

GGNaz News



DREAD FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

I was having lunch with a young pastor from another church and he was feeling a sense of dread for the upcoming Christmas season. He confessed his dread to me like he was confessing some terrible sin or crime. I listened intently and still enjoyed my food; (apparently by the shape of me, I typically enjoy food!) He just wasn't excited about it and was pretty convinced that as a minister he should be filled with overwhelming joy and there must be something spiritually wrong with him.

So I asked my friend a simple question when he finally took a breath, "What specifically are you dreading?" A grocery list of events, responsibilities, travel obligations and commitments came gushing out of his mouth, faster than food was going into mine.

His list contained typical concerns like finances, family gatherings, a crowded church, personal schedule and concern over making this Christmas season fresh. To top it off, it was all layered on top of taking care of a young family. He was disappointed that, "This year I just can't seem to power through it like I have in the past."

When my friend had talked him-

self out, I did what I did best. I chuckled; and unfortunately my "chuckles" are louder than most and to my friend it sounded like hysterical laughter. After an "I pour my heart out to you and you laugh" glare, I finally shared my thoughts.

"Friend, you don't have a spiritual problem; you have an ordinary life problem. There's nothing wrong with you! In fact, you could make some phone calls this afternoon and find out a number of your church members, friends, family and yes – even your fellow pastors feel a lot like you. The very fact that you're so concerned is evidence to me that this is not a spiritual issue."

I opined on, "How many Mary and Joseph sermons could you possibly have? How do you preach the Magi and their gifts with passion? What fresh insight do you have about the shepherds and their angelic sighting? How many more wild ideas do you have for a fellowship event, evangelistic event or 'Christmas Spectacular'? I think your problem is, you're human."

I concluded with a simple, "I don't need to preach to you, because you already know this. All the 'stuff' is decoration. The mes-

sage is God sending his only Son, Himself, to us is the greatest miracle of history and the changer of countless eternities."

In response my friend simply said, "I knew that, I've told myself that and I guess I just needed some other knucklehead to tell me again." He came to the right place! We laughed and strategized life and ministry survival skills together.

In your current state of being over or underwhelmed this month, remember Jesus is the greatest gift you can receive or celebrate again. He Is the Promise Fulfilled. Love keeps its promises. God chose to enter our mess, chaos, brokenness, joys and sorrows so we could enter into a complete relationship with him. Don't let anything keep you from that.

Who needs Christmas? We do....

Pastor Dan

Pastor Dan



CHURCH BOARD AND NMI

The next meeting for the Church Board is scheduled for January. If you are on the NMI Council, check with Teresa to find out when your next meeting will be. Enjoy the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Holiday SCHEDULE

Garden Grove Church of the Nazarene (GGNaz) invites you, your family and friends to join us this holiday season for the following special events!



Who Needs Christmas — December 3, December 17, and December 24 at 10:15 a.m.

This Christmas series will be delivered by our Lead Pastor, Dan Keeton. “The details of the Christmas story can seem unbelievable. So now, thousands of years after shepherds watched their flocks and wise men followed a star, you may be asking, *Who needs Christmas?* Well, as it turns out, we all do—but maybe not for the reason you think.” - Andy Stanley

Baby Jesus We Love You — December 3

Presented by our Children’s Choir on Sunday, December 3 as part of the 10:15 a.m. Worship Service.

Magnify—A Soulful Christmas Celebration — December 10 at 10:15 a.m.

Presented by the GGNaz combined congregations Adult Choir under the direction of Michelle Ruth.

GGNaz Congregation Dinner — Wednesday, December 20 at 6:00 PM

Please RSVP to the church office how many of your family, including yourself will be attending. Suggested donation \$6 (the church will cover the remaining cost).

New Year’s Eve Friends and Family Communion — December 31, 5:30—7:00 PM

This is a drop-in service. Start the new year by taking Communion with family, friends or by yourself. What a great example to family and friends of your commitment to live for Jesus Christ.



CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES

Come to Sunday School

Join us for Sunday School Sunday, Sunday mornings at 9:00. Donna Alves teaches the younger set, K-Grade 2; she also teaches the preschoolers during church time. I teach Grades 3-6 in the upstairs Children’s Department rooms.

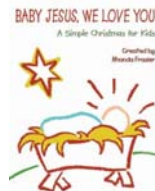
Join Us for Children’s Church

All kids will be in the Sanctuary for the music portion of the Worship Service. After our special Powerpoint slide is shown, we will walk quietly and meet in the hallway by the glass doors. Miss Donna and Michelle H. will take the kids grade 1 and under. The older children (grades 2 and up) will meet me in the upstairs Children’s Department rooms.

Special Note: December 10 and December 24 will be family services (no Children’s Church). Child care will be available for age kindergarten and under.

Hear Our GGNaz Kids Choir

GGNaz Kids Choir will present *Baby Jesus, We Love You* on Sunday, **December 3 at 10:00 a.m.** Join us in singing and praising God, just like the angels, as we rejoice in the birth of the newborn King. Kids, be here at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday for a final microphone check and a quick rehearsal!



Pebbles in the Pond

“I’ve enjoyed dropping pebbles into ponds since childhood. And when I discovered that pebbles also skip across the water, the fun reached a whole new level. Whenever I’m near a creek, pond, or lake, it’s my natural inclination to reach down and pick up a pebble. I’ll toss the pebbles and watch them fly into the water. The original impact of the pebble hitting the water spreads far across

its surface. As the father of two sons, I now have plenty of help tossing pebbles. Anytime we’re near water, pebbles skip and water ripples. As much as I enjoy dropping pebbles into the water, I’ve found something I enjoy more – dropping the truths of God’s Word into kids’ lives. Just like a pebble splashes into water and creates ripples, God’s Word impacts children’s lives and creates spiritual ripples that last forever.” - Dale Hudson

“A child will be born to us. God will give a son to us. He will be responsible for leading the people. His name will be Wonderful Counselor, Powerful God, Father Who Lives Forever, Prince of Peace.” - Isaiah 9:6, International Children’s Bible

- Pastor Pat McHargue,
Children’s Ministries



YOUTH MINISTRIES



It seems yesterday we were experiencing the heat of summer (and I don't mean Thanksgiving Day!), and now we are in December. The holiday season is my favorite. It not only reminds me to be thankful for all God has given me, but it just seems to make everyone nicer. I like being around nice people far better than cranky people. Then there is the music... I love Christmas music. Finally, the cookies. Christmas cookies are the best! When Christmas comes around I tend to remind myself what Paul says in 1 Timothy 1:15-17:

"Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and re-

ceive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen."

God shows us mercy and patience far more than we deserve. I know I fall short in showing mercy and patience to others. May we be different this year. Join with me in extending mercy and patience to others like Christ first did for us.

December starts with **Collide** ... ugly sweater style. This is a free event put on by the District NYI. It is on Sunday, **December 3** at Cerritos. We will be leaving GGNaz promptly at **4:00 p.m.** There will be food, fun, prizes, devotions, and bonding. All while wearing an ugly sweater. I know the calendar I put out says we are having a Christmas party on December 16, however, that date has changed. We are blowing that event up, joining with at least one other youth

group, and turning it into an **All-nighter** for our group. It will now be happening on the **29th**. It will be epic. Look out for more details in the coming weeks.

Just around the corner is our District Winter Camp. I emailed forms to everyone, but if you need another, please let me know. This will be a great event for students to attend. The church is covering half of the cost, so it is only \$90. However, I don't want that to deter you from sending your teenager. If you can't swing that, please speak to me, I will find a way to get your student there. We have a cap on participants for Winter Camp this year, and the number is 50. So, please get forms to me ASAP, or talk to me about how to get your student there.

Merry Christmas and may the God of grace, mercy, and patience shine upon you this season.

