

# “The of the Matter”

A Monthly Source of Information for the Church

## A Grateful Heart

**“Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”** **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

No matter what our season of life, we always have something to thank God for. Being grateful is a powerful way to worship our faithful God. Giving thanks redirects our attention to Him, and away from ourselves.

Here are some Psalm praises that gives us a glowing picture of how a grateful heart responds to God: **“I give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify Your name forever.” Psalm 86:12.** We should not hold anything back when we are thanking God, but praise Him with all our hearts. By this, we are letting others know that He is the source of who we are, and all that we have. We show them that we have made an intentional decision to surrender all to God. His power and strength lifts us up when we give thanks with our whole hearts.

**“Praise the Lord! Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever.” Psalm 106:7.** Our gratitude to God is motivated by love: God’s steadfast love for us, and our love returned to Him. Giving thanks to God should not be used as a motive to get what we want, but rather to reaffirm God’s goodness and love. It never wavers or diminishes based on our circumstances, attitudes, or tendency to stray. His goodness to us is unconditional and everlasting.

**“I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify Him with thanksgiving.” Psalm 69:30.** Singing songs of praise to God honors and glorifies our awesome God. There’s no need to be a professional singer; simply have a genuine, heartfelt desire to worship Him. It needs to extend beyond church walls. Giving thanks to God should be woven in every aspect of our lives. It’s even more than singing; it is focusing on what we are grateful for. A great idea is to write them down.

**“In God we have boasted continually, and we will give thanks to Your name forever.” Psalm 44:8.** Giving thanks to God is not a one-time event, but a continual act of worship. Our daily challenges should not determine our praise, but our obedience and love for God should motivate our thankful heart. Continuously giving thanks to God powerfully reignites our total dependence on God. During seasons of joy or grief, we should give thanks to Him. As we praise God, our relationship with Him deepens, and He listens to us with gladness.

**“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.” Psalm 100:4.** When giving thanks and praise to God, we should come to Him with a hopeful expectation. Move forward in faith praising Him for who He is. He is our God, the One who has made us, and we are His people. It should be a time for us to expect to be filled with God’s love and renewed with the Holy Spirit.

There is redemptive power in having a grateful heart. It fills us up when we are weak, and keeps us humble. May this Thanksgiving season be a time for you to become renewed and excited about giving thanks to God. Despite what season of life you may be in, may these Psalms encourage you that you are not alone. May your testimony of praise and thanksgiving carry you through seasons of tribulation and triumph. Being grateful will not only strengthen you; it will also inspire and uplift someone else.

By Donna Faye Anderson

# Church News

## Pathfinder Camporee at Leoni Meadows October 3-6.

By Kellie Corbett

Thursday, October 3, found a caravan of vehicles making its way to Leoni Meadows Camp near Grizzly Flats, CA. Inside the vehicles was a jumbled array of Pathfinders, Pathfinder leaders and parents. A total of 16 pathfinders and 8 adults from the Ukiah Timberwolves would eventually join 700 other Pathfinders for the weekend camporee. This was the first camporee for the club under the new and able leadership of Pastor Eric Kablanow and Dr. Becky Kuntz.

While it is unusual to have a conference camporee on the heels of the international camporee in Gillette this past August, the Northern California Conference decided to do it this year as there are several new clubs and new Pathfinders who were not able to participate in the Gillette camporee. The turn out was excellent, and a testament to the good idea of having the conference wide camporee this year.

The camporee site was rustic. Plenty of space for tents, but dry camping. There were shower huts and port-a-potties. Water had to be carried to camp from centrally located spigots, but several Pathfinders found this to be an enjoyable job to do. There was no electricity. Minimal patchy cell service was a blessing, allowing everyone to fully engage in the activities without distractions.

The group arrived Thursday evening and was able to set up camp before dark. The main activities started Friday with community service time that consisted of clearing the campsite and surrounding fields as well as the train tracks of fallen branches for part of the group. Another part of the group headed to the barn to help clean and organize it. After lunch, there were honor activities to attend. Most of the group attended Camp Craft and Camping honors taught by our own Mrs. Beth Garibaldi (Mrs. G).

Friday evening the group headed to the meeting area, and enjoyed singing and a thoughtful talk by Pastor Little where stories and illustrations were given to help encourage everyone to learn to love others better. After the meeting it was time for s'mores and Rachel Williams won the approval of Pastor K for being the first camper to roast the perfect marshmallow.

