

15 - Transition with Pastor Dan Christian

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Garrett Inouye: Hey everyone. Welcome to episode 15. My name is Garrett Inouye and today we have a special episode. As many of us are aware, we had a really big announcement this past Sunday where Pastor Dan and Pastor Kenny both shared their plans to step down from pastoral ministry at Evergreen Baptist Church. This is really big news, and as we continue to grow in our communication and especially now that we have this podcast, we really wanted to invite Pastor Dan and Pastor Kenny on the podcast to share more about their decision and how the Lord has been working in their lives.

So today, pastor Rocky and myself will talk with Pastor Dan, and next week we will release a second episode where Pastor Rocky and myself talk with Pastor Kenny. This is gonna be a longer podcast, but if you have the time, I would really recommend sticking through the whole episode. I think as you listen to Pastor Dan share, you get a great picture of who Pastor Dan is and how the Lord has been working in his life.

And this gives a lot of faith for how God will continue to work in his life. And also like we shared before, hearing someone's testimony is one of the ways we grow in discipleship because it gives us a picture of what faithful living looks like when the rubber meets the road. If you don't have the time in the first half, we talk about Pastor Dan coming to Christ, getting connected to Evergreen and how he's grown.

And at around the 27 minute mark, we start to talk about the transition and the future. Anyways, it's our prayer that as the church digests this news, we would be able to process and mourn the transition well and that as we look to the future, we would have faith that Christ is our hope. Because we believe fixing our eyes on Christ gives us a firm foundation.

Even when transition seems to take away our sturdy ground. Thanks for joining us for these special episodes. I hope you're encouraged.

This is Pursuing Discipleship, a podcast of Evergreen Baptist Church of San Gabriel Valley, where we are committed to forming intentional relationships that build Christ like. In this podcast, our hope and prayer is to encourage one another's discipleship to Jesus Christ, grow our love for his word, and explore our response to his command to go and make disciples.

We're so excited to have you join us, and so let's get into today's conversation.

All right, Dan, thank you for joining me and, uh, Rocky today. Um, definitely we're recording this podcast a little bit ahead of time, and so by the time this is posted, we've already had the announcement in church service that, uh, for your transition. Um, but you know that during church service, it's only gonna be like a few minutes for you to share mm-hmm.

and we just really wanted to take time to give you the chance to talk and for us to process. And so yeah, just grateful for you to be here. Um, kinda the first question, we ask this in all the podcasts, but we ask people to share just a little bit about their testimony. I'm sure lots of people evergreen know your testimony, but some don't.

And so, yeah, would you be willing to share just how you came to know the Lord?

Dan Christian: Sure. Yeah, definitely. Well, I, I grew up in a Christian family and, uh, the joke is that not just Christian by my last name, but, uh, my parents actually walked with God and taught us, uh, my siblings and I, um, about the Lord. So from a young age, I, I knew about him, uh, had a desire to, uh, to know him.

Uh, there'd been various points along the way. I think when I was really young, at age four or five, there was a, an initial confession of faith. Um, and then, then some, uh, points later on, freshman in high school, youth retreat up in the snow in Oregon where I grew up, uh, was another place where felt like I'd really, uh, got ahold of my heart in a deeper way.

And then just, uh, As I've grown into adulthood and, and through each season, I think there's been an ongoing journey just of depth, uh, to get to know him in deeper ways, um, to walk with him, to, uh, see the gospel in greater and greater ways of what he's done, uh, for me. And so, so yeah, there's, there's been, uh, just an ongoing journey of, uh, learning to know him and walk with him through many years.

Garrett Inouye: Thinking back to some of those like poignant moments, right when you were young and then junior high, do, do you recall, I know it's a long time, well, not that long, , you know, was a good amount of time. Do you remember what was kind of like, uh, kind of catalyzing those decisions at those moments?

Dan Christian: Mm, definitely with the, the high school, uh, youth retreat.

Um, I think that was really where I look at, at kind of the beginnings of my call toward, uh, toward ministry, full-time ministry, uh, where there was just a, a desire of, from whatever was preached or spoken in the messages at that retreat, uh, to, to live for eternity to make my life count. Wow. Um, and, uh, yeah, I didn't know at that point what that would be or what that would look like, but uh, just kind of the beginnings of that, that, um, desire to, to walk with God in that way.

Who was

Rocky Seto: the, I don't know who comes to mind when you think of the most influential people in your life. Was your mom, dad, both maybe a pastor when you were growing

Dan Christian: up? Yeah. Mul, uh, multiple people probably. Um, I know my dad definitely. Uh, was a big influence in a, in a quiet sort of way. Um, just his example of, of daily, uh, being in the word and prayer and, uh, faithfulness to walk with God.

Mm-hmm. . Um, and then, yeah, God connected me providentially with different youth leaders, pastors along the way who shepherded me in ways that my father didn't and or my parents didn't. And, and so God definitely used those individuals as well to, um, sharpen me, deepen me in my walk. Do you remember if it

Rocky Seto: was your mom or your dad who shared the gospel or tried to explain the gospel to you as best they could or both?

Dan Christian: Yeah, definitely both. Uh, that the, the vague memory I have of age four or five and praying, I always. Think that it's with my mom. And so I think that, yeah, she was perhaps the first to, uh, share some of that with me and, and, uh, point me toward Christ. Oh,

Garrett Inouye: awesome. Now, kind of moving from the Northwest, how did you end up down here in LA with us at Evergreen?

Yeah.

Dan Christian: After I married Vera, my wife, um, who's a NorCal girl then, uh, we, we lived, stayed in Oregon for a couple years. We, uh, we were there cuz we met at Bible college in Portland.

Garrett Inouye: Who, who was interested in, who first is at Koshers to say?

Dan Christian: Uh, that's a good question. Uh, we actually ended up on a, we, we met through a, um, summer mission trip.

Okay. All right. We, we, we both came into that trip. After having recently broke up. Uh, and so we kind of came into that trip. I hate girls, I hate boys. Don't want anything to do with a relationship. And so, yeah, I'm not sure who, who ended up, uh, liking who first, but we, uh, regardless

Garrett Inouye: of miracle happened on this mission

Dan Christian: trip.

Right. Yeah. Something, something shifted there, so, yeah. Yeah. Cool. Cool. But then we, yeah, we came, uh, after, after dating and getting married, we came down here, uh, to serve with Aacf Asian American Christian Fellowship. Okay. At Cal Poly Pomona. So that was our first ministry assignment. Um, Vera had been involved as a student at uc, Davis with naf.

