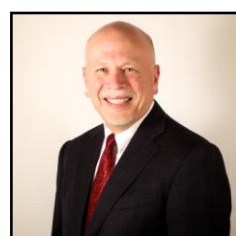




Garden Grove Seventh-day Adventist Church Pastor Dan's Communiqué



December 13, 2013

O Come, All Ye Faithful!

This weekend and next weekend are full of special events! We hope that you will come, as the faithful gather to celebrate Christmas together at GGSDA. Music, worship, parties, banquets, friends--it's all here, this week. We're biased, we think GGSDA does it the best--you will have to come and decide!

THIS WEEKEND:

The big special event of this weekend, besides our 5 worship services--is the INTERNATIONAL BANQUET! 6 pm Saturday night, in the Fellowship Hall. 16 booths from around the world, people in costumes, 16 kinds of food. It is going to be terrific. \$10, which is pretty cheap for two or three plates of food and music from all over the world, with 200 or 300 of your friends, smoke-free, Christmas decorations everywhere! If you need a comp. ticket, let me know--I've got a few left!

THE WAY: Tonight, Youth Chapel, with Pastor Sara-May.

Here is also a note from Pastor Sara-May, needing more and better information for our lists of youth--Please help!

"Hello ALL! Transitions are always exciting and finding information is also very fun! I am attempting to get an updated contact list for the youth department. If you are not receiving my weekly newsletters or text messages and are in the youth category or a parent with youth, I would greatly appreciate it if you could send me your contact information (youthpastor@gardengrovesda.com). HAVE A LOVELY DAY! THANK YOU!"

SABBATH MORNING:

(1) SANCTUARY (9:30): Message by Pastor Iki, one of our favorites! "We want to remind you this December the meaning, glory, and wonder behind that old, old story which we celebrate this season. Because it is about **Jesus**, the only one that matters, and who continues to give us the one thing we need the most . . . **HOPE** "

(2) SABBATH SCHOOL (10:30): Every room is taken! Now the Korean group is starting their own Sabbath School! We will find a room for them! But we have one already for everyone else--Spanish in the Board Room, Filipino in the Community Service Room, Pastor's Class in Pathfinders, Tom Neslund's in the North Room, the Lopez class in the Library, Youth in the Youth Chapel, Young Adults in the Fellowship Hall upstairs! All the Divisions in the SS wing!

If you're anything close to the Young Adult age, check that out! They are studying the 28 Fundamental Beliefs of the SDA Church, and I have seen the notes and questions they are wrestling with, and looking at whether these ancient beliefs are still relevant today. Tomorrow is on #3, God the Father--great discussion questions they are looking at! Here is their note:

"This week's Young Adult Sabbath School will be centered on the SDA belief #3 - God the Father. Please review the following link (<http://www.adventist.org/beliefs/god/father/>) and think about these questions: **What does the Bible say about God the Father? Is there a discrepancy in regards to his character? Why is it that some people--even professed Christians--have misunderstood his character?** Join us at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall! We will have food and fellowship before the discussion."

(3) Our "last" Annual Christmas program with Jim Woods and Orangewood Academy! For 19 years he has been bringing his groups to OA--and tomorrow is the last time--for Christmas! Yes, we will get another director, and, yes, they will still come to GGSDA! But this is the end of an era, and just come and shower him with love and appreciation for the 19 years. The concert last night was just terrific, he creates a fabulous scene, the kids sing their hearts out--just great stuff.

(4) HAYSTACKS & MINISTRY FAIRE--Every 3 months we have a Ministry Faire outside with booths of many of our ministries, and you can get a plate of haystacks and a piece of pie and just roam around or hang out with everybody else roaming around!

(5) FILIPINO WORSHIP SERVICE--2:30, Youth Chapel.

(6) VIETNAMESE SERVICE--4:00, Youth Chapel

(7) INTERNATIONAL BANQUET: 6 PM.

YOUNG ADULTS: SUNDAY NIGHT CHRISTMAS PARTY,

Coetzee's, 19571 Summer Grove Lane, Huntington Beach, 5 pm into the night! Bring a gift under \$15 if you can be part of the White Elephant gift exchange.

Also watch for other YA events:

Snow Day--skiing and snowboarding, Snow Summit

Monday, December 23. \$63 for everything, minus \$20 subsidy for the first 15--makes it \$43! Ticket, equipment, lesson, food!

Other events planned during the vacation will be announced, plus keep note of the campout Feb. 21-23 at Joshua Tree!

MEMORIAL SERVICE: We are very sad to announce that Nadine Accongio passed away this week. While she was still able she had a wonderful ministry in our church, caring for mothers with newborns in our church and in our community. The service will be: THURSDAY, December 19 @ 6:00 pm. At Fairhaven (in Santa Ana) in the Waverly Chapel.

SPECIAL EVENTS COMING UP:

CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST BANQUET: 8:30 to 10:45, next Sabbath, Dec. 21. No Sabbath Schools. Barbara Peck and her team are going to knock out another incredible feast, the decorations will be gorgeous, and our whole extended Smith Family and Valerie Tambaoan and her quartet will be leading in Christmas carols. All free! When you are finished eating, slip down to the Sanctuary, where there also be more music. The Gathering Songs will begin with the Praise Team at 10:45!

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE: 11:00 to 12:30, Sanctuary.

Choir, Children, Drama, and Message: "Joy to the World."

SATURDAY NIGHT: Filipino Fellowship in the Youth Chapel, Vietnamese Fellowship in the Sanctuary, and then the Youth camping overnight in a sleepover in the Fellowship Hall!

(And the youth could use any tents anyone is willing to loan them! Please email me or email her (youthpastor@gardengrovesda.com)!

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE: 6-7 pm, Tuesday night, December 24, Sanctuary. Great music, ending with our traditional candlelight "Silent Night." Then pass by the Fellowship Hall for our **Ice Cream Bar and Soup Bar** on the way home. We are trying to have it early so those of you who have a tradition of celebrating Christmas Eve still have several hours to do that or can go out if you want to. But set aside the first hour of Christmas to sit with your whole family and worship Christ Himself first!

JANUARY 4--Our first Sabbath with Elder Gerald Penick! He will be prayed over and welcomed to GGSDA, and then will give the New Year's first message, and has a wonderful drama planned as part of his message which is going to make it a great, great first Sabbath of the year. Then a potluck upstairs to welcome Elder Penick and his wife Linda.

FLAGS AND COSTUMES: AND--we are asking everyone to wear any costumes they have from another country, whether they came from that country or not. And get ready to be part of a group carrying in your country's flag in our grad procession, celebrating the terrific multi-cultural-ness of Garden Grove SDA! We will get a list out of the countries we already have flags for, to make sure we don't have any countries unrepresented. Let us know!

That's it! We know not everybody can get to everything, but get to all that you can--it's a great season at GGSDA!

God bless--
Pastor Dan

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