

## RECKLESS GENERATION BOOK EDITING PROJECT

EXCERPT: ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

EXAMPLE OF ORGANIZATIONAL OUTLINE

EXCERPT: FINAL EDIT

THE MAIN ISSUES

1) politics and eliminating money, 2) education, 3) environment, 4) organized religion, 5) media, 6) baby boomers' failure of marriage 7) values, 8) nobleness, 9) complacency, and 10) a fallen standard are being passed from the Reckless Generation to the Millennium Generation. Again complacency by the spoiling of the children of the Millennium Generation has brought about ignorance and selfishness into the world.

Politics is when candidates running for office are sold like products, instead of the real issues debated to educate the voter. Eliminate money in campaigns is the answer. Weekly debates of any race between the candidates.

Education has been destroyed by indiscipline minds. Teachers are overworked to the absolute max and get paid minimum but they love there job and love to teach well to their students and help them prepare for life.

The world's resources have raped the natural beauty that GOD made. It has been destroyed by the exploiting businesspersons. Greed has destroyed the environment.

Organized religion is manmade and ministers hierocracy in the churches preach about not the love of 'Under Heaven' but in still fear of hell. If a person acknowledges that Jesus Christ went to the cross to pay the penalty of all our sins and when the sinner repents, and repents sincerely, heaven is made available. However, religion has gotten into drama, money and hypocrisy. Listen religion is one of the biggest things a person needs but the way its being preformed makes you wonder and did you know Jesus Christ came down to rebel ageist organized religion? Yes he did.

Media. Now an institution went from good to bad. Instead of facts, all we hear are opinions. Instead of the full story, we just get sound bites. Did you know when the free press was started; its theme was 'to save the world from corrupt politicians and greedy businessmen.' I think it now needs to save itself because 7% of the people who watch the news think the news is just ok. In addition, hardly 50% watch the news. Local news is only about crime, instilling fear into society and the national news is about character assassination. Nice group of people, eh?

Baby boomers failure. The baby boomers were doing a good job up to the Vietnam War. They came to peace with losing there hero JFK and were starting to move on and saw Vietnam as not a

noble cause so protested. But when Vietnam happened, so did drugs. They ran rampant. So did sex; it was free love man. Values taught were shelved and attitudes were awful. Then sacrifice was thrown out. Marriage was abused, and then, talk about hypocrisy, they got greedy after complaining about greed. Let us just say they went too far and became reckless.

Values: Values of friendship, love, support, integrity, selflessness, manners and sacrifice to name a few went out the door starting from the graduating class of 1967. Values have never returned. Neighbors do not talk. They aren't friends. They don't even know each other well enough to gossip about each other.

Nobleness: Nobleness is an acquired reputation of impeccable manners and selfishness. Nobleness also means having courage and the courage of conviction to do right and with politeness. To laugh with someone is noble, to laugh at someone is demeaning. Nobleness knows nothing of gossip, wrong, self pity, condensation, and many bad traits, habits or faults. A noble person helps a friend in need because he knows it is indeed.

Complacency: That is where the selfish control attitude and magnifies apathy. Complacency will destroy society and all civil

good. Complacency has no friends and it is the calm before the storm.

So there you have it, a fallen standard has been set up to be passed to the next generation of Americans. It has been said that all generations go bad. My generation went from bad to worse and it time that the next generation of Americans pick up a fallen standard and repair it and then when there generation is over, they pass the torch, a flaming torch of selflessness to there children's future, that the reckless generation forgot to pass in its inherent nobility.

#### THE WORLD

The world today does not have a sense of warmth init, more of a feeling of mistrust, what materials are available , a 'me' attitude and nothing to really support it. It is a wonder if there is any good going on out there. However, surprisingly there is a lot of good going on out there, an enormous of good organizations that are not government or church related. Would the general media write about the good that is going on in the world? No! Because good does not sell. The media zeroes in on all the bad and though crime is down nine percent from ten years ago, local TV news reports only on crime to elevate fear. The media's theme when inaugurated with the free press had a motto, "to save the world, to save the world from bad politicians and

