

# YUCAIPA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

1ST QUARTER 2014  
VOLUME 11 ISSUE 1

## PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor Elijah Grekov 909-795-6965  
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*By Elijah Grekov*

*"...Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.  
...A Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11*

Christmas is here! Neighborhoods decorated with lights, and the changing weather put some level of excitement in the air. Children are coming home, families have a good reason to gather, and once again we are reminded where our precious gift of life comes from. It also means another year is gone. Life keeps us busy with so many projects that still need to be completed. But I hope that looking back you'll be able to see at least some accomplishments and those good intentions that actually made a difference in yours and someone else's life. Whatever changes you went through, as said by Phil Cousineau, *"Rejoice that you have come so far."*

For some of you this Christmas Season might not seem as joyful with the hardships you are going through, dealing with sickness, or even realize that your loved ones are no longer with you to celebrate. Sometimes life can feel overwhelming. When life becomes difficult and stays difficult it's hard to keep courage that God will see you through these hard times. Still, remember: with each step you take, God is beside you to rejoice in your happiness and light your way in times of darkness. I wish for God's gentle comfort to tenderly embrace you, bringing quiet peace to your heart, and restoring your hope and strength in the coming days. He promised, "As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you." Isaiah 66:13 (NIV)

Using this opportunity, I express my appreciation for your vote of confidence demonstrated in extending the invitation for me to serve this congregation as Senior Pastor. Yucaipa Church has a permanent place in this Community, providing by God's Grace and through members willing to serve, programs that benefit many. In addition to the traditional Worship Service that is offered in the main Sanctuary, some members are blessed by our alternative Worship experience at Cross Connection. Coordinated by Yvonne and Bill Wren, Children's Church ministers to our young ones at their own level. Our "Better Living" health programs, presented by Elder Gary and Donalea Strunk, Dr. Christine Neish, Vera Miller and other qualified speakers, are well received in the community, producing life-changing results. A number of members of the community enjoy the hot meals provided by Jennifer and Jason Lidar through the ministry of Helping Hands.

*Continued on Page 2...*

The Young Adults are enjoying the leadership of Pastor Bill Hunt. Our younger divisions' classrooms just underwent a "facelift" to look more attractive to our children. Everett Garnick and the Pathfinders are preparing for one of their most exciting events - the International Pathfinder Camporee which will take place in the summer of 2014. And the Adventure Club is flourishing under the direction of Robert and Dorcas Usery.

I would like you to consider any of the above mentioned programs, and other Ministries that this church offers to you and your family as free benefits that come with your membership. These benefits are even extended to your friends and acquaintances. Please, feel free to offer them to any of those you come in contact with,—that's what we are here for. Thank you for so many years of your faithful support of God's Ministry through this church.

There is still a lot to do. I would like to encourage you to look for opportunities to get involved in active ministry of this church. There is room for everybody! Your ideas are appreciated and your help makes a difference.

This year's Christmas offering is dedicated to the Audio/Visual improvement of the Fellowship Hall, which is used as a Community Outreach Center and for many other events of this church. It is something that all of us will benefit from, including our community at large. You can mail your donations at your convenience or bring them in to place them on a Christmas tree in person at our Christmas program Sabbath, December 21. The Sanctuary is beautifully decorated by Elizabeth and Ralph De La Ossa and Cindy and Joe Wilkinson. Come and let your heart be filled with peace that comes with the experience of God's presence among His people. Please take into consideration that in order to receive a tax deductible receipt for this year, donations need to be recorded before midnight of December 31.

I hope this letter will not get lost among so many other letters that we all receive around this time of year. I don't have to convince you of God's abundant generosity promised to those who share His blessings with others, contributing our resources to the right cause. Allow God to speak to your heart. Keep your eyes upon Jesus. Be sensitive to the voice of the Holy Spirit and to the needs of your fellow brothers and sisters. Remember, God is on your side,—He cares about you.

*"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!..." 1 John 3:1 (NIV)*

**Have a very Merry Christmas  
& a truly Happy New Year!**

*Pictures are from the church directory, Google or as submitted. See the current church bulletin and inserts or visit the church website at [www.yucaipasda.com](http://www.yucaipasda.com) for updated calendar events, announcements and news.*

**YOUNG ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL**

Between the ages of 18 and 35-ish? Join us each Sabbath morning at 9:30 am for lesson study and fellowship in the former music room.

