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 1st Quarter, Jan. - March 2014: "Discipleship"**

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**

"Disciples and Scripture"
January 4, 2014
Were you one of the recipients of a request to look over the titles of the 100 most popular books in history and indicate to friends how many of the 100 you have read during your lifetime? There is not one such list available on the Internet. Perusing lists which compile best-selling book titles is a very revealing experience.

The Guinness World Records website states that "there is little doubt that the Bible is the world's best-selling and most widely distributed book". Of the 2123 known languages, at least one book of the Bible is available in each language.1

Scrolling through titles on the website "100 Inspirational Books Everyone Should Read" one finds the Bible paired with the Qu'ran with both coming in at 91st place on the list. Spirituality was the last category of book type among those books considered inspiring.2

The December 28, 2013 Huff Post Books, U.S. Edition, lists the 15 biggest bestsellers ever after the Bible. According to their website the Bible is the biggest best seller in history followed by Chairman Mao's "Little Red Book" which comes in second and the Qu'ran third. The compilers then state this: "While religion dominates the first half of the list, the rest is mostly fantasy. Does this list tell us anything about ourselves as human beings?"3

We begin this week with new studies on the topic "Discipleship." We won't be dealing with fantasy! Jesus had followers-lots of them. During this 13-week study we will look at Christ's example to learn just how Jesus was able to appeal to such diverse groups of people.

In this week's introductory lesson we begin by exploring the various ways Jesus used Scripture as one of the key tools that transformed the life of Jesus' followers. In a move from membership to discipleship we are to take our Bibles and help others experience a personal relationship with a living God and loving Saviour. Using Jesus example the most important tool we will need is the Bible.

During His visit to the synagogue, Jesus quotes Scripture that points to Himself as the One who will give freedom to the oppressed. When Jesus debates with the religious leaders of the day He relies upon and quotes from Scripture. When Jesus preaches at public gatherings, the sermons are filled with quotations and references to Scripture. The credibility of Jesus' personal ministry revolves around the Bible.

Today technology has made it so easy for us to carry our Bibles wherever we go. Websites and Bible apps and our own
denomination’s resources are available for smart phones and tablets. This makes it possible for us to keep Scripture handy at all times.4

If Jesus Christ relied upon the Bible for the credibility of personal ministry, it makes sense for us to do the same. May our Bible studies during 2014 impact how we live and relate to others every day.

~ck

1. guinnessworldrecords
2. webbervilleschools
3. huffingtonpost
4. nadadventist

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.
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