Dear Center for,

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

In the right sidebar you can also secure the Sharing Scripture facilitator guides for 1st Qrt. January-March 2014 on "Discipleship."

These excellent discussion sheets are designed to enhance your Sabbath school class or small group. Suitable for photocopying, Sharing Scripture contains thought questions and exercises that transform ordinary study times into dynamic learning adventures.

Grace to you!
Center for Creative Ministry

Contemporary Comments

"Discipling the Nations"
March 8, 2014

There is still time to register for our March webinar hosted by Monte Sahlin:

"Dealing with the Dropout Problem: How to Reconnect with Former & Inactive Members."

To register click here
Many eyes have turned to the political conflict in the Ukraine in recent weeks. The Crimean crisis continues to unfold as Russia sends military to intervene in the Euromaidan movement and in opposition to the Yatsenyuk government. The Wall Street Journal describes the recent developments:

"President Vladimir Putin is turning to an old playbook on how to keep Russia’s neighbors in check, moving quickly to destabilize Ukraine’s newly formed government before it gets on its feet and edges any closer to the West."

"To Mr. Putin, Ukraine falls firmly within what Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev once called Russia’s ‘zone of privileged interests’- a phrase he coined after Russian troops in 2008 invaded Georgia, whose government at the time was pushing to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, thus pulling itself entirely out of Russia’s orbit.”

There is turmoil among many nations in the world today. Ongoing armed conflicts in which 1,000 or more people die each year range from the war in Afghanistan, the Islamist insurgency in Nigeria, and the war in North-West Pakistan, to the Mexican Drug War, the Syrian Civil War, and the Iraqi insurgency since the U.S. withdrew from this country.

There is also the Central African Republic conflict and the South Sudanese fighting that have killed 2,000 and 10,000 people respectively each year.

Despite the instabilities in the Ukraine, Adventist Christians continue to witness for Christ and conduct health work, Christian music concerts, and public evangelistic series. Thousands of people show interest in health and hundreds have enrolled for Bible studies. The president of the Adventist Church in the Ukraine, Viktor Alekseenko, encourages his 52,000 members in 900 congregations to "pray for their country and avoid provoking hostility-on the streets and on social media, where he urged church members not to leave inflammatory comments."

In this week’s Sabbath school lesson, our focus is on "Discipling the Nations." To use Putin’s terminology, the entire world for Christians is a "zone of privileged interest." Sometimes followers of Jesus become so focused on their own spheres of existence that they forget what many of their friends in unstable countries might be experiencing.

As we look to the faith of those who live amid violence and war, we are reminded that it is not only God’s will that the gospel go to our entire planet, but it is only by the Lord’s power and protection that we can grow disciples in all the nations of the world.

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1. wsj.com
2. wikipedia
3. adventist.org
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.