

# WATCHMAN ALERT

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## *Social Media “Connectivity” and Biblical Relationship*

Most people in the United States *think* we are a relational culture. There are hundreds of books published on this very subject each year. We have tiny supercomputers (i.e., cell phones) in our pockets with countless faces and numbers saved. Why is it, then, that we can't seem to find the time to follow up and follow through with them?

It is true that we are connected digitally. We stay busy “liking” and “subscribing,” and yet we feel less connected in the end. Something is missing.

The truth is that relational connection with others takes consistent intention, time, and energy. It requires commitment, selflessness, and sacrifice. This is a higher price than most people are willing to pay. Relationship requires work.

Biblical friendship, compared to digital connectivity, is *countercultural*. Those of us who hunger for true, life-on-life connection—the kind that Jesus calls us to live out—find that we are daily pushing *against* and *through* a social environment that doesn't value the requisite work of friendship. Because of Jesus, Christians make a conscious choice to do the countercultural thing and work for love and deep connection with one another. This makes us different. “By this all will know that you are My disciples,” Jesus said in John 13:34, “if you have love for one another.”

The Bible calls the church a *family*. “The church isn't the building, it's the people.” Family is about relationship, from beginning to end. We can't function as “a people” without relationship. We depend on one another. We serve each other. We do life together (see 1 Corinthians 12:12-30).

At the same time, many of us feel time and energy poor. The weeks are long, overbooked, and scattered. Our energy is used up by the seemingly endless tasks that need our attention, and often the work of relationship just feels like more items to add to our bottomless to-do list. When life is already overwhelming, how do we make space for the most important parts of life—people? And what's more, how do we find it in us—those of us with a belief that relationship is *real* life—to be the ones reaching out, checking in, trying to get together, leaving messages, and initiating time and time again?

Where do we find the energy to push against these challenges and intentionally counter our culture? We need a power greater than ourselves.

Another popular phrase is “you can't pour from an empty cup.” But we that serve in the church know this isn't true. Your cup is filled *even as you empty it* by the Holy Spirit who values this effort as the work of building the kingdom. When you relationally create space by reaching out to others, you draw people together, and commit to them in a way that pushes back the darkness and invites all participants deeper into the family of God.

In a culture starved for authentic friendship and drowning in empty social connection, being relational isn't easy. But it is of incredible, eternal value. So, we press on!

This week as you pray for the people of Shadow Mountain, take this issue before our heavenly Father. It

is lonely out in the world, and it is also hard to find time and energy to form those important bonds with others. The Lord who loves us wants this for us. Let's ask His help in this—to bond our church together in friendship, real relationship and community, to grow us in our love for one another, and to fortify and strengthen the godly friendships we already have.

**Dale Bacon**

Pastor of Small Groups

## **PRAISE & PETITION...**

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### *Senior Pastor, Dr. David Jeremiah*

- I am excited about our new teaching series on the Millennium, "The Coming Golden Age." Let's trust God to grow our understanding of this important doctrine and encourage our hearts as we anticipate His return.
- Be faithful to pray for the graduates of our schools and seminary as they embark on the next phase of life in their journey with our God.
- Our Children's Ministry is hard at work in preparing for Summer Blast (July 15-19). Please pray for volunteers to fully staff this important outreach to our children.
- As we honor and mourn those who have died to protect our freedoms, let's look to our God to preserve what they died for and restore righteousness as a hallmark of our country.
- Pray for revival.
- Continue to look to our sovereign Creator to protect Shadow Mountain Ministries from the forces of evil prevalent in our world today.

*And the LORD shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be—"The LORD is one," and His name one.*  
(Zechariah 14:9)

### *Family Ministries*

**Praise:**

- For the opportunity to provide biblical counsel and encouragement to individuals who are facing challenges.
- For our mentor couples who are meeting with couples preparing for marriage.

**Prayer:**

- For those who come to Family Ministries for help with life challenges. Pray for our counselor as she meets with people to provide biblically based direction and help.
- Please pray for those who have been attending our GriefShare and DivorceCare groups as we take a summer break. Pray for continued healing and for godly people to come along side them in this journey
- Pray for couples who are preparing for marriage, pray for a strong biblical foundation as they start their lives together.

*Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23*

## *Evangelism, Connections, Discipleship, New Members & Baptism, Pastor Scott Pittman*

### **Praise:**

- We had 184 first time guests who filled out information cards during easter and 88 of those were local to San Diego County.
- Eight first time guests become new Christians in the last month.
- We dropped off 100 gifts to the homes of first-time guests in the last month.
- Praise, we had over 100 new members in the last four months at Shadow Mountain.

### **Prayer**

- Pray for our Outreach/Connections team, that God will continue to guide them in their efforts.
- Pray for the deacons and deaconesses who help with baptisms.
- Pray for our discipleship groups, that they would be able to build a strong foundation to their new faith and that we would be able to connect them into other ministries of the church.
- Pray for Toni Vowels our Administrative Assistant who cares for all the details surrounding assimilations.
- Pray for all our first-time guests, that God would meet them where they are help them find a home at Shadow Mountain.
- Pray for everyone involved in the New Member's Class as they process the details of the class during this season.
- Pray for all the altar counselors and pastors, that they would be encouraged, and that God would give them many opportunities to minister to people in our weekend services.

*"Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be above all the earth."* Psalm 57:5

## *Pastoral Care, Pastor Ray Benton*

Pray for Pastor Ray Benton, Pastor Gareld Murphy, Pastor Tim Powell and Pastor Brian Moulton as they seek to be an encouragement to those going through difficult physical challenges and those who are shut in. Pray our calls will provide encouragement and comfort.

Pray for our tele-care team members who connect weekly over the phone with encouragement by means of prayer and scripture to those who are shut-in from our congregation. These calls are more important than ever because of the isolation many are experiencing.

**People home/hospital recuperating:** Dawn Wilson, Jordan Roberts, Chuck and Loretta Emert, Carolyn Hunt, Betty Preston, Dave and Yolanda Schoenfeld, Jim Nemece, Elizabeth Carrillo, Matthew Carrillo, Alice Hall, Ruth Cast, Donna Coombs, Suzanne Bennett, John Paradise, Tom Henry, Arlene Vollmer, Ronald and Marlene Robershaw, Phil Johnston, Joanne Hendrickson, Sterling Smith, Don Harrison, Ken Howell, Gwenda Brown, Jeanette Eddery, Jay Young, Dan Rynkofs, Robert Pitcher, Gary Flor, Larry Weinstein, Shirley Pickney, Jack Kriege, Brian Fulton, Ginny Noel, Carol Hightower

**Pray for shut-ins:** Sally Barber, Bill Babcock, Sue Jarrett, Barbara Hendrix, John Goetz, Cliff Swanson, Doug Ayres, David Morris, Alice Cook, Karena De La France

**Pray for families who have lost loved ones:** Joram Walters, Troy Rogers, Bob Olson, Ana Guzman, Joseph Lavorato, Philip Johnston, Beverly LaHaye, Pam Grisafi

*"The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn [strength] of my salvation, my stronghold."* Psalm 18:2

## *Director of Servant Ministries, Joyce Tepper*

- You MAY notice that Ministry Advisors are continually busy interviewing new members faithfully. Pray for continued strength for them.
- Pray that we MAY demonstrate God's love at each meeting as we value each person by listening and guiding.
- Pray that we MAY get to meet with most of those who attended the April New Members class interviewed before MAY arrives.
- That means we MAY have to deal with lots of rescheduling which MAY take a good deal of wisdom and flexibility.
- MAY we continue to serve the Lord and touch with encouragement many lives in ways that MAY produce a sense of family belonging in each one.
- MAY God bless YOU for your faithfulness in upholding this ministry in prayer.

## *Business Office, Josh James*

### **Praise:**

- God's continued favor and blessing on Shadow Mountain, Christian Unified Schools, and Southern California Seminary.
- The congregation's faithful giving and His provision for the ministries at Shadow Mountain.
- The congregation's support of the Benevolence Fund and the Deacons' discernment and compassion in the administration of this fund.
- The dedicated staff that God has called to serve in the Finance, Payroll, and Compliance/Benefits Department.

