

Dear

Contemporary Comments

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Thank you for faithfully reading and using Contemporary Comments-- which uses a story from our current news to illustrate a theme for Bible topics--as a resource for your personal use, and for your small Sabbath school groups.

We are now shifting this resource to be more. We will be rebranding Contemporary Comments as Sharing Scripture, which will still contain the narrative you've come to appreciate--but now, with reflection questions (all free of charge)!

Soon, you'll see the name change and the rebranding for the weekly release of this newsletter.

If you appreciate using Contemporary Comments as a resource, and know others who may be interested, share these email newsletters with a friend. If you have any questions regarding our rebranding or Contemporary Comments in general, please call us at 800.272.4664 or email us at 2724664@gmail.com.

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Contemporary Comments

"The Seven Trumpets"

February 16, 2019

Texts: Revelation 8:1-13; Numbers 10:8-10; Ezekiel 10:2; Revelation 10:1-11; Daniel 12:6-7; Revelation 11:1-13; Leviticus 16

They are sounding a trumpet in Somaliland. Researchers from Baylor and Duke Universities have been studying the needs of suffering children in the rural areas of this country in the Horn of Africa. A recently published report shares how they have discovered a high rate of "congenital deformities and wound-related conditions" that could be "bettered by surgery, but most of these needs are being unmet."

[1]

Most of the 3.5 million residents live over two hours from a surgeon and couldn't afford to have medical help anyway. Somaliland is not only a low-income country, but has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the world and twice as high as the rates in sub-Saharan Africa. The country is classified as the fourth poorest country in the world by World Bank.

When innocent people suffer, it not only draws the attention of

researchers; God notices. And though many struggle to understand how a loving God could permit suffering to take place in the world, the book of Revelation affirms that when people are unjustly treated, a day of judgment will come to set things right. That's what the seven trumpets of Revelation 8 and 9 announce.

Though trumpets have been used in the Bible for worship, celebrations, and in battles, the trumpets in this section of Revelation connect the prayers of God's suffering people with judgment on those who instigate tribulations. Bible students connect the seven trumpets with periods of church history stretching from the early church up to the time of Christ's return.

One vivid picture in this section states: "Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake" (Revelation 8:5). The censer and altar call attention to the prayers of God's people at the altar of incense in the Holy Place of the sanctuary. Casting down the censer symbolizes that God will act on behalf of the prayers of believers who cry out for the Lord to intervene.

Revelation tells us that our voice will be heard by heaven. We need to sound a trumpet when we learn of innocent children suffering in our world. One way is to support humanitarian causes or volunteer to reach out and touch lives. We can also lift up our voices in prayer, interceding on behalf of innocent people who suffer anywhere in the world.

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[1] <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2019-01-children-somaliland-surgery-unmet.html>

About Us

Since 1988, the Center for Creative Ministry has been serving local church leaders and individuals around the world. Formerly known as the publishers of ABBA Newsletter and the Baby Boomer Ministries Resource Center, we have now broadened our generational/ministry focus to include our children. The Center for Creative Ministry took on its new name on June 1, 1996.

The Center for Creative Ministry, formerly Baby Boomer Ministries, is a privately funded and managed para-church ministry fully recognized by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. We are dedicated to supporting the local church in outreach and nurture ministries by providing resources, information, training, and consulting.