

“The of the Matter”

A Monthly Source of Information for the Church

Looking to Jesus

“Look to the Lord and his strength; seek His face always.” Psalm 105:4

A scene from the recent devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria revealed an incredible moment when rescuers digging through the tangled debris were able to free a tiny girl as her father, who was close by, tried to calm her. The father was heard calling to his little daughter, “Nour, Daddy is here; don’t be scared.” As the father caught sight of his daughter’s head emerging from the rubble, he said to her, “Daddy is here. Keep your eyes on my face. You’re going to be okay.”

Like the little girl, sometimes we become overwhelmed with the chaos and confusion. Our Abba Father calls out to us, “Look unto Me, and be saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.” (**Isaiah 45:22**) As we maintain an attitude of dependence on our Lord, our hearts will be kept in peace, our souls will rejoice, and our every need will be supplied. Here are some awesome blessings when we look to Jesus.

1. The look of salvation. It is not a matter of who you are—how good or bad—but of who He is: namely, an all-loving Savior, who freely offered His life to redeem every one. If you look unto Him, as the serpent-bitten Israelites looked upon the divinely-appointed object (**John 3:14**) with simple but confident faith, He will save you. No other qualifications are needed to entitle you to receive His amazing gift of salvation.

2. The look of supplication. “But our eyes are upon You.” (**2 Chronicles 20:12**) This is the ultimate remedy for every trial. No matter how desperate your situation—nothing is too difficult for the Lord! Turn unto Him your eyes of faith, of dependence, of praise, of confident expectation and you will not be disappointed.

3. The look of transformation. “But we all, with open face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.” (**2 Corinthians 3:18**) This beholding is not simply one of faith, but especially of holy devotion and commitment. As you contemplate the character of Christ, there is born within you a deep yearning to be conformed to His likeness and to “walk, even as He walked.” (**1 John 2:6**) As that yearning persists and is accompanied by earnest prayer, the Holy Spirit works in you a deeper spirit of obedience, and thereby changes you, little by little, into His image.

4. The look of inspiration. “Looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (**Hebrews 12:2**) When you grow weary with the perplexing questions and challenges in your life, look unto your Leader and draw inspiration from His example. Do as He did. Look beyond the present sorrows to the joy awaiting you; see above the painful cross—an eternal crown prepared for you who “endures to the end.” (**Matthew 10:22**) By looking unto Jesus and devoutly contemplating His spirit of self-sacrifice and steadfastness, He will give you His strength and grace to bear the hardships of your journey.

5. The look of consummation. “As for me, I will behold your face in righteousness.” (**Psalm 17:15**) This is the ultimate longing of every believer—to behold our Savior in His beauty and forever gaze upon His blessed features! Such too is His desire—to have us with Him, beholding His glory. (**John 17:24**) Nothing less will satisfy the eternal Lover of our souls. In a real sense, we may discern something of the glory of Christ even now—but oh, how feebly and faintly! But hereafter, we shall look upon Him without hindrance or interruption. This will be the fruition of our hope—to have immediate communion with Him. This will fill us with joy, and make us overflow with endless praise. Oh, how altogether lovely will He appear, when we see Him no longer “through a glass, darkly”—but “face to face!” (**1 Corinthians 13:12**)

“Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face and the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace.”

By Donna Faye Anderson

Church News

TALENT SHOW

Plan to come out to the UJA gym for an evening of fun and laughs on Saturday night, March 11, at 7:30 p.m. The event is hosted by the Social Committee. Please contact Geoff Rice, 707-972-9291, if you would like to be a show participant.

The Pathfinders are planning to sell corn dogs and root beer floats to raise money to attend the International Pathfinder Camporee in Gillette, Wyoming the summer of 2024.

CHARCOAL REMEDIES WORKSHOP

On March 31-April 2, John and Kimberly Dinsleycharcoalhouse.com will be here to share simple, practical and inexpensive remedies. Workshops will present how to purify your home and garden.

Please contact Dawna Sawatzky, 707-321-6369, if you would like more information.



An American Robin in the apple tree.
Photograph by David Anderson

The Video Production Studio

The Health Committee members, Dawna Sawatzky, Jeremy Clay, Bob Merritt and Brynn Stirling, have been praying and discussing how to reach our community to share the amazing health information we have had available to our church for the past 160 years and that the rest of the world is just discovering. It is from this desire that the Ukiah Seventh-day Adventist Church Health Outreach YouTube channel idea was born. Our official YouTube name has not been chosen yet. If you have ideas that target this subject, please give your names to Dawna at 707-321-6369.