### **Prayer:**

- God's counsel in our stewardship of that which He has entrusted to us. May we use it according to His will to reach people locally and world-wide with God's Word, the Gospel message, and knowledge of His love. That many would come to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior.
- Provision for those at SMCC who are struggling financially.
- Counsel for daily wisdom and discernment for our staff.
- Prayer for discernment and consistent joy for our educators at the school and seminary.

## *Music Ministry, Tobin Davis*

- Praise God for His blessing over the Palm Sunday and Easter services at Shadow Mountain.
- Praise God for the ministry of the Children's Choirs and Students Choirs over this past school year.
- Pray for the Music Ministry team as they plan the Celebrate America outreach services.
- Pray for health and protection of the families of the music ministry staff.

## *Kids Ministries, Jesse Abeel*

### **Praises:**

- We regularly hear encouraging stories from families about kids coming to faith, wanting to get baptized, and enjoying their time at church while learning and growing in their faith.
- We have a vibrant team of staff and volunteers, which is a huge praise!
- Our Kids Blast (and Kids Blast Jr.) large group program continues to be a success and has attracted many new kids to church.
- On Easter weekend, we saw 1,200 kids and 88 new families! Most importantly, over 100 kids raised their hands to receive Christ as their savior in our elementary services.

**Prayer Requests:**

- It is the season of major prepping and planning for our largest event of the year - Summer Blast. This year we have expanded to make room for hundreds of more kids, which means we will need a LOT more volunteers. Please pray for an abundant harvest at Summer Blast VBS, and for the volunteers to make it possible!
- We are struggling to find enough volunteers on the weekends, especially on Saturday nights.
- We have experienced a lot of sadness with staff and volunteers losing loved ones lately. Please pray for their hearts and for God's peace (Philippians 4:6-7).
- For our staff and volunteers to joyously communicate the love of Christ to our kids, their parents and each other.
- For kids to have a genuine relationship with God, build a Biblical foundation for their lives, grow with friends and leaders, and develop a community at church that they love being part of.
- Pray for the power of God's truth to permeate deeper in the hearts and minds of our young ones than any of the lies surrounding them in this culture we are living in!

## *Small Groups, Dale Bacon*

**Praise**

- We give thanks for the spiritual growth among our small group members. Lives are being changed each week as we grow closer to God through prayer and His Word.
- We praise God for the community and fellowship that is experienced each week in our groups. We are thankful for the friendships being made as members support and encourage one another through all of the ups and downs of life.

**Prayer**

- We lift up our small group leaders in prayer. Please pray for wisdom, discernment and spiritual guidance as they lead their groups. Prayer for protection against burnout as they open up their homes each week and ask God to grant them a renewed passion for leading their group members closer to Christ.
- Pray for the continued growth and maturity among our small group members.
- Pray that our groups would be an environment where the grace of God exists. Pray against any division, misunderstandings, and conflicts that may arise and for community and friendships to flourish.

## *College Ministry*

- Please pray for our students and for their protection from the cultural forces prevalent on college campuses.
- Pray for our students who are seeking hope and truth in a world that seems divided to them.
- Please pray for our weekly small groups, monthly activities and fellowship gatherings.

## *Young Adult Ministry, 20's - 30's, George Helewa*

**Praises**

- Thank you that we HAVE a ministry to this vulnerable and challenging demographic.
- Our ministry continues to grow!
- Many are getting baptized!
- For a good group of YA's who are pursuing the Lord!
- For many answered prayers within our ministry, and that the group is sharing them with each other!
- For our YA's Small Groups. We have over 80 in our ministry involved in a small group of some kind. Thank you for all our leaders.
- For our amazing volunteer leaders who serve YA's. May the Lord bless them richly.
- My youngest, Jasmine, continues to improve! She has been walking with crutches and can make it around the house without them. Also, she was accepted into a dual enrollment high school/college program!

