

Wake up and Smell the Caf-Lib!

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To the astute observer of the times it is not difficult to sense the transition that is taking place in Canadian society. General societal trends combined with the decisions of our courts and legislators pose a serious challenge to the moral values and teachings of Christians. In my opinion we have been placed on a moral collision course with contemporary culture and in spite of the assurances of legislators there is nothing innocuous about current government legislation. Our society is being shaped to accommodate principles and practices that will influence the actions and practices of generations to come. It is time for us to give our collective head a shake and wake up and smell the Caf-Lib.



This brings me to an issue which is near and dear to my heart - Seventh-day Adventist Christian education. Education has been one of the primary values that have enabled us to maintain strength and unity in our world church throughout the past 140 years. Yet within the context of current events, this system is growing weaker because, somehow, a whole generation of parents seems to have lost sight of its value. Today, our strongest Canadian conference educational program operates with a total enrolment which includes 58% Seventh-day Adventist children and 42% non-Adventist children. Somehow, the men and women in our communities are placing more value on our educational product than we are.

While recognizing that our schools and institutions are not perfect, I simply do not believe that it is safe for Seventh-day Adventist parents to place their children in public institutions of learning any longer. The moral and philosophical foundations of public education have moved so far away from what we know to be the Biblical standard that a child, right from the first grade, may be inculcated with values that bear no resemblance to anything that we find in the Scriptures.

We need to seriously ask ourselves some questions such as: How will we prepare the army of youth which will co-operate with God in the completion of His task on earth when we place them under the tutelage of men and women who have no concept of, or sympathy with, the teachings of the Bible? How will we ensure that they embrace God's directions on sexual orientation and Christian lifestyle if we are sending them away from home on a daily basis for up to 16 years into institutions which are founded on the principles of secular pluralism? How can we release our precious little children from our embrace and send them away morning after morning into a system that promotes the viability of homosexual, lesbian and bi-sexual lifestyles? Every new day in such a system brings potential spiritual risk. Are we really consciously willing to take the risk? I hope not!

About a year ago now, I attended the Alumni Homecoming at Canadian University College. During the proceedings, one Northern Alberta family was honoured for their commitment to Christian education.

The patriarch of the clan was presented with a special award. To me, he symbolized a generation of men and women who would do anything to ensure that their children received the best education available to Adventist young people. He was willing to make any sacrifice so that they could be prepared to participate in God's work.

It is true that genuine sacrifice generally only takes place within the context of strong belief. I am appealing to Adventists throughout this land to let the things of this world go, and to renew their belief in the value of placing our future generations into the hands of Christian teachers who will assist them as they prepare for service in this world and in the world to come.

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