

GARDEN GROVE SDA CHURCH

Pastor's Newsletter

July 8, 2011

Yes, we're back! We got home early this morning, after just over 2 weeks in Thailand with our group of 78. Some came back early, 3 or 4 are still traveling, but 61 of us came back last night together. We thank God for a terrific and safe trip and hope that all we tried to do helped build the Kingdom of God over there. But the blessing was mostly on us!

THAILAND: We will give some of our report tomorrow at church, but the heart and soul of it all will be on July 16, giving us some time to get our pictures and all of it together. But the essence of the trip is:

1. We helped finish two faculty houses--paint, cement, landscaping, and paid for the third, that had a professional crew doing the actual building.
2. We did a Week of Prayer and held evangelistic meetings at the Chiangmai Adventist Academy.
3. We held 5 other sets of evangelistic meetings in various locations. A total of 30 have already been baptized, and others in each church took their stand for further studies and baptism in the future.
4. We did medical clinics and started building SS rooms at each of those locations.
5. We taught English classes, Leadership classes, and held a Vacation Bible School at the school.
6. We were able to fund quite a long list of needs, from the school, local churches, the orphanage, and a local Adventist Media Center that has been started, and several from our group took on further commitments.

The construction work had its usual challenges, with rain, heat, and just plain hard work, carrying buckets of sand and gravel, leveling clay mud in the rain, etc. etc.! But everybody jumped in and just did whatever it took to get it done, and I don't think we could have gotten more out of the situation than we did--the athletes would say, "We left it all on the court!" We finished with 2 and a half days at the beach just south of Bangkok for a spiritual retreat, and it was something every single one of us needed after the intensity of working physically all day and holding meetings at night. We want to thank the entire church and every donor who helped our young people get over--they were just terrific in carrying the load of the construction, music, drama--all of it.

WEEKEND SERVICES:

9:30 am - SABBATH SCHOOL: Of course our two new pastors will be with the Youth and the Young Adults. They were powerful anchors of our team these last two weeks, speaking, doing music and drama, and being group leaders responsible for all of the young people on the trip. Get your young people to SS to give Pastor Garrett and Pastor Shiphrah a chance to build the most powerful ministries in Orange County!

9:30 am - REVELATION REVEALING: Fellowship Hall, finishing up over the next two weeks the chapters of Revelation 21/22.

11:00 am - DIVINE WORSHIP: We can hardly wait to have the whole congregation back together again. The Montessa's will be leading the Praise at 10:50 am, leading us into the heart of worship. The message continues our series on "Our God Is Bigger Than Your God!" This week is on the story of Elisha in the first few chapters of 2 Kings: "WHEN GOD DOES MAGIC!" Axheads floating, people being raised to life, whole armies going blind--some of the most power-packed chapters in the Bible--how much of that could still happen today if we had enough faith?

12:30 pm - POTLUCK--This is our regular monthly potluck. We want to catch up with all of you, so please get some food together to contribute, and come join us. We have bought some new tables which will allow us to fit everybody in easily.

4:00 pm - VIETNAMESE FELLOWSHIP, Fellowship Hall

SUMMER CAMP: Pastor Garrett, Setaita Tameifuna, and Eric Smith are planning a Camp 3G Summer Camp this summer, starting Monday the 18th. More details will be coming, but this is primarily for Earliteens and HS young people, and will be free, all day, two days a week plus Friday evenings. Talk to one of us tomorrow if you are interested! Worship, pool time, sports, beach, outreach, community service--all of it!

COMING UP:

COUNCIL: Tuesday night, 7:30 pm, July 12.

INTERNATIONAL BANQUET next Saturday night, July 16--don't miss!

BEACH VESPERS--Saturday night, July 23 - 4:00 pm, Corona del Mar. Supper and a baptism! Watch for the details.

WOMEN OF FAITH--Attention all women! "Women of Faith" is presenting their "Over the Top" tour this coming September 9-10 at the Honda Center in Anaheim! Tickets are \$89 each & are limited so please contact Melissa Sajid-Briceno at 714-814-0484 or jasmine8097@yahoo.com.

God bless, see you tomorrow!

Pastor Dan

If you would like to be added to Pastor Dan's weekly email newsletter list, submit your request to: pastordan@gardengrovesda.com