### Prayer requests

- **For our Alaska Mission Trip in June.** That God would provide the funds for the trip. That each person going would know the Lord is calling them to go and prepare their hearts. We have a full team of 18 people. Pray the logistics, travel arrangements, and ministry have God's fingerprints all over them.
- **For our Summer ministries.** That we have the help and the people to serve for our events and Beach Bible Study.
- **Protection** for our Young Adults serving in the military.
- **For our Small Groups** as they experience life-changing relationships; healthy and encouraging spaces where God honoring community happens through Bible Study.
- Spiritual and physical growth and revival in our ministry. Help them to finish the small group season well.
- **Mental, emotional, and spiritual health for Young Adults.**
- **Administrative help** for the Young Adult ministry as we continue to provide connection and events for YA's in SMCC. Pray for a minimum 10 hr. a week paid Admin for George so he can focus on leading and shepherding ministry.
- For our Events, YA Café, and small groups, to impact lives every time we're together.
- **Spiritual discernment** as our community lives and works in the world.
- **For Pastor George: clarity and endurance** as he leads his group and others in the new year. **Strength** as he finishes his last master's class this summer. He graduates in May!
- **Also, for Pastor George and his wife Krysten** for a strong marriage, and wisdom as they navigate parenting their two teenage daughters. For their daughters to find their value, strength, and hope in Christ every day. For Krysten and an upcoming surgery.
- **For Pastor George's oldest, Amira** (20). Bless her with authentic relationships, spiritual mentors, and a sense of purpose.
- **For Pastor George's youngest, Jasmine** (16), Jasmine continues to navigate some medical challenges with her left leg. Pray for miraculous healing and continued improvement.
- **For the San Miguel Fire Dept. where Pastor George serves as Chaplain.** For opportunity to share God's hope with the firefighters as they navigate the challenges they face personally and professionally. Protect their minds, bodies, spirits, marriages, and families. Pray they get the raise they need and deserve. Pray for the department's new Chief as he takes on this important role.

### *Middle School Ministry, Chase Ewrich*

#### Prayer requests:

- Pray that God would continue to bless Middle School Ministry and the momentum of reaching new students and new families.
- Pray for spiritual growth in those attending our mid-week small groups.
- We have lots of new students joining us - please pray they feel welcome and comfortable.
- Pray that students would have a tenderness toward the Gospel.
- Pray for the parents of our middle schoolers - they have a hard job and need support and encouragement!
- Pray for more volunteers to join us in reaching middle schoolers for Christ.
- Pray for continued safety and health for our staff, volunteers, and students.

#### Praises

- Our ministry to middle schoolers is continuing to grow!
- Students seem to be really connecting and are finding a sense of community in our ministry.
- We have an exceptional team of staff and interns. I thank the Lord for them!

## *Shadow Youth High School Ministry, Pastor Grant Todd*

### **We need prayer for the following concerning the Youth Ministry:**

- For the Lord to use the High School messages to help our students connect and grow.
- We want to pray for students to connect, grow, and serve the Lord.
- Asking God to energize and use our staff to reach out to our students.

## *Young Married Ministries, Troy Leeman*

### **Praises:**

- We are so excited to announce the birth of eight new babies since the start of the year.
- We have 20 healthy and growing table communities in the ministry.
- Our recent events have been well attended, and we have had great fellowship times.
- For the new couples attending the ministry. We have seen new couples almost every week this year.

### **Prayer Requests**

- We have nine ladies who are pregnant in the ministry. We need prayers for healthy babies and pregnancies.
- Prayers for new leaders as we continue to expand our table communities.
- Prayers for several families in the ministry who have recently lost family members.
- Prayers for several individuals in the ministry going through considerable health challenges.

## *Women's Ministries, Lisa Paulson*

### **Praise:**

- The *Coffee Connect* event provided many opportunities for women to meet new ladies and get involved in what's happening through Women's Ministries.
- *Disciplemakers* are making a difference by investing in the lives of women!
- Let everything we do bring honor and glory to our Lord!

### **Prayer:**

- Pray we will stay true to the mission: Connecting women to God, His Word, and women who will help them grow!
- Many women will register and participate in our summer Bible study, *Becoming Part 2*.
- Women will desire to serve and be equipped to lead in a small group this summer.
- Please pray for our speakers as they prepare to share in our summer Bible study. God will connect women to His Word and increase their desire to know Him deeper.
- The Holy Spirit will guide Lisa, Jennifer, Kasey, and Council as we seek His will in ministering to the needs of His women.
- God's provision for more volunteers for our *Caring 4 Kids Ministry*.
- The discipleship program will continue to grow and produce more Disciple-Makers.
- God will confirm and provide future outreach opportunities to advance His Kingdom.
- Protection over all that surrounds Women's Ministries and SMCC!

