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 - 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

"Christ, Our Priest"
November 23, 2013
With winds reaching 195 miles per hour, Typhoon Haiyan went down in history as the Philippine's second most deadly storm. Entire cities and towns where people once lived and worked were destroyed. Journalists covering the aftermath have described what they saw as "off the scale, and apocalyptic."

As of November 16, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council confirmed that 3,982 people have died in the Philippines alone. And the Red Cross has listed an estimated 22,000 as missing. Many of those missing will never be found because they were swept away and drowned by the massive storm surge. Adding to these heart-breaking statistics is the fact that nearly 4 million people have been left homeless.

Last Sunday, thousands of survivors packed into any church that was still standing so they could pray. Many were thankful to be alive, while others prayed for loved ones to be found. Still others sought comfort in their grief.

Cardinal Theodore McCarrick told one reporter, "At the beginning everyone is hurting. And they lost so many friends and family. And they do not know why God is doing this to us. Well, in a real sense, we say it is not that God is doing this to us, [but] he is allowing these things to happen probably for a greater cause."

The country's president, Benigno Aquino, made a commitment to his powerless people last Sunday. He vowed to stay and live in the hardest hit area of the country until he is "satisfied" with the efforts to help survivors recover.

Jesus came and lived in a world that had been demolished by sin. Jesus chose to live among the devastation, bringing comfort and hope to future survivors. And Jesus didn't leave until satisfied-until Jesus' death on the cross gave us the assurance of a new home.

But that was only Jesus' earthly mission. Jesus then returned to heaven for another mission-to serve as our High Priest. There Jesus is our Advocate—we have Jesus representing us! There Jesus is our Intercessor—one who understands what it's like to live on this earth. And there Jesus is our Mediator—the crucial link between us and God the Father. Because of who Jesus is, we do not need to fear judgment.

After Jesus completed the work of dying in our place, Jesus returned to heaven, and even though Jesus' physical presence may not be seen, Jesus is still in the process of saving us. Even now Jesus is working as our High Priest. And it's up to us to respond—to hold firmly—as it says in Hebrews 4:14: "Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess" (NIV).

~ nc

Additional resource: President Benigno Aquino visits survivors video

1. wikipedia
2. voanews

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.