And, uh, so we, we, uh, decided to come on board as staff and Cal Poly was where we landed. Um, so that was our introduction to SoCal. Okay. And, uh, we've been here ever

Garrett Inouye: since. What was there culture shock when you moved from the northwest down to uh, SoCal?

Dan Christian: Uh, yeah, definitely for me there was, uh, I mean

Rocky Seto: Pomona, Portland might be a little bit Portland.

Dan Christian: Pomona. Yeah. Portland's probably a little smaller in Seattle even. And uh, yeah, we pretty much had one North South freeway and one East, west freeway. And so even the thought of coming into California and I'm like, what? Everywhere I drive, I have to look at at least five different freeways, , and. Yeah. So it was a bit overwhelming.

Sure. The size.

Rocky Seto: Yeah. And that was before, um, cell phones and you had the top, top Thomas Guy days. Do you know what that is, Gary? I do. I

Garrett Inouye: remember, yeah, for sure. Yeah, there's that book with the, that ring book, right? Right.

Rocky Seto: One your car. Just wanna make sure, you know, triple A, a bunch of maps, you know, you gotta get all

Garrett Inouye: that stuff.

So I might be the last generation that remembers that. Like, that was just like when I was like five or six. Then Map Quest came out and you printed out , right? Right.

Dan Christian: Yes.

Rocky Seto: I mean that, I could only imagine dad, the ten two, ten fifty seven, that whole interchange and you're like, we don't have this up in Portland, you know.

Nope, not at all.

Dan Christian: Not at all.

Rocky Seto: So that was 1998.

Dan Christian: That was 98 when we moved down. Okay. Yeah. Cause I was

Rocky Seto: across the street at Mount Sac up until 97. Ah, oh, okay. I went to usc so we missed each other. Right. Half a year maybe. Yeah. Temple across the street on Temple.

Dan Christian: So, so

Garrett Inouye: you're sharing what you were doing at, uh, at aa?

Like what was, what was your role, you and

Dan Christian: various role. Yeah, we came on as campus ministers, so we were full-time, uh, raised support like missionaries, uh, discipling students, uh, working to develop a, a ministry there. Uh, they had weekly, uh, large group meetings and then, uh, small group meetings, different events and so forth.

Um, so we really, uh, thoroughly enjoyed, uh, just, just walking with students. Uh, we had a lot of students over in our home all the time, and, uh, uh, that's why we landed in Claremont. It was the, uh, as close as we could afford to, uh, Cal Poly there. And, uh, uh, yeah, really enjoyed that season of ministry. Mm.

Garrett Inouye: And then how many years did you guys serve at, uh,

Dan Christian: aa?

Uh, we were there seven years on the campus.

Garrett Inouye: Okay, okay. Seven years. And then how did you find Evergreen? Cause we're not necessarily close to Pomona.

Dan Christian: No. Yeah, it was interesting. We, evergreen really was the only church we visited, and then we just stuck. Um, Vera's sister, her younger sister, um, had come down and was, had been a student at Cal Poly and somehow had gotten connected with Evergreen.

Uh, prior to that was when it was still in Rosemead. Okay. Uh, and so when we came down, not knowing anyone except her sister, um, then, then we're like, okay, well we'll visit church with her. Um, and that was right before the Hive. Okay. Uh, and so we visited and. Loved it and ended up sticking and not even searching around other places, but just, uh, uh, connected here.

Wow.

Garrett Inouye: What, what was, I mean, I'm interested, what was something that stood out that you guys loved? I mean, that, I feel like that's kind of rare

that you come somewhere new and then the first place you go, it's just like, wow, this is a great

Dan Christian: fit. Right. Yeah. Yeah. The, uh, our daughter, uh, was one, one and a half, uh, at that time.

So there definitely was a good, uh, children's ministry. That was a huge, uh, pull. Um, and then, then, uh, fairly quickly we were just invited into, uh, the branch community, uh, the, uh, diamond Bar branch at that time and met other, Young couples, similar age and stage of life just starting, uh, with kids. And, uh, even a couple, it was very providential there too, or even a couple, uh, Caucasian, Asian, uh, marriages that, uh, that was, you know, we weren't the only one mm-hmm.

in, in, uh, that group. So that was a blessing. Hop of babies. Yes. Yes. .

Garrett Inouye: So then you were, you, you were attending as a, uh, as a, a college ministry staff, but just attending as a, a member of the church. Um, how did you eventually come on staff? Like how long was that from when you first attended to staff and how did that happen?

Dan Christian: Yeah, well, during the whole seven years that we were on the campus, then we were attending Evergreen. Um, and at some point along the way became members. And, and then in 2005, uh, uh, we were, uh, our second child had been born in 2001. Uh, we were just, things were changing as a family, uh, financially and so forth.

And, uh, things were changing within the campus ministry. And, uh, so God just, uh, was, we were at a place where God was moving us somewhere. We, we knew we needed to step away from the, the campus at that time. Um, and so since we were, uh, at Evergreen, uh, we, uh, we were just asking, looking to see whether there were opportunities to step into, uh, to ministry there.

Uh, so there was actually, uh, Just a part-time, uh, admin kind of position, uh, under the outreach ministry. And so I was able to step into that. It was not the, the usual evergreen route of being in pastoral intern and kind of entering and being trained up. Uh, but, uh, but I took it and, and then gradually over time was able to, uh, fill in more and more pastoral ministry and, and, uh, was that Mike Olson?

Rocky Seto: Mike Olson. So

Dan Christian: me. Okay. Yeah. That's my first Pastor

Garrett Inouye: Garrett.

Rocky Seto: Yeah. Yeah. Wow. That's how I got here too, you know?

Dan Christian: Yeah. I, I remember when you guys showed up,

Garrett Inouye: who are these people? , Mike School. .

Rocky Seto: Yes. Now, besides the, uh, kind of the financial burden, because part-time isn't exactly like you hit the jackpot either.

There must have been something within you to say like, you know, I want to get involved more in the local church compared to. Uh, campus ministry, was there anything like that going on? Yeah,

Dan Christian: definitely there. I think my sense of calling never, never shifted or never changed. I felt like God had called me to, to shepherd people, uh, to love and equip and train, uh, leaders.

And so we had had experienced that, uh, what it's like in a parachurch on the campus, um, and the limits of that on the campus because you only have a connection with those students for a short period of time when they're gone. Um, and so we, we were excited to see how that could function, how those same giftings, that same call could work in the, the church setting where there isn't that, uh, limited factor as, as there is on the campus.

Rocky Seto: So that, that's helpful. Cuz you know, as I made transitions in my own life, I definitely had like a desire to do something. Yet at the same time where I was at, like in coaching, there was a bit of a push in my heart. Like, okay, this is great, this is an A, but there's might be an A plus someplace else. And so what I'm hearing from you, Dan, is that loving people, shepherding people.

