

Pastor's Newsletter – April 9, 2010

Dear Saint—

Please bear with me as I quickly write this out! Everybody is waiting for sermon drafts so they can get all the translations done and graphics, so there is a lot to do today!

We're here! The time has come! What we have been praying for and working towards for 3 months is actually here. Tonight is the Dress Rehearsal, and tomorrow night THE SEARCH is on. Everybody is working so hard to give this a great chance to be successful. We have obeyed God to the best of our knowledge in going ahead with trying to do something great for God, and now we will trust everything that has been done to God, and pray that people will come—through the advertising, through your invitations, through direct HS whispering to people.

DRESS REHEARSAL: 6:30 tonight: We are having as full a dress rehearsal tonight as possible. There is so much technology and planning that has gone into this, we really need to see if it will all work! We want to make our mistakes on ourselves instead of on our audience! We really want everybody involved to come—Food, music, drama, technical, video, translators, health team, reception committee, deacons—everybody. We will test everything out, work out the kinks, we will worship with the praise team, and we will especially pray for THE SEARCH opening night. If you are not aware of any specific role you have but would love to just be supportive and pray, we would love for you to come—this is for us.

SATURDAY NIGHT: 6:30 PM: The big picture—the doors will open at 6:30 pm tomorrow night. There will be a light dinner for everybody. Sheri Sinago will have a terrific piano mini-concert between 6:30 and 7 as people are coming in the Fellowship Hall and settling in. Everybody (members, guests, everybody) will be registered. We don't want to recreate the sense of two audiences—so just merge into one community and everybody do everything absolutely together, even if you've been a believer for 50 years! Fill out every card, sit in the congregation with our guests, and fall in love with the message as if it was for the first time.

INVITATIONS: Hopefully you have already invited everybody you can think of. We have given you handbills, DVD's, email blasts, radio ads, and DVD clip. We have tried everything we know to do, or that we could afford! Make one last phone call, offer to go pick somebody up!

DONATIONS: To be frank and honest, we are a little desperate about our funding. Because of the economy, the Conference has not felt free to commit to the typical evangelistic budget they thought they would be able to support, back in December when we submitted our request. We asked for \$15,000, to be combined with our own commitments and offerings. So far they only feel free to give us \$4000 of that. We have gone ahead in faith and not shortchanged the advertising, hoping that somehow the budget would come or the church would support. Because the Conference is still struggling to bridge their income gap, we feel we must plan to go it alone.

If there is any way you have some extra mission money beyond your regular tithes and offerings, it would be a great encouragement to us if you could slip something into the LOCAL EVANGELISM line item on your tithe envelope. Even \$20 each would just be huge for this. We have tried to find as many free ways of spreading the word as possible, but the Committee felt led to at least make some sort of mailing available to our community, and a few radio ads. Do whatever you can, and see how God might bless. The exciting thing is that this equipment that we will use for video taping and the translations will all be available for years to come in enhancing our mission day after day in church.

FREE GIFT—Two donors have generously sacrificed to offer a Free Copy of my book, “*Lord I Have A Question*” to every family that comes this first night! It is an honor that they think enough of it to do that! It has certainly not been a bestseller on the NY Times list, but it does wrestle with some of the great questions about God, and I hope that it will be a blessing to you if you read it! Invite somebody to come tomorrow night and get their gift!

At 7 pm the Praise Team will swing into action. They have been practicing hard, and it will bring much spiritual energy into the room. Then we will have a health nugget, video clips, and then of course the message. Our goal is to go from 7 to 8:15 or 8:20 every night. The only school night is this Sunday night, we hope that everybody can make an allowance for this one Sunday night! There will be a great Children’s Program for everybody 3-9 downstairs.

Translation—We are translating the sermon into 4 languages—Vietnamese, Spanish, Korean, Tagalog (Filipino). English and the first three will be on the screens in the Fellowship Hall. Those who need to hear this in their own language can hear it through headsets. We will have translators in soundproof booths down in another room, getting the message through a screen and headphones, translating from my sermon notes and what they hear, and the audience can hear through their headsets. We are also recording each language, so we can put it on the website and people can inform relatives and friends around the world that they can hear THE SEARCH in English or their own language.

We will also be video taping each of the messages, so they can go on the website within maybe 24 hours, and then we can make DVD’s available around the world also. There is also the possibility of putting these messages linked to the LLBN website—they have offered to do that for us.

WEEKEND SCHEDULE:

Dress Rehearsal, 6:30 pm Friday night

SS—regular schedule

Divine Worship: 10:50 am, “THE GRASSHOPPER COMPLEX”, drama, and praise!

THE SEARCH!!: Doors open 6:30, mini-concert, Sheri Sinaga. Main Program—7 pm to 8:15 pm.

Sunday night: Night #2—THE SEARCH.

PATHFINDERS: Saturday night, April 17, 6:30 pm. Adventurers will have their typical program, Pathfinders will have a short program and then join THE SEARCH at 7 pm.

Back to sermons!

God bless you all!

Pastor Dan