

ARCATA FIRST BAPTIST NEWSLETTER

January, 2025 • First Quarter

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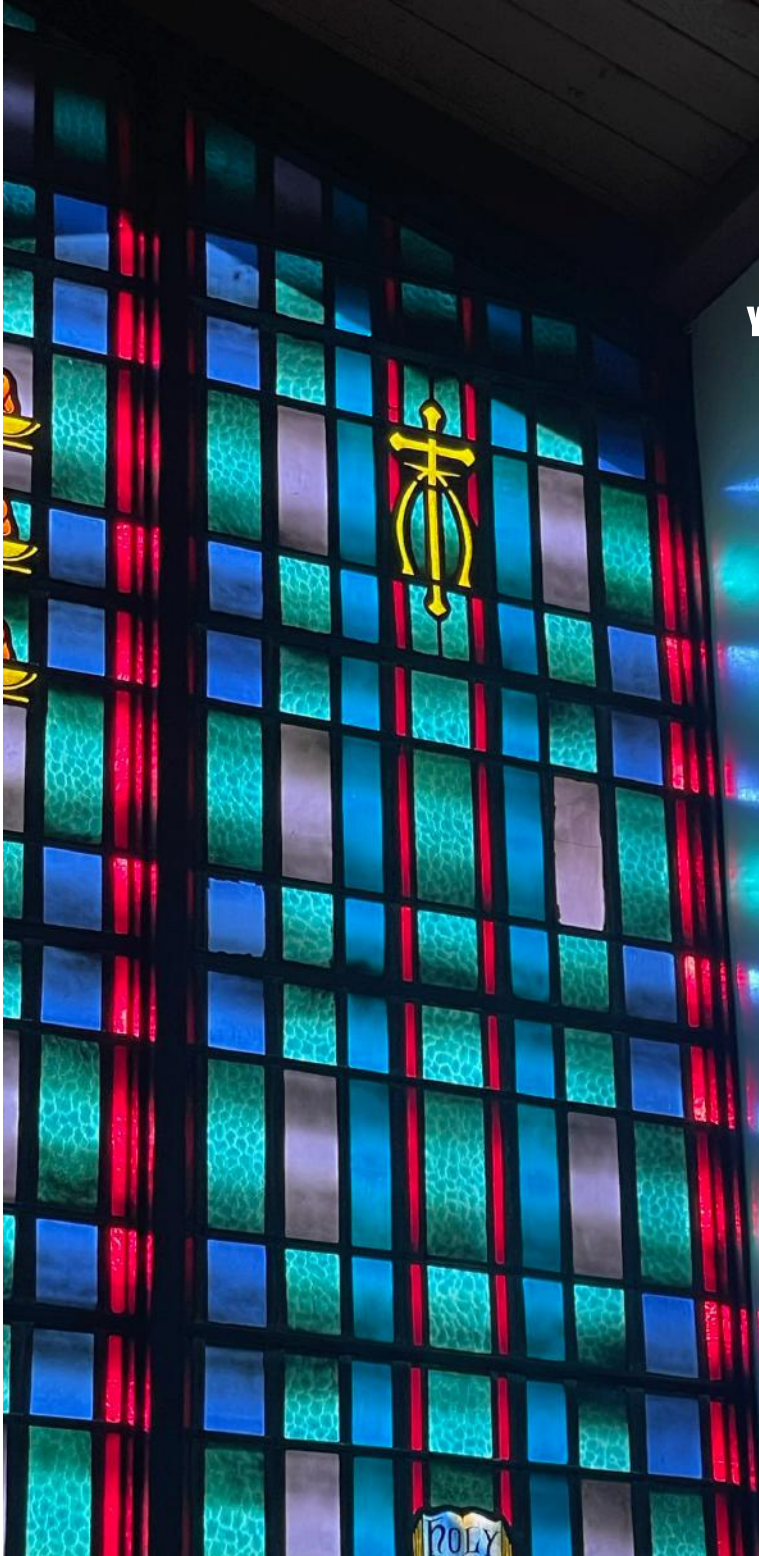
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REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF ELDERS

Kevin Yokoyama, Chair

As we step into this new year, we are reminded of God’s faithfulness and his promise to guide His people. In this season of renewal, our church is committed to seeking His will, strengthening our community, and laying a foundation rooted in faith, hope, and love.

