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Center for Creative Ministry

Contemporary Comments

"Last Things: Jesus and the Saved" December 22, 2012

Hebrews 8:1-5; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:24, 25; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 9:23,; Acts 3:19-21

With two mass shootings in the United States, a knifing of innocent children in China, and the deaths of countless other civilians enduring protests and civil war around the globe, we look for comfort in our Bible study this week.

December 11, 2012 the Clackamas Town Center Mall in Portland, Oregon was packed with 10,000 shoppers. A gunman entered the mall near the food court and randomly shot whoever happened to be in the line of his fire arm. The gunman killed two innocent shoppers and injured another before taking his own life.1

December 14, 2012 the Sandy Hook Elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut was the site of the second tragedy in a week's time in the USA. As news spread of the mass killing in an elementary school, this nation mourned the death of innocent children, their principal, teachers, and a member of their staff.2

On that same Friday, December 14, police in Beijing China reported that 22 children and one adult had been injured in a knife attack outside a primary school in central China.

"According to the police report, the attack in the Henan province village of Chengping happened shortly before 8 a.m. as students were arriving for classes. A county hospital administrator says the man first attacked an elderly woman, then students, before being subdued by security guards."3
It is impossible for the human mind to grasp what the families of the dead are going through just days before Christmas, traditionally one of the happiest seasons of the year. In fact one of the young children at the Sandy Hill School told his teacher: "I don't want to die. I just want Christmas."

In a televised news conference Friday afternoon, December 14, Connecticut Governor Dan Malloy said it best: "Evil has come to Newtown today."

Friday night thousands of the local mourners sought refuge in the church of their choice hoping to find comfort. What hope can we glean from our lesson this week that includes thoughts on Christ's ministry in the heavenly sanctuary, the second coming of Christ, and the resurrection of those who died.

Dick Duerksen, a pastor who regularly writes words of encouragement on his Facebook page, writes:"The gunshots of the last few days remind me that at the end of days God's 'sentinel angels' will loosen their hold on the Four Winds of Strife."

When you add the insistent impact of Malaria, AIDS, Famine, Wars, and Weather, it seems we are swirling in a Perfect Storm - a scene no pen can adequately describe and no camera clearly photograph - a scene brought on by the slow withdrawal of the Spirit of God.

Terrifying? No.

Exhilarating!

In the words of Jesus, 'Fear not' Jesus is returning, to replace the Devil's chaos with The Creator's peace. It's His Promise!"

Therefore, comfort each other with this hope.

-ck

1. KATU
2. NY Daily News
3. News Yahoo
4. Dick Duerksen

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.