

MAYHEW TORCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF MAYHEW COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

VOLUME 63 ISSUE 1

SPRING 2023



Hello Mayhew Family,

Reena here, welcoming you all to our Spring Torch Edition! Due to a recent procedure, Pastor Mike wasn't able to write a Mustard Seed but be on the lookout soon. :)

To start out, I hope everyone is having a blessed year so far! In our last edition, I encouraged all of us to spend some time this year reading and studying the Bible. I hope so far, everyone has been able to spend, a little more time in the Word. If you have started a Bible reading plan, I would love to hear and share with others what Bible reading plan has been started, you can share with us at mayhewcbctorch@gmail.com



With God, all things are possible. This verse has really hit home for me and my family the past year, which leads me to share a recent testimony with you all. So let's strap on our seatbelts and get ready to enjoy the ride.

Psalms 46:10 is a scripture the Lord gave me to meditate on this past year. At the beginning of 2021, I felt a desire in my heart to apply for a promotion at work. I never had such a desire before, as I was only in my current position for about 1 year. On November 6th, 2021 Kojo prayed for me and he heard God saying, I was going to get promoted, the position that I will get will be a position that was left because of retirement. He also heard God saying, I will be used to deliver people from certain predicaments, and I will be operational to the assignment. He also mentioned, when the promotion happens, I'll see it and wonder to myself is that really me....

A few days later, a job opportunity was posted at work. I applied for it, believing that I was going to get the job. A few months later on January 2nd, 2022, Andorful prayed for me, and he saw God giving me the authority to minister to young women and to be an example for them. He also heard God saying that my workplace will be asking me for my opinions on certain sensitive matters.

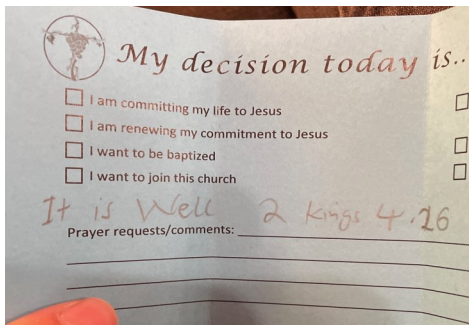
It was now the end of January 2022, and I received a phone call for an interview for the position I applied for in November. The interview was on February 2nd 2022, a special day for Kojo & me because that is the day the Lord confirmed our union and the plans that he had for us. So at this point, I knew this promotion was coming; the job was mine. I go into the interview and didn't feel very confident about it, but I was holding on to my faith and the promises of God. On Feb 20th, 2022 I had a dream, that the hiring manager was giving me some keys. At the end of February, I heard back, and I hadn't received the promotion. I was hurt because I felt God speaking to me, and I felt the signs were aimed toward the promotion.

I didn't give up during this time. I kept my head raised and knew that God had a plan for me. A few days later another opportunity arose. I applied and got a call for an interview a few weeks later. I interviewed in April and later got news that I didn't get that position either. At this point, I was really hurt. I cried when I found out the news. Even though I was hurt, I started to feel and understand the heart of God. Even though I was interviewing for these positions, God was preparing me and he was providing me with the opportunities to continue to interview. This is when God gave me Psalms 46:10 to meditate on... "Be Still and Know that I am God"... I didn't even realize the mug that I was drinking coffee out of this whole time had the same scripture written on it! I don't even remember when I bought the coffee mug or who even gave it to me! It was then that I started to meditate on this scripture, every day reminding myself to be still, and let God work it out for me and to trust in the plans that God has for me.



So fast forward to the end of the year 2022, there was another opportunity and I applied. I was praying and believing that this was going to be the one! During the interview, guess what happened? I ran out of time, so I couldn't finish all the questions! I was so upset, I kept asking, how could this happen? Again, even though I was upset, I still kept believing that God had great plans for me, and I continued to meditate on his word.

We are now in 2023, and I got a call for 2 more interviews that didn't fall through. It was during this time that our family friend / mighty man of God Apostle Eric from Ghana reached out to us and told us he was praying for Kojo and me and he asked me how my interview had gone. This was very interesting because throughout all the processes we hadn't mentioned to him that I had gone through multiple interviews. God was speaking to him so that he could stand in prayer with us. This touched my heart so much; God wanted me to have this promotion so bad that he spoke to someone who is across the continent to pray for me. Apostle Eric, Kojo, and Andorful continued to pray for me. At the end of January, there was another opportunity that was posted. This opportunity was in the business area that I first started working in.



