

Things to Know



Musings from the Word

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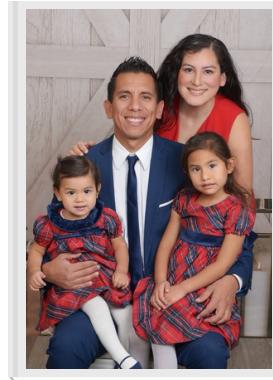
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The familiar can be a path to miss the important. Who doesn't know John 3.16? The ubiquitous presence of the passage in society can be a reminder about familiarity. Back in the day, people would show up to sporting events with an indicator pointing the audience to the passage. I want to spend the next few musings considering this passage. My focus will be on the word, "Whoever." Back during my "Gospel of John" class in seminary, I was alerted to the power of this word in the context of John chapters 3 and 4. I still find it deeply meaningful today. The first verse of chapter 3 sets the whole stage for whoever—"who was a member of the Jewish ruling class." We are introduced to Nic (who comes at night) not only by name, but by social status. The writer included this detail and did not ignore it. By including it, I am reminded that the story of Jesus, the presence of Jesus, includes those "in the ruling class." I can become so readily swept up by the tide of societal waters and miss that Jesus met with the "ruling class." And amazingly, Nic felt enough charity toward the person of Jesus to reach out to him. And because of that at-ease sense, we have the record centuries later to reap the benefit. The whoever of verse 16 extends back to the "ruling class" of verse 1. The message of Jesus in these last days is for the ruling class as much as any other segment of our society. The kingdom of heaven remains grand enough for that "class" as well. How shall we minister and serve them today?

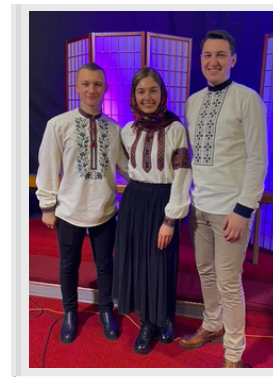
Musings from the Field

I held off on the timing of the newsletter this week to ensure everything was in order. And now that it is, I am excited to announce that the Executive Committee and Nominating Committee, in a joint session, on Wednesday, February 15, 2023, selected Josant Barrientos, Jr. to serve as the new **Youth Director** for the Illinois Conference. Josant has been serving as the Youth Director for the Potomac Conference. Josant, along with his wife, Claudya, and two daughters, Emma and Abby, will join the Illinois Conference ministry team in the spring. We look forward to God's Spirit ministering to our field through their ministry.



Other Executive Committee Decision:

- The **2nd Generation Company** (meeting in the Central Hispanic Church) was approved to move to "Church" status. We are happy to have them a part of our church in a more formal way now.
- To approve the request coming from the Hope SDA Church to establish a **Ukrainian specific mission group** (status) to minister to those who speak Ukrainian, many coming to our area as refugees (please keep them in your prayers).
- To approve a balanced **budget for the 2023** year. While we are experiencing higher than normal costs, we praise God He has provided for the opportunity to continue ministry strong for the 2023 year.



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Abraham Lincoln was the only president to receive a patent for an invention.

Amidst the awful confusion of injustice, deception, robbery, and crime, she [the church] is to shine with light from on high.

Special Testimonies B, p. 21