

# WATCHMAN ALERT

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Volume 30, Number 3—March 2026

## *Seventy Times Seven*

The man looked up with tears in his eyes, heart pounding. “Please! Give me more time!” Because he could not repay his crushing debt, he, his wife, and his children faced a life sentence of slavery. Falling to his knees, he cried out, “Please, have mercy!” The king stepped down from his throne, knelt beside the trembling servant, and placed a gentle hand on his shoulder. “Your debt is forgiven. Go in peace.”

Imagine the overwhelming relief—the sudden lifting of an impossible burden. In a single moment, this servant was pardoned of 10,000 talents, an unimaginable sum. Yet what he did next is shocking. Upon encountering a fellow servant who owed him only a small amount, instead of extending the same grace he had just received, he seized the man by the throat, demanded immediate payment, and had him thrown into prison.

This is the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant from Matthew 18, Jesus’ powerful response to Peter’s question: “Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother who sins against me? Up to seven times?” Jesus replied, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy times seven”—implying always, without limit, no exceptions. I can only imagine the expression on the disciples’ faces.

Forgiveness is powerful, but rarely easy. I don’t know if you’ve ever stood in the king’s place, holding a debt someone owes you—an apology, money, trust, or something far deeper. It’s hard to let go. My boys are still young, but I make them practice the words: “I forgive you.” Because if they don’t learn it now, those words won’t come easily when they’re older and the hurts are bigger.

The enemy of our souls delights in hatred, strife, bitterness, and contempt. These are central to his playbook. Unforgiveness is like a slow-growing cancer. It hides beneath the surface, often undetected, until it turns aggressive and destroys a life, a marriage, a family, or even a church.

Jesus’ message was clear that as His followers, we have no right to withhold forgiveness. The disciples may not have grasped the full weight of the parable of the Unforgiving Servant at the time, but after the Cross, it became unmistakable. Jesus’ blood paid our unpayable debt. We deserved eternal punishment, yet He showed us boundless mercy. What right do we have to deny that same mercy to those who have wronged us?

In Mark 11, Jesus ties the power of prayer directly to forgiveness:

*“And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins”* (Mark 11:25). Holding resentment doesn’t just hurt others—it hinders our own relationship with God. Choosing forgiveness opens the way for answered prayer and deeper communion with Him.

My encouragement today is this: Come before the Lord in prayer and ask Him to search your heart and reveal any hidden unforgiveness. A soul laid bare before the Lord cannot cling to the filthy rags of bitterness for long. And the sweetness of true release far outweighs the fleeting, self-righteous satisfaction of hanging onto anger.

May the Lord gently uncover and lift away any hidden bitterness as you fix your eyes on the Risen King of Kings. In His presence, all else melts away.

Jesus taught us to pray: "Forgive us our debts, *as we also have forgiven our debtors*" (Matthew 6:12, emphasis added).

Have you forgiven yours?

**Jesse Abeel**

Children's Pastor

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

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### *Pastor, Dr. David Jeremiah*

- Our current teaching series on the life of Jonah has been a great encouragement to many. Pray that God would open our hearts and use His Word to shape and use us for His glory.
- Resurrection weekend (April 4th-5th) is rapidly approaching. Let's trust God to use our services and our lives in a powerful way to draw many to Him.
- Our Dangerous Man outreach to men takes place on March 13th. Pray that God would use this major event to introduce those without hope into a relationship with Him.
- Pray for revival.
- Pray for our government; that our leadership will stand for what is righteous.
- Pray for our Nominating Committee as they work to fill positions of leadership; for direction, for open hearts ready to use their giftedness to serve.
- Be faithful to entrust the ministries of Shadow Mountain into the protective care of our God.

*I will praise the LORD according to His righteousness, and will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High.*  
(Psalms 7:17)

### *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 those who are attending our DivorceCare and GriefShare groups who have lost loved ones and for those going through separation or divorce. And please pray for our group facilitators as they minister to the 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 and Baptism, Pastor Scott Pittman*

### **Praise Report**

- We are already seeing many people make decisions for Christ through the new Shadow Mountain Church App.
- We recently hired Karrie Almeida as our new Evangelism and Connections Administrative Assistant. She is taking over for Toni Vowles, who retired after 29 years of full-time administrative ministry at Shadow Mountain.

