

Passing the Baton: Homeschooling and Winning the Race of Life

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Is the baton being passed?

- The current generation of leaders will pass into retirement between 2011 and 2025. Sounding the alarm, pollster George Barna asks, “Who are the successors we are preparing to stand on our shoulders and build on the foundations we have laid.... it’s not happening.”
- *In business.* The *Harvard Business Review* reports that “The CEO succession process is broken in North America and is no better in many other parts of the world.” Taleo, a talent management consultancy, says that the U.S. will have a 10 million worker shortfall by 2010. Five hundred of the largest companies can expect to lose 50 percent of their senior management in that time, and 40% of companies don’t have a leadership succession plan.
- *In government.* *Governing* magazine reports that as baby boomers retire, the knowledge and experience necessary to conduct government is going out the door with them. Warns Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao, "The looming retirement of so many baby boomers is a seismic event that will affect our workforce in profound ways.”
- *In the church.* The number of adults who do not attend church in America has nearly doubled since 1991, and only 51% of Protestant pastors and just 8% of Protestant parishioners possess a biblical worldview. According to George Barna, “Fewer than one-twentieth of church households ever worship God outside of a church service or have any type of regular Bible study or devotional time together during a typical week.”

Will Durant: “From barbarism to civilization requires a century; from civilization to barbarism needs but a day.”

Serge Trifkovic, *Defeating Jihad*, March 2006: “This war is being fought, on the Islamic side, with the deep belief that the West is on its last legs. The success of its demographic onslaught on Europe enhances the image of a ‘candy store with a busted lock,’ and that view is reinforced by the evidence from history that a civilization that loses the urge for self-perpetuation is indeed in peril.”

“Notice on Further Strengthening Marxist Atheism Research, Propaganda and Education,” *Communist Party of China*, 2005: “Attention shall be centered on the party cadres and juveniles. And relevant work shall be done persistently and incessantly, with an effort to create healthy social values, and good social environment, under which science and civilization are advocated, fatuity and superstition are opposed, and evil teachings and heterodox are boycotted.”

Alexis de Tocqueville: “We therefore should not console ourselves by thinking that the barbarians are still a long way off. Some peoples may let the torch be snatched from their hands, but others stamp it out themselves.”



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How did Jesus do it?

- Jesus led based on his total obedience to God
- Jesus led based on his anointing
- Jesus led based on his deep love for his followers
- Jesus led based on his intercession for them
- Jesus led based on his trust in God's work in them
- Jesus led based on his transparent with-ness
- Jesus led based on a primary concern for character development

- Gunter Krallman, *Mentoring for Mission*, p. 123

Hebrews 11:39-40. “All these were approved through their faith, but they did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that they would not be made perfect without us.”

Hebrews 12:1-2. “Therefore since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us, and run with endurance the race that lies before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that lay before Him endured a cross and despised the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of God's throne.”



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