



Garden Grove Seventh-day Adventist Church

Pastor Dan's Communiqué



March 21, 2014

To All the Saints of GGSDA!

Just before the Sabbath opens in your life--here is a brief summary of all that is offered to you and your family on this Sabbath weekend at Garden Grove. We hope that something will draw you here, so that you can meet with God in a way that you can only have through a faith community--and so that we get to hang out with you!

BIG EVENT: Wedgood Trio, Saturday night Vespers, 6:30pm, Fellowship Hall. A free concert with an offering, we are all thrilled to have them back at GGSDA, for their 50th year reunion concert series!

BIG NEED--BIBLES: We have been trying hard to help with the relief effort for the typhoon-devastated area in the Philippines, where several of our members come from. They have received a major request for Bibles--new or used. Hundreds of them lost their Bibles, either from their homes or from the churches that were wiped out in the storm. We are going to send all the Bibles that have been "lost and found" and never claimed, but we would love for you to bring all the Bibles you don't actually use and can spare for them. We have donors who are covering the shipment--so bring them to the Concierge Desk or to the Office, and we will get them shipped by the first of April. Thanks!

THE WAY: 7pm tonight starts the Youth program in the Youth Chapel, with food and then the band and a message by **Pastor Sara-May**, speaking about the "**Beatless March**," asking you, What drumbeat are you listening to, which voices are you hearing the loudest?

SABBATH:

SANCTUARY (9:30am): Pastor Tony and our contemporary worship service, with the full band and praise set, and then: "**Don't Judge Me...Judge Me!**" From the book of Judges, on why many of us have the OT God as pretty much a judging, exacting, authoritarian God. Is that who He really is? Or did they get it wrong? Or what?

AWESOME GOD (11:30am): Several were talking about what to call this worship service--Traditional? More Traditional? Traditional With a Beat? Second Service? Main Service? Worthy? So we'll just try out "Awesome God" and let your suggestions come and see where God will lead.

We are blessed this week with some special guests: a Filipino pastor but who is now a world-class singer who is doing the big concert March 29 will be with us tomorrow morning, AND the Wedgood Trio will bring two numbers, as a Baskin-Robbins pink spoon taste for the Vespers program at 6:30pm! And we have 24 seniors and sponsors coming from San Diego Academy on their senior class trip, and they chose us to worship with on this Sabbath!

And a baptism. And drama. And a message: "**HE'S THE PEACESPEAKER!**" on the famous story in Luke 8 where Jesus calmed the storm. How could Jesus go to sleep? Why did He tell them to get into the boat if He knew the storm was coming? Why doesn't He calm every storm?

SABBATH AFTERNOON: Our Filipino Fellowship will meet in the Community Service Room after church, and the Vietnamese Fellowship will meet at 4pm in the Youth Chapel, where I will have the message.

The big news is that Pastor Toan, who has been in Vietnam for the last few days, went to the interview at the US Embassy with his wife, and she was promised a visa to come back with him to the US! So they will finally be together after being apart for 6 years, married for the last 2. It may be up to two weeks before they can return, but we will roll out the best red carpet welcome GGSDA can do to welcome her to the US and to GGSDA!

PERSONNEL: Some bittersweet news--Michele Lopez has had to resign this week as our Church Treasurer, after ten years. Due to some of the new laws, and what changes had to be in the Education Code of our Conference--people cannot substitute teach at our schools and have another position within the Adventist system at the same time. It's complicated, and we spent many hours this week trying to find a solution around it. But it's the way it is, she has been a top sub for them for many years, and she needs to keep doing that for our students and faculty. We will have her until March 31!

BUT--we quickly found one of our own members who is a superb accountant, and was available--the Personnel Committee interviewed her last night, the Board has voted--and she has accepted! As long as the Conference approves on Monday, she will begin work Tuesday afternoon, and try to absorb everything Michele has learned over the last ten years in about 4 days! Michele and Ralph Smith and others will be around to support her, but pray for Ellen as she takes this on. We will find a way to express our love and gratitude to Michele next week! But you can give her a little love on your own when you see her--she has been absolutely terrific for us for a long time, and we are very sad to not have her in the middle of our offices--but also thankful she will ALWAYS be part of GGSDA where she grew up.

God bless you all!

Pastor Dan