



PazNaz
June 2015

WELCOME



Welcome to *Transformed Under the Pepper Tree*. In this monthly magazine, you will read stories of how God is changing people's lives at PazNaz, transforming them into the image of Jesus Christ by the power of his Spirit!

You might be asking, "Where can I find information about a specific PazNaz event?" Some information about specific events on campus is found within these pages, but each month *Transformed* is focused on relating stories about what PazNaz is really all about. Rather than programs or events, there are stories about changed lives, stories about people coming in contact with the Savior, and people exploring what it means to become a follower of him. It is exciting to hear what God is doing in the lives of people!

Years ago, Pastor Earl Lee and a group of staff members gathered around a pepper tree located on the northern-most point of what was to become the site for First Church of the Nazarene of Pasadena. They dreamed and prayed that God would provide a place where more people could find power for living through Jesus. What began then has been going on for over thirty years as men and women, boys and girls have come into relationship with Christ in significant ways under the shade of that old pepper tree. The mission of the church hasn't changed. May it continue to flourish as people experience the transforming power of Christ.

Blessings,

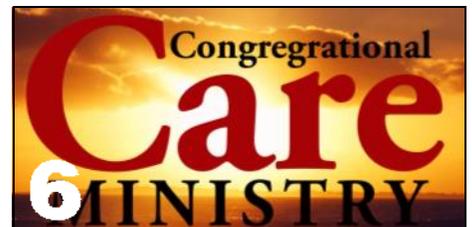
B. Scott Anderson
Executive Pastor

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Transformed is a magazine publication of First Church of the Nazarene of Pasadena (PazNaz). It is designed to highlight the Church's stories of personal transformation. For a complete overview of PazNaz, their beliefs, and ministries, please visit the website www.paznaz.org.

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Ministerios
Hispanos
Un Ministerio de PazNaz

Unity in *Diversity*

from Pastor Marcos Canales

So now you are no longer strangers and aliens. Rather, you are fellow citizens with God's people, and you belong to God's household. As God's household, you are built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. The whole building is joined together in him, and it grows up into a temple that is dedicated to the Lord. Christ is building you into a place where God lives through the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:19-22 (CEB)

PazNaz's Hispanic Ministries continues to develop into a vibrant expression of God's Kingdom. The main goal of the first phase of the ministry was to build connections amongst its members. During this stage, the group met on a weekly basis for an interactive bible study during the Sunday School hour. In addition, the ministry gathered on a monthly basis around a meal and testimony time. This meal, also known as a *convivio* (fellowship), created a unique space for people to share their life stories of faith and doubt, joys and sorrows, and hopes as well as fears. The first couple to share with the group set the tone and the depth for all of these times together- times characterized by vulnerability and God's grace. This couple shared their journey as parents of an autistic child, which educated and sensitized the rest of the group regarding the intricacies and the blessings of being made in the image of God. As *la familia de Dios* (God's household), the group gathered around this couple and prayed for their family in thanksgiving for how God, through their story, had showed grace-filled perseverance, patience, and provision.

The months following this *convivio*, Hispanic Ministries met in various homes and got to hear amazing stories of God's transforming grace in the

midst of death, divorce, abuse, injustice, cancer, and open-heart surgeries. I still recall when one of the members explained the depth of what was going on in the *convivios*: "I have been around church for a while, but this is unique. We truly are caring for one another and we honor each other's stories. I do not have family close by, so you have really loved me as if I was part of your family for a very long time." What started as a meal to get to know each other better has become a sacred moment of remembering God's active and transforming grace upon each person's life.

After months of gathering and strengthening relationships, God called Hispanic Ministries into the next phase of development - a bilingual (Spanish-English) worship celebration! Latinos/as inhabit a bicultural and bilingual reality continuously. In fact, this

reality also intersects with relationships with individuals from other cultures and nationalities. Latinos/as experience on a daily basis this multilayered reality which may be described as a state of “in-betweenness.” Perhaps, the Latina family embodies and symbolizes this complexity the best. The Latina family is the intersection of multiple generations that share a collective history, story, and faith. The Latina family does not exist as a stand-alone unit that is monolingual (speaking one language) and monocultural (preserving one culture). The Latina family often lives “in-between” *Español* and English; *tacos* and hamburgers; *pupusas* (a Salvadorean dish) and mac and cheese; *El Mundial* (the World Cup) and the Super Bowl. Recognizing the complexity of this intersection is essential for understanding God’s mission to the Latina family and the Latina community. God has called PazNaz’s Hispanic Ministries to recognize this “in-betweenness” as an asset rather than a limitation. Rather than forcing Latinos/as to choose between English or Spanish, Hispanic Ministries celebrates both languages as instruments of God’s communication and transformation. The bilingual worship gatherings provide a space where that “in-betweenness” is identified and celebrated as an expression of what Christ is forming in his church— “a place where God lives through the Spirit” (Ephesians 2:22).