Pastoring people, that's always been there. But you saw some of the limitations of, oh, they're here for two years, three years, they're gone in the summers and then four years they're, you know, hopefully they're grown, but you don't have that much time with them. And then you got new batch of people every year, but you wanted to kind of extend your time with the local church, right?

Correct. Right. That's kind of what I'm hearing and um, that's wonderful. Yeah.

Garrett Inouye: So then how, how long ago was that, that you

Dan Christian: came on staff? Uh, that was 2005, so 17 years ago. Okay.

Garrett Inouye: Wow. Wow. What, what have been some of the blessings that you've seen serving, uh, on staff, um, over the last 17 years?

Dan Christian: Yeah, well definitely that, that, uh, blessing of just being able to walk with people over a longer period of time.

Mm. I know that's been a, a huge blessing, uh, that there, there are folks still at Evergreen that, that, uh, we have walked with, um, throughout all this time. And so to be able to see, uh, how people grow, uh, how God meets us together in different seasons of life, uh, that definitely has been a, a huge blessing.

Um, and then I think evergreen also, Has been a, a place where, where God has given me opportunity to, uh, to stretch and grow and kind of hone or develop, uh, some of the passions, desires, gifting that he has given me. Um, because there's multiple staff, then there's been opportunity to, uh, to, uh, experiment a little and, and do some of the things that I desired to do, such as the day with Jesus.

Solitude retreats or, uh, uh, weekend small group retreats with married couples. And, uh, yeah, the chance to explore some of those things, uh, develop those passions, see how, how God was, uh, kind of narrowing my focus, uh, to particular things has, uh, And really joyful. And then I, then I see now how that, that whole process over many years is also, uh, moving us toward where we're at right now and what we're heading into.

Rocky Seto: And, uh, I remember 2017, um, in May I became senior pastor here of 2017, but January one, I don't if you remember Garde was a assigned while Pastor Cor was here to be the head of staff. Mm-hmm. . Mm-hmm. , you know, so to kind of get used to doing staff meetings. And so one of the things, I mean coaching then is positioning your players.

Meaning you don't wanna put a wide receiver on the offensive line, you know, you want to put these guys in the right spot. And so as I watched Dan, I mean, I just saw like someone who was very diligent. I still see that someone who would get locked up and just get, go deep into a, a, a task. But I also saw like, you know, what he talked about day with Jesus, a passion for retreats and getting people together.

And, but also I saw that, uh, you know, providentially, one of the things that when I came in, it was, uh, before assume the role here was they asked me, what would you emphasize? And one of the areas that was growing within me was biblical counseling, a culture of biblical counseling at the local church where we would care for each other.

And I realized he was already into that. He was already studying into that providentially. I'm like, wow, that's great. So one of my first moves might have been the first move cause I already thinking about it in 2016 or 15. Just observing. I mean, I mean 2000, well this must be 2019, I'm sorry, top of 2019. I got my years mixed up.

I moved down in 2017. 2019. The top of 2019 is when I assumed the role as, uh, as the chief of staff. But um, I think one of my first moves to realign or. Staff was to move down to be in charge of biblical counseling and conferences. Mm-hmm. , do you remember that? Mm-hmm. , I remember that conversation really well.

And it was really exciting for me because like, oh, this is perfect providentially. This is where we're going, and we already have someone here who's already been kind of digging deep into this area, you know? And so, anyway, that was pretty exciting.

Garrett Inouye: Can I ask for those two things, like how did the Lord build a, a value for, for biblical counseling and, um, retreat or conference?

Uh, was there something that happened in your life or just something that grew over time?

Dan Christian: Yeah, it, it has grown over time. Uh, I think all of these areas where God has given me fruitful ministry are areas that where he, he has ministered to me through those, uh, same means of ministry. And so I, I think for me, uh, Being a rather driven person.

Sometimes a perfectionist, uh, uh, a loyal hard worker, uh, don't wanna stop. Uh, and that can be a good thing, but it can also just lead to burnout and, uh, exhaustion. And so I think along the way, uh, God has, has kind of opened the door for me to, uh, to experience, to be ministered to through solitude, through retreats.

Um, there have been many times, uh, both, uh, both personal retreats as well as, uh, smaller groups together, uh, where, where God has ministered to me deeply

in that way. And I've seen the value then for myself in. Uh, slowing down, pulling away from the, the constant drivenness and, and because he has ministered to me in that way, then I think I more readily see that same drivenness in so many others who lead and serve, um, diligently and well.

And God blesses that and there's fruit from that. And yet who's caring for their soul and who's, who's calling them to, uh, to be refreshed, be renewed so that they can then step back in with renewed vigor and renewed passion and encouragement. Um, so yeah, it's, it has formed over time just as God has ministered to me in those ways.

Mm-hmm. . Um, and, uh, same with the biblical counseling, uh, that that has come out of my own. Need for counsel and care, um, in, in tough places in her marriage, uh, with parenting, uh, where there are things that, that I just knew. I don't have the resources to understand this and deal with this and work through this on my own.

I need help. Um, and, and wanting that to be, uh, biblical and solid and help that's pointing me to Christ. And, um, and yet struggling to find where I could find that. And so, uh, so then as, as God has, uh, allowed me to learn about biblical counseling, then there's, there's been a passion to. Well, I don't want that to be hard to find for, for others, for my church family.

I want that to be, uh, something that, uh, that becomes the, the way we care for one another as a church for, for, oh,

Garrett Inouye: go ahead. For biblical counseling. Um, did, was that, you know, when you guys had that heat in marriage of parenting, was biblical counseling the first thing that you guys went to, to try and get counsel?

Or did you guys try other things and then eventually land on biblical counseling?

Dan Christian: at other points. And so when we received biblical counseling, uh, that was not the first counseling, marriage counseling we had received. So we had received mm-hmm. , so we had in, in years past, uh, received counseling from, uh, just professional Christian counselor.

Okay. Um, two or three times. I don't a different, or two or three different seasons of that. Um, and, and it had been, Helpful, more or less. Mm-hmm. , uh, but I wasn't, didn't really feel like it had been life changing or, uh, I knew that it didn't necessarily address, uh, some of the things going on in my heart. Um,

and, and that, which is why then things were coming up again with different circumstances, a different set of heat and, and difficulties.

Um, so then it, yeah. Then in the more recent time after we had adopted Anna and, uh, were, uh, were really struggling, uh, with her, with one another, uh, then when we knew we wanted to seek out help, then at that point it was, yeah, we want to, we wanna look for biblical counseling in particular.