## POSITIONS THAT NEED TO BE FILLED

We are in need of 2 or 3 people who would like to work with our Youth Sabbath School. Please contact Pastor Elijah if you are willing to help 1 or 2 times a month.

Cross Connection also needs 2 or 3 people. Please contact Pastor Bill if you are interested in helping.

We also are looking for 2 people to help in the Junior Department and 1 more in the Primary Department. Please contact Yvonne Wren if you are willing to help out 1 time a month.

## CHURCH WEBSITE

Now is the time to visit the church website at  
[www.yucaipasda.com](http://www.yucaipasda.com)

The church website is constantly updated with activities, news and bulletins. Now, audio of the sermons are available. Check out the Ministries tab as well to get a peek at the various areas our church is meeting the needs of members and the community.

You are welcome to give your donations online by debit card or transfer from your checking account. Sign in on our website to give your tithe and offerings this way. Contact Linda Hill with any questions.



## INTERNET PRAYER TEAM

The Yucaipa SDA Church Internet prayer team is willing to pray for both short and long term requests. If you ever have a request or a praise, please place it in the prayer request box in the church foyer, or e-mail it directly to Deanne Joseph [dgjoseph400@yahoo.com](mailto:dgjoseph400@yahoo.com). Note that that all requests are handled confidentially. On all requests, please keep Deanne updated on any progress, changes, and answers to prayer.

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

*By the Pastoral Staff*

Jesus said, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." He also said, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." (Matt 4:19; 9:37-38)

Here at the Yucaipa SDA Church, this is what we need. Not only do we need more laborers but we need more laborers who can be trained to be able to fish for the souls of those around us more effectively. Because of this necessity, the staff would like to implement a leadership training/fellowship dinner on a regular basis for those who are both in leadership positions already and those who may be considering serving the Lord in a larger capacity within the near future.

Beginning January 25, 2014 at 5:30-7pm in the Fellowship Hall, the Yucaipa SDA Church Staff will be hosting a training of our leadership to be more effective in all areas of ministry. From the teachers of our children's Sabbath School divisions to our leadership within our visiting Elders as well as all ministries in between, we will be building up our leaders with all the inspired wisdom the Lord has imparted to His people. We want to see our church minister more successfully and grow mightily in the Lord. So, please mark your calendars to be at this training/fellowship dinner. Attendance is highly recommended for all currently in leadership positions and will also benefit all others wanting to serve the Lord more efficiently in 2014. May we prepare a people to be able to stand for Jesus at His return. "Even so, Come Lord Jesus!" (Rev 22:20)

## LETTER FROM THE TREASURER

*By Linda Hill* We are almost to the end of the year. As of the end of November we were \$10,831.52 short of making our budget through November. In most of our preceding years we have been able to make December budget and make up the shortfall of the year.

I would like you to remember what special projects you have made it possible to complete with your giving. We have paid off what has been spent so far on our Audio/Visual Project in the sanctuary for this year of \$9,368. Then 2 of our Sabbath School Rooms got new lighting for \$1,215.17. New carpet was put into 3 of our Sabbath School Rooms for \$7,500. Our tuition aid bill for 2013 was \$27,424.69 through November. We spent \$5,729.52 on repairing the roof over the Sabbath School Rooms. We had Terminix come out to fumigate for subterranean termites at \$3,105.

And of course these bills would have been much much higher without all the volunteer labor that was given to make these projects happen. I would like to thank a few who have put in a large number of hours: George Tudose, Karen Clements, Rick Martinez, Art Burkholder, Dallas Bobst, John Decker, Ralph De la Ossa, George Groth and grandson, Mike Klein, Chuck Allgaier, Mike Burton, and Daniel Rotaru. Your special talents are very much appreciated.

Then there are our regular bills like salaries, contracts, supplies, utilities, and ministries. Just a few of the larger ones are: our Church School Subsidy each year is \$40,000, our largest utility bill is for electricity that ran \$13,861.51 for 11 months and insurance is almost \$11,000. It takes each of us in our church to make it possible to pay all our bills. I have been a very fortunate treasurer with members who give to the church budget and make it possible to pay bills each month. Not all treasurers in our conference have been able to say the same. THANK YOU. Also very important are all our leaders of departments who keep their costs down. A very big THANK YOU TO YOU!!!!!!