*"For the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro carried away with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love." Ephesians 4:12-16*

## *Men's Ministries, Manny Sanchez*

### **Praises**

- We had a wonderfully fruitful "Dangerous Man" Men's event with 1400 men in attendance. We are still getting stories of the transformation and salvations from the event.
- We finished the Spring Men's Bible Study Season with an average of 430 men in attendance weekly—which is the largest consistent attendance ever.
- We praise God for the faithful 12-15 men who pray every Thursday morning at our weekly prayer meeting from 6:00-7:00 a.m. in the cafe.

### **Prayers:**

- We are heading into our 5-week summer Bible study season where we will be discussing spiritual warfare—pray for protection as the enemy will not like us exposing his methods.
- We are already preparing for our annual Father's Day Car Show. Pray that we would get great participation from car owners to bring cars, volunteers, and leaders planning this event.
- Pray for the many people in our congregation—men in our ministry that are dealing with health and age-related issues. That God would give us pastors wisdom, compassion and love to encourage them and their families.
- As the ministry ages, we pray for the next generation of young leaders to step up in the men's ministry to lead tables and serve in the ministry.

## *Campus Operations, Bryan Snow*

### **Let's pray with faith!**

*"Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness."* (Psalm 92:2)

Giving the Lord the glory due unto his name is a tall order—He is due a lot! We will have all of eternity to attempt it, but we don't have to wait: we can start now!

### **The requests that we desire of Him:**

- God's blessing and power upon Roy Rogers (shuttles, greeters, and more!) and Carla Pittman (hospitality) as they serve.
- *"God be merciful unto us and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; Selah. That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations."* (Psalm 67:1-2) We need God's mercy, blessing, and saving health. Let's ask Him to cause His face to shine upon us and keep us safe.
- May is a month of many graduations, AWANA Awards celebration, Mother's Day, and the beginning of Summer Bible Studies. Please pray that God will be the focus of all of these, and that He will use them to edify His saints.

## *Missions, Dr. Gary Coombs*

### **Praise**

- Praise for our ministry adding Charity Shambaugh, a missionary from France, to our SMCC global family (SMCC missionaries).
- Praise for Dan and Kathie Stowell, Ruthie Burton, and Claudia Ferreira all celebrating 40 years of missionary service in Brazil this month.

### **Prayer**

- Pray for strong marriages and parenting relationships for our missionaries and their families.
- Pray for safety for our missionaries in restricted countries, where it is either illegal or dangerous to share their faith.
- Pray for our missionaries who are preparing for their ministries' summer camp seasons. Pray for open hearts for kids around the world who will go to these camps and hear the Gospel.
- Pray for our Global Teams as they prepare to kick off a busy season of short-term missions teams this summer.



## *Sports Ministry, Tim Brown*

### **Praise**

- Pray for relationships to be built in our men's basketball league and for opportunities to share the Gospel and invite families to Shadow Mountain.
- Pray for the men who are Christians in our men's basketball league to represent Christ on the court and continue to be a Godly example to those who are not believers.

### **Praise**

- Praise God for bringing all of the teams and participants to our men's basketball league. We have 24 teams playing.
- Praise God for those who have volunteered to help inside the gym on Monday nights during our men's basketball league.
- Praise God for the opportunities we have to share the Gospel and pray with the men's basketball participants before each game.

## *Hispanic Congregation, Pastor Erick Zaldaña*

### **Praise:**

- The **Moriah Youth Retreat at Camp Maranatha**, our youth returned changed and touched by the events of those days, may the seed planted in their hearts take root and be fruitful.
- God for the Hispanic **North Park campus 5th Anniversary**, they are increasing in number and bringing the Word to those surrounding cities.
- For our **Child Dedication Service**, where multiple families presented their children, may this public commitment encourage the families in their journey of raising Godly children.
- God for and his small Discipleship groups, whose purpose is to study the word of God, so that they may fulfill the Great Commission by going out into the world and advancing the Gospel.

