

Paradox of Our Times

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It was my privilege on 24 April 1999 to preach in the Tugaske church in Saskatchewan. The Sabbath School Superintendent for the day was Carol Foulston, a former church school teacher in the Conference. She shared the following article, PARADOX OF OUR TIMES, as part of her comments. She did not know the source, so I'm sorry I cannot provide that information.



PARADOX OF OUR TIMES

We have taller buildings, but shorter tempers;
wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints;
we spend more, but have little;
we buy more, and enjoy it less.

We have bigger houses and smaller families;
more conveniences, but less time;
we have more degrees, but less common sense;
more knowledge, but less judgment;
more experts, but more problems;
more medicine, but less wellness.

We spend too recklessly, laugh too little,
drive too fast, get too angry too quickly,
stay up too late, get up too tired, read too seldom,
watch TV too much, and don't pray often enough.

We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values.
We talk too much, love too seldom and lie too often.
We've learned how to make a living, but not a life;
we've added years to life, not life to years.

We've been all the way to the moon and back,
but have trouble crossing the street to meet the new neighbour.

We've conquered outer space, but not inner space;
we've done larger things, but not better things;
we've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul;
we've split the atom, but not our prejudice;
we write more, but learn less;
plan more, but accomplish less.

We've learned to rush, but not to wait;
we have higher incomes; but lower morals;
more food but less appeasement;
more acquaintances, but fewer friends;
more effort but less success.

We build better computers to hold more information,
produce more copies than ever, yet have less communication;
we've become long on quantity, but short on quality.
These are the times of fast foods and upset stomachs;
more kinds of food, but less nutrition.

These are the times of world peace, but domestic warfare;
more leisure and less fun;

These are the days of two incomes, but more divorce;
of fancier houses, but broken homes;
tall men and short character;
steep profits, and shallow relationships.

These are the days of quick trips, throwaway morality,
one-night stands, and pills that do everything from
cheer, to quiet, to kill.

It is a time when there is much in the show window,
and nothing in the stockroom.
Think about it.

Paul and Silas, as recorded in Acts 17:6, were accused of turning the world upside down. Actually, as we know, they were in fact turning the world right side up by presenting Truth, that is, Jesus, who said "I am the way, the truth and life." John 14:6.

The primary purpose of Adventist education is to present the same message as Paul and Silas. Jesus is the Christ, our risen Saviour.

Seventh-day Adventist schools teach and emphasize eternal truths that are foreign to the public schools. Truths that, in many cases, are outside the pale of the teachings in the public system. In fact, many of these essential truths are ridiculed and thought foolish. Paul, however, pointed out it is the world that is upside down in its views when he said, "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God." 1 Cor. 3:19

Each of us, whatever our role in Adventist education, must constantly review and analyze our goals and objectives to ensure that God's purpose for the establishment of Adventist schools is fully met. It is not

enough to simply cover the content of the course and leave out the spiritual dynamics. Ellen White states that "In the highest sense the work of education and the work of redemption are one, for in education, as in redemption, `other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ' ." Ed 30

Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." John 10:10 That abundant life available to our students is opposite to the life the world espouses.