

WATCHMAN ALERT

Volume 29, Number 2—February 2025

When God Gives Growth

“But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.” Psalm 1:2-3 (ESV)

I recently experienced one of those small but wonderful works of God. I picked an orange from one of the trees in my backyard, which may have been the best orange I had ever tasted. It was plump, full of pulp, and as sweet as candy. In a word, it was terrific. I was so excited! I couldn't have said this two years ago because my orange trees were asleep. Because my trees weren't bearing fruit, I shared with a family friend, Eric, that our trees weren't doing so well. He explained that they will go to sleep when a tree does not get enough water, fertilizer, or sunlight. They are still fruit trees and still have the potential to bear fruit, but they lack the nutrients that allow them to prosper. Thankfully, he added a drip system, pruned them back, and measured out fertilizer. He said, “Fruit trees will sleep, creep, and then leap.” If you give them what they need to grow, they will creep forward with branches and leaves and then take a giant leap in producing fruit! Well, that has happened, and I am now fully stocked with fantastic oranges.

I have seen the same thing happening with our ministry here at SMCC. I am acutely aware that we cannot force fruit to develop, but we can cultivate an environment where an abundance blossoms. It is not easy to nurture spiritual growth, but it is amazing when it comes to fruition. Prayer and applying God's Word to our lives takes discipline but increases our faith. Seeking God and his resources to endure adversity requires faith and an intentional choice of the will. Memorizing scripture so we can easily access God's insight when life needs more of us than we think we can give is arduous. Planning, setting goals, and creating strategic steps are often never seen by others and seldom are rewarding in the short run. Beginning everything in prayer often goes unnoticed and taken for granted in the same way we assume the sun will shine again tomorrow, just as it has every day of our lives. Can you imagine, however, if these unseen steps were not being taken?

I'm grateful that Women's Ministry had such a fruitful year because you and many faithful women served, prayed, encouraged, disciplined, taught, worked behind the scenes, and invited families to SMCC! Many ladies surrendered their lives to Christ, got baptized, were disciplined, and became part of the SMCC family. God has faithfully grown his church through Girl Time, Coffee Connect, Global Connect, Bible studies, and Active Groups. We are rejoicing over the 1600 women participating in weekly Bible studies and Active Groups. Women are being watered through the Word! Women have come alongside Women's Ministries and lovingly connected women to God, His Word, and others who will help them grow.

We know we didn't produce the fruit, but I am so proud of all the people who helped create an environment where the fruit could grow. As Paul wrote, *“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.”* (1 Corinthians 3:6)

Please pray that Colossians 1:10-12 is the reality of our ministry this year so we can *“walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.”*

Watchman, let's pray this will be a year in which God will bear much fruit! The harvest is plentiful!

Lisa Paulson

Director of Women's Ministry

PRAISE & PETITION...

Senior Pastor, Dr. David Jeremiah

- Give thanks for the wonderful principles of stewardship God taught us in our recent teaching series. May He increase our effectiveness in using what He has provided for His glory.
- Pray for discernment for our Deacons as they administer our benevolent fund and God's provision in sustaining Shadow Mountain Cares food distribution outreach.
- Be faithful to pray for our country as leadership transition takes place, trust Him to direct us in maximizing the opportunities our freedom provides!
- As you are aware, many have been affected by the fires in Los Angeles. Let's look to our Father to meet the needs of many who have suffered loss in a way that shows His provision for that which is eternal.
- Pray for revival.
- Trust our God to protect the work He has privileged us to undertake, to keep our campus safe.

God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though its waters roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with its swelling. Selah (Psalms 46:1-3)

Family Ministries

Praise:

- For the opportunity to provide biblical counsel and encouragement to individuals who are facing challenges.

Prayer:

- Pray for wisdom and discernment for our counselor as she connects with people seeking guidance.
- Pray for those who have lost loved ones or are going through separation or divorce. Our GriefShare and DivorceCare groups begin this month, please pray for our leaders and the needs of all who attend.

