

17 days ago I experienced what most of you already know; the miracle of life. My baby girls came to this world as an early Independence Day gift, and it was a celebration like no other. I've been told many times what parenthood would be like, but it didn't completely register until it happened. I have unconditional love for these 2 angels and the largest sense of responsibility imaginable.

Throughout these last 3 weeks, emotions have run high. I'm sure lack of sleep made a healthy contribution, which I'm starting to get used to. But it's really got me thinking. What an exciting time to be alive. I think of all the advances that I've seen in my 35 years. Technologically we are so connected. Information travels at the speed of light. Phone calls can be received virtually anywhere. Airplanes fly themselves. And you can buy groceries (think diapers) without setting foot in a store! We live in a 24 hour world. Remember when 7-11 was the only thing open between 7am-11pm?

Terms like Google, online banking and mega-pixel are ubiquitous in our vocabulary. Gone forever are VCR's, typewriters and Sanka. Moore's Law, coined by Intel co-founder Gordon Moore, holds that the number of transistors on a chip doubles every 2 years, rendering previous semiconductors obsolete. Imagine what we'll be seeing in 20 years, 50 years and beyond. Our refrigerators might be stocking themselves.

It wasn't too long ago that you had to get up off the couch to change the channel on the TV, and the choices were little more than the big 3. Now televisions have become the center point for home entertainment centers bringing video, music, email and the web in digital format where we can dictate what we want on demand.

Advances in medicine are treating previously incurable diseases and improving and pro-longing the quality of life. Just 10 years ago, my sister lost her battle with a brain tumor. I often wonder if it would be different today.

It's exciting how globalization is literally making the world smaller. Walt Disney had the vision. Travel, commerce, and the spread of culture continue to make planet earth a better place. My guess is by the time my girls are in high school, Chinese will be part of the curriculum and field trips will be brought to the classroom.

I'm convinced that this new generation will have little patience for waiting. They couldn't imagine a 2 week turnaround for pictures to be developed. Paying \$4 for water will likely be the norm. Will they ever write a check? Will they learn long division and have to show their work? Will video games become a distorted reality?

Life on the surface seems so much simpler now, but in actuality I think it's significantly more complex. Competition is rampant. We require instant gratification. Hate seems to be spreading faster than ever. Geo-Politics are a big concern and are clearly here to stay. There is a polarization of wealth, and perpetually rising costs for food, energy, medicine and education are hurting a growing size of the population. Thanks to some number crunching by our Nancy Tredwell, it appears I'm going to be facing half a million dollars each to put my girls through college starting in 2025. GULP!

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But after factoring everything in, this might be the most exciting time to be alive in history. True the days of the US being the sole Super power are probably nearing an end. Setting politics and economics aside, this is still the greatest country in the world. We have so much to be grateful for, and every reason to be optimistic for the future. In this profession, I learn something new everyday, and I relish that. I've got a lot more to learn, and I plan to share that knowledge with my girls. I'm counting on them teaching me too. Isn't that what life's about?

So to steal a line from the great Satchmo; "I see babies cry, I watch them grow. They'll learn much more, than I'll ever know. And I think to myself, what a wonderful world."

Have a great weekend.

Mike Frazier