



Official Newsletter for the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists:

# Michigan Memo

May 2016, Volume 28, Number 5

## Making History in Youth Ministry

— Youth Ministries Department

On Sabbath, March 26, a Youth Leadership Summit was held for youth leaders in Michigan. We had close to 140 delegates from churches across the state representing about 40 local churches. What most people don't realize about this special event is that it marked the culmination of years of prayers and planning by the Michigan Conference Youth Department.

A few years ago, the Youth Department had a vision to create a structure within the conference that would result in a direct impact upon youth ministry in local churches. God confirmed this plan in February when the Michigan Conference Executive Committee voted to have District Youth Coordinators (DYC) in each of the twelve districts. Similar to how each district has a pastor designated as the District Superintendent, each district now has DYC's elected to network, coordinate, and inspire youth ministry in local congregations. They will work in collaboration with the Youth Department as part of our team.



We kicked off this new structure at the Youth Leadership Summit and DYC's connected with youth leaders in their districts. They led out in table discussions and planning sessions. We had seven MAY Talks (similar to TED Talks) where different presenters shared for minutes. Afterwards, everyone was given two discussion questions. The topics featured were *Winning the Hearts of Young People* by Rahel Shaffer; *Sabbath School* by Justin Kim; *Small Group Ministry* by Jason Poblacion; *Public Campus Ministry* by Israel Ramos; *BRIDGE Young Adult Ministry* by Michael Randall; *Event Planning* by Judy Ramos; and *Working with your Local Church* by Royce Snyman.

Our keynote speaker was Tom Slikkers, followed by a special presentation and Q&A by our conference president, Elder Jay Gallimore. We concluded the presentations with a mission

spotlight from Jeff Young and his active youth group from the Wyoming SDA Church.

Our primary goal for this event was to provide training and

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# President's Perspective

## Sunday: The Pope's Solution for Climate Change

— Jay Gallimore  
Conference President

Note this powerful statement by Ellen White: “The line of distinction between professed Christians and the ungodly is now hardly distinguishable. . . Satan determines to unite them in one body and thus strengthen his cause by sweeping all into the ranks of spiritualism. Papists, Protestants, and worldlings will alike accept the form of godliness without the power, and they will see in this union a grand movement for the conversion of the world and the ushering in of the long-expected millennium. . . . Satan appears as a benefactor of the race, healing the diseases of the people, and professing to present a more exalted system of religious faith; but at the same time he works as a destroyer. . . . Satan works through the elements also to garner his harvest of unprepared souls. He has studied the secrets of the laboratories of nature, and he uses all his power to control the elements as far as God allows.” (*Great Controversy*, pp. 588, 589)

In 1994, the ecumenical document “Evangelicals and Catholics Together” shocked the world when the two entities bound themselves together to solve the social issues of abortion, euthanasia, same-sex marriage, and traditional morality. Recently, twenty-one years after we had Pope Francis, the first Jesuit Pope, address both houses of Congress in what used to be a Protestant nation. But his address to Congress and the United Nations was not about morality, but instead how national interests must be subjected to the “common good” in order to save the world from climate change and poverty.

Interestingly enough, the hope of Evangelical leaders to stop gay marriage and save traditional morality by their union with the Papal See appears to have been utterly stymied. Today the practice of abortion is unabated, gay couples can legally get married in most states, and all kinds of perverted sexual practices are being embraced.

But Evangelicals also lost something else. They forfeited their

moral authority to the pope, and he now speaks to the nation in their place. And what did their advocate, Pope Francis, say to Congress and to the United Nations about moral values?

Nothing!

Nevertheless, Evangelicals continue to embrace the Jesuit Pope, whose order was founded on the mission (and never rescinded) to overthrow Protestantism at any cost. Just recently Kenneth Copeland, James Robison, Rick Warren, and Joel Osteen visited the Pope. Rick Warren, offered a typical response in stressing, “We’re on the same team.”<sup>1</sup> Martin Luther and the Reformers would turn over in their graves if they heard such declarations.

*"I believe the Pope is right about a future filled with terrifying natural disasters. They are already taking place. But they are going to increase in frequency and severity. This is going to instill fear in the populations of the world like never before."*

Echoing the words of the Pope, Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, asked the world to “place the global common good above national interests and to adopt an ambitious, universal climate agreement.”<sup>2</sup> At the Paris summit on climate change in December of 2015, the nations did just that.