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 Report

- In 2024 Shadow Mountain had 530 salvations, 152 Baptism, and 318 new members. Praise the Lord!!

Prayer Requests

- Pray for our Evangelism/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 and 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 and Pastor Gareld Murphy and Pastor Tim Powell 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, Chuck and Loretta Emert, Carolyn Hunt, Betty Preston, Dave and Yolanda Schoenfeld, Jim Nemeck, Elizabeth Carrillo, Ruth Cast, Donna Coombs, Suzanne Bennett, John Paradise, Tom Henry, Arlene Vollmer, Don Harrison, Ken Howell, Gwenda Brown, Jeanette Eddery, Larry Weinstein, Shirley Pickney, Jack Kriege, Jordan Verhoeve, Jonothan Jones, Sandy Saunders, Glenda Parker, Marilyn Campbell, Mark Kuker, Eva Archer, Terry Ulmer, Christina Bowman, Alice Wilbourn, Elaine Johnson, Iris Crum

Pray for shut-ins: Sally Barber, 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: Curt McKay, Abi Crystal, Walt Winter, Anthony Crum

"The LORD has heard my supplication; the LORD will receive my prayer." Psalm 6:9

Director of Servant Ministries, Joyce Tepper

- **Praise** the Lord for those who followed through on their New Year plans to join the church.
- **Praise** the Lord for the Ministry Advisors who are all positioned to lead this unique group of people.
- **Praise** the Lord for another year of opportunity to bless new members through the Servant Ministry process.
- **Pray** for great connections, affirmations, encouragement, care, discovery and guidance to result from each interview appointment.
- **Pray** for every single person to realize how valuable they are to the family.
- **Pray** that the investment of time and love would result in each one feeling included and that they would find their place of belonging.

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 the addition of Aaron Henry to our production staff. Pray for Aaron and his family as they adjust to life and ministry in a new state.
- Pray for our technical team as they serve in each of our weekend services.
- Pray for the music ministry team, for wisdom and discernment, as they plan and prepare for upcoming services and outreach events.

Kids Ministries, Jesse Abeel

Praises:

- We are seeing kids coming to faith, wanting to get baptized, and enjoying their time at church while learning and growing in their faith! We are thankful to be blessed to minister to whole families.
- We have a vibrant team of staff and volunteers, which is a huge praise! We all love working together and have a sense of unity.
- Our Kids Blast (and Kids Blast Jr.) large group program continues to be a success and has attracted many new kids to church.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for Easter and Summer Blast as we begin to plan these huge events - that many kids would invite their friends and we would see a huge turnout as we seek to reach out to our community.
- We are still experiencing a need for more consistent adult volunteers.
- Some of our families are experiencing hardship with loss of loved ones, financial struggles, and sickness.
- Pray 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

As we begin a new year, we are filled with gratitude and excitement for what God has in store for our small group ministry. We invite you to join us in prayer for the following:

- As we step into 2025, please pray for clarity and vision for our leaders and group members. Ask God to guide our hearts and minds as we pursue connection and growth within our small groups.
- We're thrilled to kick off a new season of small groups this month! Pray that leaders and group members alike would be filled with excitement and anticipation for the opportunities to grow deeper in their faith and relationships.

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. This is a good group of YAs who are pursuing the Lord!
- For many answered prayers within our ministry, and that the group is sharing them with each other!
- For our amazing volunteer leaders who serve YAs. May the Lord bless them richly.
- For robust small groups that act as the lifeblood of our ministry.

