

Pastor Dan's Communiqué

July 14, 2012

My dear GGSDA Saints!

I can just afford about 5 minutes to send out a little note to all of you about how things are going. Here at the end of the "campaign" I am the only one speaking, and so it is a great challenge to try to get all of the projects tied up, all the money in the right places, and still get sermons and the graphics ready! But somehow it all works out, even though there were some moments of extreme excitement tonight! We had a blackout in the middle of the sermon, the whole stadium completely dark, no sound, nothing. I was sending our musicians on stage to do something until we could fix it, when the lights came back on, and all the computers went right back to where we were in the message and we went right on! The music has been terrific, the attendance is well over 1000 every night, and there should be several hundred baptisms tomorrow. We have tried very hard to put in place systems to help people come to church for the next several months, we have hired lay bible workers to follow up all the new members and the interests, we have helped get 9 new motorcycles. We'll see if it all adds up to an improvement in retention or not! But I think, in spite of all the challenges, most people would say that the Kingdom of God has been built up very holistically in this region through our groups.

In a few hours we will have the last music program, the last sermon, the last appeal, a potluck, and then the mass baptism in the pool! Then a dedication service where we pass out the Bibles to the new members (thanks to Quiet Hour), and then a light cultural program in the evening, pack up, and off to the beach for 2 days before heading to Manila and the flight home!

May God be with all of you at home. I hope that many of you have turned in an offering or a pledge card for the Sanctuary Upgrade project. The Committees are doing their due diligence to get it right. We don't want to spend one dollar more than necessary, but neither do we want to do something that we will need to replace 5 years from now. And so we are trying to strike the right balance. Pray for the Finance Committee that will vote the final bid this coming Wednesday night.

Elder Gerald Penick, our Conference President, will be at GGSDA to preach and play the organ Sabbath, so it is a high day that I hate to miss! Make him feel that GGSDA is the greatest church in the Conference and that he should transfer his membership to us once he retires at the end of his term!

God bless you all, see you next Sabbath!

Pastor Dan