

“The of the Matter”

A Monthly Source of Information for the Church

You Can Have Everything!

“And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.” 1 John 5:11-13

We are to believe and trust in the love of Jesus. Be sure to thank Him every day for His gift of eternal life. The One I choose to keep my eyes focused on is Jesus—only Jesus. Is Jesus enough? Yes, I know He is! When you have Jesus, you have everything!

He is our Creator. He is our Light and Life. Because of His awesome love for us, He was willing to leave the pure, sinless environment of heaven. He exchanged the glorious companionship of God and the heavenly angels to come to our sin-darkened world. He came to be our Savior and forever Friend. He willingly took on a human body. He was born in a foul-smelling stable among the animals. He took His nourishment from his mother’s breast. He who hung galaxies in space had to learn how to say His name and take his first steps. He was raised in a poor family in a town of disgrace. He was misunderstood and rejected. Even his disciples did not fully understand His mission. He allowed men to mock, to beat, and to spit upon Him. Finally He was crucified on a cross to take the place we deserved. He paid our debt for our sins and broken relationship with Him.

Because He will wear that human body and those crucifixion scars forever, do you think He could ever forget you? Do you think He doesn’t know your struggles and temptations? Do you think He doesn’t know what’s going on your life today? Do you think He doesn’t want to gather you in His arms of love?

In *Desire of Ages*, Mrs. White wrote on page 25: “In taking our nature, the Savior has bound Himself to humanity by a tie that is never to be broken.” By becoming one of us, He understands our challenges and concerns. **Jesus belong to us!**

The verse in Isaiah 9:6 tells us, “For unto us a Child is born. Unto us a Son is given. And the government will be upon His shoulder. His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor. He listens sympathetically to our needs. He answers when we call. He gently guides us along our journey to our heavenly home. He gives us wisdom for our decisions. He gives us His strength when we feel weak.

Jesus is our Mighty God. He has never lost a battle with the enemy. He met Satan and defeated him. Demons flee when the name of Jesus is spoken. He breaks the chains of temptations that bind us. He delivers us from the bondage of enslaving habits. He renews our minds and transforms our hearts.

Jesus is our Everlasting Father. He is eternal. He is always there. From eternity in the past to eternity in the future, He never changes. He will never leave us or forsake us. His desire is for us to be with Him forever!

Jesus is our Prince of Peace. He brings peace to our troubled hearts. He brings calm to our stressed minds. He brings order to our chaotic lives. He brings us abundant joy.

What is our part in maintaining this amazing relationship with Jesus? We need to read His Word as a love letter to us. We need to ask daily for a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit. We need to share our love for Jesus with others.

Mrs. White wrote these encouraging words in *Desire of Ages*, page. 302: “The sense of our unworthiness will lead the heart to hunger and thirst for His righteousness. The desire will not be disappointed. Those who make room in their hearts for Jesus will realize His love. All who long to bear the likeness of His character shall be satisfied. The Holy Spirit never leaves unassisted the soul who is looking unto Jesus. If the eye is kept fixed on Christ, the work of the Spirit ceases not until the soul is conformed to His image. The pure element of love will expand the soul. It will give a capacity for higher attainments. It will increase our knowledge of heavenly things. It will not rest short of His fullness.” By Donna Faye Anderson

Catching Fire

Pyromania: an uncontrollable desire to set fire to things.

As a child, I enjoyed fire and was a bit of a pyromaniac. I enjoyed matches. I loved campfires. I was the kid with the glowing ember on the end of a stick, waving it around until the ember flew off into a lap nearby. I loved setting fire to things. The desire was controllable, however; my father wasn't always quite so sure.

When we moved to our 40 acres in the Sierra foothills, he decided that I would be in charge of the wood stove, our only source of heat. The wood pile was my domain. I learned to use a chainsaw. My dad and I cut the wood. We stacked it. I split the wood with an ax; no gas-powered splitter for me. My job was to get up before the rest of the family in the morning and get the fire going. This was my daily chore in the winter. So, from about 7th grade through high school, I played with fire nearly every day during the winter.

