

Pastor's Newsletter – May 28, 2010

Dear Saint!

The best is yet to come! It's an old cliché, I know. But somehow that is what I want to say to all of you on our email list this Friday morning. The best is yet to come. It has been a highlight of my life, these last 8 months, to be part of a something, to see a church come alive, to meet some of the best special people I have ever been with. To do THE SEARCH together. To see 70+ people take a major part of it. And starting tonight the baptisms will begin, people stepping over the line, saying to Christ, I'm with You. Forever. We have 6 getting baptized, some at the beach tonight, the others in church tomorrow. And most of the Sabbaths coming up have people making that same commitment.

But the best is yet to come! We are just getting started. Worship services will be even better, praise teams, Sabbath Schools, our facilities—everything is moving up, striving for excellence, all to the glory of God. We have pages of notes of dreams for the future. Finance Committee and Board Meetings are taking hours, as we try to get everything right so we can focus everything on being the most powerful, impacting, influential, welcoming church we can be. It has been a rich, rich blessing to be around for what's happened so far, but I can't wait to see what God is about to do!

Pray for our church, be a part of it, ride the Wave God is making and ride it all the way to the shore. Be faithful with Tithes and Offerings, keep putting something into Local Evangelism, and watch how many people God keeps sending us. Every week we have people calling us, asking for Bible studies. It's just amazing to me.

WEEKEND CALENDAR:

FRIDAY NIGHT:

FNL: FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE!! Will be at Corona del Mar tonight, starting at about 5 pm. We will join Orangewood Academy in the lagoon for the baptism, between 6-7 pm. It's my first time, so all I can say is ask questions and follow the crowd! We have 3 of our young people planning to be baptized tonight. Come join the crowd to cheer them on, and enjoy the first beach vespers of the season as we open the Sabbath at the beach. That's why we all live here!

SABBATH SCHOOLS: 9:30 am, all over the church.

YOUTH BAPTISMAL CLASS: 9:30 am-10:00 am, in my office. For all children and young people who would like to do this together. Don't worry if you missed the first one, we'll find a way for you to catch up. We will finish Lesson 2 and go as far into #3 and #4 as we have time for. If you have lessons at home, try to get them done before hand, so we can have more time to explain, discuss, and tell stories. There will be no pressure to get baptized or to do it by any particular time—this is entirely up to you and your own free choice!

DIVINE WORSHIP: 10:45 am—Come early if you can, because we have so much music coming from Orangewood Academy that we will be starting at 10:45. We have two choirs and the bell choir coming, with Director Jim Wood, and so this will be an awesome, incredible Sabbath. There will also be a great drama, and of course we have 3 more young people getting baptized. The message is: “BRIBING GOD!!”, and comes from the story of Jephthah in Judges 10-11.

THE GIFT GOES ON: 4 pm, Vietnamese Group. Youth Chapel.

DURING THE WEEK:

STEPS TO CHRIST, Ch. 3, “Repentance,” Thursday night, 6:30 pm, Board Room, light potluck. We have been having a great discussion each week, wrestling with Bible texts that parallel the chapter in the book, and discussing the hardest questions that go with the topic.

8TH GRADE GRADUATION: Thursday night, 7:30 pm, Orangewood.

12TH GRADE CONSECRATION: Friday night, 7:30 pm, Garden Grove (at our church!)

GGSDA “GRADUATION”: We will be celebrating all of our own graduates, from any level, from any school, from kindergarten to Sandra Caldwell’s doctorate! We have at least 16 names so far, but we have missed any please call us this week! Pastor Ruben will be giving us his farewell message, and we will give him as much love as we can give him, for the 9 years he has been here at Orangewood.

POTLUCK: We will have our regular first Sabbath of the month potluck, honoring the Escalante’s, Betty Chaviano (who is also leaving), and all our graduates.

CLASS NIGHT: Saturday night, 7:30-9:00 pm, Orangewood Academy

COMMENCEMENT: Sunday afternoon, 3 pm, Orangewood Academy

PATHFINDERS AND ADVENTURERS: Next week.

SAVE THE DATE: SEARCH plus, Saturday night, June 12, Fellowship Hall

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT: FISH FEST Concert, Sabbath afternoon, June 12, meet at the church at 1 pm.

FNL (FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE): June 25, 7:30

YOUTH BARBECUE: June 26, 1 pm, Sioli’s house.

Have a great weekend, everybody!

God bless—
Pastor Dan