

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Advent devotional guide reminds us that through our blessings we are called to serve others

God has blessed each of us richly in so many ways! The Society of St. Andrew, a national faith-based hunger-relief ministry, invites you to celebrate those blessing through its 2007 Advent Devotions. Each day of the Advent Season you will experience the reflections and insights of a variety of people who have received the joy of God's abundant blessings and Christ's continual presence in their lives. Both laity and clergy authors have contributed to the devotions. It is the Society of St. Andrew's hope that their inspirational writings will move you to count your blessings and to recognize the abundance God has poured out for you.

The Society of St. Andrew's (SoSA) Advent theme this year, God's Abundant Blessings, is based on Matthew 2:11. This is the story where the Magi follow the star to Bethlehem to see the Christ child. Upon their arrival, the Magi present gifts of gold, myrrh, and incense to the child. What's interesting about this story is that in today's society, no one would ever think to bring these items to a baby. So why would the Magi present these gifts? Simply because these items were the best and most precious items that they owned. As Christians, we know that God gives us His best and calls us to give our best to Him. God expects those of us who have been blessed with more to give more.

During the season of Advent, SoSA asks participants to prayerfully read and reflect on the scriptures and devotions in God's Abundant Blessings and then join in their hunger-relief work of feeding America's hungry by making a financial donation. Each year this devotional program has grown, providing more and more food to those in need. Last year donations made through SoSA's Advent devotional program provided nearly 2.1 million servings of nourishing food nationwide to those who don't always get enough to eat.

Through its gleaning programs, the non-denominational Society of St. Andrew saves perfectly good, nutritious, excess fresh produce that will go to waste for various marketing reasons and gets it distributed free to service agencies across the country that feed the hungry.

This year, as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, use God's Abundant Blessings to feed your spirits during Advent as you feed your hungry neighbors in response to God's command, "You give them something to eat."

All materials are free from the Society of St. Andrew. For a sample kit, order online: www.endhunger.org/advent.htm; by phone: 800-333-4597; or by email: church@endhunger.org.

More information about the Society of St. Andrew and its hunger-relief programs – Gleaning Network, Potato & Produce Project, and Harvest of Hope – is available online at www.endhunger.org or by email at sosausa@endhunger.org.

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