- Pastor Krystal Wigginton,
GGNaz Youth Pastor



(Nazarene Youth International)



NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL (NMI)

NAZARENE COMPASSIONATE MINISTRIES (NMC) CHRISTMAS PROJECT

"Imagine you are a child. Now, imagine what it would be like if your family had to flee from your home in the middle of the night because of violence or persecution. You're shocked, frightened, vulnerable."

This year's NCM Christmas Project is focusing on the needs of children who have been uprooted from their homes because of violence and conflict. By providing children with basic needs such as food, shelter, safe water, blankets and education, we can help ensure they have a hope for a better tomorrow. Care and compassion in the name of Jesus

tells these children they are not forgotten.

At GGNaz, your NMI Council is participating in this project two ways.

On **December 3**, after the children's Christmas program, there will be **Christmas cookies and cupcakes**, as well as gingerbread men for children to decorate and take home.

Our annual **Christmas Post** will also **begin on December 3** through the month of December. Simply bring your Christmas cards to the NMI Christmas "Post Office" and we will deliver them to your church family.

Your donations of any size to the bake sale and/or the Christmas Post will go directly to this year's

NCM Christmas project.

<http://www.ncm.org/christmas.html>

We are Making Crisis Care Kits

Thank you for your tremendous generosity towards our crisis care kits! We will be delivering boxes to the NMI Brunch in January.

See the Missions Cart for a list of supplies still needed. Marie Perez, our District NMI



President, informs us the shelves for Crisis Care Kits are empty! GGNaz wants to help refill these shelves — sharing God's love with people in times of disaster.

God is on the Move!

- Teresa Stauffer
GGNaz NMI President



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

"For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." - Isaiah 9:6

Christmas time is here and with all the hustle and bustle of buying presents, finding the perfect Christmas tree and working diligently at completing our tasks at work, we sometimes forget the reason for the season. On one special night many, many years ago a child was born to Mary who would become our Savior. This child would be born in a manger wrapped in swaddling clothes and He would be called Jesus. There are many people in this world who do not know Him and as Christians it is our job to tell them about our awesome Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. So during this time of hustle and bustle I invite and encourage you to tell your friends, family, neighbors and people you meet about the reason we cele-

brate the season, "the birth of Jesus Christ."

Attention Secret Pals

As the year is wrapping up please remember to gift your Secret Pal with a small gift of love for Christmas. If you have questions, etc. please feel free to contact me...

December Book Club Meeting

There is still time to read the book, *The Innkeeper of Ivy Hill*, before the December 16 luncheon. It will be at 11:00 a.m. in the GGNaz fellowship hall. Lunch will be finger foods, please check with me.

Also, we are having an ornament exchange.

Register for the Anaheim District Women's Retreat

Dates for this event are February 9-11, 2018. It will be held at the Murrieta Hot Springs Christian Conference Center. Cost \$199 per woman. Those registered by

today get a free retreat T-shirt. You can register at: www.adnazwm.com

Worship Ministries

Our Combined Congregations Adult Choir Christmas Program

Our Combined Congregational Choir will be presenting: "Magnify – A Soulful Christmas,"



on December 10 at GGNaz at 10:15 a.m. Please tell friends and family. The story of the birth of Jesus Christ put to music — what a great way to share the Gospel.

Thanks,

- Michelle D Ruth,
GGNaz Director of Women's Ministries and Worship Leader

*May all your days be merry and bright
with the light of God's love.*

*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year 2018*

*From Your GGNaz Pastoral, Ministry and Office Staff;
Pastor Dan, Pastor Krystal, Pastor Pat, Michelle Ruth,
Teresa Stauffer and Debbie Kindell*



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Brenda Courtright	03
Steve Iliff	05
Michelle Higi	15
Carolyn Faulkner-Cazier	21
Joan Bassett	22
Genesis Gandia Bagalay	22
Kalianne Gandia Bagalay	22
Harold Gardner	24
Justin Hilton	28
Autumn Jnes	31

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Ray & Carolyn Wagner	11
Dennis & Donna Harmon	12
David & Delores Kelley	19
Gerald & Linda Schubert	19

Please inform the church office if we missed your birthday or anniversary.



