

“The of the Matter”

A Monthly Source of Information for the Church

Wonders of God’s Creation, cont. from April 2026

By Sheldon Schultz

I then went up to the pickup and got my flashlight to go looking for nudibranchs among the rocks around the tidepool and in small tidepools. I noticed a group of flashlights moving around the area in a cluster. Sometimes, there are local groups that will tidepool in an area regularly, and their local knowledge can be a great help when you are new to an area. On top of that, the more eyes looking for things, the more likely you are to see something rare. I walked up to the group and discovered that it was a group of local biologists looking for nudibranchs, and they were very welcoming of my joining them. We looked for any nudibranchs we could find. After a while, we all gathered our finds and everyone photographed what the group had found. They were considering taking them back to the lab to test their DNA and confirm the species. Over the last 20 years, completing a DNA model of a group of nudibranchs has become important, as some nudibranchs have several species within a single morph previously thought to be a single species. In the end, they decided to let me release all the nudibranchs they had collected, since no one wanted to stay up all night doing DNA sequencing. I released the nudibranchs as I took their pictures. I do not like collecting animals and then taking pictures, as there is a risk of hurting them. I also prefer to photograph an animal where I find it, as context is important. I photographed several White-Spotted Sea Goddess Nudibranchs, which were new to me. (See Photograph on page 2)

I then found a Striped Polyclad Worm. It was a lovely creature, I just loved the red stripes on a white background. They are carnivores that eat other small animals by extending their stomachs to swallow prey almost as large as themselves.

By this time, I was all alone on the beach. There had been as many as thirty people tidepooling, but now I was alone waiting for the moon to come over the horizon while looking for something special. I was looking down into a deep crack between two rocks. I swept away the surfgrass with my hand, and there was a lovely little nudibranch with orange tips on long little stalks. Ah!—the Cockerell’s Dorid. This was a long-hoped-for nudibranch. It was so lovely.

I then found a snail, and as I looked at it, I was quite sure it was a cone snail. I was not sure how poisonous it was. Tropical cones are among the most poisonous animals in nature. As are many animals trying to catch fish, such as the Blue-ringed Octopus and sea snakes. The common link between them all is that if a fish is envenomated and does not die quickly, there is little chance the predator will catch it, so the faster a poison kills, the more likely the predator is to eat. The snail turned out to be a California Cone Snail, and it is poisonous. (Continued on page 3)

Wonders of God's Creation, cont.

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2



3



4



5



6



Photos by Sheldon Schultz:
1 White-Spotted Sea Goddess Nudibranch
2 Striped Polyclad Worm # 3 Cockerell's
Dorid # 4 California Cone Snail # 5 Stubby
Dendronotid # 6 Sorcerer's Dorid

Wonders Of God’s Creation, (cont from page 1)

I then moved farther out towards the ocean, where the water would be rougher when the tide was in. I wanted to find something new in a different part of the ecosystem. There was a lot of surfgrass, and as I started to look through it, I suddenly found several Stubby Dendronotids feeding on Ostrich Plume Hyroids that were growing on the surfgrass. I was excited to find more than one, as it allowed me to see different sizes. By this time it was late, and I was tired—time to head to a friend's home where I was staying and get some sleep.

The next morning, I headed back to the dock at Moss Landing, because I wanted to get some better pictures of a Sorcerer's Dorid, as I was not happy with the pictures I shot earlier in the trip. It took about 20 minutes to find some on the dock and start shooting pictures.

I had taken about four pictures, when I realized there was some moisture on the inside of the lens. I stopped shooting and opened the camera only to find salt water inside the battery compartment. Nothing is harder on electronics than salt water. I removed the battery and looked into the camera. There was water everywhere, so I quickly removed the memory card before it was damaged. Whenever I purchase a waterproof camera, I always buy damage insurance, since all waterproof cameras eventually fail at some point. I headed home, sent the camera to the insurance company, and soon received a refund so I could buy a new one. It was a great trip, and I cannot wait to get back to Monterey again and find more new animals.

