. From students:

"I just love my teacher!"

"I am so excited about the Cantata! I'm going to be an angel!"

"My classmates were so friendly, I just knew I had found a great school!"

"I like being at a smaller school. You get so much more help when you need it."

From parents:

"When I drop my kids off each morning, I feel like I'm leaving them with family!"

"I'm so glad my friend told me about UJA. I love having my kids here and my kids are so happy and doing well."

"I need to buy a Bible and read it, so I can understand what my kids are talking about."

"My kids come home happy every day. They love to teach us the songs they are learning."

Wendi Olivera, our Kindergarten teacher, was willing to share a note she received from a parent:

"We are so thankful to have you in our lives. Last year we were concerned about schooling and education. We lost a lot of sleep and struggled with finding an appropriate school. We continued to explore our options and prayed a lot. And now it seems as UJA and you have been the answer to our prayers.

Our daughter has learned so much, has fallen in love with school, and adores you. We are so happy to send her to a school where she is provided for, loved, cared for and receives a great education. Your hard work does not go unnoticed. Thank you for making this year amazing and a wonderful introduction to school! You are the best!"

Prayer Kids
 The staff are continuing their habit of praying for specific students during their morning worship together each day. During Friday Chapel, there is a special prayer blessing over the week's Prayer Kids.

They would like to encourage each of you to remember UJA in your daily prayers, that God's sweet spirit will dwell in every classroom and in every heart.

What takes place at UJA is evangelism at its finest 180 days a year! To God be the glory!

Dates to Remember

Dec. 12:	The Glory of Christmas Cantata
Dec. 20-31:	Christmas Break
Jan. 3:	School Resume

Family News

The Oliver Baby Arrived November 18!

The church family extends a jubilant welcome to its youngest member.

“We are happy to announce the birth of our son William Curtiss Rice Oliver! We have felt so much love and support over the months leading up to this moment and can’t wait to introduce him to you, our church family! Thank you so much for your continued prayers!

Love,“

Liz, Benji and Will



Benji and Liz Oliver with their little cherub—William
Photographer unknown

Holiday Recipe

A favorite loaf of Ruth DeBooy and Debbie Merritt:

Christmas Cashew Nut Loaf

Ingredients:

- 1 C. cashew pieces, ground
- 2 C. vegeburger
- 1 C. onions, finely chopped
- 1/2 C. celery, finely chopped
- 1 C. dry bread crumbs,
- 3/4 C. soy or cashew milk
- 2 T. cornstarch
- 1 T. all-purpose seasoning
- 1-2 T. chickenlike seasoning
- 1 T. parsley flakes
- 1/2 t. sage

Directions:

1. Combine all ingredients and mix well.
2. Oil spray one large or two small loaf pans.
3. Pour mixture into pans and spread evenly.
4. Bake at 350 degrees for 45-60 minutes or until brown on top.
5. Remove from oven and let sit for 10 minutes.
6. Turn out onto a platter and slice into 1/2-inch slices and serve with gravy.



A Lesson from Nature By Shari Kim

Butterflies and moths have several similarities and they also have several differences. Some ways in which they differ are that butterflies fly during the day and most moths fly in the evening or night. Butterflies fold their wings when resting while moths open their wings while resting. Butterflies have knobbed antennae while moths have feathered antennae. Butterflies have rounded wing scales and moths have jagged wing scales. Butterflies are usually larger with colorful wing scales and hairless bodies while moths are usually smaller with drab-colored wing scales and furry bodies.

There are some exceptions to the general differences between butterflies and moths. The Madagascan sunset moth has wing tails that look like a swallowtail butterfly and it is very colorful. They also fly during the day and rest with its wings folded like a butterfly. Many people have mistaken it for a butterfly.

