

“The of the Matter”

A Monthly Source of Information for the Church

“Shine, Shine, Shine for Jesus Every Day!”

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

The Andersons recently opened an email and were delighted to see the happy faces of the Kims smiling at them.

We want to thank our church family for all your prayers and messages of encouragement. We have been tremendously blessed and uplifted by you, and we sincerely appreciate it. We wanted to give an update on how things are going here at Kendu Adventist Hospital.

Justin has been busy overseeing the rehabilitation department of the hospital, as well as treating patients in both the inpatient and outpatient settings. In addition to this, he is project manager for the new retail pharmacy, and oversees the lunch program at the Nyaburi school for disabled children.

The girls and I have been busy at home doing various responsibilities, such as learning how to sort beans and grains, scrub our laundry, maintain a garden, cook and make lots of mud pies.

Since I used to write the nature lesson for the newsletter prior to moving to Kenya, I just couldn't resist tying one in to summarize our experience of sharing Jesus here in Kenya. Fireflies have “light” organs found under their abdomens. The oxygen they take in combines with a chemical, luciferin, in their abdomen. This produces an intermittent light that flashes in a unique pattern. This blinking of light helps them to find a mate.

Our time in Kenya is like a firefly, because we are using what God has blessed us with to shine for Him where He has placed us. Although we wish we were converting thousands by the day, we pray that God will multiply our efforts. Our light may not be the brightest, our impact may not be the greatest, but day by day, we pray we are shining for Him in our own unique ways. In this corner of the world, we are trying to faithfully shine to attract others to their mate, Jesus. They have a saying in Kenya that they teach the children in Sabbath School that says, “Shine, shine, shine for Jesus every day.” This has become a motto for the Kimdom household.

Our children have been the greatest examples of how to truly shine for Jesus. They have been doing this through sharing their devotions with their friends, picking up trash, making cards and other treats for people, singing scripture songs to the children in the disability school and pediatric ward of the hospital, helping to clean the disability school dorms by mopping up the floor of a building that was flooded, and handing out water to the workers around campus.

These are small things, but they have been faithful with what God has given them. God might not be calling everyone to be an overseas missionary. In fact, if we all were, there would be no one to minister to your current neighbor, your coworker, your friend, the cashier at the grocery store, or the family member you have been praying for for years. God asks us to shine for Him wherever He has placed us through our daily interactions with people in what we say and do. We all know someone that needs encouragement—a hug, a kind response, and so on. I want to challenge us all to “shine, shine, shine for Jesus every day.” Together, with you in your corner and us in ours, we can faithfully draw people to Jesus and light up the world.

Hello from Kenya to our Ukiah Family!!! The Kims, left to right: Tessa, Justin, Elena, Shari, and Stella.



Church News

VBS Recap by Kara Gore

We had the most wonderful week of Vacation Bible School, learning about Jesus through the story of Daniel in Babylon! Each day approximately fifty children attended the program and we loved seeing their energy during crafts, songs, stories and games. It was a privilege spending time with them for the whole week.

We were very touched by the children's as well as your generosity in raising money for student tuition at the Ruby Kraft School in Kenya. Our total amount raised was **\$4,640!** Praise God and what a blessing! It will cover over ten children's education, boarding, and other needs for an entire year! Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for your contributions to this wonderful VBS mission project. We have been encouraged by your love for others, incredible service, and tremendous support through this mission fund.

VBS would not have been possible without the help of so many people, whether through financial support, setup and take down, or volunteering during the week. Everyone enthusiastically chipped in and we could not have asked for a better team. Our youth assisted with both the setup and take down, as well as being fantastically involved leaders. We were very grateful for all the hard work they put in, as a significant part of the team.

Thank you, church family, for supporting this children's ministry. We pray this VBS program—the songs, stories, and verses will stay a strong memory in the children's minds and that they will remember to lean on Jesus, finding their courage in Him, like Daniel did, throughout their lives.



