



Garden Grove Seventh-day Adventist Church

Pastor Dan's Communiqué



December 26, 2014

Dear GGSDA Family, Saints, and Friends!

Christmas Day is past--we hope that you had a great time with the people closest to you. We had every single one of our Smith extended family there for the first time in many years--except one who was sick. This Sabbath was still be part of our Christmas Advent Season, with our decorations, and the best Christmas music. If you have family here invite them--it will be a great Sabbath!

THANKS: We have so many people to give thanks to, we are taking a huge risk by even thanking anybody publicly. If we miss you, we're sorry--know that Jesus knows what you gave! BUT: A huge thanks to **Melissa Briceno** for putting together both the fantastic worship service last Sabbath, AND the Christmas Eve program--and of course **Sonny Boloico**, for the Drama Team--and **Tom Neslund** for his sets and everything upstairs--and, maybe most of all--**Valerie Tamaoan**, our wonderful new choir director, for a great, great Christmas Cantata.

And **Rosalie Wildvank**, for a gorgeous and just terrific Breakfast Banquet, and all the people who helped her do it. It was just great.

And **Gigi Bonang** and her cousin **Lourdes**, who brought everything from her home and the two of them worked for a month to decorate and get everything ready for the Christmas reception upstairs Wednesday night. This has become a very special tradition at GGSDA. And thanks to **Corinne and Tj Wallace**, and **Ricky**, and **Brian**, and all the others who set it up, and stayed until late to put it all away. It was an honor to Jesus what you gave to us all. And thanks to everybody who contributed their best soups and desserts!

YEAR-END GIVING: As you know, these are the last five days of the calendar year, AND the Church financial year. GGSDA has tried to do a lot this year--\$24,000 remodel of the Youth Chapel. \$15,000 remodel of the Filipino Room (used to be a storage room). \$12,000 new doors for the West side. \$5000 added to the major donation for the new speakers to replace very old speakers upstairs. The Church, has done very, very well in giving back to God and to ministries this year--but because of a challenge with one renter, we really need some heroic giving by all of us who love GGSDA to finish the year with all this paid for and not from our small reserves. We have given out information the last two Sabbaths on where all the tithes and offerings go, so that there is total transparency with our finances. We are audited down to the last penny.

In short, we need \$25,000 every month for Church Budget. We need about \$10,000 more this last week to completely finish that. And then we need pretty close to \$50,000 beyond that to pay for these upgrades we had to do. If you can somehow stretch and add something to help the Church with those projects--then we can start in January 1 with big, powerful plans:

Evangelism in February and Venden Revival in April

40-year Reunion of the SDA airlift of the refugees of SDA's from Vietnam

Re-carpet Fellowship Hall

Re-model and upgrade of the Kitchen

Youth Project--Basketball Court for our Youth and Outreach to Community

Sabah Mission Trip

Dirty Hands Summit--build upon the beginning and build more ministries into our local community--major goal for 2015.

If you want your donations to "count" for 2014, they must be either with us by midnight, Wednesday night, December 31, or postmarked by then, or put on line. We will have our office open all day Wednesday. We have sent out a mailing, and you can send in your gifts to God in the return envelope also! Please pray that the Church does what it has always done at GGSDA--rises to the challenge, every time!

AND DON'T FORGET: **1.24.15!!**

FRIDAY NIGHT: THE WAY is on tonight at 7 pm, with **Pastor Tony** leading out. Food, music, Christmas msg. Pastor Sara-May has been in Hawaii with her family and her new niece, and is on her way back as we speak, but I am not sure exactly what time she gets in, but she was hoping to make it there for some of it tonight!

SABBATH:

First Service/Sanctuary 9:30am: Only two more Sabbaths downstairs, and then First Service will transition upstairs to the Fellowship Hall January 10. There will be a relaunch party, and some new looks--but we will let them announce more as they get closer to it. The new speakers will go in next week, which will bless all of us in all our future programs up there. Pastor Tony has the message this Sabbath, still part of the **Elephant In the Room** series. Here is his intro to it:

"This week we are delving into one of my favorite Elephant in the Room subjects- Simplicity. We'll start by looking at one of my most beloved Narnia books The Last Battle and moving into what Jesus tells us about living lives that reflect His Kingdom come."

Second Service, 11:30 am: Our music people have kept back some of the best for this Sabbath--"O Holy Night," "Mary, Did You Know?", and a powerful Christmas praise set. Our drama team has their final skit for the year. But a highlight will be the baptism-- Abdollah Farzam, who has grown up a Muslim, but now has chosen to embrace Christ! He celebrated his first Christmas yesterday, and is very much excited to take this step tomorrow. Please welcome him, and Gary Anderson, the other baptism, into the Church with a royal, Christmas welcome! The message will wrap up the ANGELS Series, with "**CROSSMAS!**"

Special announcement for children and parents, from Kimber Parks:

" Jesus wants our hearts. On Sabbath December 27th, the children will have a special craft that they will complete in their seats during church. Craft materials will be passed out as the children enter the sanctuary. The craft needs to be completed before the offering, because the children will be asked to bring them forward during the offering.

SABBATH SCHOOL, 9:30 am: We have all of our Sabbath Schools back in full swing this Sabbath. For those who often attend my Pastor's Bible Class in the Pathfinder Room, and to any others who have heard rumors of what is called **The Emerging Church,**" we will do our best to clarify what it is, and why some are concerned that it is creeping into the Adventist Church right now!

SABBATH AFTERNOON:

Grace University / Evangelism Committee: Potluck and meeting with Elder Robert Edwards our evangelist--1:00 to 2:30, Fellowship Hall.

BAPTISM: 3 pm, Corona del Mar. Three more candidates want to have a Christmas baptism, but in the ocean! One earliteen, Alexa Pacis, and two more from our Vietnamese Fellowship.

Filipino Fellowship: Community Service Room and Filipino Room, potluck and groups, right after church.

Camping Retreat--Saturday night and Sunday morning, right in our own Fellowship Hall--great food, music, karaoke, and then staying the night so they can right back to keep the party going in the morning!

Vietnamese Fellowship: 4 pm, Youth Chapel, with many racing back from the Baptismal service at the beach. The group is meeting at the beach at 2:30 to begin to worship and prepare for the Baptism.

OFFICE: The pastors will not be in the office this week, but we are certainly available if anybody needs us. There are no official meetings this week, giving everybody a chance to be with their families as much as possible. There will be a way to drop off your year-end giving at the Church during the day until close Wednesday.

Happy Sabbath and Happy New Year, everybody!

Pastor Dan