The church Board approved the idea and by the following Sabbath morning, Marshall Merklin, who is heading up the video production, had the designated room in the hall opposite the coat rack furnished with lights and all the studio outfitting in place. We have good cameras, but he has had to order some special mics, and he is getting representative furniture in place to start the recordings. Watch for a sample video to be shown to the church soon.

The presentations will be short (about 10 minutes), informative and varied, according to the talents of the members of the church. Most of the presentations will be health-related, but other subjects are also welcome.

For example, if you are a great gardener and want to share some ideas, Marshall will take the cameras to your place to film you. Please let the committee members know of your specific interest, such as child rearing, plant-based cooking, exercises, etc. We are open for ideas.

Besides video producing a wide variety of health subjects, we will also be using the cameras and studio to take pictures of the church family for a church directory.

By Dawna Sawatzky

Church News, cont.

The Resurrection Celebration

service will be on Sabbath, April 8, at 11:00 a.m. The sanctuary choir and orchestra, Ukiah Junior Academy Advanced Strings and other musical groups will be participating.

Please invite your friends to this inspiring worship service as we celebrate the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Pathfinder Sabbath

Put a big red circle on your calendar around Sabbath, April 22. The Pathfinders are going to present the entire worship service that day.

Come and let our illustrious youth speak to your heart through their ministry.

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

ALBION WEEKEND RETREAT

Sign-up sheets are on the missionary desk in the foyer to reserve your space for the annual church retreat at Albion, **May 19-21**. The Pathfinders are planning to be there also, which made it possible to reserve the whole facility.

Cabins, RV and tent sites are available. Please contact Kellie Corbett, 509-438-2837, kelcor1@yahoo.com to let her know what type of reservation you would like.

You are also welcome to join the retreat only on Sabbath. There is no charge to come for the day, but please let Kellie know so adequate food will be available. You may be asked to bring some food. **MORE INFORMATION WILL BE COMING.**

SABBATH MORNING PRAYER TIME

The Elders invite the church family to join them at 9:00 a.m. every Sabbath morning.

Meet in the Chapel, prior to the Adult Sabbath School, to pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.



**Daylight Savings Time begins
on Sunday, the 12th. of March!**

Church News, Cont.

Mission Trip

Plans for the mission trip are still moving forward. Tickets have been purchased, which means we have committed to the trip. We are eagerly anticipating it and would really appreciate your support of the trip. Please pray that things continue to line up and that the last details fall into place. If you would like to support the trip financially you can give through the church to the Youth Mission Trip fund. All funds will go to help pay for those that need some assistance and anything left over will be given as extra funding for the project we will be working on.

By Pastor Eric Kablanow

Youth Ministry

January and February have been busy months for the church and school, but we still managed to get in some good youth activities. In January we went Rock Climbing at Mt. St. Helena, which is about an hour and fifteen minutes away. We had seven youth go and everyone had a great time. The weather was supposed to be cool and cloudy, but not too bad: however, by the time we left it was nearly freezing temperatures and it had started to snow on us. Despite the sudden change in weather, the whole group had fun and it just made it a little bit more adventurous. In February, we had a super bowl party, which was also a lot of fun. We had it at the school, which worked out perfect. During the commercials, most of the youth would play basketball or other things in the gym, and during the halftime show we turned off the livestream and went to the field to play some two-hand tough football. Overall, those that attended seemed to enjoy it and it was a good way to let the youth hang out and spend time together. Plans for March are a little up in the air still, but updates will

be coming as we get details figured out. As always, we have been having vespers and will continue to have vespers throughout the rest of the school year.

By Eric Kablanow,
Associate Pastor



Left: Pastor Eric Kablanow and the youth who went Rock climbing. Photographer unknown.

Church News, Cont.

Fellowship Potluck Luncheon Schedule

- March 4 - Cradle Roll and Kindergarten with Judy Maddox & Lori Schafer
- March 11 - Worship Committee with Margie Rice
- March 18 - UJA Staff and Home & School with Rick Nelson and Jeni Bushby
- March 25 - All-church Potluck with Beckie Sitz at UJA

Church members and their families and friends are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please bring large serving portions of food to share. Visitors are always welcome.