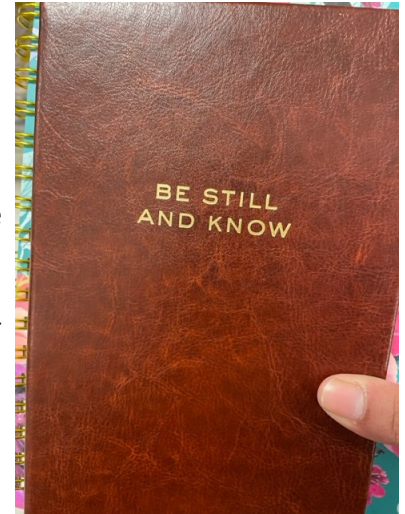
On February 26, 2023, we came to church, and I found a little postcard that had fallen on the ground. I opened it to see if I could give it back to whoever it belonged to. There was no name on it but it said "It is Well" 2 Kings 4:26... This made me so excited; God was speaking to me and telling me all was well. Then during worship, guess what song Becca led us in worship? It is Well with My Soul... and then when Andorful was praying over the offering, he prayed from 2 Kings 4:26, the women said it was well... 3 times the confirmation. At this point, I knew God was working on something on my behalf..

In March of 2023, I got a call for an interview for the job I applied for in January, in my old business area. The night before the interview, I pulled out my work laptop so I could write down some notes. As I was sitting at the dinner table, lightning started to appear outside. I didn't think too much of it and continued working. On the day of the interview, I woke up not knowing if I had a dream or if I was feeling in my heart to call Andorful. I kept going back and forth on if I should call or not because I don't usually call Andorful. But I listened and called him. When I called, he told me he had a dream that night of a woman that walked through his wall with lightning and put a sword on the ground. We chatted for a few minutes and I told him I had my interview coming up, so he prayed for me. As he prayed, he gave me a few scriptures... Continued on next page.

- Job 37:14 "Listen to this, O Job, Stand still and consider the wondrous works of God"
- Job 37:15, Do you know how God lays his command upon them and causes the lightning of his cloud to shine?
- Job 37:5, God thunders wondrously with his voice, he does great things that we cannot comprehend

These three scriptures gave me even more confirmation. I saw the lightning the night before when I was preparing and Andorful is hearing the same from God. After praying with Andorful, I went on to my interview and I felt great about it!

A few days later on March 25th 2023, I went to the store to run some errands. As I am in the store, I see a notebook and guess what was written on the notebook? The scripture I was mediating on Psalm 46:10. I turn around and behind me and see a piece of wall art. Guess what that wall art had on it? Psalm 46:10. I turned around and guess what I found next to the wall art. Another notebook that read... Be Still and Know. WOW! A trip to the store turned into 3 times the confirmation from God for me. This was very special for me. I felt like a little kid in the candy store, excited, unable to contain my excitement.



A few weeks later, right around the week of Easter on April 5th, I got a call from the hiring manager. It finally happened; God's word came to pass! I would be going to the same business area I started with and not only that but everyone's prayers and God's message had come to pass! Apostle Eric's prayers and prophesy of a promotion, Kojo hearing God say I will be getting a position that will be a vacant position because of retirement. All of this is what has come to pass, I am taking over a team that didn't have a supervisor because he retired. Andorful had mentioned God was giving me authority to minister to young women and to be an example. All the people I have ministered to at work were young women, who were immediately excited when they heard the news, because they knew it was the work of God. I will be working with sensitive issues, just like what Andorful had heard from God.

I hope this is a sign for you, and brings you encouragement. If you are waiting on God for his promises for your life, then continue waiting. Don't give up! God has a plan and purpose for your life. Meditate on his word, which will see you through the waiting periods. Continue worshipping God, even when you don't hear from him, or your prayers aren't answered right away. I can guarantee you, that God is working in the background and is already 10 steps ahead of you! I also encourage you to look around in your surroundings when you are waiting to hear from God. Often times, God speaks to us in ways that we would understand. Sometimes that isn't going to be a loud and clear voice from God. It may be just like the notebooks that were laying in the store for me or the flyer I found laying at my feet at church. All I had to do was *be still*. God had already worked in out for me :)



I pray that God will continue to bless you.

