

Things to Know



Musings from the Word



*John Gry,
Executive Secretary*

By now, we've all seen the picture. When I first saw it on Monday, my heart almost stopped; and my first response? Stillness. Second response? An inner bowing of the knee. The released visual images from the James Webb Space Telescope brought home in a very visual way such a vivid reminder: against the backdrop of the universe, humans are infinitesimally small. Identified as galaxy cluster SMACS 0723, each of those little oval points of light is a galaxy. A galaxy! Imagine this! And we are only looking at one little section of "space."

Two verses immediately came to mind. Psalms 19:1, "The heavens declare the glory of God." And this glory leads me to the second verse, Psalm 8:3-5, "When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained." And here is where this pictorial image speaks so loudly—from the silence of space. The vastness of the scale and scope of that dark "emptiness" sets the framework for a most puzzling of all mysteries: "What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?" From the scale of a camera riding 1 million miles away from earth, God came to our literal, speck of dust. He came. To us—in rebellion. How can I get all twisted up around my petty little grievances on any number of life's "dramas?" This image provides such a rich perspective about so much regarding life and following Jesus. I pray I am always open to His wonder, to His creativity, to His glory!

see picture of galaxy cluster SMACS 0723 below

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Musings from the Field

Constituency Meeting Update

This past Sunday, July 10, the Organizing Committee met to fulfill the first leg of the countdown toward our October 23, 2022 Constituency Meeting at 10:00 am at the Hinsdale SDA Church. The two primary tasks of this committee were to select the Nominating Committee and to nominate individuals to serve on the post-Session Constitution and Bylaws Committee of the ILC. Both committees have been selected, and once that process is finalized, we will publish the list of those respective committees. The Nominating Committee will meet at 9:00 am on Sunday, October 2 in the Board Room at the Conference office. Please continue to make this process a matter of prayer.



NASA's first image of Galaxy cluster SMACS 0723 from James Webb Space Telescope

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The people of every country have their own peculiar, distinctive characteristics, and it is necessary that men should be wise in order that they may know how to adapt themselves to the peculiar ideas of the people, and so introduce the truth that they may do them good. They must be able to understand and meet their wants.

(EGW Letter, May 7, 1895)

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On July 4, 1836, construction of the Illinois & Michigan Canal began.