



Garden Grove Seventh-day Adventist Church

Pastor Dan's Communiqué



June 29, 2013

My dear GGSDA friends, from the other side of the world and the other end of the world!

As you all know, we are 78 down here in Tonga! It is Saturday night, but actually the Sabbath, as you have heard! We had quite a discussion about how to handle Saturday, and we did not do work at the work sites today. But we kept it more like a preparation day, and there was some light shopping, etc., and we will keep the Sabbath with all our fellow Adventists, as they do, from sundown to sundown Saturday night and Sunday! Very unusual feeling after 60 years with Sabbath on Saturday!

We got everybody on the flight ok, except for Robert Hirschfeld, who had to have his appendix out the afternoon we left! He had hoped to join us this week, but the doctors have ruled that out, too bad. One more flies in this week, and some of our group have to leave early.

We had a five hour tour of Fiji our first day after the 10-hour flight. We had a great sunrise and breakfast, swim at a very nice beach, toured a Hindu temple (Fiji is 40% Indian), and some souvenir shopping. We got into Tonga after a short flight, but then had a long immigration, and a fantastic dinner by the members here, so we didn't get into our hotel rooms until quite late. It made getting ready for our evangelism meetings the next night a very intense experience, and we had the usual first-night challenges. But we did it, we have had a clinic every day, VBS every night, and the meetings in all 10 sites., and God has blessed us.

The attendance is not huge, but we are thankful for a group in every site. We do not know how many interests there are at each site, but we will accept whatever God sends us. The sites are averaging between 40-50, with 10-30 kids in the VBS portion besides that. Sandra Caldwell and her teams have done fantastic with their puppets and all the rest. The clinics have seen between 50-150 every day. Josh and his construction crews have finished the slab at one church, and done other cleanup and remodeling/repair tasks.

We have met with the pastoral leaders today, and hammered out agreements on what projects to fund while we are here, to get started on the various remodeling projects they have been praying for! We are working hard to stretch our pretty thin resources to get as many of the 10 churches up to a representative level as much as possible.

Tomorrow for Sabbath there is a Youth Rally where four of us will speak a testimony/message, at Beulah College, the local Adventist HS (they call the high schools "colleges!"). All churches are closing to come there. In the evening there is a huge "ONE TONGA" Christian music concert, and they invited an Adventist group to sing--AND they invited US! So our best singers have made a pretty spectacular group, and have been rehearsing pretty hard the last two days. It will be a huge tent down by the sea, with maybe 1500 chairs. Every group gets 5 minutes, on and off. We have canceled the meetings for that night so everybody can attend and cheer on our two Adventist groups! The lady who organizes is a fairly wealthy SDA here, runs the Internet cafe also, so we have met her, a terrific woman who believes SDA's should be in the middle of their local community, involved, making a difference.

We need to get to bed. Will trust you to figure out the details of the weekend through the website. I know Pastor Garrett is preaching for the 11:30 Divine Worship Service, and a Pastor Choi I think for SANCTUARY. We hope you will come hear Pastor Garrett, we only have so many more options! Love him and Cambria a lot for us!

God bless you all, pray for us!
Pastor Dan and Tonga Mission Group