Reena Gaisie



The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
Lamentations 3:22-23

In Memory Of:

Marie McManus IMO Father Joe Kawamura

OUR WEBSITE

If you would like to view this publication in color, go to our website at mayhewcommunitybaptist.org. Click on "Website" then click "Newsletter" on the header.

The Website also has Pastor Mike's sermons under "Videos," as well as information about our Services, Ministries, Events and Methods of Giving. Click on "Testimonies" for Testimonies About the Church, Perspectives and Personal Narratives, and Miracle Corner stories.

God's Perfect Plan

Did you know that bees pollinate 80% of all flowering plants? While color is one of the ways they find the flowers, there is one restriction God put in place. Bees can't see the color red. That color is reserved for hummingbirds! Bees and hummingbirds don't have to compete for nectar in red flowers, and we never see bees swarming around a hummingbird feeder.

Financial Update

While over the last year, the church has been blessed with new and enthusiastic parishioners and new ministries are thriving. It is not surprising that certain expenses also have been increasing, such as fire and liability insurance, software renewals and the cost of repairs and supplies. Since the pandemic arrived in 2020, regular monthly income has not been keeping up with regular nondiscretionary operating expenses. God has continued to sustain us, even though it may be in a slightly different way than we would anticipate.

For instance, last month the Trustees had a costly plumbing situation that far exceeded a normal expense in that area. Just at that same time, a special donation for almost the exact amount came in from a parishioner who is rarely able to personally attend services! There is no way the parishioner could have known about this sudden expense! Other times, parishioners have responded to a calling within their hearts to give gracious amounts to sustain the church.

Then, recently, along came PG&E, which has been laying underground cables in the area. They were using the corner of Routier Road and Old Placerville Road to house their large equipment and supplies. However, due to the excessive rain, the ground had turned into an unmanageable field of mud. They were desperate to keep working and now have rented a corner of our front parking lot for two months.

Leadership who work with the financial end of things have periods of immense fretting when regular giving falls an average of \$3,500 short of the monthly nondiscretionary operating expenses. While we may struggle and wonder how God is going to keep Mayhew afloat, it has remained clear by the miracles of God's provisions, as mentioned above, that He continues to have a strong mission for Mayhew CBC, and He will use us both financially and spiritually to carry out His Great Commission into the future. It is, however, our responsibility to let you know that the church is still in need of your support to keep its mission moving ahead.

Much gratitude goes to those who respond to His calling, not only financially, but with your time and talents as well.

Anne Chapman
Church Moderator

Easter at Mayhew Community Baptist Church

As always, Easter at the church was beautiful. We all missed Pastor Mike as he was recovering from surgery for a deviated septum. He is feeling fine.

Easter Service

At 6:15 a.m. on Easter morning, it was clear, cool and calm as the group quietly assembled in front of the Fumiko Deguchi Garden to celebrate the resurrection. Thank you, Andorful, for your wonderful message and Becca for leading the singing. Thanks to Doug and others who helped set up the sound equipment, chairs, etc. At the 11:00 service, Loga Nadan delivered a powerful message to the congregation.

The Living Cross

This tradition was started by Pastor Mike when he first came to the church, and it has continued ever since. On Palm Sunday, three huge crosses stand on the stage as a stark reminder that physical death will come to each of us. Those three wooden crosses beg the question, "Where will we go from here?" On Easter Sunday, the center cross is initially absent; then during the first song, Christ the Lord Is Risen Today, the 12' Living Cross is carried in and raised into place. It is a dramatic and uplifting experience to witness this beautiful cross, covered with fresh flowers, tower over the Sanctuary as a confirmation that Jesus Christ has risen indeed and is alive today, and that we, too, have the free will choice to join Him in eternal life!

Many thanks go to the following: Golden State Floral for providing a whole van full of beautiful flowers, enough to cover the cross and plenty of extras for everyone to take to their homes. Thank you to Robert, Rock, Perry and Mykala for carefully carrying the heavy cross from Issei Hall into the Sanctuary and lifting it into its stand. A special thanks to Doug, Tamaryn, Valerie, and crew who helped to pull everything together. Last, but certainly not least, thank you to all those who helped to put on the flowers and to bring goodies and beverages for the decorating team – Lodie, Floyd, Tamaryn, Valerie, Diane, Paulene, Sharon, Mary and Vincent.