We are prayerfully searching for a lead pastor—a shepherd who will lead us in nurturing a thriving, Christ-centered congregation. We believe God has already chosen this leader and are confident that He will reveal the right person in His perfect timing.

During this time of transition, we recommit to being a light in our community, united in purpose and love. Together we will continue our ministries, invest in discipleship, and grow in worship, service, and fellowship. We aim to create a welcoming environment for everyone where lives are transformed through the power of the Gospel.

As Philippians 1:6 reminds us, “He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” With this assurance, we step forward in faith, trusting that God is working in and through us to accomplish His divine purposes. Let’s journey together in prayer, unity, and bold expectation, knowing that the best is yet to come.

Many of you have noticed the return of monthly church bulletins. And you can look forward to comprehensive quarterly newsletters like this one. Also, there is a Reconciliation Team that has already begun to meet with current and former members of the church. It’s an exciting time!

I am excited to see what the future holds as we move forward. God is at work at AFBC! We have the opportunity to partner with God as we seek His will on our knees through prayer and petition. “We see an ever growing number of people experiencing God’s presence, answering his call, transforming our community and the world.”

Expect great things for 2025.

At the beginning of 2024 our word for the year was “Expectant,” and I believe that word still applies to our church for 2025. The board is in the process of finding an interim pastor to lead our Sunday services until

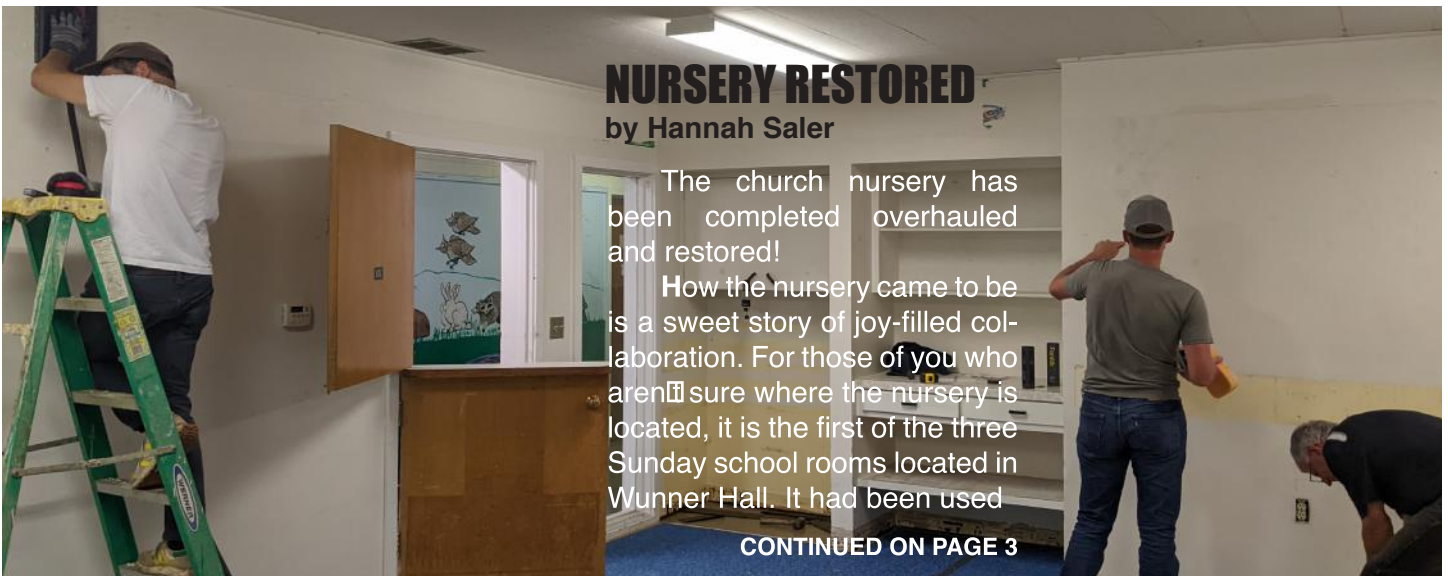
All-Church Business Meeting/ Potluck: Jan. 26 after church in the Lighthouse Room

we find a new Senior Pastor, and we are excited to see what God has in store for us. According to our By-Laws, we will be forming a Pulpit Committee to take the lead in finding a new Senior Pastor. The committee is made up of six members: one elder, two heads of ministry, and three at-large members from the church congregation.

