



# Garden Grove Seventh-day Adventist Church

## Pastor Dan's Newsletter



January 6, 2017

Happy New Year one more time!

**BUDGET:** With deep gratitude to God, and to our fantastic loyal church members, we as the senior pastor and two leaders of the church want to say thank you—**because the Church made budget!** It seemed almost impossible, as our Treasurer and associates kept fine-tuning what we needed, paying the year-end bills—and, yet, somehow, with a couple gifts from afar and the rest coming from our own awesome people—it all came in. As far as we can see so far, waiting for the final reconciliations next week—we should be able to pay all our bills, clear out all negative accounts, and start 2017 even with the world!

We also had a 9% tithe gain over last year, which is just a huge blessing, to our church, and to our Conference. The three of us who are paid by the tithe thank all of you who have given faithfully, and in the Name of Jesus we claim the promise that the windows of heaven be opened up and the blessing be poured out, so much that "you cannot receive it"! And we pray that the Old Testament miracle of the jars being filled again be repeated for each of you, so that you can see the Hand of God in replenishing what you have given, as the jars in your life are filled up enough to give again!

We are humbled and amazed and blessed!

Pastor Dan, Senior Pastor / Tom Neslund, Head Elder / Bob Meckstroth, Board Chair

**MEMORIALS:** We give our condolences to Kimber and Tim Parks, as Kimber had her father pass away a week ago. She has been east this week for the services. And to the family of Marilyn Arand, who used to be part of GGSDA and was involved with Pathfinders—that service was today in Westminster. And **Weston Dick**, whose service will be at 3 pm at the Los Alamitos Church tomorrow afternoon.

**DANIEL 21-DAY FAST:** The 21-Day Fast begins this coming Sunday, January 8, and goes for 3 weeks. You are free to choose your own kind of fast—from specific foods, to skipping one meal a day, to passing on desserts, or fast foods, or comfort foods, or media, or whatever the Spirit leads you to consider leaving out of your life for these 21 days. The goal is not earning merit by depriving yourself! The goal is to live lean, to live simply, and to take away distractions that replace time and focus on God and your relationship with Him. Read a new worship book. Read a Gospel. Read Proverbs, one chapter a day. Sign up for some Podcasts with a speaker who speaks to you. Fit a 2-mile walk in somewhere into your day. And see what amazing things God is waiting to pour into your life during these 21 days!

### OC GRACE WORSHIP SERVICES:

**FIRST SERVICE:** A triumphant Sabbath as First Service celebrates its Second Anniversary since the relaunch upstairs into the Fellowship Hall. God has greatly blessed, a great team has dreamed and prayed and worked to build the special package that is First Service, and there is a very special service, new look, and gift for you tomorrow!

**SECOND SERVICE:** We start a New Year's series, "**PROMISES!**"—looking at some of the all-star, world-class promises in the Bible, out of the over 2100 promises that are there. Along the way we will wrestle with the questions, why some of the promises don't seem to deliver on everything they promise! Tomorrow's promise is **EPHESIANS 3:20**—"Now unto Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to His power that worketh in us." There will also be Communion during Second Service as we start the New Year!

**FILIPINO FELLOWSHIP: 2:45 pm, Youth Chapel:** Dr. Danny Dial, and long-term Filipino teacher, principal, president of colleges, etc., will be speaking, after his twin brother, Dr. Joe Dial, spoke two weeks ago (he is the Secretary of the Pakistani Union and interim president of the college there).

**VIETNAM FELLOWSHIP: 4:30pm, Youth Chapel.**

**POTLUCK: 1 pm, Fellowship Hall.**

**APOLOGETICS:** The first meeting of our new Apologetics discussion group meets tomorrow. Find **Steve Schiller, David Kharns**, and/or me in a corner of the Fellowship Hall after the Potluck gets going—and that's where the meeting is! The first meeting will be a combination discussion of a topic meeting, AND a brainstorming session where group members can suggest topics for study and discussion over the next year of meetings. We hope to have some sessions where we all read the same book and discuss it at the meeting, other meetings we may have one present a brief study or paper and then open it up for discussions—we will feel our way into this! One of the goals is to be well-read and prepared for the October 12-14 Character of God Weekend.

### MISSION TRIPS:

The two mission trips that have been in the works for months are the evangelism trips to **Vietnam** (March 6-20), **Manila** (April 16-May 3).

But we are opening the door now to the short, local **MEXICO** mission trip March 26-29. It is not a large group, and it is hard work, but it is a wonderful time together, on top of the building project and the gift of a house we give to a family. There is no cell or internet service in the campground, so you have to sit around the fire and drink hot chocolate and talk! If you are at all interested, let us know, we will put you on the tentative list, and then work together to find the money to make it all happen. It's usually about \$415 a person, paying for the project and food and gas.

There is also a movement to do a **BRAZIL** mission trip August 3-16. It is being led by Pastor Sara-May, and will be a different experience, riding on a boat down the Amazon, sleeping in hammocks on deck, and going into the local villages and doing ministry and serving people. The focus is on youth and young adults, but all are welcome. Pastor Sara-May will be getting more information out shortly.

Pray as we gear up for a great 2017. We have big dreams for what our church can accomplish this year—in missions, in ministry, with our building (basketball court, kitchen, and sign), and in growing to be more like Christ.

God bless!  
Pastor Dan