

A Letter of Fellowship with the Parents Concerning Bay Area Summer School of Truth 2023

Dear Parents of the Junior High and High School Young People:

The Summer School of the Truth (SST) for the Bay Area churches will be held at Sonoma State University this year. Through this sanctified and intensified atmosphere, the Lord has been able to bring His young people on in life and in truth. May the Lord continue to bring the level of sanctification and consecration even higher.

The SST will be held from Lord's Day, July 23, to Friday, July 28. The cost per person, including serving ones and students, is \$580, which includes 5 nights' lodging and 15 meals (Lord's Day dinner through Friday lunch). The points listed below are included to refresh our view concerning the purpose of this week-long intensified SST.

A Sanctified and Intensified Experience

Having one week away with no interruptions from the world (television, entertainment, worldly friends, etc.) provide the Lord with an uninterrupted opportunity to dispense Himself richly into all these young vessels in a way that will have a more lasting impact. There are classes throughout the day, which are full of the spirit and life, and study times to help with digesting the Word and ministry. Additionally, there will be recreation times each day under the supervision of the SST serving ones. The opportunities to train our young people in truth and life, as well as in the very important aspect of character, are many. For all these reasons, the impact of such a 24/7 SST experience are great.

An Opportunity for More to Serve Including Parents and Working Serving Ones

One of the greatest enjoyments in serving SST is that all ages are able to come and participate in serving the young people. The serving ones are made of parents, working saints, full-time serving saints, FTTA trainees, and college students. All the serving saints together strengthen and support the labor over our next generation. Prior to the SST, we will have a number of times of prayer and fellowship concerning SST and be better able to prepare everyone for our service, including adequate time to prepare the lessons to be shared.

Supporting the Summer School of the Truth

We ask that all parents will support this year's week-long SST by scheduling their children's summer to attend, by continuing to pray for the Lord's blessing on our SST labor, and by looking to the Lord for the opportunity to take vacation time to join in the service for one week. Through such prayer and labor together in one accord, we believe the Lord will do much to gain our next generation for His recovery. Please begin now to schedule your children's summer activities with this new schedule in view.

Locality Serving Ones

Each locality that will be attending should prepare to have Serving Ones attend with their young people. We may not necessarily have additional Serving Ones who can adequately supervise young people from another locality. In the case that no Serving Ones from your locality are available to serve, please coordinate and fellowship with another locality who can take up the responsibility of overseeing the young people from your locality.

Location for the Summer School of the Truth

SST will be held at Sonoma State University, located at 1801 E Cotati Ave, Rohnert Park, CA 94928. All the attendees will be staying in the university dorms, having meals at the university cafeteria, meeting in their facilities, and having our activity times on the campus.

Sonoma State University Recreation Center

SSU has a Recreation Center that has basketball courts, ping-pong tables, and pool tables for use. There is also a fitness gym, but it is only available for those who are 18 and over. In previous years, this center was included in the total cost. There is now a \$10/day cost for access to the center. Please note that this is a separate cost from the cost for SST. For those interested, payment can be made directly at the front desk of the Recreation Center.

COVID Health Policy

From a COVID standpoint, as this is a weeklong SST, we may implement a similar policy to last year where we ask that participants test prior to arrival and also test prior to departure. Given that there are no longer any guidelines, we would only implement a policy as a way to care for any concerns that we have in the Body. We will follow up in subsequent announcements leading up to SST as to what the policy will be.

Additionally, any individual who tests positive prior to the start of SST should not attend. Also, any individuals who may develop symptoms and test positive during the time at SST should be prepared to be sent home to self-isolate so as to limit any chance of an outbreak among the saints attending.

Requirements for Serving Ones and Parents

Any saints signing up as a parent or serving one who are ages 18 and over will need to have completed a background check this year and have it verified by the elders or responsible ones in your locality.