UJA News



Above groups for UJA Week of Worship.
Photographer Allison Kurtz

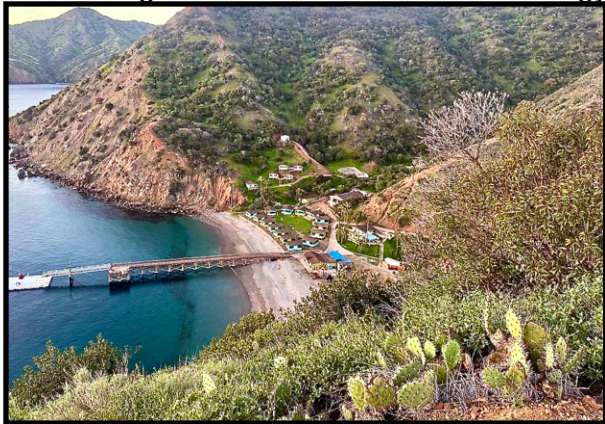
UJA Week of Worship
January 31 - February 3, 2023

UJA was blessed to have Jennifer Rich come and lead out in our school's Week of Worship at the end of January and into the beginning of February. Mrs. Rich is the Vice-Principal of Enrollment at Rio Lindo Adventist Academy in Healdsburg. During the week students practiced writing their own "God-stories" for the Week of Worship. Mrs. Rich shared that God wants each of us to write our own personal story about Him. She started each day with some fun "Rich life at Rio" stories about living on campus at Rio Lindo Academy. She showed how these stories are really just parables like the ones that Jesus used to tell us about God. She invited students to practice finding God in their own lives, by looking around and seeing "parables" at school, at home and in their very own families. Mrs. Rich shared with three different groups of our students (Grades 1-2, Grades 2-4, and Grades 5-9) to tailor her message specifically to each age group. She gave each student a small journal to write in during the week and wrote comments to all who were willing to share their writing with her. Thank you, Mrs. Rich, for making this time to be with our students and sharing a message from God with our students. It was a wonderful time of worship and writing! By Rick Nelson

UJA News, cont.

UJA Students Go to Catalina Island! By Dan Kuntz

Sunday, February 5th, all nineteen students in grades 7, 8, and 9 loaded sleeping bags and duffle bags into four vehicles for a long drive to Southern California. Dan Kuntz, Beth Garibaldi, Diana Kurtz, and Troy Thompson were the intrepid chaperones and drivers for this six-day adventure. Parents said the final "love you" and waved goodbye as we pulled away at 8:30 am. The destination was South Bay Christian School (formerly South Bay Junior Academy) in Torrance. It was a long day of driving, but at 4:30 pm, we were let into the school. The students got to shoot some baskets in the gym before bedding in a classroom for the evening.



Early the following day, we repacked our belongings, straightened the classroom, and departed for Long Beach to board a ferry for Catalina Island. Upon boarding, the captain told us the waves were rolling and that the crew would hand out bags in case of seasickness. The bags were needed by several.

At noon we arrived at Fox Landing on Catalina Island. Catalina Island Marine Institute(CIMI) runs Fox Landing. After landing, we found our cabins and headed out for our first activity, snorkeling. The water off of Catalina Island is chilly, just as it is on our coast. All participants were given multilayered wetsuits, and into the water, we went. Many students had never seen the bright orange Catalina goldfish, the Garibaldi. Students enjoyed the chilly snorkel and the new animals that they observed.

Monday evening, the activity was a night snorkel. Again we dawned the many layers of wetsuits and added one more layer, a vest, for extra warmth. For the night dive, students were outfitted with dive lights and colored beacons attached to their snorkels so the lifeguard could

ensure nobody tried drifting back to Long Beach. The students said the highlight of the night snorkel was the bright blue bioluminescence and the octopus. The CIMI staff snorkelers spotted an octopus and brought it up for the students to observe and interact with before letting it return to its hiding spot.



Tuesday was a full day at Fox Landing. It started with a high and low ropes course. Many students' favorite part was the goliath swing. Students pulled the person in the harness high up in the air. Next, the student in the swing had to pull the release cord. After a brief moment of free fall, the rope tightens and swings them out over the hill towards a beautiful bay view. The high and low ropes courses highlight teamwork, problem-solving, and working together towards a common goal, all while having an exciting time.

