Looking ahead through a reareview mirror

By Editor-in-Chief David L. Hoexter, DDS, BA, FACD, FICO

This year looks to be one of decision and direction. I think we can all agree that 2008 was a year of highs and lows, wrong decisions and indecision. It was a year that really tested our trust. Sometimes we were floating on clouds and sometimes the clouds couldn’t sustain our weight and we spiraled downward. Queen Elizabeth, the pinnacle of proper English, put it best when she called 1992 “annus horribilis,” or “horrible year,” which can also be applied to 2008.

Hopefully, the new administration will bring necessary change. As a country, we became greedy and obsessed with material possessions. We were rewarded and deceived by banks, mortgage companies, Wall Street and government leaders. Even Congress revoked protections that had previously been in place to protect the unwary consumer. Unfortunately, the subprime mortgage fallout affected the entire world. Trust was lost. Whose fault was it, the greed of the seller or the last of the buyer? Wall Street’s “three card Monty” left a void. Business slowed and a plethora of jobs were lost. Bank mismanagement left society without future security. What about their oral health care?

The economic difficulties of 2008 were joined with hatred, uncertainty, killings and violence. In Mumbai (Bombay), India, innocent persons were slaughtered. For what reason and everywhere in between, stay up-to-date with the latest news.

Looking ahead through a rearview mirror

We are now in 2009. The past is the past. Hope is the future and it is eternal. We must campaign to help the public become aware of the nutritional foods that are necessary for good oral health. We must help the young to acquire good oral hygiene. We can volunteer as dentists to participate in the year in elementary schools and educate today’s youth on how to prevent caries and other oral problems.

We should reward those who do benevolent deeds and we should plan together how to proceed.

Most importantly, we must learn to forgive, learn to listen and avoid repeating obvious errors.

Plenty of you are already doing your part and plenty of you have good ideas for the future. I would like to hear from you. Please e-mail me at DrHoexter@gmail.com and let me know your thoughts, and tell me about who is doing what to help. Learn from the annus horribilis year of 2008 ... and don’t forget to brush!

From Wall Street to Main Street and everywhere in between, stay up-to-date with the latest news.

About the author

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