

Things to Know



Wonderings Since Last Time



*John Gry,
Executive Secretary*

“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up” (John 3.14). Imagery can be so powerful to redirect the mind toward the things of God. Here, the gospel writer draws on the national memory of a people who, once under tremendous uncertainty and the stench of death, looked toward a snake on a pole to find, by the direction of God, healing and a future. From here, Jesus speaks about His own future and the healing He will bring. The emphasis is upon the “lifting up;” and the lifting up lifts up a beaten people.

At the last night of the General Conference Session, another image brought forth the possibility of hope—and the power of Jesus in ways that will continue to amaze. While awaiting the entrance for the parade of nations, my eyes caught two nations coming down two different aisles...at the same time. After these two nations marched down their two separate aisles, they joined all the other nations standing along the outside of the floor seating; and these two nations eventually stood side-by-side. I will let you determine who they were by the pictures in this issue.

So I conclude my thoughts here: if these two nations could align themselves to stand next to each other as a symbol of how the power of God brought disparate peoples together, is there anything that He cannot do? For, as the Apostle Paul wrote amidst the nationalistic fervor of his day: “there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Gal 3.28) There is neither in-group or out-group. We are all one group! May we truly experience this as not just a symbol of hope but a demonstration of His will on this earth.

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General Conference Session



Interview

One of the blessings of the General Conference Session being so close to our territory is that we had people from all over the world coming through our state. Two of those delegates with whom I had a chance to interview were the President of the Polish Union, Ryszard (Richard), and the Chief Editor for their publishing house, Andrzej (Andrew). Watch the interview [here](#) to see how God has been using the funds we send to assist with their work in providing for the Ukrainian refugee.



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The Illinois Territory, formed in 1809, included parts of Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota and the capital of the territory was... Kaskaskia.

“Many talk of the truth, they preach the theory of the truth, when the melting love of Jesus has not become a living, active element in their character. (EGW, *Special Testimony*, written in 1890)

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