

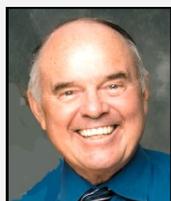


# The Good News Letter

April 18, 2018

“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” John 8:32 (NKJV)

## PASTOR’S MESSAGE



Pastor J. Lynn Martell

Dear Church Family:

“Aaron and Hur held his hand—one on one side, one on the other.” Exodus 17:12.

Intercession is spiritual warfare. It is not for the faint or the feeble. By definition, praying hard is hard. When Karen and I were in Hawaii I was always encouraged as we traveled through out the conference and people would say, “Pastor we pray for you every day!” Prayer leads to victory.

In Exodus 17, we find a blow-by-blow description of an ancient battle between the Israelites and the Amalekites. As long as Moses was lifting up his arms, the Israelites were gaining ground. But when Moses grew tired and lowered his arms, the Israelites lost ground. That’s when Aaron and Hur stood alongside Moses and lifted up his arms until sunset.

Spiritual battles are fought the same way. The victory is won with knees bent in prayer. The enemy cannot be defeated in any other way. I am sure that the day after the victory Moses was celebrated as the hero—but the real key was prayer—the real heroes of the kingdom are the Aarons and the Hurs.

I was reading recently about Charles Finney. He was the most famous evangelist of his generation. He often made headlines—but there was a footnote to his success. Finney had an “Aaron” named Daniel Nash. At the age of forty-eight, Father Nash quit his pastorate to devote himself to full-time intercession. Several weeks before Finney would visit a city, Father Nash would rent a

room, recruit two or three intercessors and begin laying a prayer foundation for the revival that would follow.

By the time Finney had showed up the hard work had been done. The victory had already been secured in the spiritual realm.

Shortly before his death in 1831, Father Nash recorded these words in his journal.

“I am now convinced; it is my duty and privilege, and the duty of every Christian, to pray for as much of the Holy Spirit as came down on the day of Pentecost, and a great deal more. ... I have only begun to understand what Jesus meant when He said, “All things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.”

Father Nash is buried in a small cemetery near the border of New York and Canada.

The headstone on his grave contains the following epitaph:

Daniel Nash  
Laborer with Finney  
Mighty In Prayer

November 17, 1775—December 20, 1831

Imagine what will happen as we have several prayer warriors praying for our church and its future—praying for our Sabbath School teachers and their classes—praying for each of our homes and each member—praying for our youth—and boys and girls! I am looking forward to seeing you this Sabbath. I am going to be speaking on “Lessons from Elijah” A great way to prepare would be to read about Elijah in I Kings 17 and 18.

Pastor J. Lynn Martell

## CALENDAR

### Sabbath, April 21

- 9:15 am Veranda Fellowship Ministry
- 9:45 am Children’s Sabbath School Classes
- 10:00 am Adult Sabbath School Class
- 10:00 am Leccion do Escuela Sabatica
- 11:00 am Pastor J. Lynn Martell  
“Facing Life’s Challenges and Impossibilities”
- 12:30 pm Fellowship Luncheon
- 1:00 pm Spanish language sermon
- 1:30 pm Windows on God’s World
- 2:00 pm Health Talk—Margarete Carniero  
“Connection Between Diet and Diabetes”
- 3:00 pm Bible Memory Class
- 7:28 pm Sunset in Los Alamitos

### Sabbath Worship Speakers

- April 28 Speaker: Mike Oxentenko
- May 5 Speaker: J. Lynn Martell
- May 12 Speaker: J. Lynn Martell
- May 19 Speaker: Richard Schaefer
- May 26 Speaker: J. Lynn Martell
- Jun. 2 Speaker: J. Lynn Martell
- Jun. 9 Speaker: J. Lynn Martell

### Special Events

- Apr. 22 8:00 am Work Bee
- May 10 5:00 pm Staff Meeting
- 7:00 pm Church Board Meeting
- May 13 Mothers’ Day
- May 19 2:30 pm Health Talk  
Andrea Avery (CHIP)
- May 20 1:00 pm Nutrition Seminar  
Rob Everett
- Jun. 7 7:00 pm Orangewood 8th Grade Graduation
- Jun. 10 3:00 pm Orangewood H.S. Commencement
- Jun 14 5:00 pm Staff Meeting
- 7:00 pm Church Board Meeting

### PRAYER LIST

Shanell Joshua, Ronald and Rives Wiggins, Barbara Schmidt, Yolanda Quillen, PeeWee and DeeDee Santoyo.