Sabbath morning found everyone dressed in their uniforms ready for inspection by the area coordinator, Mrs. G. She managed to find some dirt and grass hidden under sleeping mats, but overall, was pleased with the tidiness of the club. After inspection all clubs participated in a Pathfinder parade. The Pathfinders looked very smart as they marched to the arena and then around it, but the dry dusty conditions left many shoes appearing more brown than black. After the parade it was back to the meeting area for church and another message from Pastor Little. The afternoon was full of more Pathfinder honor activities: including the shell honor, the insect honor and animal tracking.

Sabbath evening, after vespers and a last message from Pastor Little, the teens headed to the barn for a teens-only event. It was rumored that they had a great time. The rest of the club headed back to camp for s'mores and hot chocolate.

Sunday morning everyone packed up and drove home, hopefully, leaving the campsite better than they found it. Everyone had a good time, bringing home a little dirt and a lot of fun memories.

Left to right: 1. Our club at meeting time. 2. Pathfinder Parade. 3. Track cleaning. Photos by Kellie Corbett



# Church News, cont.

## Adventurer Club

By Jodi Clay

The Ukiah Adventurer Club has had a couple very exciting and fun filled meetings already this year. The kids have enjoyed the activities their teachers have planned for them, while learning more about Jesus and His love for them.

Perhaps my favorite event of the year so far, was the special induction service we held on October 18. This special Friday evening service was to welcome our Adventurers into the club and inspire them to shine their light for Jesus, as they strive to live by the Adventurer Pledge and Law.

Each Adventurer received their burgundy Adventurer scarves, a special Adventurer pin for their sash, and held a candle to represent their light in the world.

At the end of the service, we invited the parents of each Adventurer to stand behind them on stage while Beth Garibaldi had a prayer of dedication.

Afterwards, we all shared a meal together and enjoyed fellowship and community. It was an incredibly special time and we can't wait to see what else this year has in store!



Photos taken of the Adventurer's Club Induction. They are all looking for more fun experiences in their club.



## Church News, cont.

### Christian Help Bands Medical Ministry

Just a short report on what is happening with the Help Bands. A few weeks ago, Andrew Tremper was contacted regarding a man who is in need of ongoing help. He lives in the apartments next to the church and is quite acquainted with us, having sent his boys to our school. He was the pastor of one of the protestant churches in this area until he became disabled a few years ago. His name is Scott and he has diabetes and serious problems with his feet, needing dressings to be changed daily. I believe he has a caregiver that is doing that for him at this time. He has use of just one hand and is in a wheelchair, so cannot do any cleaning or repairs on his apartment. He is on the top floor, so is unable to get outside at all or go anywhere. People are working on trying to get him an apartment somewhere on the ground floor, so he can get out.

A group of us went over to assess his needs and took care of a few things he needed immediately. A couple of our members went back last week and put in a new thermostat. They plan to go back soon and fix a couple holes in the walls as well as cleaning his apartment, including refrigerator and oven. They need a couple ladies to help them with the cleaning. If you are interested in helping, please call Jeanine at 509-723-3289 and we can set up a time. With three ladies, we should be able to get it done in a couple hours.

His ongoing needs are friendship (since he is stuck in his apartment), repairs as needed and probably cleaning every other week or so. There may be other things as they come up, but having handymen available and some ladies who can share cleaning responsibilities would be very helpful.

God be with us all as we continue to show the love of God to others. By Jeanine Kablanow

The **Thanksgiving Celebration** program is November 2 with orchestra and adult and youth choirs.

The Cantata: **“The Glory of Christmas—Joy and Peace on Earth”** is December 15.

### Children’s Change Jars for ADRA

Your compassion and generosity provide benefits for children that you might not realize:

- Your help advances their education. Malnourished children have deficits in brain development that make it harder for them to learn. Getting enough to eat helps children succeed in their studies, which is their best hope for escaping from the cycle of poverty.
- You help them survive disease. Even mild malnutrition makes children twice as likely to die from respiratory diseases, malaria, or diarrhea. By feeding children, you give them the strength to survive and prevent the spread of infections.
- You help them grow up all the way. Stunted growth is the most obvious sign that children are not getting enough to eat. Your gift to ADRA helps kids grow up to be as big and strong as other children.

Please collect your coins, bills, or checks for this very special project. We will be collecting on three Sabbaths: December 21 and December 28, 2024, and January 4, 2025.

Thank you for your generous support,  
Steve Miller and his youthful  
partner, Ethan Howe

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](mailto:davendonaa@icloud.com).

## Church News, cont.

### **All About Jesus Seminar**

Here's an exciting revival opportunity to plan for in the first month of 2025, presented by Gary and Marilyn Venden.

