

# Eye on the World

## *April 20, 2019*

This compilation of material for "Eye on the World" is presented as a service to the Churches of God. The views stated in the material are those of the writers or sources quoted by the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the members of the Church of God Big Sandy. The following articles were posted at churchofgodbigandy.com for the weekend of April 20, 2019.

**Compiled by Dave Havir**

**Luke 21:34-36**—"But take heed to yourselves, lest your souls be weighed down with self-indulgence, and drunkenness, or the anxieties of this life, and that day come on you suddenly, like a falling trap; for it will come on all dwellers on the face of the whole earth. But beware of slumbering; and every moment pray that you may be fully strengthened to escape from all these coming evils, and to take your stand in the presence of the Son of Man" (Weymouth New Testament).



An article by Thomas D. Williams titled "Muslim Woman Burned to Death in Bangladesh for Reporting Sexual Assault" was posted at breitbart.com on April 18, 2019. Following is the article.

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A 19-year-old Bangladeshi woman was soaked with kerosene and then lit on fire after filing a complaint against the headmaster of her Islamic school for sexual assault.

Nusrat Jahan Rafi reported that on March 27, the headmaster of her madrasa, Siraj-Ud-Daula, called her into his office and touched her several times in a sexual manner, at which point she fled from the office.

Ms. Rafi reported the assault at the local police station she gave a statement. According to a BBC report, the officer in charge recorded a video of her statement on his cell phone and the video was later leaked to local media.

The video shows the teenager trying to hide her face with her hands as she gives her testimony, while the policeman can be heard telling her to take her hands away from her face and insisting the incident was "no big deal."

After Ms. Rafi had filed her complaint, police arrested the headmaster, but shortly afterward a group of people assembled in the street demanding his

release. The demonstration was allegedly instigated by two male students, but local politicians were reportedly present as well.

On April 6, Ms. Rafi returned to her school to take her final exams. According to her own testimony given before she died, she was taken to the roof of the school by another female student, who told her that one of her friends was being beaten up.

When she reached the rooftop, four or five people wearing burqas surrounded her and tried to persuade her to retract her complaint against the headmaster, she said, and when she refused, they doused her in kerosene and set her on fire.

Chief Banaj Kumar Majumder of the Police Bureau of Investigation said the killers sought “to make it look like a suicide,” but the young woman lived long enough to be rescued.

As she was rushed to the hospital in an ambulance, Ms. Rafi recorded a statement on her brother’s cell phone in case she did not live long enough to give an official statement.

When she arrived at the local hospital, doctors found burns covering 80 percent of her body and since they did not have the facilities to treat the severe burns, they sent her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Ms. Rafi died on April 10, and thousands of people attended her funeral.

Local police have since arrested a total of 18 people, eight of them allegedly involved in the murder. Among those arrested are the two male students who organized the street protest in support of the headmaster as well as the headmaster himself.

Two of those arrested have reportedly testified that the murder was carried out at the direction of the headmaster.

Ms. Rafi’s death has become something of a cause célèbre in Bangladesh, sparking public protests as well as a wave of complaints on social media concerning the treatment of sexual assault victims in Bangladesh.



A Reuters article by Khalid Abdelaziz titled “Sudan’s Long-Time Survivor Bashir Is Finally Forced Out” was posted at [reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com) on April 11, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

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Omar Hassan Bashir survived multiple armed rebellions, economic crises and attempts by the West to make him a pariah before he was finally ousted as Sudan’s president by the military on Thursday following protests against his 30-year rule.

In an address on state television, Defence Minister Awad Mohamed Ahmed Ibn Auf said Bashir, who seized power in a bloodless coup in 1989, was under arrest in a “safe place” and a military council was now running the country. Sudanese sources said Bashir was at the presidential residence under heavy guard.

Tens of thousands of people danced and chanted anti-Bashir slogans in the streets of Khartoum, a sharp contrast to the past, when he fired up crowds with anti-Western rhetoric, sometimes breaking into impromptu dances.

Bashir, 75, was a master at playing rival factions among security services, the military, Islamists and armed tribes off against each other. But he underestimated the anger of young Sudanese men and women demanding an end to economic hardships.