A few weeks ago, one of the members was sharing with me that almost fifteen years passed since he was able to sing *Cuan Grande es El* (How Great Thou Art) in Spanish due to his participation in an English-only congregation. Yet at the same time, he was so excited that our bilingual service did not mean that his wife, who mostly spoke English, had to be in a different service. They both could sing about God’s greatness without feeling left out. A grandmother, who is raising her 13-year-old

grandson, approached me last week to thank me because this ministry allows her grandson to not lose his Spanish while at the same time understanding every part of the sermon in English. A Latina seminarian also adds, “This service is unique. There are things that I can only express to God in Spanish, but when I pray for others, I feel most confident in English. I often feel like I have to choose one over the other. Yet, at Hispanic Ministries, I feel that God is pleased with both Spanish and English, because both are important; both are a means of grace in my relationship with God.” I am thankful that in Christ the group is capable of celebrating in multiple languages and cultures that they are a new creation.

Furthermore, God’s reconciling grace has used Hispanic Ministries’ bilingual dynamic to engage in transformative intercultural relationships. Using both Spanish and English allows for non-Latino/as to participate and to learn from Latinos/as in the ministry. In other words, the ministry’s bilingual reality promotes relationships amongst cultures and languages that do not fit under preconceived categories. God continues to move in culture for the sake of the world as God has now called you “fellow citizens with God’s people,” no longer divided and estranged from each other through labels, categories, or prejudice. The Spirit of God is moving in your midst, reconciling and transforming your posture towards each other’s culture, language, and hopes. Hispanic Ministries has non-Latino members learning Spanish and other Latino members learning English so that they can each speak into each other’s lives. Most importantly, this mutuality present

in the ministry allows for power to be shared, since not one language has precedence over the other. This also translates into joint efforts of engaging in what God is already doing in the community of Pasadena. As Hispanic Ministries seeks to join God in the community, these intercultural relationships have collaborated in serving together in ministries of justice and reconciliation. The latest initiative has been partnering with the Lake Avenue Community Foundation and the Immigration Resource Center to provide information sessions pertinent to the community. In addition, these intercultural relationships have truly impacted the make-up of the leadership team. This team is made up of extremely gifted and passionate leaders, from various generations and cultures, who continue to help Hispanic Ministries imagine what it means to worship, disciple, and serve in the name of Christ for the sake of the community.

I am thankful for the ways in which God has called Hispanic Ministries to be a bilingual and intercultural witness of his Kingdom. As God continues to call us toward the next stages of development of Hispanic Ministries, I pray that God will continue to add to our number and that his grace may abound. May you continue to celebrate with us how God, in Christ Jesus as our cornerstone, has formed a household that lives between and amongst cultures, languages, and relationships that point to his Church’s unity in diversity!

