

*You know you're living in 2009 because:*

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You know you're living in 2009 because:

1. You accidentally enter your password on the microwave.
2. You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.
3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of 3.
4. You e-mail the person who works at the desk next to you.
5. Your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is that they don't have e-mail addresses.
6. You pull up in your own driveway and use your cell phone to see if anyone is home to help you carry in the groceries.
8. Every commercial on television has a Web site at the bottom of the screen.
9. Leaving the house without your cell phone, which you didn't have the first 20 or 30 years of your life, is now a cause for panic and you turn around to go and get it.
10. You get up in the morning and go on line before getting your coffee.
11. You are too busy to notice there was no #7 on this list.
12. You actually scrolled back up to check that there wasn't a #7 on this list.

Author Larry Davies, in his book *Sowing Seeds of Faith in a World Gone Bonkers*, tells a story with which many of us can identify. He says the check-out line at his local grocery store was long and he was in a hurry. Seeing another line nearby nearly empty, he walked over and stood behind the only customer still to make a purchase. A young twenty-something woman was holding a small basket with fifteen to twenty jars of baby food. There was nothing else in the basket: just baby food.

"This is great," he thought. "She'll only be a minute and I can be on my way."

The clerk took the woman's check for seven dollars and forty-three cents and efficiently typed in the numbers and slid it in the proper slot on the register. At this point the cash drawer was supposed to open and a receipt printed, but not this time. A light began to blink: "See Manager." The clerk called on the intercom for the manager while running the check through again on her register. The same sign kept flashing: "See Manager." "Oh no!" thought Davies. "Not another delay. I'm in a hurry and don't need for the cash register to break down."

When the manager arrived, however, he didn't even look at the cash register, but instead picked up the check and began to talk to the customer. Davies could feel the muscles in his stomach tighten as the reality of what was happening struck him. The check for seven dollars and forty-three cents was no good and the manager was quietly saying she could not buy her baby food here. The clerk quickly set the groceries aside, closed her account and began to ring up Davies' purchase.

"She should manage her money better!" Davies tried to convince himself while leaving the store. But his flimsy excuses would not erase the picture in his mind of a grocery basket with jars of baby food.

Davies writes, "At this point, I want to finish the story by writing how I approached the manager and offered to pay for the purchase of the baby food. It was the right thing to do. I don't have much money, but I can afford seven dollars and forty-three cents. Instead,

hiding my light under a bowl, I turned my head and walked away. There are no acceptable excuses. I had a great opportunity to help someone and walked away.”

Losing sight of who we are and what we’re called to do can be easy in these hectic days.