

Pastor Dan's



Communique

December 17, 2011

Dear GGSDA Saints!

December is half gone—but the party really begins now—everybody has finished test week at school, the school programs are done—now you can enjoy the last of your gift-giving, Christmas food, families coming in, get up into the mountains for some skiing/snowboarding—at least that's what we're hoping!

**CHRISTMAS EVE SABBATH:** We are making next Sabbath a truly “Big Day,” and asking that you try to invite at least one person to come! Every family that brings one person to come, will receive a special wrapped gift from our church, my brother's brand-new book, **Parables**, from Pacific Press, AND the guest they bring will also get a wrapped copy! Covenant Singers will be singing the highlight magnificent Christmas choruses, and a few of the classic solos—they have even asked me to do one, for the first time in 37 years! There will be brass, and the Choir will also be accompanied by a quartet from the LA Philharmonic! No Adventist Church in all of southern California is going to be have better music than GGSDA!

**CHRISTMAS DAY: Dinner, 11 am to 12:30 pm.** A group of GGSDA members are absolutely passionate that no one in our church or in our nearby community eat alone on Christmas Day. They will decorate the Fellowship Hall, and we will be there to eat together at 11. If you want to help, 3 options: #1—Bring food and eat with us before going back to your own family. #2—Drop off a dish at the vespers the night before. #3—Drop off a dish after 9 am Sabbath morning. Whatever is left over will be taken to the motel we went to during Thanksgiving. If you wish you could get your family involved in serving others during the holidays, this is maybe your best chance!

**YEAREND GIVING:** Obviously this is the time of the year when the Church stretches out to make sure that our facilities and ministries are all funded 100%, so that we can start out 2012 ready to do all the ministries we will talk about below. All we can ask is that if GGSDA has blessed you this year, and God has been good to you—do your best to be faithful back to God—a full tithe of 10%, and offerings as God has blessed you. We need between 3-5% for Church Budget from everybody who is also paying tithe, and we can pay for all that we have tried to do to advance our ministries this year. We have poured thousands into getting the Youth Chapel upgraded to match the enthusiasm Pastor Garrett has brought. We are in the middle of doing the same for Pastor Shiphrah and the Young Adults. We just bought 4 \$1000 heaters for the SS rooms. We have had to bring nuclear winter to the termites, over \$15,000! We are trying desperately to bring our facility into total excellence for the glory of God, so that then we can focus everything on ministry to the community, evangelism, our terrific school, and our young people. Everything has to be postmarked by midnight December 31. Thanks, and may God replenish every dollar you give to Him!

Now here are the highlights of the next few days:

**TONIGHT: Young Adults, Orangewood Children's Home, 5:30 pm.**

This is their annual Christmas outreach, and it is just a terrific ministry. It is a secure facility for kids in transition, of all age groups. We provide food, games, and music—no overt message is allowed, but the message of caring is still crystal clear! 401 City Drive South.

**VIETNAMESE WORSHIP: 6:30, Community Service Center, Pastor David**

**SABBATH MORNING:**

**SABBATH SCHOOL**—Normal Schedule

Pastor's Bible Class—Pathfinder Room, studying **Daniel 11 and the latest controversial interpretations!**

Filipino Fellowship, Community Service Center; Vietnamese, Mothers' Room

**DIVINE WORSHIP: 11:00 am:** Christmas carols, Sonny Boloico and another terrific drama, Shelton Kilby is our superstar musical worship guest. The message, "**HEART GIFTS**"—is on how to give gifts that jump out past all the usual ties and perfume and 99-cent candleholders people usually get and get right to the person's heart that you are giving to. Luke 11:9-13.

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:** 11:00 am, in the Youth Chapel—music, craft, and short message by Pastor Shiphrah! Julie Hendricks and Children's Ministry team leading out.

**No potlucks** this week or next.

**VIETNAMESE FELLOWSHIP:** 4:00 in the Youth Chapel.

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:** "A Tail of Christmas," 5 pm, Fellowship Hall.

Drama, and our Junior Performing Arts Society, Children's Choir, etc., all putting on a great program. It would mean a lot to everybody who has worked on this to have a full Fellowship Hall to support the children who have been practicing for months for this moment!

**YOUTH PARTY:** Tj and Corrinne Wallace's home, 7 pm, Saturday night. 4626 E Bluebird Ave., Orange.

"It's time to celebrate one of the best seasons of the year in a big way! The Youth have an epic Christmas party this weekend at the Wallace household. Some of the events of the night will be - Ugly Christmas Sweater Competition, White Elephant Gift Exchange (5\$ Max Limit! Don't forget to bring one if you're coming!), ridiculous amounts of food, some very festive and fun Christmas games, and last but not least - Hot Tubbing. It's going to be a great time. You will not want to miss this night!"

**YOUNG ADULTS:** "Lots of snacks and juice donations have come in - thank you! **SABBATH SCHOOL** continues with two groups for students (18-25) and young professionals (25-35) in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30am. To end the weekend, young adults are invited to the Fellowship Hall for a **CHRISTMAS PARTY** from 7-11pm (Sunday night).

Wear an ugly sweater & bring a \$5 gift for our white elephant gift exchange. Also, for those who would like to hear Phil Wickham in a **WORSHIP CONCERT** for free, be sure to contact Pastor Shiphrah. Meet on Wednesday, December 21 at 5:30pm to carpool from the church parking lot to Riverside. God bless you!"

**NEXT WEEKEND: Messiah choruses during Worship, gifts for all guests.**

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**—5-6 pm.

Why not start out Christmas Eve/Christmas by actually worshipping the One who Christmas is all about—worship for exactly one hour, with our best music, carols, a short homily from each of our three pastors, and something special for all children? Cookies and hot cider on the way out! It is early enough so that it should not interfere with any other family plans or entertainment that are part of your family traditions!

**PRAYER VIGIL: 24-hour Prayer Vigil, Thurs., 6 pm, to Friday, 6 pm.**

**Agape Supper 6:30 pm, Friday, Dec. 23.**

Sign up at concierge desk/kiosk, or join me for mine—Friday night, 5 pm!

**McDONALD PRAYER BOOK:** Jim McDonald lost his prized prayer request book after church Sabbath. If anybody has any idea where it might have gone, PLEASE let one of us know. Irreplaceable to him!

**MINISTRY LEADERS:** We had an amazing meeting Tuesday night, with virtually all of our ministry leaders sharing their plans for GGSDA for 2012! We will try to bind them all into one concise Master Plan document and calendar to pass out to the entire church. Thrilling to hear about what dreams God has put into the hearts of all our leaders! Just wait!

God bless you all!  
Pastor Dan