

“The of the Matter”

A Monthly Source of Information for the Church

Clouds and Blue Whales

“He binds up the water in His thick clouds, yet the clouds are not broken under it.” Job 26:8

I have always been fascinated by numbers, even as a young child. This came in handy as I grew older and had to use numbers to determine minuscule and massive numbers alike.

Biblically, this fascination for numbers had me calculating the crossing of the Red Sea, crossing over the Jericho, the size of the stream of water from the rock in the wilderness, and even to the feeding of the 5000 or the 3000 baptisms.

Job shows God’s majesty against man’s frailty, using examples of God’s power. In **Job 26:8, he says, “He binds up the water in His thick clouds, yet the clouds are not broken under it.”** I had the same idea, using my affinity for numbers, a couple of years ago. I determined that one inch of water over one square mile was approximately 17 million gallons, equivalent to 69,515 tons. A blue whale is in the approximate range of 150 tons. This could be construed as 463 blue whales suspended in the clouds over that same square mile.

Job finishes chapter 26:13, 14 by saying, “By His Spirit He adorned the heavens; His hand pierced the fleeing serpent. Indeed these are the mere edges of His ways, and how small a whisper we hear of Him! But the thunder of His power who can understand?”

C. S. Lewis says, “We know not what we shall be; but we may be sure we shall be more, not less than we were on earth. Our natural experiences (sensory, emotional, imaginative) are only like the drawing, like penciled lines on flat paper. If they vanish in the risen life, they will vanish only as pencil lines vanish from the real landscape, not as a candle flame that is put out, but as a candle flame which becomes invisible because someone has pulled up the blind, thrown open the shutters, and let in the blaze of the risen sun.”

How small is our hearing and seeing? Who is able to understand and comprehend His power? In **1 Corinthians 2:9, we read, “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”**

Lewis says the outline is faint; Job says “mere edges” and “how small a whisper.” They both say these will be magnified or intensified. Two sources with the same idea, just moments apart, at the beginning of my day. Thank you, Lord, for showing me this, for nurturing my maturity, and guiding my thoughts—all while still controlling the universe.

The exciting part is there are always unlimited wonders to be enhanced and explored within the Word of God. And the glories of the New Earth— Unfathomable! So, the next time that you bite into an exquisite peach, consider what the Father has in store for you!

An Anonymous Contributing Editor

Church News

Albion Retreat Weekend by Kellie Corbett

May 19-21 was the combined church/Pathfinder weekend at Albion. We started the retreat with supper and vespers with a group of fifty. The guest speaker was Pastor Rob Colon from the Sunnyvale church.

After a fabulous breakfast Sabbath morning, there was an adult Sabbath School lesson study group and the Pathfinders learned about carnivorous plants and where they live by doing the Bogs and Fens honor. Sheldon Schultz has been working on making a bog right at Albion and the Pathfinders were able to view numerous carnivorous plants.

Rob Colon shared his testimony for the church service which was a reminder of the power of prayer to unleash the Holy Spirit to act in the lives of others. Many friends joined the retreat for the day, swelling the numbers to nearly 100.

Haystacks for lunch fueled the group for free time in the afternoon. Activities included walking on the beach, kayaking and canoeing on the river, or chatting with friends.

The Social Committee, under the direction of Geoff Rice, hosted supper. Everyone gathered around the bonfire for roasted potatoes and other delights. After supper, Rob Colon spoke again for evening vespers.

Sunday morning and another great meal, and then, all too soon, it was time to clean up and head home. It was a delightful weekend in a gorgeous setting. Thank you to all who helped to make it a success!



Top photo at Albion retreat. Sabbath lunch. Middle photo L to R Friends—-Laura Henebury, Kate Corbett, Emily Henebury, Tori Corbett. Photographer Kellie Corbett Bottom Photo: Roasting Marshmallows in the fire pit. Photographer Marshall Merklin

Church News, Cont.

This year FARM STEW's ministry has truly been one of blessings and miracles. Other ministries who appreciate the Biblical scope and philosophy of FARM STEW are requesting partnerships, thus increasing the FARM STEW presence in 17 countries, which now have local workers. How has this happened so quickly? It is because other ministries, AFM, ASAP, LIGHT and many more realize FARM STEW follows the command of Isaiah 58—to go and set the captives free. When people are in such dire poverty that they can't provide food for their children, they are captives of poverty. FARM STEW has a Biblical formula for helping all to achieve a more abundant life. John 10:10. FARM STEW helps lift them up by teaching them to garden and providing seeds and implements, such as shovels and hoes, teaching them to serve balanced, adequate meals, to drink pure water, to develop an enterprise to afford uniforms for their school children, to practice good hygiene with latrines and hand-washing practices, and teaching them child planning and spacing. When a village is following FARM STEW teachings, then a water well is drilled for them to have the convenience of pure water.

