

Connections



Volume I, Number 35

A newsletter for the Anderson Seventh-day Adventist Church
anderson.adventistfaith.org

December 2014 Week 1

Declaring to each individual their eternal value in Jesus and preparing them for His soon-return!

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9:30am—12pm
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Church Office:
530-365-3965
andsdachurch@gmail.com
Monday-Thursday 9am—12pm

Connect Online:
1. anderson.adventistfaith.org
2. [Facebook.com/andersonadventist.church](https://www.facebook.com/andersonadventist.church)

Submit a Prayer Request
227-6829 (Andrew LiVolsi) for
9am Saturday prayer group

357-4401 (Evelyn Baxter): for
church prayer chain

Conference Office:
925-685-4300
www.nccsda.com

Pastor's Greeting: Sifting

Dear Anderson Church Family,

And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has desired you, that he may sift *you* as wheat.

But I have prayed for you, that your faith fail not. And when you are converted, strengthen your brothers (Luke 22:31-32, MKJV).

The context of these verses is one of distrust. The disciples have been arguing about who would betray Jesus and who would be the greatest in the kingdom. Jesus longs to have them all at His table not bickering, for if they bicker here, then would they do so in the coming kingdom when there is so much more to behold and see?

It appears that as Jesus moves on to the sifting language we should pause and ask ourselves: During this “season” where we focus on the birth of Christ (yes, I know the date is debatable), maybe we should pause and consider what kind of Savior child we are beholding. He is one who serves, One who is Divine yet human. He shows us the way. If we are not willing to behold Him and invite Him into our hearts, then there is plenty of room for bickering and betrayal amongst us.

The Good News: we do not have to overcome the temptations of bickering and betrayal alone (or any other temptation for that matter). For Jesus has prayed for us! Satan has DEMANDED of God the life/ministry of Peter, but Jesus has PRAYED. How much more would heaven long to have a peaceful resolution to the bickering than a darker outcome that Satan requests forcefully?

So let us be an answer to Jesus' prayer. Let us go to Him humbly thanking Him for His example. Let us then ask Him to cleanse us of any materialism (plenty of that this time of year), greed (plenty of that too), bickering (hmm. . .) and betrayal (perish the thought!).

Once we have gone to Him, then He will empower us to go to others. He will give us the grace, humbleness and courage to “strengthen the brothers”. We will help others set their feet firmly on the Rock (Jesus). For to “strengthen” means to establish or “set fast” the brethren. May the Star Child strengthen us so we are not sifted!

Staying Connected

Once someone has a basic Bible knowledge and is connected to a group of believers, they often will ask about ways to keep their relationship with the Lord strong. One of the best ways is through personal devotions. One way is to spend time focusing on the closing scenes of Christ's ministry leading up to the cross. First, I spend time singing a song about the cross. Then I pray asking God to help me see the cross anew. Then I read a portion of Scripture taking notes. Lastly, I sing the "cross" song again. I did not post one for last week, but here is what it should have been. I have moved on to John myself:

Week 3 day 1	Luke 21	Notes/Comments:
Day 2	Luke 22	
Day 3	Luke 23:1-26	
Day 4	Luke 23:27-43	
Day 5	Luke 23:44-56	
Day 6	Luke 24:1-31	
Day 7	Luke 24:32-53	

Anderson Connections (please see your bulletin for more announcements)

Revelation: The Bride, the Beast and Babylon. Tuesdays through Dec. 16 @ 6pm.

Roof / Solar: The loan has been approved, and we are in the process of scheduling the work to begin possibly this winter. Mark your tithe envelope "Roof and Solar"

December Dates: **6th** (Youth baptism class starts after meal); **8th** (Board Meeting 7pm); **13th** (Communion); **20th** (Christmas Program and evening caroling); **27th** (Staying Connected series begins 11am); **27th** (Elder's TEAM after meal)

Bookmobile: December 18 @ 10:30-11:15am (Anderson); RAA 12:00 to 1:00pm.

Area & NCC Happenings

Northern California Conference call to prayer: each Thursday at 7:00am. Dial 424-203-8400 then put in the access code: 669648#

10+10 Local: If each one of us gave \$10/month can easily help us reach our goal of \$14,400 for Christian Education. Mark your envelope "Redding Adventist Academy".