



Garden Grove Seventh-day Adventist Church Pastor Dan's Communiqué



March 15, 2013

My friends!

As you can see, I am now in Dhaka, Bangladesh. We finished the LEAD Conference in Myanmar on Wednesday. I spoke a number of times for the church leaders there, and also at the college. Unbelievable challenges, 250 girls standing in line every morning for 10 tiny toilets, have to bathe in sarongs out by the well, rarely enough water supply. And yet look terrific, and just a fantastic choir at the academy. We then drove 5 hours back to Yangon, and in the morning headed to the airport. I had to fly back to Kuala Lumpur and then on to Dhaka, so it was pretty much an entire day flying for what should have been a couple hour flight, but there are no flights between these cities.

The Bangladesh Union is a great challenge, but what terrific people. I am on a compound, staying with the president and his wife, long-term friends from Illinois. On this same compound is the Union office, houses for the staff, a school with 1500 students, and a church that they say will have 500 there tomorrow. Again the audience for our meetings are all the church leaders and school leaders from the whole union. They have great music for every meeting, similar to Indian music, with the harmonium, which is like a mini-pump organ, and a drum, and little cymbals, and it is pretty happy music and the pastors are practically dancing! I preached twice to them, and will preach for the main church tomorrow and once again in the afternoon. These meetings go until Monday am. Then we are supposed to go to the academy 200 km away and speak there, and to the college, but there are some strikes planned, and they don't usually travel during those times. 100 homes were burned down last week in Pakistan, 50 of them SDA, including one pastor's home, over one remark a non-Adventist made. So you have to be very careful. The Muslim mosque next door had someone chanting and preaching in a singsong voice for almost 12 hours today over the loudspeaker, and I wanted to go see it, but they wouldn't let me leave the compound alone.

The challenges are severe. They are not really allowed to evangelize. They have had no bible lessons, and are trying to get some translated right now. They have major issues trying to get money into the country. They are struggling to get the teachers' certification up to the level needed. There are churches that a rich man built with no one in them. So many needs. 165 million population, with 32,000 SDA's on the books and much fewer in attendance. We have more tithe in 4-5 months at GGSDA than they have from the whole Union in a year. Very, very difficult. Anyway, pray for them, and pray that the messages I give for the next few days will be a blessing to them.

Regarding GGSDA this weekend:

FRIDAY NIGHT:

Special event tonight, see ann. sent earlier

THE WAY, 7 pm, Youth Chapel.

SABBATH AM:

Pastor Garrett will speak at SANCTUARY, 9:30 am.

Pastor Shiphrah at DIVINE WORSHIP, 11:30 am. The last I knew the Bolivar family will be back doing the special music, which should be great!

Sheri Sinaga will teach the Pastor's Bible Class, 10:30.

VIETNAMESE FELLOWSHIP: 4 pm, Youth Chapel

SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP: 4 pm, Sunday, Board Room

God bless, I'll try to send out more information next week, internet is better here. And then I'll see you all next Sabbath, jet-lagged or not!

Pastor Dan