

WATCHMAN ALERT

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Death and Life are in the Power of the Tongue

Earlier this year I was in South Dakota on a pheasant hunt. We hunted in the mornings and spent our evenings sitting around for Bible study and sharing. One night an older man with a heavy Louisiana drawl began to share. You could hear the weight in his voice before you even knew what he was carrying. He told us about the hardest thing he has ever had to do. About 20 years into his marriage, he had to commit his wife to a psychiatric hospital because she was suicidal and deeply depressed. As they took her away, she was screaming at him. Over and over she cried, “I hate you. How could you do this to me. I hate you.” It shattered him. He stood there broken, feeling like he had betrayed the woman he loved most. On the ride home, through tears he cried out to the Lord. And the Lord answered him with a verse.

Death and life are in the power of the tongue. —Proverbs 18:21

Through that verse, God showed him something he had never seen before. Even though he deeply loved his wife, the way they talked about her was always shaped by her pain—her traumatic upbringing, the abuse, her abandonment, her baggage, the scars and the problems. Everything was framed by what was wrong and what might go wrong.

He made a decision right then and there that he would stop speaking from fear and sight and start speaking from faith. He would speak to his wife the way God saw her and the way Scripture described her. Every time he visited her in the hospital he told her how beautiful she was inside and out. He told her she was a good wife and a good mother. Then he started saying something that really made her angry. You are perfect. She would push back and say, “stop saying that, I am not perfect.” But he kept saying it anyway. After she came home and things began to stabilize, the Lord spoke to him again during his prayer time and gave him another verse.

Perfect love casts out all fear. —1 John 4:18

In that moment God revealed something deeper. One of his wife’s greatest fears was that one day he would leave her because she was too broken. She felt unworthy of him because he was such a good man and that he would abandon her eventually. So, he went to her, took her hands, looked her straight in the eyes, and said, “no matter what happens, no matter what you do, no matter what we go through, I am never leaving you. I love you with all my heart and I am here for life.”

From that point on, by the grace of God he stayed faithful to those two verses. For days, weeks, and months he spoke life and security over her. He did it at home and in public and even in front of other people. We all chuckled as he told us he would introduce her as “his perfect wife,” which always earned him an elbow in the ribs. But he did not stop. About six months later they were sitting in their living room talking when it hit them both at the same time. She was different. Peace had replaced fear. Her trauma no longer controlled her. Somewhere along the way she had come to believe him and she was free. Her upbringing had been deeply traumatic with abuse and abandonment, but those things no longer had the final word. Then he said something I’ll never forget. He said “I would never want to go through that again but I certainly would, if it meant having my wife back and the marriage we have now. She is so radiant and full of joy and we love each other so much, we are best friends.”

I have not been able to shake that story!

First, because it is such a clear picture of how God speaks to us. In Christ, God does not define us by our wounds or our failures or our past. Because of Jesus, His righteousness is credited to us. We are seen as loved, whole, and secure. And God makes us the same promise that husband made to his wife.

I will never leave you nor forsake you. —Hebrews 13:5

Second, it has challenged me to think about how I speak to my wife, my kids, the people I work with, and even to myself. Am I speaking life or reinforcing fear. Am I naming what is broken or declaring what God says is true. As we step into a new year, maybe one of the most powerful commitments we can make is to speak life in our homes, our marriages, over our children, at work and in our own minds.

Let's speak life in 2026!

Manny Sanchez

Men's Ministry Pastor

PRAISE & PETITION...

Pastor, Dr. David Jeremiah

- As we enter into the New Year, it is good for us to examine our walk with Him and allow God to refine our goals and strategies for 2026. My prayer is that we will redeem the time and be used mightily by God to impact the world for Christ.
- I am excited about what God has to teach us from His Word. We will be discussing the principles of stewardship during the month of January. Pray that we will be open to what He has to say to each of us.
- Our annual Ministry Fair will take place on January 17th and 18th. Let's trust God to 'showcase' the resources He has given to Shadow Mountain to enable us to serve Him effectively.
- God continues to provide the wonderful privilege of training men and women to serve Him. Pray that He will use our schools and seminary to produce graduates seeking His will for their lives as we begin a new semester.
- Pray for revival.
- Let's trust our God to protect Shadow Mountain Ministries as we reach around the world with the precious truth of the gospel.