Photos will follow on the next page...

Easter at Mayhew Community Baptist Church Cont'd



BIBLE TRIVIA!

What is the longest name in the Bible?

WHAT'S AHEAD FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES?

By Anne Chapman

Oh, ya'll know that the Trustees' work is never done! However, it does take twists and turns. Sometimes it seems like a thankless job to take on the responsibility of Chair of the Trustees. Carl Piepenburg has steadfastly led this ministry and the church through the thick and thin of juggling unending projects, differing opinions, financial issues, time crunches and a host of other challenges. It can be very tiring and sometimes discouraging. A person in this position could easily feel like a long-tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs! So, how does he do it? Answer: He keeps his eye on the Lord. Remember the song, *Trust and Obey, For there's No Other Way*. Does Carl always get his way? No. Does anyone on the Board always get his or her way? No. Do parishioners or ministries who make requests always get their way? No. Is anyone ever 100% right all the time? No. It is a continual life lesson in cooperation and team effort, patience, respect and humility.

Let's look at just a few of the looming projects. As you all know, the nursery and three bathrooms have been a long, long project, and have taken away from other needs. For the most part, Pastor, Doug and Stephen have been the long-term crew. Remember, it's all volunteer. There is no way to adequately put into words the sacrifices both Doug and Pastor have made due to this project. Stephen doesn't even attend this church! He was part of the school that was here for a number of years. Yet, his commitment to us to finish what was started is so strong, that he is here working here almost every week. What a blessing! Plus, a parishioner has graciously donated most of the funding for this effort. We keep saying "It's almost done," and that is very true. Compared to the longevity of this project, it truly is "almost done." In the near future, it will be possible to direct attention to other needs, which are many. Following is an update on just four of them and the plans for the future.

Sprinklers and Lines: There are so many, on numerous timer banks, and the underground lines are old. Right now, there are four areas that need immediate attention if we are to preserve vegetation. One area is our precious Deguchi Garden. It needs serious repair and is limping along with an emergency make-shift setup. There are three other areas where the lines need to be dug out and replaced. They run under bushes where strong roots have entrapped them for years, and where there isn't room to simply run a new line. It may even come to pulling out some bushes with a truck, along with relocating a big, heavy rock. Because all this has to be done before the weather warms, the Trustees have commissioned Hector to attempt this short-term project. If it proves too difficult, a firm will need to be brought in.

Cleaning After Sunday Service:

For several years now, parishioner volunteers have agreed to a rotational team schedule to thoroughly clean the Sanctuary, foyer, hall, cry room, and two restrooms after service. (All other areas are the responsibilities of the ministries using them.) These areas have never been so clean until since the Trustees let the ineffective janitorial firm go. Continued on next page.

A person could literally eat off the floors now! Every week, it takes quite some time to thoroughly mop, clean the bathroom fixtures, stall walls and sink areas, mirrors, glass doors, etc., empty trash, restock supplies and sterilize everything. Some people come clear from Folsom, Galt and Elk Grove. The Trustees recently adopted a suggestion from Lorene (a Trustee) to pay to just have these areas cleaned after service. All other areas, and anyone using the Sanctuary, etc., during the week would still be responsible for their own maintenance. John Sarbacher will assume this position beginning May 1. Thank you, John, Lorene and everyone who has been so dedicated to keeping the church so clean. This will also free up parishioners to participate in other ministries.

Security Cameras: The security cameras we had in place suddenly went out, because the company went under and the server stopped working. There was no contract with this system. For several years, it has been impossible to find someone knowledgeable enough to wire in adequate hardware and not insist on a monthly contract, which the church simply cannot afford. Suddenly, the Lord brought the right person, a friend of Sandee. New equipment had to be purchased and there is still quite a bit left to do, but for the first time there is hope. In today's world, it simply isn't safe for Diane, our Office Tech, or anyone else to come into the buildings alone and wonder if someone might be hiding there. Thank you, Sandee!

