

Pastor's Newsletter – June 4, 2010

Dear Saint!

Pastor Ruben said last night how nostalgic the last few days has been, as he goes through “the last” of everything—his last chapel, his last Senior Class trip, last basketball game, last spring concert—and now last graduation. AND last sermon in the Garden Grove Church, as the principal of Orangewood Academy. His children will remain with us, so we hope we can bring him back from time to time. But tomorrow is our chance to say goodbye, to hear his heart for young people, and to let him know our heart, after 9 years as principal in Orange County. He and I have been together in ministry in one form or another for 16 years, and it is hard for me to go through “the last” time as pastor and principal too!

But we think it is going to a spectacular service, with our #1 Praise Team (#1 in total years experience!) leading out, and then a Grand Processional with our 22 graduates from all schools and levels marching down the aisle in their regalia. We hope that this will become a memorable tradition again as we celebrate everyone, wherever they went to school. Penny Escalante, a long-term teacher, will tell the Children's Story, and then Ruben will give his Grand Finale message, to us, to the graduates, and to the families and young people he has poured his life into for 9 years.

We will have our monthly potluck upstairs in the Fellowship Hall, so come and celebrate the Escalante's AND all our graduates!

WEEKEND CALENDAR:

FRIDAY NIGHT: Orangewood Academy Consecration Service, 7:30 pm, Garden Grove Church

SABBATH SCHOOL: 9:30 am, the normal schedule and SS's all over the church campus.

YOUTH BAPTISMAL CLASS: 9:30 to 10:00 am, in the Pastor's Office, studying Lessons 4 & 5. Not too late for anyone to join, we will just do the early lessons again at the end. We have to stick to this time schedule to support our SS's, so be on time as much as possible!

DIVINE WORSHIP: 10:45 am our Praise Team will start, so that we have enough time to include all of our graduation ritual. The graduates will line up with Tom Neslund in the hallway of the SS rooms, with their parents/families. Music by the Praise Team, Sanctuary Choir, and then the message, “THE CHOICE,” by Pastor Ruben Escalante.

POTLUCK: 12:30 pm, Fellowship Hall, all welcome.

GRACE TEAM: 2:30 pm—all those who met earlier to help with the visitation followup to THE SEARCH, are invited to meet for 30 minutes in the Fellowship Hall after the potluck.

AND those who trained with Pastor Winsley, and ANY OTHERS who are willing to help! We have over 90 people to follow up, so we can use all the help we can get!

THE GIFT GOES ON: 4 pm, Fellowship Hall, Vietnamese and Filipino groups joining for this service.

CLASS NIGHT: Saturday night, Orangewood Academy, 7:30, Chapel

PATHFINDERS AND ADVENTURERS: Adventurers are at 7:00 pm Saturday night, Pathfinders at 6:30. The camping trip for the weekend of the 17-20 has been canceled for now, but the Catalina trip is on, Sunday, July 18, 2010.

COMMENCEMENT: Sunday, 3 pm, Orangewood Academy, Chapel

TENTATIVE BOARD MEETING: 7:30 pm, possible Board meeting, to deal with a prospective Lease Request. Watch for further announcements.

STEPS TO CHRIST: Thursday night, 6:30 pm, Board Room. Chapter 4, "Confession"

UPCOMING EVENTS:

FISH FEST Concert, meet at Church parking lot 1 pm, next Sabbath, June 12. Doors open at 3 pm. Tickets: youth@gardengrovesda.com

SEARCHplus: 6:00 to 7:30 pm, Sabbath afternoon vesper slot, next Saturday night, June 12. This is for all of you who enjoyed THE SEARCH, and who need something to invite your friends to, who came once or twice. Supper at 6 pm, 6:15 Praise Team, followed by the Music, Message, "MONOPOLY MONEY!", and then Strawberry Shortcake and Ice Cream out on the patio!

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE: Friday night, June 25, 7:30 pm.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT BARBECUE: Saturday, June 26, 1 pm, Tameifuna's.

MORE LATER!!

God bless—

Pastor Dan