

Pastor Dan's Newsletter



garden grove seventh-day adventist church 12702 ninth street garden grove, california

pastordan@gardengrovesda.com
951-236-7262

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Update from Pastor Dan

VIETNAM MISSION TRIP UPDATE

My Friends -- Again it is very late Friday night on this side of the world as I have a few minutes to send something for the GGSDA | OC GRACE Newsletter. The site we are at for these three days is almost an hour and a half from DaNang by bus, each way, so we are sitting on the bus a lot. Thursday Pastor Toan and I had to do it twice, as we had to go meet with the government people over religious affairs to try to smooth out our status after some strain earlier in the week. We had a good meeting, and we were able to visit house churches today with no problems.

Quick update: We baptized 12 in the Saigon Central Church last Sabbath. These are mostly people who were well on their way before our meetings, and just cemented their commitment during our meetings. Then our meetings helped start new interests for the meetings Dwight Nelson will hold in a few months--that's how they do it here--no quick baptisms during these 4-night crusades. Then we were in a church we helped build in R'Chai, near Dalat, a beautiful city around a lake in the Central Highlands. 800 people every night, plus 300 kids, 75 beautiful teenagers baptized, while they heated water on two fires in the back to pour into the baptistry for my comfort! We think a donor is going to help us cement all around the new church and build a children's center/fellowship hall, so the members are thrilled about that.

Now we are in DaNang, and driving out to this fairly small church in a village where some of our Vietnamese Fellowship members grew up--but the whole village is coming! They have about 25 come regularly, they were hoping for 125 for these meetings, and about 350 showed up tonight! Every seat jammed, and many more on stools out on the driveway and patio! I don't know who they all are or what their religious background, but we can't change our sermons once they have been approved by the government months ago, so we can just add a sentence here and there to try to meet the situation that we certainly had not anticipated. We have to get up early in the morning to take that drive back out there for SS and Church, and they hope for 8-10 baptisms tomorrow. Then back to this city for some cultural things Saturday night, and then the group sort of breaks apart, with some going back to Saigon to see family and then go home, while about 5 or 6 of us go on to Hanoi for a one night meeting with the new church started up there, see John McCain's prison Hanoi Hilton, and one day on a boat before heading home.

We visited these **house churches** today--tiny places, living rooms, but all we have after the government took our church and school a generation ago. The government has now given us a plot of land, but we only have a few more months to start building

a \$125,000 church or lose that property, so we had quite a prayer session standing on that plot of land today. We had nothing more to give, but promised to pray and see what miracles God does! It will take some heavy lifting by every level of the church and other donors in the US to get this done, but we prayed in faith today, and let's see!

Enjoy the **Sabbath services**--Pastor Sara is preaching at both morning services. We'll see you all next week with a message, a new series, and some pictures of Vietnam!

Please pray for us!

God bless!

Pastor Dan and team

OC Grace | GGSDA

THIS WEEKEND:

FRIDAY March 17, 2017

4:30PM Orangewood Spartans: Lady Spartans vs Mater Dei. State Southern Div. 2 Regional Finals, at Vanguard University.

SABBATH March 18, 2017

9:25AM SERVICE: Pastor Sara will be speaking. *"Shut up! Hugs are free. And how to kill the devil."*

10:30AM SABBATH SCHOOL CLASS: Drop or join us at one of our Sabbath School Classes in the Children's Wing including a Youth Class. Multiple Adult classes to choose from including a Young Adult or a class in Spanish, Vietnamese, Filipino or Brazilian (Portuguese).

11:30AM SERVICE: Pastor Sara is speaking. What happens when you're in the right and know it? How are we called to respond when we have the power over someone we feel is wrong? How the church responded in the first century gives us clues as to how to live, love and respect each other today.

2:30PM FILIPINO SERVICE. Pastor Ed and team will meet in the Youth Chapel.

4:30PM VIETNAMESE SERVICE: Meeting in the Youth Chapel.

SUNDAY March 19, 2017

6:00PM YOUTH ART GROUP Youth Chapel

If you would like to be added to Pastor Dan's weekly email newsletter list, submit your request to: pastordan@gardengrovesda.com