

Things to Know



Musings from the Word

John Gry, Executive Secretary

Proverbs, one of the books of wisdom in the Old Testament, remains such a rich source for practical life guidance. One of those verses comes from chapter 18, verse 17: “The first one to plead his case seems right, until his neighbor comes and examines [questions] him.” Yep, we all know this concept through other aphorisms like, “there are always two sides to a story.” Indeed, what kind of “healthy, disciple-making congregations” and followers of Jesus would we be if we always remember as we are listening to someone explain a difficult situation: “Is there another side I am not hearing?” I wonder if perhaps a significant test of following Jesus is how I represent those with whom I disagree. The complexity of human beings living in a fallen environment remains so real, so visceral. What if one element of demonstrating my growth in grace is the continued practice of holding both sides of a story without seeking to resolve the ensuing tension? Being open to another’s story without losing one’s own story requires a deepening presence of grace and truth in the lives of us who claim Jesus as our primary relationship.

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While the state of Illinois came into existence in 1818, Springfield did not become the capital until 1839.

Musings from the Field

This past week I had the pleasure of experiencing two radically different, yet incredible experiences. First...what a joy to be with almost 700 of our Pathfinders as they participated in the Lake Union Camporee. To witness their joy of being able to gather with almost 1300 other Pathfinders, work toward more honors and to hear the challenging messages of faith filled my heart. The second was the opportunity to head over to Aurora University with Dr. Michael Campbell, Director of Archives, Statistics, and Research at the North American Division and pastor of the Peoria Church, Matthew Lucio to examine some rare documents, including the one pictured. One of the little-known historical treasures in our backyard is that this university houses one of the finest collections of William Miller documents in the United States. The amazing Jenks Collection contains early original documents from the Millerite movement.



Source: Jenks Memorial Collection, Aurora University



“When one who professes to be a representative of Christ engages in sharp dealing, and in pressing men into hard places, those who are thus oppressed will either break every fetter of restraint, or they will be led to regard God as a hard master. They cherish hard feelings against God, and the soul is alienated from him, just as Satan planned it should be.”

(Special Testimonies A, p. 20)