### **Prayer Requests**

- Pray for our new Administrative Assistant, Karrie Almeida, that her transition to our team would be smooth and a great blessing to her and her family.
- 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 build strong foundations for new believers and connect them into the life of the church.
- 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 Members 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 Nemeck, Elizabeth Carrillo, Ruth Cast, Suzanne Bennett, John Paradise, Tom Henry, Arlene Vollmer, Don Harrison, Jeanette Eddery, Shirley Pickney, Jean Kriege, Jordan Verhoeve, Glenda Parker, Marilyn Campbell, Mark Kuker, Krystal Emery, Lee White, Lorraine Hanley, Mary Hodge, Ellis Grant, Janet Lawry, Pat Dorroh, Leanne Norvell, Andy Pheasant, Rex Gatrach, Gary Coombs, Kent Sturgeon, Sam Gaea, Ray Cole.

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

**Pray for families who have lost loved ones:** Becky Bellwood, Jack Kriege, Stephen Lewis, Warren Davis, Vickie Schlicht, Beulah Gilcrest.

*“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?’” John 11:25-26*

## *Director of Servant Ministries, Joyce Tepper*

Praise the Lord that when it looks like there are not enough Ministry Advisors to meet with all of the New Members, God always works it out. HE IS ENOUGH!

Praise the Lord that when schedules need adjusting and reschedules are requested, God always works it out. HE IS ENOUGH!

Praise the Lord that when the exact service opportunity doesn't work out, God has another better fit right around the corner. HE IS ENOUGH!

Praise the Lord, HE IS ENOUGH!

HE IS ENOUGH!

## *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.

**Prayer Requests:**

- The launch of the new Kids Blast at 9:00 am 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 have a need for 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 10 more adult couples to serve on Thursday nights from 6pm-8:30pm, investing in our students, and facilitating our prayer and discussion times during Thursday CM.
- Continued spiritual growth of our students.
- Save San Diego Spring 2026: For our students to step out in faith to share the Gospel, and for the hearts of the students who will hear the Gospel, that they would be receptive and respond in repentance and submission to Jesus.
- The students on our leadership team are facing some difficult life circumstances and discouragement.

**Praises:**

- Sunday CM has been well received by students. They are reading their Bibles more consistently during the week, discussing the Sunday sermons, and coming together to discuss their Bible reading as a group.
- Our student leadership team is struggling, but they are learning to struggle together. They are being used effectively for the Gospel and the enemy is not overtaking them.

*Young Adult Ministry—20 's & 30 's, George Helewa***Praises**

- 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**.
- **Celebrations for many engagements.** We have 4-5 couples moving towards their wedding day!

### 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.
- **Spiritual Revival.** There is something hindering our ministry. Pray for the Lord to reveal it and remove it.
- **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 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 (ala Acts 6).
- **For our 2026 Alaska Missions Trip.** For God to put our team together and provide all the necessary resources.
- **For our summer ministries:** If we don't get some help, we may not be able to do some of the ministries we've done in the past, including perennial favorite, Beach Bible Study.
- **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.
- **Jasmine turns 18 this month!** Prayers for a great month as well as we are praying for a small SUV when she starts driving to help accommodate her physical needs. Endurance to finish her senior year well!
- **Amira in her College program.** She has a powerful opportunity to shine the light of Christ in her major. Pray for spiritual, mental, and emotional protection and opportunity to share Jesus.
- **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 Ewrich*

### Prayer Requests

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

**Praises**

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

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

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

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

## *Family Life Ministry, James Darnell*

**Praises:**

- Pray for our new volunteer admin team as they coordinate and plan.
- Pray for new couples entering the ministry in the new year.
- Pray for our leaders as they take on new responsibilities in the new year.
- Pray for our couples, their marriages, and their children.

**Praise:**

- God has blessed us with a new group of volunteers to begin the year.
- Praise for a solid and committed leadership team.
- God's sustaining and providing power for the ministry.

## *Young Marrieds Ministry, David Todd Jeremiah*

**Praises**

- Growth in number of families and growth within families.
- Creating a sense of community, friendship, and discipleship.
- New Leaders have stepped up in the New Year.

**Prayer**

- Baby and family health as we have families whose children are undergoing surgeries soon.
- Prayer for discernment for upcoming teaching series and events.
- Prayer for the young marriages in our church and our community.

## *Women's Ministries, Lisa Paulson*

### **Praise:**

- Praise God for our Joyful Hearts Valentine's event for our widows!
- Praise God for the Women's Leadership Training!
- Praise God for the opportunity to share the gospel and make disciples!
- Praise God for all the ways we get to serve one another!