If prayers have been answered, the crisis is past, or we need to add a name or concern, please let one of the staff know.

### BIRTHDAYS

4/20 Ariana Urquhart  
4/23 Beatriz Trippy

Let us know if we are missing anyone.

### SABBATH SUNSET TIMES

04/28 7:34 pm      05/12 7:45 pm  
05/05 7:39 pm      05/19 7:50 pm

### FINANCES

Tithe Income                \$59,670  
Church Budget Income    \$38,878  
Budgeted Amount:        \$46,219

YTD totals as of 4/15/18

### INSPIRED THOUGHT

“A life in Christ is a life of restfulness. There may be no ecstasy of feeling, but there should be an abiding, peaceful trust. Your hope is not in yourself; it is in Christ. Your weakness is united to His strength, your ignorance to His wisdom, your frailty to His enduring might. So you are not to look to yourself, not to let the mind dwell upon self, but look to Christ. Let the mind dwell upon His love, upon the beauty, the perfection, of His character. Christ in His self-denial, Christ in His humiliation, Christ in His purity and holiness, Christ in His matchless love—this is the subject for the soul’s contemplation. It is by loving Him, copying Him, depending wholly upon Him, that you are to be transformed into His likeness.

Jesus says, ‘Abide in Me.’ These words convey the idea of rest, stability, confidence. Again He invites, ‘Come unto Me, . . . and I will give you rest.’ Matthew 11:28. The words of the psalmist express the same thought: ‘Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him.’ And Isaiah gives the assurance, ‘In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength.’ Psalm 37:7; Isaiah 30:15. This rest is not found in inactivity; for in the Saviour’s invitation the promise of rest is united with the call to labor: ‘Take My yoke upon you: . . . and ye shall find rest.’ Matthew 11:29. The heart that rests most fully upon Christ will be most earnest and active in labor for Him.”—*Steps to Christ*, 70-71 (1892).

### MEET THE FAMILY



“If not founding members of our Los Alamitos Church, Michael and Mercedes Whitford, along with sons Andrew and Joshua, were certainly pioneers, joining the group within a month of its founding.

Michael, raised in Arkansas, came to California as a young man to seek his fortune; his first job was across the street from the Van Nuys SDA Church. Remembering Adventist connections in his early childhood, Michael determined to visit, was befriended and ended up staying, baptized and becoming very much involved in ministry to the youth and young adults. At Los Alamitos, Michael serves us as an Elder, as well as heading up Audio-Visual, and provides wonderful support to the pastoral staff.

Mercedes, one of ten children, and the daughter of a Rancher and Tile Manufacturer, grew up in Vihuatán, Mexico, and came to the US in 1994 to join some siblings already here. She and Michael met at work in 1997, and after two years of deepening friendship they married. Involved together in the Garden Grove Church, Mercedes was baptized in 2002. At Los Alamitos, Mercedes provides warm welcomes at the front door as one of our greeters, as well as providing support for the church’s Hispanic Ministry.

Michael and Mercedes’ elder son, Andrew, is an honor student in the tenth grade at Orangewood Academy, and is considering a career in the medical field, with a special interest at the moment in Neurology.

Younger son, Joshua, is in the eighth grade at Orangewood, and also an honor student, with an eye already on a possible future in both the Law and Engineering — perhaps as a Patent Attorney, this writer suggests?

Andrew and Joshua together provide two compelling reasons for the pride we have in the youth of our Church.

Michael works as an Assembly Technician for a Laser Machine Manufacturer, and Mercedes as a Realtor for First Team Realty in Newport Beach. But foremost, they serve our Los Alamitos Church Family in a way that endears them to all of us.”

### WORK BEE

This Sunday there will be a work bee at the church. It starts at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 12:00 p.m. Bring your gloves and some energy. There is plenty to do. A light meal will be served after.

### HEALTH TALK

This Sabbath the Health Ministry has invited a guest speaker Margarete Carniero who will present “The Connection Between Diet and Diabetes.” It starts at 2:00 p.m.

### THE WEEK IN PICTURES



Martin Urquhart—Cooking School



Cooking School



SECC Officers at Regional Constituency meeting at Orangewood Academy on April 16. Pastor Martell and our delegates attended.