greedy businessmen." The media in the 1960's via television looked at the bottom line of the accounting sheet and raced to be first with the news so they were first to report it. The media is a powerful tool that has grown out of control and there are four good media organizations to day: NBC news, BBC news, NPR, and the New York Times. Today, individuals in the Millennium Generation face two problems: 1) lack of patience, meaning wanting instant results, and 2) apathy, always down on things and money is part of it and lack of goals in volunteering. No real role models as than parent are dissolved, and less of parental guidance leaving dreams to be inspired left to teachers. Money is worshipped and drugs are prevalent and high schools lack discipline electing no ambition. Cell phones, malls, sex, business marketing, whatever the teen is interested in. Cable TV with 500 channels and the lack of self-esteem. 35 years ago, I grew up with having fun with what was available, and there was not much available and I had a great time until drugs and Vietnam as well as mothers going back to work and then divorces skyrocketed. The loss of the neighborhood is my generations responsibility too.

Hi, Bill:

I have almost completed reading the manuscript. I believe organizing the book to the following outline will help everything come together.

- I. What is the problem? This would be the overview. We would focus on the problems as outlined under III. Here is where you state your case against the media, politics, etc.
- II. How did the problem develop? This is where the history would go.
- III. What is the solution? This is where you review the problems and pose the solutions in contrast.
  - A. Education
  - B. Environment/Business
  - C. Media
  - D. Politics
  - E. Organized Religion
  - F. Loss of Values (Marriage and Nobleness relate to this.)
  - G. Complacency
  - H. Passing the Torch. Moving on.

I thought the order through very carefully. Education is less tied to the issues following so it would be very effective as the first problem we focus on. The environment/business angle is tied together. Business is buying media. Media and business are controlling politics. Organized religion (right wing) is seeking to control politics. The loss of religious values has contributed to the loss of moral values, resulting in complacency. Passing the torch neatly sums everything up.

You have a lot of good things to say. We just need to get them organized logically and reduce redundancy. Let me know if the above outline looks like it will work.

To reflect your view accurately I need to know your definition of the following words. I am working on reducing redundancy in the words you use, but in order to do so, I need to know what you mean (not what the dictionary says you should mean).

Complacency.  
Hypocrisy.  
Apathy.

These are the main ones. I may remember a few more as I start going back over things.

Yours,

Denise

## Chapter 1

### Is there a problem?

At the infancy of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, horses were the primary means of mobility and letters were the primary method of communication. Over 100 years later, through the technological revolution, inventions of just about everything have changed the world, making the world incredibly smaller. Values have also changed, and not always for the better. My generation—I call it the *Reckless Generation*—is not a generation to be proud of. This is the generation that ruined marriage, while the media contributed to the confusion in the pursuit of ratings and money.

Are you a member of the *Millennium Generation*? Do you hope you can be a better person than my *Reckless Generation*, a.k.a. baby boomers (your parents). By the time you reach 21, you will have already witnessed a little of how rough the world can be. It will get even rougher if you do not have a good response mechanism. Everything will hinge on how well you can handle difficult situations.

We are all different—no one the same. As you have or will discover everyone is different and everyone has a talent or gift as well as a problem or two. There will be people who think they are better than you are. You are of equal value to them. Life will have problems if you start to think you are better than they are. All through life, you will experience unpleasant and pleasant surprises. Each surprise challenges you and reveals whether you can cope with life or not. The hopes are that you will handle life because then there will be more pleasant surprises.

My generation, as well as I failed, because we were too self-absorbed. You are witnessing the world at its worst, especially the last seven years. If life is a dress rehearsal, and it's how you handle life and once life is

over, there is heaven, the *Reckless Generation* has pretty much ignored it. There are many unfair things that happen. It's up to each and every one of us to make this a better world. Has the *Reckless generation* done that?

Today, as a member of the *Millennium Generation*, the most significant problems you face are 1) lack of patience, meaning you want instant results, and 2) apathy, always down on things, feeling like nothing you do will make a difference. Money and lack of goals are part of that. Money is worshipped, drugs are prevalent, and high schools lack discipline, encouraging no ambition. You have cell phones, malls, sex, business marketing, cable TV with 500 channels—whatever a teen can be interested in. Frequently, you also lack self-esteem. If your parents' relationship dissolved, you struggle with real role models. You lived with less parental guidance, leaving your dreams to be inspired by teachers or the media.

45 years ago, I grew up with having fun with what was available, and there was not much available. I had a great time until drugs and Vietnam. Mothers going to work became the norm, and then divorces skyrocketed. The loss of the neighborhood is my generation's responsibility too.