We are having an all-church time of prayer & fasting from Jan. 23-25, followed by an all-church business meeting/potluck following the Sunday service on Jan. 26. During this time, we will begin the process of identifying the three at-large members to serve on the Pulpit Committee, so please be praying about who should fill these important roles.

We believe that God has something special in mind for Arcata First Baptist Church in 2025.

We as a board are excited to see what God will do this year. God is Faithful and wants the best for us. We are looking forward to partnering with God as we move ahead!



NURSERY RESTORED

by Hannah Saler

The church nursery has been completed overhauled and restored!

How the nursery came to be is a sweet story of joy-filled collaboration. For those of you who aren’t sure where the nursery is located, it is the first of the three Sunday school rooms located in Wunner Hall. It had been used

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NURSERY RESTORED

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as a storage room for the past five years and more recently, the VBS prep room as well as occasionally hosting the oldest Sunday school class.

Last August, after being encouraged to pray for 20 new families to attend AFB, the immediate need for the nursery became obvious as two new families with infant-to-toddler aged children visited within two weeks.

The old nursery room was in desperate need of a touch-up before being opened again, so I approached Linda McGuire and Bethany Bankston, the directors of the children's ministries at the time, with the idea of getting it up and running.

After approval, Michael Baggot graciously agreed to make painting the room a priority in his long list of tasks for the facilities. I mentioned this idea to some others who got excited for the project, and within a week, we were gathered in the old nursery room on a weeknight evening with a couple of Costco pizzas and a bunch of our kids to figure out the best way to update a tired, well-worn room.

I guess it was inevitable that I got my husband Joseph Saler involved (a former facilities manager of AFB). And if I could get Joseph, Dustin and Rebekah Taylor (who thrive on interior design), and Michael Baggot together, a lot more was going to be done to make the room shine than just a paint redo.

Within a few hours, the room was cleared of all the aging and unneeded furniture, the shredded wallpaper was being removed, the stained carpets pulled out, and holes in the walls filled. Evangela jumped in with cleaning all the well-loved toys that were infant friendly, and Joseph took the doors home to refinish them.

Michael made plans to make a beautiful hickory wood countertop to replace the vinyl, and we all finished up with our separate to-do lists and excitement for how to refurnish and complete the room.

The next day, the amount of work that was needed to get it back together hit me, so I called my brother



MANY HANDS

The nursery renovation team included Michael Baggot (left) and Dustin Taylor (right).

Daniel Gent in a mini-panic. He happened to be going up the AFB stairs at that moment, so he stopped by the nursery. When he saw the room, his response was just, "Oh...Wow." That's what I was worried about! He was quick to encourage the project and announced the need for help at Solid Rock, and he joined in the work.

That following Sunday, Joseph and I stopped by Ace to grab some paint chips, and five people and five opinions later, the selection we came to was non-satisfactory to us all. Thankfully, Dustin saw the dilemma, pulled up a few pictures of the latest in nursery colors, and chose a color scheme that fit perfectly.

Not only did Michael spend hours repainting, but Rob Swanson and Bruce and Karen Campbell did as well, and it was finished within a week.

The effort it took to get the room not just ready but beautiful for all the littlest of our congregation was an immense effort—so much more than my first request for just a paint job. Several generously helped with financial donations, bought specific items needed, encouraged, prayed, and committed to running the nursery on Sunday mornings.

It highlighted to me again what a joy it is to serve and fellowship with this family of Arcata First Baptist. And truly, from Psalm 133, "How good and pleasant it is when brothers [and sisters!] dwell in unity!"