**The dates are Friday evening, January 17 through Sabbath afternoon, January 25.**

There will be a presentation each evening, except for Sabbaths, when there will be three:

**9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and at 2:00 p.m.,** following a potluck lunch.

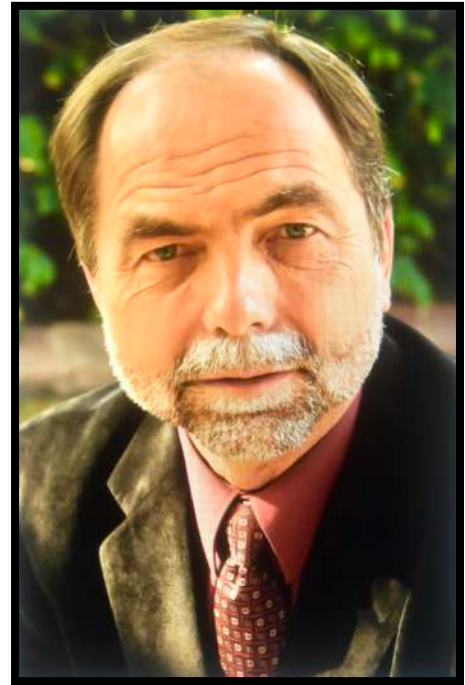
Gary's topics will include: how to develop or deepen a meaningful friendship with Jesus; how to become victorious over sin; how to be a contagious Christian in your service and witnessing; and how to experience the latter-rain power of the Holy Spirit.

Gary and Marilyn have presented the early morning meetings at Redwood camp meeting for the last 20 years. They inspire and revive the campers with their music and solid, Bible-based teaching.

The seminar title goes by the same name as that of Gary's cousin, Lee, who was here with his wife, Marji, a couple years ago. This was a "life-changer" for many people.

We need to invite our non-Adventist friends and family to come to this seminar with us. They will love it and fall in love with Jesus along with us. We should make a noise all through the town that will bring many truth-seeking people.

By Mike Wilson



**Gary Venden** has been in ministry 39+ years, and currently pastors the Glendale church in Phoenix, AZ, where he and his wife, Marilyn, have served since 1997. Gary carries a special passion for the message of "Righteousness by Faith", which he learned from his cousin and mentor, Morris Venden. Daily seeking a deeper personal friendship with Jesus has been the anchor point of his life and ministry. Gary counts it a privilege to join his cousin, Lee Venden, in continuing to proclaim this vital message through the "All About Jesus Revival Seminar."



**Marilyn Venden** spent her early childhood traveling with singing evangelist parents. Sharing Jesus through music is in her DNA. The first memory verse she remembers was when she was about age two—from the story of young Samuel: "Speak Lord, for your servant hears!" She has never doubted that Jesus speaks in a variety of ways that may be personal to each individual. She loves finding ways to remind others of this, and encourages them to spend time daily, at His feet, listening. Marilyn is currently a hospice chaplain, and mentors women in her local church. She has cut back in her hospice work to accompany her husband as he shares the "All About Jesus" seminar in various churches.

## Family News

## Bere Hospital, Chad Africa Mission Trip

By Lisa Schafer

This past August Dad and I left San Francisco airport headed for Chad Africa. We were going to volunteer at Bere Hospital for one month. Before leaving, we were given many donations for the hospital by generous individuals and companies. These supplies were packed into twelve 50 lb totes and one extra heavy one with an autoclave. After several miracles, they finally all made it to the hospital.

While there, I had the opportunity to clean out and repaint the pediatrics building. It was incredibly dark with only one small light bulb hanging from the ceiling. We installed six new light bulbs. I pressure washed everything and then painted the walls and concrete blocks, used as beds. During my time working, I was able to make friends with the mothers, little babies and children. They were so grateful. I would sing hymns in English and they loved to listen. Sometimes I would sit on the sidewalk with them and they would teach me words from their language.

Dad worked on multiple maintenance projects around the campus. There were a lot of plumbing issues that needed to be fixed. He also helped install an air conditioner for Dr. Laurel Guthrie. This will make her living situation more manageable during the hot season. Dad did several surgeries while there. One of his most memorable moments happened when he asked for a scalpel and they put a small blade in his hand. He asked for one with a handle, but they told him the hospital didn't have any handles.

On Sabbath, we would join the local members at church. The little children came bare-footed from the fields all around. They were all very young and outnumbered the adults by far. The children love to sing. It was special to hear them sing some of the same songs we sing in Kindergarten here in Ukiah.

The trip was memorable in so many ways. We are so blessed here at home. Heaven will be a very special place with all of us together praising God!