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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. Study the book of Revelation in the Chapel.

Sabbaths, 9-9:30 a.m. in the Chapel.

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

1 Peter 2:9

“When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is engaged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life.”

Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 312.

By Sheldon Schultz, Director
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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!

Upcoming May Dates

May 7, at 6:30 p.m. The UJA students, from Kindergarten through Grade 4, under the direction of Margie Rice, are performing a patriotic program called, *The American Dream*.

May 9 is the spring outdoor church at Mill Creek Park, including a potluck lunch. There will be no services at the church.

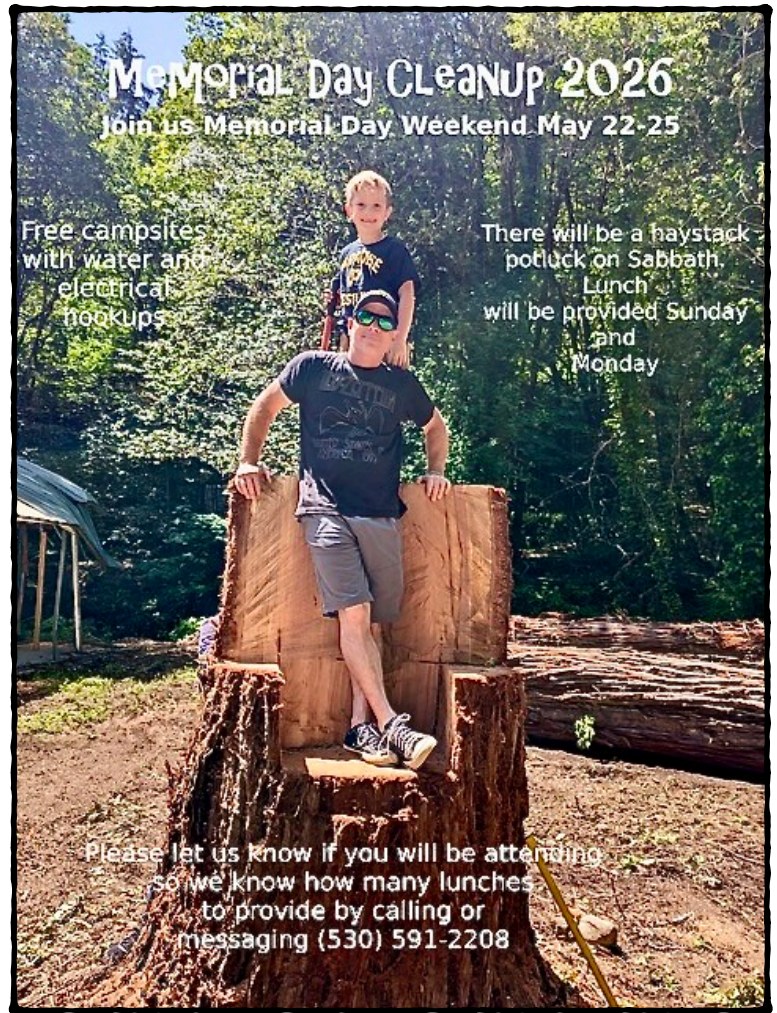
May 10 is Mother's Day. Honor the special mothers in your lives.

Reading the Books of the Bible

Our church family gathers in the Chapel one evening a month to listen to someone read aloud a book of the Bible.

So far, we have listened to Andrew Corbett read Revelation, Kristin Merritt read Hebrews, Paul Marks read 1 Corinthians, and Mike Wilson read Romans.

It's very special to experience an entire book together in one sitting.



Stunning sunset captured from the Andersons' deck, Photographer Dave

Redwood Area Campmeeting Cleanup Day

Read the above and respond.

This year will be the 50th year anniversary for Redwood Area Campmeeting!

Hope many of you can make it for both:

Cleanup days: May 22-25

Campmeeting: July 26 -

Aug. 1, 2026

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.

Learning Fair, 2026 — UJA

Have you ever wanted to taste foods from all over the world? Or tour all the National Parks in one trip? Or dive deep under the sea? Maybe you've always dreamed of traveling back in time to visit some famous people.

