

Connections



Volume 2, Number 16

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

May 2015 Week 1

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

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Contact Information

Pastor Murray Miller

530-364-2041 (office)

530-776-4381 (cell)

mmiller@nccsda.com

Mon, Wed. & Thurs. office

hours: 9:30am—12pm

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)

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: Defining Abuse

Dear Anderson Church Family,

April was child abuse prevention month and many resources were put forth to address this issue, but what does this topic have to do with OUR church? Well, Scripture makes it clear that the well-being of children is of utmost importance. Jesus goes as far as to say that if we do not become like little children, then we will not enter into the kingdom of heaven—there is something about having an environment where children are present that helps us learn about God (Matt. 18:3).

Whether we are teaching the children lessons God has taught us, or just observing the trusting nature of these “little ones”, there is much that we learn by means of these precious people. Jesus goes further and states that to offend one of these “little ones” (yes he is talking about disciples as well as children) is a serious matter. In fact, it would be better for us to have a millstone tied around our necks and be thrown into the sea (Mark 9:42). Wow! That seems drastic!! But it is reality. To present a right picture of God through our actions can have positive eternal consequences. Likewise, damaging a child emotionally so that they shut off to God and others to deal with their wounds can have negative eternal consequences.

It is with this in mind that the next few issues of our newsletter will serve to remind/educate us on ways to help make our church a safe place for children. You may have heard some of this before, but please bare with those who have not. We begin with a simple definition of child abuse from the Conference handbook:

Child abuse: “verbal, physical, emotional or sexual abuse of a preschooler, child, youth, minor” (“Child Abuse Prevention/Response Handbook” online at www.nccsda.com). What are some examples of this behavior and ways of prevention? More . . . next time.

Staying Connected—Seeing Christ for Ourselves

We have learned how to have an assurance of eternal life, how to share a winning testimony, how to stay connected to Christ in a Bible reading plan, and how to begin to resolve conflicts by following Christ's words in Matthew 18. I now want to begin sharing some texts/devotional thoughts on how to see Christ for ourselves as we venture through the Bible. Next week will be the practical side to this endeavor and this week will be a powerful quote on our need to do so: "Throng of people who possess their sight are passing to and fro, but they have no desire to see Jesus. One look of faith would touch His heart of love, and bring them the blessings of His grace; but they know not the sickness and poverty of their souls, and they feel no need of Christ. Not so with the poor blind man. His only hope is in Jesus. As he waits and watches, he hears the tread of many feet, and he eagerly inquires, What means this noise of travel? The by-standers answer that "Jesus of Nazareth passeth by." With the eagerness of intense desire, he cries, "Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me!" They try to silence him, but he cries the more vehemently, "Thou Son of David, have mercy on me!" This appeal is heard. His persevering faith is rewarded. Not only is physical sight restored, but the eyes of his understanding are opened. In Christ he sees his Redeemer, and the Sun of Righteousness shines into his soul. All who feel their need of Christ as did blind Bartimeus, and who will be as earnest and determined as he was, will, like him, receive the blessing which they crave. The afflicted, suffering ones who sought Christ as their helper, were charmed with the divine perfection, the beauty of holiness, that shone forth in His character. Those who receive Christ by faith will receive also power to become the sons of God" (Ellen White, *Sons and Daughters of God*, page 126).

Anderson Connections (please see your bulletin for more announcements)

Small Groups- One of our 5 year goals is to start small groups in our communities. Those who are interested in an orientation to Discipleship Groups (more information on what elder Del Dunavant talked about), please contact Pastor Miller. An Orientation helps anyone host or conduct a group in their homes (and I do mean anyone!)

Upcoming dates—Mission trip: May 10-21 at Camp MiVoden in Idaho; **May 10**—Mother's day Brunch (11am). **May 16**—Elder Jim Pedersen (NCC president) speaks at 11am.

Recite Bible Class—Join this once a month Bible memorization class led by Debbe Jefford. The start date is **Friday, May 8**. Contact the church office for more information.

Roof/Solar—The beginning of June is the possible start date now. This is what worked best for the Roofing and Solar companies. Mark your tithe envelope "Roof/Solar".

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#

Men's Retreat—May 1-2 at Leoni Meadows. Contact Randi Wilson 925-603-5097 or randi.wilson@nccsda.com.

Redding Church: May 6 is commencement for Pathfinders/ Adventurers. See you in the Fall!