

Dear friends...

Think about this for a moment. During the time of Christ people faced real oppression. Not just from the occupying Romans, as one would expect, but from a religion that claimed to believe in a just and loving God. Children were viewed as a nuisance, especially the girls. If someone were struggling with a sickness, they were immediately suspected of a hidden, sinful lifestyle. When they went to the temple and saw the outwardly pious priests, they felt like second or third class citizens who could not expect to be accepted by God. What about our church? Is it a place where children are welcomed accepted and protected? They were with Jesus. If someone is struggling with sickness or lifestyle, do they know they can come into our fellowship and not be judged, but accepted and nurtured as they grow. They could with Jesus. What about someone who comes to church dressed differently than we expect? Do we communicate the message that they are accepted in the light of the cross? Jesus did. May we be like Jesus.

—Pastor Steve

Your Attention, Please!

The Women's Study on Remarkable Women of the Bible will continue each Tuesday, 2:30 p.m. at Kathleen Franger's home. For more details, contact Kathleen, 658-8705.

Bible Study on the Book of Mark will continue each Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. For more information, contact Karen Bergh, 683-4580.

Baby Shower for Debbie Amador, Feb 4, 2:00 p.m. in Holbrook Hall. Please RSVP to Calle Wieg, 209-966-4918.

Improving Your Health Series is meeting Feb 6, 7:00 p.m. in Holbrook Hall. Dr. Tom Wieg is speaking on "Will You Need Your Teeth to 'Eat to Live'"? Mar. 6 Dr. Scharffenberg's topic is "Nutritional Update on Alzheimer's". This series runs all winter on the 1st Tuesday of each month and is free.

Community Emergency Response Team (**CERT**) is offering a free 8-week evening emergency response training series in Fresno starting Feb. 8. This training will continue each Thursday evening through Mar. 29. A complete schedule and application form is available at the missionary desk.

Church Keys. If you have a key to the church building, please call the church office or Irv Curtis so that we can make sure your name is on the approved entry list at the Alarm Company office.

Women's Ministries will host a tea at Yosemite Roasting Company, Feb. 6 at 1:00 pm, and the first Tuesday of every month thereafter. Call Kathleen Franger, 658-8705, for more information.

Sabbath Vespers Feb. 10, 4:30 p.m. Harmony Strings, with our own Carol Howe, will present a musical vesper service.

Pet/Home Care provided in your absence. Call Karen Bergh 683-4580

PRAYER CORNER



"Most of Jesus' recorded times of private prayer occur prior to his choosing His disciples (Mark 1:37/ Luke 3:21; 6:12), whereas after choosing them, most of His recorded prayer times involved the disciples (Luke 9:28; 11:1; Matt. 26:40). Even in the garden of Gethsemane, when facing the greatest crisis of His life, the looming shadow of the cross, He asked the disciples to watch with Him. In every way, He modeled and commanded the need to pray together."

And the Place was Shaken John Franklin, P. 11

Hour of Prayer Wed. 9:15-10-15 a.m. Multi-purpose

room, Karen Bergh

If the Lord is calling you to pray and you would be willing to share the joy of answered prayer with others, please call a Prayer Team Member and let us know.

Prayer Ministries

Contact Persons:

Kathy Fagan: 683-5210 if you have a request for the prayer chain

Karen Bergh: 683-4580 or Don Bray: 683-5440 if you have a personal request or interest in a prayer group.

Missy Hobbs: 683-0464 if you would like to have a prayer partner.

All voices must become dumb to him who would hear God's Whisper. -Meister Eckhart

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. Jude 20, 21

Praise For—

- Eric Folks, our new youth pastor/Bible Worker
- Nate Gibbs new Bible Worker in North Fork

New Quilting/Afghan ministry

- Jennifer and Shane Lyster's healthy twin boys
- Jessie West, the 3 year old with the brain tumor we have been praying for has gone from a 1 in 10 chance to a 50-50 chance with current treatment, and is currently in remission.