Prayer requests

- **For 2025 as we teach through Identity in Christ**
- **For our Small Groups** to maintain their community and momentum into the new year.
- We need to develop more **leaders** from within our group. Pray for new table and small group leaders to emerge.
- **Protection** for our Young Adults serving in the military.
- **Mental, emotional, and spiritual health for Young Adults** who are assaulted everyday by the world. **Spiritual discernment** as our community lives and works in the world.
- For our Men to be surrendered and be Men of God who LEAD. For our Women to be Women of Honor, and surrendered to God; May patience, honor and virtue to define their lives. Pray especially for the men in our group, that God would give them more mentors and that they'd embrace genuine, godly manhood.
- **Continued Spiritual** and **physical** growth in our ministry.
- **Relational wisdom** for the YAs that God is calling into more romantic relationships. That they would put God first and their significant other second.
- **Wisdom** for young Adults that are joining us out of failed marriages and relationships.
- **Pray for the couples** looking to get married in 2025 as they make plans for the rest of their life.
- **Administrative help** for the Young Adult ministry as we continue to provide connection and events for YAs at SMCC. Consistent help to manage the "business" of the ministry so Pastor George can focus on the people of the ministry.

- **For Pastor George: clarity** and **endurance** as he leads his group and others in the new year. **Wisdom** to navigate the demands of ministry and family. **Focus** as he prepares teaching lessons. **Also**, for a strong marriage to **Krysten** and wisdom as they navigate parenting their two daughters, Amira and Jasmine. Pray for valuable time together as a couple, and for their daughters to find their value, strength, and hope in Christ every day.
- **Prayers for the Local Fire Departments** that Pastor George serves as Chaplain.

Middle School Ministry, Chase Eurich

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

Praise:

- Successful launch of 2 phases of YMC
- New leaders in the ministry
- Many YMC couples have been instrumental in helping with the launch
- God growing couples and building community

Prayer:

- Deployed military spouses and families
- Continued growth of the ministry
- Continued momentum of the 2 phases of YMC
- Our Valentine's Marriage Getaway

Women's Ministries, Lisa Paulson

Praise:

- Women are excited to be in God's Word!
- Women are looking for a place to connect, grow, and serve!

Prayer:

- God would provide more opportunities to share the gospel and make disciples.
- Women's Ministries will stay true to its mission: Connecting women to God, His Word, and women who will help them grow!
- The joy of serving others would strengthen our leaders and provide opportunities for more women to be trained and equipped to lead a small group.
- Both new and returning ladies will see the value of investing in God's Word and becoming spiritually mature by participating in a Bible study (small group) community.
- Caring for Kids, Needlecrafters, Joyful Hearts, Discipleship, Military Wives, and Global Connect groups will provide opportunities for women to connect, grow, and serve!
- God's wisdom, guidance, and protection over Lisa, Jennifer, Kasey, and Council as we seek His will in ministering to the needs of His women.
- Please pray for Jennifer as she prepares and writes Becoming Part 3 of the summer Bible study.
- Leaders would be encouraged to become disciple-makers.
- Our Coffee Connect event on Saturday, March 15, will draw many new ladies!
- Our GIRL TIME event with Jennifer Rothschild will be a massive outreach to the community! Please pray for travel mercies and good health for Jennifer and her assistant. Please pray over the event planning details, including mailers, email, social media, text, and personal invites. Volunteers, the tech and music department, food, maintenance, security, shuttle, parking, set-up, and tear-down would go smoothly.
- Protection over all that surrounds SMCC!
- God would be glorified through His people!

"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

- Our first night of our Spring Bible Study was a huge success with over 430 men in attendance.
- We found and booked a speaker for our annual Men's Outreach, Davey Blackburn, founder of Nothing is Wasted ministries.
- We have 2 new leaders for our Dads and Kids ministry who have committed to serving a year.

Prayer:

- Pray for 2000 men to attend our Dangerous Man Outreach and over 100 salvations. Pray for the planning, execution and fruitfulness of this event. Happening Friday March 28.

- We are launching a blog that will help us deliver great content and tools to help men in key areas of their lives. Topics such as fatherhood, being a godly husband, retirement, health, purity, finances etc. Pray that it is well used and that many men find help for their lives to the glory of God.
- Pray for the marriages of SMCC as we have had a large increase in men coming for marriage help. Pray that we can figure out a way to help them well.

Campus Operations, Bryan Snow

"It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23)

One afternoon last month, fears were high due to the fires in Los Angeles. Sirens sounded loudly as emergency vehicles rolled by. The campus was abuzz—there was a fire on the hill, less than two miles away. Engine after engine rushed by. A truck with a bulldozer. Then aircraft flew over. And within what seemed like just a few minutes, word came that the fire's progress had been brought to a halt. God protects us from so many things, and we give thanks for the men and women he uses to keep us safe.

