

Pastor's Newsletter – February 26, 2010

Dear Saint!

I had to go to the Crystal Cathedral bookstore this week to pick up a book for somebody. I came out of the store, the huge plaza was empty—except for a dignified white-haired man in a suit crossing in front of me. He looked over at me, gave me a little wave, and then went on to the parking lot—and it hit me—“That was Dr. Schuller himself!” Thought, I should run after him, introduce myself, “I’m the new Adventist pastor down the street.” But I was too shy, and I watched as he walked to the parking lot, greeted other people, and kicked myself for passing up the opportunity! I’ve been there to hear him speak several times, I’ve even been in his office, years ago—but never had that good of a chance to shake his hand. I had a chance to shake Obama’s hand two years ago at Saddleback, at the AIDS Conference. He and Sam Brownback were there, they walked right past me, I didn’t realize I could shake hands, let Obama pass by, but Brownback reached out and shook my hand! Thought, I just passed up the chance to shake hands with maybe a future president!

Who knows who we are passing up, every day, people just as important to God as Schuller and Obama. We’re scared, not sure what to say. But most of the time, if you just smile, give them anything, their faces melt and they light up and greet you back, because it’s so rare that someone truly seeks you out. Pray every morning to keep your eyes open for those who God flows past you, and when the prompting comes, don’t let them pass by, like I did!

RECONSTRUCTION: We hope with all our hearts that the carpet was put on a truck back east today, and should be here Monday. If so, then we should be back into our “new” church next Sabbath, March 6. We have planned a grand “rededication” service and potluck, don’t miss walking in all together and seeing the new carpet, paint, and platform all at the same time!

WEEKEND EVENTS:

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE: Tonight, 4th Friday night of the month! 7:30 pm, in the Youth Chapel—music, food, great message, all for youth and young adults, and those who think like young adults!

SABBATH SCHOOL: 9:30 am, Tom Neslund’s Class in the Pathfinder Room. Jack Johnson in the Office, the Lopez class on the landing outside the Fellowship Hall. Youth and Young Adults in the Youth Chapel.

WORSHIP SERVICE: 10:50 am, Gathering Songs, a special praise team with our young people, new graphics and fonts for our music, somebody has worked pretty hard on this, I think you’ll like what you see. The Youth and Young Adults are specially featured this Sabbath, which we are very excited about, and they have worked hard to make it a highlight Sabbath, with a mini-Drama and everything. The message finishes the ACTS/EVANGELISM series, “IMPACT PLAYERS: Seeing God At His Very Best.”

GRACE TEAM: The Surveys are ready, we're going into high gear—meet at the front of the Fellowship Hall immediately after Church for a 30-minute briefing.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE: Potluck and committee meeting in the Library, 1:15-2:30 pm or so. This is an absolutely crucial meeting to make final decisions on advertising.

PATHFINDERS AND ADVENTURERS: A group of over 30 are heading out at 4 pm Sabbath afternoon from the Church for their Camp Cedar Falls / Snow Valley skiing and snowboarding weekend. March 5-7 they will be camping in San Diego for the Kite Day March 7, so there will be no meeting at GGSDA that Sabbath. Their next meeting will be March 20. They have 12 Pathfinders coming and 24 Adventurers!

FUNERALS: The service for Max Storment, Michelle's father, will be at the San Clemente Presbyterian Church at 3:30 pm Sabbath afternoon. 119 S. Avenida de la Estrella.

The service for Lucy Montesa, just transferring into our church, wife of Joel, sister-in-law of Shane/Sonny and Chito and Loyda, is Saturday night, 6-7:30 pm, at Forest Lawn in Cypress—4471 Lincoln Avenue. I have the homily at both services. Pray for these special families.

I'm heading down to El Cajon this afternoon to speak at my brother's church, where they are doing evangelism, and needed a sermon on "Creation and Evolution" tonight. They had 120 the first night, with maybe 25 seekers. Pray for us! Our turn comes April 10!

God bless you all!

Pastor Dan