In addition, President Obama declared, “I welcome His Holiness Pope Francis’s encyclical, and deeply admire the Pope’s decision to make the case – clearly, powerfully, and with the full moral authority of his position – for action on global climate change. . . . We must also protect the world’s poor, who have done the least to contribute to this looming crisis and stand to lose the most if we fail to avert it.”<sup>3</sup>

Listen to the pope’s encyclical as he promotes Sunday as a day for the common good. “Sunday, like the Jewish Sabbath, is meant to be a day that heals our relationships with God, with ourselves, with others and with the world. . . Rest opens our eyes to the larger picture and gives us renewed sensitivity to the rights of others. And so the day of rest, centered on the Eucharist, sheds its light on the whole week, and motivates us to greater concern for nature and the poor.”<sup>4</sup>

On April 15, 2015, two months before this encyclical, the

Pontifical Academy of Sciences and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences released a statement entitled, "Climate Change and the Common Good: A Statement of the Problem and the Demand for Transformation Solutions."

This papal document demands that action be taken immediately because by 2100, the damage will be irreversible. And, such a condition would risk the existence of human life as we know it. The article states the "solution will depend on our stepping beyond national affiliations and coming together for the common good."<sup>5</sup>

When the Pope visited with President Obama, they discussed climate change and world poverty. There was no talk of issues like abortion or gay marriage.

The historical features of Jesuit cunning and sophistry were on full display. The Pope met with and was warmly received by a long-time gay friend and his partner. Then, after he returned to Rome, it was discovered that the Pope had also met with Kim Davis, the Pentecostal county clerk from Kentucky who was jailed for refusing to perform gay marriages. According to Davis' attorney, Pope Francis gifted her with rosaries and encouraged her to "stay strong." The Pope also met with the Little Sisters of the Poor who have sued the government over the contraception mandate in the Affordable Care Act, which is President Obama's hallmark legislation.

Steven Bohr notes in Secrets Unsealed, "The Pope has continually lectured the capitalist nations of the northern hemisphere to redistribute the wealth of the world evenly in order to abolish poverty for the 'common good.' This ideal is socialism pure and simple, but not a socialism of the atheistic type but rather a religio-political socialism under the 'moral leadership' of the papacy. It is actually a not-too-subtle war on capitalism and the middle class. . . The end result. . . will not be that all nations will have equal riches but rather that all will share the same poverty with a small rich elite at the top!"<sup>6</sup>

Some have noted that Protestant nations devoid of papal interference have resulted in stronger more prosperous nations.<sup>7 8</sup> If the Pope really wants to help the poor of the world, maybe he should abandon his Catholicism and urge people to embrace biblical Protestantism.

I believe the Pope is right about a future filled with terrifying natural disasters. They are already taking place. But they are going to increase in frequency and severity. This is going to instill fear in the populations of the world like never before. Whether that is due to excessive carbon dioxide in the air, or the Devil and his evil angels manipulating the elements, or both, is immaterial.

Natural disasters will be utilized by the papacy to invoke a cure—a quick cure—namely, the implementation of Sunday laws. Yes, even secular atheists will rejoice. When you combine the climate crisis with the breakdown of morality, terrorism, and domestic violence and weld them

together with spiritualism, you have a potent catalyst for reintroducing and embracing papal supremacy to the world in the name of peace and safety. If he can lead this very divided and discordant world to unite over efforts to fix climate change, he will be hailed as the savior of the world.

But, a savior he is not. There is only one Creator and Savior of the world! And the laws they break are the laws He made. The Pope and the world are being manipulated by dark forces that are determined to lead this world into final and utter rebellion against the Law of God and His faithful people.

As the storm gathers strength, will we blow the gospel trumpet? Will we proclaim it loud over land and sea?

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/rick.warren.on.roman.catholicism.we.have.more.in.common.than.what.divides.us/43942.htm>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2015/06/pope-francis-encyclical-calls-for-action-on-climate-change/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/06/18/statement-president-pope-francis-encyclical/>

<sup>4</sup> [http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)

<sup>5</sup> <http://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/2068632/climate-change-and-the-common-good.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.secretsunsealed.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/4QTR15News-Web.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.gallup.com/poll/108832/latin-americas-entrepreneurs-catholics-vs-protestants.aspx>

<sup>8</sup> Benito Arruñada, "Protestants and Catholics: Similar Work Ethic, Different Social Ethic," *The Economic Journal*, 2010, 120 (547), 890-918.