Two countries where new training programs are being launched are Sudan and Ethiopia. Both countries are being split and devastated by civil wars. In Ethiopia, 600,000 have died in the current uprising and 22,000 children are now orphans. As the war rages, over 800,000 have fled Sudan and crossed into other countries as refugees. The need is overwhelming! In both places FARM STEW has teams who are helping families learn how to survive.

July is our church's yearly designated mission offering month for FARM STEW. Their finances are transparent, audited yearly and the administration costs are some of the lowest among ministries. In other words, when money is donated to FARM STEW for the poor, it is truly used for the poor. Fifteen dollars can provide hygiene pads for a girl to stay in school for two years, thirty-five dollars provides seed to feed a family, five hundred builds latrines and bath houses and four thousand drills a well. These are bargains! Please prayerfully consider giving to FARM STEW during the month of July. Thank you for your support thus far.

By Dawna Sawatzky, FARM STEW volunteer



FREE! Join us for a week filled with VBS fun as we learn about God and the Bible through the story of Daniel!

- ◆ Find us at the **Ukiah SDA Church**, 1390 Laurel Ave.
- ◆ The adventure is **July 10-14**, 9:30 am - Noon
- ◆ **All ages** are welcome (a caregiver is required for children ages 4 & under)
- ◆ To **pre-register** and find more information, visit <https://vbspro.events/p/events/babylon23>

Kids, bring your families to our final celebration on **July 15!**
Lunch is provided.




Vacation Bible School is happening July 10-14 with a special program on Sabbath, July 15. Please invite anyone you know who has children who would enjoy a week of learning about Daniel and his courage in captivity through activities and fun games! There are flyers in the church foyer if you would like to take some to share with your friends.

This year we are so excited to have as our VBS Mission Project supporting students in need of tuition assistance at the Ruby Kraft Primary School located near the Kendu Adventist Hospital in Kenya where the Kims are ministering. This school and its students' needs were brought to our attention by Justin and Shari Kim who are aware of several parents struggling to pay their children's school fees. If the parents are not able to pay the tuition, then the children are not able to attend school. On average, the tuition cost per student is \$443. US dollars per year.

If you are interested in joining us in giving, please mark "VBS Mission Project" on your tithe envelopes or donate at Adventist Online Giving.

By Kara Gore

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.

Family News

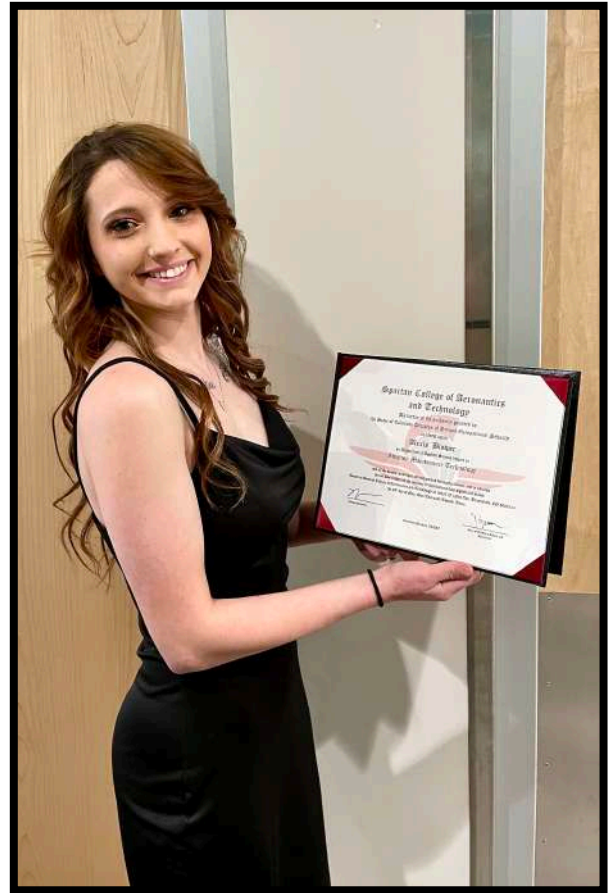
College Graduates

Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology

Alexis Blower graduated on June 24 with her degree in Aviation Maintenance Technology.