Those with health problems—

Lisa Menke	Mary Plumlee
June/Glen Bowen	Evelyn Maynard
Pauline Hunter	Mim Schooley
Don Ericksen	Betty Axt
Kay Mickel	Jeri Kolstad
Harry/Linda Garlick	Bob Bowman

Specific requests—

Our President and Congressional leaders as they begin a new year of leadership Expecting parents and new parents Eduardo Que, Jenny Lapham's father, that his esophagus will heal David Jeffries in the loss of his sister Don Crisp in the loss of his brother Esther Mindoro in the loss of her brother Those grieving the loss of loved ones New managers at Camp Wawona Feeding of the homeless and needy **Prison Ministry** Tristan Smith, Scott Guthrie, Rick Bray.

Prayer Request/Praise Box

Is on the Missionary Desk in the church foyer. Forms and envelopes are available there for your convenience. The prayer team will be praying for your specific or unspoken request.

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New IRS Ruling

The IRS rules effective in January, 2007 change the way Americans contribute to their house of worship. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 prohibits donors from declaring contributions to churches or other charitable organizations unless they can produce records of the transaction. Many of us put loose change in offerings such as "Sabbath School Expense", "Sabbath School Missions", "Church Offering" and "Lamb's Offering". If you plan on declaring these contributions, please place them in a tithe envelope and mark the appropriate designation on the envelope. If you have small children that you give change to each Sabbath, you might want to use this opportunity to start teaching them about tithe and offerings and help them fill out a tithe envelope for their offerings. We have a small quantity of tithe envelopes that are designed just for children. These will be available at the missionary desk in the church foyer.

Please don't let this new IRS ruling effect your generous giving. The continued giving to all our offerings is important in funding their various ministries. My God continue to bless each of us as we are faithful to Him.

—I.C.

You can give without loving, but you can't love without giving.

Life is a flower of which love is the honey

We are shaped by what we love. -Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

If you have learned to love, you will have learned to live. -Henry van Dyke **Celebrate Birthdays**

February 16 Roland Ott

- 2 Violet Cree 3 Michael Wrona
- 5 Jim Gilbert
- 7 Ingrid Wolff
- 11 Donny Moore
- 11 Ed Moore, Jr.
- 11 Zach Page
- Tom Wieg 11
- 13 Bob Nelson
- 14 Kim Daggett
- 14 Paul Hansen
- 14 Steve Maciel
- 15 Janice Britton

- 1 Caitlyn Burns
- 1 Jeannie Garza 3 Maria Betat
- 3 Sharon Davis

Anniversaries

February 7 Dan and Judi Guthrie March 23 Don and Beth Crisp

15 Sonny and Jackie Garcia 22 Dustin and Angela Ginter

The winter winds are cold and chill, And snow is white and deep. While dormant lies the lilac bush In cold and silent sleep. But one day, soon, the sun will thaw The cold and frozen ground, And life will stir—in buds of spring, And nature will abound. So, just hang, on, a month or so, The robins soon will sing. One consolation we can share

"It won't be long till spring."

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25 Josh Shipp 27 Christian Chorjel

21 Calle Wieg

17 Bob Bowman

17 Leroy Corson

17 Jo Ann Ericksen

18 Hilary Guzman

20 Eddie Mindoro

20 Shirley Moore

22 Mary Plumlee

19 Reannon Broomfield

18 John Herr

March

- 5 Bill Hager
- 5 Paula Lutz
- 5 Joyce Norman

Ruby's Ramblings

Some exciting things do happen here occasionally. One day before Christmas, when I was in Therapy, a CNA came and told me I needed to go outside, but I was unsure why. She said, "It's snowing!" Sure enough, it **was** snowing, here in Orlando, Florida! Everybody who could be, was out of the building! And then I saw the snow machine. A nice young man sang many Christmas carols to entertain us, and it was great fun.

Brenda and I got to attend a wonderful Handel's Messiah concert performed by The Orlando Chorale and The Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra. The music was wonderful, but the director shared unusual stories and insights about Handel's inspiration in composing this heavenly music, which made the experience even more special. Brenda and I with some friends got to spend some time at Disney World, all decorated for Christmas, and got to see their magical fireworks, while eating yummy funnelcakes with strawberry sauce.

Brenda's and Dick's youngest daughter, Joy, and her new husband, Jason, came from southern California to spend the New Year's weekend with us. It was wonderful to meet Jason and spend some time with them.

