

# "The of the Matter"

A Monthly Source of Information for the Church Family

## My Most Urgent Need!

There is a growing conviction among many Christians that Christ's second coming is "even at the doors." One of the strongest indicators of this is the current rhetoric and efforts being put forth to unite church and state.

There is a popular revival, sweeping our country and the world, resulting in giving the church influence over the affairs of the state. The assassination of Charlie Kirk has fanned the flame of this revival to an intensity never before witnessed in my lifetime. It will be interesting to witness the effects of his book, that just came off the press about three weeks ago, regarding his convictions and faithful observance of the Seventh-day Saturday Sabbath. If nothing else, it will bring the issue of the Sabbath to the forefront before the world. That could likely bring a knee-jerk reaction by popular church leaders.

"But as the question of enforcing Sunday observance is widely agitated, the event so long doubted and disbelieved is seen to be approaching, and the third message will produce an effect which it could not have had before." (Great Controversy, pp. 605-606, emphasis added)

There will be a period of time when a Sunday law will be "widely agitated." Are we entering this time? Could this be what Jesus spoke about in Matthew 25:6?

"And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'"

Here is the point that is being urged upon my mind. When that cry goes out, according to Jesus in Mat. 25:7 and 8, it will be too late to fill our lives with the oil of the Holy Spirit.

"Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'"

Therefore, now is the time to make sure our lives are filled with the Holy Spirit! There is no time to waste! It takes time to re-dig spiritual wells that have become cluttered by the things of this world.

Have you ever wondered if heaven is too pure, too holy, too righteous for you to enter as you are now? Nicodemus was confronted with that reality when he sought to dialogue with Jesus one evening. Even though Nicodemus was a member of the 'church board,' a diligent student of the Scripture, and a wealthy and highly respected leader, Jesus shocked him in John 3:3; 5-7 by saying that he was not qualified for heaven as he was.

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you,

**My Most Urgent Need!** Cont.

'You must be born again.' " (Margin)

The topic that is more important than anything else for us as a church is to truly be born again by the Holy Spirit! This is the most essential spiritual preparation needed today! This is the difference between those who enter the door into the wedding and those who are not allowed to enter.

"Many are sensible of their great deficiency, and they read, and pray, and resolve, and yet make no progress. They seem to be powerless to resist temptation. The reason is, **they do not go deep enough. They do not seek for a thorough conversion of the soul**, that the streams which issue from it may be pure, and the deportment may testify that Christ reigns within. All defects of character originate in the heart. Pride, vanity, evil temper, and covetousness proceed from the carnal heart un-renewed by the grace of Christ. If the heart is refined, softened, and ennobled, the words and actions will testify to the fact. When the soul has been **entirely surrendered to God**, there will be a firm reliance upon His promises, and earnest prayer and determined effort to control the words and actions." (Our High Calling, p. 336.4, emphasis added)

Our outward lives may be spotless. We may perfectly obey the letter of the law, but what about the sins of the heart? Do we truly love God and others in the same way as Jesus loves us? That type of love is the proof of being born from above! It is proof that God's power is in control! It is proof of the transforming power of the divine nature! It is proof of being resurrected to a new life! It is proof of the power of the gospel! That type of love experienced in the family circle will spill over to those outside the family, including enemies! The natural heart cannot produce it!

On the other hand, the carnal heart is at enmity with God, and would find heaven a place of unhappiness for them. The carnal heart finds excuses for disobedience and sin, finds excuses for failures, doubts God's power for victory! The carnal heart prefers to read anything but the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy because they bring conviction. The carnal heart can even have a correct theory of the truth, but still lack the power of the Holy Spirit to transform the thoughts and feelings which make up the character.

But the born-again heart loves God supremely and others as himself, loves God's holy law, loves God's standards and principles of righteousness, loves and can't get enough of the Bible, and loves the messages God has graciously given us through His messenger to the Remnant Church. The right-doing they used to hate, they now love! And the wrong-doing they once loved, they now hate! All things have become completely new! Jesus has become their all-in-all! They have found that "Christ in you, (is) the hope of glory"! Their thoughts and feelings are in harmony with God! They have repented of their reliance upon worldly wisdom, standards, and philosophies – repented of their selfishness, and pride. "The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life" has lost their attraction! Their greatest desire is that Jesus will be glorified in their every thought, word and action! They want Jesus to be seen, heard, and known. They want the world to be enlightened with God's glory!

Our (my) greatest need is to be born from above through the power of the Holy Spirit! Today is the day of salvation! Today is the time to make sure our lives are filled with the presence, power, and fruit of the Holy Spirit! My Most Urgent Need! Continued on page 4

## **Candlelight Agape Feast & Communion Service**

January 9, 2026 5:30 PM

Ukiah Jr. Academy Gym

There is no better way to close out the old year and bring in the new year!