PRAYER TIME

Pictured are some of last year's participants in the AFBC time of fasting and prayer in the Fireplace Room.

Three-Day Time of Fasting & Prayer, January 23-25

Please come and join AFB as we seek God's face and direction in a three-day period of fasting and prayer, January 23-25. Why fast? Because Jesus tells us to! In Matthew 6:16, Jesus told his disciples, "When you fast...", indicating He expected we, His church, would fast as we await His return.

This will be the 2nd annual three-day time of fasting and prayer at AFB, organized by former elder Bruce Campbell.

"The highlight last year was the unity of people coming into the daytime prayer times and praying for the church and for the outreach to the campus as a major focal point," Campbell said. "I anticipate bigger numbers of participation this time because we're giving better advanced notice, and we have a very big issue to pray for - and that's the future of our church. This comes at a very timely moment in our church's life."

What is fasting in the Bible? Simply put, it is the giving up of food and the satisfying of the natural man to focus on God, allowing the spiritual man to rise up. As AFB faces a time of newness and seeking God's plans and purposes for the future, we want to follow the pattern of Scripture modeled in the book of Acts. In Acts 13:2 and 14:23, as the early church was charting their course in seeking leadership and direction, fasting and prayer were key elements in their approach.

Fasting is seen as a key element to be employed before making important decisions, a time to put down physical needs to focus on the spiritual matters at hand. As we quell the desires of the flesh, put on humility, and seek the Lord unencumbered by the gratification

of the flesh, may we know the leading and direction of the Holy Spirit.

"Fasting may be an unpleasant thing to the flesh," Campbell said, "but it has great spiritual reward."

The theme of this time of fasting is "Light Rising in Darkness," based on Isaiah 58:10. Isaiah 58:6 teaches the fruit of a God-approved fast is "to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke."

The Fireplace Room will be open for drop-in prayer on Thursday, Jan. 23, 12-5 pm, Friday the 24th from 10 am to 8 pm, and Saturday the 25th from 9:30 am to 6 pm. At 6 pm on Saturday, we will break the fast with a shared meal of soup and bread.

Campbell has some pointers to get ready for the fast.

"To prepare for the fast, reduce sugar and caffeine intake for two or three days prior," Campbell suggested. "You don't want to go cold turkey on things your body says, 'Give me!' Drink lots of water during the fast."

There are options besides food for fasting.

"If you have a medical condition or a job that would make it unwise to go on a total fast, then figure out a way to fast something," Campbell said. "Something that is special to you. Fast social media. Fast sports. Spend your time seeking God instead of seeking things that you might otherwise spend your time on."

Please plan on attending and making this a fruitful kickoff to the new year and the quest for how our gracious Heavenly Father would lead us as we embark on the plan He has for our church.

SYDNEY & EVANGELA JOIN LEADERSHIP TEAM OF LOCAL YOUNG LIFE

AFB regulars Sydney Schwankl and Evangela Gent have also become regulars with the local Young Life ministry. Sydney - a Cal Poly Humboldt student and member of Solid Rock - and Evangela - the AFB Cornerstone high school ministry director - are both leaders with Young Life.

"Our leaders play a pivotal role in reaching students with the Good News of Jesus Christ," said Jakob Clark, the Young Life Staff Associate assigned to Humboldt County. "We currently have six volunteer leaders who we place at specific high schools such as McKinleyville, Arcata, and New Life Christian where they do what we call contact work."

Contact work is, simply

put, going where students are. Leaders go to football games, basketball games, school plays, or to Wildberies during the school's lunch break. And wherever they go, they go consistently. They do this with the hope of building a relationship with students. They get to know students, get to know their names, and ask them about their lives with the hope that they will earn the right to be heard and one day get to talk to them about Jesus.

"Evangela has been a huge addition to the Young Life team for the past year that she's been involved," Clark said. "She witnesses to students in Fortuna and students in her own classroom at New Life Christian School. She has taken her own students to winter camp the last two times that we've gone, and she plays a pivotal role in the lives of all of her students by building relationships with them. She does an incredible job of focusing on students who don't have a relationship with Jesus and building a relationship with them."

