

**Anaheim SDA Church**  
**Mid-Week Pastor's Update**  
**12-28-2016**



*“...you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.  
For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”  
Galatians 3:26-27, NKJV*

For years in my devotions, as I would occasionally encounter this passage, my eyes would glean over these words without giving them much thought. Perhaps I was anxious to get to the much more famous “there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female” passage that immediately follows it. But once when I was reading this passage in Spanish it stopped me in my tracks.

The Spanish version I was reading in my bilingual Bible translated the last portion: “...have put on Christ” as “*se han revestido en Cristo*” – literally “they have re-dressed themselves in Christ”. This was a mental image that I had never considered before! I looked in awe back at the English side of my Bible, and, yes, there it was in English, too: “[they] have put on Christ” – but it meant so much more to me when I considered it with the actual verb “to dress oneself”!

I had never thought of Christ as something I “put on” like clothing as I was preparing to go out for my day. In my morning routine, I often spend a little time in front of my closet pondering what color scheme or ‘image’ I want to portray to the world. This illustration, however, tells me that however I choose to dress, Christlikeness should be the primary thing I am concerned in conveying! (For a little extra-credit, check out Matt. 5:16 to see Jesus’ words about public portrayal of our faith).

I also love the aspect that considers that Christ covers me throughout the day. Not only covers me, but also warms me, protects me, and conceals my shame. Christ in this illustration is like a favorite shirt or jacket – one that you just feel the most like yourself in. If you’ve ever had a garment that has become your favorite above others, you understand. And Christ wants to be that garment!

Likely many of us got new clothes for Christmas. Likely many of us are considering how we will dress for our first day back to the office or the classroom. But have we considered the aspect of intentionally 'putting on Christ', yea, 'dressing in him' each day? It's a beautiful illustration, and one that I'm inclined to endeavor in my personal life.

What an interesting thing fashion is – we spend time browsing in department stores for it, poring over magazines for it, and spending significant time and money in pursuit of obtaining it. But what if Christ was our intentional 'fashion' for 2017? I'll tell you one thing that never goes out of style: love and generosity; just what society is always craving.

Let's all consider ourselves 'models' on God's runway, or live 'mannequins' in the display window of God's shop. Let's convince passers-by that He is worth trying out! In every aspect of what we live, say, and do, let us portray Him well, even as He serves us.

And may we, of course, come to the day soon when Christ will personally dress us in white, saying "welcome to the kingdom prepared for you!" May that day come soon, and may we be ever eager for it. May we all be sporting the style of Christ in our daily lives here and evermore.

God bless you all.

-Pr. Mark Tatum

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### **Prayer List:**

- Esther Sellers asks us to pray for her counseling patients, as several of them are going through hard times. One's mother just died recently. Please keep this and Dr. Sellers' other therapy patients in mind.
- Please continue to pray for Giancarlo Angulo, who is gradually recovering from injuries due to the car accident he was in a couple of weeks ago. Pray for continued minimization of pain, and a full recovery for him. Thankfully, Margarito, who was also involved in the accident, is mostly recovered.
- Praise the Lord that Vivian came through her procedure two weeks ago, and has been back with us at the food bank. Please continue to pray for her health as she serves so selflessly and generously.
- Praise the Lord Daniel Geli's procedure to put a stint in his carotid artery was successful. It was a blessing to see him at church this past Sabbath! Please continue to pray, though, for his continuing medical concerns.
- Please pray for Nicole Hastings, Jennifer Hastings' daughter, who is undergoing treatment for some health concerns.

- 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!)
- Please pray for church members and community members who are travelling over the holidays, that they may return safely and efficiently. We hope that all got to experience great moments of love and joy with their families and friends! What a blessing.
- 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.
- Pray for our leaders, both local and national, 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)

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### **Announcements:**

**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:

- Dec. 31 - Christmas in Cuba (Reynaldo Medina, Vivian and Rosita Ferreras)
- Jan. 7 – the Power of Personal Testimony (pt. 1) by Pr. Mark Tatum
- Jan. 14 – the Power of Personal Testimony (pr. 2) by Dr. Roger Tatum

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. ☺

**Christmas Eve Breakfast a Success!** What a wonderful time we had sharing food and fellowship this past Sabbath morning. A great ‘thank you’ goes out to all who helped set-up before and clean-up afterward. And, of course, a thanks as well to all those who brought delicious dishes to share as we ‘feasted’ in the blessings of our Lord.

**NAPS presentation Next Sabbath:** On Dec. 31st, some representatives will be here from the National Association for the Prevention of Starvation (an non-profit organization run through Oakwood University) to let us know more about their ministry. They will be leading the Youth Sabbath School class, and then will be having a 10-15 minute presentation in the sanctuary between SS and church time. A special offering will be taken up as well, an opportunity for us to donate to this great cause. Anyone interested is welcome to come to the youth SS and/or sanctuary presentations.

**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 people who can volunteer to take food on the weekends to homeless people (and

we can suggest places to take it to). If you would like to volunteer, please contact Vivian Rodriguez at (714) 404-2325 or via the Church Office.

**Food Donations and Volunteers Needed:** Our Food Bank is in need of donations of dehydrated Rice and Beans (not canned). You can drop off your donations at the Deacons' desk. We are also looking for people who can volunteer during the week to pick up food from grocery stores. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Vivian Rodriguez at (714) 404-2325 or the Church Office.

**Pathfinder and Adventurer Clubs** are on break for this week, and will resume on January 7, which is also our Pathfinder Sabbath at church. Thanks to our volunteers who help our clubs be a blessing to our kids and families!

**Start Your Sabbaths in the Word!** We will be holding a weekly Bible-study from 6-8 p.m. on Friday evenings, with Nicholas Tomeo and Pr. Mark. It will start in the new year, with January 6th being our first meeting. We will study some of the Old Testament prophets, beginning with Isaiah. Come and enjoy fellowship as we discern God's will for our lives.

**January Week of Prayer:** We are planning to make the month of January a month of Spiritual Emphasis, where we "set our compasses to true north" in dedicating ourselves to God for the new year. We will be holding a nightly week of prayer at 7:00 p.m. each evening from January 9-13. Each evening will have a short review of Bible verses on prayer, followed by a time of intercession and a capella singing. Please prioritize coming to this intimate bonding time as we draw closer to God and each other.

**Pastor's Office Hours:** Though Pastor Mark doesn't have scheduled office hours this week (due to the holidays and the church office being closed), he is willing to meet with anyone who would like to. Please contact Pr. Mark via phone/text or e-mail (info below) to set-up a time and place. Next week, 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.

**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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Okay! I believe that makes us up-to-date on all church happenings. May God bless us as we work, play, pray, and stay in Christ's grace throughout the rest of this week. I pray a Happy New Year to you and your families as well! May God bless and protect us 'till we meet again.

Sincerely,

Pr. Mark Tatum