I still enjoy fire. I still love campfires. Twenty years after leaving home for college, Debbie and I built our home in Chico. I just had to have wood heat. So, for 16 years we heated our home with wood. I enjoyed getting up early, before everyone else, and getting the fire going, both at home and while on camping trips.

I would start by stirring up the coals and uncovering them. Through the night, as the fire burned down, the coals were now covered by ash. This seemed to slow down the burning and insulate the heat. Stirring uncovered the coals, exposing them to the air and they would begin to glow.

At this point, most people liked to hurry things along. The small twigs and kindling would be placed on the coals. Many would begin puffing and blowing to get the flame started. Then successively larger sticks are soon propped up above the twigs as small flames begin to rise. The fussing would continue with more stirring and puffing and adding of larger chunks of wood. Sometimes all the fussing is counterproductive. The flames may die down or even go out.

I preferred a more patient way. I would stir the coals, uncovering them and exposing them to the air. I opened the dampers and the fireplace door to get the air moving. I then would choose my wood carefully, stacking the pieces with purpose. They must be close enough to share heat but not so close that they end up smothering each other. I try to get the air to flow around and through my carefully arranged pieces stacked on the coals. Then I waited.

Often it is the waiting that is hardest to do. But, I have found that fussing with the fire doesn't get it going any faster. Often all the fussing only slows things down and doesn't allow the heat to build up and get the fire going.

Once the coals are stirred and the wood is in its place, I like to turn off the lights, sit down and watch, sipping my tea. The glow of the coals slowly grows. The wood begins to smoke as my prayers for the day also ascend. In the silence, my mind is quiet as the wood begins to pop and snap. The coals grow brighter, the smoke rises faster and I continue to wait. I love what's coming next. Suddenly, flames spring up. The wood catches fire. It seems to go from smoldering and smoking to a roaring fire in an instant.

I have recently wondered if there is some deeper wisdom to be found in my morning fire-starting. Catching the fires of learning, or catching fire in a spiritual sense, is a bit like my morning fire-starting ritual. Do the coals of complacency need to be stirred and exposed? Does the fuel for educational and spiritual growth need to be strategically placed and then not fussed with? Do I need to be more patient and let these coals glow and the smoke rise until they catch fire? How do I know when to fuss with it all and when to leave it alone?

More than anything at the beginning of this new year, we want our students to catch fire, to burn brightly for God. We want to fan the flames of learning and let their fire for God burn ever more brightly. This is our continued prayer.

Maybe I'm still a pyromaniac.

"Let us have no imitation Christian love. Let us have a genuine break with evil and a real devotion to good. Let us have real warm affection for one another as between brothers, and a willingness to let the other man have the credit. Let us not allow slackness to spoil our work and **let us keep the fires of the spirit burning**, as we do our work for God."

Romans 12:9-11 (Philips)

God bless,

Rick Nelson, 530-588-4730 rick.nelson@myuja.org

UJA News, cont.



New Lawn in Front of the Upper Campus

Since our trees on the front lawn lost the battle to mistletoe and had to be cut down, we wanted to plant some new trees, but our irrigation system was pretty run down and not working properly.

So the irrigation was redone, sod was laid down, and four Chinese pistache trees were planted! Everything is settling in great, and we will eventually have towering shade trees over the front lawns once again :) Photos: Left: Two pictures taking out the stumps and smoothing the surface. Below: New grass and new trees are planted.

Photos taken by Allison Kurtz



The Glenn Miller Memorial Golf Tournament (GMMGT).

Now is the time to put the GMMGT at the very top of your priorities! The eleventh annual tournament date is set for **Friday, September 20, 2024**. 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 at Todd Grove Park. This tournament significantly benefits Ukiah Junior Academy families who cannot afford the full tuition with worthy-student scholarship funds.

Please prayerfully consider how you would like to support this major event!

