

FROM OUR PASTOR

APRIL 29, 2017

Sabbath greetings to everyone!

What is happening to our youth and what does it portend for the future? Last weekend a group of juveniles organized on social media and attacked a train. As reported on station KTVU:

"BART police are beefing up patrols at Oakland stations after dozens of juveniles terrorized riders Saturday night when they invaded the Coliseum Station and commandeered at least one train car, forcing passengers to hand over bags and cell phones and leaving at least two with head injuries."

The incident occurred around 9:30 p.m. Saturday. Witnesses told police that 40 to 60 juveniles flooded the station, jumped the fare gates and rushed to the second-story train platform. Some of the robbers apparently held open the doors of a Dublin-bound train car while others streamed inside, confronting and robbing and in some cases beating riders." The criminals were in and out in just a few minutes, leaving before police could arrive. So far no arrests have been made.

On the other side of the county, in Jacksonville, Florida a gang conducted a brawl in a mall and someone posted a video of it on Facebook. The video of the brawl at the Orange Park Mall has gone viral -- it now has more than 800,000 views on the Action News Jax Facebook page. The Clay County Sheriff's Office said up to 60 people may have been involved in the brawl, which led to five arrests, including three juveniles. Facebook posts suggest the fight was premeditated and involved both young men and women. Action News Jax spoke to a mother of one of the girls who was arrested. She says her daughter is a victim.

What has led to gang violence organized on social media? Where are the parents? Were these young people not trained how to behave? The honest answer is that many have grown up without fathers, some without mothers, and the biggest influence in their lives has been the filthy and degenerate entertainment industry. They have filled their minds watching the tube portray immorality, violence, and ridicule of established norms and authority for untold hours. Add to that their years in public school being fed the theory of evolution, which means they have no purpose in life other than self. What is the result? We have people who believe they are a god unto themselves, accountable to no one, and bereft of character or any sense of right and wrong, and are guided only by their "feelings" at the moment.

Let us be honest. This is the second generation spawn of the "hippie, free love, peace at any cost, LSD, pot, etc." culture of the 1970's. The concept of a Creator God who gave us Ten Commandments to keep was thrown out as an overriding influence of

society. The result? The Bible has been proven right again. "The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good." Psalm 14:1

When people reject God, they degenerate and people suffer. The laws of God engender a peaceful society for the benefit of everyone. They "make life work" so to speak. We are living again in the time of Noah. Violence was everywhere. Genesis 6:5 says, "Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." We are almost there, and the future looks ominous as the cultures of the Western world gradually are committing national suicide.

Not all is lost; there are some pinpoints of light in the darkness. One shining light is the UYC camp program. We will see a video of summer camp today. If you miss it or would like to view it again go to the uyc.ucg.org page. The goal of the camp program is to teach principles of God's way of life, provide opportunities for our youth to meet and form friendships, while enjoying a great week of challenging activities and fun social events. Our camps are truly a light to the world and a great blessing for our precious youth.

The words of John are always encouraging: "Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining." 1 John 2:8

*Rex Sexton
Pastor, UCG Portland*