Church News, cont,

OUR VISION STATEMENT

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

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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

Sabbath Morning Prayer Time

You are invited to join the Sabbath morning prayer group. Every Sabbath at 9:00am, we meet in the chapel for one task: to invite the Holy Spirit to be present on that day in our hearts and in our church. Please join us!
Submitted by Elder Mike Wilson

“The Holy Spirit. . . is a blessing that brings all other blessings in its train.”
Quoted from *In Heavenly Places*.

The Kims continued from page 1:
If you are interested, you can check out our journey here at Kendu Adventist Hospital on our website at <https://kimdomstories.com/>. We post our You Tube video blogs on our website, as well as Instagram posts (@kimdomstories).

Camp Waianae Mission Trip

Please keep the group who are going to Camp Waianae in your prayers during the week of August 6-13. They are going to put their energies into projects that Camp Manager, Randy Maddox, has planned for them. Along with their focused work, no doubt, there will be some time for surfing, hiking, and enjoying the beauty of Oahu too. They will bring home great experiences and memories to share. Look forward to an exciting recap

Outdoor Church, September 23

On the first day of autumn, plan to enjoy serenity and God’s creation at **Mill Creek Park** for Outdoor Church.

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

For information or to make donations, you can go to their website at www.farmstew.org.



Church News, cont.

NCC Pathfinder Mission trip to Dominican Republic. by Beth Garibaldi

Mission trips are the best! It's not just about travel to exotic locations. The experience is always eye-opening. Americans, even those of us who grew up without a lot of financial resources, have no idea what life is like in third-world countries. Streets are more often dirt than paved. Garbage service is often unavailable. And if you've never poured a bucket of water in the toilet bowl to flush it, you really don't understand. On one of my first trips, a small boy stole my roll of camping toilet paper out of my purse. Then he and his friends came running back to ask what it was. Even after my explanation of "papel de banyo," paper of the toilet, the kids were still mystified. Apparently, they had never seen toilet paper, much less had the opportunity to use it. I have a new sense of gratitude for the wonderful country I'm privileged to call home.

Another huge benefit of these trips is the friendships that are formed. When you live with a group of people for ten days or so, you become acquainted on a much deeper level. Then there are the people you come to help. I'll never forget Fridah, a teacher at an orphanage in Kenya. Here she was, teaching in a room with bare concrete walls, almost no textbooks, and a few pieces of chalk she had to guard, yet joyfully talking about her love for Jesus. On the most recent trip to the Dominican Republic last March, it was Yenny (pronounced Jenny) who welcomed us all with open arms and sent us home with gifts.

Many groups sponsor mission trips around the world, but the ones I have participated in are led by the Youth Department of the Northern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Every two to three years youth and teen Pathfinders are invited to go on one of these trips. Younger children are allowed if their parents are going. Destinations have ranged from Ecuador to Roatan to Kenya to Arizona. This March the group made a repeat journey to the Dominican Republic. We were scheduled to go to Peru, but political unrest made that seem unwise.



Photo top, Beth's friend Fridah; Above, Beth posing with the cooks and other volunteers; Bottom left, VBS team acting out a Bible Story.



Photos above top, Vacation Bible School under a tarp on the street. Above middle, Three Eyes National Park. Above bottom, Columbus's purported burial place. Right, Touring Three Eyes National Park

NCC Pathfinder Mission trip, cont,

The mission trip typically includes a construction project under Maranatha's leadership, medical clinics, and Vacation Bible Schools for the children in the area. This year was no exception. The big project was building a bigger church for the congregation of Urena #4. This church had begun as a home church in the home of one member. They had outgrown the living room and built a ten by twenty foot chapel with a couple small classrooms and a bathroom in the back. That quickly became too small, so the group met outside in the street under a tarp. Our job was to lay the block walls for a much larger church on the foundation already laid by Maranatha. We held a Vacation Bible School just around the corner at the old church. The first day brought forty kids, the next 85, and grew to about 100. We met in the street under the orange tarp until it tore. Then a kind neighbor invited us to use her patio. It was pretty chaotic, with kids coming and going at will, and motorcycles driving through to get to the eye clinic. Only the older students spoke English, so we sang mostly in Spanish and had a couple of our kids translate the Bible plays into Spanish for the attendees.

