



Straight Talk

The resolutions made at the start of the year by millions of people have been blown and people have realised that living requires more than a simple new year's resolution. They know that despite the predictions of amateur futurists we need to know how to cope with life, handle its unforeseen situations, exploit its unanticipated opportunities, survive its unexpected tragedies. Most people do not take God into account. For them life is a series of random disconnected coincidences, murphy's law or good luck. As Christians we refute this way of thinking.

Astronomers today herald important breakthroughs as a consequence of their recent space probes. Their exploratory research and photographs from deep space have enabled them to produce a new map of the universe. In amazement they have announced that the hitherto unseen and unexplored galaxies of space show an astonishing design pattern. One scientist said, 'it is like a 3-dimensional chess game with all the pieces laid out in order like a network.'

This is no surprise or new discovery to us as Christians. Paul says that through Christ, 'he created the worlds and the reaches of space and the ages of time (that is) he made, produced, built, operated and arranged them in order.'¹

There isn't anything in this generation that we can assign to chance, coincidence or luck. God is still in supreme control and is working his purpose throughout the history of our time as in all ages. He is working to a marvellous design, threading the weave of his will and purpose throughout what appears to be the disorder, chaos and tragedy of human history.

In this issue of Restore our writers focus on some of the challenges and complexities facing us in what Tim

Larsen describes as the X-factor generation. In reading these articles we feel the bite of the argument. We must hone our skills, sharpen our thinking, focus our perceptions and, as Alan Scotland says, position ourselves for the technological generation that we are now part of.

I am sure that if we could have sat with leaders of nations, church or people groups in previous generations we would have found them facing the future with similar challenges of the unknown situations that lay ahead in their changing times. But there is the same base line in every generation.

Whatever the complexities of the culture of the X-generation, whatever changes in societal thinking or technology, whatever changes in approach and methodology it requires to address the contemporary scene, one thing remains the same: God loves all people everywhere and everyone everywhere needs God. Ours is both the privilege and the responsibility to bring this message of reconciliation to mankind, to connect the two. It is still time for the cultivation of a persevering faith to fulfil God's purpose for us in our future. Whatever pressure, setback or tragedy shows up, let us strip away its disguise and fear and see the opportunity to find, prove and know God in a deeper, more intimate and more powerful way than ever. God has assured us he is greater in us than anything external to ourselves. Never allow other people's view of you to become the ceiling of your attainments, the boundaries to your hope, the box of your imprisonment. The potential God has in you is far greater than others imagine, more than you allow yourself to believe. **R**

¹ Heb 1:2 (Amp)

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