

### **Hello church family...**

If you would like to know what is going on in the Hamilton family, I'll tell you it is a little apprehensive. The doctor says 32 days until the baby is born. Yikes! And as you know, babies aren't born able to walk, talk or feed themselves. They need a lot of help.

Jesus told Nicodemus in John chapter 3, that when people are baptized it's like being born again. That means that they can't walk well spiritually. They aren't always able to "talk the talk" or feed themselves from scripture well. They need a lot of help.

Let's make our church a place where new baby Christians can grow in a faith environment. Where if they fall someone, is there to help them up rather than scold them. Where they are able to learn to talk by example. And Bible Study is taught in a way that can be understood, because man cannot live by bread alone but by every word of God.

How can this happen, you ask. Jesus answered that question in John chapter 3 as well. He says you must be born of water **and** of the "spirit". We must be born of the spirit every day. That means we are all little babies. Let's grow together in Christ. May God bless you.

—*Pastor Steve*

### **Your Attention, Please!**

**Grants Pass SDA School**, band and choir under the direction of Jan (Hansen) Hossler, will have the church service on April 21. We will have about 30 guests at the fellowship luncheon, so we will need extra food on that day.

**Good Friday Service:** Our church is hosting the Oakhurst Mountain Ministry Good Friday Service with 2 other churches on Good Friday, April 6 at Noon. Pastor Steve and the pastors of 2 other churches will be offering sermonettes during the lunch hour. Come, spend your lunchtime and support your church. Invite co-workers and friends also.

**Creation Seminar** April 6-28, 7:00 p.m. at the church on Friday, Saturday, Monday and Wednesday evenings. These meetings will be presented by Nathaniel Gibbs, who went from being an atheist/agnostic evolutionist to a believer and teacher of creation from a scientific, logical mindset.

**Classes for children** between the ages of 7 to 11 will be held during the Creation Seminar. The subject of the classes will be "Seeing God in the Creation of the World". Bring your child (or children) to let them learn how God created this world.

**Prayer Vigil Participants** remember that the first Creation Seminar meeting is Friday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m.

**Help with refreshments** is needed during the Creation Seminar meetings. Each night servers and food items are needed. Servers will need to be there to help set up and for cleanup. Contributions of finger foods such as relishes for a vegetable plate, fruit, crackers, cookies and so on would be appreciated. There is a sign-up sheet at the missionary desk where you can indicate the evenings you would be available to help or what food items you can bring on which evenings. If you have any questions call Jeannie Garza, home 658-8366 or cell 760-0585. Thanks for your help.

# PRAYER CORNER



“When a church loves God so much that its needs become of secondary priority, then the church will see the blessings of God in untold measure...Praise, thanksgiving, confession of sin, or a number of other things may be appropriate to renew the relationship with Him, but the people must begin with Him...At the prayer meeting in Acts 4:23-31, the people started off by focusing on God. The response of their heart in verse 29 was to ask for boldness, not protection. Had they not begun with who God is, they surely would have asked for a hedge. You see what God thought of their prayer meeting in verse 31: ‘And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.’ When the people of God have a heart orientation toward him and not a needs orientation, God moves powerfully in such a way that they experience His answers.”

