



# Marketplace Moments

## Bibliophoria

### The New Media Frontier Blogging, Vlogging, and Podcasting for Christ. by Reynolds and Overton

It was not that long ago that analysts talked about the technology divide, those who has computers and those who don't. In most parts of developed or newly industrialized nations, we have moved way beyond it. Since the dot.com boom and bust, the term internet divide came into use of those who have internet access and those who do not. We have also moved beyond that into what we now know as the new media divide. This divide is separated more by age and generation than anything else.

The new media of podcasting, blogging and vlogging are used and viewed by our youths, primarily below 30 years of age. Then there are social networking sites like Facebook and Twitters. These are an integral part of growing up for the new generation.

This book explores the benefits and pitfalls of these new trends, particularly in losing a generation and being effectively irrelevant if we ignore it. Even the new US president Obama and his team knows full well. For the first time ever, a candidate has raised more money and influence through the new media than any other election before it and won.

The New Media Frontier contains a collection of essays that focuses on the landscape of new media and its' influence. Young people cannot imagine life without

## THE NEW MEDIA FRONTIER

BLOGGING, VLOGGING, AND PODCASTING  
FOR CHRIST

JOHN MARK REYNOLDS & ROGER OVERTON  
FOREWORD BY HUGH HEWITT

cell phones, sms, ipods and facebook.

*"The changes that technology has wrought are mostly invisible to them" (Anderson). Also most youths believe that these technologies are only tools. It depends on how you use it. But is it really? What are the benefits and deficiencies of communications online?*

*Technology tends to exacerbate and reinforce existing human and cultural values, the problems that arise from technology are ultimately in our values, not in the technology itself. Our use of technology illuminates values already present within us. (Anderson)*

On the application side, how can we harness the use of the new media in building communities, in youth ministries, in theological dialogues and apologetics. We cannot escape the new media and still be relevant as believers. So let us engaged it with opened minds and opened eyes.

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### Highlights

- The New Media Frontier
- Be Aware
- The Day the Earth Stood Still

## Of the Heart and Mind

### Be Aware

Amidst the whirlwinds of economic downturn, where people are losing jobs left and right, a peculiar AGM gripped the news in Singapore for a few weeks of a rarely noticed organization called AWARE (Association of Women for Action and Research). At this AGM, a surprise challenge from a new team stood for election and won from the former committee and took over leadership of this not-for-profit organization. It went into the media and quickly became a media frenzy. Old guards, new guards exchanged discourses in the papers almost daily.

What was at stake was essentially a sex education program that quietly promoted homosexuality as normal, contrary to mainstream sentiments of multi-cultural and multi-religious Singapore.

Christians are sometimes divided as to what could or needs to be done. It perhaps mirrors the movie 'Mission', where two Jesuit priests, in wanting to protect a village of converts while the Portuguese army approaches to enslave the villagers and sell them off. One, who has disavowed violence chooses not to do anything but prayed while the other took up arms to defend. Both were killed in the onslaught of the Portuguese. (Insight from an e-mail exchange of a brother). His

question was: "If you are the priest, whom do you want to play? The one who prays or the one who takes up arms?"

*"To understand reality is not the same as to know about outward events. It is to perceive the essential nature of things. The best-informed man is not necessarily the wisest. Indeed there is a danger that precisely in the multiplicity of his knowledge he will lose sight of what is essential. But on the other hand, knowledge of an apparently trivial detail quite often makes it possible to see into the depth of things. And so the wise man will seek to acquire the best possible knowledge about events, but always without becoming dependent upon this knowledge." Dietrich Bonhoeffer.*

Bonhoeffer was a pastor who was executed for involvement to overthrow Hitler in 1945.

The 'Aware Saga' as some calls it, has brought to light some of the under-currents that existed in Singapore society, the interest or non-interest of various communities. What are we to make of these?

