

## **Pastor's Newsletter** – December 4, 2009

Dear Saint!

Christmas is here! The Church is decorated, the poinsettias have been set out, red is everywhere, the worship services will be filled with Christmas music, and there will be Christmas desserts after church!

I was going through a file of all my Christmas sermons over 35 years to find a worship for a small group tonight, and realized—all of those Christmas sermons basically had to come out of about 4 chapters in the Bible—Matthew 1 & 2, Luke 1 & 2! There are a few other verses scattered through the Bible, but essentially the whole Christmas story comes out of that tiny slice out of 1000 pages. And yet our entire faith and belief system rests on that foundation, that God Himself came down here on that original Christmas night. Either those 4 chapters are true, or it's all over. The Advent sermon series this year will all come out of an even smaller slice, Luke 2:8-12, the message of the angels to the shepherds on the hills outside Bethlehem. I hope you can be here for the entire series. We have special things planned for each Sabbath, and gifts for each family—but as they say, you have to be there to receive the gift!

**OAA BASKETBALL:** A quick note of pride—BOTH our OAA Basketball teams won the tournament up at La Sierra University and Academy this week. I had a split loyalty Monday night, as OAA played our son's team from LSA, but the outcome was not in doubt very long! Our own Austin Coetzee, Collin Monty, and Aaron Monroe were terrific, and the team was totally dominating. Congratulations to Leslie Aragon, the other coaches, and the boys' and girls' teams!

### **THIS SABBATH:**

**WORSHIP:** The feature is a wonderful gift—we have the William Chunestudy Men's Chorus singing for us! Bill Chunestudy and I have been together for many years, and he directed the LSU Octet at La Sierra for a long time. He is now the president of California Preparatory College, an independent but Adventist community college that has been started in the San Bernardino/Loma Linda area. This group sings for a church service once a month, and they will be absolutely terrific, and will give us a mini-concert in the heart of our worship service. There will be other special parts of the service, so don't miss! The sermon is: "NO FEAR!"

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:** There will also be Children's Church in the Youth Chapel.

**THE GIFT GOES ON:** Our Vietnamese Group will have their meeting at 4 pm in the Youth Chapel.

**WOMEN'S TEA:** Our annual Women's Tea is at 5:15 in the Fellowship Hall, but it was by sign-up only and has long since been totally filled. I had to offer to be a server to get inside, so put your name in early for next year!

### **NEXT WEEKEND:**

**ORANGEWOOD ACADEMY CHRISTMAS CONCERT:** The Joyous Sounds of Christmas will be presented by the Orangewood Academy Choir, The Handbells of Orangewood, and the Middle School Choir, with our own Amanda Johnston as guest soloist, at our Church, on Friday evening, December 11. The performance begins at 7:15 p.m. with Handbells and Organ. We will offer special Christmas refreshments to all who come!

Their secular program will be presented by Sunrise Christian Preschool and Orangewood Academy in the Academy auditorium, on Thursday, December 17, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Both programs are under the direction of James Woods.

One more chance to hear OAA: Santa Ana's MAIN PLACE SHOPPING CENTER will host The Twelve Days of Christmas on Sunday, December 6. Orangewood's Elementary Choirs, The Handbells of Orangewood, and the Sunrise Christian Preschool have been invited to perform for this event which begins at 3:00 p.m. in the Center Court (in front of Nordstroms).

**SABBATH MORNING:** Cheris Jensen will be singing, along with our praise team leading music. The sermon is: 'JOY—FOR YOU AND ME!'

**VIETNAMESE BANQUET / CONCERT:** A large dinner and concert are being offered to the Vietnamese public by our Vietnamese group, 6:30 pm, in the Fellowship Hall. Pray for this, and invite anybody. It will be translated and I will be speaking, if you want to come and invite someone.

**ADVENTURERS AND PATHFINDERS:** The Pathfinder group, under Alex Caldwell, will have their first meeting at 6:30 pm Saturday night, December 12, the same time as the Adventurers. They have a full schedule of special events in December and January—Griffith Park Observatory, Skiing/Snowboarding, etc.

**NEWS:**

**TUITION AID:** We have made it to our goal of \$9900! It was a daunting goal, but in just one month we have cash and pledges for the whole amount. Thanks to all of you who have given, and to those who helped with the 2 Rummage Sales. The families who are being helped are very thankful, as is Orangewood Academy.

**CHURCH RENTAL:** Tonight is the first night our new rental congregation will be worshipping in our church. They are absolutely lovely, gracious, vibrant Christians, and we hope to have a long-term relationship. There will always be a few adjustments until we get all the storage and other issues sorted out, but we think quickly we will have a smooth partnership. They will be here primarily Sunday and Friday nights. Welcome them if you see them!

God bless you all!

Pastor Dan