



Garden Grove Seventh-day Adventist Church

Pastor Dan's Communiqué



September 13, 2013

My dear friends from GGSDA!

I am writing to you from Kapaa, Kauai, Hawaii! We have a few days in a place here. It's not all play, as we did have one interview here for our search, but most of the time is walking, swimming, playing, or eating! Our place looks out over the beach, so we are very, very blessed!

This note is to let all of you know that the Search Committee has recommended the name of Pastor Sara-May Colon to be the next Youth Pastor for GGSDA, and that the Church Board approved it last Tuesday night. Now it has to go to the SECC Conference Personnel Committee next Thursday, and to the Executive Committee the Thursday after that, before it becomes an official call. But she has accepted already, pending the completion of that process, and we are all thrilled to have found such a great young pastor, fairly quickly. We all believe that God has led her to us and us to her, and that she has great potential to lead our youth ministry to the next level, building on the terrific job Pastor Garrett did for the last two years.

Pastor Sara-May (she also is happy if you call her Pastor Sara!)--grew up in a missionary family--Ivory Coast in Africa, and then in Russia. She then went to college on the East Coast. Her father is the chair of the Religion Department at Washington Adventist University in Washington D.C., and her mother works at the General Conference. She has just finished her M.Div. at Andrews University last week, but she also has an MBA, AND has completed a year of specialized training in chaplaincy, with a specialty in grief ministry. She has worked in campus ministry at both WAU and AU, and came with just outstanding recommendations.

She has a wonderful personality, and gave a terrific message at THE WAY last Friday night, then taught SS for Youth SS and gave the Children's Story for Divine Worship. In the afternoon the Committee met and quickly decided to end the search and make the recommendation that we ask Pastor Sara-May to be with us for the next few years of her life and our church's youth ministry!

We do not know yet exactly when she can get here, but we believe it should be sometime early in October, if not sooner! We have been blessed with the great ministry Arthur Tupai, Mu Filemu, and the others of the transition team have been doing, but we will also be thrilled when Pastor Sara-May can get here!

Pray for her as she gets ready to come, and now pray as we go into high gear in finding a new Young Adult pastor. A Search Committee for that was voted also Tuesday night, and will begin to meet right away. A number of young adults and sponsors were appointed to meet with the core group of elders chosen by the Board, and others will be included in Roundtable interviews when we bring candidates in. We already have two or three excellent possibilities, but we are open to any suggestions anybody may wish to recommend--call the Church Office or Ralph Smith who will be calling the group together.

Pastor Michelle, our Family Life Pastor, will be preaching this week, and Andrew Coetzee will be teaching my Pastor's Bible Class. Next week Pastor Shiphrah will preach in both services, and Sheri Sinaga will teach my class. Please support all of them over the next two Sabbaths and pray as they share their heart and soul in these messages!

God bless you all, and Aloha!

Pastor Dan