There is one who makes himself rich, yet has nothing; And one who makes himself poor, yet has great riches.
(Proverbs 13:7)

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 our Marriage Mentor program, for those who are preparing for marriage and for our mentor couples.

- Please pray for all who attended our DivorceCare and GriefShare groups this last session. Pray for those who have lost loved ones and for those going through separation or divorce.

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 and Baptism, Pastor Scott Pittman

Praise Report

We have had some record numbers of people coming to our Christmas services. Praying that we will be able to follow up and help all our First Time Guests make Shadow Mountain their new Home Church!

Prayer Requests

- Pray for our Evangelism/Connections Team, that God will continue to guide and empower their outreach efforts.
- Pray for the Deacons and Deaconesses who faithfully assist with baptisms.
- Pray for our Discipleship Groups, that they would help build strong foundations for new believers and connect them into the life of the church.
- Pray for Toni Vowels, our Administrative Assistant, who handles all the details related to assimilation.
- 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 those involved in the New Member's Class, that they would clearly understand and embrace the mission and vision of our church.
- Pray for all the Altar Counselors and Pastors, that they would be refreshed, encouraged, and used mightily as they minister during 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 that 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: Loretta Emert, Carolyn Hunt, Betty Preston, Jim Nemec, Elizabeth Carrillo, Ruth Cast, Suzanne Bennett, John Paradise, Tom Henry, Arlene Vollmer, Don Harrison, Jeanette Eddery, Shirley Pickney, Jack and Jean Krieger, Jordan Verhoeve, Glenda Parker, Marilyn Campbell, Mark Kuker, Krystal Emery, Lee White, Lorraine Hanley, Mary Hodge, Ellis Grant, Janet Lawry, Pat Dorroh, VJ Iverson, Leanne Norvell, Barrie Williamson, Blaine Sellers, Gay Allen, David Harper, Steve Seelig, Rex Gastrich, Elaine Johnson, Tommy LaMadrid

Pray for shut-ins: Sally Barber, Barbara Hendrix, John Goetz, Cliff Swanson, Doug Ayres, David Morris, Alice Cook, Karena De La France, Sam Gaea

Pray for families who have lost loved ones: Marci Bonebright, Rosia Weber

"The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust." Psalm 18:2

Director of Servant Ministries, Joyce Tepfer

As we face a NEW year you might ask? What's NEW in Prayer Requests for Servant Ministries?

- NEW Members' meetings will resume on the 2nd Sunday of the month. And **THAT MEANS...**
- NEW Members will be ready for the interview process... And **THAT MEANS...**
- We want to be ready with refreshed Team of Ministry Advisors and possibly a NEW member at the ready to do the job. And **THAT MEANS...**
- They will want to explore NEW service opportunities to pray about and look into. And **THAT MEANS...**
- The various ministries need direction to identify and develop NEW opportunities for service. And **THAT MEANS...**
- The Ministry Advisors need wisdom in evaluating the NEW members top Spiritual Gifting. And **THAT MEANS...**
- That each of these steps needs PRAYER backing and coverage and direction for any to lead smoothly into the next step with clarity of God's leading... And **THAT MEANS...**
- We need your Prayer Support in this NEW year and are so grateful for your faithfulness in holding up our hands.

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.
- Pray for discernment and consistent joy for our educators at the school and seminary.

Music Ministry, Tobin Davis

- 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:

- Our Kids Blast and Kids Blast Jr. programs continue to thrive, drawing many new children to our church.
- Our dedicated team of staff and volunteers is a true blessing, united in our passion for working together.
- We're thrilled to see children embracing faith, wanting to get baptized, and thriving in their church experience as they grow spiritually! We're grateful for the opportunity to serve entire families.
- We have been able to navigate staffing changes with grace, and God is providing for our needs to maintain a strong team to lead our ministry.

Prayer Requests:

- The launch of the new Kids Blast at 9:00 am this Fall has been a big success. Now our prayer request is for more volunteers! We need more adult leaders to help us continue to grow and reach more kids.
- We need more reliable adult volunteers in ALL weekend programming.
- That our staff and volunteers joyfully share Christ's love with children, parents, and one another.
- For children to develop a deep, authentic relationship with God, establish a strong Biblical foundation, form meaningful connections with peers and leaders, and cherish their church community.
- That God's truth would deeply impact our children's hearts and minds, overpowering the falsehoods in today's culture!