Pray without ceasing...

- Jenny Spigelmire is Administrative Assistant to Bryan Snow. She also supervises the receptionists, Linda Parker, Lisa Moody, and Marsha Newman. Please pray that the Lord would give these ladies joy, grace, and patience as they represent the Lord and SMCC each day!
- Christian High School will conduct their yearly Spiritual Emphasis week, which will include chapel every day. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will do a great work in the hearts of our students.
- *"O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me."* (Psalm 25:2) Whether from fires or sickness or any other calamity or enemy, our people need the Lord's protection.

Missions, Dr. Gary Coombs

- Praise—for the final revision check of the new Biem translation of the New Testament being completed. Please continue to pray for final edits and printing of this new translation for the Biem people in Papua New Guinea.
- Praise—for two new airstrips that were built in Indonesia.
- Prayer—for Mark Dalton and Jim Shankula's trip to Mexico on March 19-25 to visit and encourage two missionary families.
- Prayer—for our current season of recruiting and training volunteers for our 2025 Global Teams.
- Prayer—for the Lord to bring the right person to our team to serve as our Global Teams Director.
- Prayer—for the safety and ongoing effectiveness of our three missionary families in Israel.
- Prayer—for the church in Nepal that has had its roadway blocked by another landowner's construction project.
- Prayer—for continued growth for the Iranian church plant in Vancouver, Canada.

Sports Ministry, Tim Brown

Praise

- Praise God for the coaches and volunteers who have given their time and talents to coach up the participants in the Sports Ministry.
- Praise God for the 400 participants that will participate in the Winter Youth Basketball League.

- Praise God for the 40 coaches that will help lead the basketball teams.
- Praise God for the resources available on our campus to facilitate our Sports Programs.

Prayer

- Pray for those serving in the Sports Ministry to represent Jesus Christ well during our sports programs.
- Pray for the Saturday mornings in Jan-Feb. when the basketball leagues host games from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Pray that the environment would help build relationships, allow players to develop, and draw people to Shadow Mountain.
- Pray for opportunities to share the Gospel, both one on one and in our team settings, with the families who will be involved in our sports programs.
- Pray for the recruitment of godly, mature coaches for the sports programs.
- Pray for the volunteers and coaches who will help serve in the Youth Basketball League. Pray for their teamwork and communication while coaching and leading.
- Pray for the families that participate in the Youth Basketball League. Pray that they would be open to visiting other programs at SMCC. Pray for the relationships that we would build with them and the influence of the Christian community in their lives.
- Pray for the upcoming Awards Night in March for the Youth Rec Basketball League. Pray for the impact of the relationships built from the Basketball League and the openness to receiving the Gospel as we share the good news of Jesus with all the families that will attend.

Cares Ministry, Kevin Gowing

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. —Romans 15:13

Praises

- God continues to amaze us at the blessings He pours out through Cares to our recipients, those serving, and to my family personally.
- A veteran who had PTSD and only wanted to stay home, was invited to church, then to Cares and is now also attending Men's. God is transforming him through the love of this church!

Prayers

- Always, that God would continue to provide the resources to support this ministry.
- Still looking for new vendors to work with to get the lowest prices possible on food so that we are able to help as many people as possible.
- That there would be a turn in our economy for the better so that so many people are not living on the brink of becoming homeless. Hopefully we will see this one answered in the near future as our registration is currently full and people in need keep coming. (BTW we direct them to other food distributions in our area.)
- That the Holy Spirit would continue to work amongst our volunteers and into the hearts of those whom we are serving.
- For the health of volunteers and recipients as some have been experiencing serious health ailments, including myself and my family.
- That God would continue to help me (Kevin) balance ministry, school, and family well. Thank you for your prayers!