Thanks so much for the welcome Christmas cards and birthday cards. How I enjoy reading them! As much as I wish, there will not be Christmas cards coming from here. I'll let you know my new address when I know, so we can keep in touch. (Brenda's and Dick's move from Florida to Sacramento has been postponed until early February,)

"May the beauty of God's love be with you, now and always." RC One day Cliff, Ruby's husband, came in from work on the farm singing this little song. Later they wrote it down with the music. The words are as follows.

> I know my Savior loves me always I know my Savior loves me now I know my Savior loves me He loves me day by day He is my friend day by day.

STEP BY STEP (Here's a great affirmation for the New Year.) He does not lead me year by year

Nor even day by day. But step by step my path unfolds; My Lord directs my way.

Tomorrow's plans I do not know, I only know this minute: But He will say, "This is the way,

By faith now walk ye in it."

And I am glad that it is so, Today's enough to bear:

And when tomorrow comes, His grace Shall far exceed its care.

What need to worry then, or fret? The God who gave His Son Holds all the moments in His hand And gives them one by one.

If anything's better than being loved it is loving —Moli'ere

Love comforteth like sunshine after rain. —Shakespeare

Sometimes you need to lie on your back in the green pastures and beside the still waters, and thank God you are alive.

-Henry van Dyke

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⁻Selected

New Members

The very first faces you will see in our new pictorial church directory are those of Steve and Debbie Acree. Steve was born and raised in Florida. He attended a Southern Baptist church where his uncle was the preacher. He describes his upbringing as Christian though not SDA. He enlisted in the Army and served our country for three years before meeting Debbie. Debbie grew up throughout the Madera/Fresno area. She was baptized as a Baptist, a Methodist, and eventually as a Mormon. Steve met Debbie while she was working for a bank, and they were married February 18, 1977. That's 29 years ago this month! Together they have raised two boys, Steven Jr. and Dustin. 2004 was a rough year for the Acrees. Steve was struggling with several serious health issues, and Debbie was struggling with her husband's health as well. They had just moved back into the area when they met Edwin and Gladis Gramajo. They became fast friends, and the Gramajos eventually invited them to attend their church. Once they started attending the SDA church they were introduced to the CHIP program. That ended up being a real turning point for Steve. He says that he doesn't think that he would be here now if it weren't for the CHIP program and all the good it has done for them both. They have adjusted their lifestyles and are now living happier, healthier lives thanks to the Health Message.

Steve and Debbie have also been attending the Empowered Living class with the Pombos. Both of them have many good things to say about the study and how it has benefited their lives. Debbie strongly encourages any family that may be struggling in its relationships to read the book or take the course. The Acrees both have family that they are missing or are presently caring for, but they still say that they feel they are right where they belong in our church. This is just an awesome couple with so much to contribute. We are thrilled to have them as members of our church family and look forward to a lifetime of fellowship with them.

—Carrie Bowman CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Evelyn Maynard says thank you for all the cards and letters she received at Christmas. She appreciated hearing from her Oakhurst friends. She is unable to answer each of them, but she was very glad to get them. Many of you already know that John and Kathleen Lutz have moved. After 47 years in Madera, they felt it was time to downsize. Both homes were on the market. Last summer, after selling the fish Camp home, they purchased a manufactured home in a senior community living center in Clovis. November 12 was a Big Moving Day. They are now closer to their son and to John's family. New address is:

1001 Sylmar Avenue, Space 204 Clovis, CA 93612 559-323-6833

January 27 a Youth Church was held in Holbrook Hall with more than 60 young people in attendance. Youth pastor, Eric Folks, was the speaker. He gave his personal testimony and invited those who hadn't committed their lives to Jesus to nake that decision.

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New Ministry Added!

