

A Word from Mack

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Don't start the revolution without us

When I was a child, LIFE Magazine adorned practically every coffee table top in the living rooms of America. It was a staple. And the reason why, I guess, is because at its core it evoked identification with and connection to...well...life! What pictures! They were from all over and they were about everything, and, back then, that was how we felt like we were more than just a part of the world around us. With each turn of the page, we were drawn deeper and deeper into a oneness with our teeming globe. It was a great treat every week.

But there was one time when it wasn't. I think I was about 11 years old when I turned a page and saw it. I saw the Serengeti Plains where a series of photos showed the chase of a Thomson Gazelle by the sleekest of all Cheetahs. The last picture of that page went indelible.

I can still see it. The Gazelle was standing, her neck turned sharply. And the one eye to the camera's side was bulging so big that it blew past "wide-eyed" as descriptively inadequate. Shock. Total and irreversible shock had seized her and she was uncomprehendingly paralyzed by doom. She was just staring back over her body to her hindquarters where her nightmare in tooth and claw had locked and sealed her fate. I never turned to the next page.

The eye of that Gazelle comes back to me. I cannot help but picture it when in recent days, over and over again I have heard people say: "I am so frightened for our world." "What kind of world are we leaving to our children?" "Things are so bad, I just don't have any hope." "I don't know what to do." I hear the real anguish. And I see so many of us rightly perceiving that some powerful predator has stalked and seized the world we know and love. And we are in shock. And we truly seem to be paralyzed, looking backward into bulging eyes.

But listen, the picture of the Gazelle and the Cheetah must not become the parable of our society. Of course we see with even "wide-eyed" accuracy that disintegration is upon us. That is true. But that truth must be transcended by an even Higher, more powerful Truth if we are to find our way to real freedom and unhindered wholeness. We must now see with new eyes so that we can act. Right action will bring right feelings.

What to do? First, we must understand that no ominous outside force has seized the human race against which we are powerless. In a million ways, by our apathy, and by our actions, and by our choices we have arrested our own cities and societies. And if, therefore, the cause of our disintegration has come from within us, then the cure must come through us.

Next, in order to march meaningfully into a new world, we must follow the formula that has a history of success. Remember those last 31 words of the Declaration of Independence? We must have a “firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence.” We must “mutually pledge to each other.” We must devote “our fortunes.” And we must courageously invest “our sacred honor.”

Our caring is the only true antidote to our claws. It’s your world, too. You can do something. Get your friends to join the We Care Team right now. Give for the Cause of Caring. Together we can prevail.