



# Garden Grove Seventh-day Adventist Church

## Pastor Dan's Communiqué



January 10, 2014

Dear Saints!

Where is God? An Adventist pastor who was asked to leave his pulpit a few months ago, announced in his blog this week that he was going to live as an atheist for one year! Read atheist books, ask questions like an atheist, and try to understand atheism from all sides. He still believes in God right now--but he is not going to read any God books for one year! Wants to be sure that if he keeps his belief in God it is because he really has searched it out, and not just because he got swept along with his family's religion and being a paid pastor for almost 20 years! What do you think?

But even those of us who are totally religious and absolutely convinced about God, sometimes have days or seasons where we slip away from being close to God, sensing God's Presence everywhere in our lives. And then we have moments when we "wake up," and realize Jesus is not right there next to us anymore--and we have to go "**Looking For Jesus.**"

That's the subject for **Divine Worship** tomorrow. The passage is Luke 2:41-52, the story of Jesus being lost to his parents, and ending up in the Temple answering the questions of the rabbis! Great praise team, drama, and 3 more terrific people joining our church!

**2013 FINANCES:** Really pretty terrific news! We needed \$720,000 in tithe in order to be at the level for three Conference-pastors--and we received \$720,800! Thank you to all of you who were faithful in giving back your 10% tithes to God! And the three of us are blessed that we can stay for another year!

With Church Budget--we made our Church Budget of about \$220,000--plus \$20,000 more! We are immensely thankful to all of you who are not just faithful in tithes, which goes away to the Conference and funds ministries all over the world, BUT ALSO contribute to Church Budget that keeps Garden Grove's ministries going! We didn't quite reach our super goal of paying off every single thing we spent money on this year--all of our capital projects, remodeling, equipment, etc.--but we did most of it! \$15,000 more would have cleared everything! But compared with most churches that struggle to just pay Church Budget, we are very, very thankful!

May you get started from the very beginning of the year to put God and His Kingdom first all the time, every week. And watch God bless you and make it up to you all kinds of subtle ways that you can see from faith, and only if you give it without waiting for the blessing to come first! Watch God keep filling up the oil jars!

### WEEKEND CALENDAR:

**THE WAY (7pm TONIGHT):** "We are blessed to have Mr. O as our speaker at The Way and we will be stuffing our faces with Burritos! **Sabbath (11th)** we will have The Study with Sir Andrew Browne on our series called TEN. **Sunday (12th)** at 5:15pm we will be having a celebration of the New Year with "Nerds on Ice". We are going to KHS Ice in Anaheim for some ice skating (dressed as nerds) along with La Sierra University Church Youth. It costs \$7 to ice skate...we will have pizza and snacks and afterwards there is the potential of overwhelming a fro yo place! If you need a ride please let me know as soon as possible!" (Pastor Sara-May)

**SANCTUARY (9:30am):** Breakfast Cafe on the way in, the band lights up right at 9:30am, and Pastor Sara-May has the second message in the **REBOOT** Series.

**SANCTUARY YOUNG ADULT SS (10:30am, FH): Studying the whole Creation/Evolution issue!** "Join us this week for Sabbath School as we delve into the Word and study Fundamental Belief #6 -- Creation (<http://www.adventist.org/beliefs/humanity/creation/>). **How do Christians interpret the account of creation found in the Bible? Is it a story or a true account of actual events? What important principles can we find in the narrative that help shed a clearer light on who we are as humans, what our purpose is in this world, and what the character of our maker is?"**

**WEDDINGS:** We can go a long time without any weddings in our Sanctuary--and this Sabbath we have two! Right after church, at 1pm, I will marry Jeffrey Laabs to Eliana Moreno, two terrific young people! Then at about 3pm the Briceno's will have their daughter Cristina get married to her new husband! Congratulations to both couples and all the families! And we don't want anybody to rush away, but it would be great if most of the hanging out time after church was out by the Refreshment Stand so that the wedding can get started! And you are also welcome to sit in on the first wedding and cheer them on as they say their vows to each other! Jeffrey is related to the Monty family, and just got baptized in November!

**FILIPINO FELLOWSHIP:** SS Class at 10:30am and then Fellowship in the Community Service Center after church.

**VIETNAMESE FELLOWSHIP:** 4pm, Youth Chapel

**Pathfinders and Adventurers:** Camping out overnight in the Fellowship Hall.

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST / FUNDRAISER:** Many of you have bought tickets, but you are still welcome to join us all from 9-11am for an incredible Pancake Breakfast with the Pathfinders and Adventurers. \$5 for all you can eat, with all the toppings, and all to help the kids go to the Oshkosh Camporee this summer!

### NEXT WEEK:

#### **Children's Church: KIDS IN CHRIST**

**\*Sabbath, January 18 in the Fellowship Hall, AFTER the children's story in the main service.** "We are continuing with the theme: *THE PRINCE OF LIFE*. Come and enjoy learning about the life of Jesus and His wonderful parables. Activities, crafts and snack time will follow. Sabbath's topic will be: **Unforgiveness is Unacceptable**, based on the parable found in Matthew 18:21-35."

#### **Children Ministries: JANUARY 2014 Activity Newsletter**

Enjoy January's Children's Activity Newsletter attached below! You may obtain a copy at the church's concierge desk. We encourage all children to write a short spiritual story/testimony to be included in upcoming issues. Any ideas the children may have please forward them to [childrensministry@gardengrovesda.com](mailto:childrensministry@gardengrovesda.com) or at [familylifeminister@gardengrovesda.com](mailto:familylifeminister@gardengrovesda.com).

God bless!  
Pastor Dan