

# GARDEN GROVE SDA CHURCH

## Pastor's Newsletter

January 7, 2011

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Happy New Year to you!

There are so many things to share, I will just go right to it. Committees are meeting, everything is going on a Master Calendar, and it is going to be an electric, powerful year! The last 15 months have just been the preseason and the regular season. Now we're ready to go into the Playoffs, what Magic Johnson used to call "Winning time," stepping up our game, to be the best church we can possibly be.

**FINANCES:** We have a preliminary report from our awesome Treasurer, Michele Lopez. But they made me wait a day to get the report, so I'll make you wait--until Sabbath morning! But just know, the pastor and elders can sleep a little easier now! Thanks be to God, and to all of you. Do your best to be faithful to the 10% tithe, 3-5% Church Budget all year long, and I guarantee you will see unmistakable blessings in 2011.

**POTLUCK:** Tomorrow is the big potluck for January. Please don't be tempted to slip away! It is the best time for me to see everybody, it's great fun, and it's when the church can truly be the church. Both the Young Adults (YAM) and the Evangelism Committees are having very important but short meetings in and around the potluck tomorrow.

**NEXT SABBATH:** Jan. 15. International Sabbath, come find the flag in the lobby for the country you originally came from, and be part of the parade! The whole service will be celebrating unity in diversity. Wear your best native outfit!

**GIVING BIBLE STUDIES:** Jan. 15, 1:00 pm -3:00 pm: A number have asked me to share how I give Bible studies. We have had many, many more visitors and seekers come to THE SEARCH's than I could possibly begin to visit and give Bible studies myself. If you would like to be part of this group, join us for a quick potluck next Sabbath, and then a 90-minute intensely practical session on how I do it. I will share materials, phrases, the stories, all of it. Nobody will be forced to do anything, go door to door, or do street corner preaching! This is for those who would love to be part of bringing someone to Christ, and just want to know how to do it.

### **SABBATH SERVICES:**

**9:30 am - SABBATH SCHOOL:** All our classes are in high gear, Young Adults, Youth, and Earliteens have food, get up and come be involved in a discussion. SS is where we wrestle and hammer out how religion works on the street. If it's not working as well as you wish, get back into SS!

**10:00 am - PASTOR BIBLE CLASS (ISSUES):** Fellowship Hall. All the hard questions about Church: Do the positives make up for the bad? Will there be an Adventist church in the Last Days? Is there really a Remnant Church already today, or is it still future? Why does Hebrews say we will need more "church" the closer you get to the Last Days (Heb. 10:24-25)?

**10:55 am - DIVINE WORSHIP:** Rainbolt Praise, Children's Story, and:

**MESSAGE:** "BULLETPROOF!" Matt. 4 and the 3 Temptations of Jesus  
Is it possible to be Bulletproof? Undeclared? For how long--a day?  
Are there some layers of meaning to this story that we haven't seen before?

**POTLUCK** - Fellowship Hall. Thanks to all who are working to make this happen!

**THE GIFT GOES ON:** 4:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

**RELIGIOUS LIBERTY:** "The Battle for Liberty of Conscience," at the Campus Hill Church in Loma Linda, in Linda Hall, 11057 Hill Drive. Speaker: Lincoln Steed, Editor, Liberty Magazine. Fellowship and concert at 2:30 pm, Meeting at 3:00 pm.

**MAXWELL MEMORIAL:** 4:30 pm, Loma Linda University Church. Several of us are slipping up to this service, to give honor and respect for the man who did so much to pass on a better picture of God than most of us knew before.

**COUNCIL:** Tuesday night, 7:30 pm, North Room

**SMALL GROUP:** Thursday night, 6:30 pm potluck, 7:00 pm Study, Board Room

**ORANGEWOOD FUNDRAISER:** If you eat at a Ruby's on this Thursday, between 4:00 pm and 9:00 pm, Orangetwood gets 20% of all the sales as long as people bring the flyer with them. \*\*I have attached the flyer to this newsletter. Have a fun night at Ruby's at South Coast Plaza West, 3333 Bear Street, Costa Mesa. 714-662-7829. Thanks to Cristina Nadler and the Home and School for organizing this! I'll try to stop by and join the party!

(\*flyer can be found on the Resources/Archives page)

**JANUARY 15 WEEKEND:**

**INTERNATIONAL SABBATH:** Flags and costumes, Interview, great music.

**THAILAND:** 20 Minute meeting, 12:45 pm to 1:05 pm, North Room. All planning to go, come to an information meeting covering details and passing out material to read before going, and Q & A session.

**GRACE GROUP:** How to Give Bible studies--Potluck and 90-minute session, Fellowship Hall.

**PATHFINDERS / ADVENTURERS:** 6:30 pm Pathfinder Room, get back into it for a great 2nd half of the Pathfinder year. They meet on the 1st and 3rd Sabbaths, and then do an outdoor activity on the 2nd and 4th Sabbaths. This month, January 22 and January 29. These outings will be used to work on honors. January 23 is Teen Swim Check-off at Loma Linda, mandatory for teens wanting to attend the Teen River Trip, first weekend of April (Tip: Don't miss it!). Jan. 29 starts the Valentine's Day fundraiser. Feb. 13, Skiing and snowboarding trip. March 5-6, San Diego camping and Kite Day.

**THAILAND:** We have 59 now going to Thailand. We are submitting another group this Monday to the travel agent. Let us know if you are still interested! All those already signed up to go, note Thailand group meeting, short, 12:45 pm next Sabbath, North Room.

The Mission Projects Committee and Church Board have approved our church raising \$6000 for the building materials for this House we are building for a faculty family at Chiangmai Adventist Academy where we are going. If you have any "mission money" beyond tithe and church budget, you can mark it "Thailand Project" on your envelope. Or you can help sponsor one of your young adults desperately trying to go!

**CONDOLENCES:** Dr. Kenneth Brigham passed away on December 23. Services had already been held before we had heard about it. He attended GGSDA in the '60s and '70s. Jan Harris, one of his children, used to work at the pre-school. If you would like to mail a card to Charlene Brigham: 12721 Bolivar Place, Garden Grove, CA 92843.

**SAVE THE DATES:**

January 22: Heritage Singers concert, GGSDA, 7:00 pm, Saturday night!

February 5: Family Ministries Golf and Night

**ORANGEWOOD WORKBEE:** Our group of pastors have made a deal with Orangetwood Academy to have a 4-hour Sunday morning work-bee to help get projects done all over the campus.

January 30, Sunday, 8-12. We will have snacks, and then the Home and School will provide lunch at noon. We need skilled, and those not so skilled! I'll be there, it's just going to be a fun time, and it is a way to give back to Orangewood without having to use more money! Here are at least some of the projects they would like to do that day, but there will be something that fits everybody:

Projects

1. Paint stairs on gym going up to middle school = 6 people
2. Clean weeds and brush behind the shop and throw away junk = 4 people
3. Paint six yellow middle school doors green = 2 people
4. Cut down tree by elementary flagpole = 3 people
5. Clean area by the well (trim low branches, rake up leaves and weeds) = 5 people
6. Take out rotted fence, swing set, and stump between house and pre-school = 3 people
7. Help put up chicken wire above shop doors = 4 people
8. Tar paper and install siding on small section above elementary hallway = 4 people
9. Cement work (small areas here and there) = 2 people

God bless, thanks, everybody!

Pastor Dan