

American Decency Association

PO Box 202, Fremont, MI 49412 231-924-4050 www.americandecency.org

Encouraging Christians to guard their hearts

January 2015

What happens when an entire generation forgets?

by: Terry D. Slachter



One of the most heart wrenching verses of the entire Old Testament is found in Judges 2:10 *“After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel.”* (NIV) This new generation, we are told in the next few verses, did evil in the eyes of the Lord, forsaking the God of their fathers, following the gods of the nations around them.

In the Bible, the length of a generation was 40 years. If that is the case, within 40 years after the passing of the “Joshua Generation” an entire new generation emerged whose parents never bothered to

tell them about God and what He had done in the past. Without recording the historical facts and rehearsing the personal testimonies to the next generation, it should not surprise us how past events, no matter how significant, quickly fade away and become meaningless to succeeding generations.

This “new generation” that begins in Judges 2:10, sadly illustrates for us what happens when an entire generation forgets God and what He has done. People begin to fashion idols and seek messiahs to help them in their times of trouble. The increase of idolatry naturally increases the level of violence and immorality in society (Rom.1:28). And the level of evil increases with every succeeding generation in a society that has forgotten about God and what He has done. In the case of the “Judges Generation,” the Israelite society had become so perverse that they began to look like Sodom and Gomorrah (Judges 19).

Do you remember what life was like here in the

United States a generation ago? If you are old enough to remember how things were 40-50 years ago, you might remember a time when it was safe for children to walk home from school without the slightest fear of being molested. You might remember a time when doors went unlocked, or when the 8:00 PM family hour on television was truly “family friendly.” What has happened to us as a nation and as a society over the past 40 years? Why is my grandson presented the perverse comedy show “Two Broke Girls” during the family hour, when 40 years earlier, I was watching family friendly shows like “The Brady Bunch” at 8:00 PM?

We could list several reasons for this 40 year decline in our culture such as Supreme Court cases that have increasingly chipped away at our Judeo-Christian values in the public arena. There has also been an insidious movement to rewrite our national history expunging

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the floor of the barn.

I have a news flash for today's Church living in a post-Christian culture—many of our neighbors don't have a clue of what the church is even about. Some of them don't even know who Jesus is or that the church is all about Jesus. Some young people would no more step into a church than they would a VFW hall. A whole new generation of people are growing up here in the United States who will likely never learn about God and what He has done through His Son Jesus unless the church awakens and moves out of its comfort zone, sowing the seed of the gospel extravagantly as in Jesus' parable of the sower. Why should this younger generation look for hope and meaning through the idols of this world when there are still thousands of churches and Christians in every state and city in America who have an eternal message of hope and love to share?

Join with me in praying for the Church. Pray that the Lord will move with His Spirit to revive the American Church as He has in the

past. There have been at least five Great Awakenings in this country, each has propelled the Church into the streets with the Gospel message, transforming the culture and shaping the history of our nation. If God was able to breathe new life into the dying churches of ages past, transform entire communities, and launch new missionary movements... why should we doubt his ability to do it again in our day?

To set the pace for 2015, American Decency Association has scheduled Terry Slachter to address our audience on the vital subject of "Could Another Great Awakening Happen in 21st Century America?"

What: "Could Another Great Awakening Happen in 21st Century America?"

When: Friday, January 16, 2015 at 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

Who: Dr. Terry Slachter, Executive Director of Project Phillip and Project Phillip Publishing

Where: American Decency 203 E. Main Street, Fremont, MI

Contact information:
231-924-4050

all Biblical references and Christian history from our text books and national monuments. We could even add to our list the hypocrisy of our political leaders and the public immorality of our cultural heroes and icons. But I want to add another reason that may come as a shock to some of us. I blame the Christian Church.

We are raising an entire generation of young people who are Biblically and spiritually illiterate. Over the past 20-30 years, the church has forgotten the Great Commission. Instead of going out into our neighborhoods, we expect our neighbors to enter our ever-growing church facilities to hear the Gospel message. This makes as much sense as a farmer who spends countless hours and resources to ready the fields for planting, but then dumps the seed on

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