## Prayer Focus

Every Monday morning, the Michigan Conference staff meets for worship and prayer. Here is the list for May. Please join with us as we pray for these churches and ministries.

May 2-6

Andrews Korean  
Pastor William Lee

May 9-11

Kalamazoo Korean  
Pastor Jinwon Lee

May 16-20

Frankfort, Irons, Manistee  
Pastor Richard Mendoza  
Literature Evangelist - Rebekah Johnson, Manistee  
Community Services - Manistee, Kathy Porter

May 23-27

Ludington, Shelby  
Pastor Ron Mills

# Faith Not Fear

— Jane Harris  
Women's Ministries Director

Nearly 750 women stormed Camp Au Sable the first three weekends of April for the annual Women's Ministries Retreats to be reminded that faith in God removes all fear.

The camp was decorated as a boot camp for these special weekends. At the beginning of each weekend I offered a charge to the "troops": "The enemy starts failing, when we start praying!" And then followed with, "Remember troops, at the end of this boot camp the enemy will be sorry he ever messed with you!"



The Holy Spirit spoke through the keynote speaker Doris Gothard, the Women's Ministries leader for the Lake Region Conference. Doris made stories from the Bible come to life and reminded us that God has a real and unique love for everyone.

The "recruits" had the choice of attending one of seven seminars on various topics like scripture memorization (Sarah Canada), prayer (Wendy Welch), preparing for heaven (Monica Ames), exercise (Jason and Kaila Lounds), artsy ways for Bible marking (Kalia Morrison), and health (Evelyn Kissinger).



Everyone was blessed by Elder Leroy Bruch who shared a powerful testimony of his life in the military and how he was brought into the faith. Praise God he's now enlisted in the Lords army!

What was really exciting was the number of non-Adventist attendees (about 40% of all attendees). Many of the ladies are serious about bringing their Bible study contacts to this faith-building event each year.



The spiritual impact of the Women's Retreat is best summarized by a few quotes taken from the exit surveys:

"I am motivated to memorize more of the Bible, starting today!"

"I've been greatly encouraged to not skip my time with God, not one day."

"It was a joy to be here! To come away from problems of life, and just rest in Jesus."

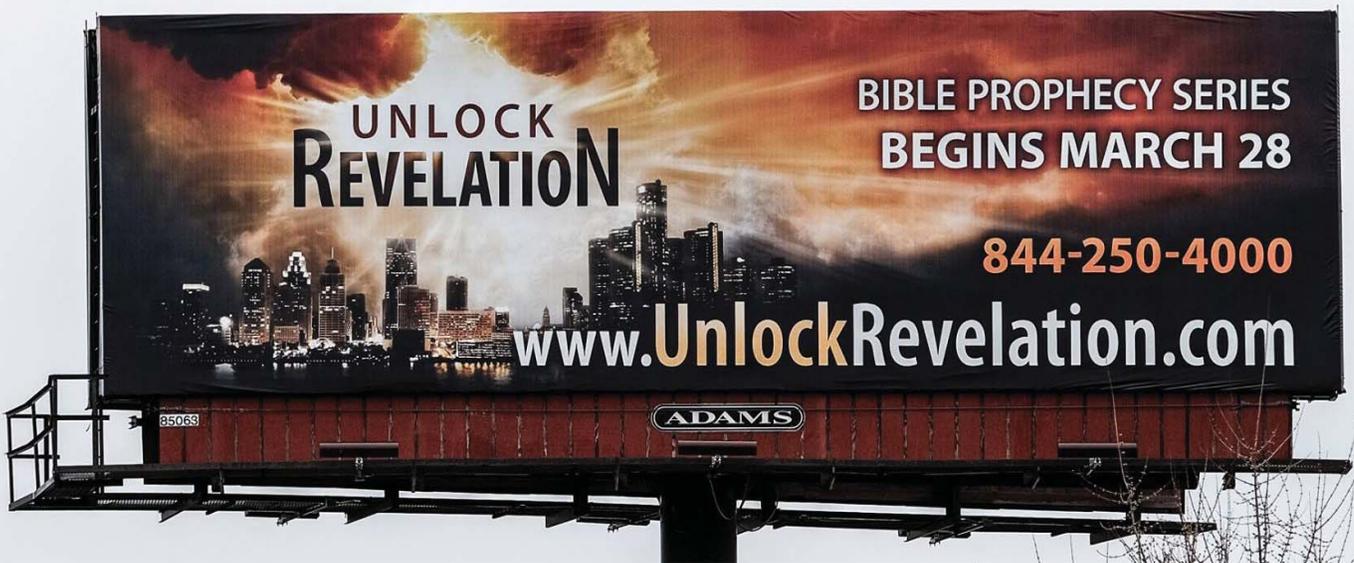
"All of the seminars were so helpful for me, I want to be able to share with others what I have learned."

