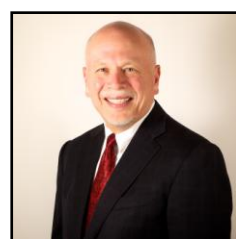




Garden Grove Seventh-day Adventist Church Pastor Dan's Communiqué

August 18, 2012



Dear Saints!

I have been in Orange County most of the day, and so this Newsletter is coming out very late tonight. I hope that if you are reading it you can still use some of the information in it! After premarital counseling and a separate wedding rehearsal, I was able to slip by the Orangewood Academy beach vespers. There is a great buzz on campus--enrollment is up, there are some great new teachers. The entire fence in front is now finished, and just lots of good things are happening at Orangewood! Their annual special day at Garden Grove will now be September 8. It was much fun to mix with everybody at the beach tonight!

Contemporary Service: After hours of discussion and wrestling with all the options, the Church Board finally settled on a time slot for the new service that has been in the works for months:

9:30 am, Sabbath morning, September 8!

Do we know that that is awfully early for youth and young adults? Yes, we've heard that! There were at least 4 major different options on the Board, and the discussion was thick and spirited! But every other option had very serious downsides that were even more concerning--and so the Board decided to just go for it, make it the most alive, terrific worship service possible, and we'll see what God does with it! The Band was practicing upstairs last night and sounds awesome. The outline of the Worship Service was shared with a Young Adult Committee I was at last night, and I wouldn't think of missing it for anything. The pastors will be sharing the speaking rotation, with Pastor Shiphrah as the lead, but we will all be there to worship, and I believe it is going to be a blessing. I met several young couples at the Beach tonight, and everybody is planning to check it out and support it.

And, Yes, it does mean that everything else has to move a little bit, but we hope not too seriously. SS will be in-between the two worship services, like at most churches that have two worship services. The Traditional Worship service, which will still be very alive and creative, will slide down, but still be finished at about 12:30. If you bring your children to church and want to go to the second service, you will be basically come from 10:30 to 12:30 and do both! There will be food and music before and after everywhere!

It may take a few weeks to get comfortable, and we will be listening to everybody for reactions and wisdom on how to fine-tune it better. A lot of people have invested in the discussions, and the outcome is a compromise consensus where everybody had to adjust a bit to make the whole work! You can't add a one hour worship service into the 9:30 to 12:30 time slot without there having to be some adjustments! We hope that the adjustments the Board chose were the most minimal and the least disruptive, and will allow there to be great energy in each of the three main services of GGSDA every week.

Sabbath Services:

Sabbath Schools are in the normal places and times this week. Pastor Garrett has about 20 youth up at One Life at Camp Cedar Falls this weekend, but there will be a terrific SS here at home also in the Youth Chapel!

My Pastor's Bible Class will meet at 9:30 am in the Pathfinder Room, finishing Matthew 25 before going on to another hot "last-day" chapter, **2 Thess. 2!**

Divine Worship: 11:00, Sanctuary. Highlights this week are **Jay DuNesme** and his trumpet playing 2 songs--he is absolutely terrific! Sonia Vizcaino, who years ago sang with the Spanish Heritage Singers, will sing for us. The Message is: "**You Can Always Go Home Again!**", with some very new angles from the old Prodigal Son story! If Jesus had one story to tell about His Father, I believe this would be the one! Come with an open mind and heart, and I think there will be some special ideas I hope will get you to think! Andres Naranjo will also join the church by Profession of Faith, AND he and Shana became grandparents this week, when their daughter Gabrielle had a baby son, Caleb Moses!

Pathfinders will have a registration table after church, and will start their new season September 1!

Children's Church: 11:00, Youth Chapel. Music for kids, a craft, and a message, all geared to kids, plus a snack/meal afterwards!

Vietnamese Fellowship: 4 pm. This group is growing, and really is starting to have some exciting energy with Vietnamese Adventists who live in OC starting to find us!

Pacific Union Constituency: Sunday, 1 pm, Woodland Hills. This is being closely watched from all over. Pastor Shiphrah and I will be among the 500 delegates from all over the Union. The two issues are: 1--The proposal to ordain within our union "without regard to gender". 2--Changing the word from "All" to "Generally", in how closely the Union will follow the policies of the North American Division and the General Conference. The issue is, when does the Church need to be uniform all over the world in order to stay strong and together, and when can the Church be safe with some "pluralism" or "contextualization" or "local expression" on the local level?