*And The Place Was Shaken*, pp.90 & 91  
—John Franklin

## ***Hour of Prayer***

Wed. 9:15-10-15 a.m. Multi-purpose room  
Karen Bergh

## **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.

### ***Praise For—***

Vespers program by Ed Wagner and his students

Those willing to serve on the nominating committee

Our pastor who is so dynamic in presenting the Word of God

The women who are so tirelessly creating quilts for the Honduras orphans

The wonderful flowers and new entrance to the church

### ***Those with health problems—***

Lisa Menke

Mary Plumlee

June/Glen Bowen

Evelyn Maynard

Irene Frederico

Scott Norman

Pauline Hunter

Mim Schooley

Don Ericksen

Betty Axt

Kay Mickel

Jeri Kolstad

Harry/Linda Garlick

Bob Bowman

Henry/Miriam Bergh

Violet Cree

Eduard Que

### ***Specific requests—***

The upcoming Creation Seminar —

Nathaniel Gibbs

Enough cheerful volunteers

Presence of the Holy Spirit

All attendees will receive a blessing

Commitment to inviting

The building of relationships

Those greeting

Those praying

Those serving refreshments

Those operating the PA/visuals

For equipment to work properly

Expecting parents and new parents

Tristan Smith, Scott Guthrie, Rick Bray

God’s guidance in the choice of a teacher for next year

Follow-up and application of what was learned in SchoolWorks

### **Prayer for Goodness**

Oh Holy Spirit, giver of light and life;

Impart to us

thoughts higher than our own thoughts;

prayers better than our own prayers;

and powers beyond our own powers;

That we may spend and be spent

in the ways of love and goodness,

after the perfect image of our Lord and Savior,  
Jesus Christ.

# Ruby's Ramblings

## FROM AFAR

My days stay full with routine activities, calls and visits from friends and family. Happy to be able to attend a baby shower for first baby, a miracle baby, of friends at the Florida Hospital Celebration SDA Church—Grandson Jeremy's wife Suzanne slowly recovering, healing from elbow surgery after being bucked off her new horse the end of Feb.—Brenda and Dick traveling to Ecuador and Australia for Maranatha. Their Orlando house sale is in process, so move to Sacramento will be soon. I felt privileged to attend all day Annual Maranatha Day at Winter Springs Church in Orlando, where they've been sponsoring many church building projects over the past 25 years. What inspiration and dedication!

You're in my thoughts and prayers often, eager to hear news of my Oakhurst Church family.

*"May the beauty of God's love be with you always."*

RC

## MIRACLES

Have you listened to a robin  
 Telling Spring's eternal story?  
 While all Nature wakes from slumber?  
 Bursting forth in timeless glory!  
 Have you watched the stars a-twinkling  
 Jewels, gleaming in the sky  
 As they shine thru night's dark cover,  
 And a patient moon hangs high.  
 Have you seen the saffron orange,  
 Golden yellow, and bright red,  
 As the trees, all dressed for Autumn,  
 Flaunt their colors overhead?  
 Have you heard the crunch of new snow  
 Underfoot, when all is still?  
 Felt the crisp, cold air bring shivers,  
 Painting cheeks with Winter's chill?  
 Seasons pass by, oh, so quickly  
 As the months turn into years,

And our old friends seem much dearer,  
 Sharing laughter, sharing tears.  
 It's good to find a quiet time  
 Somewhere in a busy day,  
 A time for rest, for tranquil thoughts,  
 A peaceful time to pray:  
 Reflecting on the wonders,  
 Daily challenges and strife,  
 Thanking God for all His blessings,  
 And the Miracle of Life.

—Helen M. Motti

## Birthdays

### April

3 Will Franger	19 Katie Hamilton
4 Marland Hansen	24 Jennifer Burns
6 Rosalind Hansen	24 J. Vecchiarelli
8 M. Hollingsead	26 Peggy Kail
8 Bob Kiser	28 Mabel Folkes
8 Thomas Sisco	28 Evelyn Muir
11 Carissa Shipp	29 Caitlyn Bowman
13 Jackson Glines	29 Shalyna Burns
14 Sonia Brown	30 Norm Chenowith
18 Alison Guzman	30 Kathleen Franger

### May

1 Marguerite Francis	7 Sydney Lapham
1 Sonny Garcia	7 Elizabeth Pombo
7 Jeff Burns	7 Morgan Wrona

## Anniversaries

### April

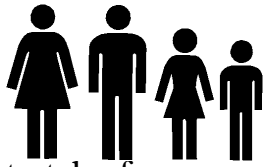
1 David and Kathy Folkes  
 7 Don and Jo Ann Ericksen  
 17 Eric and Debbie Vecchiarelli  
 18 Ron and Kathy Brix

### May

4 John and Darlene Herr

Childcare needed. Michael and Danielle Overton are looking for someone with the "patience of the saints" who is interested in providing dependable childcare for Leah who is almost 4. It would involve regular daycare hours from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. M-F If you're interested in some extra income, please contact Michael at 760-8017 or Danielle at 916-213-4848.

