Dear Center for,

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Paul Richardson, Director
Center for Creative Ministry

Contemporary Comments

"Abraham: The First Missionary"
July 11, 2015

**Texts:** Genesis 12:1-3; 12:6, 7; 14:8-24; 18:18, 19; Galatians 2:6; Hebrews 11:8-19

British Columbia police officer Alex Bérubè took on the task of tracking a person with no address and no phone. While this doesn't seem like an unusual duty, the story had an interesting twist to what otherwise
might seem commonplace in the daily routine of an officer. Rather than searching for someone who had committed a crime, Bèrubè took on the mission of finding the unidentified man who had turned in a suitcase containing $2,000. Having found the suitcase in Victoria, the man believed that turning it in was "the right thing to do."1

When citizens heard the story, they began donating. A total of $5,000 came in from adults and even some children who sold lemonade. But how does one go about finding someone with no contact information? The officer wasn't about to give up. Finally locating the man, Bèrubè informed him of the generous donations that now belonged to him, if he wished to claim them. The response brought surprise. This homeless man was not interested in the money, but instead, wanted it to be used at a local shelter. He convinced officers of his intentions in a letter written by his own hand that included just one wish: that he be given help to find a job. The homeless man twice turned down amounts of money. Once because he followed what was right, and again because he went beyond what anyone expected. Now he wanted to work.

In our Sabbath School lesson this week we encounter Abraham, a man of wealth who was willing follow the directions of the God he worshipped. Along with being promised that he would be a great nation, be blessed by God, and be famous, Abraham was also promised that he would be a blessing to others. As he dealt with kings and leaders of other nations, Abraham chose to follow what was "the right thing." His choices were to do what would bring honor to God. In the words he spoke to the king of Sodom, Abraham made it plain that he wanted to leave nothing that might bring a question as to the source of his riches. In no way would he give the opportunity for an earthly ruler to claim that his own generosity was the source of Abraham's success and wealth.

By faith Abraham chose to follow God's commands. He chose to be a witness in lands that were not the home he had known, in lands with unknown leaders, and in lands with hostile armies. Abraham did what God asked because he believed God would do what He promised. Abraham chose to work for the God he loved.

~ jv

1. newser.com

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.