

February 2017

Dear Links Player,

Maybe it was just a feeling. I told my son at the end of January, days before he was moving back to Southern California to get set up with some friends in a new apartment, that this month was going to be so good we could call it “Fabruary!” Believe me, the spell check doesn’t recognize that word. Still, it sounds like it just might work, doesn’t it?

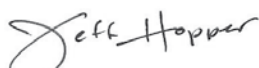
What I’m not sure will work is my optimism. As Solomon wrote in Proverbs, “The mind of man plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps” (Proverbs 16:9, NASB). Designed by God, we have minds that go to work every day, laying plans and anticipating what will happen. Sometimes we get it right. But the humble person, attentive to God’s sovereign direction, recognizes that it is the LORD himself who ultimately decides what a day, week, month, or year will look like. I might hope with all my might for February; God may send Flubruary.

So what must I do to be rightly submitted to whatever God brings? One plan is to spend as much time as possible in the tent. Let me explain.

When our staff convened for our semi-annual meetings in January, Links Players president Jeffrey Cranford helped set our course with a devotional time from selected passages in Exodus and then from Joshua 1. The first place we alighted in Exodus was chapter 33, where we find Moses convening with the LORD in the tent of meeting. The people would rise as Moses entered the tent, and the presence of the LORD would descend as a pillar of cloud and stay at the entrance to the tent. It was here, we read, that “the LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend” (verse 11). Eventually, though, Moses would leave the tent to return to the camp and interact with the people. But even as Moses did so, “his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the tent.”

Remaining in the tent, soaking up the presence of God, is not easy to do. There is so much going on. Appointments to keep, tasks to be completed, people to talk to. Most of us live busy lives. In the busyness, however, we risk losing sight of God; we jeopardize recognizing his heart in even the small matters. That by itself can lead to Flubruary—but it can also lead to disappointment with God if he brings Flubruary in spite of all our diligent efforts.

Be encouraged, as our staff was, to grab big batches of time with God. Linger in the tent. You may not always know where God is leading you, but you can be assured it is God who is doing the leading if you attend to his word in study and in prayer.


Jeff Hopper, COO

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