

## **Thoughts on the Modern World** **by our Volunteer Correspondent # 5:**

● I was recently asked what I thought about the many technological advancements of our modern world.

My response was, "Well, let me think a minute. I was born just before television, penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, contact lenses, Frisbees and the pill. There was no radar, credit cards, laser beams or ball-point pens.

Man had not invented pantyhose, air conditioners, dishwashers, clothes dryers, and the clothes were hung out to dry in the fresh air and man hadn't yet walked on the moon. Metal detectors were used to find lost metals not to keep weapons out of schools, the computer age hadn't yet been coined because computers were still science fiction.

My parents got married first, and then lived together. Every family had a father and a mother. It was normal for myself starting at about age 13, and for every other real man that I knew, to act like a gentleman; to open doors for women, to help them with their coats, to address them politely as "Ma'am", to address every man older than yourself as "Sir", to always let women have the available seats if anyone had to stand and to let women go anywhere first; in other words, to treat them as a lady.

Children today don't even know how to define "lady" and "gentleman", aside from gender! It was also normal and expected to always have and show respect for your elders. Good manners were a given. It was polite and expected that you would greet people you met on the street and wish them a good day - whether you knew them or not.

"Gay" still meant happy. There were no gay-rights, computer-dating, dual careers, daycare centers, or group therapy. Our lives were governed by good judgment, and common sense. Mothers actually looked after

their children in person. We were taught to know the difference between right and wrong and to stand up and take responsibility for our actions. We accepted what we knew about right and wrong. We had no idea that we could "excuse" our wrong behaviour with such platitudes as being "victims" of oppression or abuse. What used to be self-indulgence is now "self-fulfillment".

What we used to call two men living in sin together is now a "meaningful" relationship under the "minority rights act". What was once discipline is now "repression". People can now do things that used to be wrong, because they have now been "liberated".

Equality amongst all men used to be respected by the world as something worth striving for. In this country, I'm now one of the "minority". I'm Caucasian and I'm heterosexual. My way of stating in plain language that I'm "just a normal white guy", is no longer "politically correct". Natives, East Indians, blacks, Orientals, homosexuals, feminists, cultists, and others, all move to this country expecting and getting more rights than I have.

They are not required to adopt my customs or the customs of this country, but I am now obligated by law to provide special accommodations for their unique ethnic, cultural and religious beliefs and customs. Yahweh [God] and religious faith also used to be part of what made most Canadians proud. Now it is against the law to speak of Yahweh in most public forums.

Everyone knew that government employees were there to provide services for you and that they were actually well thought of, courteous and helpful. We treated them with respect, partly out of our compassion for knowing that they were poor, and not able to do anything but work for the government. Living in small rural communities was considered a privilege as well as an enjoyable necessity for many. Good neighbours always left their keys

in the car and their house open in case someone had an emergency. People shared their work, their produce, their machinery or tools and always preferred working together when possible. "Work" on the farms was really a lot of fun and satisfying because of the evidence of its productivity! Poor people moved to the "city" and suffered the hardships of working alone at really boring factory or government jobs. If they were lucky and made enough money to move back to the community, they were welcomed and helped.

Serving your country was still thought of as a privilege; living in this country was an even bigger privilege. We thought fast food was what people ate during Lent. Time-sharing meant time the family spent together in the evenings and weekends, not purchasing condominiums.

The stores and shops where we did purchase those very few things that we did not grow or barter with our friends for, were all owned by people we knew; by people that also wanted to help us in any way they and their small business could manage. Customer service meant real help – where the storekeeper actually cared and took full responsibility for your satisfaction, not just the place where you took back your purchases and made your complaints.

We never heard of CDs or guys wearing earrings. And I don't ever remember any kid blowing his brains out listening to Tommy Dorsey or Glen Miller. If you saw anything with 'Made in Japan' on it, it was junk. Pizza Hut, McDonald's, and instant coffee were unheard of. We had 5 & 10 cent stores where you could actually buy things for 5 and 10 cents. Ice cream cones, phone calls, rides on a streetcar, and a Pepsi were all a nickel. And if you didn't want to splurge, you could spend your nickel on enough stamps to mail 1 letter and 2 postcards.

You could buy a new Chevy Coupe for \$600 but who could afford one? Too bad, because gas was only 11 cents a gallon. In my youth, 'grass' was mowed, 'coke' was a cold drink, 'pot' was something your mother cooked in, while 'rock music' was your grandmother's lullaby. 'Aids' were helpers in the Principal's office, 'chip' meant a piece of wood, 'hardware' was actually found in a hardware store, and 'software' and 'internet' were not even words.