### **What to bring:**

Your Bible

Your praise to God for what He has done for you this last year

A pot of your favorite soup or stew

Your favorite rolls or bread

(If you're single just bring soup or bread.)

"As you enter upon a new year, let it be with an earnest resolve to have your course onward and upward. Let your life be more elevated and exalted than it has hitherto been. Make it your aim not to seek your own interest and pleasure, but to advance the cause of your Redeemer.

Remain not in a position where you ever need help yourself, and where others have to guard you to keep you in the narrow way. You may be strong to exert a sanctifying influence upon others. You may be where your soul's interest will be awakened to do good to others, to comfort the sorrowful, strengthen the weak, and to bear your testimony for Christ whenever opportunity offers. Aim to honor God in everything, always and everywhere. Carry your religion into everything.

"Prepare for eternity with such a zeal as you have not yet manifested. Educate your mind to love the Bible, to love the prayer meeting, to love the hour of meditation, and, above all, the hour when the soul communes with God. Become heavenly-minded if you would unite with the heavenly choir in the mansions above....

"A new page is turned in the book of the recording angel. . . . Let a record be stamped there which you will not be ashamed to have revealed to the gaze of men and angels."

My Life Today, p. 369

## **Opportunities for Prayer**

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

**Tuesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m.** in the Chapel.

**Sabbaths, 9-9:30 a.m.** in the Chapel and following the worship service, meet in the left front of the sanctuary.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

### **2 Corinthians 5:17**

It is the privilege of every believing follower of Christ, through faith, to receive this divine transformation, as their old sinful nature dies with Christ, and they are made new by God. They are reconciled to Him, given a new identity, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, to live righteously, reflecting Christ's image.

"It is faith that connects us with heaven and brings us strength for coping with the powers of darkness. In Christ, God has provided means for subduing every sinful trait, and resisting every temptation, however strong. But many feel that they lack faith, and therefore they remain away from Christ. Let these souls, in their helpless unworthiness, cast themselves upon the mercy of their compassionate Savior. Look not to self, but to Christ. He who healed the sick and cast out demons when He walked among men is the same mighty Redeemer today. Faith comes by the word of God. Then grasp His promise, 'Him that cometh to Me I will in nowise cast out.' John 6:37. Cast yourself at His feet with the cry, 'Lord, I believe; help Thou mine unbelief.' You can never perish while you do this—never." Desire of Ages, page 429



Peruvian  
Lilly or  
Alstroemeria  
Photo by  
David  
Anderson

**My Most Urgent Need!** Continued from page 2      Now is the time to make sure we are red-hot for Jesus – choosing to exercise a faith that works by love purifying the life from sin – clothed with the righteousness of Jesus – having 20/20 spiritual vision!

We cannot change our hearts, but we can **ask** God to do it, **seek** for Him through a deep study of His Word, and keep **knocking** on the door of heaven until He answers and works His mightiest of miracles in changing our hearts. God loves you and His promise to you is found in Jeremiah 29:13 (emphasis added).

“And you will **seek Me** and **find Me**, when you search for Me with **all your heart.**”

Pastor Wayne Kablanow

### **Study in Revelation**

Studying the book of Revelation will resume with Chapter 3 on January 6, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the church Chapel.

### **Reading Revelation**

On January 23, at 6:30 p.m., an opportunity is planned to gather in the church Chapel to read the entire book of Revelation out loud.



Christmas Cactus in full bloom.  
Photo: by David Anderson

### **Change Jars for ADRA**

Please collect your coins, bills, or checks to partner with ADRA to help the malnourished children grow up to be strong.

We will be receiving our final collection for this special project on January 3, 2026.

Thank you for your compassion and generosity.      By Steve Miller

### **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!

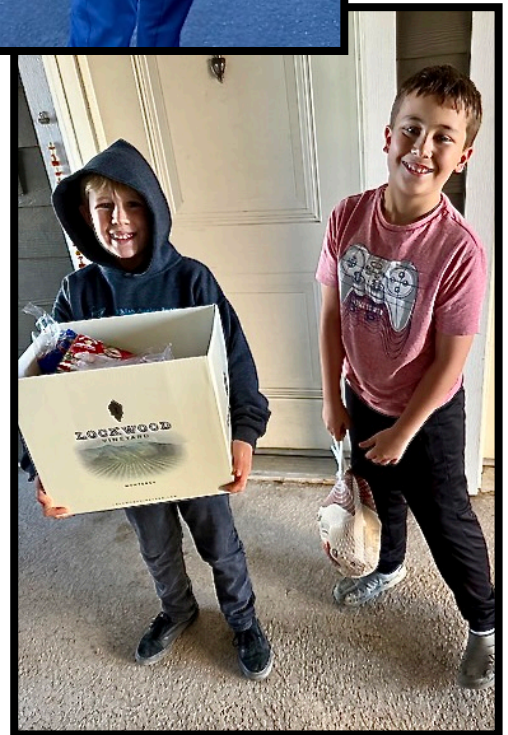
### Thanksgiving Basket Deliveries

“For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home.”

