

# **“The of the Matter”**

A Monthly Source of Information for the Church

## **Praying For Others**

**“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6, 7**

Recently my wife and I were at the pediatrician's office, taking our one-year old daughter in for a check-up visit. As we were sitting in the waiting room, we struck up a conversation with a couple who were there with their sick grandchild. After a few minutes, the conversation turned to the topic of church and which church we attended. When we mentioned that we attended the Coeur d'Alene Seventh-day Adventist Church, they smiled and told us what a coincidence it was, because the previous week they had been praying specifically for our church.

Each year, their church pastor divides the congregation into small groups and each group prays for a different local church. I thanked them for their prayers and mentioned how grateful I was that a group of people with no connection to our church at all, would take the time to band together and lift us up in prayer. After we left, I thanked God for this divine appointment that we could meet this couple and be personally inspired by their commitment to praying for others.

I've been a member of quite a few Adventist churches over the past 40+ years of life, and I have never been fortunate enough to be a member of a church that prayerfully lifts up the local faith community in such an intentional and meaningful way. My prayer is that our church can be known as a praying church where we cultivate a culture of prayer, relying not on our own will and wisdom, but rather seeking that God's will be done in our church and in our community.

I would like to encourage each of you to expand the boundaries of your current prayer life to include those around you in your local community of believers. Together let's pray that God can use all of us, His followers in many different flocks, to spread the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who have not yet had the opportunity to experience the peace and joy that comes from a personal connection with Him.

By Rob Merritt

## Vacation Bible School, 2025

By Liz Oliver, Beth Garibaldi and Kara Gore

What an incredible week we had at Vacation Bible School! Each morning kicked off with our celebration time led by Beth Garibaldi, where the kids sang songs, learned more about God, and set their hearts on the day's Bible truth. Her joy and enthusiasm set the tone for a week filled with faith and fun! From meeting real animals (yes, even a donkey!) to singing catchy memory verse songs written by our own Dan Oliver, every day was packed with joy, learning, and hands-on adventure.

The kids explored the story of Joseph—how God gave him hope, wisdom, and the ability to forgive. Our design team was made up of Kara Gore, Liz Oliver, Zack Gore, and Aimee Rogers (and more). They made Egypt truly come to life! The kids were transported back in time with a towering pyramid, a flowing Nile River, a marketplace filled with vendors and goods, and immersive decorations that made every corner feel like an ancient adventure. They lassoed 'wild animals', crafted Egyptian treasures, made their own "papyrus," and discovered their own special gifts like kindness and patience.

Throughout the week, we were also treated to delicious, Egyptian-inspired food—including hummus, falafel, and hibiscus tea—lovingly prepared and served by our amazing hospitality team. Their creativity and care helped deepen the immersive experience and kept everyone energized for the fun ahead.

We asked the children (and our church) to raise money for our mission project—supporting the students of the Kimogoro School in Kenya—and your generosity has already made a difference. We've raised nearly \$1,000!

Our daily Bible points reminded us that God gives us hope, special abilities, wisdom, forgiveness, and family.

We wrapped up the week with a beautiful Sabbath celebration where 18 of our VBS kids—10 of whom were from the community—came to share what they learned. The children helped out in music, joyfully singing the memory verse songs with our church family. We also enjoyed a special children's story from "Joseph" himself, played by Benji Oliver. And after the service, we gathered for a delicious potluck meal generously provided by our church family.

We're so thankful for every child and parent who came, and we are especially thankful for all the volunteers who made this week so meaningful. Your energy, faith, and love brought VBS to life!