### **Prayer:**

- Please pray for our spring Girl Time event on April 17! All the details will come together, and, more importantly, God will be preparing hearts to hear the gospel and receive Christ into their lives.
- God would raise more women who want to get involved and serve!
- Our Leadership Training would encourage ladies to keep leading and serving. They would see the value of investing in and raising future leaders in Women's Ministry.
- New women will sign up for our Coffee Connect event on Saturday, March 7. They will feel loved and see the beauty of being connected, where friendships can grow and a relationship with Jesus can develop.
- God will raise more Disciple-makers for 2026 and challenge us to invest in the next generation.
- 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!

*"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:**

- We're seeing many men invite friends to our Men's bible study—more than I can remember!
- We launched Chains to Change Ministry last month—a ministry to help those men battling addiction and suicidal tendencies. We've already had more than a dozen inquiries and have been able to help these men.
- Dangerous Man is happening. It's our third year and the plans are shaping up to be the best we've had. We've made great improvements from previous years and the speakers are phenomenal!

### **Prayer**

- We are very short handed in Men's ministry right now and needing to fill two staff positions—an admin and a ministry coordinator. Pray we find the right people and fast.
- Dangerous Man 3 is happening the 13th of this month so pray it is well attended, and highly fruitful to the glory of God! Pray that there would be many salvations, rededications, and encouraged hearts!
- Pray for our speakers for Dangerous Man that they would be so spirit filled that it sends shock waves through our event. Pray for the gospel presentation that pastor Manny will be giving.

## *Campus Operations, Bryan Snow*

*“O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: because his mercy endureth forever.”* (Psalm 118:1) How good has our Lord been to you and your family? How much mercy has He poured out upon you in your life, let alone today? Let's give Him thanks!

### **Please pray:**

- We desire God's blessing and power upon Hunter Davis, Dalton Villamero, Eric Behling, Noel Mia, Jesse Wherley, Daniel Hernandez, Sonyah Scruggs, Israel Rivas, Blake Shaw, Joe Morones, Joe De Leon, Robert Hutcherson, Sergio Fernandez, Alex Dietz, Colin Lepiscopo, Jake Herndon, Jeff Napier, Mark Martinez, Itzel Gowing, Irina Macias, Nathan Horn, Sam Larioza, and Kaylee Liniewicz as they serve on the Safety and Security team.
- In Genesis 28:15, God said to Abraham: *“And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest...”* God has also promised to be with us. Please pray that He will keep us safe from all disruption and danger.
- This month, Women's ministry will host their Coffee Connect, and Men's Ministry is hosting their Dangerous Man event. Please pray that these will bring great growth and fruit that remains in the lives of all who attend.

## *Missions, Dr. Gary Coombs*

- Prayer—for our missionaries serving in Northern Iraq during the current conflict with Syria.
- Prayer—for **Dan and Na Tisdale** while they wait for Na's citizenship and discern future plans for their ministry in Thailand.
- Prayer—for **Luke and Jaalah Kanagy's** transition out of Ecuador and discernment for future ministry.
- Prayer—for missionaries navigating challenging family circumstances.
- Prayer—for the planning of our **2026 Global Teams**. Please pray for the right places to go, projects to deepen our missionaries' ministries, people to build teams, and efficient preparation for each team.

## *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.
- Praise God for the participants (365) in the Youth Basketball League.

### **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 Awards Night (March 7th). For the execution and impact of a gospel centered night with the community on our campus.
- Pray for the Men's Basketball League (March-June). How we can best minister to the men from the community and be a positive experience for the players.

## *Cares Ministry, Kevin Gowing*

***“Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” 1 Peter 4:8-10***

### **Praises:**

- For current faithful volunteers, and some new ones, that love our ministry and serve with joy!
- That the Lord has continued to supply all our needs in the Cares ministry!
- Rudy who had been stabbed, has returned to the ministry and is healing well, PTL!
- Another year of Ministry Fair showcasing all that God is doing through our ministry and church!

### **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 been experiencing serious health ailments (always a need).
- 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:**

- For the new ministry among Arabic-speaking people who come to SMCC and receive food portions and other essential items.
- For the encouraging response of many church members who made personal resolutions to be more serious and dedicated.
- For the generosity of some church members who gave faithfully toward our budget, and we finished the year 20% over.
- For the rich blessings experienced through the four special weekly classes, each studying a different curriculum.
- For the quick recovery of a church member who successfully underwent two different surgeries, both of which went well.
- For the growth of our Sunday service, as we welcome new people almost every Sunday, rejoicing together in the Lord.