Sabbath fell in the middle of our trip, so the church wasn't done yet, but white plastic chairs were hauled in and we worshiped together anyway. The service was full with the local congregation, conference officials, and our mission trip group. On Sabbath afternoon we went to a local park, The Three Eyes, for a wonderful walk. The "eyes" are cenotes, mostly-underground lakes formed in limestone caves. We also enjoyed evening trips to the beach, a day of snorkeling on Catalina Island, and a day in old town Santo Domingo, including a tour of Columbus's son's house and a visit to the lighthouse that is supposed to hold at least some of Christopher Columbus's remains.

If you have the opportunity to go on a mission trip, I highly recommend it. God

will richly bless. And until then, you might consider sponsoring others who want to go. Please remember our own Ukiah Pathfinders with your support and prayers as we head to Camp Waianae for our own mission project this month.



Family News

Let's Get Acquainted!

An Interview with Yohana and Sandria Tuguta

We are so delighted to welcome Yohana and Sandria Tuguta to our church family. They have come all the way from Florida to share His love with our community. They are ministering to our families by their melodic voices in song and the spoken Word. Yohana is serving as chief financial officer overseeing four Adventist Health facilities—in Ukiah Valley, Willits, Fort Bragg, and Clear Lake. Sandria is a registered nurse caring for patients at both Adventist Health Ukiah and Sutter Lakeside in Lakeport.

Yohana and Sandria, tell us a little about yourselves.

Sandria and I attended La Sierra University in 2005. I saw her on campus briefly before she disappeared. We met again two or three years later at a Thanksgiving event in Orlando, where Florida Hospital, now Adventist Health Orlando, was hosting the event for the community. Like fate, I sat next to her, not initially recognizing her. But when she turned to look at me, our eyes locked; and I gazed into a beautiful vision of the future. As the saying goes— “the rest is history.”

Where is the most interesting place you have lived or visited?

God has blessed us to see many parts of the world together. One of the most interesting places we have visited so far is Mexico. What made this trip special was spending time in Chichen Itza learning about the Maya people, but also sharing this with our friends who were traveling with us.

If you could learn a new skill, what would it be?

Sandria has always been fascinated with truck driving. She says if she could, she would want to drive an 18-wheeler truck. For me, I would love to conduct an orchestra. I learn many life lessons watching a conductor aligning different experts to work together to create a masterpiece with perfect timing that everyone can enjoy. While each individual musician can play well by themselves, without the conductor, the whole performance could become a disaster.

Tell us something that is on your “bucket list”.

Sandria would love to visit the Great Wall of China, and I would love to share that experience with her one day.

What is your favorite Bible verse, and why?

My favorite Bible verse is Psalm 34:4. “I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.” This was the first verse that I memorized as a child and it has become even more meaningful with time. Sandria’s favorite Bible verse is Proverbs 3:5, 6. “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

We look forward to reading the devotional in the September Heart of the Matter where Yohana will be talking about the magnitude of Christ’s love.



Family News, cont.

God's Miraculous Guidance

Luz Torres had been searching for months and praying that God would help her find the right location for a food shop. One morning at her home in Santa Rosa, she awakened to a distinct Voice impressing her to take a drive to Ukiah. Without question, she followed the divine prompting. Arriving in Ukiah, she was directed to a For Sale sign at 1093 S. Dora Street. Stopping to write down the contact information, she really liked what she saw from the curb and could hardly wait to investigate the building's interior. She called the number and soon the realtor arrived to show her around. Once inside, she could easily envision herself using this location as a gathering place to serve nutrition-infused food items. She moved forward with all the details of purchasing the property and three months later, she was ready to place an OPEN sign in the window.