Hispanic Congregation, Pastor Erick Zaldaña

Praise God for:

- **Youth Retreat Moriah** at Camp Maranatha, a great opportunity where a small group of our high school ministry to dedicate a weekend to strengthening their relationship with God and meeting new people.
- **Prayer Vigil** where our church members separated a night during the week for prayer and worship.
- **Deacon Ministry**, who year-round serve with great dedication to help all who come to our church making sure we help our active members and visitors.

Pray:

- For our **Bible Studies** that we will be implementing throughout the year and all the levels of training that come with this new year, so that our people have the tools needed to produce decent disciples.
- For every person who comes to the Hispanic Service, that they may feel the presence of our Father and continue to attend our services.
- For our **Hispanic pastors** so that our Father may guide them to continue to have biblically educated and Christ centered services.
- For more growth in servitude and in members that support our ministries, so we can have more volunteers in our kid's and youth ministries.

Arabic Congregation, Pastor Robert Helou

Praises:

- The successful Christmas Concert, featuring 25 singers and musicians from the Arabic Evangelical Church in Whittier, CA.
- The several individuals who responded to the salvation invitation during the Christmas Concert, attendance 240 people.
- For the joyful Christmas Eve service and the New Year's Eve celebration and dinner, attended by over 130 people.
- For Sally, William, and Andrew, who rededicated their lives to Christ and have decided to get baptized in the near future.
- For the successful recovery of two church members following delicate surgeries.
- For the increasing number of Facebook views from various countries for our streamed services.
- For the blessed past year with no major issues, both spiritually and health-wise. And many other blessings.

Prayer Requests:

- For all those who have responded to the Gospel message, especially through the Parkway Evangelism Ministry.
- For our sister Nehad in prayer as she deals with a strange virus in her left ear, causing hearing difficulties.
- Remember the three sisters—Salma, Nadia, and Heyam—in your prayers as they face ongoing health challenges and treatments.
- For peace and stability in Lebanon under the leadership of the new president and the head of the ministers' cabinet.
- For the protection of the Christian minority groups in Syria under the new radical Muslim government.
- Join us in praying for a true spiritual revival in our church and in the Arabic churches throughout San Diego County.
- For blessings upon the Ladies' weekly meeting, both for the guests who attend, and the growing online Facebook viewers.

Alpine Campus, Kekoa Grover

Praises:

- Small Groups are well underway, and many are participating and reporting their enthusiasm for what they are studying in those groups!
- We are excited to begin planning for Summer Blast and are looking forward to seeing what God will do through this important outreach this Summer!

Praying For:

- The health of all those at our campus, as many are struggling with sickness. Praying their bodies be healed, that their spirits be lifted, and that we can serve each other well as we walk through this flu season.
- We pray for all our Small Group Leaders, asking God to bless them with wisdom and discernment. May they guide each participant towards a closer relationship with the Lord during this Small Group season.

Encinitas Campus

We are thankful for...

- The addition of many new members from the Encinitas campus.
- Many guests and visitors that have returned and become part of our campus family.

Requests:

- As we begin the new year, pray for good attendance, and for new people and familiar friends to attend our Campus.
- The health and wellbeing of many of our members.
- For young families and children to attend our services.

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.

South Bay Campus, Pastor Fausto Garay

We are thankful for...

- Successful launch of Tuesday Night Men's and Women's Bible Studies
- Faithful weekly volunteers to assist with Sunday service
- A smooth transition of the North Park congregants joining our team
- Increase in the number of youth attending

Prayer for:

- Ministry Fair scheduled on February 2nd
- Preparations for 2025 events including Easter
- Continued growth of Kids Ministry

Central Coast Campus, Pastor Kevin Begley

Praise:

- That our shut-ins stay connected and part of the church family.
- Greg Padgett, who leads our wonderful worship team with multiple instruments.
- Phyliss Bennet, who keeps our office and campus in order!
- That our campus would continue to reach non-believers.
- For the many broken families on the coast, including single moms who bring their kids faithfully each week.