This next year the church board approved keeping our total budget the same at \$14,000 each month. We have reworked a few of the numbers but were able to keep the same total. I believe that we can and will make this possible in 2014.

## PRAYER MINISTRY CORNER

*By Vera Miller, Prayer Coordinator*

Have you ever wondered whether your prayers for friends and relatives to come to Christ are effective? Perhaps you have questioned whether God has heard. Intercessory prayer seems to be the most difficult type of prayer. It's far easier to pray for our own concerns. How can we pray more specifically for people to find the Lord? God has promised that if we abide in him and His word in us he will answer (John 15:7), also that if we ask anything according to His will He will hear and answer. (1 Jn 5: 14,15).

In his book 'How to Develop a Powerful Prayer Life' Gregory Frizzell suggests that specific biblical prayers have greater power with God.

Personally I found his suggestions for specific intercessory prayers for the lost or backslidden to be very helpful and would like to share these with you.

Here are his suggestions about praying for the lost:

Lord, pour out Your Spirit upon (name of person) and:

- Convict him (/her) of his sin and separation from You. John 16:8
- Reveal to him who You are and what Christ has done for him.
- Open the eyes of his understanding. Ephesians 1:18 Remove the spiritual blindness. 2 Corinthians 4:4
- Draw him to Yourself in a powerful fashion John 6:44
- Bind Satan from him. Guard him from Satan stealing Your Word from him (Matthew 12:19)
- Pray for grace and mercy to surround him.
- Help me to be willing and anxious to be the means by which You save and deliver him. Lord, show me how to lead him to Christ.
- Send people across his path to bring him a witness of Christ.

These are ideas that can be adapted to suit your needs. Praying God's word back to Him has power. Why don't you make a list of five names and pray for them in this way? Let's see what miracles the Lord will do. God bless you in your prayer journey.

## DREAMS

By Brianna Wren

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” (Eleanor Roosevelt). Dreams. We all have them. As children we might have dreamed of being princesses and meeting our prince charming and living happily ever after. As young adults we might dream about becoming the most popular girl in the class, or finding a special someone to experience all the excitement of dating with. As adults we might dream of making enough money to travel the world. And as we grow to become elderly, we might dream and reminisce about our past experiences. Nonetheless, our dreams are a gift from God, which I believe can change our whole outlook on the situations we are in.

Dreams provide an escape from reality. For example, when I was a little girl I loved Peter Pan. Every night, I would wait by my window, and dream that Peter Pan would come swooping down to take me to Neverland where I would experience the adventure of a lifetime. Sadly, he never came, but I just assumed he was too busy fighting Captain Hook or caring for the lost boys, Peter Pan would come swooping down to take me to Neverland where I would experience the adventure of a lifetime. Sadly, he never came, but I just assumed he was too busy fighting Captain Hook or caring for the lost boys, so he simply forgot to

stop by and get me. The point is, even though that dream never came true, the thought of Peter Pan coming back for me filled me with excitement and enhanced my imagination in the magical worlds we could visit.

Don't be afraid to follow your dreams, no matter how unrealistic they might seem. If we look at the story of Joseph, we can see the amazing ways in which God can take our dreams and transform them into reality. Of course, God rarely does things our way. He is a very mysterious God, who often surprises us with both unexpected joys and unexpected disappointments. I mean, Joseph had to become a slave and serve time in prison for his dream to come true! Nonetheless, his dream did come true, and he became one of the most powerful and influential people in all of Egypt.

Harriet Tubman once said, “Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.” Isn't that just wonderful? “Every great dream begins with a dreamer”. Think now of memorable and inspirational people like Steve Jobs, Martin Luther King Jr., Einstein, Thomas Edison, and Rosa Parks. The only thing that stands between our names becoming part of that list of people, is the determination and dedication of making our dreams come true. So remember, “Dream as if you'll live forever. And live as if you're dying today.” (James Dean)

