

Dear

Contemporary Comments

Subscriber:



Thirty years ago, we started the Center for Creative Ministry. We called it Adventist Baby Boomer Awareness then because the majority of my generation was like me; we were young adults. Of course, we didn't have a website then because the internet was in its infancy, but we've had one for decades now.

You may have noticed that our Center website is down at the moment. Please accept our apologies. We had been working on it when our service provider took this opportunity to discontinue support to the software version we were using. So we have a splash page up at www.creativeministry.org, and are providing updates on Facebook regularly. We continue to email Contemporary Comments, and our phone is still available to you: 800.272.4664. Thank you for hanging in there with us. Our new website will be so much easier to view on your mobile phone, and we are simplifying what we offer so you can navigate around it more easily. Thank you for your patience, and come back to our website in the New Year. We think you'll like the improvements!

Merry Christmas,

Paul Richardson
Executive Director

Contemporary Comments

"Final Restoration of Unity"

December 29, 2018

Texts: John 14:1-3; Isaiah 11:1-10; Revelation 21:1-5; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 22:1-5; Isaiah 35: 4-10.

For about six weeks the topics of conversations, articles, and newscasts have centered on preparations--on being ready--on the events yet to come. We began with Thanksgiving guest lists and meal preparations and then it escalated as the Christmas season grew near. Added to the lists and conversations were parties, concerts, and gifts. Finally, as celebrations for the New Year are anticipated in the schedule, the topics evolve to clothing choices, and party foods.¹

In some social circles, individuals eagerly await invitations to coveted social events. During these plans and preparations, many conversations include which guests and family members can be civil

long enough for a celebratory meal. Throughout the entire season, the topic of weather lies in the back of every person's mind that either plans to travel or has guests coming from out of town. Even after the marathon efforts to get ready, storms, snow, treacherous roads, and airport delays might put holiday plans on hold or disrupt them entirely. Despite preparations--be they frantic or peacefully planned in advance--the season arrives.

Our lesson this week points to an event for which we have been preparing. An event that will arrive. Rather than limiting the guest list, we have prayed and ministered in order to include any and all who will come. We have prepared and we wait. In many ways, preparation for this indescribable event is like that of the Christmas and New Year season. Each year people vow to be ready for celebrations and gift giving, and each year many are caught by surprise at its arrival.

Just as the calendar rolls through each year, Jesus will come. We know with certainty it will be soon, but we don't know when. With the second coming of the Messiah, we are promised astounding things:

We can be *certain* Jesus will return.

We can be *certain* there will be a home for us.

We can be *certain* we will be reunited with those who have died in Christ.

We can be *certain* the place prepared for us will be one of eternal peace.

We can be *certain* we will forever be with Jesus.

In a world where we pay so much attention to details and schedules, we can have confidence that the New Earth will be different. Where we now have time constraints and deadlines, we look forward to time, to peace, and to love.

~ jv

1. organizingmoms.com

~ For Reflection

Connecting: Draw a picture of something you look forward to getting rid of when you get to heaven (eyeglasses, etc.). Fold your sketch and hand it to the facilitator, who will mix all the sketches up and redistribute them. Try to guess who drew the picture you have now.

Sharing: Read Revelation 21:1-5. How does living with God in the new earth bring about a sense of unity?

1. When we experience God's full glory, the things that divide us don't matter anymore.

2. All creation will come into God's presence every Sabbath, and we will really get to know each other deeply.
3. We will be true brothers and sisters there, and no one wants God to send them to their room because of squabbling.
4. At that time, everything that contributes to disunity, sorrow, and pain will disappear.
5. We will have survived an intense spiritual battle together, and defeating a common enemy is very unifying.
6. Other...

Applying: On the whiteboard, draw several emojis of your own design that represent the emotions in Isaiah 35:4-10. Label each one with the Bible verse that corresponds to it.

Valuing: Identify one person in your life who has abandoned his or her faith in Jesus. Do you think the hope of the resurrection reunion might touch that person's heart? Pray for God's Holy Spirit to restore that desire.

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.