Dear Center for ,

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
Contemporary Comments

"Heaven on Earth"
October 12, 2013

Genesis 1:31-2:3; Exodus 39:32 and 43; Exodus 25:9; Hebrews 8:5; John 2:19-21; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17; Revelation 21:1-22

It is not hard to imagine why God chose the first sanctuary on earth to be a garden where Adam and Eve could commune and worship with Him. Even today in a garden there is a sense of the Divine.

Sin interrupted the original plan making it necessary for God to give specific instructions and exact dimensions to Moses for how to construct another holy place to dwell among God's children, the Israelites. He said to Moses, "Let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them"1

Patterned after the Sanctuary in Heaven, the copy often referred to as a shadow or antitype of the original, was to be transportable so it could be carried place-to-place throughout their wilderness experience. The plan was for the Israelites to have a place to deal with their sin-problems as well as a place to bring offerings for Sabbaths, new moons, and special feasts.

Clayton Leinnneweber, a sophomore and junior Bible teacher at Oklahoma Academy has, with his students, built a life-size replica of the Mosaic Sanctuary. Everything is to scale and is moved around North America to help those who take the tour better understand the plan of salvation being worked out in the heavenly sanctuary. Perhaps you have had the privilege of touring the "Messiah's Mansion" exhibit. Messiah's Mansion is all about Jesus!2

Tours of each section of the model are given to groups in 15-minute segments. The tour guides are high-school and college-age youth who have a passion for doing God's work. Their knowledge of Scripture is awe-inspiring to observe. As each group enters the courtyard they are told the significance of the pillars and symbolic colors of the cloth that surrounds the outer court.

Once they enter the outer court the purpose the significance of every item and ceremony in the outer court is explained. The group then moves to the holy place which houses the table of showbread on which twelve cakes are arranged in two piles, the seven-branched candlestick, and the golden alter of incense. Next the tour moves to the other side of the inner veil to the most holy place which houses the mercy seat with two golden cherubims on top of the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark contains the Ten Commandments, Aaron's flowering rod and a bowl of manna.

The tour ends with an explanation of the appointments on the garment of the high priest and his role in the day-to-day services. The climax comes when every member of the group is challenged to see the plan
of salvation in a new light and to realize that after Jesus' death the significance of the earthly sanctuary ended. Our High Priest is now in Heaven atoning for our sins while at the same time Jesus seeks to dwell among us.

Where is your "sanctuary," your "heaven" on earth-the place where in solitude you feel you have the best communion time with God?

~ck

1. Exodus 25:8
2. Messiah Mansion

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.