"This was my first women's ministries retreat, and I was blessed by everything!"

In conclusion, the Michigan Women's Retreat attempts to focus on various components of the Grow Michigan initiative. This year's event—Faith Not Fear—was a great success because people were brought closer to Jesus.



*Women's Ministries Leadership Team*



*Note: We're receiving many amazing stories regarding Unlock Revelation. We can't share them all, but here's a couple to get us started. Look for more stories and pictures in the upcoming Memo and on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/miconf>.*

***“No sooner is one converted than there is born within him a desire to make known to others what a precious friend he has found in Jesus. The saving and sanctifying truth cannot be shut up in his heart.” (Desire of Ages, p. 141)***

## God's Perfect Timing

Several weeks ago we had two men show up for our *Unlock Revelation* meetings for the first time. Both of them had spent considerable time studying the Sabbath prior to the start of *Unlock Revelation* and were convicted of it. On their way to their first seminar on a Friday night, they conversed about the importance of the Sabbath and worship.

It's amazing how the Lord works these things out! The timing was spot on. That particular evening was my message on the Sabbath, and I started the sermon by describing worship in the book of Revelation and explaining that in the end times there would be a crisis over worship. They were blown away at the timing of the message. The following day one of them attended church on Sabbath, and the other man has not yet missed a seminar after attending the initial one.

Another interesting part of the story is that they were planning on attending on opening night, but forgot about it until the Friday I spoke on the Sabbath. Our meetings may be small, but we have solid guests coming out, and we're praising God for it!



— Jason Sliger  
Pastor, Carp Lake, Cheboygon and Petoskey

## Churches Tag Team for Christ

Several weeks ago I saw Chris walk into our *Unlock Revelation* seminar in Traverse City with his teen brother. I watched them keenly as they listened to the message, and had the privilege of seeing Chris recommit his life to Jesus. After the message, Chris very enthusiastically recounted his journey.



Chris

He was working in Detroit when he was convicted to study the Bible for himself. Enter *Unlock Revelation*. He began attending the Troy series, which made him really excited about what he was learning. While visiting his grandparents in Jackson he ended up attending the series there too!

His eagerness to learn truth led him to gather as many *Amazing Facts* Bible studies as he could find. He completed them in a week, and afterwards decided to visit his parents and siblings in Traverse City. He wanted his family to hear the truth!

It's 308 miles and about five hours to go from Troy to Jackson, and then to Traverse City. But why would someone go on this long, circuitous route? That's a lot of mileage, and gas! But, it made sense for Chris. He was exuberant about the message. This led him to visit three different *Unlock Revelation* series over 300 miles apart!

During this season of synergistic ministry, the Spirit of God is moving on the hearts of individuals. Prophecy is creating a buzz and moving people to action.

It's certainly moving Chris—both spiritually and literally. By the way, Chris plans to be baptized at our annual Michigan camp meeting in June.

Praise the Lord!



— Jeff Akenberger  
Pastor, Traverse City

# Health Message with Free Clinics

The brisk morning of March 6, 2016 began with a group of 30 people wrapped in blankets, lined up, and waiting for the doors of the Great Lakes Adventist Academy (GLAA) gymnasium doors to be unlocked. Once the doors opened at 8 AM, a steady stream of visitors entered to receive \$85,000 worth of medical, dental, and vision services at no cost throughout the day.