- Pastor Marcos Canales

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In His Image presents



SAVE OUR SANITY

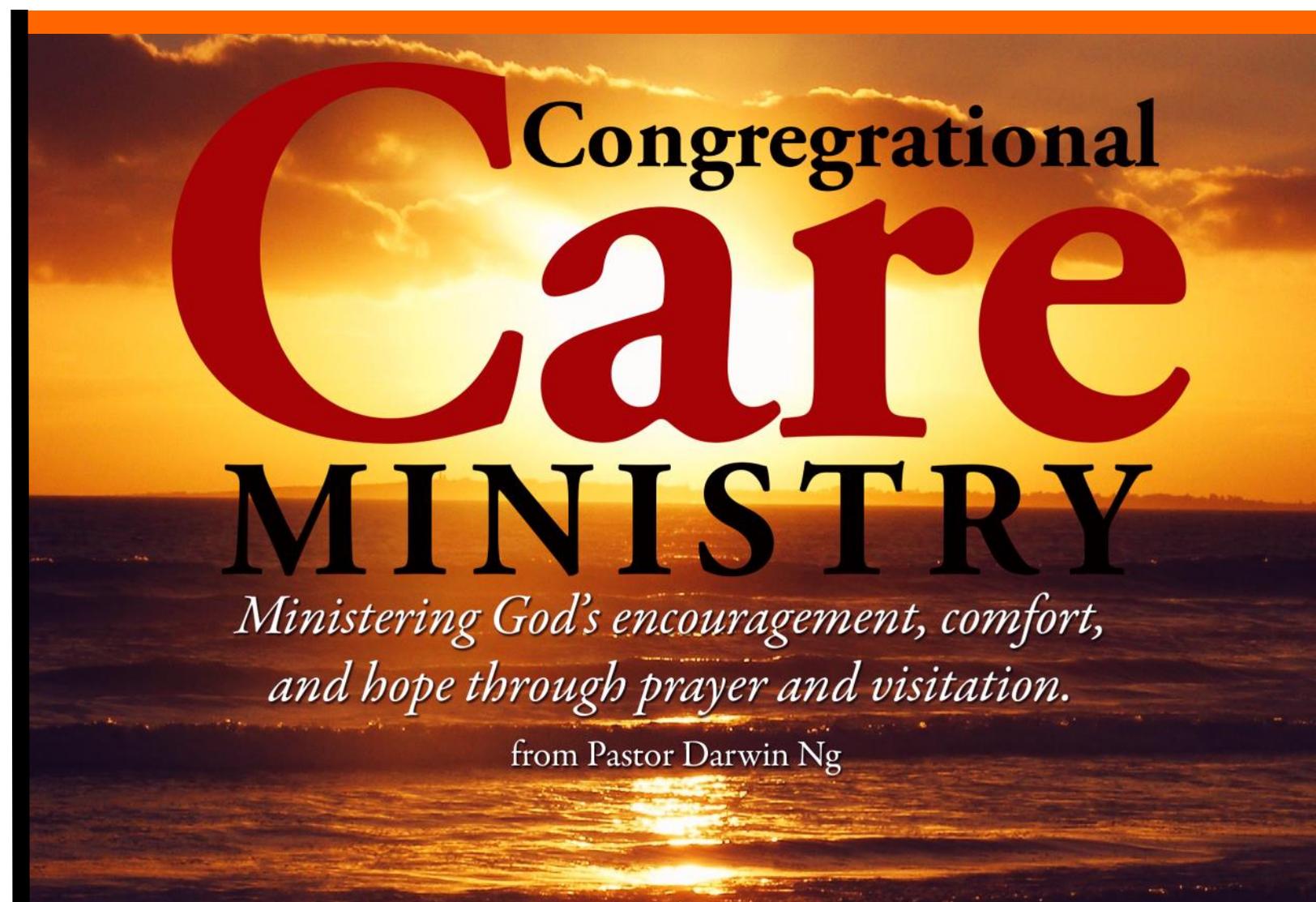
**A Day of Fun for
Special Needs Kids (Of All Ages)
and their Siblings**

**Saturday, June 20, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Lower Arms Hall - FREE!**



You don't want to miss out on this great opportunity! This free event provides a day of fun for the kids and a break for the parents. Childcare will be provided by cleared and trained volunteers for ages preschool to young adults. Space is limited.

Please register at <http://paznaz.org/online-forms/sos-registration> by June 14.



Congregational Care MINISTRY

*Ministering God's encouragement, comfort,
and hope through prayer and visitation.*

from Pastor Darwin Ng

What Is Congregational Care Ministry?

Since there is a pastor of congregational care at PazNaz, one must assume that it is the job and function of that pastor to provide care for the congregation. A generation ago, that would have been true. Historically, the pastor was called to the sacred task of the "cure for the soul," an archaic translation of a Latin term better translated as "care of the soul." It includes preaching, teaching, and pastoral care to everyone in the parish.

Traditionally, it was the role of the ordained to provide congregational care.

However, since the Reformation, the Biblical idea of the priesthood of all believers has been better understood and applied by the Church. More and more churches realize that congregational care is no longer the sole function of the clergy. The ministry of congregational care should be the function of the body of Christ, caring for each other. That can simply mean welcoming a first time visitor during the worship service. It is sitting in a home group and listening to your friend share about their struggle with terminal illness. It is when you raise your hand during Sunday School promising to pray for a class member. Or it involves stopping by the nursing home to visit the longtime member who can no longer attend the worship service.

