

Pastor Dan's



Communique

January 28, 2012

My Dear Saints!

May the spirit of the Sabbath begin to slip into your soul as the Sabbath moves from East to West! We can pray for the churches in Samoa as they struggle to figure what to do with the Sabbath when the dateline gets moved! But here we know when it is, and we pray that God will fill the time with grace. Light a candle, put on some great music, eat the best food of the week—and thank God for the gift of the Sabbath!

RESOLUTIONS: My IPAD asks me every day, if I have remembered to read my Daily chapters, OT and NT. And a page in Oswald Chambers' *My Utmost for His Highest*. I don't know how you are doing with your NY Resolution to be more faithful in your relationship with God, but this weekend is the Vietnamese New Year, so you have a chance to get back into the groove, reboot, and move on! Sunday night I will sneak away up to Pine Springs Ranch, reconnecting with something called THE JOURNEY, a group of Adventist pastors I dropped out of many years ago but am now rejoining, who spend 2 days away in small groups, listening to Bible studies for pastors, and in extended, unhurried time with God. I dropped out because our sons were little and I needed to help. But they're grown now, and I just felt the need to create some rituals, to put the time with God on my calendar, and just make it a priority. There are so many ways now to feed your soul, you are free to shape it in whatever way works for you. Richard Foster has 6 different ways different personalities relate to God—all equal—find yours!

FNL (Friday Night Live): "It's the first 2012 Friday Night Live tonight! Our guest speaker, Yi Shen Ma, is currently finishing a Masters thesis on religion, Christian ethics, and political theory. So, university students and young professionals are especially invited tonight to worship the "God of the Oppressed." It's Gospel Praise for our worship in music tonight so we hope every single one of you can join us at 7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Come back in the morning for our students and young professionals, breakfast and Bible study at 9:45 am!" Pastor Shiprah

HERITAGE SINGERS: 5:30 pm Saturday night. Supper at 4:45 pm Tell everybody you know, we'd love to give the Heritage Singers a totally full Fellowship Hall! Guests (see below) can still win the Barbecue by coming! A short message at the Intermission after the drawing, so your guests will also hear the gospel, "IS 2012 REALLY THE END OF EVERYTHING?"

VALENTINE'S BANQUET FEB. 11: Hopefully you received an Evite this week. You can confirm that way, or at their table in the Narthex at church. It is \$18 per person, it's a fundraiser for our Youth. But you will get far more than you give—they have an incredible meal planned (Roseli Wildvank and Dori Coetzee), decorations will be spectacular—a great, great night! If possible, put your check into a tithe envelope to hand in at the table, or drop it off at the Church Office.

BARBECUE!! Tomorrow is the final chance for the world-class Barbecue Grill! At each the morning Divine Worship service or the Heritage Singers concert at 5:30 pm, if you bring a friend who is a non-Adventist, or non-attending Adventist, they can fill out the card, hand it to the Concierge Desk people, or at the door at night, they will be eligible for the drawing halfway through the concert. Either the guest or you as the one who invited needs to be there when the drawing happens in order to win it! You as the "inviter" will also get \$300 to buy the food for the party you and your guest are going to have!

VIETNAMESE NEW YEAR'S!! "The Vietnamese are bringing in the New Year this week, and the celebration will be in full swing this weekend here in Orange County. There will be a parade in Westminster and a fair in Garden Grove. The Vietnamese Fellowship here at GGSDA will also have a celebration program this **Sunday January 29 at 4:00pm**. We will have **music, traditional dances, lion dance, songs...**and a short message from Pastor Vinh Nguyen to bring in the New Year. We will also have dinner after the program. We are inviting everyone to join us in this celebration."

SABBATH SCHOOL: 9:30 am for most SS, 9:50 am for Youth, 10:00 am for Young Adult in the Fellowship Hall. **PASTOR'S BIBLE CLASS** will be in the Pathfinder Room, 9:30 am, with Pastor Ruben Escalante as a special guest looking at Daniel 12:4 and the Signs of the Times in Matthew 24. "Most of these signs have been happening for a long time, so how will we know which are the real signs? Should we need signs to keep from being lukewarm?"

DIVINE WORSHIP: 11:00 am, but with the Praise Team and Choir singing gathering hymns and praise songs at 10:50 am. A wonderful young praise team that has been practicing for weeks for this chance to lead worship, great music from Covenant Singers, and the message, "CHEERS!"

40 DAYS OF PURPOSE: In the Narthex afterwards there will be tables and a chance to sign up. Most of us will be involved for six weeks, 40 days, reading a chapter a day in *The Purpose-Driven Life*, during February and early March, and being a part of a small group. Find one where you will be comfortable, or you can start your own! All small group leaders are invited to a potluck and short seminar in the Boardroom right after Divine Worship.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FILIPINO POTLUCK: After Church—Filipino Potluck in the Fellowship Hall, and their quarterly meeting.

VIETNAMESE FELLOWSHIP: Short meeting at 4:00 pm, and then joining the Heritage Singers meal and concert.

PATHFINDERS / ADVENTURERS: In one of the best and crazier ideas our leaders have had, they are camping—at our church Saturday night! They are meeting at 7:30 pm after the Heritage Singers, setting up camp in the Fellowship Hall, Pathfinder Room, and some may be outside! They want to teach everybody camping in the easiest environment possible before venturing out into the wilderness!

PANCAKE BREAKFAST: They are also inviting us to come have pancakes with them, 8:30 am to 11:00 am Sunday morning. It's a fundraiser, so \$5 person for a pancake breakfast with kids—not bad!

MOVIE MATINEE: Another movie will be available, \$1 per person, 11:30 am Sunday morning, Fellowship Hall. All profit going to the Church Retreat.

CHURCH RETREAT: All of you planning and hoping to go April 20-22 to Camp Cedar Falls need to get your first down payment in, \$30 per family or \$20 per person. It looks like about 40 families are planning to go, and others may drive up on Sabbath. We met this week and covered the board with cool ideas of what we are all going to do up there—great speaker coming, scavenger hunts, terrific variety program Saturday night, volleyball and basketball tournaments—a great weekend to hang out with your church family!

PARKING: Don't forget, if possible, come early and find a spot on the street, saving spots for our guests and parents with children. Pick up all the trash you see, It's Your Church, keep it pristine for the glory of God and the church that comes after us Sabbath afternoon!

That's all for now! God bless, have a great weekend!
Pastor Dan