### **Pray:**

- For the physical and emotional health of our **Senior Pastor Erick** as well as his family, may they receive the peace only God provides.
- For the **Women's Ministry, Virtuosa**, where a selected group of women will be discipling women from our ministry so that we continue to bring people to Christ and turn them into wise disciples.
- For the upcoming **Baptism Class**, as our ministry leader Danny Muniz prepares these faithful servants for this step of obedience so they may continue to grow to be more like Jesus Christ.
- For the **Men's Ministry** as they prepare for their next retreat, **Moriah**. That men of all ages and backgrounds may come together to learn about the Word while meeting new people that share the same love for God.
- For the **Children's Ministry**, who will be holding a training event for our SMCC kids en Español teachers; may this serve to teach children about the Gospel so that they can grow to have a personal relationship with God.

## *Arabic Congregation, Pastor Robert Helou*

### **Praises for:**

- For the three people who accepted Christ. One American, one Iraqi, and one Mexican at Parkway Plaza.
- For the success of the special weekly meeting for seven young married couples every Monday evening.
- For the increase in our weekly Sunday service. Several guests new to our congregation became regulars.
- For the increase of the weekly offerings the past two months. We are 10% more than the yearly budget.
- For the well-attended meetings on Good Friday and Easter Sunday a total of over three hundred people.

- For the new Kids Care teacher that takes care of the zero- to five-year-olds. She is doing a good job.
- For the three young people who are remotely studying at two different seminaries in Lebanon and Jordan.
- For the healing of a church member after he had a major gastric bypass surgery. He is recovering well.

**Prayer Requests:**

- For brother Habib Aziz who is diabetic. His legs were amputated months ago, and now his hands are getting black.
- For our sister Souad Alkass who is suffering from extreme dehydration, and she has water in her lungs.
- For our Evangelism Team to have more freedom sharing the Gospel at Parkway Plaza in El Cajon.
- For sister Suha who lost her job two months ago and looking for a new job. She has to support her aged mother.
- For the critical situation in Lebanon as the limited war is going on between Israel and the Palestinians.
- For all those who are involved in the various ministries as volunteers or as a part-time job.
- For the ordination service of the associate pastor of our Arabic Ministry who just graduated from seminary.
- For the many students of the church families for the protection from the evil people who my hurt them.

## *Alpine Campus, Kekoa Grover*

**Prayer for:**

- This Summer's Summer Blast.
- We're specifically seeking discernment in assigning leadership roles, crafting creative activities, and asking God to send dedicated volunteers who will show the love of Christ to all in attendance!
- We currently have 72 Kids registered and 12 volunteers registered.
- We need 50 volunteers to pull off Summer Blast at the Alpine Campus.
- We know God will provide and will do great things, this Summer, through this wonderful outreach!

## *Encinitas Campus, Paul Murray*

**We are thankful for...**

- Continued growth and new people visiting and attending.
- Our local congregation's women's ministry and the job they are doing is amazing!
- A wonderful time of worship and celebration at Easter.

**Requests...**

- For the health and well-being of our congregation.
- For the many upcoming Spring/Summer events and activities.
- For our campus search, for a new location to call home.

## *Online Campus, Rod Gray*

**Praises:**

- For over 15,000 viewers worldwide each weekend on our online platform, Facebook, and YouTube.
- For those who accept Christ and those who make commitments through our online ministry.
- Praising God for 15 small groups operating this season.

**Prayers:**

- For many who are homebound and shut-in to find a place to belong at Shadow Mountain Online.
- Continued increase for new online small group leaders and continued growth of our online small groups.
- For unchurched non-believers to come to Christ through our online platforms.

## *North Park Campus, Todd Hitchcock*

### **We are thankful for...**

- Our small group time on Tuesdays that continues to be a time of diving deep into God's Word and connecting personally.
- The growth in our Men's and Women's Ministries.
- The spiritual growth and commitment seen in those attending North Park.

