



Garden Grove Seventh-day Adventist Church

Pastor Dan's Communiqué



March 8, 2013

My dear friends at GGSDA!

I have about a five-minute window here when I can write and send out a note to you all, with the Internet working and I am not speaking somewhere! It is just before 7 am Sabbath morning. We are 14 1/2 hours ahead of you. I spent one wonderful day in Singapore. After many challenges at the airport, we got to the school where I was to speak with 10 minutes to spare, and preached to 350 young people from all over Asia who go to that school to get an English education, staying with families and mini-dorms in Singapore. We spent the rest of the day with church leaders and touring downtown Singapore with old friends.

Early Friday morning we got to the airport, and flew to Myanmar. It is my first time here. There was some drama early in the week because I had neglected to find out if they needed a visa, which they did, and which would take 4-7 business days, which I didn't have. But Adventist resource people from the Division here, ADRA, and others all began an email flurry to see what magic they could do, and some very very nice people got it done, and I walked in with no problems at all!

I thought I would have an afternoon in my room to work on messages for Sabbath and the week, but, no, there were other plans! My partner on this trip, from Riverside, had his wife pass away a few weeks ago, and his whole extended family came to see him, and there was a mini-memorial service, where they turned to me at the last minute and said, "Can you say something?!" So needed to give an extemporaneous talk for them. I was delivered to my hotel room right at 6 pm, needing to speak at 6 pm--wearing the same clothes I left with on Tuesday night! Had 20 minutes to shower, change, find the sermon, find the powerpoint, put on a tie in the elevator, and walk into the church and start preaching 5 minutes later! Just to give you a flavor of how these trips go--it sounds exotic, to be in Singapore, Myanmar, and Bangladesh--but there are parts of it that are very challenging! And then the powerpoint of all the pictures from Daniel went out!

Today I speak twice, once at another church, and then in the afternoon back at the church I was at last night. The people are lovely. Myanmar has opened up in the last two years. I saw a lake where protesters were shot and thrown into the lake. I saw Sue Kyi's house, the leader of the protest movement and Nobel prizewinner. The people are happy for the change, but the new cars, other freedoms, are straining the infrastructure. I went to buy a sim card so I could call my family--\$250! So I guess we won't do that! The Treasurer admitted that it cost them \$600 last year to get his, and he is the only one who has a cell phone. Pastors have to use public telephones. Nobody has cars or motorcycles, only public transportation. Pastors are making \$120 a month. Just incredible.

Anyway, I need to go. Here is what I know about the Sabbath over there!

THE WAY Friday night, Youth Chapel, 7:00 pm, with Pastor Garrett.

SANCTUARY Worship Service: 9:30 AM, SANCTUARY. Pastor Ryan Simpson, the youth director for Bermuda, is originally from Jamaica, and was the speaker for the Cruise With a Mission that Pastor Shiphrah and Michael Smith were on in December. They thought he was terrific, and were able to have him come speak for SANCTUARY this Sabbath. We hope that you will all come and hear him. He has done a lot, has spoken all over the world, you will be blessed!

SABBATH SCHOOLS: 10:30 am. Sheri Sinaga will be the teacher for my Pastor's Bible Class in the Pathfinder Room, continuing the themes we have been on.

DIVINE WORSHIP (11:30 am): Pastor Garrett will be speaking, continuing our LEGACY series on the great themes of Righteousness by Faith by Morris Venden. Two more great young people, Kenley and Kendrick Wildvank, will also be baptized!

Filipino Fellowship: Potluck and small group after church in the Community Service Center.

Vietnamese Fellowship: 4:00 pm, Youth Chapel.

School of Discipleship: 4:00 pm, Sunday, Board Room. Everybody longing for a deeper walk with God, this is a terrific option. And especially all small group leaders are invited to this short 4-week course.

Young Adult Programs during Spring Break, more info later:

Collegiate Spring Break

Mar 24, Universal Studios

Mar 25, Ducks v. Sharks

Mar 26, Ruby Tuesday

Mar 27, Sky High

Mar 28, Bowling

Mar 29, Crystal Cove Hike

More later the next time I get good Internet! Thanks for all the prayers!

Pastor Dan