

## Pastor's Newsletter – May 14, 2010

Dear Saint!

It is with mixed feelings that I have to say, THE SEARCH is over! It was certainly a hectic season, both during the 4 actual weeks of the meetings, and the months leading up to it, but many of us will also miss the excitement of doing a huge God-thing together. With all the ups and downs and excitement and challenges and thrilling moments, it was a very special experience for all of us who were involved. We had 340 attend the last night, for an incredible violin concert by Miclén LaPaing, the usual terrific meal, and then all the best we have to offer, with the SEARCH Praise Team and Band, Health Nugget, a wedding (!), and then the message, with a Wedding Reception afterwards!

**SAVE THE DATE:** The Meckstroth's have invited everyone who was actively involved in making THE SEARCH happen to a catered lunch sponsored by the Evangelism Committee, in their backyard, Sunday, May 23, 3-7 pm. 18602 Via Bravo, Villa Park. This is to say thank you to everybody who worked so incredibly hard—Music, AV, Greeting, Food, Ushering, Translation, Visitation, Health, Drama, everybody! We can never thank you enough, and our thanks are ultimately simply channeling thanks from God Himself. But we'd love to have you come. Swimming, food, & talking about "WHAT'S NEXT?!"

We have a long list of names the elders and pastors are visiting and following up. We hope that all of you who invited someone to come with you will continue to invite people to:

#1—Church Worship Service—every single worship service will try to carry on the momentum and standard set by THE SEARCH. We have a great praise team tomorrow, our own choir, PLUS the Bakersfield Academy Choir. The message will be filled with Gospel and Story. We are tightening up on times, and we want you to be proud to invite anybody to our worship services.

#2—Steps to Christ Bible study, Friday night, 7:30 pm. We will study chapter by chapter Steps to Christ, but rooted in a Bible study studying the parallel chapters. The sheet for that will be available after church tomorrow and hopefully online.

#3—If somebody would like personal Bible studies to follow up on questions they have as they are searching, please let us know. My days are becoming filled wall-to-wall with Bible studies, and it just doesn't get any better than that! But we have a number of elders and others who are venturing into the unknown and getting a taste of it themselves!

### **WEEKEND:**

**Sabbath School:** The Youth Council met for several hours last night, outlining new schedules, adding more life and features into SS—I think you can be very excited about sending your young people, or coming yourself, to Youth and Young Adults.

9:30 am - First-class Breakfast—people are sneaking in from all over to get some of this breakfast in the Youth Chapel!

9:45 am - Praise Team

10:00 am - Youth to the Library for their program and Bible study, Young Adults in the Youth Chapel.

**Classes:** All the Classes go back to their original locations—Jack Johnson and Ron Reynolds/Merrill Schmidt in the Fellowship Hall, the Lopez Class on the landing, Tom Neslund's Class in the North Room, and the Vietnamese Class in the Pathfinder Room. There are other classes in the plans, but we have to create some new places for them!

**DIVINE WORSHIP:** 10:50 am, in the Sanctuary again. Great Praise Team, Video, and the Message: “GO ON IN!” from Esther 5:1-2. Do Gospel preachers sometimes go too far, into cheap grace? Is God being fair when He calls people righteous who are obviously not righteous at all?

**CHILDREN’S CHURCH:** 11-12 pm, and then potluck in the Park.

**WOMEN’S MINISTRY:** This is the Sabbath WM provides “*Cupcake Brigade Birthday.*” This is for everyone who has a birthday during May—which of course includes me! They are asking that anyone who can bring a dozen or two cupcakes! It’s a terrific ministry. They are also doing “Women Out Walking” (WOW) this weekend, Sunday, 9 am, in the parking lot, Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, Huntington Beach.

**POTLUCK:** There will be a potluck available for the Bakersfield Choir group. If you would like to join the group of us who are hosting them, we would greatly appreciate it, and enjoy fellowship with you. We are still getting to know all of the members of the church, and so would love to have some of you bring whatever you were going to eat at home anyway and just come sit with us!

**PATHFINDERS:** The regular meetings are Saturday night, but the big event for the weekend is the Pathfinder Parade and Fair, 10 am Sunday morning, in front of the La Sierra University Church and down the street to the Conference Office. There will be booths, and we are having one to raise funds for the Catalina trip. I will proudly be marching with our troop, with new friends and new loyalties!

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Tuesday night, 7:30 pm.

**STEPS TO CHRIST:** Friday night, 7:30 pm. This replaces the *Experiencing God*, which finishes. We will go to Wednesday night, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> session, May 26, and then go back to Thursday nights. I had two conflicts, which led to some adjustments that everybody graciously agreed to!

**FUTURE DATES:**

**OA Beach Vespers and FNL:** We are merging the Orangewood Beach Academy Vespers and baptism, Friday night, May 28, with our own FNL—Friday Night Live. One of our young people is planning to be baptized that evening in the ocean, and we hate to miss that! Then GGSDA Youth and Young Adults will go to our own fire pit and have our own vespers that evening.

**GRADUATION:** On Sabbath, June 5, we want to honor every single graduate, from any level, from any school. If you know somebody who is graduating this season, please let us know! It is also our last chance, for now, to have Pastor Ruben Escalante speak at our church. There will be our regular potluck, but it is also to celebrate our graduates and say a bit of a farewell to Pastor Ruben. Friday night will be the Consecration Service for Orangewood Graduation, Saturday night is Class Night at OA, and of course graduation Sunday evening.

(Side Note—the plan is for a new OA principal to be voted on at a Board meeting, May 24. I am not on the Search Committee, so do not know all of the details, but everybody is excited about the quality of the top names in the process. We will miss Pastor Ruben incredibly, but God is also going to send us a tremendous person for the next generation of students at OA.)

**LUAU:** The annual Youth and Young Adults Luau will be Sunday, August 22.

Have a terrific weekend; hope we can see you tomorrow!

God bless—  
Pastor Dan