



Garden Grove Seventh-day Adventist Church

Pastor Dan's Newsletter



November 18, 2016

It's the Sabbath.

A pastor told me once—that he was at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem at sundown, Friday night—when 2 rows of young Hasidic Jews came walking into the courtyard there. With their black suits and hats, with their yarmulke's and side curls and the vests with the fringed knots on the end. And they stood before the Wailing Wall, oblivious to the tourists and everybody else—singing, chanting, swaying—as they welcomed the Sabbath. I have stood on the porch of our college in the Philippines as they played Heritage Singers over the loudspeakers, and all the students and faculty gathered on the front lawn looking over the city (the name of the college is Naga View)—as the sun went down, the lights came on, and they welcomed the Sabbath. I remember being on the boat on the way to Thailand, coming down to the dining room Thursday night—and the sign said, “Tomorrow is Saturday”—and my young parents had a discussion whether to stick to our 7-day schedule, or adjust to going over the dateline—and we left the cafeteria and went back to our room to get ready for the Sabbath.

Tonight the sports teams will keep on playing. The malls will still be open. Planes will still fly and people in Mosul will keep on fighting. But—for us—It's the Sabbath!

I will just list a few of the announcements. I had some minor surgery this week, but have had a bit of a slow recovery, so pray for me, because I'm preaching for both services tomorrow, with Pastor Tony out of town.

#1—Children's Church, 11:30, Youth Chapel

#2—Thanksgiving Food Drive—It would mean the world to us if you could bring a bag or two of canned goods. Bring it to the Concierge Desk, and we will fill the platform with the bags of food. Then it goes into Thanksgiving Food Baskets for next Wednesday, as we try to feed 500 families for the holiday.

#3—Hacksaw Ridge. Donors helped us buy 2000 copies of a small but powerful book, “**Hero of Hacksaw Ridge**”. It is really a terrific little message story, Remnant Publications has published over 1.5 million copies already in the last 3 weeks. There will be one for every family that fills out a Contact Card tomorrow, in both services. There will be others you can take to somebody you might be talking to about the movie. The Pathfinders and Adventurers and Youth are helping distribute, and another group of us will be going out at 3:45 tomorrow afternoon—just hanging the books in a bag on the doorknobs, with a card inviting them to connect with us after reading the book.

#4—Pictorial Directory. We had a great response last Sabbath. Sign up, dress up, and in 5-7 minutes you can get a great picture of your family you can use for Christmas or whatever, and we can have a directory so that everybody in the church can put more names and faces together.

#5—Feeding the Homeless—The Vietnamese Fellowship will be serving them Sunday morning—meet at the Church at 8 am. I believe other groups will be serving on Thanksgiving Day, so watch for further announcements.

#6—Messages—“**A SERVANT'S HEART**,” for First Service, on the Gifts of Hospitality and Helps. “**MAKING THE GOOD NEWS GOOD NEWS**”, for Second Service, on the Three Angels' Messages of Revelation 14.

#7—Coming up: Special Worship Service for Thanksgiving, November 26, with a grand processional you have never seen before. If you'd love another chance to wear your wedding dress, and it still fits—let me know!

Potluck: December 3

Christmas Concert, Fellowship Hall: December 10

Christmas Brunch and Joint Worship Service: December 17

Candlelight Christmas Eve morning service: December 24

Have a great Sabbath weekend, everybody!

Pastor Dan