Many people did all this, and more, in one evening at UJA's Learning Fair on March 19. Students create projects that correspond with their class studies; then they proudly demonstrate what they have learned to family and friends at the Learning Fair.

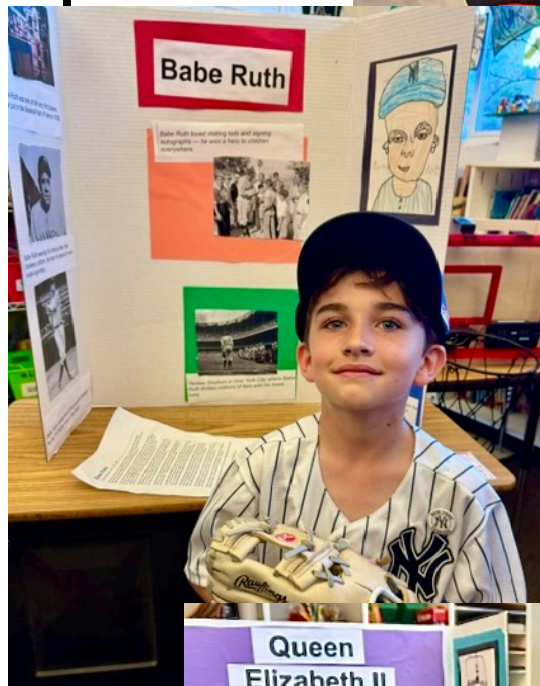
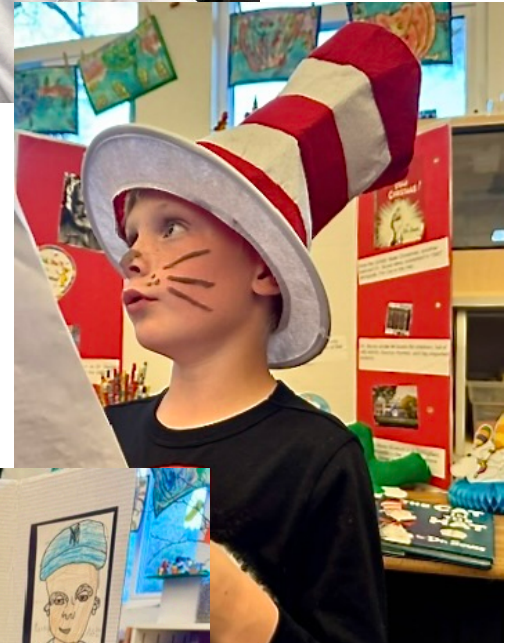
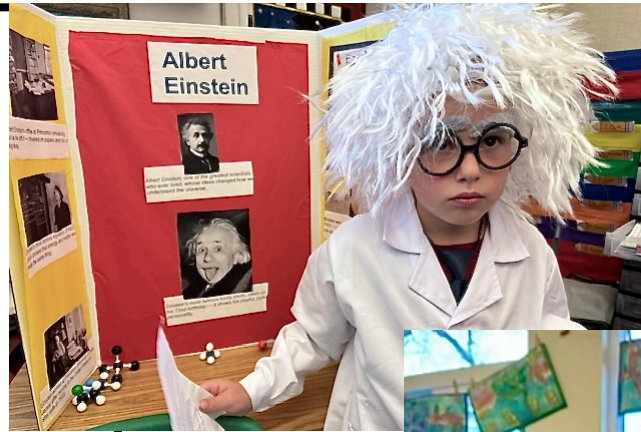
Principal Rick Nelson observed that the Learning Fair "squares nicely with the idea of project-based learning. When the seventh and eighth graders learn about the scientific method, they're to devise their own experiment, as long as their teacher approves their process. Once they understand the hypothesis and the procedures, they do their experiment at home and then come back to the class and report it."

The same basic process applies to the fifth and sixth graders and their history projects. They choose a culture, research it, and then decide what kind of cultural food they want to prepare for people to try. That's always a favorite!

