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
"Reformation: Thinking New Thoughts"

September 14, 2013

Colossians 3:1-4; 2 Corinthians 3:17, 18; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Romans 12:2, 3; John 10:10; Matthew 5:13-15

You've no doubt heard the quote, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste." It was first used in 1972 as part of a campaign slogan by the United Negro College Fund. Forty-one years later it is still a motivational mantra widely used to show the importance of acquiring an education.1

Today there is another terrible thing that impacts the mind: Alzheimer's disease. More than five million individuals in America have some form of the disease. It is the sixth-leading cause of death in the United States. Irrespective of one having an education or not, the mind gradually withers and dies.

To help visually understand the disease and its impact on the mind, the National Alzheimer's Association has posted a fascinating brain tour on their website.2 As one proceeds through the slides and activates their computer mouse on each highlighted word, the website shows the healthy brain and its various parts and functions. We definitely are fearfully and wonderfully made!3

Then we see the contrast of what happens during the various stages of Alzheimer's disease. When Alzheimer's disease is present the disease "leads to nerve cell death and tissue loss throughout the brain. Overtime, the brain shrinks dramatically, affecting nearly all its functions." The disease progresses at different rates in different people and can impact an individual at any age. It cannot be prevented, cured or even slowed.4

There is a disease that affects a healthy mind that can be prevented, slowed and even cured. Our Bible lesson talks about this disease. "Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Be alert and of sober mind." A mind that is not focused on Christ is vulnerable to the world, sin, and the devil. This in-turn negatively impacts one's actions and behaviors. The good news is that the Bible gives instruction for what we can do so we aren't dragged down by this disease caught by association with the evil that surrounds us.

Scripture admonishes us not to be conformed to the world. We are told to set our minds on things above, not on earthly things. If we love God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind this renewal of our mind that focuses on Christ will allow us to be able to test and approve what God's will is-God's good, pleasing and perfect will for us. If we live in accordance with the Spirit our minds will be set on what the Spirit desires. [5]

A mind governed by sin is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.

~ck
1. Reformation
2. Alzheimer's Association
3. Psalm 139:14
4. Alzheimer's Association, slide # 8
5. Paraphrase that combines thoughts from Colossians 3:2, 1 Peter 5:8; Mark 12:30; Romans 12:2 and Romans 8:5, 6

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.