In addition to the background check, each parent or serving ones will need to complete an online Abuse Training. This is a new requirement from the state of California that has recently been put into effect. They require that any volunteers who have direct contact with youth take a two-hour training. The following is a link to the training which will issue a certificate of completion at the end - <https://mandatedreporterca.com/training/volunteers>. Please submit the certificate to young people coordinators in your locality so that they can confirm that you have completed the training.

Registration for the Summer School of the Truth

The registration for SST will be handled online.

- Young people registration - https://bayareayp.seamlessdocs.com/f/NorCal_YP_SST
- Serving ones registration - https://bayareayp.seamlessdocs.com/f/NorCal_SO_SST
- The cost per person is \$580 which should be paid directly to your locality

In cases of financial hardship please fellowship with the serving ones and leading ones in your locality. We leave it to the localities to consider how best to support the financial needs so that the young people and serving ones can be released to attend. Localities can consider subsidizing the cost or even organize fund-raising activities to help reduce costs to their families.

The deadline for the registration is **May 21, 2023**. Please note that there will not be any allowances for late registrations, unless we still have capacity. The university has only allocated to us 230 dorm spaces. Once the capacity is met, a waiting list will be started for those who are still interested in attending.

In the case that you register and subsequently need to cancel, please let the Young People Coordinators in your locality know so that we can release the reservation for another saint. There is no cancellation fee as long as we meet our contractual minimum with the university.

If you have any further questions or fellowship, please contact your local SST serving ones.

The SST Serving Ones

SST Rules and Regulations

The conference is a special time for us to seek after the Lord. To help us do so, we have the following rules and regulations. By following them, we will be able to turn our heart to the Lord, to pursue him without distraction, and to be alert and open to Him in every meeting.

1. NO ELECTRONIC ITEMS ARE ALLOWED (CELL PHONES, LAPTOPS, TABLETS, RADIOS, TVs, CD/MP3 PLAYERS, PDAs, HANDHELD GAMES, ETC.) AT ANY TIME, EXCEPT FOR HOMEWORK PURPOSES ONLY. ANY SUCH EQUIPMENT, IF DISCOVERED, WILL BE HELD BY THE LOCALITY SERVING ONES UNTIL YOU RETURN FROM THE CONFERENCE.
2. NO UNSANCTIFIED ITEMS such as playing cards, novels or magazines are allowed at the camp.
3. Possession or use of smoking products, alcohol, or illegal drugs is strictly PROHIBITED.
4. PHYSICAL ALTERCATION, VERBAL ABUSE, OR DAMAGE OF PROPERTY IS CAUSE FOR IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL AND SUSPENSION FROM THE CONFERENCE.
5. Dress should be appropriate and modest. Please avoid wearing clothing that have logos or other insignias, and are not befitting our stance as believers in Christ.
6. All meetings, including cabin times and corporate meetings must be attended.
7. Lights out times should be honored and no one is allowed to rise earlier than the designated time in order to assure that everyone gets the rest they need. After lights out there should be no talking, and no leaving the cabin during the night.
8. A rest period following Saturday afternoon's recreation time is mandatory.
9. During cabin times and overflow times, everyone is encouraged to participate.
10. Bring your Bible, hymnal, and notebook to all conference meetings and fellowship times.
11. Only foods provided by the camp or the conference itself are permitted during the conference. Snacks for the trip up are an exception.
12. Cabins should be kept in a neat and orderly condition at all times during the conference.
13. No one may leave the facility at any time, unless with expressed permission from their legal guardian or serving one. Wandering off the property is grounds for dismissal from the conference.
14. The camp staff and their guests should be respected. Disobedience or disrespect show will also be grounds for dismissal from the conference and prohibition from future conferences. If you have a problem, tell your serving one who will tell the coordinating brothers. DO NOT go to the camp staff directly.
15. Take care of all the facilities. Pick up any trash, paper, water bottles or cans you see on the ground. Make your bed and keep your room clean.
16. Problems with the facilities (light bulbs, heater malfunctions, etc.) should be directed to the serving ones or conference coordinators so that they can contact the camp staff.
17. No changes in cabin assignments are permitted without the permission of both serving ones involved, and all changes made must be reported immediately to the registration serving ones.
18. The serving ones are responsible to see and enforce that the young people from their locality follow these rules and regulations. The serving ones should be respected and obeyed. Disobedience or disrespect shown to the serving ones or your failure to comply with these rules is grounds for dismissal from the conference and prohibition from future conferences.