Small Group Central, Dale Bacon

For Our Small Group Leaders

Pray that our small group leaders would be filled with wisdom, compassion, and endurance as they shepherd their groups. Ask God to refresh their hearts weekly, give them discernment as they facilitate conversations, and deepen their personal walk with Christ so they can lead from overflow, not exhaustion.

For Our Small Group Attenders

Pray that every attender would experience genuine community and spiritual growth within their group. Ask that God would open hearts to His Word, strengthen relationships marked by grace and truth, and inspire each person to take their next step in faith—whether that's serving, leading, or sharing their story.

For Our Small Group Coaches

Pray that our coaches will lead with humility, clarity, and encouragement as they guide and support their leaders. Ask God to give them insight into how best to mentor and equip their leaders, helping to cultivate a culture of care, and multiplication across our ministry.

College Ministry, Trey Cole

Prayer Requests:

- That God would provide 5 more adult couples to serve on Thursday Nights in the College Ministry to facilitate discussion and prayer.
- For God to continue to work in the hearts of the students who have heard the Gospel.
- For students to say "yes" to serving in different ministries in the church.

Praises:

- Two students were saved during our Save San Diego event!
- Students are excited about what God is doing through them in the ministry!

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 Young professionals who are pursuing the Lord!
- We are very grateful for 2025, and the work God has done in people's lives. We've seen a lot of people move on this year, but we have sent them towards God's best.
- For many answered prayers within our ministry, and that God is using the community to meet one another's needs and helping people Pursue their Purpose.

Prayer requests

- **Continued Spiritual and physical** growth of our ministry.
- Prayers that God would send **new members and new leaders to our ministry**.
- We need to develop more leaders to step up from within our group. Pray for **new table** and **small group leaders** to emerge.
- **Vision for what the next iteration of Young Adults** looks like, as we strive to serve our singles, military, and engaged people at Shadow Mountain.
- Healing for some damaged interpersonal relationships - that the Spirit would bring unity, healing, and conviction.
- **For our 2026 planning** as we seek to serve our demographic better in the coming year.
- **For our 2026 Small Groups study on Holiness**- That it would lead people closer to Jesus, and that we can find places for everyone who wants to be in one.
- **Administrative help** for the Young Adult ministry as we continue to provide connection and events for YA's at SMCC. Consistent help to manage the "business" of the ministry so Pastor George can focus on the people of the ministry.
- **Protection** for our Young Adults serving in the military.
- **For opportunities to minister to our military more directly and** gain base access.
- **Spiritual discernment** as our community lives and works in the world.
- **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. Also, wisdom and grace for those that come to us out of failed relationships.
- For **Pastor George: clarity** and **endurance** as he leads his group and others. **Wisdom** to navigate the demands of ministry and family. **Healing** from frustration and burnout.
- **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.
- **Krysten's** father passed away late in 2025. Comfort and grace as we heal from that and support her mom in this season.
- **Jasmine is well into her Senior Year of HS!** Pray for physical strength and for a Car for Jasmine as she starts driving this winter. Praying for a small SUV to help accommodate her physical needs. Endurance to finish her senior year well!!
- **Amira begins a new College program.** Wisdom and clarity as she takes on this next educational goal for herself. Also, continued wisdom for navigating interpersonal relationships.
- **Prayers for the Local Fire Departments** that Pastor George serves as Chaplain (San Miguel, Santee, Sycuan). Safety for the crews and opportunities to hear the gospel. Also, opportunities to expand the influence of the Chaplains in the San Diego area.

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.

Family Life Ministry, James Darnell

Praises:

- We saw great spiritual growth this fall.
- Saturday morning men's discipleship was strengthening and encouraging for the men in the ministry.
- We saw over 150 people attend and fellowship at the Turkey Bowl Thanksgiving celebration.
- Daniela Wojciechowski has been a special gift and blessing to the ministry this fall.

Prayer:

- As we look to the new year, we need prayer for continued outreach and new leaders.
- We need prayer for our volunteer administration team in the spring.
- We need prayer for military spouses and families.
- We need prayer for spiritual protection and discernment for our couples.