There was a time when life was good for America. Then everything shifted into a cornucopia of 17 years active discontent precipitated by John F. Kennedy's assassination and expressed poignantly by John Lennon's murder. It was a time when Vietnam fueled terrible apathy and introduced the drug culture as the new way to escape reality.

Those were the years that made the *Reckless Generation* go from good to bad. They gave up on faith, marriage and became selfish. Their lives overflowed with ugly passions. The reckless expression of those passions has impacted today's world significantly. In order for you to make a difference,



you have to know what got you here. We are going to look at some history to accomplish that.

So what are the main issues? Education is a major concern. The environment is high on almost everyone's list. The way business contributes to this issue is vital. The media, be it television, radio or print, plays too significant a roll in society to be ignored. The political arena is manipulated by the highest bidders. Organized religion must be considered as well. All of these entities have contributed to the loss of values in our society such as marriage or nobility of character. Society is complacent about where we are and where we are going. These issues combine into a state of existence we should be concerned about. The complacency of the *Reckless Generation* expressed by spoiling their children has increased ignorance and selfishness in the world. The *Reckless Generation* is passing on a fallen standard to the *Millennium Generation*.

#### **Is Education that important?**

Every one of us in every generation has at least one teacher that made an impression, which inspired us to a better life. Teachers have always been people overwhelmed, but they make it through because of one thing, being selfless. If there is one group that is honest, it is the teacher.

Education has been destroyed as teachers have been robbed of the right to discipline minds. Teachers are overworked to the absolute max and get paid minimum. If they did not love their jobs and helping their students prepare for life, where would we be?

#### **Why shouldn't money rule?**

Though America is rich, it is not a happy place. It ranks number 154 for unhappiness as a nation on the planet index of happiness.<sup>1</sup>

It has gone from one nation united to one nation divided. From one nation under God, to one nation under Wall Street.

The world's resources have been raped and destroyed by exploiting business. Greed has destroyed the environment. The natural beauty of the planet is a precious commodity that is rapidly dwindling. Nothing will be left if money continues to rule.

### **Why shouldn't media control what we think?**

There is plenty of good being attempted in the world, but you are forced to search for it. The decent things that happen in today's society are rarely reported by the media. We will discuss the reasons for this later.

Media. Now an institution went from good to bad. Instead of facts, all we hear are opinions. Instead of the full story, we just get sound bites. Did you know when the free press was started; its theme was 'to save the world from corrupt politicians and greedy businessmen.' I think it now needs to save itself because 7% of the people who watch the news think the news is just ok. In addition, hardly 50% watch the news. Local news is only about crime, instilling fear into society and the national news is about character assassination. Nice group of people, eh?

The world today does not have a sense of warmth in it; more of a feeling of mistrust prevails. What materials are available for my use? a me attitude and nothing to really support it. It is a wonder that there is anything good going on out there. However, surprisingly there is a lot of good, an enormous number of organizations that are not government or church related. Would the general media write about the

positive things that are going on in the world? No! Because they think those things do not sell. The media zeroes in on all the bad, and though crime is down nine percent from ten years ago, local TV news only reports on crime, which then elevates fear. The media's theme when inaugurated with the free press had a motto, "to save the world, to save the world from bad politicians and greedy businessmen." The media in the 1960's via television looked at the bottom line of the accounting sheet and raced to be first with the news so they were first to report it. The media is a powerful tool that has grown out of control and there are four good media organizations to day: NBC News, BBC News, NPR, and the New York Times.

**What's wrong with politics being tied to money and media?**

The issue with politics arises when candidates running for office are sold like products. The real issues are rarely debated so voters make educated decisions. If money were eliminated from campaigns as it has been in Great Britain and Japan, would candidates be as easily bought or sold? The focus of the campaign trail would be debates between the candidates.

**What's wrong with organized religion trying to change things?**

Religions can incite hate, where it is supposed to enliven hope, charity and love. However, once a person's religion is ingrained, there is little that can be changed. Religion is about helping your neighbor and it seems more cult act than helping your neighbor. A perfect example is Israel and the Palestinian state. What a mess. Hate versus hate. So demoralizing.