On top of focusing on contact work, Young Life leaders help with weekly events. Once a week Young Life holds a group meeting that it calls "lunch club." At Arcata High every Wednesday during their lunch break, students come to the church across the street where the weekly event is hosted. Students get free food, play crazy games, have a chance to win raffle prizes, and toward the end of their lunch break one of the Young Life leaders gets up and proclaims the Gospel to them.

Volunteer leaders also play a huge role in camp



YOUNG LIFE

From left: Young Life leaders Sydney Schwankl and Evangela Gent, Young Life Staff Associate Jakob Clark, and Young Life leader Xander Thomas.

which is twice a year (fall and summer camp). At camp the leaders invite the kids and are at their side for the whole week. Leaders spend the whole school year building relationships with students and hopefully inviting them to camp. At camp the leader gets an amazing opportunity to spend more time with the students getting to ask about their faith. And at the end of the week that student has an opportunity to say yes to Jesus Christ.

"Sydney has been a huge blessing to the team in reaching local youth. She joined the team over a year ago and immediately jumped into building relationships with some of the high school girls that we knew." Clark said. "She has been an amazing leader on our camp trips and has gotten to walk through life with a group of girls who need a strong, Christian mentor like her. Sydney has also been a huge help with running our weekly meetings, preparing and sharing a Gospel message with the students, and serving at our outreach events that students attend."

Young Life has been making a powerful impact on the lives of young people for more than 75 years. Founded in 1941, Young Life is an organization that exists to introduce adolescents to Jesus Christ and help them grow in their faith. But what sets Young Life apart is how it does this: not through traditional classroom settings, but through building authentic relationships with teenagers.

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SYDNEY & EVANGELA ON LOCAL YOUNG LIFE TEAM

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Young Life's approach is built on trust, friendship, and a deep commitment to meeting kids where they are — both physically and emotionally. Leaders in Young Life, who are often young adults themselves, invest in the lives of teenagers by going into their world, meeting them in their schools, sports events, and neighborhoods. It's about showing up, being present, and showing these kids that they matter, that their lives have purpose.

One of the most distinctive things about Young Life is its focus on fun and adventure. Whether it's going on camp trips, hosting club nights, or creating community through sports and activities, Young Life builds relationships in environments that teenagers actually enjoy. The goal is to create a space where

young people feel safe, loved, and valued. It's in this environment that many teens come to explore deeper questions of faith and life, often for the first time.

What's also unique about Young Life is how it invites young people to explore their faith at their own pace. There's no pressure, just a welcoming community where teens can ask tough questions and find answers about God, themselves, and their futures. And it's not just about getting kids to church — it's about walking alongside them as they navigate the challenges of growing up, all while helping them discover their value and identity in Christ.

Young Life is a global movement, active in over 100 countries, with local chapters in thousands of communities around the world including Humboldt County. Each

local chapter tailors its work to the needs and culture of their particular community. The local volunteer leadership team spends time attending events at McKinleyville and Arcata high schools, aiming to support students and the schools by creating and hosting events for students to attend and experience a sense of adventure.

Locally, we give away free pancakes weekly to high school students, host pizza nights, and on top of that plan camp trips to Woodleaf which is pretty much a Young Life resort designed specifically for high school students.

For many teenagers, Young Life becomes a life-changing experience, a place where they can discover that they are not alone, that they have a purpose, and that they are deeply loved by God.

All-Church Prayer Times in Sanctuary To Resume in February

By Sydney Schwankl

Last fall the Lord put in on my heart to use the Sanctuary as a prayer room during the week. We scheduled two-hour morning segments up to four times a week for the final months of the year.

As the new semester begins at Cal Poly Humboldt the prayer room will continue, praise Jesus! The days and times will be changed and will be announced during the service on Sunday, January 26. If you would like to be updated by time changes or topics of prayer, you can sign up for the Remind which will notify you through text.

I never could have imagined during my college career that God would call me toward facilitating a prayer room in the Church, especially because prayer is a difficult spiritual discipline for me to consistently participate in.

