

Pastor's Newsletter – December 10, 2010

Merry Christmas to you all, as we go into high gear for Christmas and the Advent season!

We will light the first two candles of Advent tomorrow.

And baptize two more just terrific young men, William Zhang and Tommy Torres!

But the great highlight of the day is Miclen LaiPang, the 14-year-old violinist who has played for us several times, but this time he is bringing an orchestra he has formed himself, with 35 members! They will fill our platform, and bless us with all of our worship music.

SABBATH SERVICES:

9:30 am - **SABBATH SCHOOL**

Breakfast, Praise Band, and great discussion, at the Youth Chapel

Filipino Class--will meet in the Mother's Room, because the Fellowship Hall is set up for the Tea Party AND the Children's Choir will be practicing on the stage.

The Lopez Class will meet in my office this week.

10:00 am - **PASTOR'S CLASS--"ISSUES"** - We will meet on the landing on the way into the Fellowship Hall.

10:55 am - **DIVINE WORSHIP**

MICLEN'S ORCHESTRA!

Lighting of the Advent Candle, Children's Story, and Baptism

Message: "WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE A VIRGIN?"

12:30 pm - **POTLUCK:** There will be a potluck at the Library and outside, for the orchestra. If you want to share something and come be with us, that would be just great.

4:00 pm - **No "The Gift Goes On,"** due to the Women's Tea Party

5:00 pm - **Women's Tea Party,** Fellowship Hall

TITHES AND OFFERINGS: It's December, and so please begin to think about your giving to God and His Church. It is one of the most powerful ways, according to the Bible, to send a message to God about where He stands with you. We have had a terrific year, financially, and we thank all of you for being faithful with God, from the bottom of our hearts. Now we need to finish well and take it home!

Giving at GGSDA is totally between you and God, I and the other church leaders will never, never know what you choose to give, except for the Church Treasurer. But we are hoping and praying that the kind of church we are praying for and building for is worthy and deserving of your support. Give your full tithes back to God, and give from your heart for Church Budget.

We are meeting Tuesday night to pray about the STRATEGIC PLAN for our church, and we will begin to share with the whole church some of our dreams. If you have ideas and dreams to share, let any of us know, send me an email, we want this to reflect the whole church. We will take every single idea seriously.

Besides the holiest of motivations for giving, to honor God and spread the gospel, there is also this: Our Conference leaders need to know that we can absolutely support having a fulltime pastor for Youth and Young Adults. Just know that every dollar given has that extra dividend, it will go to getting us a youth

pastor who will love our kids, give Bible studies, take kids on mission trips, and nurture the NEXT GENERATION to be in heaven some day. You can't make a dollar go any farther than that.

SABBATH BANQUET: December 18 will be another highlight Christmas Sabbath! We are reviving an old GGSDA tradition, and having a SABBATH BREAKFAST BANQUET next Sabbath, December 18, 2010, in the Fellowship Hall. Many of you will remember these events from several years ago. The Sabbath School Department would like to encourage all of our church members to come, not just those who attend the SS.

Breakfast begins at 8:30 am followed at 9:30 am with a special program presenting "THE MISSING MAGI" with the Children's Choir led by Amanda Johnston. We will also celebrate the birth of Christ with congregational singing of Christmas Carols and in fellowship with our church family. If members want to contribute to the breakfast, they may bring muffins, sweet rolls or Christmas breads. All other food and drink will be provided.

GIFTS: Everybody asks how they could help somebody else during Christmas, so here's your chance. If you would like to help brighten a child's Christmas, you can donate a toy to be given by Community Services when the Christmas baskets are given out. Please bring unwrapped toys for ages up to 12 years.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY: Many have already had their picture taken, but we want everybody! We can't do this every 6 months, so please make sure you sign up, and keep a record of your family by getting some family pictures by professionals!

Portrait sign-ups for our new church directory will be this Sabbath right after church or right now online at www.gardengrovesda.com. The button is on the left titled "Directory Picture sign ups". All those who sign up and want to have your picture in the directory will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait.

Whether you are a member or not, you can come and take your family portraits. There is no sitting fee. The photographers are highly trained and will arrange you and your family in different variations of poses. If you bring canned or boxed food to your appointment, you will receive a discount if you choose to purchase any pictures.

THURSDAY NIGHT: 7:00 pm, Orangewood Academy secular Concert, in the Auditorium. Our Small Group is cancelled for the rest of December.

FRIDAY NIGHT: The Young Adults and Youth are going to Orange Children's Home again. We'll send out the details next week. December 17.

NEXT SABBATH: SABBATH BREAKFAST BANQUET, more fantastic music.

CHRISTMAS EVE: County-wide Christmas Eve service at our church, Friday night, 7:00-8:00 pm, great music, mass choir, hot cider and cookies, a great night. Start your Christmas with Jesus first, then celebrate the rest of the day with your family and your favorite people!

CHRISTMAS SABBATH: It's not often we have church right on Sabbath itself, so we have planned a service with some of the most alive and awesome Christmas music I have ever sung! Several more precious people will be baptized, and give Jesus the gift the means the most to Him.

THAT'S THE NEWS! God bless you all!

Pastor Dan