He ultimately faced almost daily defiance in towns and cities across Sudan despite a crackdown by security forces using teargas and sometimes live ammunition, in which dozens of people have been killed.

Addressing soldiers in January, Bashir warned the "rats to go back to their holes" and said he would move aside only for another army officer or at the ballot box.

"They said they want the army to take power. That's no problem. If someone comes in wearing khaki, we have no objection," Bashir, wearing his military uniform, told soldiers at a base in Atbara, the northern city where protests erupted.

Later in January, Bashir declared a national state of emergency that expanded police powers and banned unlicensed public gatherings. He told parliament to postpone, not cancel, constitutional amendments that would allow him to seek another term.

Bashir, who came to power as an obscure army brigadier, has long been both a divisive and pragmatic figure.

Sudan drew heavy criticism for providing refuge to Osama bin Laden. Bashir later tried to improve the country's image by striking a 2005 peace deal that ended more than two decades of north-south civil war.

Since taking office in what was then Africa's largest country, he fought a protracted civil war with southern rebels which ended with the secession of South Sudan in 2011, and the loss of more than 70 percent of Sudan's oil.

Sudan has suffered prolonged periods of isolation since 1993, when the United States added Bashir's government to its list of terrorism sponsors for harboring Islamist militants. Washington followed up with sanctions four years later.

The protests in Sudan followed the success of similar but much bigger demonstrations in Algeria in forcing long-ruling President Abdelaziz Bouteflika to exit.

In the months before protests began in Sudan, people had already been struggling to make ends meet.

The government had hoped for quick financial support from wealthy Gulf Arab allies after Bashir sent troops to Yemen as part of a Saudi-led alliance fighting an Iran-aligned movement, but help was slow to arrive.

The trigger for the wave of protests was a government attempt to introduce unsubsidized bread. The demonstrations quickly turned political, demanding Bashir step down.



“Eye on the World” comment: The following list of articles consists of headlines of extra articles, which are considered international. The articles were not posted, but the headlines give the essence of the story.

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■ An article by George Martin, Peter Allen, Joel Adams, Joe Middleton, Jessica Green, Isabella Nikolic and Henry Martin titled “ ‘We Will Rebuild Notre Dame’: French President Macron Says ‘the Worst’ Has Been Prevented As Bell Towers Are Saved But Inferno Reduces Much of the Medieval Cathedral to Ashes in Just An Hour” was posted at [dailymail.co.uk](http://dailymail.co.uk) on April 15, 2019.

■ A Reuters article titled “Ukraine Says It Captured Russian Military Intelligence Hit Squad” was posted at [reuters.com](http://reuters.com) on April 17, 2019.



An article by Deena Shanker and Lydia Mulvany titled “Hormel Lawsuit Reveals What ‘Natural’ Meat Really Means” was posted at [bloomberg.com](http://bloomberg.com) on April 10, 2019. Following is the article.

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Consumers want “natural” meat—and the biggest meat companies want to sell it to them.

American shoppers are reaching for healthier, more environmentally and animal-friendly meat products, with 39 percent saying “all-natural” is the most important claim when purchasing red meat, according to a recent survey by Mintel. But there’s one problem: The U.S. Department of Agriculture says that when it comes to meat and poultry, the term “natural” means only that the product has no artificial ingredients and has been minimally processed.

It doesn’t mean anything when it comes to antibiotics, hormones or preservatives.

Companies such as Tyson Foods Inc., Pilgrim’s Pride Corp. and Hormel Foods Corp. have been snapping up smaller, outwardly progressive competitors in the burgeoning organic food space, seeking to capitalize on changing consumer tastes. At the same time, however, some of the major meat companies have been offering their own products as “natural,” replete with labels featuring blue skies and green fields.

On April 8, the Superior Court of the District of Columbia—a jurisdiction with stringent consumer protection laws—dismissed a lawsuit by the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) alleging Hormel was misleading consumers. The court held that as long as manufacturer labels are approved by the USDA, the advertising can use the “natural” claims. “[I]f a producer can accurately use a term in a label,” the court wrote, “the producer should be able to use the same term in its advertising.”

