

March 30, 2017

Garden Grove Greetings

Garden Grove Church of the Nazarene

13411 Euclid Street Garden Grove CA 92843

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I DON'T BELONG HERE!

(Adapted from Dr. Ralph F. Wilson, a fictional account)

I don't belong here. I really don't. Paradise is the last place I expected to end up after all I've done. Let me tell you my story.

I am an armed robber. I made my living by violence. With others I would target easy 'marks' from caves along isolated stretches of roads. Usually weapons or the threat of a beating would do the trick. Sometimes I had to break a few bones but I don't think I ever killed anyone; I never stayed around long enough to know.

The first time I meet Jesus is when I am invited to a party in his honor in Jericho at the home of a tax collector named Zacchaeus. I am introduced, we shake hands, and Jesus looks me in the eye for a long moment. He can see right into me, who I am, every crime I have ever committed. Then he smiles this big friendly smile. "You know," he says, "there's forgiveness for you in my Kingdom. How about it?"

I drop my eyes, say something stupid and shuffle away. The next day I'm in the crowd, hanging on every word he says. Jesus is talking about his Kingdom, comparing it to a mustard seed, calling it the Kingdom of Heaven. I want that forgiveness thing, but I just

can't bring myself to do it. I wish I had.

It isn't much later when me, a friend and a few others get caught by a Roman patrol. The others run off, but they catch my friend and I, beat us silly, drag us into Jerusalem, and throw us in prison and we are headed for the ultimate punishment, crucifixion.

On that day they crucify me, my angry friend and Jesus. One of us on his left, the other on his right. This isn't any normal crucifixion. Mobs of people are there just because of Jesus. Some are swaggering and mocking. "If you're some kind of messiah," one sneers, "come on down from that cross. If you're a savior, save yourself — if you can!"

In a moment of quietness in that chaotic scene I say, "Jesus!" He turns his head towards me. "Jesus, I met you at a party at Zacchaeus' house. Remember?" He looks at me for a moment and then nods his head just a little.

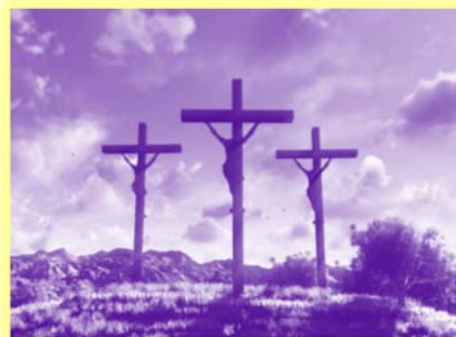
He is in bad shape — exhausted, in excruciating pain, and his breath labored. He isn't going to last long. But somehow I can see beyond all that. He was the Messiah, is the Messiah, no matter what others have done to him. And when he dies, he will be with God. He will reign in that Kingdom he told us about.

"Jesus," I call again, quieter now. He opens his eyes. They are the same eyes, the same piercing, loving, honest eyes. "Jesus," I say, "when you come into your Kingdom, would you remember me?"

His words are labored, "Truly, I say to you...." His voice cracks, then is stronger for a moment. "Truly, this very day you will be with me in Paradise." His eyes droop. He is fading quickly now. But I believe him. I do! That's what gets me through the upcoming, miserable hours. I do believe him!

And then I find myself here in heaven, in Paradise. I sure don't deserve to be here, but here I am anyway. I guess that's what a man like me gets when the King himself grants a pardon. Full forgiveness. I don't belong here...

Pastor Dan Keeton



VOTE IN OUR ANNUAL CHURCH ELECTIONS



The 2017 local church elections will be held on **April 9**. Cast your ballot before or after Worship Service.

As stated in the Manual of the Church of the Nazarene, only those who have officially joined the local church, Garden Grove Church of the Nazarene (GGNaz), and have reached their 15th birthday are eligible to vote in church elections.

We will be voting for our 2017-2018 Church Board, NMI Council, NMI President, NYI President, SDMI Chairperson as well as delegates to the 2017 NMI Convention (April 29 at Anaheim First Church) and the 2017 District Assembly (May 5 and 6 at Cerritos).

A Note for Nominees

If you received a nomination letter, it is imperative that you return all nomination cards with your response before Wednesday, April 5.

