

Things to Know

the LORD, O house of Israel!
You who fear the LORD, bless the LORD!
Blessed be the LORD out of Zion,
Who dwells in Jerusalem!
Praise the LORD!

Oh, give thanks to the God of heaven!
For His mercy endures forever.

PSALM 137

By the rivers of Babylon,
There we sat down, yea, we wept
When we remembered Zion.
2 We hung our harps
Upon the willows in the midst of it
3 For there those who carried us
asked of us a song,
And those who carried us
mirth.



Musings from the Word

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“**T**hen Jesus came to them...” (Matthew 28.18). I know, not a big word, not a word that evokes a lot of emotion or stirs the soul and yet, there it is. Right at the beginning of the verse. “Then.” I find it ginormously comforting. This word infers a connection to the prior verse. “This and this and this and then...” And from my last reflection, it refers to the state and condition of a mixed multitude— “worshiping” and “doubting.” These are His followers, identified earlier as “the eleven.” Apparently, the eleven see Him from a distance and some took the posture of worship while others were not sure. And from that distance, He came closer to them. Jesus does not appear disturbed by the mixed reaction. In fact, just the opposite, He is drawn to them and comes closer. Amazing! The mixed reactions did not deter. They brought Him closer. Let that sink in for a moment. Followers of Jesus with mixed reactions to something, we might say, so obvious. And He draws close. Friends, what a Savior! What a Lord! I don’t have to always be in the right frame of mind, the right emotion, the right internal space for Jesus to show up! He is not deterred by my struggle...nor by yours. Life does not have to align for Jesus to draw near. He still comes. No checked baggage with Him. He shows up. Your life matters so infinitely to Him. Once more, his first response to the mixed eleven was not words but presence. Before He speaks, He draws near. Sometimes, with all our theology and knowledge and possible education and life experience, it is easy to fall into the trap of “speaking”. I wonder, really, if sometimes what people in the midst of their own confusion or uncertainty or doubt really need is not a word first but just a presence. I reflect back on Job’s friends. They did well until they opened their mouth—it went downhill from there. Before Jesus talks of authority and issues commands, He draws close! Hmmm. I wonder if there is a message in that for us as a people. I leave it to you. Until next time...

Musings from the Field

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With summer upon us, it means all our teachers are out for their “break.” Please everyone, let’s let them have a moment of breathing before discussing with them about your dear son or daughter. Teachers need a break, too!

I had the privilege with Pastors Michael and Josant to be involved with a commitment communion service with the summer staff program this past weekend. What an impressive group of young adults serving our children during this season!



Also, on Sabbath evening as the sun was setting, we got to experience the baptism of Cameron. What an amazing story! He came to faith in Jesus through the summer camp program beginning in 2019 and serving as a staff through this past year. Welcome to the family, Cameron!

Just a reminder that our Family Camp Meeting, July 26-July 29 will take place at Camp Akita. We have a special guest artist coming to provide music and a concert that afternoon. Stay tuned for more info in future newsletters.



EGW

“Cultivate respect for yourself because you are Christ’s purchased possession.”

Special Testimonies B, p. 32

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The first skyscraper in the world was built in Chicago in 1885.