Hormel said in its most recent quarterly filing that its “Natural Choice” line of meats “showed excellent growth.” But in a 600-plus-page court filing in January, in which Hormel responded to the ALDF lawsuit, the company disclosed how it makes some of its Natural Choice products, as well as its perception of what consumers think they’re buying.

In statements disclosed in the filing, a company executive said the same pigs it uses to make its famous Spam brand meat product are also used in Natural Choice pork products. Those pigs are often given antibiotics and are rarely allowed outdoors.

“It’s a massive attempt to manipulate and dupe the consumer to purchase something they have no intention to purchase,” said David Muraskin, a food project attorney at Public Justice and lead lawyer for ALDF. The group said it plans to appeal the April 8 ruling.

“Our position has always been that Hormel Natural Choice products are produced, labeled, and marketed in conformance with all applicable laws and regulations,” Hormel said in a statement. “The USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service has specifically reviewed and approved the labels for Hormel Natural Choice branded products, including scrutinizing and approving the ‘Natural’ and ‘Preservative’-related language.”

Hormel’s marketing director said many consumers assume natural means no antibiotics.

Internally, Hormel employees questioned whether they were meeting consumer expectations, specifically around antibiotics, according to the court filing. The company’s director of marketing said in an email quoted in the document that “many consumer[s] assume Natural=RWOA [Raised Without Antibiotics].” Hormel stated in the filing that she was “simply making an observation.”

Consumer comments cited in the court filing often focused on the “no preservatives” claims, with one stating, for example, “We love your [Natural Choice] meats, my husband is allergic to nitrates, so thankful for your products . . .” Hormel stated that, at most, “the commenter purchased Natural Choice products because of the taste and because the commenter’s husband had no allergic reaction.”

Some of the natural ingredients used as preservatives in Natural Choice products are high in nitrates.

“There’s a difference between what’s legal and what’s ethical,” Nikolas Contis, a senior partner at brand consultant PS212, said of the Natural Choice marketing. “I think it’s unethical. They know the words are misleading.” Hormel on Wednesday rejected Contis’s assertion, saying it disagrees with “any implication that the advertising or labeling for the Hormel Natural Choice brand is misleading.”

Most animals raised for meat in the U.S. spend their lives in conventional indoor agricultural systems, routinely receiving antibiotics and sometimes growth promoters. While this isn’t what most consumers likely envision as “natural,” it’s a system that allows them to eat as much beef, pork, turkey and chicken as they want—no matter where they live or the time of year.

According to the court filing, Hormel executives said that these practices are deployed at the independent farms raising their animals, and that there is no difference between those raised for Spam and those destined for Natural Choice. (Hormel's Applegate brand, a small organic label it purchased in 2015, was not at issue in the lawsuit.)

There is "no separate manner in which the pigs raised for Hormel Natural Choice products are versus any other of Hormel's products, so Spam or any lunchmeat or bacon product," Corwyn Bollum, Hormel's director of pork procurement, said in a deposition cited in the court filing. That means only a "fairly small percent" of the pigs slaughtered for Natural Choice had any outdoor access, he said. Some pigs used in Natural Choice products received antibiotics and/or the growth promoter, ractopamine, according to other statements cited in the filing.

And it's not just the pigs: "Hormel Foods acknowledges that some cattle that [sic] used in Natural Choice beef products receive hormones," the company wrote in the filing.

It also stated that turkeys used in Natural Choice products may receive antibiotics.

Antibiotics are routinely administered to livestock to prevent disease, though the practice has been linked to a growing public-health crisis of antibiotic resistance in humans. Producers are supposed to allow enough time between the administration of antibiotics and the slaughter of the animal, such that the drugs have been flushed from its system, said Colin Johnson, a swine specialist with the Iowa Pork Industry Center in Ames, Iowa. He added, though, that trace amounts of some antibiotics remain legal.

Then there's ractopamine, a drug that changes animal metabolism to make the meat leaner and heavier. The drug is banned in China, Russia and the European Union, and tests of its safety for humans are limited. In the U.S. and dozens of other countries, however, the drug is legal to use. American pork producers reduced their usage after China's ban in 2011, since they look to that market for significant exports.