April Birthdays

Emma Guardado Ramos.....	01
Ernie Cameron	02
Matthew Salisbury	03
Aramie Faletoi	07
Jason Kindell	10
Pat McHargue	14
Mary Beth Gram	15
Jack Tisor	18
Maria Salisbury.....	19
Harley Newman	24
Veronica Hoskins	26
Esther Falealili.....	28
Danni Ruth	29
Amanda Buck.....	30
Curtis Craig	30

April Anniversaries

No April Anniversaries at GGNaz

We try to recognize all birthdays and anniversaries of current GGNaz attendees. If we did not include your March birthday or anniversary, please contact me at the church office so I can update our database.

- Debbie Kindell,
GGNaz Office Manager

INVITE FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO HOLY WEEK AT GGNaz

Attend Palm Sunday Service April 9 at 10:00 A.M.

Palm Sunday celebrates Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. It is known as Palm Sunday because crowds waved palm branches as they followed Jesus' procession into Jerusalem. This marks the beginning of Holy Week.

Come to Our Prayer & "Not Fasting" Potluck

On **Wednesday, April 12** everyone bring food to share and Potluck like you mean it! This is for all ages! Dinner begins at 6:00 p.m. followed by a time of Prayer and Reflection at 7:00 p.m.

Join Us for Good Friday April 14—Service at 7:00 P.M.

Good Friday is commemorated because the date marks the crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary.

This is a meaningful time of worship, as we are reminded that it is God who made Good Friday

good by turning history's darkest day into the greatest blessing possible!

Eat Breakfast and Worship Celebrating Easter April 16

Our annual Pancake Breakfast begins at 8:15 a.m.—ends at 9:30. pancakes, fresh strawberries, sausage and beverages.

There is no charge for breakfast but donations are gladly accepted to help defray the cost of the food.

NOTE: There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday!

Hear the Message of Easter 10:00 A.M.

We continue our Easter Celebration with special music and our Children's Choir. Pastor Dan will deliver his Easter Message.



CHURCH BOARD MEETING



Attention Board Members

The regular monthly meeting of the Church Board will be on Tuesday, April 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. Call the office before 3:00 p.m. that day if you cannot attend.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

She'd come to the tomb early that morning. Before the sun was up. Before anyone knew the Son was up. She found the tomb to be empty except for some angels she mistook for grave robbers. She told them that she would retrieve the body if they would disclose the location. That's when Jesus spoke her name. "Mary."

When she heard the voice she knew the source. "She turned and said to Him, 'Rabboni!' (which is to say, Teacher)" (John 20: 16 NKJV). In a second. In a pivot of the neck. In the amount of time it took to rotate her head from this way to that, her world went from dead Jesus to a living one.

To her! Of all the people to whom he could have spoken, he went first to her. He'd just ripped the gates off of the hing-

es of hell. He'd just yanked the fangs out of Satan's mouth. He'd just turned BC into AD. Jesus was the undisputed King of the universe. Ten thousand angels stood in rapt attention ready to serve. And what was his first act? To whom did he go? To Mary; the weeping, heartbroken woman who once had seven demons.

Why? Why her? Why did Jesus create this moment for Mary Magdalene? I can't help but think it was to prove this promise: "Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning" (Psalm 30:5 NLT). Joy comes because Jesus comes. If we don't recognize his face, he will call our names. "See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands." (Isaiah 49:16 NIV). God loves you and because he does, joy will come.—Max Lucado

Come to Sunday School

Sunday mornings at 9:00 Donna Alves teaches K-Grade 2; Pastor Pat teaches Grades 3-6 in her office until the work upstairs is finished.

Look at Our Special Events!

April 23 ✦ Imaginology

Full STEAM ahead for OC Fair Imaginology featuring family-friendly STEAM related exhibits and hands-on activities for all ages. *STEAM: acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math.

Admission is free but parking is \$8 per car. We will go immediately after church that Sunday morning. Contact Pastor Pat for more information.

District Kids Kamp

July 17-21—Mark Your Calendar

More details coming soon.

Pastor Pat,
Children's Pastor



YOUTH MINISTRIES

April is a time when things are renewed. Flowers bloom, grass grows, and the sun gets warm. As we approach Easter, we also focus on our relationship with God, think about all that was given on our behalf, and refocus on our relationship with him. As we start the busy vacation season, make sure you are refocusing and being renewed by God. It's the most refreshing thing you can do for yourself!

