

Pastor's Newsletter – May 21, 2010

Dear Saint!—

I hope that everything is good for you this Friday! This is a special day for us, because nineteen years ago we became parents for the first time! Even though we had been up all night, and Hilda had gone through some awful moments—there is nothing quite like seeing another life come out into the world. And many of you have been having a similar blessing, seeing someone you have prayed for begin to express some interest in God and spiritual things—and there is no gift quite like that, seeing another spiritual life come into the world. We are trying to make sure that every worship service is something you can be proud to invite someone to.

This Sabbath focuses on one of the spiritual questions that has bogged people down for hundreds of years—**Is the normal Christian life one of “gift” or “grit”? Is it one of struggle and willpower, or one of rest and letting go and letting God?**

YOUTH BAPTISMAL CLASS: I have had so many youth and children want to have Bible studies, with the goal of maybe getting baptized, that I cannot see each one, one by one! So we are going to try to do it as a group—but we only have 30 minutes! 9:30 am to 10:00 am.

- 9:30 am to 10:00 am, My Office
- Most have their lessons, but I will have more there for anyone who wishes to join.
- We will do two lessons a week, so encourage your young people to have the two lessons done before they come, and we will go over them together.
- We will go for about 4 weeks.
- Please do your best to get them there right at 9:30 am, there's no margin at all!

Here is the Weekend Schedule:

FRIDAY NIGHT: *Steps to Christ*, 7:30 pm, light potluck, studying the first chapter of *Steps to Christ*, “God's Love For Man,” and a parallel Bible study. There is no better book in the world on how to get closer to God and making God more real in your life. The group will meet again next Wednesday night at 6:30 pm, then go back to Thursday nights.

SABBATH MORNING:

SABBATH SCHOOLS EVERYWHERE: 9:30 am—North Room with Tom Neslund, Fellowship Hall landing, Sam and Michele Lopez; Fellowship Hall, one corner, has Jack Johnson, going through *Colossians*; the other corner, Ron Reynolds and Merrill Schmidt, “The Picture of God in all 66 Books”, studying 1 & 2 Samuel tomorrow; Vietnamese group in the Pathfinder Room. **YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS** in the Youth Chapel, children in their divisions.

DIVINE WORSHIP: 10:50 am. POLYNESIAN THEME this week, starting a new tradition of 1 Sabbath a month focusing on a different part of the world. I think what they have planned will be spectacular, children will be caught up into it—a great Sabbath. The message: “THE MAN WHO WENT NAKED TO THE WEDDING!”

THE GIFT GOES ON: 4:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

THANK YOU PARTY: For all who had an active volunteer role with THE SEARCH, at Bob and Carol Meckstroth's, 3:00 – 7:00 pm Sunday afternoon. On Via Bravo, in Villa Park.

STEPS TO CHRIST: Wednesday night, 6:30 pm, light potluck, studying chapter 2, "Sinner's Need for Christ".

OA SPRING CONCERT: 7:00 pm, May 27, at Orangewood Academy. The theme is Disney! The evening will feature not only Disney music, but also Disney characters in costume. Some of the characters rumored to grace the stage include Jasmine (from Aladdin), the Beast (from Beauty and the Beast), and even Quasimodo (from the Hunchback of Notre Dame). Plan to be there, you will not want to miss this unforgettable experience!

- There will also be a Senior Class fundraiser meal at 4:45 pm beforehand.
- AND a meeting to learn about Financial Aid and Scholarships at 6:00 pm in the Band Room.
- Don't forget GRADUATIONS: 8th Grade, Thursday night, June 3, 7:30 pm. Consecration, our church, Friday night, June 4, 7:30 pm. Commencement, Sunday, June 6, 3:00 pm, OA. Class night, Saturday night, 7:30 pm.

FRIDAY NIGHT: FNL (Friday Night Live) will join Orangewood Academy at the Beach so we can all cheer on those getting baptized, especially our own Meagan Lopez, who Pastor Ruben and I will somehow baptize together out in the ocean! It starts at 6:00 pm, at Corona Del Mar. Then our FNL group will gather around their own fire pit for the Friday evening vespers of food, music, and worship. Our son's Junior class is also going to be down there, so we are going to sample the best of the food from all 3 sites!

SABBATH, JUNE 5: Highlighting all graduates, from anywhere, any level, connected to Garden Grove SDA Church. If you know somebody who is graduating, please let us know! Pastor Ruben Escalante will be giving us his "farewell" message, and we will love him, his family, and all the graduates at the potluck that day.

Got to finish the sermon! God bless—

Pastor Dan