For the last few years, our church has joined the Ford Street Food Bank to obey Jesus' words. This year we were given fifty-three addresses scattered all over Ukiah to deliver a box of groceries and either a ham or a turkey. Heidi Veness developed a spreadsheet to group nearby homes to assign to each team.

Teams met at the food bank at 9:00 a.m. and loaded up. Most teams were finished and back at the church in time for Sabbath School. All were blessed to be God's hands and feet at this time of thanksgiving.

By Beth Garibaldi



### The Ministry at Dorcas By Donna Anderson

There are eighteen faithful volunteers who serve the community every Wednesday from 9:00-11:30 a.m. Those who come, averaging 40 people a week, are given quality clothes, shoes, bedding, back-packs, sleeping bags, and kitchen items—whatever their need. If individuals are shopping for themselves, they may take 10 things—for a family, 25. They are most appreciative!

The friendly atmosphere often leads to opportunities to pray with any who share a prayer request.



~~ Thanksgiving 2025 ~~

To whom do we give our thanks  
On this day of Thanksgiving?  
For material, physical and family blessings  
Or the blessed gift of just living?

That these gifts are unequally shared  
Is a sad fact, but true  
But the one thing that we all share in abundance?  
Christ's sacrifice made in dying for me and for you!

Be thankful our life's story is still being written  
And the ending is yet ours to decide.  
All the blessings men so value today?  
They are insignificant where Christ does abide.

For what Christ deems as riches,  
And for what Christ came to earth to restore,  
Was the redemption of His creation lost to sin  
And to live forever with those He does adore.

So today, when giving thanks for what you value,  
Remember these blessings all came at a cost.  
So don't lose sight of the Author of 'all good and perfect gifts'  
Or material, physical and family blessings will not be the only thing we've lost!

This poem was shared by Bob Merritt, who  
understands that the spirit of  
Thanksgiving  
is not for just one day a year, but for every day all year long!



Fall colors!

A Great Blue Heron  
and a grape  
vineyard near  
Hopland.  
Photos by  
David  
Anderson



## The 34th. Christmas Cantata

*The Glory of Christmas—Jesus, The Gift of Love and Joy! is now history and all those who participated, whether in either of the two programs or watched, in person or online, are still aglow with its inspiration of ‘the real Reason for the season.’*



*Glory to  
God  
In the  
Highest !*

**But, an even more glorious day is just on the horizon!**

“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.”

1 Corinthians 2:9

“By and by the the gates of heaven will be thrown wide open to admit them, and from the lips of the King of Glory the benediction will fall upon their ears like richest music.” Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”

Matthew 25:34

“Every sinful tendency, every imperfection, has been removed by the blood of Christ; and the excellence and brightness of His glory, far exceeding the brightness of the sun in its meridian splendor, is imparted to them. And the moral beauty, the perfection of His character, shines through them in worth far exceeding this outward splendor. They are without fault before the great white throne, sharing the dignity and privileges of the angels.

In Heavenly Places, p. 367

**What A Day That Will Be!**

## Wonders of Creation, The Monterey Trip by Sheldon Schultz cont from Dec. 2025

I spent the morning walking around Moss Landing waiting for the 11 am Wednesday Lecture at MBARI (Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute). I had not attended a lecture at MBARI in over 17 years since I left Monterey Bay Academy, where I taught Marine Biology for 9 years—the Lecture was given by Dr. Sonke Johnsen & Steven Haddock, exploring how deep-sea creatures use light in their deep underwater world. The Lecture was terrific, as were the pictures of deep-sea animals that ranged from Comb Jellies that use diffraction to create a rainbow of colors to confuse predators, to fish that are transparent, so predators cannot see them in the limited deep-sea light. The researchers had just released a new book of their findings, with all the images from the lecture, which I procured and had them both sign.

A link to the book: <https://a.co/d/2RfNt8O>.

After the lecture, I spent some time looking at MBARI's newest ship, the David Packard, a scientific research vessel. It has a fantastic array of scientific collecting instruments, ranging from autonomous underwater drones to manually operated tethered ROVS. When I taught Marine Biology, I would often enjoy the fruits of MBARI's labors as they shared information with teachers and scientists worldwide, allowing us to incorporate the latest findings into our classroom instruction.

