

# Things to Know



## WONDERINGS SINCE LAST TIME



*John Grys,  
Executive Secretary*

“Though you have made me see troubles, many and bitter, you will restore my life again; from the depths of the earth you will bring me up.”

—Psalm 71:20

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After the tragic events of the past few weeks, I am so grateful for the Psalms and specifically, in these times, the psalms of lament. The struggle within the heart of the psalmist seems to be in finding words to express such profound and deep grief. And express he does. The ongoing juxtaposition between various emotions played out within the human spirit finds a home in these “conversations” with God. And I so appreciate their passion! The souls of various writers are laid bare, perhaps revealing the level of the relationship. There is no fear in such open expressions, such heartfelt grief. God is the safest place to ask, “How long?” God is the safest person with whom to share the anger of innocence butchered. God is the strongest person to handle an evil that targets people because of the color of their skin.

It has been estimated by some that roughly one third of the psalms give direct expression to these penetrating emotions. All this can remind us that this dimension of human emotions must be taken into account whenever we pursue the journey with Jesus. In our post-Genesis 3 world, the scriptures capture the reality that both evil and good co-exist, for now. And yes, if we are honest, they can co-exist within the same heart. And what I so readily embrace about the Psalms is this full-range of emotion captured by the writers so that we can know and be free to embrace those in our experience with Him—even now. “Though you have made me see troubles, many and bitter, you will restore my life again; from the depths of the earth you will bring me up,” Psalms 71:20.

## Master Guide Gathering

I enjoyed spending a couple days with our Master Guides throughout the Illinois Conference down in Camp Akita. This first gathering of its kind in our conference develops those who teach our young people their skills for life and eternity. Thank you so much each of you for how you invest in our young people.



## General Conference Session

Beginning this coming Monday, June 6, our General Conference Session begins in St. Louis, Missouri. Since it is near our state, many of you may want to drive down for the Sabbath and experience a General Conference with our world church. I find it always so humbling to see so many from around the world and to know that we are such a small part of God's work in this vast universe. Also, on Thursday, I anticipate a joyful time to share a meal with our friends from the Polish Union, who are passing through on their way to the Session.

And for your reading, here is an article about how delegates are selected - <https://adventist.news/news/how-session-works-selecting-delegates>

### *did you know?*

According to the *Roadside History of Illinois*, in Brooklyn, Illinois in 1825, the first African American settlement was established in the nation. And the motto of that town is, "Founded by Chance, Sustained by Courage."

A sullen submission to the will of the Father will develop the character of a rebel. The service is looked upon by such a one in the light of drudgery. It is not rendered cheerfully and in the love of God. It is a mere mechanical performance...such service brings no peace or quietude to the soul.

- MSS 20, 1897