

Things to Know



Musings from the Word

John Grys, President

As this will be my last newsletter before Thanksgiving, I cannot help but be thankful for how God continues in His patience and wisdom to continue following His heart's passion for people. Only recorded in Luke's gospel, the story of the ten healed lepers can bring a moment of clarity during this time of year. There is so much shock in the story. One that stands out for me is that they left Jesus' presence before they were healed to go show themselves to the priest to receive verification of their healing. I focus on the one who, while heading to the priest did an about face (Pathfinders can relate to that!) once he realized he had been healed and went back to thank Jesus. I don't know but I wonder: was that person more focused on Jesus than their healing? The first impulse upon discovery is not to run and tell but to be grateful and to demonstrate that gratitude. Again, I wonder: what brought him back but not nine others? I don't know, but I wonder if he understood the depth of his situation so poignantly that when He was healed, that depth poured forth in high gratitude. And here is my takeaway during this season. Is it possible the level of gratitude I carry in my relationship to God is proportional to how deeply insufficient all my ways are for trying to extract and head toward eternity? In other words, recognizing my spiritual poverty and my inability to enrich my own poverty can actually lead my heart to filled with such gratitude when the sin in my life finds it's glorious match in the grace of this good God? Have you ever noticed one the attributes identified by Paul in the last days is "unthankful?" (2 Timothy 3.1) If one of the identifying characteristics of the last days is "unthankful," might it be one of the identifying characteristics of the remnant will be gratitude? And that gratitude will be of such contrast because we will be focused on the One who healed us rather than on our own personal experience of God's salvation. This time of year provides us with the opportunity to reset the gratitude meter in our lives. Happy Thanksgiving!

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The first eighteen-hole golf course in the United States opened in Wheaton in 1894.

Musings from the Field

The first report from the field is that we continue to move toward interviewing people for the vacant Youth Director position. Please continue to make this a matter of prayer as we continue to pursue God's leading. Secondly, many in the conference office had the opportunity to hear updates from the Lake Union Year End Meeting. I was particularly inspired in hearing the Director of the Adventist Learning Community, Dr. Adam Fenner, describe the potentialities of digital evangelism. The link to that resource is [here](#).

Finally, we have a report about an exciting reach into the community by some of our young adults in southern Illinois:

“ Last weekend, we were blessed to join young people from our Area 1 district for the Southern Illinois Youth Rally! Gathering at the Thompsonville Christian School, we spent the day worshipping together, fellowshiping together, and planning for the future with the Southern IL Youth Council. Check out our Youth Department website to hear more about how the young Adults at Thompsonville were able to bless their community with \$10,000 worth of free gas. Great things are happening down state, and we know that even better things are ahead!



“ If we do represent Christ, we shall make his service appear attractive, as it really is. Christians who gather up gloom and sadness to their souls, and murmur and complain, are giving to others a false representation of God and the Christian life. They give the impression that God is not pleased to have His children happy, and in this they bear false witness against our heavenly Father.

(SC 116)