

PazNaz  
January 2017



# 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!

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

## CONTENTS

### Say Hello to Daniel Ramos

From Pastor Mackenzie Smith

3

### From Bored to Floored

From Sarah Edgbert

8

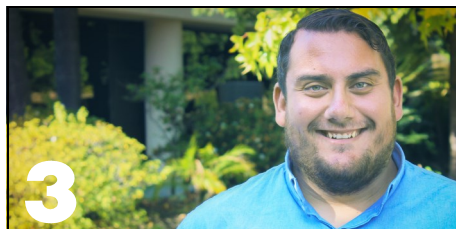
### PazNaz Is Grateful For...

An Inspirational Reminder from the Congregation

11

*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](http://www.PazNaz.org).

TRANSFORMED  
Issue #69—January 2017  
The Magazine of PazNaz  
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# Say Hello to Daniel Ramos

You

may have been there before: your alarm clock wakes you to a question echoing around in your brain. Throughout your morning, you try to take care of the tasks you need to accomplish, but you can't fully focus on these things. Try as you might, you have no idea what time that upcoming PazNaz event starts! During lunch, you decide to head over to PazNaz to find out the answer and free yourself from this burden. After parking your car, you move toward the PazNaz offices with your question burning in the back of your mind. If only there was someone who could help you! As you near office doors, you're straining to see who might be inside, and are struck by the irony: the very glass that is supposed to provide transparency produces a reflection, and when you need help from someone else, you only can see yourself. As you step inside the doors, glance at the front desk and search for help, your gaze is met with a smile and his commonly-used, yet fully genuine, phrase: "Welcome to PazNaz! My name is Daniel. How can I help you?"

While the man behind this smile, Daniel Ramos, is one of the newest employees at PazNaz, he is by no means unfamiliar to the community. Before starting in November as the new Receptionist and Statistician, Daniel has had two years of experience with PazNaz Student Ministries as a youth leader, where he will continue to intern. Daniel's involvement with Student Ministries spans working as a small group leader with the Junior class, leading and organizing the Student Worship Initiative, leading a guys' Bible Study, and developing the many personal relationships he has with students in the youth group. Each of these responsibilities is something he enjoys in the moment, but all are leading

toward something in the future. Daniel is in his final year of studies at Azusa Pacific University, as he moves closer toward completing his degree in Youth Ministry with a minor in Graphic Design. He is working in ministry as he practices for the next chapter: whatever may come after graduation. For Daniel, while he is spending time learning for his future ministry, he is fully invested in the ministry that happens in the present. He is a passionate leader who is excited about what is happening today in the ministries at PazNaz.

This all flows from his heart for ministry. If you get the chance to sit down with him and ask about why he wants to be so invested in this church community, you hear in his response theological ideas dancing with emotional connections. He has great hopes of what the church community could look like, and sees a



continuous need for churches in our present and future society. When I spoke with him about his passion for youth ministry, he shared some of the basis for this passion for students. "I never had a youth pastor growing up," he shared. "I went to a fairly small church. We did have a small Sunday School, but I didn't really get anything out of that. Honestly, I hated it; it felt very institutionalized, like a school setting. I wish it could have felt different: when we come together, we listen to a sermon, worship God, and get to talk about it in a small group." He loves Sunday School and his opportunities to teach, but isn't afraid to get creative when things need a little shake-up. Daniel has been influential in some of the imaginative thinking in the youth ministry. Discipleship doesn't happen only within a classroom; it happens within every avenue of our lives. As Daniel says, "We don't learn to follow Jesus best in the same way we learn in a school. Church shouldn't be a school; church should be church."