### GOD'S GIFT

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

— 2 CORINTHIANS 9:15 NIV

## CHURCH EVENTS AT A GLANCE

### DECEMBER 2013

Wednesday Mornings – Bible Study - 10:30 am  
 20 Sign-a-long led by McLarty Family – 7 pm  
 21 Seniors' Fellowship Potluck  
 21 Sanctuary: Christmas Program  
 22 Pathfinder Christmas Party – 4:00 pm  
 27 Pathfinder Bible Reading – 5 pm  
 27 Agape Feast  
 28 Sanctuary Speaker: Pastor Darold Retzer  
 28 Cross Connection: Pastor Bill Hunt

### JANUARY 2014

Wednesday Mornings – Bible Study – 10:30 am  
 Wednesday Evenings - Prayer Meeting – 6 pm  
 2 Senior Trip – Rose Parade Floats – 9 am  
 4 Sanctuary Speaker: Pastor Elijah Grekov  
 4 Cross Connection: Pastor Bill Hunt  
 4 Children's Church  
 4 Elder Care Music Ministry – 3 pm  
 6 Great Bible Themes – 7 pm  
 8 Pathfinder Club – 6:25 pm  
 8 Adventurer Club – 6:30 pm  
 8 Prayer Meeting – 6 pm – Bill Hunt  
 11 Sanctuary Speaker: Pastor Bill Hunt  
 11 Cross Connection: combined  
 13 Meatless Monday – 6:30 pm  
 14 Finance Committee – 7 pm  
 15 Pathfinder Club – 6:25 pm (Inspection)  
 15 Adventurer Club – 6:30 pm  
 15 Prayer Meeting – 6 pm – Bill Hunt  
 16 School Board  
 18 Senior Potluck – 12:30 pm  
 18 Drilling & Marching (Pathfinders) – 4 pm

20 Great Bible Themes – 7 pm  
 22 Prayer Meeting – 6 pm – Elijah Grekov  
 25 Leadership Training/Supper - 5:30 pm  
 26 Pathfinder Swim Check-off (Drayson Center)  
 27 Great Bible Themes – 7 pm  
 28 Church Board Meeting – 7 pm  
 29 Prayer Meeting – 6 pm – Elijah Grekov

### FEBRUARY 2014

Wednesday Mornings – Bible Study – 10:30 am  
 Wednesday Evenings - Prayer Meeting – 6 pm  
 1 Children's Church  
 1 Elder Care Ministry – 3 pm  
 1 Pathfinder Sabbath  
 3 Great Bible Themes – 7 pm  
 5 Pathfinder Club Meeting – 6:25 pm  
 5 Adventurer Club Meeting – 6:30 pm  
 8 Vespers, Estate Planning & Trust Seminar –  
 5:00 pm  
 10 Meatless Monday – 6:30 pm  
 11 Finance Committee – 7 pm  
 15 Seniors' Potluck  
 15 Pathfinder Drilling & Marching – 4 pm  
 16 Adventurer Club to Zoo  
 16 Pathfinder Valentine's Dinner – 4 pm  
 17 Great Bible Themes – 7 pm  
 19 Pathfinder Club Meeting – 6:25 pm  
 19 Adventurer Club Meeting – 6:30 pm  
 20 School Board – 6 pm  
 23 Seniors' Trip to Living Desert – 9 am  
 24 Great Bible Themes – 7 pm  
 25 Church Board Meeting – 7 pm

### MARCH 2014

Wednesday Mornings – Bible Study – 10:30 am  
 Wednesday Evenings - Prayer Meeting – 6 pm  
 2 Pathfinder Kite Day – San Diego  
 3 Great Bible Themes – 7 pm  
 5 Seniors' Committee Meeting – 12:30 pm  
 9 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME  
 9 Movie Afternoon – 3 pm  
 10 Meatless Monday – 6:30 pm  
 12 Pathfinder Club Meeting – 6:25 pm  
 12 Adventurer Club Meeting – 6:30 pm  
 15 Seniors' Potluck  
 15 Drilling & Marching – 4 pm  
 16 Adventurer Club to Olive Factory Tour – 10 am  
 18 Finance Committee Meeting – 7 pm  
 19 Pathfinder Club Meeting – 6:25 pm  
 19 Adventurer Club Meeting – 6:30 pm  
 20 School Board Meeting – 6 pm  
 24 Great Bible Themes – 7 pm  
 25 Church Board Meeting – 7 pm

### REVIVE YOUTH GROUP

*Jr. High & High School*

Revive: to bring back into notice, to activate, set in motion, or take up again, to renew  
 We have adopted the name Revive because we are revitalizing the youth program at the Yucaipa SDA Church. We are also encouraging the youth members and community at large to renew their spiritual commitment to God.