The second graders were "museum people." They picked a famous person, dressed like them, prepared a display, and shared facts about their lives to the parents and visitors. Nainoa was excited about his person. "I picked Babe Ruth! I'm making a display board and putting pictures of him all over it."

"Then you dress up like Babe Ruth," Mr. Nelson added, "and then we're supposed to ask you questions as if you are Babe Ruth and you have prepared answers."

There was the undersea focus in the Kindergarten classroom. Mrs. Olivera, their teacher, helped them research a particular sea creature and create a display board. They also had a list of questions that they had studied and were prepared to answer.



Learning Fair, 2026 cont,

The first graders have been doing a year-long project studying life cycles, such as the life cycle of a pumpkin. The class got a pumpkin and punched a hole in it. Next they set it out in the sun.

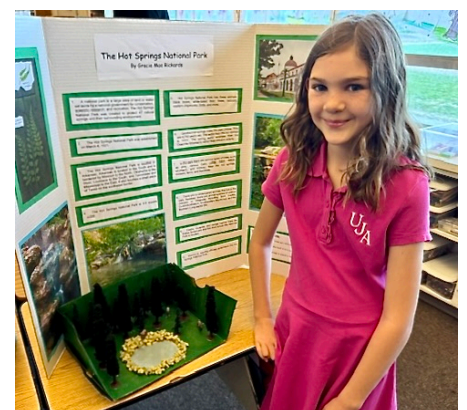
After some time, a bunch of its seeds sprouted. They then re-planted the seeds in a grow box just outside the classroom where they will mature into pumpkins over the summer. First graders also studied life cycles by watching eggs hatch into live chicks.

Grades nine and ten presented a literature focus on *Animal Farm*, *The Giver*, and a speech by Martin Luther King, Jr. Then they wrote about the themes presented in the historical context and the message of literature and prepared a display sharing what they had learned.

The third and fourth graders have been studying national parks. Each student reported on one park, and created a diorama and a display board. They were also prepared to interact with interested people about their projects.

UJA students exhibited a wide variety of learning experiences and fun. "All in all, it was quite an impressive evening," commented one visitor after the evening was over.

By Vicky and Jeff Lauritzen

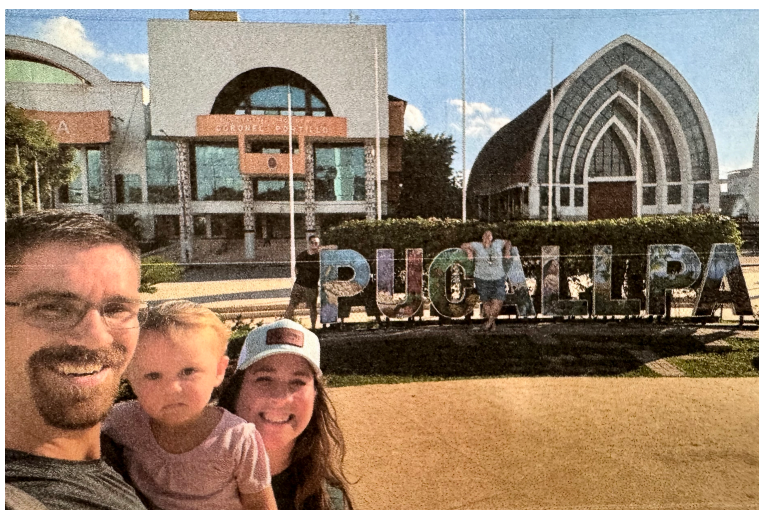


A Full-Circle Adventure

By Danae Brunner

In 2017, Scot traveled to Pucallpa, Peru, where he served as a student missionary at a medical clinic for nine months between his junior and senior year at Southern Adventist University (SAU). Pucallpa is considered the gateway to the jungle, as it is a large city on the banks of the Ucayali River, the main headstream of the Amazon River. He worked with AMOR Projects, which provides free medical and spiritual care to the underserved at their local clinic, and up to an hour into the countryside through their mobile clinic setup. The director, Dr. Gow-Lee, is an internal medicine doctor who is currently living in Guam and working with Luke Kang. He hires a team of local Peruvian doctors, nurses, and Bible workers to run the clinics with the help of student missionaries. Danae was able to visit Scot while he was living there and that's when we started dating. In 2018, we returned to AMOR Projects over spring break to help out on one of SAU's short-term mission trips bringing pre-med students down, not knowing when the chance to visit again would come.

