

Pastor's Newsletter – March 12, 2010

Dear GGSDA Saint!

For part of my devotional time I've been reading Eugene Peterson's *"The Contemplative Pastor"*. The chapter for today was "Apocalyptic Pastor," two words he says you never hear together! Apocalyptic is Daniel and Revelation, prophecies, thunder and warnings and battles, while Pastor is quiet and Psalm 23. But with our ramping up to THE SEARCH, I can feel the mix of "pastor" and "apocalyptic". We are going to try a mix of Daniel and Revelation, the excitement of the stories and prophecies, but mixed with Grace and Christ as the true "beast" of Revelation, and practical living in the 2010's in Orange County. But I hope you can feel the pulse of the church beating a little faster as we are inside a month until April 10.

There will be a sheet passed out at church that will answer the Frequently Asked Questions about THE SEARCH, so you can save the dates, and get the overall picture. There are all kinds of ways to be involved, so listen to the Spirit and find your niche.

OFFERING: Because the Committee has decided to make the mailing of our brochure to the local zip codes as special as possible and go First Class, we are having to stretch to make the money coming from the Conference cover everything. The Committees have voted to take a special second offering both tomorrow and Easter Sabbath, April 3, to give those who can a chance to give to spread the message about the character of God to Garden Grove. Don't borrow from Tithe or Budget, and feel no pressure to have to give again—just if you have some mission money you can spare! Mark it "Local Evangelism" if you put it in the envelope.

WEEKEND SERVICES:

SURPRISE: There's a special "feature" that will be at church tomorrow that you will be sorry if you miss! Can't give you any hints except: You will wish you brought some kind of camera! That's it, you have to guess the rest! It's an illustration for the sermon, like some of the "acted parables" of the OT prophets.

YOUTH and YOUNG ADULTS: 9:30 am Breakfast, the Praise turns on at 9:45 am, and the Study is at 10:10 am. Silvino Briceno is leading out with the Youth.

WORSHIP: 10:50 am the Praise Team will call us to worship. We have special features, and the sermon carries on the theme, UNASHAMED, with the sermon title: 'A GIFT BEFORE IT WAS A COMMANDMENT.' This will take a whole new look at the Sabbath, and hopefully move us far beyond some of the ways a few of us grew up with misperceptions or negative experiences of the Sabbath. Hopefully a fairly defining sermon.

GRACE TEAM / EVANGELISM COMMITTEE: The Evangelism Committee will meet at the front of the church right at 12:30 pm for brief update and a time to make clarifications and decisions, and then the Grace Team will meet from 12:45 pm to 1:15 pm. The full Evangelism

Committee will meet for an absolutely critical, summary meeting and potluck next Sabbath, March 20. April 10 is 4 weeks from Saturday night!

Pathfinders and Adventurers: March 20, 6:30 pm for Pathfinders, 7 pm for Adventurers. The next campout is San Diego, March 26-28, at the Sweetwater Regional Campgrounds in the Bonita area of San Diego. Call Sandra Caldwell, 562-773-9450, or 562-920-2110.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: 7:30 pm Tuesday night, Board Room.

RECONSTRUCTION: I mentioned yesterday that the contractor has very kindly agreed that the stain areas in the Lobby's new carpet are really not the best we can do, and that the carpet supplier needs to stand behind their product. We should get this resolved, and the carpet into the office complex, within the next few days. The new skylights are going in today, thanks to Bob, Bob, and Josh. We should be nearly done soon, and we can put all our focus on Easter and THE SEARCH.

ORANGEWOOD ACADEMY: The Constituency Meeting was last Monday night. PREREGISTRATION with a \$100 discount ends March 18, so get in and complete that if you haven't already.

God bless you all!

Pastor Dan