Protestants and Catholics in Ireland have been acting like the stupidest people in the world. It began with England antagonizing Ireland, thus creating hatred. Today, Jihad in Islam creates the terrorism sponsored by the Al Qaeda. These mad people blowing up themselves, commandeering planes, buses and now trains all for the sake of martyrdom are misled. Osama Bin Laden should be in the same league as Genghis Kahn and Hitler. But America with its imperialist marketing business strategies should also be condemned. I believe in adding help to poverty programs via business opportunities by American businesspersons. Coca cola does this. American businesspersons as well as businesspersons from other countries should look at doing business two ways. First, how the business their soliciting will help the impoverished area of the world they enter first. Second, after helping create jobs and increasing jobs in these impoverished areas, then and only then people become people that are good and business increase with each sector getting a piece of the pie. Exploiting & greed destroys, people working together unites. Customs of various nations must be respected as long as the customs of these people are decent. The worst aphrodisiac is people who become corrupted by power. They should be shot. Its time now for globalization and a tree should not be saved if a family cannot eat. Why does a family break up? No food and money. If this world practiced sharing instead of hoarding, the world would be a better place. People need to eat in the third world. 800 million people do not know where their next meal will come from. Steps must be taken for globalization, now!

Organized religion is manmade and administers hierocracy, rule by the clergy. Churches do not preach about the love of heaven but instill the fear of hell instead. Religion is into drama, money and as a

result, hypocrisy. A belief system is one of our vital needs, but the way religion is generally performed makes even the devout wonder sometimes. The world's most famous, and possibly the most controversial religious leader, Jesus Christ, rebelled against the organized religion of his day. He also left an example of how to conduct a righteous rebellion.

### **What's wrong with the change in values?**

Baby Boomers were doing a good job until the Vietnam War. They came to peace with losing their hero, JFK, and were starting to move on. But when Vietnam happened, so did drugs. They ran rampant. So did sex. It was "free love, man." The values taught by the *Greatest Generation* were shelved, and attitudes were awful. Sacrifice was thrown out. It was inevitable that marriage would be abused. They did not see Vietnam as a noble cause so they protested. Then talk about hypocrisy. They got greedy after complaining about greed. They were rash and reckless.

The values of friendship, love, support, integrity, selflessness, manners and sacrifice to name a few went out the door, starting from the graduating class of 1967. Everyone wanted everyone else to have these qualities, but now very few were willing to be the ones with those qualities.

The values that gave the world a sense of warmth have never returned. One of the deepest losses has been the loss of neighborliness. Neighbors do not talk, are not friends and if anything just gossip about each other.

Nobleness was once highly valued. A noble man or woman acquired the reputation of having impeccable manners and selflessness. It meant

having courage—the courage of conviction to do right, and with politeness. A noble person was known to laugh with someone, never at them. They would know nothing of gossip, wrong, self-pity, condescension, and many bad traits, habits or faults. Friends could count on them in need because they knew it was indeed.

**Do you like the government's public relations campaign?**

People not involved in government, regular citizens, are usually good. Governments are the problem, when the people who control government control the insight, propaganda, and fear of the public. Brainwashing is the easiest way a government can infuse inhabitants and citizens of their countries with hysteria.

People in general around the world are good. They desire peace. The people controlling the governments of nations create the disillusionment and unrest. This is true even in America.

"Nothing was ever settled by war," wrote Napoleon Bonaparte. As a man seasoned in war, his words are perceptive. Yet we continue to seek to resolve terrorism through war. You as the *Millennium Generation* can make the world better if you yearn to save and repair this forsaken world through peaceful solutions. Only your actions will demonstrate that terrorism will not solve the problem of poverty. I encourage you get first-hand experience in the impoverished world. You will learn why the world is fragile.

You will also become the representative of our nation. Right now the military and politicians represent you. Do you agree with their representation?

It is in giving that life becomes better. My hopes for a better world lie in your hands. I am optimistic that you, the *Millennium Generation*, will rise up and make this world a better place, clearing out the bad and reintroducing the good. You can save your world—the world you inherit—by being part of the good out there.

**If it's working, why fix it?**

America was founded on four freedoms: freedom of expression, freedom from want, freedom from fear, and freedom to worship. These four freedoms were proudly invoked by President Franklin Roosevelt and embraced by the *Greatest Generation* but not thought much of by my *Reckless Generation*, and now the *Millennium Generation* has really no idea what they want.

