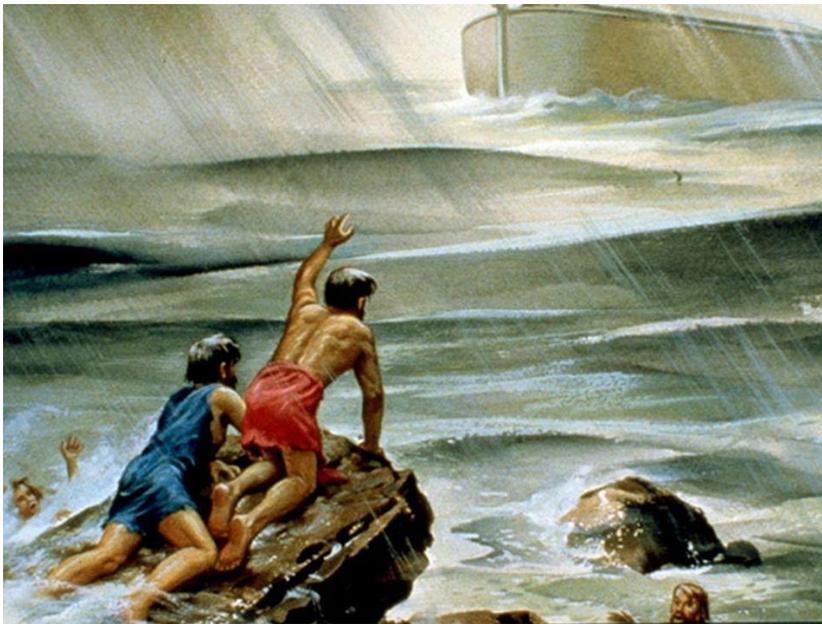


**Anaheim SDA Church**  
**Mid-week Pastor's update**  
**1-25-2017**



*“...and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away...”*      *Matthew 24:39 NIV*

If you were out at all late last week or early this week, then you experienced the deluge of the recent storms we received. While we're of course thankful for the rain in a time of drought, things got a little bit scary out there at times!

As I saw wind, rain, entire roads flooded with water, and the Santa Ana River gushing as a roaring torrent that covered the bike path in places, I couldn't help but think of the scene that met the eyes of the antediluvians as the prophesied judgment began to come down on them. That would've made our weather over the past days look like but a brief sprinkle! To imagine underground aquifers bursting forth, as well as the 'windows of heaven opening' would surely have been terrifying, particularly to those who had never witnessed rain before, as the Spirit of Prophecy tells us.

While this event is something that is fascinating to imagine for a moment, God's word tells us that it's to be much more than that; it's to be a warning for the end of days as well. Jesus, in Matthew 24, explains that in the last days many people will fall into the same habit patterns as those who lived just before the flood. Over-casualizing and taking liberties in eating, drinking, and marrying. Similarly, he says, the Day of the Lord will come over those who have had chance to be warned, but who have disregarded it in favor of passing frivolities.

Let us take the lesson from the flood that God is not to be mocked. His patience and mercy are intended to bring us to repentance (Romans 2:4), but in the hearts of the ungodly it leads to greater defiance and recklessness. Praise the Lord, we can take the lesson from the rainbow, too,

that God's compassion and love supersede his wrathful judgment. But this is only for a time. Let's never forget that the earth is reserved for judgment, the destruction of the wicked, and for fire, and that this promise as sure as any other in scripture. (2 Peter 3:7)

Let us take every opportunity to look to God and repent, and escape the annihilation of the coming judgment. God has fore-warned us! But do we take his patience for neglect? His delay for deviation? We're promised in scripture that God doesn't change (Malachi 3:6), and that God's promises are sure. (2 Corinthians 1:20) Do we dare challenge Him on that? I would not. I would say let's heed the lessons of those who have gone before us, so we needn't learn those same lessons the hard way ourselves.

May God bless us as we reflect His light, and look toward the glorious day of Christ's appearing. May it come soon! For God's glory.

God bless you all.

Sincerely,  
Pr. Mark Tatum

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#### **Prayer List:**

- Praise the Lord for the recent finishing of the continent-wide 10 days of prayer effort held by the Adventist church. Please pray for church members and church unity, both locally and globally, that we may shine God's light and serve our communities in love.
- 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 a couple weeks ago and is recovering. Pray for her to make a full recovery, and to be back with us soon.
- 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 have recently passed through 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.*

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**Church Birthday Party Social A Success!** A big thanks goes out to Mrs. Furness, and all the volunteers who helped last Saturday night's birthday bash be a big success. May our rejoicing continue with each new day and year the Lord grants to us. :-)

**10 Days of Prayer Conclusion and continued meetings:** Thanks to all those who came out and shared a big blessing in this effort! May the blessings continue through 2017 as we see God working His will in our lives! Prayer groups will continue weekly on Tuesdays (English) and Wednesdays (Spanish) at 7:00 p.m. at the church. Let's be a church that prays together, lifting up our concerns to Him!

**Adult Sabbath School:** Each week, our Adult Sabbath School program starts at 9:30 AM in the Sanctuary. This week we will enjoy part 4 of the Power of Personal Testimony series, led by Dr. Chambi's daughter, Dr. Ruth Johnson.

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.

**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.

**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](mailto:prmarktatum@gmail.com), or (714) 650-1245 with contact info to be added to this e-mail list.

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Alright! I think that pretty well sums-up what's going on at the church lately! Jump up and down and shout "Hallelujah!" if you've read this far. As always, we pray that your week is blessed until we meet again. God bless you and yours as we continue in this New Year.

Sincerely,  
Pastor Mark Tatum