While Daniel is passionate about pedagogical practices, he has many other skills and abilities. One of the areas Daniel has continuously invested in the youth group is in musical worship. Having experience in the much loved "man-choir," as it is affectionately known at his school, he has been passionate about getting students involved in musical leadership capacities. This has translated to Student Ministries with the formation of the Student Worship Initiative, or SWI, who weekly leads the Wednesday Night worship periods for Student Ministries. This team of students brings together their musical abilities, whether guitar, drums, bass, ukulele, or mandolin. These instruments are woven together in a way that invites students and leaders alike to adoration before the throne of God. This team and their regular involvement has been one of the highlights of the year for Student Ministries. It is amid this group that Daniel can be found,

encouraging students to recognize and use their musical gifts in the way they lead others.

While Daniel has poured himself into this community of Student Ministries, the relationship has been anything but one way. When asked about his favorite part about being at PazNaz, he replied "Honestly, it's the kids. It's being able to be there for the youth in ways I would have never expected. They have been like my family; even though I'm a college student, they've still been that family. And the youth staff, too. I love the way we can all get together, no matter what's going on, come and worship God, and also be there for each other. I've seen that a lot with the kids with each other, and the youth leaders with the kids, and the kids with the youth leaders." As he has invested time and energy into the church community, he has found that he has a home at PazNaz. This community is his people, and students and leaders alike have become part of his family. It is within this family that Daniel's first role at PazNaz has blossomed. It is within this family that Daniel has come to know the community of PazNaz.

As one of the newest PazNaz employees, Daniel's community at PazNaz is expanding. He's familiar with the youth group, but now is finding himself inundated with new relationships and connections as the Receptionist and Statistician at PazNaz. In this role, he is seeing a new side of PazNaz and has nothing but positive things to say about the position. When we spoke, I asked him about his favorite part of the new role, and his reply was, as one might expect, all about people: "I just love getting to know people and getting to know their stories. That's huge. So, being able to learn the history of the

church from different people who have been here varying lengths of time, and seeing the changes the church has experienced through their eyes is something I really enjoy; whether it is a member of the congregation or one of the staff members. I've been learning from the staff, and I am grateful for how they are able to pour into me, tell me some of the stuff they've experienced, share their stories, and explain how they got to where they are now." Daniel's passion for ministry and his love for people is the foundation of his hope for ministry. And now, as he takes the opportunity to work as both a Student Ministries intern and also the Receptionist and Statistician, the chance to meet people from PazNaz and hear their stories is greatly increased. And Daniel is enjoying every second of it.

When you are around PazNaz and get the chance, stop by the front desk and get to know Daniel! He loves others' stories, and he has his own story as well. Don't be intimidated by the reflection of the door; once you make your way through, you will be greeted by Daniel's smiling face.

**- Pastor Mackenzie Smith**

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# simply prayer

Join the PazNaz family in a new weekly call to prayer. Find times and locations below that have been set aside for you to communally petition God for PazNaz and the community.

## Sundays

**7:40-7:55 am | Bride's Room, Lee Chapel**

**8:30-8:50 am | Valley Center Sanctuary**

**10:15-10:25 am | PazNaz Sanctuary**

## Wednesdays

**Centurion Class Prayer | 12:30 pm | Room 246, Reed Hall**

**6:00-6:30 pm | Lee Chapel**

**ACOP Prayer Meeting | 6:30 pm | Room 148, Reed Hall**

## Thursdays

**9:30-10:00 am | Lee Chapel**

## Fridays

**Early Christians | 6:00 am | Room 247, Reed Hall**

**Korean Prayer Service | 6:00 am | Room 249, Reed Hall**





# Women's Ministries Bible Study

Tuesdays at 9:30-11:30 am

Starting January 10 in Gilmore Hall

# Jesus

the One & Only

BY BETH MOORE



**Cost: \$20 - Full Scholarships Available**

Please pre-register at: [www.paznaz.org/online-forms/women-in-the-word](http://www.paznaz.org/online-forms/women-in-the-word)

For more information, contact Bonnie Jakeway at [bonniejakeway@yahoo.com](mailto:bonniejakeway@yahoo.com) or 626.963.3107.



