**Weekly Email 3**

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1. What issues do children and youth face in the twenty-first century?

I think that the challenges for children and youth in the twenty-first century have become less physical and more mental. In developed countries, children no longer have to overcome challenges like malnourishment or child labor. Instead, I think that youth today have to deal more with social and mental challenges, such as being bullied, addiction issues (not only to drugs or alcohol, but to less admitted addictions like food, video games, social networking, tv shows; anything that they are devoting a lot of their life to even though they may not realize it), family relationship problems, and misplaced attitudes (being ‘owed’, even though they have lots of possessions).

Youth today also face a big challenge in getting prepared for life as an adult; in previous decades, children had to learn how to survive earlier in their lives, especially if they were used as child labor. It is common now to find youth that don’t have plans for post-secondary education, or what they will do to support themselves while they pursue that education. Now, I am not saying that they should have post-secondary education; it is just that many youth don’t even know what they want to do with their life! That is just my opinion, however, since in my family, my parents constantly challenge my siblings and I to have at least a base outline of what we plan on doing when we move out.