



Garden Grove Seventh-day Adventist Church Pastor Dan's Newsletter



August 3, 2012

Dear GGSDA Church Family--

As I'm sure most of you know, I have been up at Pacific Union College all week speaking for a Korean campmeeting. They come from the western half of the US, and there are probably 1000 here, with more coming in this weekend. They have many many different workshops and meetings, but I have had several hundred every day in the PUC Church at 10:30. I am being translated, but we have had a wonderful response to a series on "JUST GRACE" and the character of God, including looking at some of the "hot" subjects like the Sabbath, the Judgment, and Last Day Events, all from a grace orientation. They say the church will be full tomorrow for the worship service, and immediately after lunch I will start driving for home! I can hardly wait to be consistently home and at GGSDA for a good long while! It is an honor to speak, and I have a passion for this subject, but I would rather be there! Pastor Shiphrah is speaking for the eastern version of this, for the Juniors, at Andrews University.

It sounds like Pastor Garrett's **Summer Camp** has been terrific this week, averaging 35 in campers and 45 including staff. There is more information below in his newsletter to the church. Next week we start Vacation Bible School, so this is a packed season for kids and youth at GGSDA, before school starts again!

THE WAY is tonight at 7 pm, Youth Chapel. More details below.

Ted Sneed: Other GGSDA news includes this sad note: Ted Sneed, associate pastor for years at GGSDA, and of course Helen's husband, finally passed away last Friday night, minutes before sundown. So he has now begun his "Sabbath" rest until the resurrection. Helen has taken the last four months to be the one to care for him, partnering with the terrific Hospice team, and we honor her for that gift to Ted. Ted was a special pastor and a wonderful human being, and it is just too bad to have him be gone. But he lived a rich and full life, he was a gifted pastor, and I run into people all the time who say that he married them or baptized them. He had chosen not to have an official public service, and so we will have a moment of prayer in the worship service to honor him next Sabbath, August 11, when I am back again.

Capital Campaign: \$52,000 of the \$75,000 pledged. We have come a long ways towards our goal for our new sound system and the other upgrades for our Sanctuary. The goal for our members to match the huge donation is \$75,000, and we have gone from \$20,000 to over \$52,000 in the last 3 Sabbaths, so we thank all of you who have given either a direct gift or made a pledge. Obviously we need a bit over \$22,000 to go in pledges, so we hope that others will step forward and help us get this whole project done. We begin the study of the lighting needs this week to get the very best, most efficient package possible. We are totally trusting that God will exactly balance the final costs of the project with what all of you give! Give what you can, and whatever the Sprit tells you to give is fine with us!

Los Alamitos: Our sister/daughter group that meets at Los Alamitos will officially become a company on Sabbath, August 18. That allows people to transfer, so you will see about 25 of our members all transferring to become charter members of this new company, that will someday hopefully become a full church. These people have been a part of and a blessing to GGSDA for many, many years, and we honor their dream to get this new church fully underway west of us.

Women in Ministry: If you are trying to follow the flow of events on this issue--the Columbia Union Conference met in their Constituency Session last Sunday, and voted to ordain pastors in their Union from this day forward, "without regard to gender". It was voted with over 70% of the delegates' approval. Our own Pacific Union Conference Constituency Session will meet to vote on a similar set of proposals on Sunday, August 19, and Pastor Shiphrah and I are both delegates to that potentially historic meeting. I believe most of it will be streamed live over the Internet if you want to follow along.

Sabbath Services:

Sabbath School--all the SS's will meet in their usual places and times.

Pastor's Bible Class--9:30 am, Pathfinder Room, with a special guest Elder Larry Downing, who has been the pastor of Anaheim Sunkist locally in the past, and then was the senior pastor at the White Memorial Church. Studying Matthew 25:31ff as part of our study on Last Day Events.

Divine Worship: 11:00, with Pastor Garrett presenting the message "YOU BELONG TO THE LIGHT!" It is from a great, great passage in 1 John 2, and he is very excited about what God has led him to in this passage--don't miss it!

VBS: This week, Monday to Friday nights, 6:00 to 8:30 pm every night, starting at the Youth Chapel. There will be Registration after church tomorrow. Sign up your children, and it is an easy thing to invite a neighborhood kid to! We are really trying to focus on making this a Community VBS program!

FPU: Sunday, Aug. 5, 4-6 pm. Financial Peace University begins this Sunday, August 5, 2012, From 4-6 pm. If you haven't paid the \$89 family fee yet, you need to turn it in as soon as possible. Kits will be distributed at the first meeting to participants who have paid. There are a limited number of spaces remaining, so if you are interested in attending this seminar, please see Sandra Caldwell or Sheri Sinaga. This is a fun, highly practical and user-friendly seminar with a world-class presenter on how to get your financial act together, for you and your family's benefit, and to the glory and blessing of God! If you have wished to be more stable financially, to find the money to get your children into Christian school, wish you could find a way to give more to God projects locally and around the world, and wish you could sleep better at night financially--this is the time to show up for this.

Pastor's Garrett's Note:

The Way Summer Camp

We just finished our two weeks of The Way Summer Camp! What a great experience! A huge thank you to all the sponsors who helped out and the youth moms who cooked us delicious food each and every day! We averaged right around 35 per day and did all sorts of crazy events like Raging Waters, Sky High, Magic Mountain and Rock City. I was also really excited about how well our worships went - Pastor Dan and Pastor Shiphrah, myself, and Isai all gave some of the daily devotionals. Each day we had great music and broke in to the Word each and every morning. Overall a great couple weeks! I just want to say a HUGE thank you to our GGSDA Church family for their support and belief in Youth Ministry. We couldn't have done this camp if it weren't for your support, so thank you! Because of the scholarships that were offered we were able to sponsor over 15 youth each week for camp and one youth, in particular, we gave a full scholarship too who had never stepped foot inside of an SDA church before! What a great opportunity that was to witness and she had an awesome time with our group! We're hoping she keeps coming! So thanks again. We're excited about what God has planned for this group next year!

The Way

Also! The Way is back and we couldn't be more excited about it! We'll be meeting TONIGHT at 7pm. Three incredibly talented musicians I played with at Jr Sr Bible Conference will be leading us in worship tonight with our own Isai Moran - music will be incredible! You do not want to miss it. And my friend Aren Rennacker, Youth Pastor at Oceanside SDA, will starting off our three part series, "What Am I Worth?" Hope to see you there!

Youth SS

Youth will meet tomorrow morning! 950am for some food, music, and small group discussion on what it looks like to be a person who can stand up for what he or she believes!

God bless you all, pray for this my final sermon on Last Day Events and the character of God, and for the drive home!
Pastor Dan