Free children's programming from birth to 6<sup>th</sup> grade featuring Bible lessons, crafts, and music. Contact Pastor Faith Romasco at [fromasco@paznaz.org](mailto:fromasco@paznaz.org) or 626.351.2469.



# WOMEN'S RETREAT

February 24-26 | Murrieta Hot Springs

be  
Still

LISTENING FOR HIS VOICE

**Speaker: Jayme Lenker | Worship led by Rosa Ramirez**

*"Could it be, dear sisters, that we are so busy doing life that we don't take time to get alone with God and hear Him speak to our hearts through His Word? Or are we spiritually hard of hearing and unable to speak truth? Could it be that the blaring noise of life has deafened us to the still small voice of God?" - Kay Arthur & David Arthur from Jesus: Listening for His Voice*

**Early Registration Opens January 22 – Cost: \$150.00**

**Regular Registration Opens February 5 – Cost: \$170.00**

**Five meals and lodging included. Partial Scholarships Available.**

**Contact Barbara Fields at [bfields@paznaz.org](mailto:bfields@paznaz.org) for more information.**



A full-page portrait of a young woman with long, straight, light brown hair, smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a dark green cardigan over a light blue and white horizontally striped shirt. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green grass and a building with large windows.

# FROM Bored TO FLOORED

from SARAH EDGBERT



My husband, Brandon, and I moved to Los Angeles in the fall of 2012. I was eight months pregnant with our first child and we had just moved away from all of our family to a place where we knew no one. After struggling to find a church we landed at PazNaz in February of 2014. Although we were eager to quickly get plugged in, we had a really hard time finding where we fit. Growing up as pastors kids in small Nazarene churches we knew that in order to find our place in a large church like PazNaz we were going to have to take the first step. We tried a few different Sunday School classes, but after 18 months we still didn't feel like we had found our place. We were starting to get discouraged and feeling like maybe PazNaz wasn't the right church for our family. Around this same time, we had decided that we no longer wanted to live in Los Angeles and that it was time for us to move closer to family and somewhere more affordable. We were actively looking for a way to get out and fast. We were those people who always said, "we will never live in LA!" After sticking it out for 3+ years we were ready to go!

*One night at Girlfriend to Girlfriend, I shared with my table how I was feeling and that I felt like I was missing something. I believe I said, "I'm bored!" The ladies at my table laughed and, since they were all busy, working moms, they couldn't believe that I was actually bored!*

It was about this same time that God slowly started showing us that he had a different plan for us and that he had space for us at PazNaz. We had been attending a semi-new group at PazNaz called New Ground. It is a group made up of young-ish adults from different phases of life (married, single, families with young kids, college students, etc.). We had been enjoying our time attending the group and after a few months we were asked if we would be on the leadership team for the group. We were honored to be asked and gladly accepted. We had decided that even if we weren't going to be here for too much longer that we could at least be involved while we were still here.

During these same weeks and months I felt like God had something he wanted me to do, but I just could not figure out what

it was. Before we had kids I had been a third grade teacher. I didn't really have any desire to go back to teaching yet, but I knew there was something that God was stirring within me. I toyed with the idea of starting my own business from home or finding some sort of hobby just to feel like I was "doing something." One night at Girlfriend to Girlfriend, I shared with my table how I was feeling and that I felt like I was missing something. I believe I said, "I'm bored!" The ladies at my table laughed and, since they were all busy, working moms, they couldn't believe that I was actually bored!

About two months later I was asked to consider being the MOPS Coordinator at PazNaz. This offer was surprising and honestly I didn't feel qualified for such a large and important

position. But Brandon and some close friends encouraged me and guided me through the decision to accept the role. We knew that accepting this position meant that we were committing to stay in LA and at PazNaz for one more year. Although this was very much against what our plans were, we just felt like God was pushing us to stay here. I suddenly felt a pretty strong desire to not leave LA. After three years of begging Brandon to find a different job so we could leave, this feeling was foreign to me. But I was also excited. I finally felt that I had a place and that PazNaz was our home.

