



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



December 12, 2014

Happy Sabbath to you all!

As we begin to move deeper and deeper into the Christmas season, we hope that you will be very intentional about putting yourself in a place where the message, truth, experience, and "soul" of Christmas can happen for you. And I'm speaking to myself more than anybody. Many years we put everything we have into making Christmas happen for everybody else--whether shopping, or decorating, or cooking, or wrapping, or parties, or preaching--and then the month is gone--and you didn't see enough lights, listen to enough music, or read enough of the Story itself. So while there is still time--vow to get it right this year! Find the station with the music in the car. Go where the lights are. Fit in a great Christmas concert somewhere. Read the story in the Jesus Storyteller Bible. Watch one of the classic movies! Put some food and gifts in the car and go surprise a family who could really use it. And have no regrets when it comes time to take everything down!

Next Sabbath: Our traditional Breakfast Banquet, 8:30 am to 10:30 am, and the Christmas Cantata, 11:00 am to 12:30 pm, with choir, drama, message, carols. One of the best Sabbaths to invite somebody to, especially with the meetings coming.

Christmas Eve--6:00 pm, Reception upstairs, 7:00 pm.

Tithes & Offerings: There are three weeks before the end of the year. Many of you have given faithfully all year, and we are very, very thankful for that. We have kept all our kids in school, kept our pastors on staff, remodeled rooms and the front doors, and, especially, totally upgraded our Youth Chapel. Most of you have been absolutely terrific in giving your tithes back to God. Now we need to bring **Church Budget** to the Finish Line. Our monthly Budget is \$24,500. But we have borrowed from our Reserves in order to do the repairs and upgrades we needed to do. The total we need by the end of the year is **\$83,000**.

It's a big number! But we believe if we all stretch a little extra and give God a chance to whisper what He wishes we would give--we can do this. I put in something extra last Sabbath to do my share, and will do more before the end of the year. We think GGSDA is a fantastic church in many ways--a visitor was shocked last week in how much is going on here compared to where they were before. We hope everything is poised now, with our new pastors here and all the things everybody is working on--for GGSDA / OC Grace to take the leap to the next level this next year. We believe it is God's will. We will never settle for average!

THIS WEEKEND:

TONIGHT, FRIDAY NIGHT:

The WAY is cancelled tonight in favor of everybody attending the Christmas Vespers Concert at **Orangewood Academy Chapel, 7 pm**. Last night was Pre-6th, tonight is 7-12. We have a new director in Terri Taafe, and I am about to get in the car to go down.

SABBATH:

FIRST SERVICE (9:30 am): We're all excited about having some of our highlight Dirty Hands Summit people back, to be very specific about how best you can get your hands dirty in actually doing something to "do justice" (Micah 6:8). Leigh Dundis, who has a great project in Thailand, will be back, and our own Dale Camera, who volunteers with Boy's and Girl's Club and who made a great fundraising speech about his experience with them last year--will be presenting tomorrow, and then Pastors Tony and Sara-May will wrap it up. There will be booths afterwards where you can sign up for specific things you can do to change your world--a very cool Christmas gift to somebody who is in trouble right now somewhere in the world.

SECOND SERVICE (11:30 am): Tomorrow we have a very special gift--a gifted preacher, an evangelist, and a special friend of mine and Elder Penick--**Elder Robert Edwards**. He will be our speaker for the evangelistic series for two weeks starting next February 21. We believe God will anoint this, and he will pour out his heart and his passion for finding "lost" people and giving them what they are really hungry for, even if they don't always know yet. His title is: **"Out of the Box!"** Our favorite praise team is back on tomorrow, Peter Jarrett is singing--it will be a great Sabbath worship service!

AFTERNOON:

Evangelism Committee and Grace University: Potluck upstairs

Filipino Fellowship: Community Service Room, right after church

Vietnamese Fellowship: 4 pm, Youth Chapel, I have the message.

Dress Rehearsal--Choir and Drama, 6 pm, Sanctuary

Evening: Orangewood basketball game, 8:30 pm

COMING UP:

December 20: Christmas Breakfast Banquet, serving 8:30 am to 10:30 am. No Sabbaths Schools. Fantastic ambience, great banquet, the best people.

December 20: Christmas Cantata--11:00 am to 12:30 pm, Sanctuary. Choir, drama, carols, message.

December 24: Christmas Eve, 6:00 pm, Reception, 7:00 pm.

CHIP: Mid January you get a second chance to your health lifestyle back on track! Make your resolution stick this time!

God bless you all!

Pastor Dan