



### Good morning or afternoon,

whatever time it is on your side of the world! It is late Friday night here. We have finished our meetings in the five local churches, and now we switch to a one-day event at the Cuneta Astrodome, a stadium here in Manila, where they will bring several thousand members and interests together for a final worship service and appeal sermon before going across the street for the mass baptism. We had a full 1000 in our church tonight, with a large group of interests coming forward to prepare for baptism tomorrow. There were satellite meetings held by various church leaders before we got here, small group meetings, and other events that will hopefully culminate in a wonderful baptism tomorrow.

### A few highlights from this week:

A group of us joined the prison ministry team to go to a women's prison and hold a baptism. They had told me that the pastor would be doing the baptism (recently ordained), but when we got there the young pastor invited me to join him. It was a small portable pool, filled with about 18 inches of water. At first they tried to baptize people starting from a sitting or kneeling position, but that was all difficult, so I just tried to lower them all the way down, and then pull them up again, and it worked fine--they were not heavy people! We had a singing group singing throughout, we got clapping going for each one, and it was very festive! Sixty precious women were baptized, and we made it clear to them that while the government might not forgive their sins because of their baptism, Jesus did, and they were free and forgiven and as much full members of our church as all the rest of us, and they clapped!

We have been helping Pastor Sara's non-profit. They empower women leaders in these barangay's (villages) to start community gardening on bits of land next to sidewalks, on walls, etc. Our main job has been shoveling rocks and dirt off sidewalks--absolutely brutal work in the hot sun and humidity, and only a little less so at 6 in the morning! But it was a tremendous experience that makes you feel that you are really putting sweat equity into something that matters, giving people healthy, organic food, empowering them to help their families. We are immensely proud of these four young women who are giving their lives to this, and to the Filipino women who are the core of the project. We will have more pictures to show.







it is just part of Filipino culture to take pictures, and the cellphone has just multiplied it! I probably average about 40-50 pictures after each meeting. People to run to get into the picture, even with groups that they don't know! But they are all so excited to take the pictures, they are experts at selfie's, and it is just very special to be part of it all with hundreds of young people, families, and groups from the church.



## In a week--

Obviously in a week we don't get to make a lot of personal relationships with those thinking about baptism. But our young pastor who was driving tonight told me that one of his contacts who owns a restaurant and has been inviting people to Bible studies there, made her decision today, texted him that she was cooking her last meals for her restaurant, and that she would be baptized tomorrow. He brought her to me after the meeting tonight, and we had one of those pictures together!

Shane Montesa from our church brought his first cousin to me tonight, who was an SDA 30 years ago but left it behind years ago, and decided this week to recommit to God and the church and will be rebaptized, and he came forward, and was all smiles tonight! Those moments make it all worth it.

We leave at 7:45 in the morning for the Astrodome, I have the sermon, and then the mass baptism, then maybe a short break in the afternoon, then a thank-you fiesta tomorrow night. Then at 4 Sunday morning we head to the airport for the flight to Palawan, then transfer to small planes for an hour flight to the small islands to dedicate Pastor Ed's churches, give away the last of the water filters, which everybody is begging for, and the last sets of felts, do a medical clinic, stay in people's houses, and fly back! We are all looking forward to it!

I will let the people back at home fill in the rest of the details for this week's church events. God bless you all, and we look forward to being home with you all and the Fellowship Dinner next week (May 6). Hope many of you can make it to the great benefit concert

God bless!  
Pastor Dan