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## Dear Church!

Yes, most of us are back. It was cheaper to come on different flights, so we have come back in bits and spurts, but the bulk of the group are back, while others will drift back over the next two weeks as they spread out around the Philippines to see family.

### Philippines Mission Trip - Report

We will give more of a report during the sermon tomorrow, but we will just say here that a lot has happened since our last Newsletter last Friday.



We had the big Sabbath in the stadium, with maybe 7,000 or more in attendance, and we baptized 887 in the pool that afternoon.



We had over 30 pastors baptizing, and it is always just very moving, to see the faces light up after they come up out of the water! I baptized a first cousin to Shane Montesa, the restaurant owner was baptized, and many, many more.

Somebody from my church had made T-shirts for most of our candidates, identifying them as part of the Dan Smith Crusade, so it was surreal to see my name on everybody as they walked down these little ramps down into the pool!

We then flew to Palawan, a long, narrow island SW of Manila, and then crowded into two small private planes to fly to the two islands where Pastor Ed pioneered two churches 15 years ago. It was just an awesome experience: To land on a grassy airstrip, to see two groups of church members on both sides waving at us. To see them wearing shirts honoring Pastor Ed this time. To ride in the only two primitive tricycle/carts on the whole island, rented for the two days just for us, and stand like the Pope in his popemobile as we passed and waved at villagers. To see way over 100 people come for the medical/dental clinic. To see all of the young people that Pastor Ed won come up and stand next to him. To see shop owners and others just beam when they saw Pastor Ed walk by. It was all very, very moving.

They serenaded me for my birthday at 4:45 in the morning, and then we rode a boat for an hour to see the second church, and then flew back to Palawan--and I think most of the group would say that it was one of the greatest 24-hour periods we had ever spent.



### Fellowship Dinner

Tomorrow is Pottluck Sabbath, and we're happy, because we are looking forward to seeing all of you after being gone.

Ana, our leader, is suggesting bringing **TOPPINGS FOR TACOS** for a Taco Bar, if you would like to contribute something but aren't sure what to bring!



### Apologetics Group

2:15pm - 3:15pm Sabbath, in the Studio Room downstairs.

### Richard Ferras Services

I slipped over to Beaumont for the graveside service for Rick this morning. He and his family were part of GGSDA at one time, and contributed a lot to our music. Dani Ferras in our church now is his brother. He was diagnosed late December with lung cancer, and now he's gone--truly a tragedy. If you would like to contribute something to help with expenses in his honor, put it into an envelope and just mark it Richard Ferras Memorial, and we will get it to his family or donate online at [gofundme page](#). The Memorial service will be 6:30 pm, Sabbath, May 20, at the Yucaipa SDA Church, where they have been recently.

Will see you tomorrow.

God bless!  
Pastor Dan