

Things to Know



Musings from the Word



*John Gryns,
Executive Secretary*

“And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.”

Acts 2:6

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As I examine the early emerging church following the ascension of Jesus, this universe-altering moment led to wonder. For those immediately involved, something just didn't add up. Yes, of course, as we know, there were things preceding this moment; and those are very important to the story, but that is for another time. What entices me here in this particular phase of the story are the responses of those involved.

This God-encounter led to wonder and yes, confusion. There are so many places in Scripture that when God shows, people are a bit dazed-- Moses wondering about a bush, Jacob wondering about a ladder, Balaam wondering about a talking donkey. It just seems that God's activity brings an initial mind-blowing wonder. What's going on? How do I grapple with this? What does this mean?

All this evidences for me a reality that I am not particularly accustomed to: God's movement disturbs. And yet, it is familiar-- a bush, a ladder, a donkey, a language. All familiar and yet, all disturbing. Something doesn't add up. Now, I ask for my life, "What isn't adding up? Are there experiences in my life right now that just don't add up? Am I open to the familiar in a way that moves me to know what is unfamiliar?" Questions like these continue to spark my soul as I dive into the Scriptures. Will you join me in the wondrous journey of reading God's Word anew?

Musings from the Field

Summer Program

Recently, our pastors were able to enjoy the benefits of the North American Division pastors conferenced entitled, CALLED. This gathering of around 6,000 people allowed our pastors and their families to enjoy a time of spiritual and professional refreshment. Afterward, we expressed our appreciation as a conference for all their sacrifices by enjoying a shared meal together in Louisville (the conference was held in Lexington, Kentucky). I know many of you do but please continue to keep our pastors and their families in your prayers.



Baptisms at Elgin SDA Church

Pastor Gabriel Bardan and his leaders at the Elgin Church were able to enjoy the continuation of 7 people and their journey with God as they entered the waters of baptism. Thanks Elgin Church and Pastor Bardan for being a space where the Spirit can lead people into a deeper relationship with Jesus!



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It is essential that we have a knowledge of our own motives and actions in order to have constant self-improvement.
(EGW, Letter from January 30, 1895)

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On February 1, 1865, Illinois became the first state to ratify the 13th Amendment, abolishing slavery.