Luz is praising God for directing her to this place and helping her to establish her business, **POWER HOUSE NUTRITION**. It is her desire to be a witness of the goodness and power of God as she focuses on wellness, not only for the body, but also for the mind.

Give yourself a pleasant interlude and stop by for a delightful visit to Luz's charming cottage. As soon as you step inside, she will greet you with a friendly smile and prepare for you a delicious, energy-boosting shake, a power-packed fruit bowl or waffle. You'll enjoy the relaxed, homey ambience and her waffles are the very best!

She and her husband, Mike, are now trusting in God's faithfulness to direct them to a home in Ukiah. Eagerly anticipate an opportunity soon to meet them and welcome them to our church and community.

By Donna Faye Anderson
Photos by David Anderson



UJA News

Important UJA Dates for August

Monday to Thursday, August 7-10: All teachers will be attending the NAD Education Convention in Phoenix, AZ.

Monday, August 14, at 6:30 pm: Back to School Parent Orientation— Meet on the upper grassy plaza; light refreshments will be available; parents will have an opportunity to visit the classrooms.

Wednesday, August 16, 8:00 am - 3:00 pm: First Day of School



THE MOST SIGNIFICANT EVENT BENEFITTING UJA IN SEPTEMBER IS:

The Glenn Miller Memorial Golf Tournament

The date for the tenth annual Glenn Miller Memorial Golf Tournament is **Friday, September 15, 2023**. This takes place at the Ukiah Valley Golf Course with registration beginning at 7:00 a.m. and a shotgun start at 8:00 a.m. There will be teams at all 18 holes and they will play until 1:00 p.m. followed by an awards ceremony and a lunch put on by the Savings Bank of Mendocino County. This is in memory of Dr. Glenn Miller, who helped many students attend Ukiah Junior Academy from his personal funds. One hundred percent of the money that comes from this fundraiser goes to help families who want their children to attend Ukiah Junior Academy, but cannot afford the tuition. **Please prayerfully consider how you would like to support this major event.**

Steve Miller, the son of the late Dr. Glenn Miller, works on this tournament year round. He visits businesses and people throughout the community, many of whom knew his Dad. Also, because of his ambassadorial commitment, he acquaints new people every year with UJA and this fundraiser who would not otherwise know about the school. When you see him, be sure to thank him for his passion and commitment.

UJA News, cont.

VEGGIE FOOD STORE

Cheryl Witzel has a question for you: Did you know our little store has the largest variety of canned and frozen vegan and vegetarian foods in town?

Products on sale:

All deli slices, \$1.00 off a box (Chicken, turkey, smoked turkey, corned beef, and ham)

Companion, mock duck, \$.50 off a can

Newer frozen products from Gardein: Vegan Orange Chicken, Teriyaki Chicken Strips, Seven-grain Chicken Tenders, and Meatballs.

If you liked Nuteena, you'll like Nutolene. To me and many others, it tastes the most like Nuteena. Why don't you come in and try a can?

We also have Chef Bonneau gravy mixes: White, Brown, Chicken and Turkey.

As some of you know, we have been out of Big Franks, but we now have a good supply.

Feel free to call me, if you have any questions or need to come to the store on a different day or time. 707-972-4927



Western Fence Lizard

A Lesson From God's Creation

by Dan Kuntz

The **western fence lizard**, also known as a blue belly (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), is a popular reptile at Ukiah Junior Academy and in our area of California. Children love to capture these docile reptiles, handle them, and pass them around before returning the blue belly to where it was initially captured.

The western fence lizards are brown to black in color (the brown may be sandy or greenish) and have black stripes on their backs, but their most distinguishing characteristic is their bright blue bellies. The ventral, or undersides, of the limbs are yellow. The male blue-belly lizards also have blue patches on their throats.

The western fence lizard occupies a variety of habitats. It is found in grassland, broken chaparral, sagebrush, woodland, coniferous forest, and farmland. They generally avoid the harsh desert and are often found near water.