Don't you wish everyone could be warm during the winter? There are several of us that have taken on a project to do just that! Blankets for Tots is a new ministry working jointly with the North Fork church to make blankets for the children in the Honduras Pan American Health Services orphanage that we support. Please take a moment to visit the bulletin board in the church to see what kind of wonderful quilts we're making! You can't knit? Crochet? Quilt? No problem! If you know how to handle scissors, bring them! This project is for YOU. Anyone can help, from beginner to advanced, of any age. We are asking those of you who crochet or knit to come teach others. Jan Kissig from North Fork will be teaching us how to quilt. Our first gathering will be held on Sunday, February 18 from 3-5 pm. in the Community Services room. If you can't come, but want to contribute money or materials to the project, we'd be grateful. Donations can be placed in a tithe envelope and marked "Blankets for Tots". We will also need: bright colored cotton fabric, (3-4 yards), high thread count muslin, neutral and white thread and yarn of any color. Questions,? Please contact Kathleen Franger (658-8705) or Karen Bergh (683-4580). **Guest Speaker**

Women wear several hats. We work or attend school and church, have kids or grandkids, provide for an active family and more. It can seem challenging to fit in your worship and prayer time too. You are invited to come hear Delinda Hamilton speak on "Prayer Life for the Busy Woman". Please mark your calendar for March 4 at 4 pm in Holbrook Hall. Bring a friend. Refreshments will be served.

It's Tea Time

Women's Ministry is asking all to come for tea and friendship on the first Tues. of the month (starting Feb. 6) at the Yosemite Coffee Roasting Co, 40879 Highway 41 in Oakhurst located next to the dollar store. Come out and visit! Secret Sisters

It's time to enter the current Secret Sister program! Forms are available next to the Secret Sister mailbox on the mission's desk. Names will be chosen the middle of February.

Fundraising Boutique

There's talk about a fundraising boutique this year during the holiday season to support our Honduras project. If you're interested in donating your craft or services, please contact Kathleen 658-8705.

New Bible Study

Come join us and study "The Remarkable Women of the Bible". Learn what bible history has for us in our lives today. We meet Tuesdays at 2:30pm at the Franger home. Contact Kathleen 658-8705 if you have questions.

—Kathleen Franger

If any of you are lonely or in need of a friendly ear, please call Karen Bergh at 683-4530, or Kathleen Franger at 658-8705

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SCHOOL

Oakhurst Seventh-day Adventist School is now in its second semester of this year.

We are privileged to have our new youth pastor, Nate Gibbs, present our Spring Week of Prayer. The time is pending.

Our school is planning a field trip to The Castle Air Museum and possibly the Science and Technology Center on the same air base in early February. Last week as the church was suffering from the cold and freezing pipes, the school also had frozen pipes for three days. A BIG thank you to Gary Shipp for carrying water for our toilet use until the pipes thawed. Also thank you to Marvin Ermshar for fixing the broken chain in the boy's toilet. In grades 5-8 science, biomes and habitats of differing animals is on the curriculum. Each child is doing reports of animals of their choice from each biome. This past week they did their reports on freshwater habitat. This week they will choose an animal from the tundra habitat.

Grades 1-4 are studying the history, customs, geography and people of different regions of the U.S. We are in the Northeast this month.

Because our theme this year is rocks, fossils, and gems, we spent one afternoon looking at some fossils I found quite by accident one weekend. I was coming down a mountainside in Nevada and kicked a shale rock that split and presented a beautiful specimen. Looking closer I found them in literally every shale I broke open. Thank you again for remembering our school in your prayers.

—Jeri Ermshar



January 22, 2006

- VOTED: Recommend to church body transfer of membership of Leland & Dale Cottrell to Loma Linda University Church.
- VOTED: Recommend to church body the 2007 budget.
- HOLBROOK HALL: Slide presentation by Shirley Moore on plans for church entrance and landscaping.
- VOTED: Ed Hardy, Chairman, and Shane Lyster, Vice-chairman of short and long range planning committee.
- Pastor Steve and Ministry Council to begin working on a plan for orientation for new/existing members.
- All those with church keys to be added to the security system callout list..
- VOTED: Rent church Nazarene Church for 6 months @\$300/month. Renegotiate at that time.
- VOTED: To approve in concept plans by disaster committee for our church facilities and members' homes.

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Faith Stories at the Adventist Book Center

Searching for the God of Grace By Stuart Tyner Pacific Press Tyner's search is all about grace. First in the Bible, from Old Testament to New, then on to the Middle Ages, the Reformation, the Council of Trent, the Great Disappointment, the California Conspiracy and the debates of 1888,

through the writings of Ellen White. This is a historical tour as well as theological treatise on the significance of grace, which Tyner sees as more important than end time events or Sabbath-keeping. Filled with questions, quotations, stories, and illustrations, Tyner's book is passionate about grace being the air that Christians breathe in order to live. Chris Blake calls it one of the best Adventist books in years.