And I think I am of the last generation to actually believe that a lady needs a husband to have a baby. When my sister and I were young my parents called us children. Now my "kids" claim I am the victim of a "generation gap"; an expression that didn't exist until about twenty years after I was born. Which coincidentally was only 1954.

So all in all, what do I think about the many advancements of our modern world? I really miss the community spirit, the good neighbours, working on the farm with friends and families where everyone actually looked forward to and enjoyed their work. Where neighbours weren't just someone that lived close by that you could recognize. Neighbours were people you worked with; they were your friends, they were helpful, they were polite, and they were those that really and truly cared about each other. They had good values, and they actually lived by them."

Good Values! That is the purpose of this Web-Site! And it is what my book, "A New Mind", which is patterned after many Biblical examples, is all about! I hope you read it! I hope you enjoy it! And I hope you find it useful!

Another point of view regarding changes in our modern way of thinking was recently sent to me from another well known Congregation member. It was a response to why we might be experiencing terrorism and other "modern" problems. It went this way:

In light of recent events...terrorists attack, school shootings, etc., I think it started

when Madeleine Murray O'Hare (she was murdered, her body found recently) complained she didn't want prayer in our schools, and we said OK.

Then someone said you had better not read the Bible in school ... the Bible says thou shalt not kill, thou shalt not steal, and you shall love your neighbour as yourself. And we said OK.

Then Dr. Benjamin Spock said we shouldn't spank our children when they misbehave because their little personalities would be warped and we might damage their self-esteem. (Dr. Spock's own son committed suicide after many years of his father's advice.) We said an expert should know what he's talking about. And we said OK.

Then someone said teachers and principals better not discipline our children when they misbehave. The school administrators said no faculty member in this school better touch a student when they misbehave because we don't want any bad publicity, and we surely don't want to be sued (there's a big difference between disciplining, touching, beating, smacking, humiliating, kicking, etc.). And we said OK.

Then someone said, let's let our daughters have abortions if they want, and they won't even have to tell their parents. And we said OK.

Then some wise school board member said, since boys will be boys and they're going to do it anyway, let's give our sons all the condoms they want so they can have all the fun they desire, and we won't have to tell their parents they got them at school. And we said OK.

Then some of our top elected officials said it doesn't matter what we do in private as long as we do our jobs. Agreeing with them, we said it doesn't matter to us what anyone, including the President, does in private as long as we have a job and the economy is good.

Then someone said let's print magazines with pictures of nude women and call it wholesome, down-to-earth appreciation for the beauty of the female body. And we said OK.

And then someone else took that appreciation a step further and published pictures of nude children and then further again by making them available on the Internet. And we said OK, they're entitled to free speech and freedom of expression.

Then the entertainment industry said, let's make TV shows and movies that promote profanity, violence, and illicit sex. Let's record music that encourages rape, drugs, murder, suicide, and satanic themes. And we said it's just entertainment, it has no adverse effect, nobody takes it seriously anyway, so go right ahead.

Now we're asking ourselves why our children have no conscience, why they don't know right from wrong, and why it doesn't bother them to kill strangers, their classmates, and themselves. Or why it doesn't bother them to steal or cheat or investigate pornography.

Probably, if we think about it long and hard enough, we can figure it out. I think it has a great deal to do with "WE REAP WHAT WE SOW."

I believe Yahweh is deeply saddened by this, just as most of us surely are, but for years we've been telling Yahweh to get out of our schools, to get out of our government and to get out of our lives. And being the gentleman He is, I believe He has calmly backed out. How can we expect Yahweh to give us His blessing and His protection if we ignore all of His advice and demand that He leave us alone?

Funny how simple it is for people to trash Yahweh and then wonder why the world's going to hell. Funny how we believe what the newspapers say, but question what the Bible says.

Funny how you can send 'jokes' through e-mail and they spread like wildfire but when you start sending messages regarding Yahweh, people think twice about sharing.

Funny how lewd, crude, vulgar and obscene articles pass freely through cyberspace, but public discussion of Yahweh is suppressed in the school and in the workplace.

Are you laughing?

Funny how when if you were to forward this message, you would not send it to many on your address list because you're not sure what they believe, or what they will think of you for sending it.

Funny how we can be more worried about what other people think of us than what Yahweh thinks of us.

Ask people to read it, or pass it on if you think it has merit. If not then just disregard it... no one but you, and oh yes, Yahweh, will know what you did.

But, if you decide to disregard this thought process, then please don't sit back and complain about what bad shape the world IS IN!

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