Rocky Seto: Where did you learn about biblical counseling?

I know, I know counseling is all type of counseling, but who turned you on to biblical counseling?

Dan Christian: That's a good question. Uh, I know we started attending C C E F, the Christian Counseling and Educational Foundation, uh, conferences and they have online courses, but I'm trying to think of who connected us with them in the first place.

I'm not sure. I dunno, for me

Rocky Seto: it was like Kim Kra, you know, our friends from Lighthouse and same with me. Yeah. I mean, um, I guess in as a, I don't know how you even call it, a counseling umbrella, biblical counseling. It's been since, from the beginning, but people have kind of coined it Biblical counseling.

Sure. Kind of more of more recent times. Right, right. And so I'm just curious how you would even go to c e f, you know, I mean, to even learn about, okay, I wanna learn more about biblical counseling. You know, I was just talking to friends. That's kind of how I got into it.

Dan Christian: Yeah. Actually that, yeah. Jojo Ma, that would, that would probably be the introduction for me.

Pastor jojo Ma. So we, we were on staff together here. He was one of the pastors at Evergreen for a season, um, before he, uh, planted a church and. Yeah, he was, he was learning and growing in biblical counseling. We actually shared an office for a while, so , we had lots of time to, uh, talk about, uh, the things that we were learning.

Nice. And so, yeah, he, yeah. There you go. The advantages

Garrett Inouye: of a shared cubicle, huh? Yes, that's right. That's

Dan Christian: right. .

Garrett Inouye: Awesome. Thanks for sharing a little bit about that history, Dan. It's, it's really encouraging and, and good to hear. Um, yeah. Encouraging to see how you've grown and, and just been faithful. I, you know, thinking back to when you were sharing your testimony that you felt a call in junior high, right.

And then you've just continued, continuously walked in, faithfulness of just, um, continuing to pursue that coin to serve and to shepherd and to care and in different contexts. That's just really encouraging to see, um, over that long period of time, right? Yeah. Right. Um, so one thing we wanted to ask was, you know, now that, um, You shared with our church about your transition.

Uh, we wanna ask like, where is the Lord leading you now? Where do you feel like the Lord's calling you?

Dan Christian: Mm-hmm. . Yeah. We are, we are entering a brand new adventure here. Mm-hmm. , uh, stepping out in faith. Uh, for a lot of years now, maybe 10, 15 years we've been, uh, my wife and I have been thinking, dreaming about we would love to someday have a retreat house ministry.

That's how we always talked about it. That, that we'd love to be able to do the kind of things that we do very sporadically, very occasionally, um, to just pour our, our lives into it. Um, but it's always been someday, it's always been in the future. Sure. Or off, uh, It's something we dream about and desire, but, uh, not going to, uh, it wasn't the time for it.

Mm-hmm. . Um, but yeah, recently, in the last couple years, just as, as things changed within our family, older kids out of the house now and, uh, life is opening up a little bit more. Uh, we're also getting older and wanting to make the most of, uh, the years that, uh, God gives us. Um, and as things change within Evergreen too, then yeah, we felt like God is moving us more toward, uh, taking that dream and putting it into reality.

Okay. And taking steps toward that. Um, so just this year, uh, we, we, uh, took the step to. Incorporate a, a nonprofit organization. Okay. Uh, that we're calling O Haven Ministries. Nice. Um, and, and, uh, so we're, we're, yeah. The ball's rolling. We're, we're stepping into that. And, uh, looking forward to being able to offer not just retreats, uh, but, uh, soul care counseling training, um, and to, to resource the local church, uh, through those things.

Sure.

Garrett Inouye: Oak. Okay. What, where does that name come from? ?

Dan Christian: Yes. Well, uh, Oak, like the tree, uh, really there's, there's a lot of oaks here in Southern California. Mm-hmm. , uh, one of my favorite places to hang out on retreat times is in Claremont at the botanical gardens there, and they have a majestic oak that's like, 300 years old or something.

And oaks don't grow super tall, but they do have a humongous, uh, canopy. And, and so they really picture to me, uh, uh, just a, a slow growth and, and strength and then also shade and covering in a place that, uh, that provides, um, refuge for others. And so then we're mix, mix, putting that together with Haven, which also is, is just a sense of, of rest, respite.

Care. Um, but not just, not for the sake of just staying there, but, but, uh, for the sake of, of preparing you, sending you back out and, and, uh, into the journey or the fight or whatever it is. Um, so yeah, so we put those two together to make O Haven and, uh, hope that that will represent kind of all the different areas that we're seeking to, uh, to develop the, the training and the growth, um, the, the respite and the care and covering space, uh, for people to, uh, be ministered to by God.

Awesome.

Garrett Inouye: When, when I think retreat, so like, what are you guys thinking? I, I think, you know, some people might think like monastery at the top of a mountain with like no running water or cabin in the isolated. What are you guys thinking when you, when you say retreat?

Dan Christian: Yeah. Definitely not the monastery on the top of the mountain

Um, we've no monks. Yeah. We've been to a lot of retreat centers and we really like the air conditioning, uh, the comfortable, uh, yeah. Thoughtfully, uh, appointed rooms and space. Mm. Uh, but we're really thinking, uh, local. That's our, that's our vision. That this would not be a place that you have to drive two hours up into the mountains or whatever, but that it would be right here in the neighborhood, um, accessible.

Uh, because our desire is that this would. Not just be an, an occasional thing
Sure. That people get a chance to, to do every couple years or something, but, uh, that it would be something we build into our daily lives. Mm. So we're,

we're hoping to find property up in the Hopper Heights or Hassin Heights, somewhere up on the hill there.

Uh, that's, that's accessible to St. Gabriel Valley and Orange County and, uh, where, where we can, uh, care for people in that way.

Garrett Inouye: Yeah. So, I mean, that's kind of cool. So you, your hope is to kind of through offering a retreat, um, and training you, you're trying to model for, uh, people who live in various contexts, like maybe I live deep in LA City and I don't have the chance to get away to some mountain.

How to have a lifestyle where, And rest in solitude is a part of our, our daily soul care. Yes. Or weekly or, or regular soul care. Right, right. Gotcha. Yes. I was actually gonna ask this. When you were talking about retreats and the Oh, your personal retreats, what do you do for your personal retreats? Just, just you, for you.

Yeah.

Dan Christian: Well, I am refreshed a lot. Maybe it's the, the Oregon blood in me, the Pacific Northwest. I love being outdoors. Um, so that, that for me is the, the most refreshing, uh, place in creation. Um, and. Being from Oregon where we have real waterfalls and uh, and actual, uh, streams that are not underground and under concrete and whatnot.

