

Anaheim SDA Church
Mid-week Pastor's Update
January 19, 2017



“Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.” John 14:12 NIV

These past two weeks, several of us have been gathering each evening to pray for our needs, for our church, and for the community as a whole. What a privilege it has been to come before God and bring our cares and lift-up one another! The excitement continues as we will see God working His way in the areas we have entrusted to Him.

Sometimes we pray with dampened expectations. We hedge our fear of failure by lowering our sights in the first place. I don't know about you, but many places where I see the scriptures speak about prayer, I hear it practically shouting “Don't do that! If anything, raise your expectations!”

Jesus had a miraculous ministry, one that was full of miracles and seems impossible to reproduce. But Jesus said something astounding in the statement quoted above, that the miracles and good works would not only cease, but *increase* in his followers!

And consider what has been done in Christianity since the time of his departure! Jesus' own was a ministry of one person in one place at a time, but, through the Holy Spirit, good and miraculous works have spread to every inhabited continent. The founding of hospitals, schools, missionary centers and libraries have brought education and improved health to places everywhere. The most beautiful and sublime paintings, sculptures, and music were created in trying to capture and communicate Spiritual truths shared to us by God. And great world movements have been undertaken in the context of Christianity, such as the founding of democracy, and, most recently, the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s, led by the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., whose life we commemorated earlier this week.

Critics and skeptics may say that religion in general (and perhaps Christianity in particular) has done more harm than good in the world. But don't buy into that lie! While our own history is

certainly a mixed-bag, let's not forget that the Renaissance, the exploration of the world, and the push-back of Communism all took place within a context of Christianity.

Sometimes we say "Where is the Holy Spirit?" but if we look at all that is going on all over the world, it dwarfs the impressive stories told in the book of Acts. And we look for even greater out-pouring in the promised 'latter rain' as we approach the close of earth's history. What an exciting time to be living! I pray that, whether united with our fellow believers in corporate prayer, or at home in your own prayer life, you will unite yourself with the greatest power to ever have changed the face of the earth for the better, and the soon coming kingdom, which will, again, dwarf all earthly accomplishments thus far.

May Christ ever be our hope and our motivation. And may we ever look to Him going forward.

God bless you and your families.

Sincerely,
Pastor Mark Tatum

Prayer Requests

Prayer List:

- Please pray for church members and church unity, both locally and globally, as Adventists all over North America participate in the 10 days of prayer movement. There are still a few more nights at our church!
- Esther Sellers is praising the Lord that situations have improved for a couple of her counseling patients. She still asks us to pray though, as some of them are still going through hard times.
- Praise the Lord, Claudia Flores came through her surgery well last week and is recovering. Pray for her to make a full recovery, and to be back with us soon.
- Thankfully, Victor and Alina Tolan's father is doing better after he had a collapse last Sabbath morning. Pray for his continued strengthening and health.
- Please pray for several members who have on-going health problems, that God could minimize their symptoms, and, if it be His will, heal them, bringing them back to good health. Pray for the doctors and medical procedures being undergone as well. Please pray in this area for Vivian, Nicole H., Daniel G., Rosa F. Grandma Ford, and others.
- Pray for several 'prodigal' children of church members who have left the faith, whose parents are praying fervently that they come back. (The Lord himself knows this feeling many times over!)

- Pray for our church as a whole, and all its volunteers, that we may work efficiently and happily in ministering to our members, families, and overall community.
- Particularly as we are on the cusp of a major transfer of power in our own U.S. government, pray for our leaders, both national and international, that they may make wise decisions, and that we may have a peaceful and stable society to do our Spiritual work in (1 Tim. 2:1-4, John 9:4)

If you have a prayer request you would like to submit to our prayer list, please contact Pastor Mark or Maritza in the church office, and let them know.

Announcements:

10 Days of Prayer: Thanks to all those who have been continued to come out and sharing a big blessing! The 10 days of prayer effort continues at 6:00 tonight (Thursday) in the pathfinder room, and at 7:00 p.m. the following evenings in the church sanctuary. May the blessings continue through 2017 as we see God working His will in our lives!

Adult Sabbath School: Each week, our Adult Sabbath School program starts at 9:30 AM in the Sanctuary. These are the topics for this month:

- Jan. 21 – the Power of Personal Testimony (pt. 3) with Isidro Sicairos
- Jan. 28 – the Power of Personal Testimony (pt. 4)

In addition, remember that our Sabbath School quarterly theme for first qtr 2017 is “The Holy Spirit and Spirituality”! I can’t think of a better theme as we go into our New Year, and our month of Spiritual Emphasis. ☺

Start Your Sabbaths in the Word! We are holding a weekly Bible-study on Friday evenings at 6 p.m., with Nicholas Tomeo and Pr. Mark. We are currently reading and discussing through the book of Isaiah. Come and enjoy fellowship as we discern God's will for our lives. Refreshments provided as well.

Annual Birthday Party this Saturday Night! Our church-wide Birthday Party is scheduled for this Saturday evening, January 21. This is where we celebrate everyone’s birthdays at the same time. We will have a devotional service to close the Sabbath, a potluck-style dinner, and fun and games afterwards. So if you never get to have a birthday party, now is your chance! If you have any questions, you can ask Maritza in the church office, or Mrs. Furness for details.

Food Bank Hours & Distribution: We are open every Saturday from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the room adjacent to the fellowship hall. Please share about our Food Bank with your relatives, friends, neighbors, or anyone who might benefit from receiving food. We are also looking for volunteers who can help, particularly as Vivian is needing to take a couple of weeks off from her

duties. We need people who can volunteer during the week to pick up food from grocery stores, serve in the food bank itself on Sabbath afternoons, and some who can take extra food to homeless people (and we can suggest places to take it to). If you would like to volunteer, please contact Ana (Anita), or speak to Maritza in the Church Office.

Pathfinder Joshua Tree Camping Trip: The trip is scheduled for the weekend of February 3-5, but we are currently unsure whether it will be a 3-day trip or an all day 1-day trip on Sabbath. Please speak to Margarito Gonzalez for more information. Either way, let's pray for our club members to have a great time.

Church-wide Business Meeting: On the afternoon of February 4, Pastor Mark is calling an business meeting for all church members to attend in the fellowship hall immediately after potluck. Future plans and the direction of our church will be discussed. Please plan on staying for this important meeting. A Spanish-ministry meeting will follow on the following Sabbath, Feb. 11th.

Pastor's Office Hours: Both this week and next, Pastor Mark plans to be at the church from 2-6 p.m. on Wednesday and Friday. Feel free to come by to talk/pray/study the word together. If these times are not convenient to you, or you would like to schedule a special meeting at a certain place/time, don't hesitate to contact Pr. Mark at the information below.

Weekly Pastor's E-mail: If you know someone who benefit from receiving this weekly devotional thought, please have them contact Pastor Mark at prmarktatum@gmail.com, or (714) [650-1245](tel:650-1245) with contact info to be added to this e-mail list.

Alright! I think that pretty well sums-up what's going on at the church lately! Hug yourself and say "Jesus loves me!" if you've read this far (not that He doesn't if you didn't, obviously). As always, we pray that your week is blessed until we meet again. God bless you and yours in this New Year.

Sincerely,
Pastor Mark Tatum