But though I am weak, Christ's grace abounds.

"But He said, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.'"

2 Corinthians 12:9-11

Our weaknesses only glorify our Savior who works His power in and through our weakness, and I have seen this personally in our Church prayer room.

Not only in my lack am I seeing God provide, but in the Church body as well.

As God's children pray, He answers. If only we have the seeing eyes, listening ears and open hearts we would understand how our Heavenly Father is responding to our questions, praises and cries for help.

I see a Church full of hope, growth, resilience, and a desire to pursue their bridegroom. And once again, though these things may once have been a weakness, our Savior is restoring His people and His body through

His continual, loving, merciful process of sanctification.

A part of seeking God

is settling aside undistracted time for Him. We even see Jesus do this as He leaves His disciples to go be with His Father. He knew the importance of spending time with the Father in order to know Him and His will.

Spending time with God allows us to identify His voice and His hand in our life as we go about our days. Getting to know someone takes time and effort. Getting to know God takes a quiet heart and mind ready to listen and slow to speak. And this specific reason is what led to my desire for a prayer room.

I pray everyone had a relaxing Christmas and New Year's, and I can't wait to see what God has in store for AFBC in 2025!

**Text "@afbpr" to 81010
To Sign Up For Prayer Room Notifications**



CORNERSTONE YOUTH MINISTRY

Evangela Gent

Did you know that that Cornerstone is AFBC's youth ministry?

It is a youth group for junior high students as well as a girls high school bible study at AFBC with the intention of pointing kids to Christ. It occurs every 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 6:30-7:30 pm in the gym for junior high and 7:30-8:30 pm in the North Youth Room for high school.

"Go out into all the world and make disciples"
Matthew 28:19-20

Jesus commanded us to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Often, we overlook our immediate surroundings — our town, neighborhoods, backyards (or in this case, the school gym) — as part of the world He calls us to reach. Yet, wherever we are, we are called to be faithful in sharing His message.

Additionally, Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." This reminds us that how we spend our time, energy, and gifts reflects what we value most. My greatest desire is for people to be the treasure I see when I walk through heaven's gates.

We pour into the lives of others because, in the end, the true treasure is the relationships we cultivate for eternity—a reward well worth laying down our lives for.

Scripture exhorts us to encourage and build each other up, walking together through life's journey.

Cornerstone is one way Danielle Hann, Medalia

Garcia, Sydney Schwankl, Viktor Coonrod, and I are committing to walk alongside these kids for as long as they'll let us.

My request is that you would invest time in prayer for these kids and help build up the most precious treasure in heaven.

Prayer points:

- Hearts to understand that God is the only place they can find lasting peace
- A willingness to trust that he has the best plan for their lives.
- Safety for some kids who are in less than safe situations.
- A deeper understanding of how wide, and deep, and how vast the love of God is.
- More people in their lives who are willing to say, "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."

Cornerstone has been a blessing as God has brought kids to both groups. In the girls group there is a lot of honesty about struggles, and the desire to serve God is evident. Also, there is a desire to find further discipleship.

"How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

Romans 10:14-17

BUDGET REPORT

Below is a snapshot of the budget and giving status for 2024. It does not include end-of-year gifts.

2024 Budget Needs versus Receipts

	Week 52 (12/29/24)	Year to date
Annual Budget: \$336,520		
Needed for budget	\$6,471.54	\$336,520.00
Received for budget	\$5,071.10	\$320,191.25
Over (Under) budget	(\$1,399.44)	(\$16,328.75)
Average weekly budget donations received	\$6,157.52	
Average weekly budget surplus (deficit)	(\$314.01)	

2025 Annual Budget: \$343,663; Weekly needed for budget: \$6,609
Budgeted areas: Personnel (\$191,484), Administrative Allowance (\$1,250), Utilities (\$64,967), Maintenance/Operations (\$38,270), Other Operating Expenses (\$13,425), Christian Ministries (\$9,290), Missionaries (\$21,377), Special Missions (\$24,977)

MISSIONS REPORT

Updates Around the World



Woodabe in Niger

Niger

The mission of spreading the Gospel in Niger that Jeff and Els Woodke started with our church back in 1989 has expanded and continues to grow. Many of the pastors and evangelists that are leaders today were led to Jesus and disciplined by Jeff, Els, and the AFBC/YWAM team. In spite of the persecution and hardship that following Jesus brings, the Holy Spirit is moving and many people are converting from Islam to Jesus.