Uh, then there's all kinds of places up there where, where I would love to, to hike and get away and, and be alone with the Lord. Here it's a little harder to find, find that you don't like, you don't like the LA River. Yeah. . Yes. I, I remember the first time, uh, someone told me, I found out that there was a, a waterfall at Monrovia Canyon Park.

Okay. Or something. And, and you know, there's a little hike and you can see the waterfall. And we hiked up there and I'm like, where is it? Like, there, there I see some, a drip like coming off the side of the mountain here, but yeah. Go, go to Oregon if you wanna see some, some real falls. But anyway, I enjoy being outdoors that, that for me is a, is a way that I am refreshed by God.

Um, so when I take a personal retreat, then I, I prefer to be, you know, at the bot gardens or, uh, at a place where there, there, uh, are quiet spaces, outdoors, uh, where I can just sit and journal, pray, read. Sometimes I don't do anything. I just sit and watch the butterflies or hummingbirds or whatever. And, um, and presence of, uh, whatever God might have for me in that time.

And usually he will lead me eventually to some passage of scripture that, um, that is, is ministering to. Whatever I'm going through and whatever I need. Um, and so yeah, those are, those are rich times to, to intentionally not bring all my doing into the retreat time, but to, to intentionally stop doing and, and be still with the God of the universe who's made me and loves me.

Garrett Inouye: Cool. Thanks for sharing that. So then kind of going back to o Haven, um, who are you looking to serve? Like is this gonna be new believers, new to faith, tired, come to the retreat, get trained? Is it, uh, long time seasoned pastors that just burnt out? Do you have an idea of who you'd wanna serve with your ministry?

Dan Christian: Yeah, it would be open to anyone who is in need of that kind of care or respite. Uh, certainly. But I think our heart especially would be those who are leading, who are pouring themselves out in ministry, who don't necessarily have a place, or, or a person, someone who is caring for their own soul. Um, and, and I think that's been our burden that we, that we see, uh, how easily, uh, we in the church can, uh, just give more and more to people, especially who are mature in Christ and they're willing to serve and so forth.

And, uh, we, we give them responsibility and, uh, yet they also need to be cared for, equipped, nourished, um, so forth. And so that would be, uh, that would be our desire. And, and with that, not, uh, not only. Individuals, but our heart is really to come alongside local churches. Um, and we've grown in that, especially through just in the learning that we've done about biblical counseling over these last few years.

And we're seeing that the, the church really is the place where this kind of soul care and discipleship and equipping is meant to happen. And yet many, we've been blessed here at Evergreen to have multiple pastors and, and a lot of resources, but there are many smaller churches who don't maybe have a solo pastor, don't have those kind of resources.

And we really desire to be able to come alongside. And both lift the load, say, Hey, we'll, we'll help to counsel. But at the same time, we, we want to, we want you to send people who can observe and learn and be equipped so that we can then send them back into your church. Wow. And, and, uh, you can carry that out on your own where it's best anyway.

Um, and, and the same with, uh, whatever other forms or, uh, areas of training that we might do, uh, to not just call people away from their church to receive something, but to be equipping them for their church. Wow.

Garrett Inouye: That's, that's such a encouraging thing to hear about a non-profit ministry that has a heart to also equip the local church and not just be its own isolated thing, but to bless the local church.

That's super encouraging. Um, I have a question that's not on my list of questions. . Okay. I tend to do this, we tend to do this all the time in Rocky, but, um, Just thinking about you and Vera and your relationship, like there's this kind of like theme that you guys have been doing ministry together, right?

Uh, college ministry coming on staff. I don't see Vera. And you being, you know, you're the one on staff here at Evergreen, but I see Vera serving all the time and you guys processing a lot. And now, uh, starting to, uh, starting this new, uh, nonprofit ministry and serving together, do you have any insight into how do you do ministry like that with your spouse?

Like how do you guys interact?

Dan Christian: it isn't always easy. Mm-hmm. , there are definitely challenges to that as well on your part, right? Not Vera, it's right. Oh, yeah, yeah. . It's much harder for her, uh, to deal with me. No, no. Uh, yeah, there, there are, there are challenges, but I think we've, we've really, uh, seen that as, A way that our marriage grows when we are focused together on something outside of ourselves.

And we sometimes get hung up when all we're thinking about is just how are we doing together? And I think God is designed marriage to be, uh, uh, a way that we carry out his mission, uh, with one another. And so we're, we're excited to serve together. There's a little bit of trepidation just cuz uh, it'll, it'll be a new routine and we'll have to adjust and learn mm-hmm.

how to work together that closely and so forth. But, uh, I think we're very excited about that as well.

Rocky Seto: Do you, um, you know, the Lord says that, or wise, or a helpmate and, uh, how does Vera compliment you in this Okay. Adventure, and also how do you compliment her as well? Mm-hmm.

Dan Christian: Mm-hmm. . Yeah, well, Vera's Vera's definitely way more entrepreneurial than I am, and so she is super excited that we can be stepping into this.

Finally, I think she's desired this, uh, this kind of thing for maybe longer than me in the sense of, I, I would, I would just stay where it's safe and comfortable and, and she's the one who's like, yeah, let's, let's, uh, uh, try this and, and see where God takes us. So, uh, so she definitely brings that, uh, just visionary, uh, sense to it.

Um, and then she, I mean, she already has been, uh, doing a lot of. On her own, uh, with Women's Bible studies and training. Uh, the pandemic really opened up the door for us with Zoom and realizing that, uh, we can actually connect, uh, with people outside of our, uh, immediate locality here. And, uh, so she's been doing a lot of that.

So she, she, uh, brings a lot of, uh, already established relationships and networking, uh, which is gonna be hugely helpful as we, uh, start out here. So how about you?

Rocky Seto: Uh, you got a lot of strengths. I just want our people to hear what, what, how you see your strengths fitting

Dan Christian: in here. Yeah, yeah. Well, I'm the grunt man, , and, uh, she has the big ideas.

And then I'm the one who, uh, Makes it happen. Makes it

Rocky Seto: happen and

Dan Christian: fills out all the papers and sends them in and, uh, works on Yeah, the detailed, I'm the detailed person and so, uh, yeah, we canute each other in that way. I

Rocky Seto: remember in, um, back in June, June, um, is when you and Vera met with me and informed me of, you know, are you gonna step down?

