

Pastor's Newsletter – October 1, 2010

Dear Saint!

It was a very special gift, to get to go to Hawaii to speak for their campmeeting/convocation—but I would rather have been here! All weekend I kept thinking—Now they're in church. Now Iki's speaking. Now they're going to the Memorial service! I just hated to miss it all. I preached to about 500 Friday night, in the Honolulu Central Church. Then Sabbath morning the church was filled, all the parking was taken, and over 1000 from all over the island were there—just an amazing time. After the potluck, I spoke again, and then they had a two-hour music festival, with almost every church contributing their very best. They had Samoan youth, Samoan men's chorus (fantastic, went to the General Conference), Filipino, Korean, the Academy, an incredible trumpet player—just a great treat, to sit on the front row and just soak it in. I came back with a dream to talk my fellow Orange County pastors into having an Orange County campmeeting for one day, at the Crystal Cathedral, with every single church closing and coming together for an awesome festival like that!

I had a few hours free on Sunday and Monday around some dinner appointments, so someone invited me to go sailing, ended up 6 miles out on the ocean, and then in the middle of a pod of dolphins! Then one round of not very skilled golf but gorgeous scenery with the Conference president, a friend for 40 years, Ralph Watts III, and then flew all night home.

Now for this weekend here: In the OT they would build altars whenever they wanted to mark an era, a place, where God had done something special, where they had met God in a special way. And so tomorrow, October 2, we are building sort of an altar, celebrating one year since we were given the honor of coming to GGSDA. It is just a chance to give glory to God, to mark where we have come, and to refocus on where we want to go in achieving God's dream for us. The Worship Committee has planned it without me, so I do not know all that is planned—but here is what I know:

Marie Prince, who has been an incredible force for good and caring in our Community Services for many years—is going to join our church by Profession of Faith! Come and give her a hug—just an awesome woman of God!

Sermon—Continuing the “YEA GOD” series, this is on “FRIENDSHIP”—John 15:15 “I have called you friends.” That verse marks a watershed moment in my own picture of God, and I am excited to share that with you on this anniversary Sabbath.

POTLUCK—Lizz Randall and our new Fellowship Dinner team have planned a grand potluck in the Fellowship Hall after church. Don't miss! If you have time and can bring something, terrific, but either way, come!

OPEN HOUSE: Hopefully you have all marked down our Open House on your calendars! Tomorrow night, Saturday night, Oct. 2, is the night. We are opening up our home in Riverside from 6-9 pm, and hope that nearly all of you will find your way up to our house and can drop in

for awhile! We will have some light refreshments and some highlight desserts that Hilda and others are contributing, I don't think you will be able to go out to eat anywhere and have it taste anything close to this good!

Here are the directions again: 5690 Peacock Lane, Riverside, CA, 92505. From Orange County: 22E, 55N, 91E. Take Pierce St. Exit. At the end of the ramp, turn L onto Riverwalk. That will bring you past the sports fields of La Sierra University on your left, past the Conference office, cross over Pierce, go past La Sierra Academy on the left. Riverwalk becomes Golden. Go to the 2nd Stop sign, L on Gramercy. R Peacock Lane. Come up to the top, yellow house on the left, has a three-pronged bush/tree in front, 5 houses from the end. Somehow find a place to park, and come hang out with us for the night! Like I said yesterday, we aren't taking record, we will love everybody the same whether you come or don't, but we'd love to have you come be with us.

To summarize again: 22E, 55N, 91E, Pierce, L Riverwalk, L Gramercy, R Peacock Lane. 35 miles from church to our door.

THE SEARCH II: I hope you have been saving the dates of October 15-16 for the first weekend of THE SEARCH II. The whole theme is Noah's Ark and the Flood. The Ark is being built as we speak in the Fellowship Hall, and the special effects are going to be spectacular! We will have flyers tomorrow you can take to people you want to invite. The first night we will have a mini-debate/dialogue between two Adventist scientists on whether there ever was actually a global flood! Just 30 minutes, to Intro the sermon, but I think you will learn a lot about this famous issue. Saturday night Oct. 16, we have THE AMBASSADORS, a great, great choir from AUP, our university in the Philippines. They are a world-class choir, sing for every GC Session, compete internationally, and are just terrific kids. They will do a full concert from 7-8 pm, and then a secular encore after the message. Don't miss—they are spectacular.

OFFERING: In order to pay for the flyers that are going out this weekend and next week, we need to take up a second offering tomorrow morning. Feel no pressure to give twice—if that puts a strain on your finances, just give your regular tithes and offerings! But if God has blessed you with even a few dollars you can spare for this evangelistic series, it will be a great help. A little bit, times 300-350 people, can make a huge difference!

BAPTISM: Next Friday night, 6 pm, we will join Orangewood for a baptism at Corona del Mar beach. One of our young people, George Cumpian, 16, a junior at Orangewood, will be getting baptized. His coach, Leslie Aragon, and I will share the honors. His parents are Frank and Cynthia Figueroa, and live just behind the church. We have been studying, and he wants to be baptized at the beach, with his school family, BUT also with his new church family. We would love it if you can come and make it a Friday evening vesper for you and your family. Over 100 of his family are coming too! We will set up somewhere nearby Orangewood, and if you want to bring your own little picnic supper and hangout into sundown and usher in the Sabbath that would be terrific. There is a chance another one or two others may still join George for this great, great event.

WEEKEND:

9:30 am - SABBATH SCHOOL: I just want to especially encourage you parents to bring your children to SS, and to encourage your college and HS youth to come. The leaders are trying to zero in right on those age groups to make it as relevant as possible. The Young Adult group met last Sabbath, and have a whole range of plans they are initiating, starting this week!

10:55 am - DIVINE WORSHIP: A great Praise Team will start worship at 10:55 am, as we build a metaphorical altar celebrating what God has done during this last year at GGSDA. The Choir has a great spiritual ready, and then the sermon: “YEA GOD, FOR YOUR FRIENDSHIP.”

12:30 pm – POTLUCK - Fellowship Hall, everybody invited.

1:45 pm - EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

1:45 pm - SABBATH SCHOOL COUNCIL

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

OPEN HOUSE—6-9 pm - Smith’s, 5690 Peacock Lane, Riverside!

FRIDAY NIGHT: Cumpian baptism, 6 pm, Corona del Mar

SABBATH (Oct 9): Lord’s Supper (Ordinance of Humility between SS and Church), “YEA GOD, FOR FREEDOM”

PATHFINDERS: Watch for further announcements. Almost 50 kids showed up for the first meetings of Pathfinders and Adventurers last Saturday night! Going to be a great year.

God bless, have a great weekend, hope to see you Saturday night!

Pastor Dan