

Pastor Dan's Newsletter



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Dear Church!

Happy Sabbath.

GROWING YOUNG

I wish you could have heard the wonderful affirmation of our youth and young adult ministry at a pastors' meeting that was held in our Fellowship Hall this last Tuesday.



Five years ago a group of young adults met in a home and dreamed about a worship service, with contemporary music, planned by young adults for young adults. And now, the Conference held their meeting which was focused on the need for the Church to get much, much younger—in our Fellowship Hall where our contemporary service is held, with 250-260 every week worshipping God in their own way.

Our own Pastor Tony was at the center of the panel discussion and made eloquent statements about our commitment here to young adults, and all were able to see the fantastic venue this church has created for First Service.

The average age of Adventists in North America is in the high 50's, and the average age of all Americans is in the high 30's.

That says it all, and I applaud our Conference for stepping up, acknowledging the need, and making it a centerpiece of their new Strategic Plan.



BRAZIL MISSION TRIP

We have hopefully 25 youth and young adults who will go with Pastor Sara to the Amazon in Brazil for 2 weeks this August. This is different—this is not holding evangelistic meetings, but going on the historic Luziero 9 from town to town along the Amazon and doing whatever is needed—medical, construction, VBS, as led by the ADRA team in Brazil. Obviously there is a big challenge for those young people who feel the call to go, but just can't come up with \$2100 easily! They are willing to work, fundraise, etc., but they could use a lift. Here is a note from Pastor Sara herself:

"Dear Church Family! As many of you know, we are taking a youth and young adult mission trip this year to Brazil! I know that there is a lot going on constantly in our worlds, but I am here asking for your support. For those of you that don't know... We land in Manaus, Brazil on August 3 to board a river boat on the Amazon River which for the next 10 days will be our home (sleeping in hammocks). During the day we will go into a village and work with ADRA. After our Amazon River social media fast, we will fly to Rio for a bit of sight seeing, bonding, and exploration!"

Because we are almost entirely young people going on this trip, prayers and money are the secret sauce. And due to the timing of this trip, fundraising as a whole is difficult with money deadlines and school letting out simultaneously. We will be attempting to do some small fundraisers in the two months, but would also like to ask our church family if any of you are willing to donate to the young people going on this trip in general. The young people are willing to clean or do yard work for money. Or if you want to donate to the Brazil Trip as a whole, that would be amazing! You can mark it BRAZIL 2017 on your tithe envelope.

Thank you for always supporting our youth and young adults. If you have any questions or want to know who you can help sponsor...please feel free to email me at saramay@gardengrovesda.com

Hugs, Sara"



SERVICES TODAY

9:25am Service [Fellowship Hall]

Pastor Tony is back on for First Service, with the series from Psalms.
How should we respond to loss? Do we ignore it, pretend it didn't happen, or exchange the pain for future expectations? Join us this week for great music, food, and a teaching entitled "Cycles, Goodbyes, and Walking with Death."



11:30am Service [Sanctuary]

I have the homily in Second Service, which will also celebrate our Pathfinders—with their processional and pictures of all they have done and accomplished this year. We will line them up after church and give you a chance to go down the line giving them hugs and high fives. The research shows clearly that the #1 factor in young people staying with the church is giving them the KEYS to the church—literally and metaphorically. Tomorrow is a great chance for you to do just that!



2:00pm Adventurers Investiture [Fellowship Hall]

OC Grace/GGSDA Adventurer Club
Investiture 2017

Sabbath, May 20th
2:00pm Fellowship Hall

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

URGENT! READ THIS IF YOU WANT TO DRIVE TO GGSDA CHURCH NEXT SATURDAY, MAY 27!

Due to the Garden Grove Strawberry Festival, alternate routes to GGSDA / OC Grace must be taken on Saturday, May 27.

The only route into the GGSDA Church Neighborhood will be from Garden Grove Boulevard.

CLOSURES! (STAY AWAY FROM THESE ROUTES):

- 1) Chapman Ave. - From West Street to Nutwood Street
- 2) Euclid Street - From Orangewood Ave. to Garden Grove Blvd.
- 3) Ninth Street - From Orangewood to Lampson
- 4) Lampson Ave - From Ninth Street to Nelson Street

Below are the directions recommended by the Police Sergeant in charge of the day's traffic.

If you are coming from North or West of the church, use Katella to Harbor, then Harbor to Garden Grove Blvd, OR use the 22 freeway and exit Euclid.

Directions from Harbor / Garden Grove Blvd:

- Right on Garden Grove Blvd (From Harbor)
- Right on 8th Street (1 street past 9th Street)
- Right on Acacia
- Left on 9th Street

Directions from the 22 Freeway and Euclid:

- North on Euclid
- Right on Garden Grove Blvd
- Left on 8th Street
- Right on Acacia
- Left on 9th Street



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

* We have almost completed the transfer of our accounting records to new software, thanks mostly to Carmen Beltre.

* The Board has voted to upgrade the Kitchen, but first to replace the ripped and torn carpet in the Fellowship Hall! We will shortly get new bids for that carpet, and start the process of finding the \$25,000 to \$30,000 it should take to finish something many of us have wanted to do for a long time!

*A two-year Master Plan is being worked on to guide the church to new heights! We hope that the rains are about done and we can finally get to the construction of the basketball court!

*The whole new Inglewood stadium had to be postponed for a year because of 12 feet of water in their pit!

MISSION TRIP UPDATES

VIETNAM—

the \$40,500 given by one donor who listens in our services from 100 miles away has arrived in Vietnam, and the Mission has submitted a request for a permit to put in the cement parking lot, sidewalks, and Children's Wing for the 300-400 children in that church.

The \$2900 for the official shirts for all the 208 workers of the Mission was sent last week.

The Union over there responded to our request, and it looks like they will approve \$10,000 for the Danang Church that is desperately needed, to go with all of the other donors, including our Vietnamese Fellowship, that are supporting that project.

PHILIPPINES—

The money to complete the two churches on the islands where Pastor Ed worked should be onsite, and his sister can purchase the materials, load them on the boat, and get them over to the islands and finish those two churches, with two water tanks apiece, restrooms, tile and paint everywhere, and a generator for the island where there is no electricity.

For southern Philippines, money should go next week to complete the goat project, the water project for the college of technology, and the church that Art Morales and Joseph Duquesnel have been spearheading. Next week the rest of the funds should arrive to complete 3 other churches that we have been helping over the years, thanks to another outside donor. Also for a portable sound system and video projector for the Manila Center church where we were, where they are doing Church Planting constantly, but have no reliable sound system.

It's a happening place! God bless you all!

Pastor Dan