



# Garden Grove Seventh-day Adventist Church

## Pastor Dan's Communiqué



May 16, 2014

My Dear Friends,

I pray for a special blessing to come over you, a sense of the Presence of God, as the Sabbath comes. Yes, people tell me they can worship God every day of the week. Yes, God is everywhere, all the time. But He says that he fills the Sabbath with a special gift of Himself. God was everywhere the day Moses saw the Burning Bush, but Moses didn't have to take his shoes off everywhere--only the special place where God was uniquely present! So it is with the Sabbath.

CHURCH UPDATES: 1. The new very powerful video projector, part of our Capital Campaign more than a year ago, was temporarily hooked up Thursday to figure out where to position it. The picture was fantastic, better than the computer monitor! 16,000 lumens, it is going to add a lot to our worship service when we can get it installed. 2. We are close to a final design on the whole logo package voted on at the Business Session. 3. The new phones have been installed. 4. The new website is into the homestretch. 5. A long list of other repairs were approved and are being implemented. 6. Our church sign comes up for a hearing with the city in June. 7. The Missions Committee met to map out a long-range plan for the next few years for mission trips. Romania, Tonga, Panama, Thailand, and Vietnam are on the calendar, so save your money for the one you want to go to! We have 56 as of now going to the Philippines this summer June 23-July 9, with 8 of our own speaking. Donors from elsewhere blessed us this week the funds for the last 3 video projectors and the keyboard we needed. Now pray that Pastor Ed gets the immigration he needs!

ARTICLE: Some of you may have already seen or heard that my name was included in an article in the *Adventist Review* this week, so far in the online edition. You can find it if you simply Google "Adventist Review Dan Smith" and it will come up, an article by Joseph Olstad, a pastor or lay pastor in Eureka, Montana. He is concerned about a trend he sees coming into the Adventist Church, the theme on the character of God in books by Graham Maxwell, Jack Provonsha--and Dan Smith! I should never be included with such giants like those two--but for better or for worse I was. We will try to have a few copies at the Concierge Desk if you want one, not because we are happy about all that he said about our views, but just for the sake of transparency, openness, and dialogue.

But I will take my 20-minute message time tomorrow to highlight what we think is absolutely critical about our picture of the character of our awesome God, and then you can study and compare and come to your own conclusion! So come to the Second Service at 11:30am, enjoy a terrific worship concert by a great music group, *HIS VOICE*, and then listen with an open mind and soft heart and we will keep on studying to get the truth about God right, so that we can be part of that group standing around the throne of God with His Name on our foreheads, and with "no lie in their mouths" about God (Rev. 14:1-5).

THE WAY: 7 pm tonight, Pastor Brett from the Orange Church speaking, and great food and music!

FIRST SERVICE (9:30am): Pastor Tony continues a very special, thoughtful, powerfully grace-centered study right through the book of Galatians.

### Children's Church: KIDS IN CHRIST

This Sabbath, May 17 in the Fellowship Hall at 11:40 am.

Come and enjoy learning about the life of Jesus and the awesome stories of the Bible! Activities, crafts and snack time will follow. A wonderful story from the New Testament will be brought to us by Ms. Rose Briceño.

GRACE UNIVERSITY: Potluck upstairs, joining with the potluck for *HIS VOICE*, our musical guests, and another group coming with Pastor Kevin Bruset, who used to be our youth pastor many years ago!

THEN GRACE UNIVERSITY will have an hour to train on some new highlight materials for each person--brand-new to me and to everyone.

FILIPINO FELLOWSHIP: Right after church, in the Community Service Center.

VIETNAMESE FELLOWSHIP: 4 pm, Youth Chapel.

### \*NEW ACTIVITY to Children's Church\*

Children in the Juniors and Earliteen age groups have an option to participate in Craft Time or join a Bible Study designed specifically for their age group.

We will study and discuss in depth various books of the Bible like Daniel, Job, Revelation, the Gospels, Pauline Letters, as well as subjects like the Spirit of Prophecy, our Adventist fundamental beliefs and much more.

### \*Next Month's Children's Church on June 21\*

A special Children's Church service that will include a Communion and Footwashing Service for the children in our church. More details to come.

Children Ministries: MAY 2014 Activity Newsletter is attached to this newsletter. You may also obtain this month's copy at the church's concierge desk. If you would like any of the past issues please see the Ministries for Children page in our church's website at [www.gardengrovesda.com](http://www.gardengrovesda.com).

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)

Have a great Sabbath, everybody!  
Pastor Dan