Thoughts as the “Class of ’39” considers its 60th reunion.

Recently, Tom Brokaw has written about the “great generation”. Those of us who have lived through the latter 80 years of this century are, doubtless, part of that generation, and because many of us have been educated in the ideals of the America of the Pilgrims, the Revolutionary War, and the development of the philosophical truths of America, which were promulgated in the 1800’s and through World War I, are men and women of thought and contemplation who have certain ideas about America as we approach the year 2000.

The class of the ’39 era, are we the Disappearing Americans? Our fathers and mothers are gone and most of our brothers and sisters have left the scene of the evolving world. We have been in our generation related to the classical poets. Those of us in our generation have loathed to be profane. We have learned of Christ and His Word, and we actually set out to attempt to transform America and the world.

We thought this transformation would be to create a secure and joy-filled place of life for our fellow man and a place of liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We were basically patriotic, following in our father’s footsteps, many who fought in World War I. We caught the great vision of America the Beautiful, the America of farms and small businesses, where the individual man was predominant in our culture. We loved the America of model A Fords and V8’s. We were the young men and women who went to Europe and to the Pacific Islands, where many died on foreign shores. Finally, we were the diminished group who returned to the land which we loved and found that great mergers were occurring and we saw megalithiasis gradually consuming our society bit by bit, in many ways tearing away that which we fought for and had thought unchangeable. Even the true family doctor has disappeared like the ancient Dodo Bird.

Recurring conflicts came about and by century’s end we learned that our land was now the only remaining world superpower in existence, an awesome responsibility. Along the way, the vision born in the ’39 generation had become in the minds of many something unthought of, a non-reality. But vestiges of the dream remain and somewhat exist like the skeletal remains of the ancient dinosaur occasionally dug up in American society.

Recently, I had the privilege of walking alone, almost as if drawn by a magnet toward towering stacks of books in the library of the Metropolitan Club of Washington, D.C. There, I entered a world that carried the atmosphere of ancient ways which illustrated the spirit of the America of Franklin, Noah Webster, Lincoln, and even Edgar A. Guest. It was as if I had suddenly entered the portals of heaven itself as I was privileged to enter the glorious library. Just being there nourished me like oxygen to a dysneic soul. After a moment of deep intracortical thymic infusion, it was as if breathing, heartbeat, and living hope revived.

The elders of the great generation must bear the weight of turning the furor and confusion of the present moment back toward God and country, Christ-infused compassion and healing, along with traditional American God-given power in order to extract the beloved land from its morass and back into its true nature, the Holy Land which we have known in the past as the land of the free and the home of the brave.

"Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." Jude 1:3

Luke 1:37

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REFLECTIONS ON MY 77TH BIRTHDAY

By William Standish Reed, M.D.

When one approaches his 77th birthday and coincidentally one’s 60th anniversary of leaving high school and entering the University, contemplating that in one year he will be entering his 45th year in the practice of Surgery, the thinking person senses within the inner man the certain knowledge that God has been there to guide one’s life through all the exigencies of each and every day.

It truly is a most wonderful blessing and a gift of God that allows one to have been an American in the 20th century with all the blessings which have accrued as a result of over 400 years of vital Christian influence. To have been privileged to become a spiritual man in the midst of a spiritual nation, with all of its Godly and Christian traditions, is most wondrous to contemplate.

King David proclaims in the 101st Psalm that he will sing of mercy, loving kindness and justice which he attributes to the Lord. Reflecting upon mercy, loving kindness and justice, one comes to the conclusion that these virtues still are greatly needed by everyone in America and across the world at the end of the 20th century. As one becomes a follower of God through Christ, he begins to show forth mercy, loving kindness and justice and loses the tendency of the world system to be merciless, the tendency to not be truly kind and loving, and the temptation to be unjust and unloving.

It is truly wonderful to think that one can evermore live in Christ and He in us, and that Jesus Christ in the human being is truly the hope of glory. Jesus becomes the ultimate answer to all of our human inadequacies, even as we have seen in our patients the inability of man to heal himself through mental processes only, without Christ, our healing Savior.

Recently, Congressman Ben Gilman, who is a member of the Foreign Relations Committee of the House of Representatives stated that America has always demonstrated the phenomenon of “strong religious faith”. He then stated that the 20th century has been in all actuality a paradoxical century with great advances in Science, Medicine, and personal freedom. He cited the need for a resurgence of moral values. We must stand against the assault upon each and every American, an assault on our nation’s values, the values which build a nation, the result of our Judeo-Christian heritage manifested throughout the nation’s total existence. He then asked the question, “Will we enter the new millennium in the light of Christ or in the darkness of degeneration?”

The question must be answered individually by every American person. Jesus is indeed the Way, the Truth, and the Life, no man can come unto the Father but by Him. John 14:6

CONCERNING CMF FINANCES

Summertime has come to Florida and to the rest of the nation. The tendency is for the supporters of this work to forget that this great work of God must continue on and that there are expenses involved. If you can help CMF in a major way or even with simply a widow’s mite, please do not neglect to support CMF in the critical months of summer. Please pray for us.

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The Board of Directors of CMF is accepting applications for the MARION W. GRIFFIN, JR. MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP. The scholarship was established to encourage dedicated Christian Medical Students, entering their first year in Medical School. This year’s scholarship of $2,500 cash will be awarded on the basis of need and academic ability, as well as total Christian commitment. DEADLINE JULY 31, 1999. To apply, write a letter to the Board of Directors, outlining your experience with Christ, financial need, and your qualifications. Send letters to: CMF, Board of Directors, P. O. Box 152136, Tampa, FL 33684.

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