

WATCHMAN ALERT

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Prayer: An Intimate Conversation With Our Loving Father

A man's daughter asked the local pastor if he would come and pray with her father because he was gravely ill. When the pastor arrived, he found the man lying in bed with his head propped up on two pillows and an empty chair beside his bed. The pastor assumed that the old fellow had been informed of his visit.

"I guess you were expecting me," he said.

"No, who are you?"

"I'm the new Associate Pastor at First Baptist," the pastor replied.

"When I saw the empty chair, I figured you knew I was going to show up."

"Oh yeah, the chair," said the bedridden man.

"I've never told anyone this, not even my daughter," said the man.

"But all of my life I have never known how to pray. At church I used to hear the pastor talk about prayer, but it always went right over my head." "I abandoned any attempt at prayer," the old man continued, "until one day about four years ago my best friend said to me, 'Joe, prayer is just a simple matter of having a conversation with the Lord. Here's what I suggest. Sit down on a chair, place an empty chair in front of you and imagine your Heavenly Father on the chair. It's not weird because He promised in His word that He would always be with us.' 'Then just speak to Him and listen in the same way you're doing with me right now.'

"So, I tried it, and I've liked it so much that I do it a couple of hours every day. I'm careful, though. If my daughter saw me talking to an empty chair, she'd either have a nervous breakdown or send me off to the funny farm."

The pastor was deeply moved by the story. He prayed with the old man and returned to the church.

Two nights later the old man's daughter called to tell the pastor that her daddy had died.

As they talked, she described her daddy's last hours. "I needed to run some errands. Before I left the house, I went over to his bedside to tell him I'd be back. He told me one of his corny jokes and kissed me on the cheek. When I got back from the store an hour later, I found him dead. But there was something strange. Apparently, just before daddy died, he leaned over and rested his head on a chair beside the bed." —Author unknown

For many people, prayer is intimidating because they think prayer ought to be formal and eloquent. But Jesus taught us something radically different. He showed us that prayer is an intimate conversation with our loving Father, one marked by relationship, trust, honesty, and love. The story of the bedridden man and the empty chair beautifully illustrates this simplicity. Just as the man learned to talk to God as his Heavenly Father, we, too, are invited to approach God with that same closeness.

We see this clearly and profoundly in Jesus' prayers. Whenever He prayed, He always started with the word "Abba" to address His Father. In Mark 14:36, during His prayer in Gethsemane, Jesus cried, "Abba, Father, everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

The term "Abba" is an Aramaic word that conveys intimacy and affection, much like our English equivalent, "Daddy" or "Papa." He not only approached the Father like this, but He taught and expected His followers to do the same.

When Jesus' disciples asked Him to teach them to pray, He began with "Our Father (Abba) in heaven" (Matthew 6:9). Through this simple opening, Jesus revealed that prayer is not about distant, ritualistic communication but about drawing near to God as our loving Father.

When we don't pray like this, prayer becomes drudgery—an empty, difficult, and joyless exercise. And worse, we are in danger of praying the kind of prayers Jesus warned against in Matthew 6:7—“vain repetitions” or “trying to be heard for our many words.”

The Bible explicitly reminds us that our Father-God is eager to hear from us. He cares deeply about us and invites us to call Him “Abba”—bringing our thoughts, fears, and joys to Him. And just as the man in the story rested his head on the chair, symbolizing his trust in Jesus, we can lean into God's presence, knowing He is always there, lovingly listening.

Manny Sanchez
Men's Ministry Pastor

PRAISE & PETITION...

Senior Pastor, Dr. David Jeremiah

- January will give us occasion to study the truths of Biblical stewardship. Let's look to the Giver of “every good and perfect gift” to equip and direct us in the use of our resources.
- God has gifted Shadow Mountain with various strategic ministries for His use. Pray that our Ministry Fair on the 25th-26th will glorify Him and provide opportunities for service.
- Our schools and seminary return to session this month. Trust God to shape each student to be diligent in their studies, seek His will, and use their giftedness for the advancement of the Kingdom of God. God has privileged us to shape the next generation!
- Let's continue to pray for our country and its leadership during this month of transition.
- Let's look to our God to bring the various military conflicts and loss of life around the world to a halt.
- Pray for revival.
- Trust God to protect all that He has put in our charge. The evil one seeks to disrupt, but our God is greater!