I went to the wharf at the Elkhorn Yacht Club. Wharfs are unique ecosystems in the marine environment, because they float in calm water, but remain at a constant depth. The floats provide a perfect environment for many marine animals, as well as kelp, which prefers a light-filled environment or ambient light, such as under the float. They are never exposed to air or to sudden, radical changes in water temperature. This stability allows for a particular group of marine animals to thrive. I wanted to find some nudibranchs I had never seen there. At the top of my list was the Sorcerer's Dorid, *Polycera atra*, which is known to feed on Byzoans, many of which live on docks. I chose to lie on the dock, face down, hanging over the edge, looking for nudibranchs and anything else I wanted to photograph. The most common things I saw on the docks were Giant Feather Duster Worms (*Eudistylia polymorpha*), with their giant plumes in orange and white. I had never seen them before, but I was after slugs! Where were they? I kept moving on the dock for the next two hours, always lying on my belly, torso hanging over the edge, looking for those elusive slugs. The hard part is that I was looking for a Sea Slug that comes in many different morphs, so that I couldn't choose a single color. They might be mostly black with orange or yellow stripes, or white with orange and black stripes. After about an hour, I found a small one and managed to take a few pictures.



I then headed to Pleasure Point Beach for low tide. Upon arrival, I walked down to the reef with my wetsuit, big dive light and Olympus TG-7 camera. All I could see from the surface was seagrass and what appeared to be shallow indentations in the rocks. I started to snorkel through the small holes. I soon realized that the small-looking pools were full of unique rock overhangs, forming caves that extended far beneath the surface. In those small caves, I found rockfish, sponges, sea squirts, and yes, some nudibranchs. The first was a very large Hilton Aeolid, about 2 inches long. I shot pictures of it for several minutes, as it was so large. As these nudibranchs feed on hydroids and other nudibranchs, they are fast and serious predators.



The next day, I was off to Moss Landing again to look for other nudibranchs. I snorkeled for 2 hours looking for nudibranchs, but didn't find a single one, due to poor visibility. Later, I knew I wanted to snorkel in the tunnels that go under Jetty Road just north of the harbor at Elkhorn Slough. Due to the fast current, I would have to snorkel near the entrance to the tunnels, going against the current. I got into the water at the Tube and only had about 3-4 minutes of slack tide before I was too nervous to enter again. I found some incredible animals congregating in the fast-moving water—sponges and anemones that I found nowhere else. After the tide flipped at 12:40 p.m., I was off to the tide pool near the



Kissing Rock View Point. As I was looking through the tide-pools, I found several White-speckled Nudibranchs, *Doriopsilla fulva*.

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**The Spanish Group is Busy in Ministry and Community Service**

by Veronica Ahumada



**Ordination Service**

On January 10, at 3:30 p.m., please support Chaplain Heber Aviles with your attendance at his ordination service. Dr. Hyveth Williams, from Andrews University, will be giving the ordination address.

This will be a special opportunity to connect with visitors to our church for this service.

**Community Service**

Thursday evenings the Grace Lutheran Church fellowship hall at 200 Wabash Avenue is bustling. Under the leadership of Pastor and Chaplain Heber Aviles and his wife, Erika, the Spanish group has been running a food bank program every Thursday at 6:00 p.m. Most of the families start showing up at 5 p.m., to line up, but some arrive as early as 3 and 4 p.m. An average of 80 families are served every week. Thanksgiving week brought us 120 families to serve.

It takes many helping hands to carry out this work. We are grateful to our brothers and sisters from our mother church, along with those from the Hopland church and the Lakeport church, who have also lent a helping hand. Our God has been providing and blessing abundantly, We praise His name!

**Christmas VBS**

December 15th through the 19th, the Spanish SDA church was blessed with the privilege of ministering to about 25-28 children between the ages of 2-15 during our Christmas VBS program. We had an average attendance of 22 kids Monday - Thursday. On Friday only 12 kids showed up and we began to wonder, how many kids would join us on Sabbath, December 20th, for our closing program. To our surprise, 30 kids showed up with their parents at 11:00 a.m., Sabbath morning. All the kids went up and sang in front of the church, and recited their memory verses with joy. It was such a beautiful sight to see! All the families who came also stayed for Sabbath lunch and we had a wonderful time connecting. Thank you to our mother church for supporting us with this event as well. You were an answered prayer right in the time of need.

Praises and thanksgivings to our Lord Jesus Christ for leading this event and miraculously putting it all together.

