Dear Center for ,

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

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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

"The Pre-Advent Judgement"
November 30, 2013
Texts: Daniel 7, Genesis 3:8-20, 2 Timothy 2:19, Psalm 51:4, Psalm 96:11-13, 2 Corinthians 5:10

Take a minute and imagine how you and your family would feel if you were sentenced to death for a crime you did not commit. You would spend years in jail behind bars with others who committed heinous crimes. It is possible that another innocent prisoner might be in a nearby cell.

According to the Innocence Project website, there have been 311 post-conviction DNA exonerations in United States history. Eighteen people had been sentenced to death before DNA proved their innocence and led to their release.1

There have been exonerations in 35 states and Washington, D.C. Of those, the average sentence served by DNA exonerees has been 13.6 years. As a result of DNA testing about 70 percent of those exonerated are people of color.

Bennie Starks is one of the Innocence Project's longest active clients. Accused of a crime that occurred January 18, 1986 he was fully exonerated and cleared of all charges on January 7, 2013. He was in prison 20 years!

The Innocence Project is a national litigation and public policy organization dedicated to exonerating wrongfully convicted people through DNA testing. Their greater goal is to reform the criminal justice system in order to prevent future injustice. Law students at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law at Yeshiva University in New York handle the case work and are supervised by a team of attorneys and clinic staff.2

In our lesson this week the innocent Son of Man (Jesus) appears in the court of Heaven, the heavenly sanctuary, the seat of God's law, to represent earth's sinners before the Ancient of Days (God). The One who was wrongly accused now pleads for those who are not innocent.

The great standard in the judgment is God's law which condemns sinners who do not follow the law. The evidence presented in the judgment comes from the record books kept in heaven which contain every detail of a person's life. The Pre-Advent judgment separates God's true saints from those who falsely claim God's name. The books are opened for inspection by angels who can look at the books as God investigates what is recorded.

There is integrity in the divine process. God wants to be fair before rendering a verdict either for salvation or damnation. It is serious business. As our lesson points out when God judges people, God justifies, delivers, and vindicates; but on the other hand, God condemns, punishes, and destroys evil.

As in the Day of Atonement when the priest went into the most holy place to intercede for the people, so in the great Day of Judgment Jesus Christ intercedes in behalf of all who choose Jesus as their Advocate (the lawyer on their side).

Those whose faith is firmly embedded in Jesus Christ have nothing to fear. They will be fully exonerated and cleared of all charges. Satan will be defeated and sin will be no more. That is cause for rejoicing!

~ck

1. innocenceproject
2. Ibid

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.