



Garden Grove Seventh-day Adventist Church

Pastor Dan's Newsletter



June 19, 2015

Dear GGSDA Friends Everywhere!

Happy Sabbath to you, and may The Blessing promised in the Sabbath come to you. May a Peace you cannot see, and cannot make happen on your own, slip into your soul as the Sabbath takes over your house, your room, your car, your music, your space!

In two weeks 3000 delegates, and 70,000 Adventists, will come streaming into a stadium in San Antonio, from all over the world, with all their clothes and languages, to decide what our Church will become for the next 5 years, and beyond. A 1000 booths will be set up, by every ministry and school and world division, with people standing their booth all day, in their native costume, passing out flyers and asking people to support their particular project that they hope and believe will change the world and help Jesus come sooner!

And on the Wednesday and Thursday after that, thousands of us will sit up in the bleachers, as the 3000 delegates meet to vote on whether our church will vote to support women as fully equal, ordained pastors—or not. Has God called them—or has He not? Are men the only ones called—or not? I have going to watch since 1985. Hundreds of papers have been written. Some churches and conferences and three unions have gone ahead without waiting for the world church, believing that God was leading them to take a stand for justice and equality. Others are just as certain that God really meant it when He said elders should be the husbands of only one wife, and that the man was the head of a woman, and that women should be silent and not have authority over a man, and the fact that God created man first and Jesus chose only elders means something very serious to God.

Tomorrow we will try to give at least an introduction to the issues that are being discussed. Almost every week another book is being sent out to all the pastors, trying to persuade everybody of their side before the final vote is taken. We only have 30 minutes tomorrow, they write hundreds of pages! But we hope that you will come, with an open mind and a soft heart, and see and listen and then go study for yourselves and pray for our Church as they bring this issue to a head.

The proposal they are voting on does not make ordination of women mandatory, anywhere. It would just allow each world Division to make their own decisions, ad churches and missions and conferences might feel led to request for the privilege to ordain “without regard to gender.” But a large, powerful group in our church believes very strongly that that would be a disastrous step away from our historic stance of following only what the Bible clearly states. So come and bring your Bible and take notes and be part of the conversation that is going on all over the 18 million-member world church over the next 3 weeks!

Other Events:

1. **THE WAY** tonight at the Youth Chapel.
2. **Father's Day celebration in both services.**
3. **Nominating Committee** will meet for a short meeting with Elder Penick to get organized.
4. **Picnic for First Service/OC Grace**
5. **Vietnam Fellowship, 4 pm**—I have the message.
6. **Filipino Fellowship—Camping, San Juan Capistrano**, I have the campfire message Sat. night, 7 pm.
7. **Youth—Gym Night, Orangewood.**
8. **SUNDAY NIGHT—“OH MY SON” drama/opera, Disney Hall, Los Angeles, 7:30 pm.**
9. **WOMEN'S TEA, SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 11 am.**

God bless you all, have a terrific Sabbath!
Pastor Dan