Everyone faces challenges in life. There are times when you need someone to listen, to be present, and to be an advocate. PazNaz is a large congregation, and it is the Congregational Care Ministries' mission to mobilize the whole church to provide care and support to families and individuals in a personal and compassionate way and to provide an atmosphere and opportunity to sense God's presence and provision. Also, many of these ministries are carried out in coordination and conjunction with other ministries.

Providing Care for the People by the People

That care could mean delivering a meal to new parents or someone who just had a major surgery, visiting wherever needed, or making a difference in someone's life in dozens of other ways. Many PazNaz members serve in one of these ministries as part of their service to the church.

Are you or is someone you know:

- Dealing with a sudden or chronic illness, tragedy, or loss?
- Feeling disconnected because of their inability to attend church?
- Giving care to a loved one and needing an extra pair of hands?
- Having a problem walking from the church parking lot to Lee Chapel, Sunday school, or the Sanctuary?

Congregational Care and other ministries can help you access the support or care you need.

Here is a brief overview of some services offered by PazNaz to show how the church strives to care for members and attendees.

Pastoral Visitation During Life's Transitions and Crises

Illness and hospitalization can be a stressful event in your life or the life of someone you love. Pastors and volunteers make hospital, home, and care center visits to assure people that they are being remembered during this time.

When a loved one has passed away, a pastor can help you with the details of planning a service. Planning for these types of services generally occurs at the time of loss and while families are in somewhat of a crisis mode. Even though it is difficult to talk about death, what better gift can you give a loved one, than to meet with a pastor prior to an illness or death to assist you and your loved ones with ideas that would be meaningful for your service?

PazNaz is planning to offer workshops and seminars that will talk about the art and science of dying well. How are we to live fully to the very end? With God's help, the support of the body of Christ, and good planning, it is possible.

Assistance on Sunday Mornings

If you have concerns about walking the distance from your car to the various buildings, the church has two golf carts that are in operation before the 8:00 am service through the end of the 10:30 am service to bring you to and from your car or between various buildings. Thanks to the volunteer drivers, the carts roam the parking lots and the campus to pick up people in need of a ride.

The HeBrews Welcome Center provides a vital link for visitors and regular attendees with important information about the church. Other

than donuts, free coffee, and warm greetings from the volunteers, HeBrews provides various church publications, sales of tickets to church events, and direction to activities on Sunday morning.

Sunrise Bookstore is a valuable resource for Bibles, Christian books, greeting cards, and souvenirs. When new resources are mentioned from the pulpit, they are available at the bookstore. There are also resources in Spanish and Chinese. Be sure to drop by the bookstore the next time you are on campus.

Volunteers

Members of the congregation volunteer their time and talents to offer a thoughtful and loving presence in members' lives who are in need of friendship, support, nurture, and encouragement. PazNaz is blessed to have retired pastors and missionaries who are caring, skilled, and willing to share their time, talents, and resources. There are others who are willing to meet a member's short term, urgent need following surgery or a traumatic event that may include transportation to a doctor's appointment, running errands, or preparing or delivering a meal.

A PazNaz Meal Train is organized when members offer meal support to families with new babies, after major surgeries, or when going through long-term treatment. This is one way PazNaz shows care and love. Thanks to current technology, PazNaz has set up meal train information online allowing families to sign up to provide meals that would cater to the needs of the families.

When life's circumstances prevent you from attending church, PazNaz can help you maintain your connection in supportive and practical ways. Currently, the 10:30 am service is viewable online at www.paznaz.org. Volunteers also

bring worship folders to shut ins.

Prayer and Healing Ministries

There are several active prayer ministries. Every Friday morning, a group called *Early Christians* meet at 6:00 am for prayer. On the fourth Monday of each month, Lee Chapel is open for a time of prayer and worship from Noon-1:00 pm. Several Sunday School classes have active prayer ministries with weekly gatherings and email prayer updates. The Healing Rooms are open on the first and third Saturdays of the month from 10:30 am-12:30 pm in the Lower Sanctuary. It is a time of seeking, healing, and wholeness through prayer.

Grief Support

There is a grief support group to help people who are experiencing loss in their lives, including losing a loved one and facing other life transitions. The group provides biblical teaching, prayer, and emotional support for those dealing with grief.