Praise:

- Wisdom for Kevin and Jess as they mentor a new young couple for marriage.
- God continues to bless this satellite campus with the live streamed sermons from Dr. Jeremiah.
- One of our small groups has been able to connect very well with our local Filipino community.

Southern California Seminary, Dr. Gary Coombs

Praise for:

- **The Blessing of Ministry through Shadow Mountain:** We are grateful for the opportunity to serve as a ministry of Shadow Mountain, and for the partnership in sharing the gospel.
- **Pastor Jeremiah's Inspiring Leadership:** Praise for Pastor Jeremiah's faithful leadership and ministry, including his role as chancellor of Southern California Seminary, which continues to inspire and guide many.
- **Dedicated SCS Students and Alumni:** Gratitude for students and alumni who are faithfully serving in local churches, missions, counseling ministries, and Christian schools and colleges. We celebrate the grace, peace, and wisdom God grants them as they minister to others.
- **Faithful and Skilled Faculty:** Praise for the dedicated faculty who diligently equip students with biblical knowledge, Christian character, and ministry skills, ensuring they are well-prepared to serve in their fields.
- **A Servant-Minded SCS Team:** We are thankful for the joy of serving alongside SCS staff and faculty, who create a working environment marked by a servant-hearted attitude and commitment to helping students succeed in their ministry calling.
- **A Successful Donor Dinner:** Gratitude for the incredible turnout at our recent donor dinner. We deeply appreciate our faithful supporters and the opportunity to share the amazing work God is doing through their generous contributions.
- **Growth of the Call to Care Training:** Ongoing praise for the Call to Care Training as churches seek to establish lay counseling ministries. We are grateful for the opportunity to assist churches in meeting the growing needs of their congregations and for the teams being built to support this ministry.

Prayer Requests:

- **Blessing and Wisdom for Seminary Leadership:** Pray for Dr. Gary Coombs (President), Dr. Gino Pasquariello (Provost and Chief Academic Officer), Dr. James Fazio (Dean of Bible and Theology), and Dr. Elizabeth Elenwo (Dean of Behavioral Sciences) as they lead with vision, integrity, and effectiveness in their ministries.
- **Encouragement for SCS Students and Families:** Lift up students and their families, asking for strength, encouragement, and faithfulness in their academic studies, ministries, and personal spiritual growth as they navigate life's changing circumstances.

- **Gratitude and Support for Donors:** Pray for continued generosity and faithfulness from donors, whose giving provides scholarships that enable students to receive biblical training and spiritual formation at the seminary.
- **Ministry Opportunities for Alumni:** Ask for doors to open for graduating alumni to step into meaningful ministry roles and to stay connected with one another through the Alumni Association, fostering ongoing support and collaboration.
- **Growth and Impact of the Call to Care Training:** Pray for the continued success of the Call to Care Training, as churches increasingly seek guidance in establishing lay biblical counseling ministries. Ask for the provision of resources and the strengthening of teams to meet this growing need within the church community.
- Thank you for joining in prayer for these important needs!

Christian Unified Schools, Bob Ruhlman

Praises:

- We are grateful for the incredible generosity of our parent, grandparent and school community, which ensures that the needs within our school district are met.
- We deeply appreciate our dedicated security team and their efforts to maintain the safety of our campus.

Prayers:

- Please pray for Spiritual Emphasis Week at the Jr./Sr. High School (2/18-2/22). May students, their families and our staff have hearts prepared to receive what the Lord has in store for them.
- Please lift up students across our district who are facing health challenges. Pray for their healing and for their families to feel the comfort and peace of the Lord.
- Pray for the upcoming Jog-a-Thons at our elementary campuses. Please pray that the anticipated funds be raised to support and fuel our schools.
- Pray for wisdom, discernment, and clarity for our admissions team as they work to re-enroll students and assess new families for mission-fit at CUSSD.
- Pray for families called to enroll at CUSSD, that they trust in the Lord's provision as they commit to giving their students a Christian education.
- Pray for continued growth and the desire for our students to have great character.
- Please pray for our parents to parent intentionally and be sensitive to the effects of screens and social media on their children.