And I forget whether it was 15 years or I think you told the pastors you've been thinking about this for 20 years. And so when he told that to me in June, I mean, there was a natural sadness for me, but when I heard about two decades, I was thinking, what took you so long? And I'm excited for you. I was actually, of course I was sad, but at the same time I was like, man, this is awesome that you're gonna be doing what you've been dreaming about for that time.

And, um, I couldn't be more excited, you know, and, uh, Perhaps this will help our church family, you know, and just to kind of help 'em understand what was

going on in your mind, how did you come to that conclusion in June or prior to June telling me, um, that this is what you guys decided to do. How'd that happen?

Mm-hmm. ,

Dan Christian: there's a, yeah, a lot of factors there. We, we, uh, knew that eventually, sooner or later as we, as we took steps to start putting this together, put the foundation pieces in place, I think we knew that, that eventually that would mean I would have to step away from full-time ministry cuz uh, there would just come a time where I couldn't split between both and mm-hmm.

And effectively do what was needed to form O Haven. Um, but we weren't sure how long that would be, uh, or what would be required. Uh, and then there's the faith aspect. We weren't even sure whether. This dream is gonna fly. Like, yeah, it's nice to have a big idea, but when we actually, uh, put it into, uh, to place, uh, is this even gonna work?

And so, uh, definitely a hesitance in me to step away from what's comfortable and secure and, uh, uh, being the sole breadwinner for the family, not wanting to, uh, mess up my family. We've got additional, uh, needs with, with our daughter and son in college and so forth. Um, so some, uh, hesitations there. Um, but, but yeah, we, uh, got opened the door for us to.

Uh, we decided we needed to, to set a date and not, uh, not just keep kind of pushing it on indefinitely. Um, and one of the, one of the pieces that helped with that, uh, was, was actually our thinking and decision about, okay, when we, when we stepped down, when I stepped down from staff that, uh, we felt like God was saying we also would be stepping away from evergreen and, uh, worshipping at another church family.

Um, and, and with that then we felt like Lighthouse, uh, community church would be, uh, where God would be calling us, um, to worship. And so as, as, as I was wrestling with the timing of all of this, uh, then I actually reached out to them and just said, Hey, , is there any way, uh, that I could do something mm-hmm.

part-time? Um, and they've been super gracious and kind to offer, uh, part-time help with their counseling ministry, uh, which will, which will grow and equip me Yeah. Uh, tremendously. Mm-hmm. and also provide a, uh, uh, an, a steady amount of income for this first year as we're kind of laying the foundation for o ca.

Um, and so that, that was, uh, one thing that was very instrumental in just giving me the assurance confidence. Yeah. Local. Okay. There's, there's something here, uh, that God is providing. And, uh,

Rocky Seto: when did it happen? Was that during your sabbatical that you took at the, at, was it 2022, top of 2022? Does that sound about right?

Dan Christian: Uh, no. Well, the, we did when I had sabbatical in 20. 21. Uh, then, uh, then we worshiped at Lighthouse during that time. Um, so we, we got to know people a little more, uh, in that time. We, uh, especially were drawn to their, their, uh, disability ministry special needs ministry, uh, where they, they really, uh, cared for.

Anna well, cared for us well by, by, uh, caring for Anna. Um, so that was, that was a blessing. But then it was just this, this year, uh, uh, sometime in the summer when I, uh, had those conversations with them and Okay.

Rocky Seto: So probably soon before you talked to me then, because you talked to me in June, so it must have been May, maybe.

Yeah. Yeah. And,

Garrett Inouye: and just for context, for some people who don't know what, who Lighthouse is, can you give context? What is our relationship with Lighthouse, uh, community

Dan Christian: Church? Right. So Lighthouse is one of the Evergreen Church plants. Uh, I don't know what year they were planted, but uh, uh, I think shortly after I came on staff, so it was maybe 2004, 2005, something like that, uh, was when, uh, they were, uh, planted in Torrance.

And, uh, so yeah, it's our, our, uh, sister church. We've continued to have connection there of. The, at least their, their beginning, uh, church family all came out of Evergreen to start up, uh, that church plant. And, and God is really blessed. Uh, their ministry there.

Rocky Seto: Man. Those guys have been super gracious. Do you remember in 2018, I think they spent every Tuesday nights nine months.

Right. Tim St. John. They're hanging out fighting traffic to get out here and educate people in San Gabriel Valley by biblical counseling. That was huge. Yeah. They invited our whole

Garrett Inouye: staff. Were you on staff when they invited? Our whole staff took over and just visit their church office and get to know their staff.

There must have been before before that. Okay. Yeah. . Yeah. Super hospitable. Yeah. Uh, they love food a lot over there. Definitely. You better watch your weight. Yeah.

Dan Christian: Food and food and coffee. Yes. And coffee. Yes. So,

Rocky Seto: I mean, so people will be sad. All the Christians are not here. There's a reason why they're at Lighthouse.

I could see just wealth of background and biblical counseling, uh, disabilities ministry, friends, relationships, um, being supported by them for the next year. Does that sound about right? Yes. One year. One year. What? Praise God. And then just to have that constant mentorship and encouragement to move towards.

Okay. And, um, that's wonderful. Do you see yourself being part of that local church beyond that year, or is that you'll just see how it

Dan Christian: goes? Yeah, we'll see how it goes, but I, I think we would like to, uh, commit more than just that year. I don't think we're, we're not making the decision to be there based on the year of, of, uh, employment that they're offering.

It was actually the other way around that, uh, we asked about the employment because we felt like God was leading us there, uh, just to worship. So, so yeah. Hopefully that can continue. All right.

Rocky Seto: Cool. That's How many minutes is that from Claremont? Are you thinking about moving closer maybe?

Dan Christian: Well, if God provides a place in Lo Heights Heights, then we'll be, that'll be lo rides cut the distance in about half.

Sure. So, yeah, right now it'll, it'll be a challenge that I'm looking at hybrid cars and seeing what I can find with Yeah. Yeah.

Garrett Inouye: Um, well, thanks Dan for sharing a little bit about, you know, what you and Vera are, are dreaming up and what you guys feel called to and how the lord's at working that out. I know there's a lot of things that still need to be figured out and we'll definitely be, definitely praying over that.

But, you know, just knowing you and knowing how shepherding you are, like I know as you, you leave out, uh, step out from Evergreen, you, you also care about our church and, and, uh, it is just so evidence in the way that you've interacted with, um, with me, with the staff, with people that, that I know that have received ministry from you.

And so I have kinda a hypothetical question for you, . Um, but say like in 10 years, right? If you imagine yourself coming in and visiting our church 10 years from now, what would be like one thing you would love to see happening, uh, in our church, in our church culture, in our church ministries, in our relationships?

