



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



November 6, 2015

Dear Saints of OC GRACE / GGSDA!

Right or wrong, good or bad—millions of people have heard the words “Seventh-day Adventists” maybe for the first time in the last two weeks. One man has a chance to speak about what his faith means to him in maybe the most public way any Adventist has ever had—more than Chaplain Barry Black, more than the Chamberlain story about the pastor’s wife and her baby in Australia, maybe more than Desmond Doss, though evidently Mel Gibson is filming a movie about him. What will Dr. Carson say about what the Sabbath means to him, if he ever gets asked about that? How will he keep it and protect it, if he were to become the president, as the problems of the world don’t schedule themselves to stay out of the Sabbath? If it was you, with a group of reporters standing around you and the lights flick on and the red lights go on on the cameras—What would you say about what the Sabbath means to you?! May this Sabbath be Sabbath at its best for you, starting tonight!

DORCHESTER STORY—Next week we have a special guest coming in—Chaplain Dick Stenbakken—who used to work with Elder Tom Neslund at the General Conference putting on fantastic Christmas and Easter dramas—and now goes around many weeks a year putting on one-man dramatic presentations for churches. He is doing the *Dorchester Story*, but we will keep the details of the story for the drama itself. He will be doing it for both worship services, and there will be no Children’s Church so that nobody misses this special program!

BASKETBALL COURT: The Board has voted to put up an outstanding basketball/volleyball court in our back parking lot, with great lighting and everything. No parking spots should be lost, and it will be done in cement to last for a generation! The final design is being finished, and we are very close to making this happen. Various donors have stepped forward to contribute \$23,500 of the total so far, and it is up to our Church family to do the last 1/5 of it—\$4100.

Our plan is to make a little display out of 50 bricks—each with the name of the donor who contributes \$100 to the court. The brick costs \$18, so \$82 of the \$100 goes to construction of the court and you will have provided a court where kids and the community will play for the next 50 years! You can leave a legacy that will outlive most of you—for \$100!

Kids walk across our parking lot every day, and we want to have something that makes them stop and hang out—at a church! Our young pastors are excited about the dream of having community nights, when kids from all around us come to the one available court for miles around. We will get food trucks in, and live music, and with our refreshment stand, we will have a rocking party—all at our church, all in the Name of Christ! With short worships and prayers for the games and we get a chance to mingle with people who otherwise would *never* set foot on a church parking lot! And all this is not counting all the times our own youth, Pathfinders, young adults, and Social Committee can use it!

The 50 names are first come first served—we will keep a list at the Concierge Desk. Names only go on when the money comes in! \$100, mark it “**Basketball Court**”. You can’t make your \$100 count for any more than with this project!

Here’s the **WEEKEND EVENTS** for you:

THE WAY is back tonight! 7:00pm, Youth Chapel

CHOIR PRACTICE—7:30pm, SS Wing

OC GRACE FIRST WORSHIP SERVICE: 9:30 am, Fellowship Hall upstairs, packed out every week, great music, powerful message by Pastor Tony.

SABBATH SCHOOLS EVERYWHERE: 10:30-11:25am. If you really haven’t been trying SS regularly—why not give your soul a chance to grow by digging into the Word, the book of Jeremiah this quarter in most of our adult classes. Try my Pastor’s Class in Pathfinders, the Lopez class in Pastor Tony’s office, the Brazilian Group in the Studio (Library), Tom Neslund in the North Room, Filipino Fellowship classes (English) in Community Services and the Filipino Room and the Spanish class in the Broad Room.

DIVINE WORSHIP SECOND SERVICE: 11:30-12:40. Last week was just terrific with the Gary Bonner Singers. This week the highlight is the induction for the Pathfinders and Adventurers, with a parade/processional and everything. AND one of the Pathfinders is going to share the sermon with me, so come cheer Genesis on in her first sermon!

The last of our “**7 Deadly Sins**” is “Gluttony,” as we complete the series. And be ready—this deadly sin is about much more than just food and overeating!

And just to review the Fruits of the Spirit: Love—Strawberry. Joy—Apple. Patience—Peach. Lust—Passion Fruit. Goodness—Lemon. Faithfulness—Pineapple.

THANKSGIVING FELLOWSHIP DINNER—Everybody is welcome upstairs for our potluck, right after church. Our last Fruit in the “7 Deadly Sin” Series is “Self-Control,” and cherries are the fruit of the day, so get some cherry jello or a slice of cherry pie!

VIETNAMESE FELLOWSHIP: 4:30pm, Youth Chapel. After many went to the “Messiah’s Mansion” tabernacle display at Los Alamitos, people wanted more explanation, so there will be some live sanctuary furniture as Pastor Toan teaches about the Sanctuary.

WOMEN’S MINISTRY THANKSGIVING PROGRAM: “Praising God in the Midst of Pain”. 10am Sunday, November 8, in the Fellowship Hall. Marcia Davis is the speaker. They are also collecting a long list of things to help support the Ronald McDonald House here in Orange County, a great, great project.

GOLDEN BOWL OF PRAYER: “November is upon us. Before you know it, Thanksgiving will be here, then the countdown to Christmas. As our days get busier and our time fills up with more things to do, there will be a place in the church for us to take a moment to reflect on our individual and special needs and praises. The Golden Bowl of Prayer will be set up the entire month of November to receive your written heartfelt prayers:

“...the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.” Rev 5:8

It will either be in the foyer at the Cross, or it will be incorporated into the Sabbath service. You can write down special requests all week long or take a moment before church or Sabbath school to write a request and then drop it into the Golden Bowl. All anonymous and confidential! Then your requests will be collected and prayed over in the church service, and during the week by our Prayer Ministry.”

NEWS AND UPDATES:

*The new **Website** is getting close to launch.

Our new renter, **THE ROCK, is happy to be in a sanctuary and facility like ours. Someone asked if we were renting the Fellowship Hall to them—the answer is NO, we don’t rent out our Fellowship Hall on Sundays. There was one week where there was an overlap between the former renter and the new renter, and we had to use everything—but that was because the new renter made a wrong announcement and came to us two weeks early!

***Committees and individuals are working on the new **Sign** out front,

****The **Sanctuary Lighting**,

*****The installation of the new **video cameras and systems** for both the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall is nearly done.

*****And the new **Studio** where the Library was is starting to come together—it has been carpeted, the Green Screen and other equipment is here, we will have a big dedication November 21 right after church.

Have a great, blessed Sabbath, everybody!
Pastor Dan