“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD.” (Jeremiah 17:7)

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. We will begin our GriefShare and DivorceCare groups the first week in February, please pray for our leaders as they prepare for the new groups.

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

- We have done 17 Discipleship classes and have discipled 120 new Christians in the last 4 years.
- Last month we had 5 new Christians through our first time guest follow ups.

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 they 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, Jordan Roberts, Chuck and Loretta Emert, Carolyn Hunt, Betty Preston, Dave and Yolanda Schoenfeld, Jim Nemec, Elizabeth Carrillo, Matthew Carrillo, Ruth Cast, Donna Coombs, Suzanne Bennett, John Paradise, Tom Henry, Arlene Vollmer, Sterling Smith, 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, Bethany Perkins

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: Jim Stark, Jack Palmer, Bill Foulk

"But unto you that fear My name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in His wings." Malachi 4:2a

Director of Servant Ministries, Joyce Tepper

Taking stock of what's available...at the starting line of 2025

- A **New Year** God has given us the privilege of embarking upon!
- A **Great God** who has all the days of the year under His control.
- A **Blessed Church** that is focused on the future and how we must spend the present to prepare.
- A **Goodly Number** of people considering the possibility of becoming members.
- A **Plethora of Opportunities** in which for them to engage.
- A **Committed Team** of Ministry Advisors to listen, care and guide.
- A **Support Contingency** of Watchman upholding the ministry as a whole.

Lord, help us to be good stewards of Your provision.

We anticipate Your demonstration of power and love as we move forward.

Thanks for the strength and grace You will offer us along each step.

Help us remain steadfast as Your humble Servants!

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 blessing of music that adds beauty to our worship and helps us praise His Name.
- 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.
- 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.
- Our upcoming Ministry Fair is an incredible opportunity to connect people with small groups and other ministry opportunities. Pray that God would use this event to inspire involvement and engagement.

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 YA's who are pursuing the Lord!
- For a great 2024 which saw physical and spiritual growth in our ministry.

- For many answered prayers within our ministry, and that the group is sharing them with each other!
- For our amazing volunteer leaders who serve YA's. May the Lord bless them richly.

Prayer requests

- **For 2025 as we plan new events and teach through *Identity*.**
- **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 YA's that God is calling into more romantic relationships. That they would put God first and their significant other second.
- **Pray for the couples** looking to get married in 2025.
- **Administrative help** for the Young Adult ministry as we continue to provide connection and events for YA's at SMCC.
- **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 & Jasmine. Pray for valuable time together as a couple, and for their daughters to find their value, strength, and hope in Christ every day.

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:

- Great attendance and involvement in the ministry
- YMC thanksgiving event (Turkey Bowl)—great time of fellowship
- Thankful that the ministry is growing
- Thankful for all the new families and pregnancies
- Thankful to see the growth in our couples

Prayer:

- For the launch of our two YMC stages in January
- For new leaders and greeters
- For new couples in the ministry
- For military families with a spouse on deployment
- Wisdom for our leaders and for staff

Women's Ministries, Lisa Paulson

Praise:

- Women are excited to be in God's Word!
- Women are looking for a place where they can connect and serve!
- Praise God for 2024 and the 1630 ladies who registered and participated weekly in Bible studies and groups!

Prayer:

- Double the impact in 2025! 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 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!
- Women will become spiritually mature and see their value in their homes, marriages, family, and workplace.
- 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 continued growth in our Discipleship program. More women will desire to become Disciple-makers.
- God will confirm the right speaker for our spring GIRL TIME event!
- 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

- Great end to the Men's Fall Bible study.
- We launched an accountability groups program within the men's ministry and dozens of men have already joined.
- We locked in our date and speaker for the second year of Dangerous Man—our large men's outreach. It will be Friday March 28th and Davey Blackburn will be speaking.

Prayers

- Spring season begins January 14th—would love to see 500 men on night one.
- We are praying for 2500 men at Dangerous Man in March.
- Pray for the many men that we've talked to lately who are struggling in their marriages. It's a large uptick.

Campus Operations, Bryan Snow

"By the breath of God frost is given..." (Job 37:10a)

Winter is a beautiful season, even here in Southern California. There is nothing like a walk in the mountains on a snowy night when nobody is around. All is quiet, and the still, chilly air makes one's breath a fog. This is a reminder of the breath of God, who gave us the gift of seasons.

"Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD." (Psalm 150:6)

Pray without ceasing...

- Glenn Martin recently joined our staff as Facilities Director. He will be a huge blessing as he leads Jesus Rodriguez and the entire facilities team in support of our maintenance needs. Please pray that the Lord will use him greatly and give him wisdom in this role.
- God's blessing and power upon Roy Rogers (shuttles, greeters, and more!) and Carla Pittman (hospitality).
- *"But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee. For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield."* (Psalm 5:11-12) Please ask our Shield and Defender for his protection of our families this year.
- Ministry Fair is coming! Please pray that the Lord will use this time to connect people with the ministries that He has prepared for them.

Missions, Dr. Gary Coombs

- Praise—for one of our missionaries' sons who was able to find a full-time job and move out on his own in December.
- Praise—for Fernando and Monse Herreras' visa approval to visit family in the United States.
- Praise—for the safe delivery of Bobby and Tiffany Mead's baby, River.
- Prayer—for our current season of recruiting and training volunteers for our 2025 Global Teams.
- Prayer—for the safety and ongoing effectiveness of our missionary families in Israel.
- Prayer—for continued growth for the Iranian church plant in Vancouver, Canada.
- Prayer—for discernment for Nomad and Fany Nelman's three daughters (Madison, Carly, and Marion), who are discerning their next steps after graduating from Ethnos360 Bible Institute.
- Prayer—for wisdom and endurance for our many missionary parents who homeschool their children while on the mission field.

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 hosts 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.

Cares Ministry, Kevin Gowing

Therefore, do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. —Mathew 6:31-32

Praises

- For a great past year of growth in ministry on the volunteer side and all the relationships that have flourished because of serving.
- Seeing God answer many prayers through our volunteers to recipients.
- Having the best Turkey Distribution to date, 1,100 families served.

Prayers

- As we start this new year that God would continue to provide the resources to support this ministry.
- There would be 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.
- 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.
- That God would continue to help me (Kevin) balance ministry, school, and family well.

Hispanic Congregation, Pastor Erick Zaldaña

Praise God for:

- **Angel tree** and the members who responded to the need and joy of giving during festive times, may the families in this program continue to stay connected with the Angel Tree program throughout the year.
- Our **Discipleship class “Arje” Graduation**, where our members studied more in depth what it is to disciple with the opportunity to ask questions with a knowledgeable pastor. Pray that they apply what they’ve learned wherever God sends them.
- Our **Ministry Leaders**, 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 **Youth Retreat Moriah** at Camp Maranatha, a great opportunity for a small group in our high school ministry to dedicate a weekend to strengthening their relationship with God and meet new people.
- For our **Galatians Bible Study**, where our Men’s, Women’s and Youth Ministries will be taking a deeper dive into the book of Galatians every Tuesday.
- For a great start of the **Year 2025**, so that we advance with the plans our ministry has for this year so that they can be as Godly centered as possible.
- For our **South Bay campus Hispanic Ministry**, may God continue multiplying this congregation so that our Hispanic brothers and sisters who have yet to know Christ, have the opportunity to hear the Good News.

Arabic Congregation, Pastor Robert Helou

Praises:

- Praise God for the ordination service of Pastor Firas Toma at SMCC on Saturday, November 16, 2024, as part of the Arabic Ministry.
- We rejoice for the two people who accepted Christ through the Parkway Plaza Evangelism Ministry: one American and one Iraqi.
- Thank God for the monthly potluck dinners held every last Friday of the month, and for the inspiring testimonies and blessings shared during these gatherings.
- We are grateful for the remarkable growth in Facebook views and followers of our various streaming meetings.
- Praise the Lord for the successful recovery of a widow in our church who underwent a very delicate heart surgery.
- Thank God for the growth in our Kids Ministry—attendance has nearly doubled, and the parents are thrilled with the positive changes.
- We are grateful for the remarkable increase in weekly attendance at the Young Teens Ministry (FUEL) meetings.