In addition to the funds raised, there is a second tremendous benefit: the community-at-large gains an increased awareness of the academy and the opportunities it offers. Steve Miller, son of the late Dr. Glenn Miller, acquaints new people every year who would not otherwise know about the school, as well as solidifying long-standing supporters. When you see him, be sure to thank him for his enduring dedication to organizing and promoting this successful event.

UJA News, cont.

Community Service Projects

Thursday mornings are when the 9th/10th grade students go out into the community to engage in service projects. They would like to help their church family members who need assistance with yard work, washing windows, making walkways, or moving heavy objects.

If you could use some help from very capable and friendly students, please contact Pastor Kablanow or Dan Kuntz. They will be happy to schedule a convenient date for you.

Who Are the Prayer Kids?

At the beginning of each day, Monday through Thursday, as part of their worship time, the staff prays for two students listed as “the prayer kids” for that day.

Then during the Friday Chapel, a special prayer of blessing is offered for the week’s Prayer Kids. The parents are also encouraged to pray for these students each day.

May we, as a church family, daily utilize the power of corporate prayer for our students, their families, and the UJA staff. Then anticipate watching the Lord work in wonderful ways this school year!

Leoni Meadows News

Summer Camp at Leoni Meadows

Craig Heinrich, camp director, reflects, “Our daily mission is to connect our visitors to an abundant life in Jesus Christ and prepare them for His soon return. Since COVID and the Caldor fire, returning the camp to normal has been challenging. This summer I could truly state everything was normal.”

The staff’s impact on campers is profound. Wrangler Camp staff member **Elia Privat** witnessed, “We celebrated nine baptisms at teen camp and six more at junior camp this summer. For each, the staff gathered around the kids as they were baptized, praying, singing, and cheering as they emerged from the water. Watching the Holy Spirit work was incredibly inspiring. It united us as a team and motivated us to serve each other and each camper at a deeper level.”



<- - - Students enjoying the new basketball court on the UJA campus!

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.

Church News**The International Pathfinder Camporee**

The 2024 *Believe the Promise* International Pathfinder Camporee was held in Gillette, Wyoming, from August 5 to 11. This gathering nearly doubled the population of Gillette for a week. There were more than 900 Pathfinders in attendance from our Northern California Conference.

Louis Pastor reports: Many of the Ukiah Pathfinders who went to the last International Camporee at Oshkosh, Wisconsin in 2019 were excited about meeting in a new location. Our first official meeting was on Sunday at the dinosaur dig at the Hansen Ranch. Southwestern University invited the Pathfinders to see what it was like at an actual research station, digging up dinosaur fossils and getting to keep a sample that they unearthed. We were the second Pathfinder group to go on this wonderful tour which highlighted the validity of the worldwide catastrophic flood as described in the Bible. Many of the group then went to South Dakota to see Mount Rushmore.

All day Monday was set up of our camp and getting acquainted with the layout of the CamPlex Center. We were awakened at 3:30 a.m. early Tuesday morning to a strong storm and downpour of rain which caused one of the tents to take in some water. After strategic placement of a tarp and battering down the hatches, the tent and the occupants were watertight.

All things went as planned on Tuesday until the late afternoon, when a severe storm warning was broadcast to the entire camp. The instructions were to shelter in a rigid structure, or to evacuate to the buildings in the center of the complex, due to lightening. There was a report of one of the tents in the complex that was struck by lightening. Thankfully, it was not occupied at the time. There were other strikes that were very near, and one apartment complex was hit and damaged. A good portion of tents, especially in the international area, were flooded along with their belongings. Some items were beyond repair and had to be discarded. There were media reports of the locals in Gillette hearing of the plight of our Pathfinder clubs. Generous folk brought blankets, sleeping bags, and other necessities. There were some businesses that provided shelter to the Pathfinders who lost their equipment.

There was a resumption of activities at noon on Wednesday and the opening night of the evening program, which was cut short due to the rain. Many in our Ukiah contingent decided to stay and sing and praise God in the rain, which was an absolute blast. The rest of the Camporee was very compressed due to having two shows a night.