Tuesday afternoon was our last snorkel. The students were now very experienced with snorkeling and wetsuits.



We played games in the bay that got us wet and active and reviewed the marine biology information we had learned. Additionally, we had extended time exploring the kelp and rocky reef system at Fox Landing. A favorite moment of the last snorkel was Mrs. Garibaldi spotting a large sheep crab and one of the CIMI staff members diving down to bring it up and let us observe this amazing decapod. The sheep crab is the largest crab species on the California coast.

Tuesday evening, the chaperones and students learned about the creatures that dwell in the deepest parts of the ocean. Some of the comments from the students were about how weird and crazy these

leftover parts on these creatures." Another student wondered, "What is down there that hasn't been discovered yet!"



Before dawn Wednesday morning, 11 of 19 students woke up 45 minutes early to hike to a viewpoint for the sunrise over Long Beach. Yes, teenagers can get up early! CIMI bought Fox Landing from the YMCA. There is still a cross at the viewpoint above the camp. One of the questions the students answered at the end of each day was, "Where did you see God or find beauty?" Many students said they felt God and found beauty in the sunrise Wednesday morning.

After our hike and breakfast, we had one last class. We could see and touch many of the sting rays, fish, leopard sharks, invertebrates, and algae found along the Catalina coast. This class was an excellent way to wrap up our time on Catalina. We could see up close many of the animals that wouldn't let us get too close to them during our snorkeling or that we didn't see while out in the water.

Finally, our time at Fox Landing was over. We boarded the ferry and, this time, had a smooth ride back across the channel. Dolphins escorted the ferry back to Long Beach. After disembarking, we quickly piled back into our cars and took our belongings back to South Bay Christian School. After dropping off our gear, we reloaded the vehicles and headed for Los Angeles.

The evening's activity was a basketball game between the Los Angeles Clippers and the Dallas Mavericks. A team representative met us at our seats in the first half, gave us some LA Clippers gear, and told us we would have our name on the jumbotron at halftime. Unfortunately, the Clippers lost, but the students had a great time. For many, it was their first NBA game. When we returned to school, everyone was exhausted and fell asleep quickly.



Thursday morning, we again packed our belongings and loaded the cars. We said goodbye to the school and thanked them for their hospitality. Again we left for Los Angeles. We went to the California Science Center at the University of Southern California this time. We started with a 3D IMAX movie about asteroids; the 3D effects were amazing. Then, leaving the IMAX, we went to see the Space Shuttle Endeavor, one of four space shuttles in the world. Endeavor is beautifully displayed. Visitors can walk under and around the entire spacecraft. Spaced out around the exhibit hall are docents that are eager to answer any visitor's question about the shuttle or space. The museum has a space shuttle and the only external fuel tank for a space shuttle (the big orange tank it is attached to during launch). Students were amazed to see the space vehicle and associated displays. This experience put a beautiful bow on last fall's astronomy unit.

In the afternoon, it was time to leave the Los Angeles area. We loaded up the cars once again. The evening's destination was Armona Union Academy outside of Hanford. After several hours of driving, we enjoyed veggies and Costco pizza in their gym. We again shot a few baskets. That evening everyone was exhausted from a fantastic trip and quickly fell asleep.

Friday, we had a "short" five-hour drive back to Ukiah. While students and chaperones had a unique, unforgettable trip, everyone was happy to be home, see their families, and sleep in their own beds.



On this trip, students said they saw God and His beauty in the animals of the ocean, the sunrise, the beauty of space, their classmates, and in His creation, especially the octopus. For some students, this was their first time on a boat, getting in the ocean, or snorkeling. This trip will be a lifelong memory of new experiences, friends, traveling, and hopefully, a snapshot of God's beauty and love.

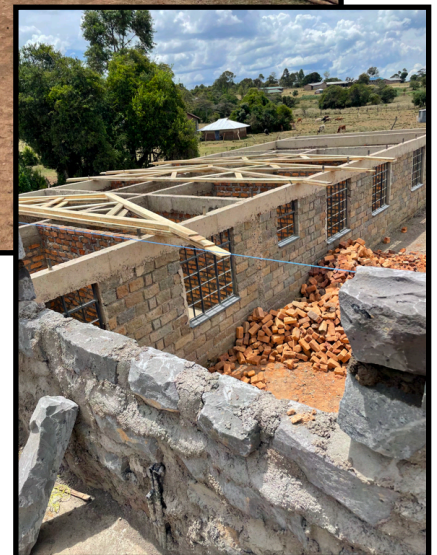
Family News

Mission Trip to Kenya part 1 by Jeni Bushby



In November, I had the incredible opportunity to travel with Adventist Health Global Missions to Kenya to serve the Maasai people. This photo is of our entire group. We were placed in several sub-groups for different work. Our primary goal was to help build the new Women's Health Center where there will be much more space for delivering babies, and exam rooms for prenatal visits and women's health visits. There are classrooms for education and an apartment above to house visiting medical staff or students coming to serve.