## VBS in Action





**Alina Daniella Martin graduated with a Master of Divinity degree from Andrews University Seminary in May 2025.**

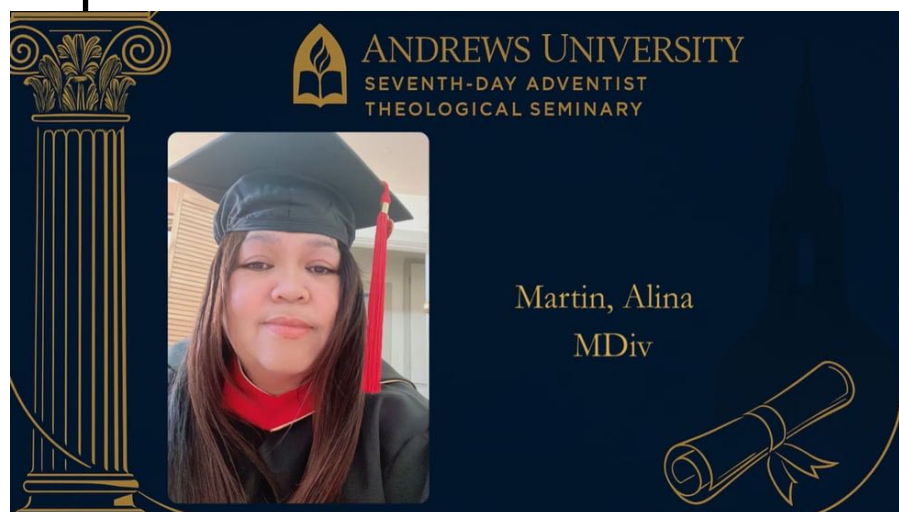
Before moving to the United States, I was an assistant to the President of the Central Madagascar Conference. One day, while listening to the pastors in conversation, I felt a heavenly atmosphere surrounding their discussion. I would like to be part of that environment, I thought to myself.

Five years after moving to Ukiah, on a Friday evening during Sabbath preparation, while praising God in song, I heard His call to train myself for ministry. I prayed earnestly, "If this is truly You, Lord, please help me with my tuition costs." A few months later, I received a letter offering five years of full tuition coverage! Andrews was a life-changing journey. My favorite courses were Greek, Hebrew, and Old Testament Exegesis.

In June 2024, I founded an orphanage caring for 37 children and planted a church in Madagascar. Just recently they had nine baptisms. While continuing that ministry, now that I

have my M. Div. degree, I have embraced digital evangelism.

Through this platform, I can reach out to people around the world, extending my ministry beyond geographical boundaries to touch lives globally.



Praise God for miraculously orchestrating all the details for Daniella to realize her dream for ministry!

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

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

**OUR VISION STATEMENT**

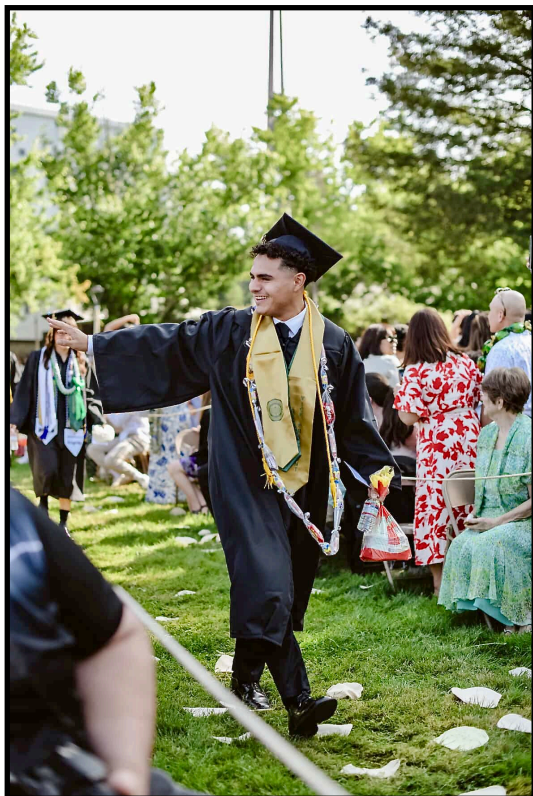
To Know Jesus  
To Share Jesus  
To Follow Jesus  
Changing Lives Today  
And For Eternity

Spring  
flower in  
Ukiah.  
Photo by  
David  
Anderson





## Luiz Casillas Graduates from Pacific Union College June 15, 2025



Hi, my name is Luiz Casillas. Many of you may not know me, but I'm an alumnus of Ukiah Junior Academy.

