



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



December 30, 2016

Happy New Year! And Happy Sabbath!

We hope that you have had a wonderful week between Christmas and New Year's. We hope you have had time with which ever of your family could gather together. We had a chance for a couple of days go to skiing/snowboarding with our sons and others. And this weekend we as a church staff want to wish you a truly blessed New Year!

Here is a brief update on offerings and the needs at our Garden Grove / OC GRACE Church. We had some truly miraculous donations come in last weekend, and we thank everybody who has sacrificed to give back to God their offerings of tithe and church budget. Our finance people have worked for many hours trying to get a clear number for what is still needed. it is a constantly moving target, as final bills come in, and other donations come in!

The figure they have given us to send out is **\$37,000—that the Church still need**. We wish it was less, obviously—but it is still very much possible by the grace of God and everybody hearing and following whatever the Spirit says to them—for us to do this! That is what it will take for the Church to clear all ministries, pay for all the repairs we have made this year, utilities, SS Quarterlies, everything. IF we get less than that, some of the ministries that have been behind may need to use the first months of next year to raise funds to get caught up. For example, our new TV Studio, which is doing fantastic work—we have taped about 70 shows already—has had some extra costs in order to get set up, and needs about \$3700 to clear. Adventurers really needs about \$2200. Sabbath School Expense needs about \$5500.

All of this can be erased—if everybody who considers GGSDA / OC GRACEs their spiritual home does a little extra. An extra \$25, \$50, \$100, \$500—from all of our active 500-700 members would settle all of this! We are all trying to do our part to lead the way.

We hope that the church has shown by its commitment to so many ministries and projects how committed we are to this church being a flagship, God-honoring church in Orange County. We help a long list of wonderful kids with great potential, at Orangewood Academy. We are the school's anchor supporter as the largest church in Orange County. We have remodeled our SS wing, and we have excellent Sabbath Schools, with terrific leadership, with rooms full of kids getting connected to God at the beginning of their lives.

We have invested a lot in our youth and young adult ministries. We partially support the young pastors for our Vietnamese and Filipino Fellowships. We have fixed pews and stained glass windows and air conditioners and replaced tables and replanted the planters. We have raised enough to build a world-class basketball court that should be built over the next 2-3 months. All of this is on top of huge projects in India, Philippines, Thailand, and Mexico, which of course have been supported by our own people but also many others who believe in what Garden Grove tries to do around the world. We take very seriously what Jesus said about being His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the world.

In 2017 we hope to finally remodel our whole kitchen area with a **top-flight kitchen**, and also finally get our **digital sign** in front. We have only the second evangelistic team in the last 40 years allowed to go into **Vietnam** going in March, and another group will be holding a major city-wide crusade in **Manila** in April, along with a group of youth/young adults going with Pastor Sara-May to **Brazil** in August and a group building a house in **Mexico** in March. **Grace University, our new online university**, which will eventually provide up to 30 classes in ministry for lay bible workers, new church members, and church leaders, here and all over the world, will go live early in January with the first few classes, totally free to anybody from all over the world, which is just a thrilling project.

We always wish we could do more, and be a perfect Church! We want to be the most compelling, exciting, Spirit-filled Church possible. But we hope that you have found it to be a church that is worth supporting with your heart and soul and offerings, and if enough of us do it we will get as close as possible to becoming the church of our dreams, and of God's dream for us.

Thank you for whatever you can do this last weekend to help the church cross over the finish line. You can of course (1) Bring your final gifts to one of the four worship services tomorrow, or (2) You can go online at www.gardengrovesda.com to give, or (3) You can mail it, making sure it is postmarked before midnight Saturday night!

Thanks again, to all of you who invest in GGSDA / OC GRACE!

Pastor Dan and Church staff and leadership