Additional Context for Regulations the Summer School of Truth

“According to my earnest expectation and hope... that Christ may be magnified in my body...” – *Phil 1:20*

Praise the Lord for the Summer School of the Truth! By the Lord’s sovereign arrangement and mercy, you are in a sanctified and holy environment. During this special time, there will be many opportunities for you to experience Christ and learn to live by Him. In the gospels, you can see a wonderful pattern (or model) of the proper human living of our Lord Jesus. He lived the life of the first God-man, always submitting to the Father’s will and always serving and helping others. We expect and hope that by enjoying the rich supply in the Word and by learning to exercise your human spirit you will also learn to live such a noble and excelling God-man life. The following is an outline of the basic standards that should be taken as a pattern for you during the Summer School of the Truth (SST). All students are encouraged to give themselves to the Summer School classes, to the training, and even to the teachers. This will produce the best atmosphere, and allow all the young people to obtain the most profit from this time. It will also give the Lord the freedom and the opportunity to grow and be expressed in you.

Attitude

The Lord Jesus had the best attitude. He was fully submissive and obedient to the Father (*John 5:19*) and to His earthly parents (*Luke 2:51*). Learning obedience is crucial to the training of your character. You should realize that you are not here merely to acquire some knowledge or teaching, but to be trained in your whole being. By enjoying the Spirit, you should do your best to follow all rules, without murmuring or complaining. Through this practice, your conscience and your spirit will have the freedom to function. Students should always show respect to the serving ones and to each other.

Schedule/Punctuality

The Lord even carried out His economy according to a very strict timetable (*Mark 8:31; 14:41*). Because there are so many activities and classes, there is the need of a strict schedule at the SST. You should familiarize yourself with the schedule and do your best to be on time to all your classes, service and activities. If there is an emergency or you become ill, you should notify a serving one immediately so he/she can excuse you properly. Otherwise, you should exercise to be on time for all the meetings, and assigned service or activity at the appointed times.

Prophesying

The Lord Jesus was the real prophet of God. He always spoke the word of God and thereby ministered God to others (*John 1:1, 6:68*). You will have many opportunities to prophesy (speak for God and speak forth God): in the classes, the opening/sharing meetings and in prophesying meetings. No matter what level you are on, if you study your lesson and memorize the verses given to you by your serving ones, you will have something that you can speak to others. The serving ones in your class will assist you in developing your prophecy, which may be based on a verse, a song or a portion from your lesson. The more we speak, the more we enjoy the Lord!

Singing

“Saying, I will declare Your name to My brothers; in the midst of the church I will sing hymns of praise to You.” – *Heb. 2:12*

Singing hymns and spiritual songs is one the foremost ways that we can worship God, release our spirit, and enjoy the Lord’s presence. The Lord led His disciples in singing a hymn to the Father before He went to the cross (*Matt. 26:30; Mark 14:26*) and led them in the church meetings after His resurrection (*Heb. 2:12*) Even the Word can be enjoyed by singing: “*Let the word of Christ dwell in*

you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another *with psalms, and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God*" (Col. 3:16; emphasis supplied).

During SST, we would like to learn some of the rich hymns that are part of our heritage in the Lord's recovery. In this way we can appreciate the Lord more fully and express our feeling toward Him more abundantly. We also may learn to sing together in a harmonized way to enjoy a richer worship of our Lord through godly music.