It is good to serve others together. Inside the gym, spirits were high. Organizers had transformed the gym where Monica enthusiastically greeted participants. Alert GLAA students stood ready at their stations to assist. Cedar Lake Elementary students and Central Michigan University students were involved in the Children's Health Expo and the vision department. Members of six local churches worked together while live musicians sang and played spirit-filled music. The Lake Union Conference Health Initiative director, Dr. Randy Griffin, was also present to provide guidance. Medical staff counseled patients with high blood pressure, screened for skin cancer, and irrigated ears among other services.



Good things come to those who wait. About 200 participants were served, and many received multiple services. While the guests waited in lines, they received therapeutic massages, tested their lung and heart functions, and interacted with volunteers. A young Native American mother received services that were not provided on her reservation. An older gentleman said he hadn't felt this good in years, after receiving a back and foot massage. Another man shared his personal story of struggling with alcohol and tobacco, and expressed a renewed desire to quit smoking. Several community members pre-registered for the statewide *Unlock Revelation* series and are faithfully attending the meetings.

Stephanie Howard stated that the purpose of this clinic was to convey that Seventh-day Adventists care about the wellbeing of our neighbors. True religion consists of "loving deeds, in bringing the greatest good to others in genuine goodness" (*Desire of Ages*, p. 497). Jesus taught His disciples to love one another, heal the sick, and preach that the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

— Laura Jean-Francois  
Member of the Edmore Church

Still dark and cold at 5:30 AM when church volunteers began arriving at the Lansing Church, people were already waiting for the doors to open. After months of planning with Dr. Randy Griffin (Director of the Adventist Community Health Initiative for the Lake Union) we were finally opening the doors to our community! We provided free dental, optical, and medical services—a miniature model of the Pathways to Health clinics—custom designed for churches to reach out to their communities and make a real difference. When we first heard about this new initiative, spearheaded by Dr. Griffin, we jumped on board and started planning.

As the word spread, health professionals (dentists, optometrists, and physicians) and laypeople from the Lansing area and across the state, immediately signed on. It wasn't long before we had 150 eager volunteers. The excitement was palpable. Dr. Griffin was a tremendous support, walking us through the process with his extensive experience and expertise.

We were able to provide about 200 people with free dental services that included free x-rays, crowns, fillings, extractions, and cleanings from a team of 12 dentists, 5 hygienists, and their assistants. Free eyewear vouchers and eye exam equipment were provided from VSP Mobile Eyes for the two optometrists. Several local doctors offered glucose checks and diabetes counseling. Health expos provided opportunities for both young and old to make strides toward a healthier lifestyle. The "lunch ladies" worked hard to make delicious veggie burgers and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the volunteers and guests.



This is the work of Jesus, who mingled with men as one who desired their good, met their needs, and then bade them "Follow Me." A number of our guests registered for *Unlock Revelation* and others are currently attending our *Foods for Thought* seminar.

What great things the Lord is doing! Even more importantly, this event has impacted our local church. We had the privilege to work together in unity, and those who had cravings to do mission work stated that they finally had the opportunity.

It was unanimous, "Let's do this again!"

— Sheri Christie  
Lifestyle Matters Secretary

The Troy SDA Church conducted a *Health, Healing, and Hope* clinic in March, which was sponsored by AMEN (Adventist Medical Evangelism Network), a nonprofit network of physicians and dentists. The clinic provided three free services: dental, medical, and optical care; and praise God, over 200 people were treated!

Estimated cost in services provided exceeded \$200,000. The dental clinic alone treated over 100 people with over \$130,000 in services. Many volunteers, including many non-Adventists, offered their clinical expertise, and all were positively impacted.

Each patient began with a health screening. Optical services included an eye exam and fittings for free eyewear. The dental



clinic was equipped to perform x-rays, extractions, fillings and crowns, oral surgery, and root canals. Many were unable to receive treatment that day. Consequently, the local dentists scheduled appointments with the visitors to complete their treatments in their personal offices, free of charge.

During the process, patients were escorted to the sanctuary for a short health seminar. Dr. Joel Kahn, a renowned cardiologist, presented health lectures. He's not an Adventist, but he credits Seventh-day Adventists for being in the forefront of healthful living. He even runs a vegan restaurant (*Green Space Café* in Ferndale, Michigan). He was so impressed by the AMEN sponsored clinic that he's agreed to present a cardiology series for AMEN's Life & Health TV program.