These lizards are diurnal, active during the day, and are commonly seen basking on paths, rocks, fence posts, and other suitable sunny locations. The western fence lizard primarily eats small invertebrates, insects, and smaller lizards but may consume any appropriately sized prey item.

Scientists aren't sure why but field studies have shown that ticks that live in an area with a high population of fence lizards have a reduced occurrence of Lyme Disease. This fantastic fact should be a reason to make your yard a welcoming place for fence lizards.

God has created a vast array of creatures that live alongside us. Many individuals feel a strong sense of enmity towards reptiles. We learned that with Allison's milk snake on Education Sabbath. Snakes help reduce the pesky rodent population, and now we know that our common western fence lizard minimizes the chance that ticks carry Lyme disease. Let us all take a moment and appreciate God's creation, even the reptiles.

“On the Trail of the Pioneers”

Who Began the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Northern California?

Northern California boasts a fascinating history of Seventh-day Adventism. Over the next several months, we'll be learning some of these interesting details.

Petaluma

In May 1868, during the sixth General Conference session of Seventh-day Adventists held in Battle Creek, Michigan, Merritt G. Kellogg shared with the other attendees that he and his family had been in California for nine years, meeting every Sabbath with a group in the St. John home. When Elder James White asked if there was someone who felt impressed to go to California, Elder J. N. Loughborough and Elder D. T. Bourdeau, responded positively to the challenge of growing the Seventh-day Adventist work in this far-away mission field. An appeal was made and \$1,000.00 was raised for traveling expenses of the missionaries and to purchase a meeting tent.

On a Sabbath morning, July 18, 1868, Elders Loughborough and Bourdeau and their families arrived by ship in San Francisco. They hurried to the St. John's home on Minna Street where they found a small group having Sabbath School.

These two men were hoping to set up their big tent to present an evangelistic meeting in San Francisco, but they could not find a suitable lot that they could afford. God knew where it was best to start evangelistic meetings, and He led them, as in olden days, by giving Mr. Wolf a dream in Petaluma. He was a member of an independent church who was praying and searching for truth. In his dream, Mr. Wolf saw two evangelists starting fires, which were opposed by ministers in the city, but they could not be put out. He was instructed to help these evangelists.

Several weeks prior to the arrival of Loughborough and Bourdeau, a New York newspaper reached California announcing that two evangelists were coming to California to hold meetings in a large tent. The independent church members asked Mr. Hough, who had property he was willing to use for a tent meeting, to go to San Francisco to find these evangelists. Accepting this gracious invitation, Loughborough and Bourdeau went with Mr. Hough to Petaluma and they liked the location. They also met Mr. Wolf who told his fellow believers that these were the very men he had seen in his dream.

The big tent was brought up the Petaluma River by boat and pitched on Mr. Hough's lot, now 626 C Street, just six blocks west of the harbor, a very strategic location. God surely led them to this spot to begin His work in the West.

The meetings began on August 13, 1868, with forty in attendance, but it quickly increased to 400. When the elders made their call for people to come forward if they had decided to accept Jesus as their Savior and join the Seventh-day Adventist movement, three of the six people who came forward were Thomas Matthews Chapman with his wife, Mary Sophronia, and his mother-in-law, Anna Jewell Colby. A Bible class was organized and by October 18, twenty people were keeping the Sabbath. The location of the building first occupied is unknown, but the first Seventh-day Adventist church built in Petaluma was erected on the corner of Post and Douglas Streets. Thomas Matthews Chapman was the great-grandfather of Arthur Eugene Anderson, the trailblazing evangelist to Tedim in the Chin Hills of Burma, from 1953-1955.

The Chapmans had a 400-acre ranch three miles southeast of town, which is still occupied today. The Chapman home became a stopping place for Elder James and Ellen G. White and many others when they would leave their teams to take the steamboats to San Francisco or Oakland. This family were workers in the great Advent movement and many more continue the work. Many of the Chapman family are buried in the Cypress Hill Memorial Park on Magnolia Avenue in Petaluma

by Donna Faye Anderson