We are called by God to be different from the rest of the world just as butterflies and moths are different. It says in 1 Peter 2:9 "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

The Bible story of Samson illustrates this well. When Delilah cut his hair, there was no special strength in his hair itself but "it was a token of his loyalty to God; and when the symbol was sacrificed in the indulgence of passion, the blessings of which it was a token were also forfeited." (Patriarchs and Prophets 566). By giving up his token of loyalty, he compromised his peculiarity and became like everyone else. He wasn't any different from the idolatrous people around him.

"Our only safety is to stand as God's peculiar people. We must not yield one inch to the customs and fashions of the degenerate age, but stand in mortal independence, making no compromise with its corrupt and idolatrous practices." (5 Testimonies 78) We live in a world that is corrupted by sin and we have to make sure that every avenue to Satan's deceit is closed so that we will be able to stand apart and shine for Him.

As we stand apart as God's peculiar people, God is able to use us as an example and witness for others. And as we are His witnesses, those around us may be drawn to Jesus, just as it was God's purpose "that by the revelation of His character through Israel men should be drawn unto Him.....All who like, Rahab the Canaanite, and Ruth the Moabitess, turned from idolatry to the worship of the true God, were to unite themselves with His chosen people. As the numbers of Israel increased they were to enlarge their borders, until their kingdom should embrace the whole world."

(Christ's Object Lessons 290.1)

So as we admire the differences and similarities of the various species of moths and butterflies, may it remind us that God calls us to be peculiar and may people be able to see the differences in our characters as we shine for God and invite others into His kingdom.

Thoughts taken from: Family Bible Lessons, by SonLight Education Ministry, Year 1, Quarter 4, Lessons 1,5,6, Pages 11-13, 80, 101



Madagascan-Sunset Moth

Gene Anderson—Trailblazer to Tedim
by Donna Faye Anderson

This is the title of a book that I wrote after I retired from a decade of wonderful years at UJA.

Some of you know, I married into a missionary family who traveled the world sharing the love of Jesus and His glorious plan of salvation. For my father-in-law, Gene Anderson, the dream to become a missionary began during his elementary years from a compassionate and God-fearing teacher who read mission stories to her students after the noon recess.

The setting where this dream became a reality was PUC. Gene had returned to complete his degree. By this time, he had a wife and two young sons. During his senior year, unbeknownst to Gene, Dr. Paul Quimby sent a letter to the General Conference recommending this young family for mission service. Just before graduation, the family responded with a hearty yes to a formal call to go for mission service to Burma. I intentionally said “the family” because each of them, with all their hearts, wanted to be missionaries.

The narrative details their service in Burma and culminates with taking the Seventh-day Adventist message to an unentered part of the country, a place in the northwest called the Chin Hills. The establishment of a Seventh-day Adventist mission station at Tedim followed a series of events that unquestionably evidenced God’s leading.

The book is now in the Layout/Design Department of Teach Services being prepared for publication. I really believe each of you will want a copy as soon as it is printed.

It not only chronicles the lives of an ordinary family doing extraordinary things for God, but it also gives glory and honor to our amazing God.

We are Giving Thanks with Grateful Hearts

For God’s rich goodness, protection and blessings of the past year,
For the excitement of our cross-country move this coming month,
For joyful anticipation of embracing our new home, opportunities for service, and community involvement at Fletcher Park in North Carolina.

We are very grateful for each of our dear friends and family, near and far, recent and “waay back”! We look forward to hearing from you. As always, our door will open wide for your visits!

Our new address:
Tom and Lynne Buske
% Fletcher Park Inn
185 Tulip Trail
Hendersonville, NC
28792
tbuske@gmail.com
(707) 841-0831
lynnebuske@yahoo.com
(707) 671-6545
Right Tom and Lynne
Photographer unknown



Below Gene Anderson. 2nd from left on his first trip to the Zomi Hills (known as Chin Hills in 1953 when this photograph was taken). Others in the Jeep are far left Pastor Freddie Batin and far right Pastor Mya Pe. Driver unknown. Photographer probably Elder C. B. Guild, President of the Burma Union, who was present on this trip, but not in the photograph.

