

AEPS 40 Days of Prayer

INTRODUCTION – Steve Shussett

But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' *Mark 16:7*

As you prepare to go to the General Assembly, to tend to those in your care and serve the church as you are led, remember that Jesus is going ahead of us to Pittsburgh, and with eyes of the heart we will see him — in the poor, the different, those whose position stands in opposition to yours— just as he promised.

DEVOTION AND PRAYER:

Once, while sailing with friends in the eastern Caribbean, we came to an anchorage on the south side of Bequia Island. I spotted a mooring ball (those floating balls attached to a heavy weight – usually a large concrete block resting on the bottom). Tired from a nice, but long sail, we grabbed it and then headed to shore for a dinner and back again to the boat.

The winds picked up that night, enough to rock the boat a bit and, sometime around 2am, I woke up to make a check. To my shock, I discovered that we had drifted back towards a “banana” boat – one of those small cargo ships that had returned from a day of running the islands. I went forward. The mooring ball was still there and we were still attached. I pulled on the line....and then again. I thought I was moving the boat forward. Instead, I was pulling up the “concrete” block, which was in reality a metal framed device about the size of a refrigerator. We weren't secure at all!

A good mooring requires two things - a heavy object that serves as a weight and a flexible line that can give and take as wind and water stir things up. Pray that the church will have a good mooring for this General Assembly. We need both the solid foundations of our faith, Jesus Christ and God's Word that will come to this General Assembly in many ways during the week). And, we do well to stay flexible, to ride the water as it shifts and moves under us.

The challenges of reports, overtures and resolutions may rock the boat a bit, but they do not threaten the church if we have a good mooring through our prayers, study, and the fellowship of God's Spirit.

Gracious God help us to stay connected to you and one another in Christ this General Assembly week. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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