

My Rosy Colored Glasses

By Marilyn Reeves

Reluctantly, I strapped myself back into my time machine and braced myself for another look at the future. So far, taking it just a year at a time, I had become so discouraged that I feared I would soon be witnessing the end of the world, or at least the end of humanity. So I decided to try changing my point of view. Putting on my rosy colored glasses instead of the dark ones, I set the coordinates to the year 2118 – one hundred years from now – and decided to begin my journey over the continent of Africa to see how badly global warming had taken its toll there.

Immediately, I became frustrated with the latitude and longitude settings, as all I could see below me was an endless expanse of green. This couldn't be Africa! Where was the Sahara? Could it be? No, that's impossible! Had mankind somehow figured out a way to control the weather, so that for the first time in thousands of years, the Sahara was green again?

Zooming in to view the creatures roaming the savanna, I saw a healthy abundance of wildlife – including elephants – which had somehow managed to escape extinction after all! I saw immense farmland tended by heavy machinery and cities filled with bustling people and flying mobiles zipping around and between tall glass buildings. It looked as if Africa was doing very well in the twenty-second century. I was overjoyed!

I reset my coordinates to take me in a more northerly path across Asia. Gone were the black clouds of soot belching out from factory chimneys. The skies were filled with more of those flying vehicles that seemed to run on pure air. The people looked healthy, and I saw none of the over-crowding I had anticipated. It was as if the population had begun to gradually decrease, rather than continue its wanton growth as I had feared.

Then, after a quick pass over the Pacific, I was greeted by the coast of California. Again, green fields and gardens everywhere, even around the tall city buildings. And more flying conveyances. People were out walking and talking with each other, not just sitting home alone surrounded by electronic devices in a world run by robots. And there seemed to be fewer people there as well. With more wide open spaces there was room to breathe again!

I decided to tune into the local news. There was no mention of war, terrorism, or gun violence anywhere. School shootings had been curbed when the media stopped giving out the names of the perpetrators. Illegal immigration had become a thing of the past, due to more generous trade between the wealthier nations and third-world countries. Proving once again that Prohibition doesn't work, the illegal drug trade had gone bust because drug use had fallen dramatically once it had been legalized in the United States.

Somehow mankind had managed to get its act together over the next century! I hoped my optimistic vision wasn't just due to my rosy-colored glasses.