



## Garden Grove Seventh-day Adventist Church Pastor Dan's Newsletter



May 29, 2015

I have just a few minutes free sitting at the gate at the airport in Hanoi, with Internet, so will send out a quick note before I start the flights home! I fly to Taipei, have a layover, then the long jump to LAX, getting in Friday night. Today we met the pastors for a house church, up 4 flights of stairs. They have transformed their living room into a little chapel where about 20 meet, which is incredible due to having nobody 4 years ago. We had no members in the capital city 4 years ago. Plus there is now a small International group meeting in a room at a hotel.

They want me to do 4 nights of meetings in Hanoi in 2017 as part of a trip--they only you to do 4 nights at a time, so it is possible we can do one short series down south and one up north. Who would have dreamed, 40 years ago, when I was in college and seminary watching the events of the Vietnam War, that someday I would be asked to hold a crusade in Hanoi?! It is a bustling, modern city in many ways, with a mix of old French colonial buildings, the usual Asian shops with their house apartments on top--and many, many gleaming new malls and incredible hotels. Every company and business is trying to get their foot in the door here in Hanoi and Vietnam, with a potential of 93 million customers available in an opening market.

For most of the week we have been visiting church building sites, many house churches, and several clinics that ADRA has built for the government. We have eaten a variety of food, shall we say, and I have learned to eat with chopsticks. I would never have normally been away from the church this long, but this opportunity to get to know the home country of our one of major ministries without having to add the cost and time of another trip over the ocean, was a rich gift from the Vietnamese Fellowship, the elders, GGSDA, and the Conference. It has been an absolutely incredible week.

Because I have been out of the loop as to what is planned for some parts of the weekend coming up, I will leave most of that to the other pastors.

**CONCERT:** 7 pm, Saturday night, Fellowship Hall. We are thrilled and honored to have the Ambassador group from the Philippines back again for both a sacred and a secular concert. They have changed their name to the Meistersingers, but it is the same director and the same tradition, and I think you can count on a memorable event--it has always been terrific. I hear rumors of haystacks and soup beforehand. It's free, but bring an offering to help their ministry as they head to the General Conference to sing.

### SABBATH: and DIVINE WORSHIP:

Our group will all be back, and those who are here will hopefully wear their Malaysian clothes, and just wait until you see Earl and Julia and their wedding outfits! Our Crusade praise team and quartet will help lead the music, wrapping up with what many thought was the major highlight for them, singing "Worthy Is the Lamb" with 2000 people, and 150 kids doing the hand motions up front, during the last worship service. We will have video clips and stories and a message that hopefully ties it all together, called "IS IT WORTH IT?", on the passage where Jesus says everybody should "count the cost" before committing all the way. CS Lewis says to be careful of the "Slip of the Tongue," when you promise God too much and are sorry later! We also have a baptism for a wonderful young man I studied with before we left, Elias Roman, Jr.

The Mission group will have a little potluck after church, and the Filipino group will have theirs. The Vietnamese Fellowship will meet at 4 pm.

**NEXT WEEK:** Graduations--8th grade Thursday night,  
Academy Consecration at GGSDA Friday night,  
Commencement at 3 pm at Orangewood on Sunday.

Our annual tradition of our own Garden Grove Graduation is next Sabbath, where we honor all graduates with a direct connection to our church. If you have a graduate in your family, make sure we know about it!

I've got to go, pray for a safe pair of flights! God bless you all, can't wait to see you all!