



Garden Grove Seventh-day Adventist Church

Pastor Dan's Newsletter



June 24, 2016

Dear Friends—

I just have a few minutes here early Sabbath morning to send out a little note to Garden Grove / OC Grace. The days are hugely full, but hopefully will soon evolve into a rhythm. Most of us are still dealing with some jetlag, but otherwise I think everybody is well.

Notes for GGSDA: Elder Penick is speaking for Second Service, on the Tree of Life in our Stained Glass Window. I am actually not sure who is speaking for First Service, but I'm sure that they have planned a terrific service. Pastor Tony was a bit sick for a day, but was better, and has the large Academy site and spoke out there last night.

For Second Service we have a guest that we loved last year, and he is bringing singer with him. Pierre Van Der Westhuizen and Anina Wassermann are originally from South Africa but have been ministering in music in southern California recently. They are just terrific, I got to speak for a service where they sang also for Loma Linda Broadcasting Network, and you will love them tomorrow! There will be a chance to contribute to their ministry at the door as you leave Second Service.

THAILAND REPORT: We are all 136 in Chiangmai. We had two days in Bangkok, seeing the iconic sites like the Emerald Buddha, Grand Palace, Reclining Buddha, River Trip, and Wat Arun. Then we loaded and boarded the trains for the overnight trip north to Chiangmai. It was a great challenge, because you don't get your tickets until you get to the train, so to load 70 boxes of equipment and supplies along with all the luggage, and to get everybody into a seat, was hard. But eventually everything was on and everybody arrived in Chiangmai. We are at the Imperial Maeping Hotel right downtown next to the nightly Night Bazaar. The hotel is comfortable, we have a place on a patio where we can meet for free, and they gave us a room where we could stage the VBS materials and felt sets, etc.

The greatest challenge has been the distance to the various sites. It quickly became clear that things would be better if we could move several speakers and their teams out closer to their sites rather than having to endure 2 or 2 ½ hour each way trips every night to their sites. Several true missionaries agreed to do that, and we will not see them for a week. But most of the best sites, with the most children and interested adults, are in those tribal churches out in the mountains. Two sites, the vans cannot even drive there, and our teams have to be picked up by jeeps and trucks and transported to the sites. One of them got caught in the torrential rain last night while sitting in the open-air back of two trucks (the Escondido Academy team). One van never found their little church in the mountains, so we hope that the pastor/translator spoke in their place, and we will have to get better information this morning. We have 14 vans lined up in the morning and evening outside the hotel, and they are ready to take teams to the construction evangelistic sites.

As always the work in Thailand is not easy. Very few Thais have been won in 100 years. My home church downtown Chiangmai is still small. They have a new pastor, there was no sign of a bible worker that we paid for, and they took our pastor to translate at another site! We asked for him to be returned to us, and today we will have to find a way to find some people, visit the members, and try to breathe some life back into the church! The ceiling that had fallen in had been prepared in a week, so that was good, and our construction team cleared the area for a major restroom construction to be built this coming week. The house my father built for the pastor 55 years ago has fallen into total disrepair, so there are plenty of projects to tackle!

But we got several wonderful reports of sites with 30, 50, 75 children in the VBS program, nice groups of adults, etc. They believe they already have 75 individuals across all the sites planning for baptism, which is a big day in Thailand. So pray for us, for our speakers, VBS leaders, and health talk speakers, as they try to communicate their message through a translator.

I need to get the sermon ready, I am preaching in two different churches this morning, trying to build up the support and attendance. We will try to keep the church updated on what is happening, and we hope that there will be a short video clip ready to show in church Sabbath morning. We will miss being there, but we long for your love, prayers, and support as we fight the battle here to preach and live the Gospel!

God bless you all!

Pastor Dan