



Garden Grove Seventh-day Adventist Church

Pastor Dan's Newsletter



November 13, 2015

Dear Garden Grove Church Family—

Sorry for the lateness of this Pastor's Newsletter. At the last minute I was asked to preach for an LLBN (Loma Linda Broadcasting Network) special prayer series as they reopen their studio after a total redesign of their set. And so I had to put a sermon together on Jesus' prayer in John 17, and race over and tape that program. It will be aired as part of their "Great Prayers of Faith" series, next Monday night. The musicians were Pierre and Annina, the guests we had at Garden Grove, from South Africa and they were just fantastic again.

On the way back to Riverside I dropped by our Pathfinder Club at Rancho Jurupa, outside downtown Riverside. They are part of 2500 young people from all over our Conference for the Camporee. They all had the chance to go through the Messiah's Mansion live Sanctuary set up there, and the whole club will get both "Sanctuary 1" and "Sanctuary II" honors this weekend.

I got home, only to find out that the bubble I had been in most of the day meant that I had completely missed the horrific tragedy in Paris. To think that we were just there walking the streets and riding the Metro a few weeks ago just added a sombre twist to the news for us. And to hear that some of the attackers shouted a phrase honoring their name for God—just adds a terrible sidetone—how can people do such acts in the name of God? What picture of God leads them to that? LLBN is getting stacks of letters from the Middle East in response to their Arabic channel's programs, thanking them for our very different picture of God.

SABBATH SERVICES:

For once in our worship cycles, both main worship services have the same program: **Elder Dick Stenbakken** will be doing his one-man dramatic presentation of "**The Dorchester Story**". We don't want to publicize the actual story, so just trust us that we are sure you will enjoy, be blessed by, and be moved by—this incredible story, done live.

He has been a military chaplain, and then was the head of our Adventist Chaplains ministry for the entire world church at our General Conference headquarters. While there, he teamed up with our own Tom Neslund in putting on quite a number of huge pageant-style walkthrough Christmas and Easter programs, with over 75,000 walking through one of them at some point—truly an amazing achievement.

(There will be no Children's Church this Sabbath, so that none of our children miss out on seeing this drama. We think virtually all ages will enjoy this riveting presentation!)

THANKSGIVING CANNED FOOD DRIVE: There will be two opportunities tomorrow to go into our community and collect canned foods that we then give away in Thanksgiving baskets the week of Thanksgiving to the 500 who use our Food Bank every month. Adventurers and Pathfinders who aren't at the Camporee will lead the way, but we could really use another group to join us. If you are always wishing to find something simple, easy, and clear to do for the community to serve—this is about as good as it gets! You just go down the street passing out the bags onto the porches of the houses. Then the Pathfinders will go around to the same houses next Sabbath after church and pick up the bags of food!

One group will leave at 11:30 right after Sabbath School, meeting in the **Cradle Room** to organize. A second group will go **right after second service**, meeting in the **Pathfinder Room**, and led by Diane Ramkissoon.

BRING BAG OF FOOD SABBATH NOVEMBER 21: We combine that with our own drive, asking every family in the church to bring at least one bag of food that can be given to our Food Bank. Please bring a bag to the Concierge Desk next Sabbath, Nov. 21. We will have a parade to bring it all to the platform, and then Josh and his team will organize it all into the Thanksgiving Baskets that are given out and bring a smile to people who are having a tough time right now.

FILIPINO FELLOWSHIP AY SERVICE: 2:45pm in the Youth Chapel.

VIETNAMESE FELLOWSHIP: 4:30pm, Youth Chapel.

BRICKS FOR THE BASKETBALL COURT: We go into high gear this week raising the last \$4100 for the great Basketball Court project. There will be flyers in the bulletin and signup sheets at both services tomorrow. The first 50 people who commit to donating \$100 will have their name on a brick, permanently part of this cement court that should last 50 or more years!

OR you can give it as a great Christmas gift and put somebody's name on a brick who you would like to honor and love with a gift like no other! For only \$100!

Sign the card on the flyer or on the sign-up sheets, and then put your donation in by December 5.

CARD MINISTRY: Please Help Our Card Ministry to Bring Sunshine to Our Lives With Their Beautiful Cards and Caring. Your help with the ongoing expenses for the Card Ministry's postage and supplies will be greatly appreciated! Please write "Card Ministry" on a Tithe Envelope, insert your donation, and place the envelope in the offering plate.

God bless and Happy Sabbath!
Pastor Dan