Young Marrieds Ministry, David Todd Jeremiah

Requests:

- New Leaders as we grow in the new year.
- Safety for deployed military and their spouses.
- Prayers for kids and babies during flu season.
- Wisdom in planning for 2026

Praise:

- We had a strong finish to the year with the holiday season.
- We saw plenty of growth this year in our families, attendance, and spiritual lives.

Women's Ministries, Lisa Paulson

Praise:

- Praise God for the many answered prayers in 2025!
- Praise God for a New Year of being connected and serving together!
- Praise God for the opportunity to share the gospel and make disciples!
- Praise God for another year to steward what He has entrusted to us!

Prayer:

- Please pray for God's hand-picked speaker for our spring Girl Time event.
- Please pray that the Ministry Fair will be an excellent opportunity for women to see all that's available to them through Women's Ministries.
- The spring Bible studies start back up the week of January 7th. Please pray that many new ladies would sign up and be excited about being in God's Word and connected in a small group.
- God would raise more women who want to get involved and serve!
- As women grow in their relationship with Christ, they will see the fruit of their investment pouring over into their families.
- God will raise more leaders and Disciple-makers for 2026 and take the challenge to invest in the next generation.
- Our Women's Leadership Breakfast on February 21st will ignite hearts to keep leading and serving!
- 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. Loving, leading, and serving women would be on full display!
- Please pray for protection over all that God is doing through Women's Ministry.
- God would be glorified through His church and 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." Eph. 4:12-14

Men's Ministries, Pastor Manny Sanchez

Praises:

- During the summer workshops a group of 30-35 men from Teen Challenge attended. It was their first time on the SMCC campus, they loved it and have committed to attending the Men's Bible Study on a regular basis.
- We saw a total of 80 people come to faith in Christ through Men's ministry events and Bible Studies! Praise God!

Prayer:

- All the details and logistics to come together seamlessly for our Dangerous Man event this Spring.
- Men will be strengthened in faith and courage to lead and love their families well.
- Men will be equipped and encouraged through weekly Bible Study.

Campus Operations, Bryan Snow

New things

New years are often times to reminisce on years past and look forward with hope to new things which are to come. In Revelation 21:5, God says *“behold, I make all things new.”* He speaks of a time with no tears, no death, no sorrow, no crying, and no more pain, because the old, former things are passed away. In this new year, let's cling to this blessed hope that all will be made new. And let's also look for the blessing of serving the Lord together in this brand-new year!

What we desire of Him:

- God's blessing and power upon Roy Rogers (shuttles, greeters, and more!) and Carla Pittman (hospitality).
- Psalm 91 speaks of the Lord protecting those in His care from terror, arrows, pestilence and destruction, saying that *“it shall not come nigh thee”* (verse 7). We covet the Lord's protection of our church, our families, and our nation.
- In January, our Bible Studies will reconvene, and the entire church will mobilize in the Ministry Fair. Please pray that the Lord will use these to connect our brethren with the Lord, with each other, and with places to serve!

Missions, Dr. Gary Coombs

- Pray for Betty Ngoboka's ongoing medical treatment in Uganda. Please pray for her full recovery, rest, and comfort from the Lord.
- Pray for our many **single missionaries** serving on the mission field to have strong relationships with co-laborers and friends. Particularly, pray for the safety of our single women who are serving abroad, some in restricted countries.
- Pray for security, safety, and encouragement for our missionaries in the **Middle East** as they face ongoing political and social tension.
- Pray for our **Thailand Global Team** while they continue their visit with the Mein Village through mid-January. They are serving in various capacities at a school, including teaching English and Bible classes and working on a handful of minor construction projects.
- Pray for discernment as we plan for **2026 Global Teams**. Please pray as we select destinations, missionaries to visit, projects to plan, and church members to train.

Sports Ministry, Tim Brown

Praise

- Praise God for the resources available on our campus to facilitate our Sports Programs.
- Praise God for the servants that God has raised up to help coach, train, and work at our Sports Programs.

Prayer

- Pray for those serving in the Sports Ministry to represent Jesus Christ well during our sports programs.
- Pray that the sports environments would help build relationships, share the Good News, and draw people to Shadow Mountain.