A Caring Congregation

Prayerfully, PazNaz will grow as a caring congregation. As we care for each other, we bring God's presence into each others' lives, allowing his story to intertwine with ours. In this caring congregation, each person is called to participate.

- Pastor Darwin Ng

Everyone faces challenges in life. There are times when you need someone to listen, to be present, and to be an advocate. PazNaz is a large congregation, and it is the Congregational Care Ministries' mission to mobilize the whole church to provide care and support to families and individuals in a personal and compassionate way....

MONDAY PRAYER MEETINGS



with Pastor Darwin Ng

The 4th Monday of Each Month
Noon-1:00 pm in Lee Chapel

*A time to praise, pray, and meditate
on the goodness of God and intercede
for the needs of his people.*

**Next Meeting:
Monday, June 22**

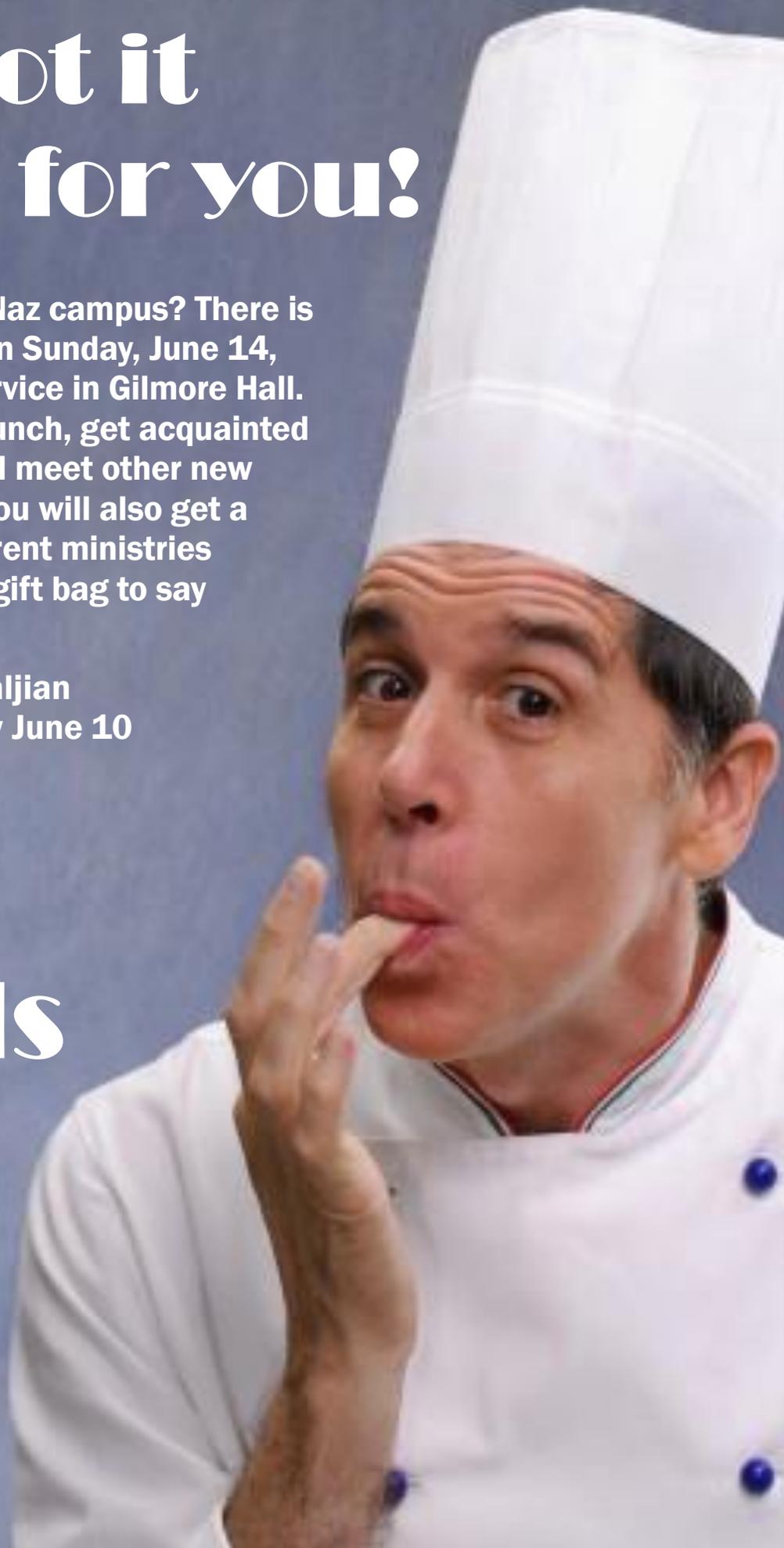
For more information, contact Sylva Hekimian at shekimian@paznaz.org or 626.351.2426.
First Church of the Nazarene of Pasadena | 3700 East Sierra Madre Boulevard | Pasadena, California 91107 | www.paznaz.org | 626.351.9631

We've got it cookin' for you!