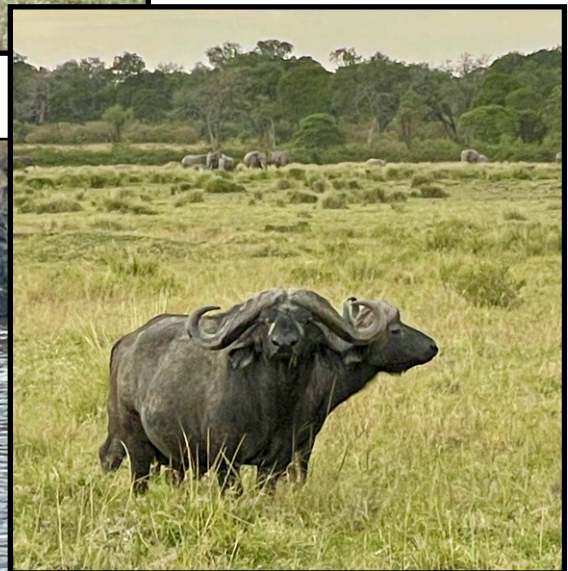
I was part of a three-person team that provided education to the midwives and staff of the Women's Health Center. We taught them how to manage mothers with preeclampsia, how to prevent & treat postpartum hemorrhage, and how to resuscitate a baby that isn't breathing when it's born. We had another medical team that would go out into the villages providing basic medical care. We also had a team of two dentists who provided care to about 50 people a day. They even stayed late to take care of everyone who came.



Mission Trip to Kenya continued,



We stayed in Safari tents at the Mara West Development Camp. Our water was heated by camp staff building a fire for us each morning. It was not uncommon to have zebras & giraffes roaming about the camp near the tents. We got quite used to having them around. We rode to the clinic in Safari Jeeps. Our treat was getting to go on Safari on the Massai Mara & the Serengeti. We were very fortunate to see the "Big 5" on our first trip out. The Big 5 is leopard, elephant, rhinoceros, lion & African buffalo. We also saw hippos, baboons, hyenas, antelope, ostriches, cheetah & many deer.



Jeni in the Safari Jeep viewing wild life in the parks. "Mission Trip to Kenya" will continue next month.

RLAA Performing Arts Department

by Lily Pastor

Featuring the students of Rio Lindo Adventist Academy, **Radium Girls** will be the third full-length production, sponsored by the RLAA Performing Arts Department.

Radium Girls will be directed by Whitney Weems, with the help of Stage Manager and RLAA Senior, June Eo. Productions will take place on April 15, at 8:15 p.m., and April 16, at 2:00 p.m.



Inspired by a true story, **Radium Girls** traces the efforts of Grace Fryer, a factory worker in the 1920’s who paints luminous dials on watch faces with radium, as she fights for her day in court. Her chief adversary is her former employer, Arthur Roeder, an idealistic man who cannot bring himself to believe that the same element that shrinks tumors could have anything to do with the terrifying rash of illnesses among his employees. As the case goes on, however, Grace finds herself battling, not just with the U.S. Radium Corporation, but with her own family and friends, who fear that her campaign for justice will backfire.

Called a “powerful” and “engrossing” drama by critics, **Radium Girls** offers a wry, unflinching look at the peculiarly American obsessions with health, wealth, and the

commercialization of science.

All proceeds from ticket and concession sales will go directly to the RLAA Performing Arts Department and toward the perpetuation of future productions in our community and the sharing of art in Sonoma County.

For a link to purchase tickets, go to [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) . Then go to “Radium Girls; a historical drama by D. W. Gregory.”



“Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow”.

isaiah 1:18 NKJV



A snow storm and a hungry Steller’s Jay at the Anderson’s house. Photos by David Anderson

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 davendonaa@icloud.com.