The Qohelet in Ecclesiastes speaks of times:

<sup>ECC 3:1</sup> There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: <sup>ECC 3:2</sup> a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, <sup>ECC 3:3</sup> a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, <sup>ECC 3:4</sup> a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to

mourn and a time to dance, <sup>ECC 3:5</sup> a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain, <sup>ECC 3:6</sup> a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, <sup>ECC 3:7</sup> a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, <sup>ECC 3:8</sup> a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

It was English philosopher Edmund Burke who said, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." Idleness is not one of the attributes for activity. Even at times to be silent and refrain, there is to be conscious assessment of the times and seasons. It is however, unfortunate that many Christians are both ill informed and apathetic. More than that, our faith has not informed us of the culture in which we lived in and our spirituality has not been engaged in how we live out in our earthly activities.

**BE AWARE !!!** We are in the midst of a fierce spiritual battle (Eph 6:12), fleshed out in the arenas of daily life, for the bodies, hearts and minds of persons in need of Jesus the Savior. Whether we like it or not, we are in the thick of it. In a 'Flat World' described by Thomas Friedman, we are back in the wild wild west, all is fair game.

*The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world that it leaves to its children." Dietrich Bonhoeffer. May God gives us wisdom and strength to do what is right and good.*

## Eyes in a Darkened Room

### The Day the Earth Stood Still

I took note more of earth day today, partially because of the 1 hour blackout and this movie. The movie is a loose remake of a 1951 movie of the same name. In the movie, Keanu Reeves is an alien named Klaatu who is on a mission to save the earth from the destructive lifestyle of the human race. He met with Dr. Helen Benson (Jennifer Connelly) who is encouraging him to do so. I don't particularly fancy Reeve's and Connelly's acting but I am intrigued by some of the conversations and reflects the worldview of Hollywood.

*Klaatu: I can't risk the survival of this planet for the sake of one species. If the earth dies, you die. If you die the earth survives.*

Now that is an interesting and utilitarian perspective from an alien, perhaps a Darwinist? If there is no God and humans are but pests to the other species, it makes sense. But the irony is that there is no real compelling reason. Even for humanist to justify why we should allow humans to continue existing while destroying the earth and other living organisms.

The justification from another alien in the movie who lived among humans for 70 years just



simply said that despite humans self destructiveness, this is now his home and opts to die with the human race.

Klaatu seeing the reconciliation of Helen and her step son just said, "There's another side to you. I feel it now". In all the justifications garnered by humanists for the non-existence of God, and post-modern relativists who could not justify even their own relative view points, 'Feelings' becomes the only measurement and yardstick.

Christians however, have both a rational and reason. For God so loved the world (the cosmos, the created order), that He gave his one and only begotten son...(John 3:16).

Environmentalists argues that to save the earth, many have opted to turn back the clock. In a plea to change Klaatu's mind:

*Helen: We can change, we can still turn things around.*

*Klaatu: We watched, we waited and hoped that you would. It's reached the tipping point. We have to act. We'll undo the damage you've done and give the Earth a chance to begin again.*

Here again lies a big difference between the humanist and the Christian. The humanist has no bearing or hope because their theology is also primarily existential (living for the here and now). For the Christians, we look forward to the new heaven and the new earth. It is not only where all creation will be redeemed, but that technology (it



will no longer be a garden but a city remember?) will be perfected and harmonized with the new regenerated order (Rev 21 & 22).

Finally giving in

*Klaatu: It comes to you at a price, to you and your way of life.*

*Helen: But we could change, just give us a chance.*

Hollywood continues to live in fantasy land? We could change just on our own? Let see...the Fall...Noah and the ark...and we still need the Cross. What is missing is truly the appreciation of original sin. That which not only affected our relationship with God and with each other, but also with our relationship with the environment in which we live in. Thorns and thistles grew after the pronouncement of judgment after the Fall (Genesis 3).

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So where does this leaves us?

The greatest irony is that the people who have all the reasons and responsibilities are among the least who cares for our environment. We have for the most part as the people of God forgotten the creation mandate to be stewards of the earth.

Christian engineers and

businesses need to design better cars that are less pollutant, factory processes reduces toxic chemicals, pesticides that are environmentally friendly, policies and laws that helps to conserve forests and resources and be at the forefront as advocates for the environment. Start new enterprise in recycling business, water purifications, clean drinking water,

irrigations etc. The opportunities are endless if we put our hearts and minds to it. I am glad we have Earth Day. May we celebrate it as a day to remember our Creation Mandate, to reclaim our rightful place in the kingdom as Stewards of the Earth.

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