⇒Revive on Sabbath morning every week at 9:45am in the Youth Center  
 ⇒Cross Connection Service every Saturday morning @ 11:00  
 ⇒Youth Group Bible Study- Wednesday nights @ 6:30 in the Youth Center  
 ⇒Movie/Game Night at various times during the month in the Youth Center



## **HEALTH MEETINGS & CHRISTMAS PARTY**

By Barbara Stradtman

Recently I attended a class given by Gary Strunk (In Pursuit of Excellence-The Health Component). The class has made me realize how important eating healthy, exercise, and communion with God is, and that you should not put it off. He inspired the entire class to try and achieve better health. Thank you Gary for caring enough about physical and spiritual health to teach a class like this. Keep on teaching so that more people will hear this very important message. [Donalea Strunk and Deborah Rodman also participated by the serving of the refreshments and preparing two of the dishes for dinner.]

Everyone from the class was invited to attend a Christmas party at Christine and Ron Neish's home. They had a beautifully decorated tree with a train going around the bottom of it. The atmosphere and the way the house was decorated made it feel magical. They served the most amazing Vegan food, followed by the best singing and piano playing I have heard in a long time. We all got to sing Christmas songs, and participate in a spiritual quiz that Gary lead, and we still had time to visit with everyone. It was like an old fashioned Christmas party you only see in the movies. Thank you Ron and Christine for being the perfect hosts, and I would like to thank everyone else that helped with the party.

## **GREAT THEMES OF THE BIBLE & UPCOMING MEETINGS**

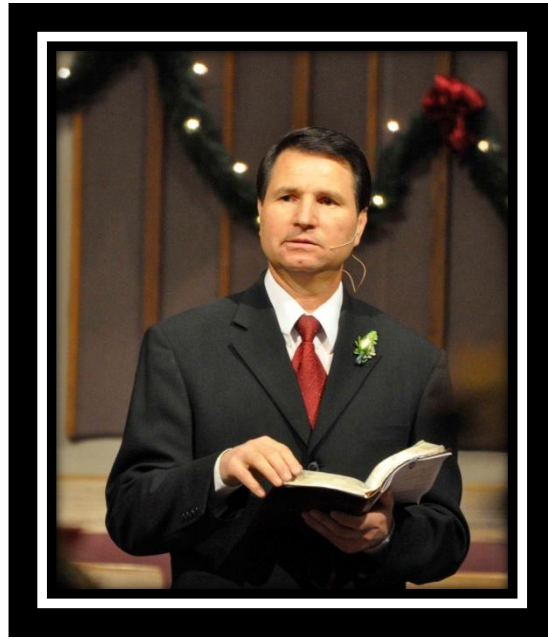
By Elder Gary Strunk

In Pursuit of Excellence – THE HEALTH COMPONENT ended October 29, but meetings have continued every Monday night with Great Themes of the Bible. We have covered the Sabbath from a health standpoint. Then the audience wanted to learn about Colossians 2, especially vs. 16 & 17, which have been used to do away with prohibitions against alcohol, unclean meats and the Sabbath. That was completed December 16. A health topic is included each night. So far we have covered cholesterol, the film “Forks Over Knives” and “Lifeclimb.” Bible studies have begun with some of the participants. Testimonies tell of major changes in their lives, religious and health.

Meetings will resume after Christmas beginning with Meatless Monday January 13, 6:30 p.m. Faith topics will unveil the source of “Futurism” and how this counter-Reformation doctrine was adopted into the Protestantism, and other major themes of the three angels messages.

Elder Strunk says, “All Adventists should know what is being taught in the religious world in order to help people escape from their errors, just as Jesus said, ‘You have heard that it was said....’” Jesus knew His world, and countered the errors that were believed by the multitudes.

**INSTALLATION OF  
SENIOR PASTOR  
December 14, 2013**



**PASTOR  
ELIJAH GREKOV**



**Lidia & Elijah Grekov with Dallas Bobst**



**Lidia & Elijah Grekov with Elder Sandra Roberts**



**Christine Neish, Lidia & Elijah Grekov with Elder Mario Perez**



**Special Potluck after Installation Service**