

## **Pastor's Newsletter – November 19, 2010**

My friends!

Having recovered from the Xcelerator and other rides, we are ready to go for another weekend at GGSDA! We had a large group in all shades of red spread all over Knott's Berry Farm Sunday, and just had a terrific time. Thanks to Melissa and Bill and Silvino who organized all the details.

**THANKSGIVING FOOD PARADE:** We have an annual tradition of bringing food for Thanksgiving baskets to Church this Sabbath, the Sabbath before Thanksgiving. Then our Community Service team, led by Linda Jolly and Marie Prince, will put the baskets together and give them out so people can have a special Thanksgiving dinner. Our cupboard is pretty bare, so we could really use a big-league parade tomorrow! If you can put a bag or two together today, bring it to the deacon's room tomorrow morning or have your own children bring it, the kids will line up and bring it all down the aisle during the Opening Hymn. There will also be a basket for the Children's Love offering. Then they will go to the Children's Church in the Youth Chapel.

**EDUCATION:** A quick note, in case you wonder if our schools can really keep up academically: From the Christian Science Monitor, about the latest Cognitive Genesis study, led by Dr. Elissa Kido, a great friend of ours:

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Commentary/Opinion/2010/1115/For-real-education-reform-take-a-cue-from-the-Adventists>

**PATHFINDERS:** They passed out 1000 bags to the community last Sabbath, and now this Sabbath afternoon they will go back to those same houses and hopefully pick up a bag of groceries to help with the Thanksgiving baskets also. If you can help drive a car or help out, they'd be very blessed! Bring a lunch, meet in front of the Pathfinder Room at 1 pm, and the group will head out. If we have a big group go, it doesn't take long, and it's pretty cool to just run to the porches, grab the bags of food and head to the next place!

**EVANGELISM COMMITTEE:** Everybody who loves spreading the message to the community is welcome and invited to our Evangelism Committee potluck in the Fellowship Hall after church Sabbath. We will debrief THE SEARCH II, and then make plans for the rest of this year and 2011. It is a great group to be with, one of the coolest committees of the church, and we'd love to have you be a part of it!

### **SABBATH MORNING:**

9:30 am - SABBATH SCHOOL CLASSES everywhere! Young Adults is alive, Youth is doing great, I had a nice group up in the Fellowship Hall Sabbath for the ISSUES Class, the Filipino Class is growing. SS Classes are the groups where we take the theory and make it work in the real world!

10:00 am - ISSUES CLASS, Fellowship Hall

10:55 am - DIVINE WORSHIP: Praise Team, Thanksgiving Food Parade, and the Message: MESSAGE - "YEA GOD, FOR BEING GENEROUS!" Is God really rich? Then why isn't He more generous?!

What about the story of Luke 18 and the Persistent Widow--is that what it takes, We need to pester God until He opens up His wallet? I thought if we paid tithes He was supposed to open up the windows of heaven Pour out a blessing so great that we didn't have room to receive it! Why isn't it working?!

12:30 pm - EVANGELISM COMMITTEE POTLUCK, Fellowship Hall

1:00 pm - PATHFINDER FOOD PICKUP

4:00 pm - THE GIFT GOES ON

6:30 pm - PATHFINDERS/ADVENTURERS. Pathfinders are doing the Baking honor, and will get to eat it tonight!

No Committees or meetings this week, Thanksgiving vacation!

**BAPTISMS:** We have people planning on baptism just about every Sabbath in December. If we have somehow missed anybody, and someone would like to be included, let us know! 951-236-7262, or [pastordan@gardengrovesda.com](mailto:pastordan@gardengrovesda.com).

**MERCY HOUSE:** Noemi and Albert Decena took me to Mercy House this week, to learn how we can be part of their ministry to the homeless in Orange County. What a great, great place this is, just a terrific ministry that covers everything from the time someone becomes homeless, until they are back into a home with some sort of employment. During the winter they have two facilities where people can sleep at night, and churches volunteer to help from 5-8 pm. Here is Noemi's note: "The Cold Weather Emergency Shelter program provides up to 200 beds per night for the homeless in Orange County at the National Guard Armory in Santa Ana, CA. The homeless receive a nutritious meal, a warm shower, a safe place to sleep, and access to valuable social services. Volunteers are needed to help with setting up tables and chairs, cleaning and putting out the sleeping mats, assisting with client registration, setting out snacks, passing out donations, serving dinner and cleaning up. Hours: 5-8 pm, Tuesday and Wednesday nights starting January. Ages: 10yrs and above. Sign-up sheets are available at the foyer. Contact info: Noemi Decena (714) 875-4389."

#### **MISCELLANEOUS NEWS:**

1. People are starting to sign up, interested in the Thailand trip. Don't wait for later to let me know if you are even interested!

2. The Church has purchased two new refrigerators, one for the Kitchen, one for Community Services, after the others have broken down.

3. The baptistery will have hot water again!

4. The Youth and Young Adult ministries have sorted out their names and organizations: YOUNG ADULT COUNCIL (will plan Friday Night Live's, Mission trips, handle the finances, mailing list, calendar), for post-High School young adults. Annie Mejia and Lesieli Tameifuna are the leaders.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES (YAM)--the Young Adult SS in the Youth Chapel, with Winsley Hector and others as the leaders, which has several projects, including the Young Adult Choir, small groups, and some SS potlucks. They will work very closely with the umbrella Council.

YOUTH COUNCIL--Plans social and recreational activities for High School Youth. Led by parents and others.

YOUTH SS--for high school youth, in the Library. Melissa Olson is the leader, along with Bill Olson and Bob Evans.

**SAVE THE DATES:**

1. Decorate the Church for Christmas: Thursday, Dec. 2. Details TBA.
2. Orangewood Academy Christmas Program, GGSDA, Friday night, Dec. 3.
3. December Potluck, Dec. 4.
4. Women's Ministry Tea Party, Saturday night, Dec. 11.
5. CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST BANQUET, Sabbath morning, Dec. 18 at 8:30 am, Fellowship Hall.

All SS Classes will close, everybody invited to the Fellowship Hall for what they promise is an amazing tradition of a terrific breakfast, and then the Children's Choir, with Amanda Johnston, will perform a great Cantata.

Then a procession to the Sanctuary, with the Young Adult Choir, leading carols, for a great Christmas service.

6. CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE--a new tradition, Christmas Eve, Friday night this year, 7-8 pm, Sanctuary.

A mass choir made up of singers from all the Orange County Churches, and all the pastors coming to share.

A great time to be part of the larger OC Adventist Church family.

Hot cider and cookies in a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

It's a happening place! God bless you all--

Pastor Dan