Prayer Requests:

- Please pray for all those who respond to the Gospel message, especially through the Parkway Evangelism Ministry.
- Lift up our sister Nehad, who has been affected by a strange virus in her left ear, causing hearing difficulties.
- Pray for Sister Nawal Matloob, a church member hospitalized due to a mysterious virus. She was kept two days in the IC.
- Keep the three sisters—Salma, Nadia, and Heyam—in prayer as they face ongoing health challenges and treatments.
- Pray for Lebanon amidst the critical situation and the limited war between Israel and Hezbollah. Many are in need for help.

- Pray for the protection of minority groups of the Christian community in Syria under the new radical Muslim government.
- Lift the Ladies' weekly meeting, asking for blessings upon the guests and the large number of online Facebook viewers.

Alpine Campus, Kekoa Grover

Praises:

- We give thanks for a wonderful Christmas Season at the Alpine campus and for two wonderful Christmas Eve Candlelight services, attended by so many.
- We're excited to embark on a new Small Group Season and are genuinely thankful for everyone who's committed to exploring God's Word more deeply in our Small Group gatherings

Praying For:

- We pray that those who visited the campus over Christmas would consider returning, commit to following Jesus, and allow the Holy Spirit to lead them and grow them into strong disciples of Jesus.
- 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.
- A terrific Fall Season of Ministry and connection.
- Many guests and visitors that have returned and become part of our campus family.

Requests:

- For all our December seasonal services. 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 recommitments 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 December Women's Tea with 85 ladies in attendance.
- Being able to build a float and represent Shadow Mountain in the 60th Annual Starlight Parade—Chula Vista Christmas Parade.
- Increased interest in the congregation attending Men's and Women's Ministry Events.
- Volunteers taking on youth ministry for our Sunday morning service.

Prayer for:

- North Park community as they transition to the South Bay Campus.
- Volunteers for Kids and Host Ministries.
- A successful ministry fair.

Central Coast Campus, Pastor Kevin Begley

Praise:

- Pray that many visit as a result of our Christmas outreach through the town parade and activities we held in December.
- Pray that God continues to build up our worship team with new instrumentalists.
- Pray that God continues to build our Children's ministry.
- Pray that we welcome a new church secretary.

Praises:

- Buildings and grounds are repaired from tornado damages!
- We continue to have a wonderful spirit of fellowship every Sunday.
- Home groups are going well and dive into sermon-based discussions.
- We have a neat team of volunteers who love the people in Christ!

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.
- Spring 2025 registration is open so please continue praying for our new and continuing students.
- Five of our Bible faculty were accepted to present at the 2024 Evangelical Theological Society National Convention being held in downtown San Diego. This is the premiere Evangelical academic event, where we offered a special presentation featuring our faculty publishing and contributing authors at the San Diego Convention Center.

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.
- The Call to Care Training continues as so many churches are requesting help in setting up a ministry of lay biblical counselors to assist in the needs of the church. Please pray as we build up our teams to meet the need.
- Upcoming Donor Dinner focusing on appreciating our faithful supporters.

Christian Unified Schools, Bob Ruhlman

Praises:

- Praise that we have completed a successful first semester. Our teachers and staff have poured their hearts into our students and families and have a well-deserved rest coming.
- Praise that we are blessed to work beside such terrific teachers, staff, students and families. Christian Unified is a special place.
- Praise the Lord for blessing our athletic programs with an outstanding fall season that included conference championship victories by our Patriot football and girls' tennis teams and a CIF championship for our girls cross country team.
- Praise the Lord for His provision. We are thankful for the generous support of our community to meet the financial needs of our school that are over and above what tuition covers.

Prayer Requests:

- Please pray for multiple students and staff across the school district that are facing health issues or a death in their family. Please pray that they feel the peace that passes understanding and blessings in the midst of mourning and hard times and for complete healing for those that need it.
- Please pray for our staff and students that they return to school for the second semester with a renewed attitude of hopefulness and gratitude for their classmates, their teachers and our schools.
- Please pray for our enrollment and wisdom in planning for the upcoming year.
- Please pray for the infrastructure of the school and our needs especially for more space to accommodate enrollment.
- Please pray that the Lord would continue to provide for the financial needs of our school district, fueling our ability to deliver on our mission of "Teaching Students to Think, Learn and Live from a Biblical Worldview."
- Please pray that school leaders would have wisdom and discernment in managing admissions and capacity for our school district in order to continue to fulfill our mission in Christian Education.
- Please pray that God would bless and strengthen each marriage among our school families and staff in order to provide the best family support situation for our students.