Fairly new around the PazNaz campus? There is a luncheon in your honor on **Sunday, June 14**, following the **10:30 am** service in Gilmore Hall. You will enjoy a delicious lunch, get acquainted with the Pastoral staff, and meet other new friends around the table. You will also get a great overview of the different ministries available at PazNaz and a gift bag to say "Thanks for being here!"

Please RSVP to Stacey Maljian at smaljian@paznaz.org by **June 10** if you can attend.

New Friends Lunch





A call to care

A Thank You to Debbie Daniels



There are so many mixed emotions wrapped up in thinking about change and about letting go of something that has been so good. In the nine years Debbie Daniels has led Women’s Ministries, the women of the church have been blessed beyond measure. The group has experienced the love of God through the hands and feet of a woman who is genuinely in love with Jesus and whose own transformation fuels her passion to reach out, love, and care for as many people as she can.

In my own journey, such transparency was not always welcome. When autism became a part of our family’s life, and James’ behaviors became a little challenging, we were asked not to bring him to church. He was about four years old at the time and there was little understanding about how to support families with children on the autism spectrum. Thom, my husband, had always felt a calling to part-time ministry. He also happens to be a pastor’s kid (PK), and so all we had known was life at church. The thought of not having our children with us and participating in this life was very new and challenging for us.

In God’s amazing redemption, he birthed a ministry at PazNaz that only he could dream of for our community. The pain and confusion I experienced has come full circle when I see my fifteen-year-old son attend Sunday School and be greeted with such love and acceptance by the Senior Pastor. The Christian side of me could see God’s plan interwoven in this journey and be amazed at his handiwork. The human side of me was still hurt and, over the years, I had learned to distrust a lot of people – even in the church.

When Debbie Daniels came, I was personally not in a place to embrace her joy. It took me a while into her tenure as Women’s Ministries Director to realize that she was “for real,” genuine in her love for women of all ages and stages in life. Debbie’s consistency in her walk – her love for Christ, family, and people – allowed me to begin the process of trusting again. Her love for Jesus and her trust in him shine through in the way she does outreach. So, here I am, a part of the Women’s Ministries Council, having being invited by Debbie to share in the opportunity to help make the women of PazNaz (and in the community) feel loved and accepted.

As part of the Council, I have had an opportunity to experience Debbie’s leadership firsthand. Debbie has a passion for Christ and for what the Lord longs to do for people. She has amazing administrative skills that allow her to pull events together and grow resources for ministry purposes. I can share Debbie’s desire to help women find their “sweet spot” in ministry as she and I began the process of finding mine.

It has been a joy to hear some “girlfriends” share about their experience with Debbie. It is not surprising to hear similar words used to describe her. They speak of Debbie’s essence in terms of her transparency. Debbie’s story of redemption is very much alive today – perhaps even stronger. She realizes that even in redemption, women still bear brokenness; we live in a broken world. She has chosen to be authentic and to embrace her brokenness. In the midst of brokenness is the redeeming power of Jesus in our lives. We don’t have to wait to get to heaven to experience it. God comes to us here on earth and she is not afraid to be around

such brokenness and allows God to use her as a conduit of his love to others. Debbie lives out that redemptive grace – that healing aspect of God’s work in our life. The love of Jesus has captured Debbie in such a way that she is driven to share that love so that people can find it for themselves. Personally, I picture her as a fisherman casting her net of love out to capture the hearts of as many as she can.

Debbie is not a seeker of praise or the limelight. She often prays for the Lord to hide her so that people can see the Lord. She would want her words to be hidden. She is a prayer warrior who loves to be in relationship and in communication with the Lord. Setting aside dedicated, weekly time to seek God’s face and intercede for her family and the church makes her happy.