This is a busy month for the youth department. We are starting the month with an **all-nighter** (yes, I am crazy). It will start on **April 7** at 7:00

p.m. and end on the 8th at 6:00 a.m. The cost for the all-nighter is \$10. To make sure they are fully awake, **Collide** is Sunday **April 9**. We will be leaving the church at 3:30 p.m. as the event will take place in Ontario. We will be back to the church by 8:45 p.m. Collide kicks off Holy Week. The youth will be taking part in the **church potluck** Wednesday night **April 12**, so everyone should come nice and hungry. Honestly, we're Nazarenes, potlucks are as necessary as breathing. There will be no Sunday School Easter Sunday (16th) as we will be consuming more food as a church family.

On **Memorial Day Weekend** in May we have a regional event at PLNU called **Elev8**. It is a time of competition, spiritual growth, and bonding (did I mention it's at PLNU so we do all this with an ocean view). The cost is \$150 and **I need to know who would like to go, along with a sport they want to play – if any – by April 22**. Available sports are: football, basketball, ultimate Frisbee, and dodgeball. There are also individual events if that is preferred, those are: art, music performance, and preaching. Come talk to me if your teenager is interested.

~ Pastor Krystal
Youth (Teens) Pastor



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Through my resurrection from the dead, you have new birth into a living hope. My work in you is all about "newness." Because you belong to Me, you're a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! Your adoption into My royal family occurred instantaneously, at the moment you first trusted Me as Savior. At that instant, your spiritual status changed from death to life – eternal Life. You have an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade - kept in heaven for you.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, for and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you.

1 Peter 1:3-4

- Jesus Always, Sarah Young

Get Your Tickets for Our Annual Ladies' Luncheon

"I am anchored in Jesus, anchored in His love."

We are going on a "Cruise to Hawaii" and hope that you will join us; Saturday, May 20, 2017. This event will be held at GGNaz. Mark your calendar, tickets go on sale April 9. Ticket prices: age 5-12 \$10, age13 and up \$17.

We are accepting donations for door prizes. Please see me if you have questions about donations or the luncheon.

Attention Server Invites

If you received an invite to be a Server at our luncheon, please

turn in your response card to Michelle Ruth or the church office by April 2.

Remember Secret Pals

Please keep your Secret Pal in your prayers and thoughts and remember that the reveal is on May 20 at the luncheon.

Join Our Book Club

Saturday, June 17 is our next meeting. Our meetings are at 11:00 a.m. Current book is *Every Waking Moment* by Chris Fabry: "Treha is a mysterious young woman who has fallen through the cracks, like many of the elderly people she works with at Desert

Gardens Retirement Home. But Miriam Howard, director of the facility, sees her extraordinary gift and untapped potential. Treha is a whisperer of sorts, calling those who have slipped into dementia back to a life of vibrant, if only temporary, clarity.

When Treha's and Miriam's stories intertwine, Treha's gift is uncovered, and the search begins for answers to the mysteries of her past. As their paths converge, each person is forced to face the same difficult question: What if this is as good as my life gets?"

Thanks,
Michelle Ruth,
Women's Ministries President

STAFF AND MINISTRY LEADERS

- Rev. Dan Keeton.....Lead Pastor
(pastordan@ggnaz.org)
- Pastor Tony FalealiliThe Huddle Pastor
- Samir Ibrahim Interim Arabic Pastor
- Rev. Noé GuevaraHispanic Pastor
- Rev. Krystal Wigginton..... Youth Ministries
(kawigginton@yahoo.com)
- Pat McHargueChildren's Ministries
(pat4kids@ggnaz.org)
- Debbie Kindell..... Office Manager
(church-office@ggnaz.org)
- Michelle Ruth Women's Ministries
.....and Worship Ministries
(women@ggnaz.org)
- Deborah Johnson..... NMI (Missions)
- Chrisanne Sternin Sunday School Ministries
(chrisanne.sternin@ca.rr.com)
- Heart to Heart Ministries*
- Blanca Craig blancarosamft@gmail.com*
- Delores Kelley..... GRANNYDEE1@cox.net*



NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL (NMI)

My Dear Church Family,

This is my last post to you as your NMI President. It has been a blessing to serve you in this capacity. Stepping down from the presidency does not mean I will step away from missions, for I believe it is at the heart of our churches, reaching our communities and the world with the precious message of Jesus Christ. Thank you so much for your trust and confidence these last several years. I look forward to what lies ahead. God is good and He has great things in store for those who trust in Him.