Memorizing Scripture

"Your words were found, and I ate them, and your word became to me the gladness and joy of my heart" –*Jer. 15:16*

Memorizing the Word of God is one of the most important things you do at SST. Every Scripture portion may be memorized by pray-reading, singing, reciting, and prophesying (PSRP), or simply reading (*Col. 3:16*).

Dress Code

The Lord surely was always proper in His dress and appearance. In this age, there is so much looseness in the matter of dress that we may have become unaware of how little we reflect the Lord's humanity. We should learn to cultivate a sanctified atmosphere by dressing properly in order to realize and experience the God-man living. The following code must be followed for the meetings:

Dress Code During Lesson and Meeting Time

BROTHERS: Brothers should wear a solid-colored collared shirt, slacks, and shoes.

SISTERS: Sisters should wear a collared shirt with skirt or dress with proper length (below the knee) and shoes. "*Similarly, that women adorn themselves in proper clothing with modesty and sobriety, ...*" - *1 Timothy 2:9*

Dress Code During Activity Time

BROTHERS: Brothers should wear proper attire for the activity time (no tank tops).

SISTERS: Sisters should also wear proper attire for the activity time. Also no tank tops and shorts that are too short.

What to Pack

When attending the young people conferences (e.g. Fall & Spring Retreats or SST), you will need to pack sufficiently and appropriately. Here are some of the key guidelines to help you with preparing yourself for the conference.

- Sleeping Bag (optional, as linens will be provided by the university)
- Pillow
- Toiletries (e.g. toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.)
- Towel (optional, as linens will be provided by the university)
- Clothing
 - Appropriate for the meetings of the conference (for SST, please refer to the information sheet for proper dress for the meetings)
 - Appropriate for the activity time
 - Shoes appropriate for the meeting and activity time (i.e. sports, hiking, etc.)
 - Please also remember to check the weather
- Bible
- New Blue Hymn Book
- Notebook
- Pen or pencil
- Other items depending on the time of year include:
 - Sunscreen
 - Bug Spray (especially during the summer as we are out in the woods)
 - Flashlight
- Money to buy snacks, gifts at the store (optional)

What not to pack:

- Electronic devices
- Cell phones
- Computers (unless it is for doing homework while you are at the conference)
- Magazines
- Books (unless it is for doing homework while you are at the conference)

Tentative Daily Schedule

Lord's Day	
4:00 - 4:30 p.m.	Registration
4:30 - 5:00 p.m.	SO Prayer/Fellowship Time
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	AFTERNOON MEETING: Singing & Opening
6:15 - 7:00 p.m.	Dinner @ Dining Hall
7:00 - 7:45 p.m.	EVENING MEETING: Singing
7:45 - 8:00 p.m.	Break
8:00 - 9:30 p.m.	JH/HS Lessons & Classes
10:30 - 10:45 p.m.	Prayer @ Rooms
10:45 p.m.	LIGHTS OUT In Bed

Monday to Thursday	
7:00 - 7:30 a.m.	SO Personal Morning Revival
7:00 - 7:30 a.m.	YP Awake and Get Ready
7:30 - 7:45 a.m.	Morning Revival in Dorms
7:45 - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast @ Dining Hall
9:00 - 11:45 a.m.	Morning Session
11:45 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Activity Time
3:30 - 4:00 p.m.	Shower / Quiet Time (for YP)
3:30 - 4:30 p.m.	SO Prayer/Fellowship Time
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Afternoon Session
6:15 - 7:00 p.m.	Dinner @ Dining Hall
7:00 - 9:30 p.m.	Evening Session
10:30 - 10:45 p.m.	Prayer @ Rooms
10:45 p.m.	LIGHTS OUT In Bed

Friday

7:00 - 7:30 a.m.	SO Personal Morning Revival
7:00 - 7:30 a.m.	YP Awake and Get Ready
7:30 - 7:45 a.m.	Morning Revival in Dorms
7:45 - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast @ Dining Hall
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Morning Session
11:00 a.m.	Departure