**Family News, cont.****Mazzanti's Thankfulness Testimony**

By Dorothy Mazzanti

There are “angels” caring for the patients at Adventist Health Ukiah Valley! We were convinced when Dan was in the hospital for COVID last year. Here is the letter I wrote to Dan’s nurse, which went public by the hospital.

October 12, 2023

Adventist Health Ukiah Valley

Dear Kendal,

I wanted to send you a personal note of thanks for the level of care you provided to my husband, Dan. I hope to deliver this letter in person today and express my gratitude before Dan is released.

Last Friday I called out to you in the hall because Dan’s oxygen level had suddenly plummeted and his heart rate and temperature had spiked. He was experiencing rapid panicky breathing and his body was shaking. When you came into the room, you immediately assessed the situation, increased his oxygen supply, pressed a bunch of buttons/switches and made a call that alerted others to come quickly. It seemed that within moments there were 7 people attending him and others in the hallway awaiting their turn. I stood in the corner watching all that was happening. It was such a swirl of deliberate action that my mind was having trouble sorting and making sense of all I was seeing. I was grateful to all the people who do their work so well. Later a doctor was to commend me for being so calm in the face of all that was taking place in those critical moments. This letter to you is so that you might understand exactly what I witnessed and how it was that others might have given me credit for being calm.

You were in the eye of the storm. Everybody was swirling around you and Dan. My eyes were locked upon the two of you and it seemed as if you were both moving in slow motion. You took his hands in yours and got up close in his field of vision. You calmly and quietly told him it was going to be okay and that he needed to take very slow, deep breaths. Long before this moment, you had already spent time with both Dan and me, explaining what is happening in the course of his treatment. We both have an affinity for your particular style of heartfelt care and those earlier conversations had laid a foundation of trust for what I was now witnessing. It almost seemed, by the sheer force of your will, that Dan was kept from panicking. And this made all the difference. You calmed him. You calmed me. And even though his numbers were low, they began to slowly stabilize.

I was determined that he should be transferred to intensive care. And so it was that we were handed off to another set of professionals in another part of the hospital. We were asked if we wanted anything and I said we wanted to bring you with us even though I know that’s not how it works. We could not leave Medical/Surgical room 122 without acknowledging the extraordinary care you provided for us. I believe you were caring for 5 patients on that day. It would not surprise me to learn that others were similarly blessed by your loving care. Believe me when I say we will always be grateful to you and will hold you in our prayers.

Dan has been receiving treatment for lymphoma for ten years, but it was during this hospitalization that multiple myeloma was diagnosed. Otherwise, who knows how long it would have taken for this diagnosis to surface. For those who may ask, “What is multiple myeloma?”, it is a cancer found in the bone marrow, the inner parts of certain bones where new blood cells are made. Plasma cells play an important part of the immune system. Dan was told the two cancers are not related.

Dan’s oncologist explained to us a procedure that could possibly add years to his life—stem cell transplantation—done at UC Davis. It would be a long, complicated process, but we decided to opt for it.

Strict isolation was required in preparation for the stem cell collection and again following the stem-cell transplant. To explain briefly, the preparation began at home with Dan giving himself two morning injections of Zarxio, pronounced Zar-zee-oh, before the stem cell collection began. Once the collection began, he added evening injections of Mozobil.

Dan became an in-patient at UC Davis for the stem-cell collection and subsequent transplant. We were updated each evening on how many stem cells were collected; the goal was between 6 and 10 million. During the transplant process, he received by IV, over a two-day period, eight bags of stem cells one day and four more the next day. He was also monitored frequently with lab work to check his potassium, blood counts and platelet levels, as well as checking that the stem cells were grafting to his bone marrow.

**Family News,** cont**Mazzanti Testimony,** cont.

To make a long story short, Dan coped with the entire procedure very well. He did not experience nausea or any of the other symptoms his transplant team kept asking him about. The best thing his doctor told him was: “Dan, you are boring!”—which was a very good thing as far as the side effects were concerned. His labs will continue to improve, but his immune system will take longer to recover. So Dan is still isolating, but walking the dog three miles every day. We are so thankful for excellent health-care providers and for the constant, loving watch care from our incredible God, the Great Physician.