I recently graduated from Pacific Union College with my Bachelor's degree in Exercise Science Pre-PT, and I am now pursuing my Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree at Loma Linda University.

I didn't get much of a summer. The day I graduated from PUC, I drove eight hours to Loma Linda to begin classes the very next day!

I cannot thank you all enough for your generous financial support and scholarships. Though the impact may not always be visible, your contributions have played a huge role in helping me reach this point in my journey.

Thank you all so much, and may God bless each and every one of you! I will look forward to seeing some of you when I return to Ukiah next year for my clinical rotation.

## Investiture for the Adventurer Club.

By Jodi Clay



And just like that, the Pathfinder and Adventurer Club years are over! On May 31, we had a short Investiture service celebrating the accomplishments of each kid's hard work over the year. We started with a worship thought about shade by Pastor K., as we sat under the trees in the UJA courtyard. Then the Adventurers and Pathfinders were called up in groups and presented the patches they'd worked for through the year. We ended the service with club pictures and some light refreshments, as we enjoyed our last gathering of the year.

For the Adventurer Club, an exciting announcement was made about next year. When our family moved, I was unsure what would happen to the Adventurer Club that we started. God answered our many prayers about who would be the next club director. Leslie Kline-Udarbe has agreed to take over the club for next year and we were able to announce that during the Investiture service! We couldn't be more excited to see how she helps the club continue to thrive.

It has been such a blessing to watch these amazing kids learning about Jesus and important life skills. Thank you so much to our church family as these ministries couldn't exist without your continued prayers and support. Thank you for helping us to share Jesus with these amazing Adventurers and Pathfinders!



## Teen Rock Climbing Trip - May 15-18

By Pastor Eric Kablanow

The Teen Pathfinders embarked on an exciting rock climbing trip to Silver Eagle, located near Kyburz, California. A total of 18 teens participated in the adventure, including five from our own club. The group camped about a mile away at China Flat Camp-ground, which was opened early just for our group, providing a peaceful and private base surrounded by towering pines and the sounds of nature. Each day was filled with climbing, learning techniques, encouraging one another, and developing leadership and teamwork on the granite faces of Silver Eagle. The trip emphasized not only physical challenge, but also spiritual growth, encouraging the teens to experience God through the beauty and majesty of the outdoors.

On Friday night, the group gathered for a meaningful vespers program under the stars, reflecting on the day and preparing their hearts for the Sabbath. Saturday brought a special outdoor church service, where the teens worshiped together in the fresh mountain air, surrounded by God's creation. These moments of worship, along with morning and evening devotionals, helped root the entire trip in a spiritual foundation. As the teens conquered climbs and explored the wilderness, they also deepened their faith, built lasting friendships, and returned home with a stronger sense of purpose and connection to both God and one another.



## **The Glenn Miller Memorial Golf Tournament**

The 12th annual Glenn Miller Memorial Golf Tournament is scheduled for Friday, September 19, from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This tournament significantly benefits Ukiah Junior Academy families by providing STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS. Prayerfully consider how you would like to make a God-inspired donation.

In addition to the funds raised, there is a second tremendous benefit. While promoting the event and soliciting sponsors, the community-at-large gains an increased awareness of UJA and the opportunities it offers. Steve Miller, the son of the late Dr. Glenn Miller, is the human vibrancy behind this enormous effort. He talks with people about the tournament throughout the year as he works on the myriad of details. When you see him, take time to thank him for his passion and commitment.





Opportunities to pray for  
the Holy Spirit . . .