- Pray for opportunities to share the Gospel, both one on one and in our team settings, with the participants who will be involved in our sports programs.
- Pray for the recruitment of godly, mature coaches for the sports programs.
- Pray for the participants in the Youth Basketball League. Pray for the impact of the relationships with the players and their families. Pray that they might visit SMCC or consider understanding more about God and His Church.
- Pray for the Youth Basketball games on Saturdays (Jan-Feb). That the environment would help believers connect with families from the community and be a positive experience for the participants.
- Pray for the volunteers and coaches who will help serve in the upcoming Youth Rec Basketball League. For unity, enthusiasm, and purpose while we coach and facilitate a community basketball league on the SMCC campus.

Cares Ministry, Kevin Gowing

“but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles;”
Isaiah 40:31

Praises

- For current faithful volunteers, and some new ones, that love our ministry and serve with joy!
- Feeding San Diego gave us all of the food we normally order from them for free for the month of November (and added December) as they knew we were serving so many in need!

Prayers – Always the need for the following at Cares:

- That we would continue to boldly proclaim Christ to those who need a Savior, and that the Spirit would give them understanding. Luke 24:45, “Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.”
- That God would continue to lead this ministry by His Spirit, and that He would cause revival in our community and county.
- For the health of volunteers and recipients as some have still been experiencing serious health ailments (always a need).
- For our volunteer Rudy, who was stabbed and is recovering in the hospital.
- May God keep our campus safe as we serve our diverse community.

Hispanic Congregation, Pastor Erick Zaldaña

Praise God for:

- The fantastic response of our church, Shadow Mountain en Español, with our current sermon series, **Differences That Define Us.**
- The new family ministry in our church, called **Agape**, which is truly an answered prayer from God.
- The life of each person that has come to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.
- The families in our congregation that have a job to support their households.
- Every member that supports our different ministries.
- The work of God through “Bajo Fuego,” an initiative by pastor Hayden Lema, that is freeing men from the chains of the enemy through Christ.
- How God is taking care of the lives of the church’s leadership staff, and their families.
- The unity and purpose God has brought to our different ministries, helping us share the Gospel with Boldness.

Pray:

- For Pastor Zaldaña’s daughters, Rebecca, who is studying at CBU, and Gracia, who is a senior this year. That God would lead their steps through different challenges.

- For God to continue using His church, Shadow Mountain en Español, to share the gospel with the Hispanic community of San Diego.
- For God to give us wisdom and direction leading the Youth Ministries.
- For the life of each member of our SMCC Youth Community, may they grow in the love of Christ.
- For God to continue to give us grace and passion to serve and honor Him.
- For the wisdom to guide members to Christ through our different ministries.
- For God to open doors everywhere we go to preach the gospel.
- For God's grace and strength to share the gospel, and to have the entire church getting involved in evangelism.

Arabic Congregation, Pastor Robert Helou

Praises:

- We thank the Lord for the many individuals who responded to the call to rededicate their lives to Him, including a Muslim family.
- We praise God for a wonderful service featuring a well-known Egyptian Gospel singer and a renowned speaker. We were also blessed with many visitors.
- We are grateful to the Lord for the uplifting Thanksgiving special service, which was followed by a free lunch for all attendees.
- We praise God for our family reunion in Foster City, California, and for the joyful time of fellowship we shared with our loved ones.
- We thank the Lord for His protection over a young lady who was involved in a car accident, which ultimately led her to rededicate her life to Him.
- Praise the Lord for the two church members who volunteered to teach the FUEL class as we continue to pray for and seek a suitable couple.

Prayers:

- Please pray for Brother Tawfik Fakoury's family as they mourn his passing on December 11th. He was 91 years old.
- Remember Sister Afaf in your prayers as she faces a recurrence of colon cancer. She is experiencing discomfort due to chemotherapy.
- Pray for Brother Sami, who is dealing with health issues affecting his bladder and kidneys. His surgery is scheduled for December 17th.
- Lift up our elderly members and shut-ins who are unable to attend services in person but continue to worship with us online.
- Pray for our Christian brothers and sisters in Syria and Nigeria who are enduring severe persecution and hostility.
- Join us in prayer for the many special meetings and activities planned for Christmas and the New Year.

Alpine Campus, Pastor Kekoa Grover

Praises:

A Wonderful Christmas Season at the Alpine Campus.

We're praising God for a joyful and hope-filled Christmas season at the Alpine Campus!