### Thank You, Jesus!

I praise and thank You, Jesus, for making me.  
 My love, I give to You, as You are the key.  
 I run into Your arms and You hold me close to You.  
 It is Your love that You exceedingly extend to all creation too.  
 Thank You for light, air and the bright blue sky,  
 For the lakes, rivers and trees of every kind.  
 Then the sun, moon and stars that brightly shine,  
 For the birds and fish—then animals, men and women from our Creator wonderful,  
 An exceedingly great and beautiful Gift and blessing to all.  
 For all of creation, You made the seventh day to come and worship You.  
 The mountains and hills break into singing to You,  
 The flowers and grasses dance to You in the gentle breeze many days.  
 All the trees of the field will clap their hands in praise.  
 The fish jump for joy as the birds sweetly sing.  
 Then all the animals meet together in love to worship the King.  
 All the men and women gather together in a choir singing so beautiful,  
 And all creation says: “We love you, our God and great King who is faithful.”  
 Thank You, **Jesus**, for making us; we are even in Your name.  
 That is why You died on the cross in shame.  
 To save us is why You came.

We have been corresponding with Jan Davidson, who is happily residing at the Napa Valley Adventist Retirement Estates. During one of her daily worship times, God inspired her with the words of this poem. She touched our hearts with joy when she shared it with us. So, with her permission, we are sharing her inspiration with all of you. May you be blessed with special greetings from her.

The editors



**Family News, cont.****Thankful Hearts** by Debbie Merritt

This is the time of year when we stop to count our many blessings - with a heart of gratitude. It has been a time of stress and heartache for many and yet we know Jesus walks along beside us, holding us up.

Our year of struggles and miracles actually began on January 12, 2023, Bob's 70th birthday. While reading the amazing memory book that Kristin created for him, he came to the last page which included a sonogram photo telling us we were going to be first time grandparents!!!! The astonishment, joy, and shock were palpable. There may have been tears!

The next month, our daughter-in-law, Kimberly, was awakened in the night with the thought that she was like Hannah in the Bible. Rob and Kim had been married for 12 years and were unable to conceive. She dedicated her baby girl to Jesus, and in the morning asked Rob what he thought of naming her Hannah. He was in full agreement and when thinking of a middle name, both said "JOY" at the same time (you may remember the Mother's Day article on my mom, Joy). So Hannah Joy was named.

Kim had suffered their entire married life with stage 4 endometriosis, endured a number of surgeries, limiting her ability to conceive even more. This was truly a miracle in their lives. Her pregnancy went very well until the last 6 weeks or so when they decided that she would need to be induced. We had been looking for a house to buy or rent where they live in Idaho, and the day before they went to the hospital, God found us a lovely furnished home, just three blocks from their house. We had no idea how miraculous that find would be.

The delivery went smoothly with no medications or aid, but shortly after 2 am, when Hannah, our tiny miracle, was placed on Kim's chest, Kim started bleeding heavily. Hannah went into respiratory distress and they were both rushed away - Hannah to the NICU and Kim to surgery, where she had a major blood transfusion and surgical procedure. When that didn't work, she had another transfusion and was taken to surgery again for an open hysterectomy. She remained unconscious til midnight when they were told she must come out of it to not cause brain damage. Rob pled with the Lord and tried everything to wake her up. Another miracle took place and she awakened.

Hannah revived and Rob spent the week rolling Hannah from the nursery to the ICU every couple of hours for feeding and bonding time. It was a long process but they were able to come home Sabbath evening. We had arrived and settled into our house by this time. Rob had to be available to monitor Kim and give her meds every couple of hours so I was able to be there night and day for Hannah, and Rob and Kristin for Kim. Kim's parents and Bob were also able to help. I was able to stay on for 6 weeks and have been up north almost 2 weeks a month to help. Kim was not able to lift Hannah until she was 9 months old. No bending, reaching, or lifting, making it necessary to have help. Miraculously, Rob works remotely from home so was able to be there for his little family.

There isn't room to tell of the miracle of Kim's mom having a seizure in the middle of her cancer treatments three weeks after Hannah was born, her recovery from 3 lung tumors, and her clean slate as of June 2024. Hannah Joy turned 1 on August 29, and her Great-Grandma Joy was able to be there to meet her and celebrate. GG just turned 92 on October 28. We cannot praise God enough for the many miracles, tiny and huge, he has performed for our family in 2023-2024.

## UJA News

### Fall Festival

The pictures below are from the day of fun at UJA. Photographer: Brynn Stirling

### Glenn Miller Golf Tournament Results

Steve Miller wishes to say, "Thank you," to all those who so generously participated in, and/or contributed to this year's event. We were blessed with tremendous success, raising in excess of \$130,000. (net). This enables us to assist **71 children in 47 families**. It was a priceless opportunity to witness for Ukiah Junior Academy and all the good that it represents.

Plans are already underway for next year's tournament, so mark your calendars for Friday, September 19, 2025!