However, God wasn't done yet. In August of 2016 I started working at PazNaz as the Women's Ministries Assistant. Although it is a very part-time position assisting Megan Marsh



while she was on maternity leave, it has been a very fulfilling job. It has given me a little bit more purpose in my day-to-day life.

Well, needless to say, I am not bored anymore! God took full control of the situation and created many amazing opportunities for me to serve and to feel like I am needed for more than raising my children right now. Don't get me wrong, I understand that raising my children is an extremely important task and one that I do not hold lightly at all. It is and will always be my first priority. Raising my two children is such a high honor and I do not take it for granted. When I look back over the last six to twelve months I am floored by all that God has done. I am still able to raise my children while also being around people and a place that I have come to greatly appreciate and love. Women's Ministries is a crazy, fast-paced, exciting, and extremely loving place to be involved. Working and

volunteering at the church has been so fun! I have been able to meet many new people that I probably would have never met otherwise. Some days I still can't believe that this is what I get to do everyday.

Brandon keeps saying that it is a miracle that we are here. God has continued to surprise us over and over. Everything that has happened has caused us to pause and take a really serious look at what is next for our family. Our desire to leave Los Angeles continues to grow smaller and smaller with each passing day. We are confused, but also extremely grateful for the whole journey. We can't imagine leaving this place and these people that we have come to care for so deeply. We have made friendships and connections that will last a lifetime. We are forever grateful to the group of people who rallied around us and pulled us deeper into ministry at PazNaz.

As I have been processing all of

this I keep thinking about what might have happened if I had decided to turn down the MOPS coordinator position at PazNaz. Although the position of MOPS coordinator may seem small or silly to some people, it very well may have changed the course of our lives. We are excited about all of the things that are currently happening at PazNaz and are grateful to be a part of it. God has big things in store for this church and this community. We want a front row seat to it all.

- Sarah Edgbert

# GIVE BY TEXT

## Your Donations to PazNaz are Now a Text Away

PazNaz is excited to introduce ***Give by Text***, a simple and efficient way to make one-time or recurring gifts to the church. In less time than it takes to write a check, you are now able to offer up your tithe with just your thumbs.

Start by texting your dollar amount to the number below. You will receive a registration link where you will enter your payment and contact information.

When registration is complete, you will get a verification text and a receipt via email. For future giving, simply send a text with the amount you wish to give and it will process automatically.

Set up your ***Give by Text*** account today!

# 626.986.3397





# PazNaz is *Grateful* for...

On Sundays, November 13 & 20, Pastor Tara Beth Leach challenged the congregation to practice the presence of God by expressing their gratitude on cards that were pinned throughout the Sanctuary. These love letters to God served as an act of worship and now reminder of all the things PazNaz has to be grateful for. Below is just a snippet of the recurring themes found on all of these cards.

Shelter Life from Brokenness Wisdom & Guidance Love For All The Past & Future  
Spouse Friends  
Direct Access to God Parents  
Grandkids Health  
Family Pets  
Grace  
Healing Power My Christian Inheritance  
Rent Choir / Band / Music  
Patience PazNaz  
Enough for Today Unconditional Love  
Kids Pastors / Staff / Volunteers  
Strength to Overcome Difficulties  
Purpose Mercy Job  
Country Forgiveness  
Xbox Home



**PASADENA PRIMETIME'S**

**KICK  
OFF  
2017**

**Annual Snack & Dessert Potluck**

**Thursday, January 12, 2017  
7:00 pm in Gilmore Hall**

**It's time again for the Annual Snack & Dessert Potluck.  
If you're age 55 or better, come hear about all the  
PrimeTime activities, day trips, and tours for 2017. Invite  
a friend for a fun-filled evening at PazNaz.  
Please remember to bring a snack or dessert to share.**

**RSVP to Sylva Hekimian at  
*shekimian@paznaz.org* or 626.351.2426.**