It seemed that everywhere our adults went, there was a reunion of classmates not seen in many years, former church members and friends who were excited to see each other. It truly was an amazing gathering of our church family. Many of our Pathfinders enjoyed pin trading and getting to know other Pathfinders from around the nation and around the world as over 100 countries were represented.

Our Ukiah boys took part in a three on three basketball tournament and ended with a record of two wins and two losses. **Tori Corbett** took part in three swimming races and got first place in all of them. We were so very proud of her.

While there were challenges with the weather and other setbacks with logistics, our Timberwolves never backed down and made the best of the situation at hand. They exhibited the true spirit of what being a Pathfinder is all about! There are so many more wonderful experiences and we encourage our church to ask the Pathfinders and parents about what their favorite experience was or a favorite pin acquisition.

On behalf of the Ukiah Timberwolves Pathfinder Club, we thank our entire church family for their support in getting us to the international camporee, as well as the many prayers for safety during the storms. We will always *Believe the Promise* that our heavenly Father will lead us. By Luis Pastor

On behalf of the church family, we wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to Luis Pastor, who has directed the Timberwolves for a decade. He has made a tremendous difference in the lives of our young people. Thank you, Luis, for consistently modeling the love of Jesus. To be sure, you are leaving a big piece of your heart with the Timberwolves. Pastor Kablanow, assisted by Becky and Dan Kuntz, will be picking up the reins and solidifying the same spirit of love and service.

Church News, cont.



Photos from the Gillette Camporee taken by Luis Pastor. Above: Timberwolves at their campsite. Right: **Samantha Ahumada** was baptized at the Camporee. Below: The promise of God was given by a double rainbow circling the Camp.



Ukiah Adventurer Club



A Christ-centered program for children ages 3-9 and their caregivers

Come learn about God, nature, yourself, and others

2024

Participate in family focused activities

INCLUDES:

- Practicing new skills
- Earning award patches
- Educational games and fun
- Outdoor activities
- Meetings twice a month

Our first meeting is Sept 22. Come join the fun!

*Registration fees apply

Aug 24- Sept 15
Registration Open



Want to know more?

adventurers.ukiah@gmail.com
www.ukiahsda.com/adventurers

Ukiah SDA Church
1390 Laurel Ave

<-----
Jodi Clay, Director
Keilani Tremper
and **Kara Gore**,
Assistants,
have planned an
exciting year for
the Adventurer
Club!

Future ----->
Pathfinder
directors!!

Jordan and
Lily Pastor
with their
honors sashes.



Pastor K. Reports on Pathfinder Information for the New Season

This year there are a lot of exciting things planned for the Pathfinders We would love for any kids, between the ages of 10 and 15, to come and join our club. We will be meeting on the first and third Thursdays of every month and are happy to register kids at any point. Please contact Pastor K or Becky Kuntz if you have any questions or would like to get more information.

Some of the fun activities we will be doing this year are: Swimming, NCC Camporee, Teen Caving Trip, Blacksmithing, Teen Climbing Trip, Bike-a-thon, a Club camping trip, and much more. We are excited for the new year's experiences.

Farm Stew

Joy Kauffman, Founder and Executive Director of FARM STEW, expresses her gratitude to our Ukiah church for using our resources to share Jesus and His abundant life! Our generous support this year of \$901.57 will make a significant difference in the lives of those who live in underprivileged countries.

At FARM STEW, the theme for 2024 has been the Year of the Flourishing Family, and their goal is to have active programs in 24 countries by the end of the year. They began the year in 12 countries.

Ministry of Healing, page 22

“Never was there such an evangelist as Christ. He was the Majesty of heaven, but He humbled Himself to take our nature, that He might meet men where they were. To all people, rich and poor, free and bond, Christ, the Messenger of the covenant, brought the tidings of salvation. His fame as the Great Healer spread throughout Palestine. The sick came to the places through which He would pass, that they might call on Him for help. Hither, too, came many anxious to hear His words and to receive a touch of His hand. Thus he went from city to city, from town to town, preaching the gospel and healing the sick—the King of glory in the lowly garb of humanity.”