Great-grandmother, Nancy Blower, bursts with pride when she talks about Alexis. Here's a few words from her: "After high school, Alexis got a job as checker at Grocery Outlet in Willits. After a year and a half of checking, off she went to Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology at Denver, CO. She was able to pay her own way through her college program by working at the Denver International Airport, driving a fuel truck and putting gas in the airplanes and later as a dispatcher.

Our little 95-pound, 5' 1" great granddaughter has become independent, happily working at a job in her field of expertise. Fred and I enjoyed an adventure traveling to Denver to attend her graduation. We were thrilled to be part of this exciting family event!" By Fred & Nancy Blower



Lilly Cheneweth is graduating from Southern Adventist University with a B.S. in Biology and a minor in German.

She has loved spending this last year abroad at Friendensau Adventist University. She enjoyed the opportunity to connect with her family roots and meet extended relatives.

She is looking forward to her next adventure of starting Loma Linda University School of Dentistry this August. By Taff & Shelly Cheneweth

College Graduates



Ashlin Olivera graduated from Pacific Union College in June, 2023.

Robert and I have wiped away more than just a few happy tears knowing Ashlin would be graduating from Pacific Union College with her Bachelor's degree in Biology on June 18. Our little girl, no longer little, has given us so much joy in being her parents these past 21 years! Watching her work so hard to achieve success as a student and yet through the tests, long hours of studying, balancing school and relationships, countless hours of driving to be home as much as she could, this young woman grew closer to her Lord and Savior. We couldn't be prouder!

Ashlin has always appreciated the world her Creator has made and she can often be found out in nature, learning more all the time. She has been especially interested in animals and was in the pre-Vet Program at PUC. She would like to pursue her interests in working with animals and may apply for Vet School at UC Davis in another year.

In the meantime, she is making plans to marry her high school sweetheart and best friend, Rylan Chamberlain. Rylan and Ashlin are products of caring churches and Christian education that have mentored them well throughout their lives. Robert and I feel extremely blessed to see this union take place at the end of the summer and we thank you for your loving support and prayers over the years! We covet your continued prayers as Ashlin and Rylan start their lives together.

By Robert and Wendi Olivera

*Delight yourself also in the
Lord, add He shall give you
the desires of your heart!
Psalm 37:4*

Family News, cont.



Melanie Bushby graduated in December, 2022 with a double Associate Degree in Accounting and Psychology from Mendocino College. She did this while working full-time at AHUV, first as a COVID screener, then she moved up to where she currently works in admitting (Patient Access) in the Emergency Department. She plans to continue her education at Sonoma State towards a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. She has a passion and feels a calling to help others, especially children.
 By Pete and Jeni Bushby

*Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.
 Psalm 37:5*



Pastor Douglas Barahona graduated with an M.Div. Degree from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University in June, 2023. Ukiah family, Natalie and I have truly missed you in the past three years, and we often reminisce on the love received and memories made in Ukiah. At the Seminary, I took a concentration in Chaplaincy, which allowed me to complete one unit of the Clinical Pastoral Education program in the hospital. I also served as the president of the Seminary Hispanic Club for two years and was one of the evangelists that spoke at our Care for Cuba Mission Trip. God has blessed Natalie's marketing business, and she has worked hard at perfecting her craft and serving various non-profit organizations. We now serve in Chico as the Associate Pastor and expect our baby-boy in mid-October! Please keep her health and the health of our baby in your prayers. Thank you for your prayers, cards, calls, and support during our time in Seminary. We love and miss you all and look forward to visiting Ukiah soon!
 By Pastor Douglas Barahona

UJA News

Rock-N-Water Camp:

The 4th grade class had the opportunity to experience Rock-N-Water camp again this year! We had a wonderful time going “back in time” to 1854 with the workers at camp that were dressed and spoke according to what life was like back then. We learned about the California Gold Rush by taking a trek through historic towns and Marshall Gold Discovery State Park. We walked into a gold mine, panned for gold, and made rope the old-fashioned way.

Unfortunately, because of the river levels, we were not able to raft down the river this year, but the camp made up for it by teaching us to make candles. We also spent time swimming in the river.

It’s awesome how much emphasis they put on God and learning about Him in nature throughout the two days. I’ll be looking forward to it again next year.