Debbie dares to dream of the bigger things God can do – bigger than the box we put the Lord in and is a risk-taker in many ways. She is not bound by people’s rules and is not afraid to go against the tide if she feels that is what God wants. Her book of rules is the love of Jesus.

Debbie loves people and cares deeply for them. Her call to care for others is what makes the women of PazNaz feel welcomed. She thrives in engaging with others and finding creative ways to help the marginalized. One example is the way in which she has embraced, the special people at the Garfield Care Center. Loving them with gifts and food blesses her and her team as much as they are blessed by the clients at the center. Love abounds.

Debbie loves to laugh! She is able to find joy in just about anything. She knows herself well enough, realizes who she is in Christ, and is able to not take herself too seriously.

Debbie knows her priorities. Her family is her top priority and she protects them in a “mama bear” kind of way. I remember when she asked the church to “be” the church with her

kids and to embrace them as she wanted her kids to be part of the church always.

The living legacy she leaves us with is an example of a life saved by grace constantly recognizing her need for the source of life. As she is filled by her Maker, she then pours out the love she experiences to the world around her. As we send Debbie and Scott, dedicated partners in ministry, on to their new assignment, may we continue to grow as individual women and as the Church in the likeness of our God, relentlessly passionate to pursue his dreams in our everyday actions.

QUOTES FROM GIRLFRIENDS:

“Debbie, Your ministry has been a *total* ministry. For me, personally, your outreach to widows has been a blessing I can’t even explain. It has provided untold healing to me and to so many others. You will always be close to my heart.” Charleen S.

“Debbie, thank you for your many years as leader of *Women in the Word*. Because of your great leadership, we have become better women and can represent Christ and be a light in this world. May God continue to bless you and your family as you move forward.”

“Dearest Debbie, thank you for leading the women of our congregation and neighborhood to see Jesus and lift each other up in encouragement and practical day to day faith.” Rosie W.

“Dear Debbie, when you returned to Pasadena we were so very thrilled! We did hope and pray you would be here until God called us both home! I told you we would be “prayer warriors” for you and we have always asked for God’s will in all things. We prayed for hedges of protection around all of the Daniels and prayer for your husband. Maybe I wouldn’t have prayed for God to answer this prayer in this way, but it is the answer

he chose. We will miss you so very much! We have loved sharing life with you - church, theater, brunches, ministry, etc. Watching the children grow has been such a gift to us! Watching you go will be so hard, but we love you like you were our own children and grandchildren, so we hold you with an open hand and a grateful heart! Please know you take part of our hearts with you, and we will always pray for God’s blessings and love to follow you all the days of your lives!” Kathy and Clarence.

“Dear Debbie, as a child I seldom had a real birthday party. My parents divorced when I was eight and life was pretty chaotic until my mother remarried. Birthdays were noted, but not really celebrated. So, this is my big thank you for the wonderful Birthday Brunches at your beautiful home. You are a truly innovative, creative woman. All of your programs have reached so many women at PazNaz, but I know your reach is much broader than I could ever imagine. Thank you again, and God bless you, Scott and your terrific kiddos.” Barbara P.

“Debbie, I will always remember your words of encouragement. My favorite story is of you praying for each of your children in their beds, even the crib! Thank you for teaching me to pray for my children, their blessings, and my life. I wish you all the best and will be praying for you and your family.” Gretchen L.

“Hello Debbie, I’m praying for you to settle into your new life and find peace during the transition. I found it surprising that you knew my name. You have met so many women here at PazNaz. I always feel invisible. Thanks for knowing my name.” Lisa H.

“Debbie, truly a virtuous woman, a vessel of honor fit for the banqueting table of our Lord. Thank you for giving of yourself to us in such a beautiful way. You have such a Godly legacy. Know you are loved.” Ginny P.

- Blanca Siebels

In the nine years Debbie Daniels has led Women’s Ministries, the women of the church have been blessed beyond measure. The group has experienced the love of God through the hands and feet of a woman who is genuinely in love with Jesus and whose own transformation fuels her passion to reach out, love, and care for as many people as she can.



A PASADENA PRIME TIME EVENT



THURSDAY, JUNE 11, AT 6:00 PM IN GILMORE HALL

SUMMER BAR-B-QUE

TICKETS ARE \$12 / PURCHASE YOURS BY JUNE 4
CONTACT SYLVA HEKIMIAN FOR MORE INFORMATION AT 626.351.2426.