God's Work Through Small Groups

We're also praising God for the strong Fall season of Small Groups! Many wrapped up their sessions celebrating the sanctifying work of God in their lives. We're grateful for the leaders who faithfully facilitated these groups and for the sweet community that continues to form as people pursue Jesus together. What a joy it is to see our church family strengthened through these meaningful connections!

Praying For:**Future of Small Groups and Community Life**

We're praying for continued growth and depth in our Small Groups (and all ministries at Alpine Campus) as we look toward the new year. We're asking God to guide those who are considering joining a group, strengthen our leaders, and deepen the sense of biblical community at the Alpine Campus. Our desire is that every person would find a place to grow spiritually, serve, build Christ-centered friendships, and take next steps in their walk with the Lord.

*Encinitas Campus, Pastor Adam Brodwolf***Praise God for**

- The sweetness of our congregation and fellowship.
- Three new families with children. Please pray they will continue to come when they see there are other kids. If we could just get them all to come at the same time...
- Two men being personally discipled.
- All of the painted trim has been completed and it looks great.
- The relationship with Venture Church next door, and the opportunity to provide space for the teaching of Congolese children along with them. Please pray: they are currently in need of a van to get the kids to class.

*Online Campus, Pastor 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 17 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, Fausto Garay***We are thankful for...**

- All the volunteers who helped decorate our campus for Christmas.
- The success of our Christmas celebration.
- The growth we witnessed this year in our small groups.

Prayer for:

- Leaders to step up with a spirit under God ready to lead small groups.
- Those who came to Christ during the holiday season to stay close and lock in building an intimate relationship with Christ.
- God to establish His foundation and provide direction for youth group.

South Bay Campus—Hispanic Congregation, Pastor Jesus Tiznado

Praise God for:

- We are thankful for the health God has restored in many brothers at church.
- We are thankful for keeping the church united and firm in the study of His Word.
- We are thankful for the body of deacons serving God faithfully.

Pray:

- For the youth, may God awaken a heart of service for others serving those in need including the homeless.
- For the Family events we have every month at South Bay “Together at the table.”
- For the evangelism activity across the border in Tijuana “Coffee & Prayer.”
- For the Tiznado family, so their son Jesus Jr. may be strengthened in Christ through his missionary training.
- For Jesus Jr. as a missionary through YWAM and a transcultural missionary trip in 2025-2026.

Central Coast Campus, Pastor Kevin Begley

Central Coast prayer

- Pray for our worship leader Greg Padgett who recently had successful surgery for a pacemaker.
- Pray for two new deacons as one, Daniel Raymond, is leaving to become a police officer in a different city. Also pray for Daniel's safety.
- Pray that our Christmas outreach would be fruitful in connecting with the local community.

Praise

- We have an awesome fellowship at the campus.
- Young families continue to bring other young families to visit!
- God keeps building the team of teachers and worship leaders.

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 and Staff:** Praise for the dedicated faculty and staff who diligently equip students with biblical knowledge, Christian character, and ministry skills, ensuring they are well-prepared to serve in their fields.
- **We're celebrating a great start to the Fall 2025 term!** We have had a challenging season of transition but have experienced tremendous blessing and growth. We see God's provision throughout this new academic year and as we head into our 80th year of equipping believers. We are grateful for how He continues to guide and shape SCS for the good of those we serve.

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:** Please pray for our students, faculty, and staff as well as their families.
- **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.
- **Provision and Praise:** Please join us in praying for God's continued growth and provision over the seminary. As we move forward, we ask for wisdom, strength, and clarity in every area of our mission so that we may faithfully serve those God has called here. We also pray for a meaningful and joy-filled upcoming celebration of all that God has accomplished through the seminary and through its faithful leaders over the past 80 years.

Christian Unified Schools, Bob Ruhlman

Praise:

- Praise that we have completed a successful first semester. Our teachers and staff have poured their hearts into our students and families.
- 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. Additionally, our girls volleyball team competed very well at the Open division in San Diego which is the top competition level in our region. We are proud of our students and their hard work, teamwork and character.
- 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 that our staff and students return to school for the second semester with a renewed attitude of achievement 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 future 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 for the Christian High School Missions programs that are being planned for spring break and summer. These are tremendous opportunities for our students to grow in faith, service, and community.