After the event, wonderful testimonies were shared on how lives were touched. Unity was strengthened as church members prayed and worked together. To God be the Glory!

— *Carolyn Hampton,*  
*Troy Communication Secretary*  
— *Dr. Wendell Lawrence,*  
*Troy Member, Organizer and Contributor*

## Adventist Community Services

ACS is sponsoring "Spice Up Your Meals." Lets get together and learn to make 10 seasoning packets. Dates and locations are:

May 16	10:30 AM	Cedar Lodge, Camp Au Sable
May 16	4:30 PM	First Flint Church
May 17	10:30 AM	Lansing Church
May 18	10:30 AM	Paw Paw Church
May 18	4:00 PM	Detroit Metroplitan Church

A meal will be provided and all are welcome.

*(Continued from front page)*

resources to inspire new ideas and ministry plans. We believe the Holy Spirit was present as district teams met together to discuss different opportunities for youth ministry specific to their local church and their district.

If you have a burden for youth ministry in your church, we encourage you to reach out to your District Youth Coordinator, and get connected. We are stronger when we work together. May the Lord help us to be the leaders He is calling us to be and initiate an unstoppable revival among our young people in Michigan!

“With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world!”  
*(Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 555)*

### Introducing Michigan's District Youth Coordinators:

- District 1: Steve & Shelby Olsen
- District 2: Bob & Brenda Nelson
- District 3: Hermis & Eunice Tejada
- District 4: Matt & Amy Frain
- District 5: Mike & Tammy Messer
- District 6: Ethan & Kayla Booms
- District 7: Kristopher Clements
- District 8: *Open*
- District 9: Joe & Ruthie Reeves
- District 10: Michelle Odinma
- District 11: Alanna Knapp
- District 12: Andrew & Jordan Raquepaw



## May

- 6-7 VBS Workshop -  
Camp Au Sable
- 8 Mother's Day
- 8-15 Health Camp - Camp Au Sable
- 13-15 Pathfinder Fair -  
Au Sable Northwoods
- 15 LUC Constituency Meeting
- 18 Camp Meeting Directors -  
GLAA
- 19 K-12 Board of Education
- 24 MI Conference Executive  
Committee - Conf. Room
- 27-29 Memorial Day Weekend
- 27-29 Hispanic Camp Meeting -  
Camp Au Sable
- 27-29 GLAA Graduation Weekend
- 30 Memorial Day
- 30-June 3 Camp Certification -  
Camp Au Sable

## JUNE

- 5-9 Camp Pitch
- 5-11 Camp Orientation -  
Camp Au Sable
- 10-18 Camp Meeting - Cedar Lake
- 12-18 Adventure/Jr Camp -  
Camp Au Sable
- 19 Camp Meeting Strike
- 19-25 Junior Camp - Camp Au Sable
- 20-21 Office Closed
- 26-Aug 2 Tween Camp - Camp  
Au Sable

## JULY

- 1-4 Fourth of July Holiday -  
Office Closed
- 4 Independence Day

# Nature Nugget: Whale-watching from the sky!

— Gordon Atkins  
*Camp Au Sable Nature Director*

**F**or my granddaughter's second birthday, we went on a whale-watching cruise off the coast of southern California. We were lucky to see three Finback Whale's, the second largest of the world's whales. They migrate up the coast of California in the spring to feeding grounds off of Canada and Alaska. Their blowholes are large enough for a 7-year-old child to fall into! When they exhale, they shoot a stream of air and water up 30 feet that can be seen for miles. Their heart is the size of a small car; their tail (fluke) is 16 feet across.

our trip, a professional photographer used a drone to fly over the whale and take pictures. What a difference that perspective makes! From the air, you could see the whole whale and get a true sense of its size.



This experience reminded me that sometimes we as humans wonder why things happen in our life the way they do. From our earthly perspective, we even question God! But if we had God's heavenly perspective, we would better understand each situation and trial we face. Let us hold fast in faith that God knows the future, that He is in control, and that all things work together for good.

Unfortunately, you don't see the whole whale from the boat. Only about 10% of the whale's body is seen above the water as they come to the surface to breathe. On