In March of 2021, Danae's brother, Bradley and his wife, Jessica, were called as missionaries to Pucallpa, Peru, with a sister program to AMOR Projects called Peru Projects. This program runs a Bible worker training center, which sends local missionaries out into the jungles of Peru for three months to



Bradley, Jessica and daughter in Pucallpa
Photographer Danae Brunner

evangelize. Due to the dense jungles, there's often no way to get to these locations by road, so the missionaries have to take a boat or a plane. Peru Projects own two small Cessna 182s and a Lake Renegade 250 that can land on an airstrip or in the water. Bradley, as an aircraft mechanic, was brought on to fix those planes while Jessica organizes donations and raises their 18-month old daughter. Upon arrival, Bradley had to immediately ground the planes as there were major fixes and it took about two years to get them back in the air—everything is slower on jungle time.*

In February of 2024, Danae's family flew down to Peru to spend two weeks with Bradley and Jessica exploring the coastal desert capital city of Lima; the jungle city of Pucallpa; the Sacred Valley ruins of Moray, Chincero, and Machu Picchu; Cusco, the former capital of the Inca Empire; and the floating islands on Lake Titicaca. We traveled by plane, train, bus, and

boat—all of which broke down at some point or another. We were able to visit AMOR Projects and reconnect with the local workers there who were only just getting student missionary support back after COVID.

This year we returned! Scot was able to count the two-week trip as a Global Medicine elective in his family medicine residency. After 24 hours of travel, we landed on March 11 and went directly to Peru Projects where Scot was able to meet his niece for the first time. We very much enjoyed time with family—and the a/c—before we headed over to AMOR Projects for church on Sabbath. Southern Adventist University's annual spring break, Vision Trip, had brought over 20 pre-med and pre-dental students to Pucallpa. Together with seven current student missionaries, we were set to run five mobile clinics in remote communities around the city. Where previously, Scot had been one of those eager pre-med students on these trips—this time, he arrived as a doctor.

The first clinic began Sunday morning with no power, pouring rain, and patients who had been in line since 1:30 a.m. More than 100 people lined up each day for medical and dental care. Scot would see over 25 patients in four hours, working alongside up to four other doctors and two and two dentists doing the same. He spoke with patients in Spanish, translating for students who

crowded close to observe and learn, drawing pictures to explain diagnoses to both patients and students alike. For elderly Shipibo patients who spoke only the indigenous language, a local community member had to step in to translate.

Most prescriptions were straightforward: treatment for parasites, vitamins, Ibuprofen, headaches and dizziness were common complaints, as many patients reported drinking less than a liter of water a day. One woman reported drinking only a single glass. For problems medicines couldn't touch, Scot offered prayer. Whole families came for care together. While Scot would talk with the parents, Danae would distract the kids with bubbles or a coloring book. She read to them from a child's book she translated into Spanish and had them blow a pinwheel to relax and regulate their breathing, while Scot listened to their lungs.

The team also performed ultrasounds, checking unusual lumps and monitoring pregnancies. In one small Shipibo community, the number of young pregnancies was heartbreaking with a girl as young as 14 and another 20-year old already expecting her third child.

On the last day of clinic, a man came to Scot with a 1" lump on the back of his ankle. He had had this hard mass for over four years and hadn't been able to wear shoes with backs because of it. Scot told the man to meet him at AMOR Projects. That afternoon when we arrived, the man and his family were there. Scot worked alongside Henry, the local nurse, to remove the sebaceous cyst. He was the man who had originally taught him to suture back in 2017. The students looked on excitedly through the dirty window screen as though peering into an operating theater.

