CreativeMinistry

Dear Center for Creative Ministry,

This eLetter provides you with the latest version of Contemporary Comments.

In the right side bar you can also secure the Sharing Scripture facilitator guides:

**Sharing Scripture - Third Quarter: July 6 - September 28, 2013.**
Title: "Revival and Reformation" These excellent discussion sheets are designed to enhance your Sabbath School class or small group. Suitable for photocopying, Sharing Scripture contain thought questions and exercises that transform ordinary study times into dynamic learning adventures.

**Sharing Scripture - Fourth Quarter: October 5 - December 28, 2013.** Title: "The Sanctuary" These excellent discussion sheets are designed to enhance your Sabbath School class or small group. Suitable for photocopying, Sharing Scripture contain thought questions and exercises that transform ordinary study times into dynamic learning adventures.

Grace to you!

Center for Creative Ministry

Psalm 119:50, 74, 116; Hebrews 4:12; 11:3; John 5:39; Hebrews 4:1, 2; Acts 20:27-32

A fitness club for your brain? That's right. Neuropsychologists at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center are using diverse methods to treat brain conditions commonly caused by aging, such as dementia and Alzheimer’s. Medications, at best, delay deterioration for a while. Now, doctors, who once scoffed at such training, which often focused on computer games, are trying a whole-body approach to help people with cognitive challenges, concussions, and even ADHD.

"If you'd asked me eight to nine years ago if I believe in cognitive training, I'd have said 'pfft.' But the research is quite convincing," said Bonnie Wong, a clinical neuropsychologist... Research suggests people may be able to delay or minimize symptoms of diseases like dementia by keeping their brains "fit." Wong and her colleagues are starting what they envision as a gym for the mind, offering brain training exercises - including specially designed computer games - as well as nutritional and lifestyle coaching, social opportunities, and classes in meditation, music, and yoga.1

The service for patients at this hospital is called the Brain Fit Club. The methodology is based on a new theory that our brains can change, even as we age. Previously, most thought aging made the brain rigid. But current research shows an amazing level of "plasticity" and adaptation. When some parts of the mind are damaged, it is possible for the brain to reorganize so that other parts can take over.

In our Sabbath school lesson for this quarter we've been studying Revival and Reformation. This week's topic focuses on the Bible and its role in revival. We learn that the Scriptures are foundational to true revival and that through the Word of God our minds are renewed and transformed. "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

While fitness and diet play an important role in healthy brain function, nothing can replace the immense impact on our minds that comes to us through personal Bible study. In Monday's lesson, the author refers to the following quotation: "The creative energy that called the worlds into existence is in the word of God. This word imparts power... It transforms the nature, and re-creates the soul in the image of God” (Ellen G. White, Education, p. 126).

The Bible is more than a college textbook. It does not stand as an
equal with Shakespeare or the New York Times Best Seller list. The Word of God, taken by faith, will bring fitness to your brain like no cognitive club could ever match.

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1. *Boston Globe*

**Contemporary Comments**

"Prayer: The Heart of Revival" July 13, 2013

Acts 1:4, 8, 14; Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16; Matthew 18:19, 20; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Psalm 50:23

- Prayer cards in the pews at church
- Prayer warriors in the church
- Pastors and elders who visit and have prayer with their members
- Opening prayer at Sabbath school and church
- Prayer before the offering
- Closing prayer at Sabbath school and church
- Prayer before potluck meals
- Prayer before church board and business meetings
- Prayers before class begins at the church school

If, as our lesson title implies, "Prayer is the Heartbeat of Revival", do we have a serious problem if we are not experiencing revival? We are praying people. Our hearts are beating.

We have memorized Bible promises related to prayer. Most members even pray before or after their private devotions. Many families start and end their day all together in prayer. We say a prayer before we eat-even in restaurants. We have prayer conferences around our states and provinces. We have many examples of how to pray. Yet how long has it been since you have experienced or witnessed Christian revival? What did or should Christian revival look like, feel like, sound like? What role did or should prayer play in that experience?

The online encyclopedia, Wikipedia, helps us to distinguish between revival meetings and a revival that renews the local or global church: "Christian revival is a term that generally refers to a specific period of increased spiritual interest or renewal in the life of a church congregation or many churches, either regionally or globally. This should be distinguished from the use of the term "revival" to refer to an evangelistic meeting or series of meetings (see Revival meeting). Revivals are seen as the restoration of the church itself to a vital and fervent relationship with God after a period of decline. Mass conversions of non-believers are viewed by church leaders as
During the last few weeks we have witnessed what people gathered together with the one purpose can accomplish—whether for good or for evil. Egyptian Islamists protested the rule of their president and the Muslim Brotherhood. Egyptian President Mursi was forced out of office on July 3 in a takeover the Egyptian military denies was a coup. Violence has erupted as the power struggle continues this week.

At one point Anti-Mursi demonstrators packed Tahrir Square which holds some 350,000, and spilled out into adjoining streets. Military leaders said they did what had to be done because millions of Egyptians demanded the current President's resignation.

As you study this week's lesson and chat about this lesson in your churches here are some questions to ponder: Can we demand revival? Why haven't more North American Division Adventist churches experienced and sustained a revival in their church and local communities? What about Christian revival in general? Are we rallying together with one purpose? What role does prayer play in order to have increased spiritual renewal and revival in my church, my denomination, my world, and in me?

~ck

1. Wikipedia
2. Yahoo News

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.
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