Live Streaming: This important project hasn't gotten off the ground due to the press of other matters, as just described. While some equipment has been donated, a fundraiser may be needed to complete the equipment and construct the sound room. This is a priority project which is a key element in reaching further into our community and beyond with God's Word. Along with Pastor Mike, Reena and Salvesh will be in charge of implementing this and recruiting numerous youth.

The Shed (Garage): Time and weather have taken its toll on the church's shed to the extent that a portion of the roof and eaves will need to be removed and replaced. This will take supplies and manpower.

These are the most critical projects, and there are many others all the time. Each day can bring a new surprise! The Trustees recently put an insert in the Sunday Bulletin listing all types of expertise that is needed and requesting parishioners to sign up to help with projects they may be able to. The Trustees, themselves, can't do it all. Workdays produce a lot; however, consistently being able to rely on help from the congregation would be wonderful. If anyone reading this is able to assist, please be in touch with Carl at (916) 519-6004. Thank you!

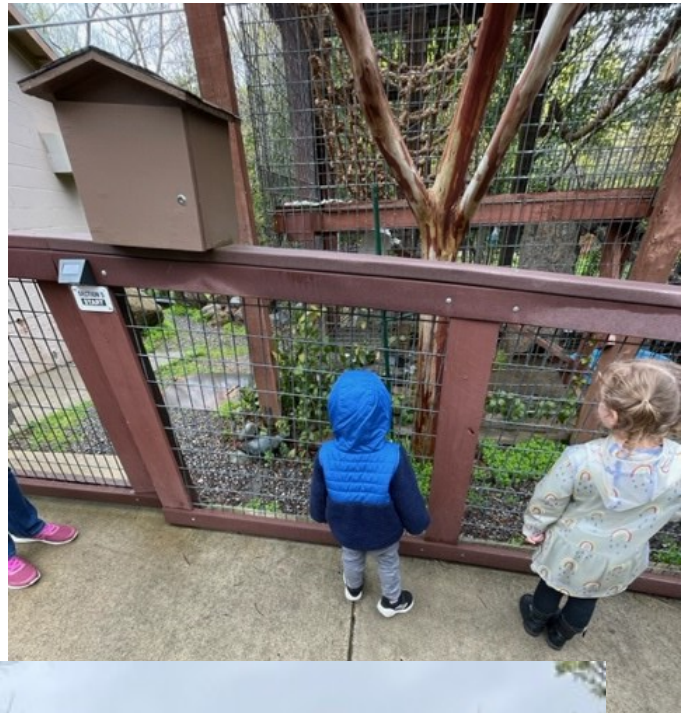
The Promise of God In Times of Troubles

Romans 8:17 – And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Romans 8:28 – And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Jeremiah 29:11 – For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Keenagers Trip to Folsom Zoo



Keenagers Trip to Folsom Zoo

The Zoo opened in 1963 and serves more as a sanctuary for the animals that have been seized, donated or injured in the wild. They generally remain at the zoo for the rest of their lives. There was an extensive collection of animals at the sanctuary, that included: bears, foxes, wolf hybrids, monkeys, eagles, etc.