Medical Missionary Information- - -

Faith & Healing

September 13—14

Ukiah SDA Church



Speaker: Pastor/Doctor Michael Hess, MDiv. MD
Raised as a pastor's kid in Northern California, he was involved in ministry at a young age. He graduated from PUC, where he met Vickie. While attending seminary, he became convicted that God wanted him to combine pastoral ministry with medical ministry. After completing his Master of Divinity degree at Andrews University he attended medical school at Loma Linda. Following a family medicine residency in Merced, he spent 19 years in Northern California working as a pastor and physician. He now serves as assistant pastor and medical director at Village Church in Berrien Springs Michigan. His passion is to guide people to complete restoration, physical, mental, and spiritual, through a deeper walk with Jesus. He is married to Vickie, who grew up in Indiana. They have 6 children and 4 grandchildren. He enjoys going into nature to wander and explore.

· Friday @ 6:30 PM:

Medical Missionary: Why, What, and How?

· Sabbath School @ 9:30 AM:

Health Reform: A Personal Appeal

· Worship Service @ 11:00 AM:

Faith and Healing: The Gospel Remedy

· Sabbath Afternoon @ 2:30 PM:

The Time is at Hand: The Last Work

Social Events Calendar

October 5, outdoor church at Mill Creek Park
 October 19, potato roast Big River Beach
 November 22, Friendsgiving at the school
 January 3, Agape Feast at the school
 January 18, game night at the school
 February 1, game night at the school
 February 9, Valentine's banquet at the school
 March 1, talent show (tentative date) at the school
 May 17, outdoor church at Mill Creek Park

We are also working on a church camp-out. Not sure of the date or place yet.
 Submitted by Jeni Bushby

The Community Services Center Sports a New Roof

For thirty-seven years the Community Services Center on Cherry Street has stood to serve the needs of our town. Harry Witzel was the initial force behind planning and providing this vital structure. Besides housing our collection of clothes and linens to give to those without enough, it has hosted cooking schools, stop-smoking clinics, and countless potlucks.

Like most older folk, the building was showing signs of its age. But that is all changing. Many thanks to Randal Schafer, Ryan Veness and Dave DeBooy, for replacing the leaky window and ruined siding on the south gable. And because of generous donors, the building has a beautiful new roof. Future plans include a fresh paint job to complete the project. By Beth Garibaldi



Family News

An Update on Precious Little Rishi

Dear family and friends,

Rishi had his first follow-up appointment a couple of weeks ago at the Shriner's Hospital in Sacramento where he was treated for his burns. The doctor was pleased with his progress in healing. She said that everything is coming along well.

Becky is continuing to do daily wound care for him. I help her during this process. She does an awesome job cleaning, massaging, and bandaging. His wounds are all pretty much closed and healed.

The Shriner's nurses wanted to transition him from bandaging to an upper-body sleeve they tailored for him, but unfortunately it was too tight, as he grew between the time they measured him and the sleeve came in. So they will make a bigger one for him. He will wear that for six months to a year 24 hours a day, to help minimize scarring. The scarring will be determined by time, healing, our continued care, etc.

So, he is basically back to his playful active self at this point. It's been quite the journey. The presence of the Lord has never been absent. Thank you all again for your amazing love and support. You held us together in so many ways and we are so grateful.

Love and blessings,
 Becky, Sam,
 and Rishi



Ordination of two of our beloved Ukiah Pastors

Why do we have "Ordination"? It is the recognition of God's calling in one's life to ministry.

Join us in celebrating with Pastor Eric Kablanow and Pastor Douglas Barahona as they are ordained and acknowledge their calling to the ministry.

Pastor Eric Kablanow, also known as Pastor K. Shown with his wife Elizabeth, known as Beth, and their little son Bryce.

*"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."
Ephesians 4:11-13*

Pastor Douglas Barahona, also known as Pastor Doug. Shown with his wife, Natalie, and their little son Luka.



