

Things to Know



Musings from the Word

John Grys, Executive Secretary

I never would've guessed it until I actually lived it. There are words in scripture that resonate powerfully with me recently and these are some of them: "And let us not grow weary while doing good," (Galatians 6.9). The fatigue that appears in the process of pursuing what is good can be exhausting. Sometimes it is easy for me to believe that "doing good" brings with it good consequences and when those good consequences don't come about, I am left exhausted. To what degree is the exhaustion from the pursuit and from the unexpected consequences? There is a word growing in my spirit right now and it springs from the words of Hebrews, "who for the joy set before Him [Jesus] endured," (Hebrews 12.1). And there is that word: *endure*. As I was finishing my advanced terminal educational degree, I realized in time that those who complete and are not ABD (all but dissertation) are those who endure...not necessarily the brightest. There are other words for this in our society today. Grit comes to mind...this capacity to move through the circumstances that may inhibit the pursuit. The evidence of scripture remains overwhelming: the endurance to persist in the face of whatever we face is central to the journey with Jesus. The disciples on that road to Emmaus persisted despite their wonderings and their despair. They stayed engaged in the conversation with the Stranger. And the endurance that allowed them to be free to invite the Stranger gave them the opportunity to know life with their Savior in a different way. Brothers and sisters, let us not grow weary.

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eastern tiger
salamander.

Musings from the Field

I appreciate Pete and his team holding the Re-Ignite event at the conference office on Sabbath, September 24. Over 70 congregational leaders came to hear the keynote speaker Dr. Rodney Palmer, Chair of Andrews University Theology Department, along with Andres Flores, Jonathan Burnett, Frendell Reyes and Pete Braman. Consistent with one of our ministry dimensions, these leaders had an opportunity to hear more about creating a discipling culture in their churches.



Also, this past Sunday, the Nominating Committee met, led by Elder Ken Denslow to select nominations for various roles in the Illinois Conference. This report will go online to our delegates after we have finalized all nominee responses. Stay tuned, delegates.



Finally, foundational to ministry throughout the Illinois Conference is prayer. And this weekend, Elder James Black will be the keynote speaker for our Prayer Gathering at the Downers Grove Church. I hope to see many of you there.

For more information, [click here.](#)



“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)