Is there anything that would just really bring you a lot of joy if you

Dan Christian: saw happening? Right, right. Yeah, I think because. , we've been really working hard at developing this, this mindset and ministry of biblical counseling. Then, then I think if hypothetically, you know, come back and hear overhear conversations or people come to me, I think what would be really meaningful would just to be hearing conversations, uh, you know, like this, that, that maybe a, a young man comes up and tells me that yeah, he's had difficulties in his marriage and, uh, struggling, but hey, we since in our branch group we've been sharing about those kind of things, it's been safe to, to share those pains.

Then we got up the courage we shared and. Uh, a young couple, another couple in the, the branch just took us under their wing and has been meeting with us, studying, going through a study together. The, the whole branch is praying for us. And, you know, now here we are. Our marriage still struggles, but we're together.

We're better than we were and don't think that would've happened apart from the branch coming together. So, to, to hear something like that or, or maybe on the, on the other end to, to hear a sister share that, that, uh, you know, I've always been intrigued by biblical counseling, but had young kids at home and could never do much about it.

But, you know, I'll, I'll read an article here and there. Come to one of the CCF conferences and, uh, just learning a little bit at a time. And then now, you know, my, as my kids are getting older, realizing that I have more time available. So finally, I. Took the plunge and said, I'll, I'll meet with someone more formally and, you know, I've been meeting with her and just, just come alive.

I love it. It, it's so, uh, so rich to just be able to walk with someone and, um, so to, to hear stories like that, to hear someone who, who is both giving, uh, counsel maybe more formally and, and someone who's received in just the everyday conversations of, of a branch or small group, uh, that would give me a whole lot of joy,

Rocky Seto: uh, to see.

That sounds like you're describing a discipleship culture.

Dan Christian: Definitely, definitely In essence, intentional relationships, including, including caring for one another in the hard place. What was that phrase that you say

Garrett Inouye: that, that, um, your hope is that biblical counseling is the, the language of discipleship.

Is that kind of something

Dan Christian: that you've shared before? Yeah. The, uh, the mindset and the ministry of, of, uh, Counseling. Yeah. That we would have a, a language of caring for one another. Mm-hmm. . Um, yeah.

Rocky Seto: The, um, I know we had a pastor's meeting this past week about how do we parlay what's been, you know, invested, you know, Dan's been laboring for the last three years.

I mean, that was his sole purpose. Mm-hmm. to develop this. And there's a team of people who, who have been trained, but, you know, we've been talking about how to do this, you know, and, uh, how to develop a culture of discipleship, which has biblical counseling. Biblical counseling. Remember Dan, you saying this is discipleship in areas of sin and suffering, correct?

Mm-hmm. , I mean, the difficult places. The hard places. Which is, which is life. Which is life on this side of eternity. And, um, so we'll have Pastor Jeremy Young. Kind of spearheading some of our efforts here, but you know, it may not quite look the same, you know, and we, we don't have the whole, uh, um, person dedicated to this, but it means all hands on deck from the leadership, the pastors, lay leaders.

And, um, we're hoping that life group leaders and, and any advisor type people, and anyone who has a formal type of leadership and influence will get on board

with this so that the language and the, and the approach is being embedded by the people, you know. And so, yeah, these are some of the things that we are not letting go of.

We want to, this is one of the pillars that was in my mind, that we need to have, uh, strong culture of counseling, which is biblical, which is we want the mind of Christ. And, um, so we'll, we'll, we'll roll that out a little bit more, but that's just a little bit of a preview just in case you're wondering how we're gonna continue on without Brother Dan here, you know, and so, um, grateful for Dan and, um, I could just see the Lord's hand in this whole thing.

I mean, I mean, obviously going back to your parents, I mean, we, there's a reason why we asked you about testimony because we could learn more about how God has been shaping your heart. I mean, the college that you went to, the missions trip, the wife that God gave you, who happened to be with Aacf, and, um, and then you're able to, uh, come to Cal Poly because of that there, which brought you to Southern California, which brought you to Evergreen.

Then you had a pastoral partner named Jo Ju Ma , who could, who you shared a room with, and you learned about biblical counseling. And even in, in the difficulties of just life, which drove you to seek after counseling and uh, which is pretty neat. And then you, you, which drove you to have interest in biblical counseling?

I come on board, I can recognize that you take over the biblical counseling or start the biblical counseling efforts of our church. And then even during Covid, you said that even with Covid, the Zoom and all that, you and Vera were able to minister to people online and kind of grow your, perhaps your confidence in counseling people.

Right. More, more at bats, more turns, and hopefully more uh, um, graces of, of God's word being ministered to people who are struggling and are encouraged to it. And then you strike up a relationship with Lighthouse and, um, Their heart is to come support you, which is great. And then, so all these things are happening and I just, it's just an encouragement.

I mean, perhaps a desire, a seed that was planted into your heart 20 years ago is starting to look like it's taking skin and form. And, um, anyway, just for me, just watching from the sidelines, I've been able to process this since June. Mm-hmm. So for our church, I know it's kinda, you just heard this recently for me, I had since June to pray and think in journal about this and process this out with the staff.

And it makes perfect sense to me. It makes perfect sense to me. And, um, anyway, although it's an emotional thing, although at the same time, you know, you're sad to see teammates go, but you're happy at the same time. But that's what gives us confidence, being able to see God's hand moving in our lives, you know, from way back to even more recently.

And, um, that's, that's how. I don't know in my life, how do we make strong decisions? I mean, this is a big decision. Mm-hmm. , I mean, going to Cal Poly, that was a big decision. Leaving Cal Poly to come here on staff for 17 years was a big decision. Right? And then to step down from staff to go to Oak Haven.

Massive decision. Right? And so, church, family, I, I'm just basically trying to point out these things so that you could recognize these things in your own life as well. How do you make decisions? And perhaps as you recognize God's invisible hand moving in your life, in the life of the people around you, you kind of connect the dots.

And, and, and as Dan has shared his life with me makes sense to me, you know? And so grateful for you in that regard. And thanks for letting, sharing some of your story with our whole church family so they could understand, so they could pray for you so they could celebrate with your course grieving. And that's a good thing.

That's a good thing. And people will be sad and, and we're sad, but at the same time, we rejoice and we're grateful for. What God's gonna do here. Right,

Dan Christian: right. Thank

Garrett Inouye: you. Yeah. Now, Dan, uh, not that this is the last chance you'll, you'll have to talk to people at Evergreen cuz you're here for a little bit after this podcast is gonna post.

Um, and, and you're still in Southern California, so there's still connection and relationship and things like that. But, um, since you do have the podcast, Mike, and we've been asking you a ton of questions, is there anything you'd like to say to the Evergreen Church family? Uh, I just wanna give you the opportunity.