After the cyst was removed and the eight stitches placed, the man who was awake through the procedure asked, "How much will this cost?" The answer was, "It is free." This is like the grace we are given each day. All medical care at AMOR Projects is free to the patients. The cost of the medications is paid for ahead of time. All the patient has to do is show up for medical care.

Learn more: amorprojects.org peruprojects.com

*On March 31, one of Peru Projects' Cessna 182s clipped reeds with its wing on takeoff and crashed. Miraculously, everyone on board was unharmed, but the plane was totaled. The crew had been en route to pick up a patient needing a medical evacuation. These aircraft are essential to the program's jungle outreach, and this is a significant loss. Please keep Peru Projects in your prayers.



Congratulations! 8th Grade Graduating Class at UJA



8th Grade
Ukiah Junior Academy

Rick Nelson, Principal & Teacher
Krystalynn Westbrook-Martin, Homeroom Teacher
Dan Kuntz, Teacher
2025 - 2026

 <i>Rick Nelson</i>	 <i>Krystalynn Westbrook-Martin</i>	 <i>Dan Kuntz</i>		
 <i>Emberlynn Calvert</i>	 <i>Kira Cardenas</i>	 <i>Madilyn Harper</i>	 <i>Sam Kuntz</i>	 <i>Elias Kurtz</i>
 <i>Fox Martin</i>	 <i>Lan Pham</i>	 <i>Allie Strom</i>	 <i>Rosalia Tollini</i>	 <i>Emmanuel Trejo</i>

**Come
Celebrate
with these
Young
People
On June 4
At 6:30 p m
Thursday
UJA'S
PLAZA
GARDEN...**

The 2026 Rio Lindo Mission Trip to Kalamos, Greece

In March of this year, Rio Lindo Academy sponsored a mission trip to help with maintenance of the summer camp near the town of Kalamos in Greece. Kalamos is about 40 miles north of Athens, the capital. Rio Lindo had sponsored a mission trip to Kalamos in 2024 to start the maintenance projects. At that time, we had a retaining wall to build, crumbling walls to stucco and paint, and sanding the nine cabins so they could be varnished in warmer weather.

This year we continued building retaining walls (the camp is on a hillside), painting of the front gates and walls, more stucco repair and painting. The big projects this year were the reroofing of the nine cabins and clearing the brush. We had three roofing crews on three cabins at once. We also had crews cutting brush and thinning trees.

This year our group consisted of fifty-two members—forty-two students and ten adults. We departed from San Francisco on March 15, arriving in Istanbul, Turkey on March 16, with 1 hour and 10 minutes to catch our connection to Athens. We arrived in Athens at 4:30 p.m.

March 17-20 Work days

March 21 Sabbath at the Athens church. Later we went to the Temple of Poseidon at Sounio. Sunsets there are beautiful.

March 22 Half-day of work and a visit to the island of Evia.

March 23 Historical site of Meteora in the north.

March 24 A cruise to three of the closest islands with one or two hours on each.

March 25 Work day

March 26 Historical site of Epicurus and the town of Nafplio in the south.

March 27 Athens, the Acropolis, and the market areas.

March 28 Church in Nikea and meeting with the youth of the local SDA churches.

March 29 Departure for home.

The mission trip was organized by Menelaos Mamoulalis on the Greek side and Robert Pappas, an art instructor at Rio Lindo Adventist Academy, formerly a Ukiah church member.

Two years ago, we had four Ukiah youth on the trip: Hunter McNunn, Lexi Bushby, Micah Nelson, and Valeria Martinez.

This year we want to thank the Ukiah SDA church members for their financial support and prayers. You made it possible for seven of your youth to be part of this mission: Caleb Williams, Ethan Harper, Nathan Kuntz, Judah Kurtz, Logan Kurtz, Samantha Ahumada Garcia, and Kyler King. All played an important role in the work, and some in the organizing of the other students in worship services and cleanup crews. Thank you church family!

By Robert Pappas