

“Lighten Up” for God’s sake!

There is no doubt that these are serious times that we are living in.

Serious times require serious people to deal with them, which calls for sober, rational, hopefully intelligent, and temperate behavior. But when the effect of our involvement is understood to be a long term process rather than a short term proposition, the problems that exist become a heavy weight to constantly continue to bear. Hence, burn-out!

But we still need these serious people to help us confront these serious situations, and we can’t afford to lose their valuable skills and abilities that give us hope that, in the end, a remedy will be found and we will prevail.

Aside from the practices of our founding fathers which included much, oh so much, prayer to the God of the Universe who is the God of Nations there had to be moments of unwinding. Moments of relaxing. Moments of “letting their hair down” (a reference to women only letting their properly braided or pinned up hair hang down unrestricted in personal private or intimate moments), of levity.

While in the Republic of South Vietnam (MAC-V Advisory Team II) we were told that we were surrounded by a large force of Viet-Cong (VC) and North Vietnam soldiers (NVA) and because of the monsoon cloud cover we, (our seventeen member unit), could not expect much help. We waited there for days and as the tension grew someone began to crack a joke regarding our seemingly hopeless predicament. Another joke soon followed. And then another. We were shaking with laughter, tears rolling from our eyes. Our CO (commanding Officer) just shook his head and said, “You American GI’s amaze me. In the midst of this situation you all find time to laugh. Simply amazing!” By-the-way, we survived, but that’s a story for another day.

My point is simply this, “When things are so serious, as they often are, and the pressure you’re under seems more than you can bear, and there appears to be no immediate relief in sight... first pray, and then LIGHTEN UP!” Trust in the power of Almighty God and act out your faith that He is able by enjoying a good laugh.” That’s right. Laughter is also a very special gift from above. It’s a necessary tool in preparing yourself to return to the serious business at hand. Word Up!