There will also be an event at the Loma Linda University church at 4 pm tomorrow afternoon, for those delegates who can make it (I have a wedding and cannot)--and whoever else wants to learn about the issues. The Union Secretary, Pastor John Brunt from Azure Hills, and others will be giving short messages to educate everybody about some of the issues. Both the service at Loma Linda and the Session on Sunday will be live-streamed if you wish to follow them:

The LLUC program will be live streamed on their website - <http://www.lluc.org/>. (Click on the TV icon to view the program.)

The Sunday service can be seen at: <http://swankav.mediasite.com/mediasite/Play/4a7a9c98563f457cb4546b3852c5c2561d>.
Information: If you are interested in reading materials you can go to the PUC Session website (<http://session.adventistfaith.org/>) or you can also visit the SECC site created by our conference for you (<http://seccdelegate.org/>).

Capital Campaign: One way or the other, we are getting very close! The latest figures, with all pledges factored in, show that we are within about **\$8,000** of our goal! Any combination of cash and pledges in the next two Sabbaths that add up to \$8000 will allow us to celebrate finishing the Campaign, and the Board can authorize the release of the first batch of money to get the sound system our church so desperately needs.

Renters: The Church Board and its committees spent a long time this week working on an agreement to allow a new renter to come into the prime Sunday morning slot that was left empty when the Korean church found their own facility last year. They seem to be wonderful people, have been an active congregation in Orange County for 37 years, they are Protestant, evangelical, baptize by immersion, and are thrilled to be allowed to worship in our church after where they were. Many, many questions were asked, to try to make sure that every detail was covered. There are still a couple of conflicts in dates to be sorted out, but otherwise the documents are all in order, the first month's rent has been received, and things should be sorted out in a few days. The lease agreement reserves the Fellowship Hall and another classroom for the exclusive use of GGSDA, except for the next few weeks when we have some renter overlap. The renter that GGSDA said no to recently because they wanted exclusive use of all of our main rooms ended up at Orangewood, so we are happy that that worked out for both of them.

The Board has had much discussion about the need for renting our church, besides the Christian ministry it offers fellow Christians and churches. At this point the income is still almost 50% of our Church Budget, and is funding a lot of our needs for repair, maintenance, and upgrades. We hope that it will not be long until we have a handle on most of the major projects, and as we grow the congregation with a new service, evangelism, etc., we will gradually be able to reduce the number of renters. In the meantime we will do our best to keep things running smoothly between everybody, and we are keeping the Fellowship Hall and the Youth Chapel most of the time, so that we are free to do our key programs and ministries as we see fit. The church has rented during this time slot for many areas, and it is a blessing that someone found this renter and brought them to us.

God bless you!
Pastor Dan

Below is a summary from Pastor Shiphrah's newsletter for the Sanctuary Young Adult ministry:

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

(the)Sanctuary Young Adult Ministry

Young Adult Information! from Pastor Shiphrah:

"Three weeks to go! Church Board met for several hours regarding all that it means to launch a contemporary worship service at Garden Grove on September 8, 2012! It means we're going to have to turn our hearts to God like never before for our young adults and every generation in this church and community.

Here's the plan we're working with:

9:30am Contemporary Worship Service

10:30am Sabbath Schools

11:30am Traditional Main Service

It also means **we need you!**

Grips - take offering, stage hands

Hospitality Team - greeters, chaplains, hosts/hostesses

If you're planning to worship with (the) Sanctuary, it doesn't matter what age you are, we would love to serve with you!

Also, this Sabbath, we have our regular lunch training for small group leaders in young adult ministry! Church Library. Bring yourselves, maybe a friend, and writing tools - we'll provide the lunch and a good time training with one of our small group coaches, Arthur Tupa'i.

Coming Soon for Young Adults

Small Groups Training Lunch, this Sabbath

Friday Night Live - August 31

The Sanctuary Worship Launch, 9:30am - September 8

Social Launch, Saturday night - September 8

Friday Night Live - September 28

Open Gym Night - September 29

Catalina Retreat - October 20-22