Update from the leader of the church organization we work with: "We want to take advantage of this message to send you a summary of what our Lord Jesus Christ did in Niger among the Fulani and the Tuaregs this year. We would first like to express our sincere thanks to all of you brothers and sisters who support us in prayer and financially for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ here in Niger.

"For this current year we have planted 67 house churches throughout Niger. We baptized 126 people and we shared the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ to 16,116 people during this year.

"Please continue to pray with us for all the newly planted churches and new converts because now we are going to put a lot of effort into teaching the Word of God."

Tammy Price

Tammy continues to work in Bible translation through Wycliffe Bible Translation. She is a consultant for the Kuri Pasai Cluster that is a group of six languages. She attends workshops three times a year in Papua with translators and translation advisors while doing a lot of preparation in between workshops. After the most recent workshop in October 2024, the Ambai, Ayaw, and Kiba languages have the book of Genesis fully approved. Mando language has the book of Acts approved and the Sasun language has just three chapters of Acts left to be approved. Penro language has struggled and is only half finished.

The teams that have finished are moving on to Proverbs for the Old Testament teams and Timothy, Titus, and Thessalonians for the New Testament teams.

Please pray for these translators and translation advisors to continue to work well together and make good progress in preparation for the next workshop in February. There is also a need for more consultants who are responsible for translation training and checking accuracy.

The response of one of the readers who came to help check the final chapters of Genesis this past October after reading Joseph's story was . . . "It's like I'm there . . . In my own language the story became real! Thank you and thank all the donors for helping me get God's word in my own language."

David and Tammy spent the month of December in the United States with their sons and their families and will be celebrating the 90th birthday this month for Tammy's father.

David Price

David had LEAD Global team meetings in Vancouver, BC in October. David says, "It was wonderful to be together as a team, to go back over our history and to revisit what God has done in and through us, to experience wonder over His goodness and how He has accomplished His plans. It was good to welcome new team members, especially new environmental consultants, as this area of our ministry grows and we respond to increased needs."

Also, David will be having shoulder replacement surgery in March. In spite of his injured shoulder, David has continued with most of his volunteering with the community conservation group of which he's a part.

Dave and Sandy Bird

Dave and Sandy continue to work in an Afghan refugee community in the Sacramento area. They work with a team that serves the Afghan community through teaching English, citizenship classes, practical help with navigating a new culture (such as finding jobs, medical help, housing, education, transportation, friendship and more).

They have opportunities to share the Gospel as they build relationships. Sandy says, "The requests and opportunities to help the Afghans keep coming nonstop." Sandy teaches ESL and citizenship classes at a local church and says, "Praise God for all the ladies coming to English and Citizenship classes this fall. We have such a good time with them." Their team is working with two Christian Afghan families that are seeking asylum which is a long process.

The men in the families recently got their work per-

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ARCATA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Ron Wunner, Principal



Happy New Year from Arcata Christian School to the AFBC Congregation! ACS is celebrating our 52nd year of ministry with 96 kindergarten through eighth-grade students and five home schoolers.

We appreciate the incredible hospitality from the church and covet your prayers as we share the love of Jesus Christ with our students.

More than 200 attended the December 19 Christmas program held in the gymnasium, and our students sang with much enthusiasm. ACS Christmas outreach activities included joining with AFBC in the Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift program as well as supporting Food for People and the Toys for Tots programs. Our students also participated in Operation Christmas Cards for Our Troops.

We appreciate the support of members of the congregation for our Golf for Education fundraiser held on October 26 and the Tri-Tip Dinner event held on October 25. Both events were very successful.

