**Creative Ministry**

**October 19, 2013**

**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

"Sacrifice"

October 19, 2013

Genesis 3:9-21; Exodus 12:21-27; Leviticus 2:1-3; Genesis 22:1-19; Leviticus 17:10-11; Philippians 4:18

He has now spent 19 months in jail for a crime that he did not commit. On March 15, 2012, Pastor Antonio Monteiro was arrested in the West African country of Togo. The charges against him? Murder, conspiracy, and criminal association.

Kpatcha Simliya, a convicted criminal, had several times visited Pastor Monteiro, who was the Family Ministries director of the Sahel Union Mission. He came asking for a job and financial help from the church, and was always treated with respect. But when he was later arrested a second time and interrogated, Simliya told officials that Pastor Monteiro had masterminded the crimes.

On that evening in March, police burst into Pastor Monteiro's home and arrested him in front of his wife and three children. They accused him of committing the terrible crimes.

"This is a mistake," Monteiro said.

An officer replied, "Aren't you Mr. Monteiro?"

"Yes," he replied, "but involved in a crime? No," he said.

Three days later, Monteiro was told by an officer, "You entrusted him [Simliya] with a mission."

Monteiro asked, "What mission? I have one mission that I've been fulfilling for 40 years. I'm a pastor and my mission is to preach the gospel."1

Adventist News Network reported three months ago that, "Seventh-day Adventist Church leaders and national ambassadors have employed diplomatic efforts in Togo, throughout Europe and at the United Nations in New York. Local lawyers have attempted numerous legal appeals. Yet Monteiro, who came to Togo from Cape Verde to serve as a Christian missionary, remains in prison.2

Pastor Monteiro is truly living out his life in that Togo prison as a "living sacrifice." His daughter, Andreia says, "I believe God has given him a special task."

This week's lesson taught us about sacrifice, beginning with the first sacrifice when Adam and Eve had to be covered with animal skins because they had sinned. That first sacrifice-and first covering-were symbolic of what would later come through the sacrifice and covering of Jesus.
In response to such love on God's part, we are asked to present our bodies as a "living sacrifice." Jesus has already died as the sacrifice—now we are to live as one. You don't have to have a dramatic story like Pastor Monteiro. Your living sacrifice can be giving of yourself to God and others on a daily basis.

Look around you. How can you serve in your community, your church, and your home? How might you sacrifice your time or your possessions? Considering Jesus's immense sacrifice for us, what we give in return seems to be an unworthy sacrifice. But in reality, they are sacrifices of the heart, and those are what matter most to our Savior.

~ nc

Additional resource: Vimeo
1. News Adventist
2. News Adventist

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.