



Garden Grove Seventh-day Adventist Church

Pastor Dan's Newsletter



January 2, 2016

HAPPY NEW YEAR! We hope that you had a special holiday and got to be with people special to you. There is a TED Talk out now that shows research that pretty much proves that longevity is not just based on genes and good medicine, but is highly based on good and happy relationships! One of the greatest predictors of a long life are happy relationships at 50! So time spent putting dinners together and drawing family and your best friends together are all well worth it!

CHURCH BUDGET: Final numbers are not in yet, as there are always a few envelopes that come in after Jan. 1, but as of yesterday afternoon we were very close to reaching budget. We thank you, in the Name of Jesus, for the sacrificial giving of every single person, from the people who put \$10 on PUSHPAY, to those who scan write a \$10,000 or \$20,000 check at the end of the year. It takes every single one of us to make the whole church and all its ministries go, and God knows and celebrates every single gift that is offered to Him, as much as the Three Wisemen's gifts thousands of years ago!

THANK YOU! And a personal thank you from the Smith's, and really from all the pastors and staff, for the various gifts people leave on the desk at the office or at the Concierge Desk. We don't even know who some of them came from, so we just thank all of you, and let you know what a blessing and honor it is to get to serve this church!

THIS SABBATH:

OC GRACE FIRST: I believe that Pastor Tony is wrapping up the great "Jesus Uncensored" series today at our contemporary service at 9:30 this morning.

SECOND SERVICE: We start a great new series on the book "**STEPS TO CHRIST**". It is one of the most published books in the history of the world. Every paragraph is rich, and it is difficult to not just underline every line. We are fulfilling a New Year's Resolution, to get more spiritual, to get closer to God, and to know Jesus better, in a very personal way. There are 13 chapters, so 13 Sabbaths, so the series will run for every Sabbath from January to March, ending with Easter March 27. Every week another banner will be hung up front highlighting the title and theme of the next chapter.

We will also be focusing on Steps to Christ in our Life Groups. There will be a study sheet available if you would like to get 2 or 3 or more together to start a new group. There will also be copies of Steps to Christ at the Concierge Desk today—most for free, but others we need a \$8 or \$15 donation.

Today Elder Penick starts the series off with "**GOD'S LOVE FOR MAN,**" which is just a fantastic chapter that I read again last night. Some of the greatest, most famous quotes are in these first few pages. We have also prepared a lovely new video clip on the Love of God we hope will draw hearts to Him this first Sabbath of the New Year.

FELLOWSHIP DINNER: You are invited to join us upstairs for a New Year's Fellowship Dinner right after Church.

VIETNAMESE FELLOWSHIP: 4:30 pm, in the Youth Chapel. Congratulations go to this Fellowship, which is often from 35-50 people, who raised over \$10,000 for their new church project in Vietnam. Another donor matched that donation for a total of \$20,000, and those checks went out yesterday. That church is already up and we have seen pictures of the congregation of over 800 already meeting in there even while waiting to get it all finished. Our mission trip for March, 2017, is to hold 4 nights of evangelistic meetings in that church, and it is just a thrilling project!

BASKETBALL COURT BRICKS: We believe we are very close to having our budget completed for the basketball court, and the engineer has been instructed to confirm the plans with the city, get the permit for the lights, so we can begin. We will make the order for the bricks shortly—if you meant to sign up but haven't, we will close the window January 9, so please put your name in and the \$100 this week!

Again, Happy New Year to you all, and may this year be a year of taking the Next Step in every area of your life!

God bless—