

GARDEN GROVE SDA CHURCH

Pastor's Newsletter

May 6, 2011

Dear Saints!

SO WHAT! We will come back to the ultimate question--the Cross and the Resurrection--SO WHAT? On one Friday the whole world celebrated the Cross. The next Sunday celebrated the Resurrection. The next Friday celebrated a Royal Wedding. The next Sunday/Monday the end of a terrorist. SO WHAT? 2 billion people watched the wedding and then went on with their lives just the same. But 2.3 billion people believe that the Cross and Resurrection mean absolutely everything to them, and that nothing will ever be the same again. And we spend thousands to pass those beliefs onto their children, and spend hours every week singing and talking about those events. SO WHAT?!!

WEEKEND SERVICES:

SABBATH SCHOOL: 9:30 am. Great discussions in every room, every Division filling up.

REVELATION Upstairs--Babylon and the Mark of the Beast!

DIVINE WORSHIP: 10:50 am. The PRAISE TEAM will draw you in, then drama and pageantry will start to answer the SO WHAT! Then the Message: "FORGIVE AND FORGET?"

It will start with the iconic Resurrection song: "HE'S ALIVE--and I'm forgiven, Heaven's Gates are open wide, HE"S ALIVE!!" And then we will wrestle with the hardest questions Adventism has had to wrestle with during its transition to a full commitment to Grace: Is grace fair?

Where *exactly* are our sins, right now? At the bottom of the ocean, or still on the record books of heaven?

Was the Cross a Complete Atonement, or did we have to wait for 1844?

Was that second Goat on the Day of Atonement a symbol of Satan--or Christ--or both?

THAILAND MEETING: North Room, 12:45 pm--1:15 pm. Come get your ticket! The Thai agent herself is coming to meet with us and give out the tickets and thank us. We need everyone going to Thailand to come!

POTLUCK: Fellowship Hall upstairs, right after the church. This is our regular potluck Sabbath--bring something for you and a few others, and enjoy terrific fellowship.

CATWALK: While in the Fellowship Hall, look up and see the brand-new catwalk going in. It is truly an amazing gift coming to GGSDA, and will revolutionize what we can do upstairs. It is not quite finished, and we will have a grand-opening-dedication in the next week or two. Nobody else will have what we are being given! Lighting, screens, curtains--we are going to have a world-class venue very soon that people are going to line up to want to rent from us! Just amazing.

BABY SHOWER: The wonderful Taula family is being given a baby shower by our members: Emo and Dolores are celebrating Savai'I (6 months old), and Ekin and Amanda are bringing Elizabeth (2 months old).

NEW MEMBERS!! RIGHT AFTER POTLUCK--We want every single "new member" to stay by for 45 minutes! If you have joined the church since I came here late September, 2009, whether by baptism, transfer, or Profession of Faith, we would love for you to stay. We have a brand-new publication to give you. We have a short message highlighting what we are trying to do here at Garden Grove, and a time for Q & A to ask about anything, whether here at the local church, the world church, or Adventist beliefs!

VIETNAMESE FELLOWSHIP: 4:00 pm, Fellowship Hall, followed by the new Board meeting at 5:30.

HYMN FESTIVAL: 4:00 pm, at Anaheim Sunkist Church, with Orangewood Academy and Jim Wood, a great time to sing the great hymns, with life and energy!

PATHFINDERS: No Pathfinders/Adventurers this week, giving families a chance to celebrate Mothers' Day, after the great campout they had last weekend!

COUNCIL: The Council that meets monthly to vision a long-range strategic plan for GGSDA meets Tuesday night, 7:30 pm. We need everyone there, some major initiatives are on the table for discussion! We have some people working very hard to help take our church to the next higher levels, and have some truly thrilling proposals.

COMING UP:

GRADUATION SABBATH: May 28. If you have a graduate, graduating from anywhere, we want to know about it, and hopefully have them here!

8TH GRADE GRADUATION: June 2, Orangewood Academy

12TH GRADE GRADUATION: June 3, Friday night at Anaheim Sunkist, and June 5, Sunday, at 3 pm at OA.

PASTOR INSTALLATION!! June 18. Pastor Shiphrah graduated with her M.Div. last Sunday back at Andrews University, and we sent her flowers from our church (which she sent a note to thank all of you!). Pastor Garrett has one more month at Walla Walla University, just finished his mid-terms. We are starting to get their offices ready, and there will be a big potluck that day, and parties that night! Two days later they head to Thailand with the group!

THANKS: This is to let all who prayed for me, sent beautiful flowers, and/or called me after my recent accident, know how grateful and thankful to each one of you I am. Thank you! Thank you! - Barbara Gooche

God bless you all!

Pastor Dan

If you would like to be added to Pastor Dan's weekly email newsletter list, submit your request to: pastordan@gardengrovesda.com