### **Prayers:**

- For a dedicated Christian couple to lead our FUEL Ministry, faithfully discipling more than 20 students ages 11-16.
- For our beloved Sister Afaf to have a strong faith, as she faces a recurrence of colon cancer and chemotherapy.
- For our elderly members and shut-ins who faithfully worship online, especially those who are seriously ill.
- For a genuine spiritual revival in 2026—beginning in our church, spreading throughout El Cajon, and San Diego County.
- For our brothers and sisters in Christ in Syria, Iran, and Nigeria who are enduring persecution and harsh hostility.
- For lasting peace in Lebanon, and for wisdom, integrity, and courage for the new president as he leads the nation.

## *Alpine Campus, Pastor Kekoa Grover*

### **Praises:**

#### **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*

### **Praises**

- The Encinitas Campus is experiencing some growth in that we now have enough kids coming to have Sunday school.
- Our congregation seems more zealous about connecting with one another and becoming like-minded.
- Our small groups are doing well.
- The men's discipleship group has been a challenging time with real conversations.
- Also, praise God for one couple who recently asked to be baptized!

### **Please pray:**

- For more discipleship.
- For volunteers to lead worship.
- For God's blessing on the property. Specifically for more young families.
- For Godly and effective ideas for leadership.
- For God to raise up more deacons and deaconesses.
- That we grow both in number and in Spiritual maturity.
- He would use us to reach more of North County and be the light of Christ!

## *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 of our volunteers who continue to serve faithfully in ministries on campus.
- Those who have stepped forward to lead small groups and those who recently joined a ministry through the Ministry Fair.
- A strong start for everyone who has joined a small group this year.

### **We are praying for:**

- Continued growth in our small groups, and for God to lead His people to a solid foundation in Him.
- God to continue providing new leaders so that more groups can be opened.
- God to establish His foundation and bring clear direction to our youth ministry.

## *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 2026.

## *Central Coast Campus, Pastor Kevin Begley*

### **Prayer:**

- Pray for our kid’s ministry that regularly brings new kids and parents to the campus!
- Pray for our worship team as we grow with new musicians.
- Pray that our men connect with the main campus during the Dangerous Man event!

### **Praise:**

- Our small groups continue to go well and connect with many new believers.
- Our people are incredibly warm and welcoming to every guest.
- We have many new attenders willing to serve in worship, kids ministry, men’s and women’s ministry.

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

### **Praises**

- We praise God for the great success of the 3rd Annual Call to Care Conference, which was very well attended. The Lord brought together an excellent group of speakers who thoughtfully taught on the Imago Dei and its importance in Christian counseling. We are grateful for how God used this conference to equip, encourage, and inspire those called to care for others.

### **Prayer**

- The Seminary is working on a short film documenting the history and all that God has done over the last 80 years through SCS. Pray for its production and that it would bring Glory to God and his faithfulness.
- Please pray as we also undertake projects to streamline student enrollment and better serve our new students.

## *Christian Unified Schools, Bob Ruhlman*

### **Praises**

- Praise God for the faithful and dedicated work of our teachers and staff as they live out our mission to *teach students to think, learn and live from a Biblical worldview.*
- Praise God for the blessing, support, and partnership in Christian education from the pastors, staff and members of Shadow Mountain Community Church.
- Praise God for the excellent work of our admissions and business teams as they guide families through the re-enrollment process for the 2026–2027 school year.

- Praise God for His continued grace, protection and sustaining care over our school and staff.
- Praise God for the many activities, athletics, and arts opportunities on our campuses, and for the students who are actively participating in them.
- Praise God for our wonderful PTF parent members whose support, generosity and selfless service bless our campuses in countless ways.

#### **Prayer Requests**

- Please pray for our 8th grade students as they travel to the East Coast for our annual Historical Studies Tour. Pray for safety, good health, favorable weather, and a meaningful, memorable experience.
- Please pray for the health of our school community, as there has been a significant amount of illness going around.
- Please pray that our families and staff will be strengthened and encouraged to finish the third quarter strong, unified and fully engaged.
- Please pray for discernment and wisdom for families of prospective students, as well as for our admissions and business office teams, as enrollment decisions are made.
- Please pray for wisdom and guidance for our leadership team as we begin planning and preparing for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Please pray for protection over CUSSD campuses and SMCC campuses.