Lunches for the Homeless

A reminder to those who are interested: our next Friday Lunches for the Homeless is **April 7**. Meet at the church at **9:30 a.m.** to assemble the lunches. This time we're including an Easter gift from our older children. At 11:00 we will head out to deliver them. Come if your are able and be a part of this gratifying outreach.

Who Loves Ice Cream?

This year, our Ice Cream Social will be on **April 23 at 5:00 p.m.** This is our way of saying thank you for your participation in missions throughout the year with a special thank you to our Missionary Book Readers. For every book read you receive a free scoop of ice cream or topping. For those who have read all four books this year—everything is free! You still have time to read some or all of these books. Come whether or not you have

read our NMI books. Ice cream and toppings are only 25¢ per scoop. We will also have hot dogs and nachos available for \$1 each. This is a lot of fun and I hope to see you there.

NOTE: Those who have books out, please finish reading them and return them so others may have a chance to read them.

World Missions Broadcast Reaching Our World

Our **District Missions Conventions** are **Saturday, April 29** at Anaheim First Church. Brian Utter, our Global Coordinator for World Missions Broadcast will be speaking about this exciting way our church is reaching our world. Everyone can attend, listen, and be inspired, however only delegates can participate in voting.

Chick-fil-A will be catering lunch at a cost of \$10 per person. *Chick-fil-A cooks in peanut oil.* Reservations required.

Childcare available for ages 0 – 3 years old. \$5 for the day. Must be preregistered.

Children's Convention: Ages 4 yrs.—grade 6. Children will explore missions through activities, songs and missionary speaker. Must be preregistered. Cost: \$5 includes snacks and supplies – LUNCH NOT INCLUDED. Parent or Guardian MUST pick children up for lunch.

A Call to Prayer

Lastly, I send you all a call to prayer. Prayer is Gods empowering strength, His protection and His solace. Prayer is God's forward guard as we march forward in His will.

Please remember to pray for our missionaries and fellow Christians around the world who are being persecuted for Christ's sake, our church and our communities, especially our pastors and church leaders.

I thank God for my every thought of you my friends and church family.

In His Love,
Deborah Johnson,
NMI President 2011-2016



OUR REGULAR SCHEDULE

Sunday

Sunday School9:00 a.m.
Hispanic study.....9:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
Hispanic Worship 10:00 a.m.
Arabic Worship..... 12:00 noon
The Huddle study4:30 p.m.
Huddle Worship5:00 p.m.

Monday

Academia Bíblica6:00 p.m.

Tuesday

Hispanic prayer7:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Adult Bible study7:00 p.m.
Huddle Bible study7:00 p.m.
Teen Bible study7:00 p.m.
Worship music7:00 p.m.

Thursday

Academia Bíblica6:00 p.m.

Friday

Hispanic study.....7:00 p.m.

Saturday

Huddle rehearsal 10:30 a.m.

(If not specified, these times apply to our original English language congregation.)

APRIL 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
						1.	
2. Arabic Feast (After their Worship) The Huddle Worship 4:00 PM	3.	4.	5.	6.	7. Lunches for Homeless 9:30 AM Youth All-Nighter 7:00 PM	8.	
9. PALM SUNDAY Annual Church Elections Collide 3:30 PM	10.	11. Church Board Meeting 7:00 PM	12. Potluck 6:00 PM Prayer & Reflection 7:00 PM	13.	14. GOOD FRIDAY Good Friday Service Sanctuary 7:00 PM Hispanic Revival Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM	15. Easter Breakfast Set-up 9:00 AM Hispanic Revival Sanctuary 7:00 PM	
16. EASTER Breakfast Begins 8:15 AM Celebration Service 10:00 AM Hispanic Revival 7:00 PM	17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22. The Huddle Prayer 7:00 AM RSVP's for Elev8 due to Pastor Krystal	
23. Imaginology at OC Fairgrounds (after church) NMI Ice Cream Social 5:00 PM	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	
30.			<div style="background-color: #4b0082; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> This calendar reflects special events for the month as well as <u>new</u> studies, group meetings, or services. </div>				