ACS welcomes Logan Dellis as a part-time staff member. He will be serving as the 7th and 8th grade Bible teacher. Logan is Youth Pastor at Covenant Church in Eureka.



2024 ACS Christmas program

ka. He is stepping in for Pastor Sumit Sen (Covenant Church) who had taught the class for the first two quarters of the school year.

Important events coming up during the remainder of the school year are the Annual Dinner and Auction to be held on Saturday, April 5, and the school play (based on Cinderella) to take place on May 14 and 15.

Former ACS Secretary, Sandi (Bean) Branson went to be with her Lord and Savior on December 14. Sandi faithfully served the school for eight years and was much loved by the faculty, staff, students and parents of the school. Her three children - Kelli, Shelli and Troy - graduated from ACS. A service was held for Sandi on December 27 at Coastline Church. Any of our AFBC families who remember Sandi may send a card to Kelli Bean Wight at 75 Sunshine Way in Eureka, 95503.

Our prayers also go out to Kim and Sandra Van-

denPlas on the passing of their son, Jesse. Jesse attended ACS as did brother Jed and sister Angie. Kim and Sandra attended AFBC for several years. A celebration of Jesse's life will be held on January 18 at 2 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Hall in Arcata.

MISSIONS REPORT

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mits and are in need of good-paying jobs. Men from their team meet weekly with these men to teach and disciple them. Dave and Sandy's local church has also recently committed to help two Afghan families get established. Last July, Sandy was able to attend a conference that focuses on Afghan ministry. She was able to see old teammates, fellow missionaries and some Christian Afghan friends. She also heard testimonies of how God is working in the lives of Afghans in Afghanistan and how the underground church is growing and experiencing unity like never seen before.

Sandy's mother passed away this last April and her father is now in a Memory Care Unit near their house. Please pray for Sandy and Dave as they care for her father and work through the loss of Sandy's mother. On a happy note, Dave and Sandy are now grandparents

to two beautiful granddaughters who they've been able to visit a couple of times since their birth.

"Alice"

Alice returned to the United States in June for a two-year sabbatical after serving in Central Asia for five years. She is thankful for all the prayers and support she received over those years. She is currently in Sacramento working at a plasma donation center and spending time with her family.

She built many special relationships during her time in Central Asia. During her last months there she had the opportunity to share the gospel through Bible stories while working with her language helper. Alice was able to see how these stories really touched her heart. It is her hope to return to Central Asia after her sabbatical.

SOLID ROCK COLLEGE-AGED GROUP

Daniel Gent, Director of College Ministries



The year 2024 was interesting for Solid Rock.

Through the spring most Thursday nights we would see 20 or so students out of a community of about 30 total. Beginning in late March, while this same group attended, on average an additional four first-time students would also come. This has continued through the fall semester as well.

The majority of new visitors were students who did not identify as Christian. Some of the comments I recall included “I’ve never set foot in a church in my life,” “I can’t think of the last time I was in a church,” or “I don’t know the first thing about

what Christians believe.”

At first the majority of these were students who attended my classes or office hours, but as time went on it quickly went beyond that. Most students would come to a few meetings and perhaps a Sunday service, and then drift off. A small minority would stay.

For a time, I wrestled with the thought that perhaps we could do more. I had a conversation with Chris Stanton something along the following: “Are you presenting Jesus?” “Yes.” “Are you loving them in a way that can be felt?” “Yes, I think so.” “It’s not your responsibility to make them accept Him, just to let them see Him.” I believe that we as a group have loved well those who

visited, and that we have also clearly pointed to Christ the Lord. That is our task, and that is enough.

In the fall, we have had several new students begin to attend Solid Rock and church as young believers. The same story came out several times. “I’ve always been kinda interested in Jesus, but over the summer I decided to read the bible. Then I realized I actually needed Him, so I decided to find a church.”

When putting the above two paragraphs together, our year in review looks like – “God is bringing us many people to hear about Him for the first time, and God is independently bringing us those who are just taking their first steps in the kingdom to receive discipleship.”



Solid Rock at the annual Apple Day event last fall



Pastor D & Linda: Thank You for Dedicating 15 Years to Arcata First Baptist!