### **We are praying for...**

- God to open doors for us to reach our community and to find creative ways of connection.
- The remodeling and refurbishment of the facility. Praise God for all those who have donated items and time to update our facility.
- Our weekly Bible studies and children's ministry program.

## *South Bay Campus, Pastor Fausto Garay*

### **We are thankful for...**

- Our Thursday morning work crew small group for making campus improvements.
- Growing Men's and Women's Ministries.
- Three baptisms in April.

### **Prayer for:**

- Upcoming Mother's Day and Father's Day events.
- Summer Blast at South Bay—pray for the planning.
- Summer Blast at South Bay—volunteers.

## *Central Coast Campus, Pastor Kevin Begley*

### **Prayer & Praise:**

- Two months ago we were hit by a tornado! We are finally signing contracts to get walls repaired and a few new roofs! The process was slowed down for a few safety reasons and insurance.
- We have a new worship leader who is excited to begin special worship nights in the Summer and Fall!
- We have a team going out to a local park to invite kids to Summer Blast.

### **Praise**

- Small groups are going well.
- We continue to have families visit from our local neighborhood!
- Most of our prayer requests were also huge praises!

## *Southern California Seminary, Dr. Gary Coombs*

### **Praise for:**

- The privilege of serving as a ministry of Shadow Mountain.
- Pastor Jeremiah's leadership and ministry, including his role as chancellor of Southern California Seminary.
- SCS Students and Alumni who are serving in local churches, in missions, in counseling, and in Christian schools and colleges. Grace, peace, and wisdom in serving.
- Our faithful faculty who work diligently in equipping believers with biblical knowledge, Christian character, and ministry skills!
- The joy of serving as SCS Staff and Faculty. Providing a working environment full of servant-minded people ready and available to serve the student body in their education to succeed in spreading the gospel in their ministry fields.

**Prayer for:**

- Effective ministry for Seminary Leadership: Dr. Gary Coombs, President, Dr. Gino Pasquariello, Provost and Chief Academic Officer; Dr. James Fazio, Dean of Bible and Theology; Dr. Elizabeth Elenwo, Dean of Behavioral Sciences.
- SCS students and their families to be encouraged and faithful in their academic studies, ministries, and personal faith development as they navigate many shifting circumstances.
- Continuing generous support of donors through faithful giving for scholarships to help students attend seminary for Biblical training and formation.
- Ministry opportunities for graduating alumni as well as a connection with others through the Alumni Association.
- Grant Writing has begun in hopes of obtaining financial support to cover the ongoing cost of the SCS Called to CARE in church lay counselor training program curriculum materials and ministry food needed to keep this vital ministry. Please pray for us to find and apply to the appropriate grants and God will grant favor in our proposals.
- Many graduating students are preparing for oral presentations and defenses of their capstone papers, theses, and dissertations. This is a busy time of the year for faculty and students alike as we schedule multiple faculty defense committees and presentations throughout the months of March and April in advance of May Graduation. Please pray for our students as we celebrate their achievements.

## *Christian Unified Schools, Bob Ruhlman*

**Praise:**

- Praise for a successful 4th grade trip to our State's capital, the Patriot Derby, and the ACSI Band Festival where our students brought home an excellent award.
- Praise for the continued blessing and ministry of our chapel programs on all campuses.
- Praise for the faithful service of our faculty and staff throughout the highs and lows of a school year.
- Praise for the continued growth of our school.

**Prayer Requests:**

- Please pray for our teachers and support staff as they continue to accept new students and face the demands of the final weeks of school.
- Pray for their patience, flexibility, and that God continues to work through them during this special time of year. Help them focus on sharing Christ over all else and being an example of the love of Christ through positive, supportive, daily interactions with students.
- Please pray for all our students as they prepare for graduation and the end-of-year celebrations and for our staff as they support these events.
- Please pray that all our new families are able to experience what is special and unique about CUSSD and their experience is filled with lasting memories and a growing relationship with Christ.
- Please pray for our staffing needs for the 24-25 school year and that the Lord brings the best candidates to impact our students for Christ and for wisdom for the administrators that are hiring for these open positions.
- Please pray for several of our students as they face serious health challenges.