## New Members



The last of our long stretch of new members is Carlyle and Betty-Jane Green. Both raised Adventist, they are the results of sound Christian upbringings. Together in their 18-year marriage they have brought up five children, seven grandchildren, and five great grandchildren of their very own.

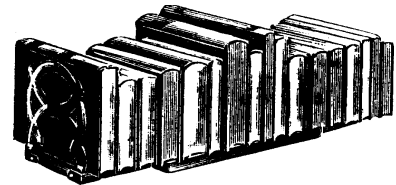
Carlyle, who likes to be called Fred, grew up in New Jersey. He attended Adventist schools until he was educated enough to teach in them. All together he has served on five different Adventist school boards. He was a PE teacher at Linwood Academy, and a psychologist for several school systems across California. Eventually his gifts were called into the Far East where he taught and trained other staff and teachers. Once he was back in the US, he resided in Tahoe where he met Betty Jane at a church potluck. Fred enjoys collecting trains (he has around 40 engines!), coins, stamps, and gardening.

Betty-Jane is a third generation Adventist. Her grandfather was the first self-supporting missionary for Chile in 1895. He had become so involved that he could no longer care for his daughter, and so she was adopted by another missionary couple and raised in Puerto Rico. Betty Jane grew up in Maryland where she graduated from Takoma Academy and Columbia Union College. In 1969, she went back to work teaching typing at TA for nine years, and then became the secretary for Dr. William Loveless while he was president of CUC. She was widowed very young and after some turbulence she ended up in Tahoe for what was to be a short stay with her brother. In her second year there, she met Fred and decided to remain. Betty enjoys knitting with her YLP ladies' group.

The couple bounced around with plans to return to Maryland to living in San Diego, Los Angeles, Hanford, and then retired to Tahoe. Shortly after Fred suffered a heart attack, his daughter asked them to come and live by her in Coarsegold. Fred and Betty-Jane visited her, and instantly fell in love with the area. In fact, they loved it so much that they came for a visit on a Friday and had bought a home by Sunday! So much for shoveling snow every day!

Fred and Betty-Jane say that they love the Oakhurst SDA church and plan on sticking around for quite a while. And thank God for that because we enjoy them being a part of our family as well

—Carrie Bowman



### THE CHURCH LIBRARY NICHE

More than forty newly catalogued books are in the final stages of preparation for addition to the Church Library. When they are ready, watch for banners, balloons, and blossoms to herald the occasion! The date will be proclaimed in the Church Bulletin!

The collection covers twelve different categories on religious topics, as well as a smattering of other subjects – biographies, family counseling, retirement, juvenile stories, and an adaptation of **MINISTRY OF HEALING** in today's language. Many well-known authors are represented. Morris Venden's catchy title on Christian witnessing **Why Didn't They Tell Me?** is *Page 7-* sure to be thought provoking. In her work, **A Place In God's Heart**, Kay Rizzo speaks about finding joy in God's presence and how to maintain faith and praise in times of discouragement. Sally Hohnberger's **Parenting Your Child By the Spirit**, will attract the attention of parents with children ages 5 to 12. She presents practical tools for the religious aspects of child rearing.

The reader will not want to stop reading two insightful eschatological books -- **The Cure for the Last Daze** by Karl Haffner, that simplifies bewildering end-time events, and Randall Roberts' **The End Is Near Again** which tackles the question "aren't we almost there?" Roberts urges his readers to "be ready for the return of Jesus whenever it happens!" Karen Holford offers three books for parental perusal on 100 creative ideas for kids about Sabbath activities, prayer, and worship. Several sets of the **Adventist Girl** series will thrill early readers ages 6 to 9. The entire newly added titles will be posted on the hall bulletin board at Church, as well as on the Library counter.