**Sundays, 7-7:30 a.m.** at UA's Library via  
the parking lot door by the gym stairwell.  
**Sabbaths, 9-9:30 a.m.** in the Chapel

"I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."  
Galatians 5:16, 17 & 22-25

"Now is the time to lay up treasure in heaven and to set our hearts in order, ready for the time of trouble. Those only who have clean hands and pure hearts will stand in that trying time. Now is the time for the law of God to be in our minds, foreheads, and written in our hearts.

The Lord has shown me the danger of letting our minds be filled with worldly thoughts and cares. I saw that some minds are led away from present truth and a love of the Holy Bible by reading other exciting books; others are filled with perplexity and care for what they shall eat, drink, and wear. Some are looking too far off for the coming of the Lord. Time has continued a few years longer than they expected; therefore they think it may continue a few more years, and in this way their minds are being led from present truth, out after the world. In these things, I saw great danger; for if the mind is filled with other things, present truth is shut out, and there is no place in our foreheads for the seal of the living God. I saw that the time for Jesus to be in the most holy place was nearly finished and that time can last but a little longer. What leisure time we have should be spent in searching the Bible, which is to judge us in the last day.

My dear brethren and sisters, let the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ be in your minds continually and let them crowd out worldly thoughts and cares. When you lie down and when you rise up, let them be your meditation. Live and act wholly in reference to the coming of the Son of man. The sealing time is very short, and will soon be over. Now is the time, while the four angels are holding the four winds, to make our calling and election sure."

*Early Writings, pp. 57 and 58*



## Yet Another School Year Completed at UJA

The 2024-2025 school year at Ukiah Junior Academy ended with a graduation on Thursday, June 5, and an end-of-the-year celebration on Friday, June 6. There was much joy as we celebrated the end of another great school year, and some sadness as we said goodbye to students moving on to continue their education.

As you know, Ashlin Chamberlain, who was our 7-8 teacher this year, will be leaving us to concentrate on being a mother for the near future. Her first is due in September, and while we will all miss her next year, we wish her the very best as she embarks on her new role as a mom. Taking her place as our Grades 7-8 Homeroom Teacher will be Krystalynn Westbrook-Martin.

Krystalynn is very familiar with Sonoma and Mendocino counties, having served as the campus chaplain and teacher at Rio Lindo Adventist Academy for 12 years (2004-2016) and as Associate Pastor at Santa Rosa SDA Church for 2 years (2016-2018). More recently, she was the Vice-Principal and Bible Teacher at Auburn Adventist Academy (2018-2023), in Washington. In addition to most of the grades 7-8 teaching responsibilities, Krystal will also be teaching high school English and Yearbook.

We are excited to celebrate the soon-to-be baptism of one of our community students on August 16. Kyler King has been a student at UJA from kindergarten through 10th Grade, has been a part of our school's praise team, and will continue his education at Rio Lindo Adventist Academy next year. We are so excited to be a part of his spiritual growth and look forward to celebrating his baptism.

We are already preparing for the start of the 2025-2026 school year. We anticipate another year with 100+ students, with a nearly full kindergarten classroom already registered for the coming year. Please continue to pray for the ministry to our community here at Ukiah Junior Academy as we seek to share the Gospel with our students and their families.

By Rick Nelson, Principal

**Please take note that since Dave and Donna Faye are planning to attend, they will not be publishing an August Heart of the Matter. They'll see you again for the September issue.**

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).

## REDWOOD AREA CAMP MEETING

Redwood Camp Meeting 2025, from **July 27 - August 2**, promises exceptional programs for both the youth and the adults, and a God-filled family experience.

Pepperwood Pavillion Speakers: **Jessie Seibel** will be presenting during the first half of the week. He is a chaplain at Adventist Health Castle in Kailua, HI. He has an incredible ability to connect with people on a personal level. **Jon Paulien** will finish the week, including Sabbath. He is a leading scholar and lecturer on the book of Revelation. He is the Program Director of Religion and Health at Loma Linda University. **Gary and Marilynn Venden** will continue to bless us with their gifts of edifying early morning manna and uplifting evening music.

Plan for this week of worship in the redwoods!