STAFF AND MINISTRY LEADERS

Rev. Dan Keeton	Lead Pastor (pastordan@ggnaz.org)
Rev. Krystal Wigginton ...	Associate Pastor (kawigginton@yahoo.com)
Pastor Tai Asoau	The Huddle's Interim Pastor
.....	Arabic Pastor
Rev. Noé Guevara	Hispanic Pastor
Pat McHargue	Children's Ministries(pat4kids@ggnaz.org)
Debbie Kindell	Office Manager (church-office@ggnaz.org)
Michelle Ruth	Women's Ministries and Worship Ministries (women@ggnaz.org)
Teresa Stauffer	NMI/Missions (teresa.stauffer@verizon.net)
Chrisanne Sternin	SDMI (chrisanne.sternin@ca.rr.com)
Robert McHargue	Church Board Officer/Secretary
Steve Iliff	Church Board Officer/Treasurer

Heart to Heart Ministries

Blanca Craig	blancarosamft@gmail.com
Delores Kelley	GRANNYDEE1@cox.net

BAPTISM SERVICE CHRISTMAS EVE



Here is another wonderful way to profess your love of Christ. Pastor Dan will be having a baptism as part of the December 24 service. If you would like to be baptized, please contact the church office as soon as possible so we can add your name to the list of baptism candidates.

"ON HOLD" FOR THE HOLIDAYS

During the Christmas season some of our regular scheduling is put on hold so you can have more time to spend with your family and friends, or just have time to catch your breath. Here are the changes for this year:

Sunday, December 24	No Sunday School
Wednesday, December 27	No Bible Study
December 25—27	The church office will be closed.
January 1—2	The church office will be closed.

Our church schedule will return to normal on Wednesday, January 3 beginning with our Bible studies at 7:00 p.m.

OUR REGULAR

Sunday

Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
Hispanic study	9:00 a.m.
Morning Worship	10:15 a.m.
Hispanic Worship	10:15 a.m.
Arabic Worship	12:00 noon
Huddle Worship	3:00 p.m.

Monday

Academia Bíblica	6:00 p.m.
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Tuesday

Hispanic prayer	7:30 p.m.
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Wednesday

Adult Bible study	7:00 p.m.
Huddle Bible study	7:00 p.m.
Teen Bible study	7:00 p.m.

Thursday

Academia Bíblica	6:00 p.m.
Worship music	7:00 p.m.

Friday

Hispanic study	7:00 p.m.
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Saturday

Huddle Prayer	7:00 a.m.
Huddle rehearsal	10:30 a.m.

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



DECEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1. Lunch for Homeless 9:30 AM Book of John Study 7:00 PM	2.
3. Baby Jesus + Who Needs Christmas 10:15 AM COLLIDE 4:00 PM Choir Rehearsal with Party 4:00 PM	4.	5. Tech Rehearsal 6:30 PM	6.	7. Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM	8. Hispanic Anniversary Fellowship Book of John Study 7:00 PM	9.
10. MAGNIFY 10:15 AM	11.	12.	13.	14.	15. Book of John Study 7:00 PM	16. Women's Book Club 11:00 AM Hispanic Watch Night 8:00 PM
17. Who Needs Christmas 10:15 AM	18.	19.	20. Congregational Dinner 6:00 PM	21.	22. Book of John Study 7:00 PM	23.
24. CHRISTMAS EVE (No Sunday school Who Needs Christmas + Baptism Service 10:15 AM	25. CHRISTMAS	26.	27. No Bible Study	28.	29. Youth All-Nighter (Details to come)	30.
31. NEW YEAR'S EVE	1. NEW YEAR'S DAY	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.

This calendar reflects special events for the month as well as new studies, group meetings, or services.