A librarian will be present to assist the borrower to locate a desired book. The chosen book must be signed out by the librarian. Two weeks are allowed for loan of the book. If it is not returned to the Church in a timely manner, a notification letter will be sent to the borrower. Beginning April the library will be open on Sabbath mornings before Sabbath School from 9 to 9:30, from 10:30 to 11:00, and a few minutes after the close of the Worship Service.

## CHURCH HAPPENINGS

**World Sabbath reaches out to our community** During the March World Sabbath, a special guest, Madera County Sheriff John Anderson, challenged us. He addressed the question, what could we, as a world church, do to meet the needs right here in Oakhurst? He discussed several local needs, some of which we hope to consider in the future. The county has a program where they provide old cell phones to elderly families that do not have cell phones to be used in case of an emergency.

Old cell phones, even if they don't have service, if charged can dial 911 and receive emergency help. If you have any

old cell phones that you are no longer using, bring them to the church office. We will collect them and as a group provide them to the sheriff's office. In the future if you upgrade your cell phone, please save the old one, turn it into the church office. We will continue to collect them for this very worthwhile project.

Also, let your friends know that we are collecting cell phones and offer to bring theirs to the church for them. Such a small thing on our part can be a very big help to someone in need.

**The Social Committee** sponsored an evening of ice-skating at Tenaya Lodge. Because of the warmer weather it turned into a snowshoe hike in the moonlight, at least when the moon wasn't blocked by the trees. Everyone had a good time, anyway.

**New entrance landscaping.** Thanks to all who volunteered time putting up the brick wall and otherwise making the entrance to the church look more inviting. Special thanks to Ed and Shirley Moore for the many hours of work they have put in planting bulbs and other flowers all around the church.

**A baby shower** for Delinda Hamilton will take place on Sunday, April 15 at 2 p.m. at the Curtis' home. The Hamiltons have requested only gifts of disposable products (diapers, all sizes, wipes, etc.) or a donation to their favorite charity, Helping Hands Pregnancy and Support Center. A gift basket will be available for your donations. Come and share in their joy! RSVP to Kathleen Franger 658-8705.

**New Website for our church:** Our Website is now up and running. The bulletin and Newsletter will be available on line at the website as well. Visit <http://www.oakhurstchurch.org>



In Ecclesiastes 4:10 we read, "*When one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!*" There are women in prison that have no one to visit or write to them. Think about the loneliness of being locked up. And then picture yourself being a friend. Once a month our church sends a team to the Chowchilla women's prison to have lunch and to visit with the inmates. If you can help or would like more information, please contact Marge Bacchus 683-7792 or Peggy Chavez 209-742-4839. You'll be truly blessed.

### **Clothing Ministry**

Manna House is our local emergency clothing and food bank, providing a much-needed service in the mountain communities. They are in need of steady volunteers to help sort and distribute clothing on either Tuesdays or Fridays from 10-2. If you can help, please contact Pat Sebring 683-6019 for more information!

Women's Ministries is pleased to announce we currently have over *sixty-six* different ministries involving the women of our church! We praise God for each and every caring woman and girl involved in these special projects!

Update on the Blankets for Tots program: We have almost 30 quilt blocks finished and ready to sew but many more are needed! Each week we get together we have a wonderful time in colorful creation! If you can handle scissors or an iron, you can help! We meet on most Sundays from 2-5 in the Community Services room. Watch the church bulletin for the schedule. If you would like to take blocks home to work on them, that's good too!

Are you a woman interested in studying the Bible and enjoying the friendship of other women? We have two wonderful small groups just for you! On Tuesdays at 2:30 pm, we are studying Women of the Bible at the Franger's home and on Wednesdays at 10 30 am at the church for a study on the book of Mark. For more information, contact Kathleen Franger 658-8705 or Karen Bergh 683-4580.