Rainbow Over Hell

By Tsuneyuki Mohri **Pacific Press** Translated by Sharon Fujimoto-Johnson The layers of this conversion story make it particularly fascinating. Author Tsuneyuki Mohri, a Buddhist, describes how a man convicted of murder during the Second World War was spared the death penalty, converted to Christianity, and became an Adventist pastor. The book also tells the experience of the Buddhist filmmaker who traveled with the pastor back to Saipan to make a film about the pastor. Not only is the pastor's story riveting, so are the people who tell it. Translator Sharon Fujimoto-Johnson says that she has always believed in God. "What changed in my heart during translation of Rainbow

Over Hell was that I realized God believes in us."

Shall We Gather at the Potluck: A Heartwarming Look at the Church I Love

By Mike Mennard Review and Herald Mike Mennard is a charming storyteller. In this book, he tackles questions about church life that admittedly aren't deeply theological or focused on church doctrine, but they are the kind of things that can be a real challenge to life within a local congregation. In so doing, Mennard gets around to talking about how we love one another—which is not always an easy assignment.

Dinosaurs: Where Did They Come from and Where Did They Go? By Elaine Graham-Kennedy Pacific Press

A children's book with a section for grownups, this book is richly illustrated with photographs of skeletons and dig sites. The author, who until very recently was on the staff of the Geoscience Research Institute, admits to being a dinosaur lover since childhood. She takes readers on a hunt for facts about dinosaurs and then leaves the conclusion up to the reader. She believes God created the dinosaurs. What happened to them? She says that many Christians believe the worldwide flood destroyed the dinosaurs. "There are good facts to support this idea," she says, "but we cannot prove it."

Some minds are like concrete thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

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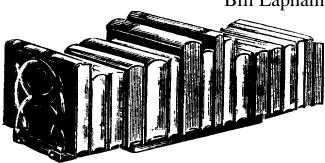
Here's to Your Health Dear Church Family,

We are starting a new column for the church newsletter this month. It will be a column about everyday health topics written by various church members throughout the year. We are very blessed to have so many people in our church in so many different fields of health who can enhance our lives on a daily basis. If there is any question regarding health that you want answered do not hesitate to talk to me. and I will find someone in our church who has a good understanding of the subject or will have it researched so that all health questions are answered. Our church has been blessed with a beautiful health message that we are encouraged to bring to the whole world, and we know the health message is a wonderful evangelistic tool we can use to bring people to Christ. My hope for this health ministry is that as our church members learn more about good health, we can spread this good news to our family, friends, co-workers and any other person in whom we come in contact.

This month's health message is something that I encounter in my job as a physical therapist almost on a daily basis. It is a simple question but one that many people do not know a lot about. The question is "When I get hurt, should I put a hot pack or cold pack on the area?" Many people do not know the correct response to this question, but the general rule is to use an ice pack the first 48 hours after an injury. An ice pack is a natural tool that can be used to help get the healing process off to a fast start. There are three main reasons to choose an ice pack in the acute stage of an injury. First, the cold causes a vasoconstriction of the blood vessels limiting the bleeding in the area. Secondly, the cold causes a decrease in metabolism and histamine levels which helps to reduce the inflammation and outward fluid filtration or swelling. Lastly, the cold is also helpful in numbing the pain associated with injury. I know many people like to put a hot pack on an injury because it does feel good and the thought of putting an ice pack on any body part does not sound too appealing. But if you think back to when you were a kid and your mother insisted you eat more vegetables which you did not like as much as a nice bowl of ice cream or a slice of cake; the hot pack is like the dessert you like in that it tastes good going down but is not good for you. The ice pack on the other hand is like the vegetables which are not as nice going down but much better for you in the long run. Putting a heating pad on an acute injury causes increased blood flow to the injured area meaning more swelling and inflammation causing a longer recovery. If you think back to the last game you may have caught on TV, whenever an athlete is injured, the first thing the trainers do is put an ice pack on the area to control the swelling and inflammation.