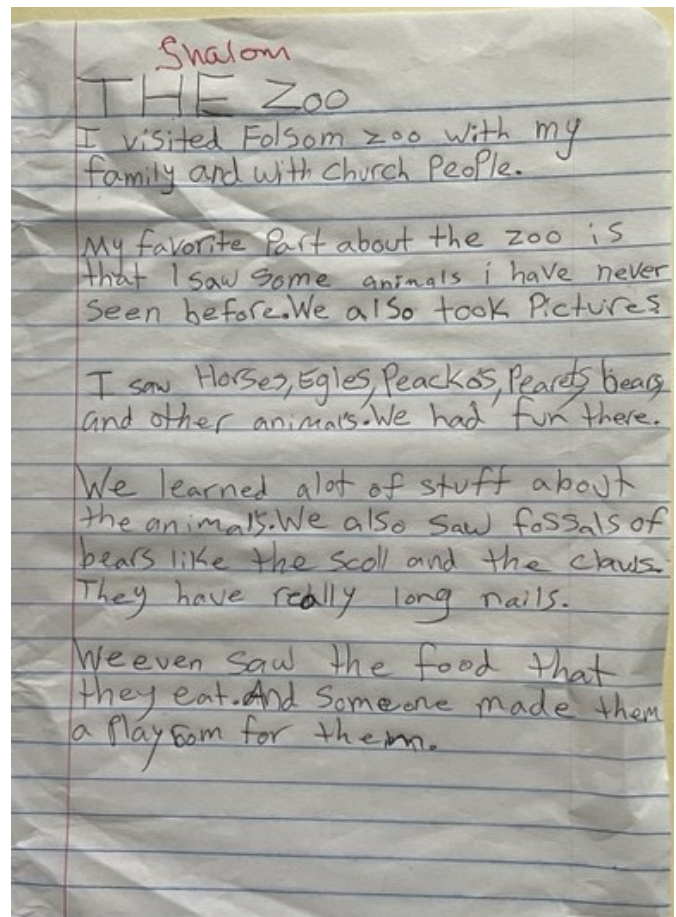
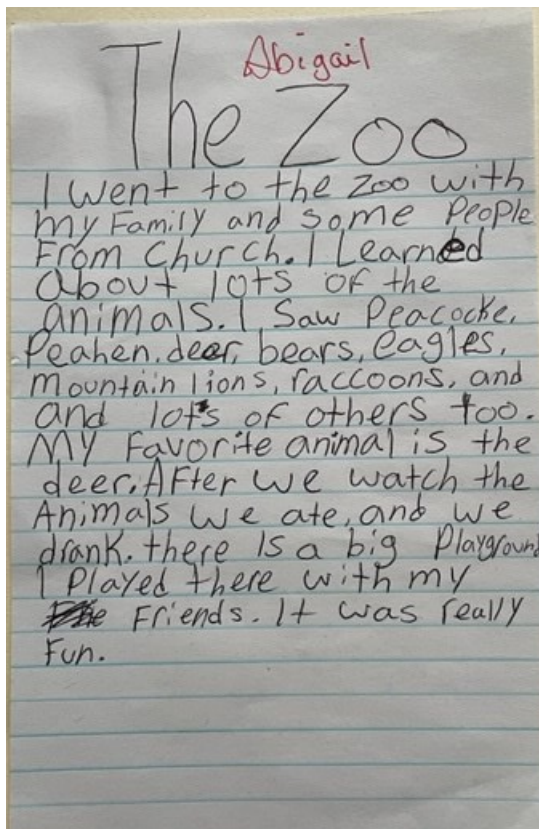
Our zoo day started out being gloomy and cold, even with a few sprinkles. It was the only dreary day in a string of clear, beautiful days before and after. This did not deter the group!

This trip was made even more special by the inclusion of the children from our church, including little Moses and baby Peniel. Also attending were Terry's two grandsons who were curious, excited and engaged. Our docent, Peggy was patient and friendly.

All the children were interested in different animals. Everly liked the big peacock because it was beautiful. Vincent and Moses enjoyed seeing all the animals, especially the wolf dogs.

Thanks to all the parents that attended. The day turned out quite nice.

Below is a quick summary of the zoo trip from Shalom and Abigail.



Floyd & Lodie Gipson "Mint" to be together



In December 2022, Floyd and Lodie celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary with family and friends. A luncheon was held at the Doubletree Hilton.

Floyd and Lodie met in 1948 when they were in the 7th grade! Floyd would pull Lodie's long braids and run away. In the 8th grade, they found themselves in the same homeroom again but Floyd had somewhat matured. They never dated in high school, wonder why?

After graduating from high school, Floyd went into the US Air Force and Lodie attended the local community college. While Floyd was home on leave, he contacted Lodie and the long delayed love story began.

Floyd and Lodie have two children, Joy and Floyd Edmund. Four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Below is a handmade card from our very own Captivating Crafters...



The 1st 3 people to submit their answers to the Bible Question on page 8 will receive a special gift.

Please submit your answer to:

mayhewcbtorch@gmail.com

WHAT FRIENDS WILL DO !

By Anne Chapman

It was vacation time again with John and Diane Sarbacher. Every April for the past few years we have travelled to Bodega Bay and camped on the beach. It is so relaxing and with no responsibilities. This year, however, something was different. I recently brought home a kitty cat who had lived her life outdoors on lots of acreage. For all I knew, she'd never been in a house or confined in any way. What I did know was that she wasn't accustomed to an urban neighborhood or busy street like mine. I also knew that her primary desire in life was attention and love and a desire to follow me around like a dog and participate in projects. Oh, her name is Sergeant, or Sergie for short, due to being an expert rat stalker and catcher.

