Dear Center for Creative Ministry,

This eLetter provides you with the latest version of Contemporary Comments, as well as our sidebar features.

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Paul Richardson, Director
Center for Creative Ministry

Contemporary Comments

"Women and Wine"
March 28, 2015

Texts: Proverbs 31, Job 29:15, Proverbs 8, 1 Corinthians 1:21, Revelation 14:13

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In an ironic twist, a popular actor who plays a character that is a "hard-drinking" character was recently released from a 30-day program for alcohol abuse. Last month, Jon Hamm voluntarily admitted himself into the Silver Hill Hospital in New Canaan, Connecticut. Writing about his treatment, CNN reporter Brandon Griggs quipped, "Probably one of the most-used words in Hollywood-aside from 'scandal' is 'rehab.' It seems nearly every celebrity has sought treatment at one point or another...."1

The World Health Organization reports that worldwide, the harmful use of alcohol is a causal factor in more than 200 disease and injury conditions. And shockingly, 3.3 million deaths each year result from the harmful use of alcohol. This represents 5.9 percent of all deaths.2

Nothing good ever comes from alcohol use. And alcohol, combined with consistent interactions with ungodly women, will always result in negative consequences.

This week's Sabbath School lesson discusses the importance of not just knowing the right things to do, but also actually applying the wisdom that God has given in two key areas of our lives. The lesson highlights humanity's tendency toward intemperance and addresses the importance of having wisdom and exercising discernment when choosing the things that have profound influences on our lives-both for good and bad. It's true that the two things covered in this week's Sabbath School lesson: the types of relationships and diet we choose, can either greatly benefit us or break us.

The connection between romantic relationships and alcohol are unmistakable:

1. Both can be "intoxicating" and test our ability to make good decisions.
2. Both issues can quickly become a "slippery slope" because both are dealing with urges and desires that God has naturally placed in all of us: intimacy and thirst.
3. Both must be fulfilled in ways that are wise and God-honoring. If not, the results will always be disastrous and hurtful to ourselves, others, and to God.

In Proverbs God has given us plenty of counsel about making wise choices in our relationships and in what we drink. Solomon summarizes God's heart when he writes in Proverbs 8:35-36 that those who find God, find life. Those who ignore God's warnings related to wine and women only harm themselves. In fact, God goes further to state that through their refusal to follow God's wise words for their lives, they "hate" God and "love death."

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1. cnn
2. who

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.