America is the land of the free and will bear any burden to always to be free. Oppressed countries have many rival political party members in jail, but America does not, because of the freedom of expression.

An American citizen has the freedom to choose what profession they would like to enter in pursuit of a good life. In oppressed nations citizens are forced into work the oppressive leadership chooses. This is our freedom from want.

The American military insures the freedom from fear. In oppressed nations, the military forces people to keep in line against their will. Life often hangs in a delicate balance.

Finally America lets its citizens choose what religion they want to worship under heaven. The God of the Hebrew and Christian writings has always been big on freedom to worship because he wants people to worship and understand him in the most comfortable way, in spirit and

in truth, not coercion. Forced religion does not work and only antagonizes people. The freedom of will as well as freedom of choice granted us in this country comes from America's religious foundation.

This all sounds so good. You may be tempted to say, "It isn't broken. Why fix it?" The problem is that America has slipped into a state of self-satisfaction. Everyone lives in their own world. Other's people's problems really don't matter until those problems cross into someone else's world. Selfish attitudes say, "Tough it out. Work it out yourself." A person needing support is ignored, even despised. When someone who has held this attitude finds themselves needing help, it just magnifies apathy. Complacency will destroy society and all civil good. Complacency has no friends. It is the calm before the storm.

#### **So what will this book do for me?**

This book challenges many assumptions, especially relating to American politics, the media, American business, and a number of other self-focused entities, even organized religion. I have learned through my 50 years that organized religion is as man made as politics. However, I have seen too many "miracles" to not believe that there is one thing that is constant—God/heaven.

Before you get nervous, this book is not a religious work. My purpose is not to God-bash you. At the same time I have seen a spiritual thread running through everything, "a purpose under heaven for everything" as a wise man once said.

When Pearl Harbor was attacked, Americans were not rich but doing the right thing was the norm. When 9-11 happened, America was wealthy, but doing what was right was now based on convenience, not moral values. The *Greatest Generation* had nothing but one thing when Pearl



Harbor was attacked. What the *Greatest Generation* had was faith--faith in themselves, faith in their country and faith in God.

The *Reckless Generation* had everything but one thing when 9-11 happened. Most of the *Reckless Generation* did not have that one thing--faith. The lack of that one thing made a difference. Even now, a few years after 9-11, we are still in a rage, confusion and disoriented. The terrorists on 9-11 caught us off guard. Our initial reaction--go into Afghanistan and catch Osama--was the right thing to do. Then our direction became blurred. Our eye fell on Iraq. Saddam Hussein had nothing to do with 9/11. The pretext that Iraq had weapons of destruction proved false. All we have succeeded in doing over the last five years is to rile up the insurgents, and we have no idea when we will catch them, if at all.

The majority of the *Greatest Generation* made it through major difficulties and were quite selfless, thinking of others and doing only good. They followed a clear moral compass. The war was fought for liberty, so that nations could determine their own government. Is this the true motive today?

It has been said that all generations go bad. The *Reckless Generation* failed to appreciate the inherent nobility the *Greatest Generation* offered them, so it went from bad to worse. The majority of baby boomers did not do as well as their parent's generation. It is time that both the *Reckless* and the *Millennium Generations* pick up the fallen standard and repair it and then when their generations are over, they will have a flaming torch of selflessness to pass to their children's future.

It has been suggested that the *Millennium Generation* is 50% wholesome, 50% wicked, due to the break up of the family. When divorce enters or passing passions leave a child with only one parent, that child's development is jeopardized. The chance of that child leading a decent life is compromised. I wonder what my father would have been like if he and his younger brother had not rescued by his aunt. He belonged to the *Greatest Generation* who had confidence in who they were and what they were here for. They beat Hitler, Tojo, and the depression.

It is vital for the *Millennium Generation* to pick up the fallen standard, dream, and to not only reach for but to develop integrity. The *Millennium Generation* may find very few examples in the *Reckless Generation*, but they can look to the *Greatest Generation*, their grandparents, as their role models and examples. Baby Boomers grew up to rashly rebel against tradition. They asked hard questions, didn't like the answers, and threw all caution to the wind. They were reckless.

Will you do the same? Or will you learn from the results of their experiment? Maybe because you have lived with all this your whole life, it all seems normal. Things weren't always like they are now. Let me show you where things were and where they are now.