In preparation for her arrival, Hector had installed a pet door from the entry area to the garage. Another friend installed a smart pet door from the garage to the yard, which can be operated by a chip on a pet's collar. On day one, she mastered going in and out of the inside pet door and using the litter box. I am still afraid to let her outside alone due to the busy street.

Now it was time to be gone for four nights. Leaving her alone that long was out of the question, and Hector agreed to stay at my house during this time. Hector loves cats; plus they knew each other from work he'd done at my house. Perfect! What could possibly go wrong?

Early the first morning, Hector opened my big sliding glass door to go into the back yard. Even with WD40 in the channel, it doesn't slide easily, and Sergie attempted an escape. With her safely back inside, he quickly pulled it shut. Click! What was that? Oh no! Why wouldn't the door open? (I hadn't even thought to tell him that about once every two years or so, shutting it quickly can cause the malfunctioning latch to fall down and lock the door. Even a glass door company couldn't resolve it.)

Now, he was locked out of the house. No cell phone. No shoes on. Dressed only in summer shorts and a tank top. The side gate was locked from the outside, and both neighbors were gone. Fortunately, the double gate on the south side was not locked. He made his way barefoot across a large strip of gravel and out to the front. From there he had to walk past his car, which was in my driveway, and continue walking all the way home. It was about 9:00 a.m. and on the way he noticed people staring at him. For sure, he looked homeless. Fortunately, his roommate was home and let him in to call me.

Under normal circumstances, Pastor Mike would be the closest person who could come to the rescue, but he was in the final stages of preparation for a colonoscopy! That wouldn't work. Ted Satow, who also has a key, was the only other person who wasn't out of town; however, he was at work clear over in West Sacramento. "No problem," Ted said, and he finished up some things and headed over to meet Hector back at my house.

What's that saying, "All's well that ends well." It did. We even had a good laugh over it all. Thanks to my friends and what they endured for me, everything returned to normal. Sergie was safe; my house and alarm were functioning normally; and I went back to sitting on the beach watching the waves crash.

Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. 1 Peter 4:9



ABWM Appreciation Luncheon



New Beginnings

As part of ABWM mission to serve our community, the “New Beginnings” Ministry—A Food Bank and Clothes Closet Ministry - was kicked off in August, 2022.

Since Opening Day, we have serviced over 72 guests, and handed out more than 166 bags of food. In addition, we have had more than 61 guests peruse our Clothing Closet and handed out more than 208 items of clothing - including shoes. To ensure all are considered, we have a small movable library anyone can take books from as well as miscellaneous tables featuring jackets, sweatpants, blankets, weather appropriate items and toys.

Periodically, New Beginnings Ministry will add to their distribution by giving away specialty items such as turkeys, hams, vegetables, etc.

Going forward, there are other surprises planned for our guests and volunteers. And we are currently in the process of contacting community businesses requesting their help in our endeavors. All in all, New Beginnings Ministry has been very successful and will continue to grow while developing community partnerships to aid in the development and strength of the Mission and Goal of servicing the community around us. Our sincerest thanks and gratitude to all who have joined us.



Drive Thru Backpack Giveaway

Kojo and Reena will be hosting a drive thru backpack giveaway on July 29th for 300 children in our community. The event will be held at Mayhew Community Baptist Church. They are currently fundraising until May 21st. If God has put on your heart to help please contact Reena at 916-837-7822

July 29th, 2023
11am-1pm

BACK TO SCHOOL

Drive - Thru Backpack Giveaway

HELPING KIDS IN THE COMMUNITY!

.....

DONATIONS NEEDED :

Monetary: Cash or Check
Checks Payable to: Mayhew Community Baptist Church
Write "backpack" on check memo line

.....

DROP OFF LOCATION :
Mayhew Community Baptist Church
3401 Routier Road, Sacramento CA

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT REENA AT 916-837-7822



**Birthdays and Anniversaries will
no longer be displayed on this website.**



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Mayhew Community Baptist Church

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Church Hours:

Mon—Thurs: 9am—2pm

Fri.: Closed

Torch Editors: Reena Gaisie, Erin
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