*Ordination
Of Pastor K*

UKIAH SDA CHURCH

September 21, 2024
5:00 PM

Join us in celebrating Pastor K's ordination and his calling to ministry.



YOU ARE INVITED TO A

**PASTORAL
ORDINATION
CEREMONY**

FOR PASTOR DOUGLAS BARAHONA

SEPTEMBER 14, 2024
AT 6 PM

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.

CHICO AVENTIST CHURCH
1877 HOOKER OAK AVE
CHICO CA 95926

Another precious little one has joined our church family!

On July 11, we welcomed our second beautiful gift from God. His name is Jonathan Shamir Sevilla. At birth, he weighed 8 lbs. 3 oz. and was 20 inches long.

We thank our church family for all the prayers! We can't wait for you to meet our little bundle of joy!

Shamir and Claudia Sevilla




Big sister, Yazmin, enjoys a cozy snuggle with little brother Jonathan!

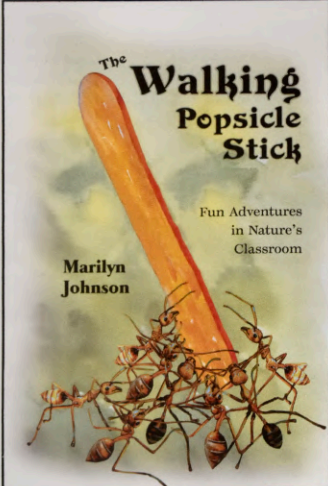
Marilyn "Mernie" Johnson wrote this book of short stories that teach truths from God's second book, His creation. Mernie and George Johnson are the parents of Sameena Stillinge, who along with her husband, Harald, and two precious children are part of our church family. The Johnsons are selling the book for \$5.00, to make it accessible for use as suggested below. Please contact them: (559) 816-5085 or georgeandmerniej@cs.com.

TEACHING TRUTHS ABOUT GOD AND HIS CREATION

"All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all."
~ Cecil Alexander
"All Things Bright and Beautiful." Hymns for little children. 1848



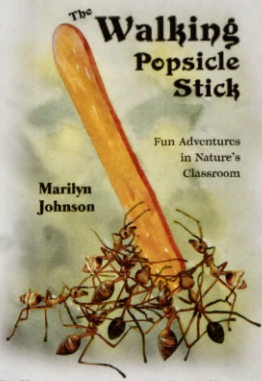
AUTHOR
MARILYN "MERNIE"
JOHNSON



The Walking Popsicle Stick
Fun Adventures in Nature's Classroom
Marilyn Johnson

Come along with the Johnson clan on their adventures in God's amazing classroom of nature. Discover the mystery behind a magically-moving popsicle stick. Investigate spider traps. Giggle and fret over cute and crawly things. Around the globe and in the front yard, they are always having fun and learning!

Contact: (559) 816-5085



The Walking Popsicle Stick
Fun Adventures in Nature's Classroom
Marilyn Johnson

"All creatures great and small, the Lord God made them all." And each one of the 20 different animals in this book offers valuable life lessons, and some fascinating stories. Ants show about the importance of working together, cooperating. Other animals offer lessons on Cheerfulness, Helpfulness, Inner beauty, Loyalty, Persistence, Obedience, Peer pressure, Influence, Temperance, Fruits of the Spirit. A rescue cat teaches about God's special gifts. A bear invasion urges one to be always ready for Jesus' second coming.

George and Mernie Johnson invite you to enjoy some of their often unusual animal experiences in the mission field and here at home.

This is a book meant for witnessing and sharing far and wide. A few suggestions for what to do with it:

- *Use it to invite children to VBS.
- *Give it as a follow-up after VBS.
- *Use it to invite children to join your church's Pathfinder or Adventurer Club.
- *Go door to door in your home neighborhood or around your church, gifting a copy to families with children or grandchildren. Spend time getting acquainted and making friends with them.
- *Share it with colleagues at work.
- *Use it to accompany an invitation to an evangelistic series, health program, cooking school, or other outreach program.