

Things to Know



Musings from the Word

John Gryns, President

“In that Matthew passage I examined last time, I shared how the writer describes the eleven “go to the mountain” in Galilee. It is on that mountain that Matthew decides to end his account of Jesus. We know from other places in the New Testament, this particular mountain visit was not the end. Again, the significance of geography. According to Matthew chapter four, Jesus begins his public ministry in Galilee. And according to our passage of interest (chapter 28), the ministry of Jesus ends in Galilee. The declaration of the coming kingdom occurs atop a mountain in Galilee (chapters 5-7) and the declaration of the authority for that kingdom being his occurs in that final passage. The writer (and I believe the Author) desires us the readers to understand the ministry of Jesus occurring in a very real geographical context. What insight I find with this evidence. The kingdom of heaven is not something rooted in the “by-and-by.” It is rooted in dirt, and sky, and lakes, and asphalt and concrete and...well, you get the point. I never want to fall into the trap of extremes: his kingdom is only about this earth or his kingdom is only about heaven. The tension of heaven and earth exists powerfully through Matthew’s narrative. I, as a follower of this Galilean, do life within the framework of this tension. The ministry that occurs throughout our conference, in our congregations, must be rooted in life now and heaven eternal. I wonder if this is one central thread in Matthew’s record—the kingdom is rooted in the more ethical dimensions of these lives we live. What is declared atop mountains (chapters 5-7 and chapter 28, verses 16-20) must be lived in the real lives found in valleys. This final imperative provided by Jesus serves as a reminder to the reader: life with Jesus does not consist merely atop the mountain with him but must be designed to “go” from that mountain and into all nations. This is our calling.

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Musings from the Field

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I had the privilege of preaching at North Hispanic this past weekend. What a joy to serve and see the Spirit of God working through the leaders, especially for that Sabbath—which was Adventurer’s Day (isn’t following Jesus an adventure)!



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John Lane of Lockport, Illinois in 1833 invented the steel-bladed plow.



I had the opportunity to experience one of those “sacred” geographical spaces as well on Sabbath as I walked along the shores of Lake Michigan and prayed for our city and the mission field of Illinois.



This past Sabbath our Youth Department led by our newly arrived Youth Director, Josant Barrientos, and Stacey DePluezer, conducted a Master Guide Camporee at Camp Akita for those aspiring to become better leaders with our young people. Thanks for your ministry!

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O, how my heart aches as I think of how the Savior is put to shame by their unchristlike behavior! But after the agony is past, I feel like working harder than ever to restore the poor souls, that they may reveal the image of God.”

Special Testimonies B, p. 15

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