Women, are you interested in self defense? Coming during the month of May there will be a Self Defense and Area Awareness class. Times and days to be announced.

If the Lord is calling you into a new ministry, you can always call Kathleen or Karen for assistance. "*All things are possible with God.*" Mark 10:27

### **INVESTMENT**

I've told you many times about Investment, why it is important and how the money is used? This is sort of a reminder. I'm encouraging you to plan for a generous Investment Offering. You can turn in an Investment offering any time through the year. Just be sure it is marked Investment.

Now I would like to emphasize a few things. First, Investment is a worldwide mission offering. It is a separate offering and is reported as such. Funds are used to help support worldwide programs of the church for new and frontier projects and big city evangelism. Special projects are also supported.

Your Investment Offering is important. Without it, church programs would be hindered from moving forward. So please do what you can for Investment. We all can put loose change in the big jar in the foyer. Remember to keep bringing the food labels. Keep the Campbell Soup labels separate. They are for the school. We need only the bar codes for Loma Linda, Worthington, Morning Star and Natural Touch products. For Cedar Lake products, we need the whole label with the bar code.

Let's make this a real good Investment year. Any questions please call, 658-5514.



The Pathfinder year is heating up for the home stretch. No time to bask in the glory of our recent Bible Bowl victory. Now, it's on to preparation for the Pathfinder Camporee coming up in two short weeks.

This year the Camporee will be a local affair. It is being held on ranch land near Raymond on the weekend of April 13 and 14. Spring will be in the air and it should be quite beautiful in the foothills.

To help make the trip a little more enjoyable, we have replaced our inventory of aging tents with new, state-of-the-art tents. These large 4-person tents have the latest "two pole" design and exterior pole clips for ease of assembly and to reduce potential damage to the tent. The purchase of these tents was made possible in large part, through the sponsorships "you" provided for the Pathfinder Bike-a-thon held last October.

Next month, May, we travel to Paso Robles for the annual Pathfinder Fair. This is the end of the year finale for all of the clubs in the conference. We gather, share our accomplishments with each other, march together and compete in the year-end events including knots, first aid, Bible verse recognition and Frisbee toss skills. It is always fun, and our club has the additional tradition of going to the beach that Sabbath afternoon for worship and fun.

This Sabbath, April 8 we will again greet our church family in our class-A uniforms at church and then sing at the convalescent hospital after potluck that afternoon. All are welcome to join us as we make a joyful noise unto the Lord for the residents of this facility.

Finally, the Pathfinders would again like to thank our church family for your

continued support and especially for your financial assistance, which made the purchase of our new tents possible.

—E.G.

## SCHOOL

We have been having a "spelling good time" this month. On March 8, 2007 Alison Guzman represented our Oakhurst School in the local area spelling bee, she wasn't the area winner, but she certainly represented us well. We were so proud of her. On March 15, 2007, several students competed in Modesto, CA in the S.D.A. conference-wide spelling bee. Grades 6, 7, and 8 have been studying with Steve Duke every afternoon. Our school came in second in the conference spelling bee. Thanks go to Ella Nixon, Alison Guzman, Chandra Shipp, Carissa Shipp and Brent Pieffer.

Irv Curtis shared part of his shell collection for *Show And Tell* on Friday, March 16, 2007. What beautiful handiwork of God. Thank you so much Irv!

What do you have, church members, that you could share with the school children of our church?

We have been studying opera the last week. What types of voices, what types of songs, what is opera, what is recitative voice, what is set and costumes, what is an overture? This is all culminating with a field trip to the OITS (Opera in the Schools) for an opera experience.

Several people from our church went for a weekend down in Fresno to study the function of church and school together. Where are our schools headed? What does the future hold? How we can facilitate or change trends? We all will be struggling to understand the issues and formulate structures to a brighter future that leads to heaven. —Jeri Ermshar