Sure,

Dan Christian: yeah, well definitely. Just thank you, uh, to you Evergreen. Um, you have walked with us, uh, walked with me as one of your pastors and with us as a family, uh, through a lot of different seasons and, um, a lot of joys,

a lot of heartache, a lot of, uh, ups and downs and. Yeah, we, we really, uh, love you, uh, are are blessed by you.

We're, we are, uh, it's a, it's a bittersweet time. We are grieving the, uh, loss of some of these, uh, friendships and, uh, just the regularity of, of being together and yet at the same time excited for what God has and knowing that, yeah, it doesn't mean that, uh, we'll never see you again or, uh, uh, won't have any connection.

Uh, but not in the same way perhaps. So yeah, thank you for encouraging me for walking, uh, with me, for trusting me as, uh, your pastor to develop some of these new ministries, uh, to learn together with. Um, in these ways. It, it just really has been a, a joy and a delight, uh, to serve in this, uh, capacity. I'm grateful for it.

Rocky Seto: Um, look, I just a little bit of timeline. Mm-hmm. , December 31st, 2022 will be the last official day that Dan is on the staff. And, um, I assume you'll be transitioning to Lighthouse following Lord's Day, perhaps correct? Uh, most likely yes. At the top of the new year. So, anyway, just a thought and as you guys think through this, but.

I, one last question. Let's go more. Okay. How can we be praying for your family during this time? This is a, uh, we, we want to collect as much as many prayer partners as possible.

Dan Christian: Yeah, definitely. Thank you. Uh, we, we, uh, do welcome your prayers ask that you would be praying, um, this transition. Any transition is hard.

It's painful. Uh, and so yeah, be praying for our whole family. Um, our kids included this, this Evergreen is the only church that our kids have known. Um, and so this is a pretty major transition for all of us. Um, even Vera and I were realizing that I think Evergreen is the church that we have. You know, for our, looking at our entire life, evergreen is the church that we have been at the most number of years.

Um, even more so than growing up. And so there's, there's a huge amount of, of, uh, relational, uh, depth that is here that, that will change. And the thought of entering into a new place where we're relatively unknown and, and maybe especially for our kids at, uh, their stage and age of life, uh, that's, that can be a hard thing.

And so, yeah, just pray that God will connect us, uh, grow new relationships and community. And, uh, bless that. Um, and then, then we'd really appreciate your prayers for O Haven, um, that, that God would, uh, grant us his favor in that and, uh, that it would actually grow and develop and, and serve the church, uh, the, the wider church body.

Uh, that, that there will be souls that are cared for, hearts that are equipped, uh, people that draw closer to God because of UHN Ministries. So those are a couple things. Really appreciate your prayers for all. Right.

Garrett Inouye: Right. Thank you. Rocky, would you be willing to, uh, cover Dan in prayer? Sure. Yeah.

Rocky Seto: Thank you guys for this time.

Let's pray. Father, thank you for, uh, your great kindness to us. Thank you for your son, Jesus Christ. Thank you for giving us life and our identity and your son. And so Father, I thank you for, uh, Dan and Vera and their family and just the opportunity to get to know them for the last couple years. And, um, Lord, we know that you've made us into a work of art created in Christ for Good works beforehand, Lord.

And, um, evidently this is part of the good work that you've had for the Christian family, Lord. And, uh, father, I pray that all the providential things that you have placed in their lives would come into play, their experiences, their training relationships, their, um, even their suffering in their hardships would come into play as they serve in this capacity.

Lord, I pray Father for, uh, the strong relationships at Lighthouse Community Church. Uh, and I pray for strong synergy with their leadership as well. I pray particularly for, uh, their children. Jonathan and Anna as a trans transition to, uh, lighthouse, that they would have strong friendships, strong relationship as well.

I pray they will see your goodness and your kindness in, in this transition, Lord. And so Father, also pray for, uh, Dan and Vera. Lord, I pray as, as Garret asked, what is this gonna look like? I pray, father, that they will be, uh, the right balance of ministry and the right balance of just being a, a couple Lord.

And I pray Father, that they'll be to encourage one another, compliment one another. I pray for Dan's leadership. Lord, I pray he will be to lead well, I pray He will be able to, uh, set the tone for what you have called them to do here in

this ministry, Lord. And um, so I thank you and Lord, I pray for encouragement when it gets challenging.

All transitions are fairly challenging, Lord. But you, Lord, I pray encouragement in the fact that you are with them and I pray Father, that they would, uh, keep their eyes on you. Lord that you would encourage 'em through your word and through the saints Lord that come their way. So thank you, father for this time.

I pray for our church family as well that they would have a, uh, excitement for this family and, uh, a thankfulness, a gratitude to you for their, this family and our church church's life, Lord. So thank you Father, in Jesus' name. Amen. Amen.

Garrett Inouye: Just one quick thing. Sure. If, if someone wants to get a hold of Oak Haven or know more about that ministry, how can they do so?

Dan Christian: Yes. Uh, Oak Haven ministries.org, uh, is or is or will be, uh, our website. Okay. Um, so Oak, like the Tree and haven, and then ministries, plural, even,

Garrett Inouye: uh, H A V E. Yes. No spaces,

Dan Christian: no spaces, no dots. Just Oak Haven ministries.org. Okay. Yes.

Garrett Inouye: Cool. Thank you, Dan. That'd be great. Thank you. Okay. Thanks for joining us for the special episode.

One point of clarification is that Pastor Dan will start attending Lighthouse Community Church the week after stepping down from Evergreen staff. However, his start date for working part-time at Lighthouse will actually be February 5th next week. Look out for our release of the second special episode with Pastor Kenny.

I was really encouraged by what he shared in that conversation. Again, we've created a chat group on the Evergreen SUV app called Pursuing Discipleship. Our hope is that we can use this chat group to dig deeper into the content we cover in the podcast. We'll post discussion questions, polls on what topics we should cover, send out resources that have been helpful.

And really the goal is to just intentionally gather around the idea that we are all pursuing discipleship together. You can get access by opening the Evergreen

sgv app and clicking on the chat icon in the top right. Then clicking on Discover and joining the Pursuing Discipleship Group. You could find this podcast on the website or church app along with Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and tune in by searching, pursuing discipleship.

Make sure to like, follow or subscribe to get notified when new episodes post. Give feedback@evergreensuv.org slash podcast feedback, or if you're listening on the app or website, you can click the link that says, give us feedback. Anyways, that's all for today. Thank you again for joining us and see you next week.

Bye.