By Beth Kablanow,
Fourth grade teacher



It Is **Time** to
put the 10th
annual **Glenn
Miller
Memorial Golf
Tournament**,
happening on
Friday,
September 15,
at the top of
your **Priorities!**



Youth Ministries Update --

by Pastor Kablanow

The month of June was a very busy month of youth events. To end the school year and start off the summer, we had a lake day/vespers on June 2 at Lake Mendocino, which nearly twenty youth came out for. Judson Howe and Ryan Veness brought their boats and took the youth out to try water sports and go swimming in the lake. The youth had an amazing time and many of them tried a water sport. We ended the evening off with some food at one of the picnic areas and a short vespers talk encouraging them to pursue good activities during their summer vacation. It turned out to be a great way to start the summer for the youth.

The next event we had was surfing at Stinson Beach on June 9. We had twelve youth join us for that day. Our surfing trips have become a summer staple since the youth love the challenge of trying to conquer the waves. The waves were the best they have been on any of our trips, which made it an exceptionally good day for the group. One of my favorite things about the surfing trips is seeing how encouraging they all are to each other, even in moments of failure. It was truly an amazing day at the beach.

Just a few days later, on June 13, we took 15 youth to Six Flags: Discovery Kingdom. We had one group of adrenaline junkies that wanted to do all the biggest, scariest rides they have. They spent the whole day trying to do them all. The other group did some of the big rides as well, but also did some other rides, like a water ride that simulates rafting down a river. There were eight of us on the raft and we all got SOAKED! The weather was perfect and towards the afternoon, the lines died down. It made for an incredibly fun day for all.

The last event of June was surfing again on June 26. At the time I (Pastor K) am writing this, this last event hasn't taken place, but I'm sure it was an amazing day. :) This concludes the youth events for the summer, as July has VBS and camp meeting taking up most of the month, and in August, we have Summer on the Run and the Hawaii Mission Trip. It was a short summer for youth events, but we made the most of it and the youth made some great memories. Thanks for all the support!

From the Editors

It is with deep gratitude that we wish to express our appreciation to those who are willing to submit articles, reports and announcements for the church newsletter.

By your faithfulness, you make The Heart of the Matter what it is—a venue for sharing pertinent and inspiring information.

It also serves to keep the church and school families connected. So, thank you from our hearts to yours!

D & D



SUMMER ON THE RUN 2023
This Summer in Ukiah!
JULY 31-AUGUST 4, 2023 / 8:30AM-3:45PM (3:00PM ON FRIDAY)
UKIAH JUNIOR ACADEMY - 180 STIPP LANE
AGES 7-13

FREE

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!

- camp council · small groups ·
- big group games · lunch ·
- crafts · giant water slide ·
- 30ft climbing wall ·
- 9-square-in-the-air ·
- gaga ball · and much more!

Scan here for Registration & Information

© nccsdayouth.com/summerontherun
summerontherunNCCyouth
@summer_on_the_run

Summer on the Run is an amazing, fun, and FREE traveling summer camp hosted by the Northern California Conference. We are so excited that they have chosen Ukiah as one of their locations for this year. Please share and invite any children between ages 7-13 that you know to join for a week of fun learning about Jesus.

Help is needed with preparing meals for the attendees and staff. If you would like to assist with meal preparation or serving, please call or text Kara Gore at 909-824-4468 for more details.

All questions related to this program can be directed to either of our pastors, the church office, or Kara Gore.

Kindergarten Field Trip



As the kindergarten teacher, it can sometimes be challenging to find suitable field trips that are fun, engaging, educational, and age appropriate. So, the reader may be surprised to hear that a birdwatching trip was just that. I took my 14 boys (yes, I said “14 boys”!) and 2 girls up to Dave and Donna Faye Anderson’s home. There, they welcomed my boisterous group and shared their large windows that face the backyard for some fun and active birdwatching. The kids have been learning about many of our local birds and the Anderson home has been a delightful retreat to many of those birds. With various types of feeders, the Andersons are blessed to entertain a nice variety of our feathered friends. Therefore, with binoculars in hand, each of my students were able to spy several types of birds as they flittered, hopped, climbed, buzzed, swooped, soared, and flew about in all manners. Being able to keep the kids easily enclosed in the home yet so accessible to seeing the many birds, made our birdwatching excursion with our big group very enjoyable.

