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 quarter, 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 Spiritual Leaders"
March 15, 2014
Winter Olympics are finished. We were all dazzled by the incredible feats of the star athletes, but often underestimate the hard work and training that goes into these amazing performances. What looks so effortless is hidden beneath sheer determination and persistent exertion.

So, what is considered the toughest of the 21 Winter Olympic sports? Figure skating is more than gliding around the rink, but it's not as challenging as the halfpipe or hockey. Aerials, downhill skiing, and ski jumping are definitely body jarring ways to break a rib, or an arm, or a leg, or your neck! But according to USA Today Sports, nothing is quite as brutal as the Nordic combined.

Ever since the first Winter Olympics in 1924, this Nordic combined sport has been held. Norwegian soldiers first competed in Nordic skiing back in the 19th century. Oslo has held competitions since 1892. It's no wonder that Norway has brought the best and the toughest competitors to the Olympics since the sport began.

The Nordic combined is a blend of the grueling work of cross-country skiing mixed with the artistry of ski jumping. Some athletes focus on one sport, but this one takes multiple disciplines. Like the triathlon, it integrates exhausting endurance with jaw-dropping thrills. Just try pushing yourself to the limit for over 18 miles, often uphill. You'd probably collapse at the finish line like most of these athletes did. Once again, in last month's team competition, Norway won the gold. After all, the event is pretty much named after them.

In this week's Sabbath school lesson we focus on discipling spiritual leaders. Much like the training for the Nordic combined, Christ's method of developing a skilled leader required more than one discipline. Jesus did more than sit around and teach theory. The disciples trained for their work by watching and practicing. Knowledge was combined with experience.

The top picks for the Savior's leadership team wouldn't make it on today's sport pages. They were a mix of uneducated and undisciplined men who didn't appear too hopeful on the outside. This is part of the deep insight of Christ. Jesus saw what they could be, and instilled in them a vision to develop skills that would shake the world.

We look at the gloss and shine of star Olympic athletes and are impressed with feats we would never try ourselves. But the qualities that glow mostly brightly among Christ's team are characteristics like humility, patience, and self-sacrifice. In God's eyes, these are what bring you across the finish line.

~cr

1. usatoday

Additional resource: sochi2014

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.