Contemporary Comments on the Adult Sabbath School Lesson

[Title] Partnership With Jesus
[Use] March 26, 2011

So much has happened in the world since we first began studying this quarter’s lessons. A study on how to handle our emotions couldn’t have come at a better time. Consider some of the catastrophes our world has faced since January 1, 2011:

January 1—Argentina experienced a magnitude 7.0 earthquake

January 2—Chile experienced a magnitude 7.1 earthquake; 1,000 dead birds fell from the sky and dead fish covered a 20-mile area in Arkansas

January 5—Dead birds fell from the sky in Sweden; dead fish appeared on the shores of Maryland, Brazil and New Zealand

January 6—heavy flooding took the lives of hundreds in Brazil

January 25—Egyptian rebellion began and lasted until President Mubarak resigned from office 18 days later

February 15—Protests and uprisings began in Libya as citizens called for new leadership and democratic elections

February 21—New Zealand experienced a magnitude 6.3 earthquake

March 5—Tons of dead fish (an estimated one million) were pulled from a California marina

March 11—Japan experienced a magnitude 9.0 earthquake followed by a massive tsunami

March 20—the U.S., U.K. and France began bombing Libyan military targets

Again and again the question has been asked: “Is this the end?” Franklin Graham answered by saying that Japan’s earthquake and tsunami could be a sign of the end of times. He made this statement last week: “What are the signs of [Christ’s] second coming? War and famine and earthquakes…escalating like labor pains…. Maybe this is it, I don’t know. We should pray and be vigilant. The Bible teaches us Jesus is going to return someday. Many of us we believe that day is sooner rather than later.”

Whether these catastrophes determine the end of time or not, they are unsettling for many, to say the least. Many people have probably experienced some of the topics we’ve studied over the past 13 weeks: stress, guilt, resilience, depression and addictions tend to show themselves during unsettling times.

Regardless of what the future holds, we’ve learned this quarter that Someone understands. Jesus Himself lived on this earth with all its uncertainty. And Jesus is the One who will be right beside us until the end.

Psalm 31:24 says, “Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord.” The Bible continually urges us to be strong rather than
weak; take heart rather than be discouraged. We don’t need to be anxious about the future—it’s in God’s hands. God is in control.

“Don’t give up hope.” This is what 16-year-old Hiroki’s father said Monday at his son’s makeshift funeral in Japan. He had driven Hiroki’s body to the Junior High School so friends could say goodbye. “Don’t give up hope,” he told the weeping friends. “Keep living for my son.”

Jesus tells us the same: don’t give up hope. While we wait for a better world, it is possible—in spite of all that the world is going through—to live emotionally healthy lives. Until Then—until Jesus comes back for us—it’s possible for our hearts to go on singing, and with joy to carry on. Until the day God calls us home.

~nc

1. Religion
2. CNN

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