The next question I usually get from patients is, for how long does the ice need to be applied and for how many days? Typically, the ice pack should be on the affected part for 10-15 minutes but can be longer depending on the depth of the tissue being injured. An ankle is quite superficial but an injury to a joint in the back is deeper. As I mentioned earlier, typically ice should be used for the first 48 hours but also depends on the severity of the injury. Once you have gotten past the first few days, then a heat pack is good to use to help increase the circulation and get more nutrients to the area. Then starting with easy exercises is a good idea. But once you have done some light strengthening or stretching exercises, it is a good idea to place an ice pack on the injured area for ten to fifteen minutes afterward to make sure you have not caused further trauma to the area. If you have any questions regarding this subject, please do not hesitate to ask.

> Sincerely, Bill Lapham



From the Librarians—

Thanks to all of you who have found and brought back books to the library. We really appreciate it. Please keep looking for others that belong to the church.

"Gateway of the New Year" Another year's gate now opens wide, Inviting us to come and look inside, And turn your eyes from hist'ry that is dead, To prophecies and dreams that lie ahead. The future is before us, And, like clay, Gives us a chance to mold it as we may.



Next week is when we defend our championship at the Area 7 Pathfinder Bible Bowl. The annual event is held at Fresno Adventist Academy. Wish us well, or better yet, join us down there at 4:00 p.m.

Also this Saturday, the club will again sing to the residents of The Oakhurst Living Center after potluck. We do this on the first Sabbath of each month. Come join us here too.

We recently completed work on our Weather Honor and have begun work on the Leather Craft Honor which is being capably taught by Roland Ott.

Coming soon will be the Pathfinder Camporee and the Pathfinder Fair. The Camporee will be held at a ranch outside of Raymond, and the Pathfinder Fair will again be at the Paso Robles Fairgrounds.

The club appreciates the support the church provides in making these activities possible. Pathfinders serve young boys and girls, ages 9 to 17. If you are interested in more information contact the club director, Ed Guzman at 658-8582, or deputy director Thelma Pombo at 641-6050. —Ed Guzman

A lot of church members who are singing ''Standing on the Promises'' are just sitting on the premises.

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Maranatha International India

(Ruby sent this a couple of months ago.) My daughter Brenda and her

husband Dick have just begun their new responsibilities with Maranatha Volunteers International. Here is a brief message they sent me from India where they have been working in some of the small villages...

India is about people, lots and lots of people, many of whom are riding bicycles stacked high with eggs, bananas, sugar cane, or some other product being delivered from here to there. Yesterday we were in Hong Kong, today we are in an Indian village where there are no stores.

The houses, dung-plastered poles supporting thick roofs of grey thatch, huddle together beside paddies of rice and fields of sugar cane. Villagers have lived here for generations, each family carving a living from the dirt. "Wealth" is a dollar-a-day cutting cane, tending rice, or hand-embroidering silk saree cloth, work that comes only when the "Master" chooses to offer it.

Smoky fires perfume the village, and mask myriads of less pleasant odors.

Each doorway supports a resting resident. Some are leaning, others are smoking and leaning. Some are alone, others cluster in family groups, commenting on whatever passes. All are celebrating calm.

Stop or slow down and children materialize from behind every tree. They stare, giggle, point, and then surround you with a thousand questions and invitations. They push and pull on each other whilst trying to be the closest to any camera. Shouts of "one piktur" fill the air as the adults chuckle at the spectacle.

Black liquid eyes make photography irresistible and wear out camera batteries.

Primary schools are available in the villages, but advanced education is an improbable dream. Heaven, however, is accessible to all, and village families throng to Christian meetings on the school cricket grounds and fill small white churches with vibrant singing and passionate prayers.

Here is where the Maranatha Volunteers International team members shine. You will find them inside village homes laughing with the families, praying as the villagers request. They pray for each person, pray for the cows, pray for the thatch (that it will let in less water next rain), and praying for the health and safety of each family member. Mostly, the volunteers place hands on heads and ask God to "help this person experience the miracle of grace."

Then, with honor and smiles, the volunteers invite the villagers to the clinics and meetings Maranatha is supporting. We are here to help them experience the best possible in their lives...from the inside out.

Sometimes you need to lie on your back in the green pastures and beside the still waters, and thank God you are alive.

-Henry van Dyke

Important Note

Please do not bring any clothing or yard sale items to the church until further notice. We do not have more room for storage at present.

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