

GARDEN GROVE SDA CHURCH

Pastor's Newsletter

December 31, 2010

Dear GGSDA Saints!

What a special night it was last night! Even though we had to come almost 4 hours "late" due to our son's game at Loma Linda (they lost in the final, but we're proud of them to have won 3 out of 4, 2 of them in overtime!), we got to be part of the party for 3 hours! The new volleyball court worked absolutely perfectly, and we were able to break it down and put it away in less than 15 minutes with everybody helping. No lights were damaged; it is just a great solution. The basketball game was going until the lights went out in the parking lot, turns out they are on a timer! But the ping pong, snacks, table games AND our own New Year's Eve ball came down out of the ceiling right at midnight, with noisemakers blasting all around the Fellowship Hall--incredible. Over 100 people were there, and it was just a great night. Thanks to everybody, but especially: Michele Lopez and Corinne Wallace and Melissa Olson and Chris Leon for really taking the lead on it. Josh Tameifuna and Jim Chambers for putting the floor down, setting up the basketball hoop, and many other things; Tom Neslund and Ken Brazius for the Time Square ball and lights. Just a lot of fun.

And Thanks to all who made the county-wide Candlelight Christmas Eve service special--choir, Kathy Elwood, Amanda and the Children's Choir, GG Men's Quartet, and those who helped with the Reception, Annie, Carrie, Marianna, Carmen, and all others who contributed! Over 330 came.

FINANCES: This is always the week, in every church, everywhere, in the world, where we count down to see if we will end in the black! From last Sabbath until this moment we have gone from needing \$15,500 yet, down to needing \$7,500 to end the year with all our funds restored, the flood damage deductible paid back, all emergency repairs paid off, two evangelistic series completed--it would just be terrific.

If there is still anything any of you can do to bless God and the Church with Church Budget and finish that last \$7500, we would be very thankful!

We have a great Spirit-led list of dreams for this year: Maybe add another worship service at some point during the year; Revelation Seminar in February, Babylon Rising Seminar from It Is Written with their new speaker in May, CHIP health program for the community, revolutionary upgrade for the sound system, new carpet for the Fellowship Hall now that we have the floor for sports, and then a short but powerful series of public evangelism meetings, SEARCH III or whatever the church decides to call it, in October/November. And we have a list of ministries we want to add into the community.

The list is so great, we just can't spend January and February filling in "holes" from the last year! We want everything clear, clean, and ready to go for the church to explode up to the next level, for the glory of God. We think we are at that "tipping point" where God wants to take us to places where it takes great faith to even imagine where those might be. But the trip will be worth it!

If you can give some more to finish this, just remember that it needs to be postmarked by midnight tonight to be included in your 2010 taxes!

WEEKEND SERVICES:

SABBATH SCHOOL: 9:30 am in all rooms, except the Pastor's ISSUES Class, at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

DIVINE WORSHIP: 11:00 am. The New Year will start with Praise, Brass (we're getting the trumpets out!), drama, and the service will end with the Lord's Supper, a great way to wipe the slate clean and start over! If you want to be part of the Ordinance of Humility, there will be rooms ready for you at 10:30 am, between the worship services. A highlight will be the baptism of Cynthia Figueroa. She lives right down the street behind the church, her son George was baptized in the ocean a few weeks ago, and now she has finished her lessons and is ready to take this great step with God, a new, clean life, on New Year's Day-- pretty cool!

The Homily/Message continues the Matthew Series: "THE BATTLE BEGINS!" from Matthew 3, John the Baptist, and Jesus' Baptism. There are some ideas that are new to me, I hope! We will end by praying for an "anointing" for each of us for 2011.

THE GIFT GOES ON: 4:00 pm, Fellowship Hall, with a special service that is planned for the Vietnamese Group.

SEARCH COMMITTEE: The Pastoral Search Committee has been appointed by the Church Board. The Conference has given us the green light to start this process of finding a youth/young adults pastor. I will be meeting with SECC leadership this Wednesday to go over some possibilities, and then Sandy Roberts, Secretary for our Conference, will be meeting with the Search Committee on a regular basis. They hope to have a name to present to the January Executive Committee at the end of the month, so we're on a fast track now!

The Search Committee: Frehn, Jennifer; Mejia, Annie; Monty, Cindy; Neslund, Tom; Olson, Melissa; Perez, Paula; Smith, Ralph; Tameifuna, Lesieli; Wallace, Corrine. Bob Meckstroth, as Board Chairman, and I as the senior pastor will be on as ex officio members. The Committee will choose its own chairperson at its first meeting. If you have any names you would like to suggest, or criteria that we should be considering, please contact one of us!

SAVE THE DATES:

Potluck, January 8.

Heritage Singers, January 22.

Revelation Seminar (Thursday nights, one track, Sabbath ISSUES Classes, second track) - February-April

Babylon Rising, May 25-28

Happy New Year!

Pastor Dan