While the birds were our main focus for our trip up to the Anderson home, it was not all we were able to do. Having visited and lived in many places around our world, the Andersons have collected some very fun and unique little treasures. Well, not all were “little”. My students were delighted to see up close a very large ostrich egg, which none of them had ever seen before. They were also blown away by the huge python snake skin that was literally rolled out for them and they all held at the same time as it stretched far across the room! Of course, I cannot forget to share about the curious instrument that Mr. Anderson played for the children and they tried for themselves, called a marimba. Such a lovely sound it made. The kids loved seeing so many new things and the parents who were able to chaperone were also getting into the fun of everything.

Before we left, the kids were each given, by the Andersons, a wonderful baggie full of many of nature’s goodies, such as cool feathers and shells. We were so thankful that God blessed us with the Andersons, as they lovingly opened their home to share with my little students some of the wonders of God’s creation.

After we left our mountain-home field trip, we headed down the hill to the Material Waste Facility next to the dump. Knowing about some of the beauty God has made for us, we also want to learn how we can do our part to keep that beauty around. The facility tour guide was generous in his willingness to show us what happens after we place recycling items in a recycle bin. We saw huge stacks of various recycling materials that were bailed together super tight. There were belts that people stood at as material moved along and they picked out what they needed by hand. We also saw mountains of compost that they have made and the public can purchase for only \$5 a yard! The smells were not always so pleasant, but the kids were quickly learning just how important it was to recycle and to do it properly.

Seeing that actual people had to handle the materials, reminded me and my chaperones in particular, that tossing in dirty or contaminated recycling or even garbage into a recycling bin really is a “dirty” thing to do.

Our two-part, big field trip day was fun, slightly stinky, but a great success! A big “thank you!” to our hosts at both locations for helping us to see how wonderful God is and how we can help to appreciate what He has given us.

By Wendi Olivera

Another Great Year at UJA!

It's summer now and things are quiet on campus. Summer projects have started and plans are being made for the start of a new school year. This has been a year of growth, much joy, and a fullness of God's Spirit on campus.

The school year began with 92 students and as the year progressed, enrollment grew to 103. Nearly all of our new students came from our local community. I take the time to visit with each family before they enroll. One of the questions I always ask is how they heard about UJA. In nearly every conversation I have had with new families, the answer is that they learned of us from a friend or acquaintance whose child is a UJA student. Families seem to be looking for a safe place for their children to grow in character, as well as in wisdom and knowledge.

Our last day of school celebration began on Friday, June 2, with a special chapel service. Mr. Oliver invited any of the students who wanted to help lead songs to join him up front. To my surprise and joy, nearly all of the students came to the front and sang praise songs while the teachers watched in awe. Mrs. Nelson had tears in her eyes as she watched our students sing praises to God with enthusiasm. We ended chapel with our quarterly awards ceremony where we present certificates to students with outstanding attendance and academic performance. We end the ceremony with what I consider one of the most important certificates of recognition. We call it the "Code 1 Award." UJA has established a Code of Conduct that is posted in each classroom and all around campus. The first code states, "We will treat each other with Love, Respect, Dignity and Grace." At the end of each grading period, every teacher selects one student from their class who best exemplified the first code of conduct for that quarter. We consider this to be a very special award that emphasizes our commitment to love and grace at UJA.

The day continued with fun games that included a student vs. faculty basketball game, tug of war and water fights. Parents were invited to spend the morning with us and enjoy pizza, watermelon, smoothies (thank you Ryan V!), shave ice and a strong sense of community. I had one parent tell me, that after spending some time recently in our local public schools, he really notices a difference in the culture and spirit he feels at UJA, a difference that he really likes! (This is one parent that I know has referred another family to us.)

This growth has moved us to expand our teaching staff for next year by adding Nathan Moravetz as our grades 7-8 homeroom teacher. Enrollment is looking like it will land somewhere between 115-120 next year. This creates its own set of challenges, like purchasing more desks, chairs and books to accommodate the increase. Two of our classrooms are filled to capacity and another one is getting close. We look forward to meeting the challenges that come with the increase in enrollment as we strive to create a place where every child can grow through Grace in the wisdom and knowledge of God and man.

I want to express my gratitude to our church members who so faithfully support the unique ministry we have in the community. We are providing a service that they so desperately want, and at the same time, we have the wonderful opportunity to share the good news about God to so many children and their families. It truly is an honor to serve here and be a part of this ministry.

God bless. Rick Nelson, UJA Principal