"I'd assume 'natural' wouldn't have ractopamine," Johnson said, though he added that the substance isn't harmful to humans.

"Antibiotic residues are very uncommon," Hormel said in a statement. "If our testing indicates a positive, that raw material is not used in our food production and does not enter the food chain."

The advertising claims about preservatives, like "no preservatives or artificial ingredients" and "no nitrates or nitrites added," are also misleading, ALDF alleged in its original complaint in 2016. On its website, after its "no preservatives" claim, Hormel adds the statement "except for those naturally occurring in cultured celery and cherry powder."

Celery juice powder is naturally high in nitrates. Additionally, many Natural Choice items also contain lactic acid starter, a bacterial culture. The Center

for Science in the Public Interest said bacterial cultures convert the nitrates into sodium nitrite, a meat preservative it warns should be avoided because studies link its consumption by children and pregnant women to cancer.

(CSPI for this reason specifically advises consumers to be wary of “natural” hot dogs and cured meats boasting of “no added nitrite.”)

“We continue to stand behind Hormel Natural Choice products,” Hormel said in its statement. “Hormel Natural Choice products are minimally processed and contain no artificial ingredients or chemical preservatives, and that’s clearly stated on the package.”



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled “Economics 101” was posted at patriot-post.us on April 15, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

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I was recently having a discussion with a fellow Conservative when it dawned on me that he actually believed that women were paid less than men for doing the same job. Because I know him to be a very bright, well-informed fellow in his early 60s, I figured if he had been successfully hoodwinked, there must surely be others on our side of the aisle who have fallen for the endless lies.

For openers, I pointed out to him that it is already the law of the land that, everything being equal, the same jobs call for the same salary. The problem is that everything is rarely equal. One person may have more education or greater work experience or be more willing to put in overtime.

The second problem is that when feminists cry foul, they usually are not talking about men and women doing the same job or even similar jobs. Instead, they talk about comparable jobs, and only they get to determine which jobs are comparable. So, of course, they go about it in such a way as to magnify the difference in salary. That means they will pretend that a nursery school teacher should be paid the same as a firefighter, instead of recognizing that a female firefighter is paid the same as her male counterpart.

The clincher in my discussion, though, came when I pointed out that if it was true that women were paid 79 cents for every dollar men are paid, why would anyone ever hire a man?

Oddly enough, women just might overtake men financially in the near-future, thanks to there being so many more females than males on our college campuses. At least that will be the future if women concentrate on such fields as the law, medicine, architecture and engineering. However, if they continue to focus on teaching, social work, lesbian studies, French poetry of the 18th century and the like, we will continue to hear that they’re being underpaid into the foreseeable future.

## ■ NATO

When President Trump first started griping about the NATO members not meeting their financial obligation, I was hoping it meant he was preparing to pull us out of the alliance. After all, Russia isn't about to invade us, so what do we stand to gain from financing a bunch of four-flushers like Germany, which still is refusing to contribute 2% of its GDP to its own defense, and Turkey, a Muslim nation run by a theocrat who is constantly playing footsies with Vladimir Putin. But you don't hear any of the Democrats calling for our severing ties with this notorious colluder with Russia.

If I were Trump, I'd ask NATO to intervene and help turn away the invaders from Mexico and Central America. If they're not willing to protect our sovereignty, I can't imagine any reason to protect theirs.

## ■ Schlepping with Sharpton

Of all the disgusting sights I've seen lately, about the only thing that comes closest to being as revolting as Joy Behar and Whoopi Goldberg trying to pass themselves off as political pundits on The View was watching the likes of presidential contenders Beto O'Rourke, Kirsten Gillibrand, Bernie Sanders, Julián Castro, Amy Klobuchar, Cory Booker, Elizabeth Warren and Kamala Harris, schlepping to New York in order to kiss Al Sharpton's ring and receive the schmuck's benediction.

Even if I were all in for the Green New Deal and considered Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez the hope for the future, I would be revolted to see my party's leaders paying court to the perpetrator of the Tawana Brawley hoax and the instigator of the Crown Heights racially-inspired, anti-Semitic, bombing that left eight people dead.

## ■ Reparation payments

Not too surprisingly, all eight of the simpleminded louts seeking their party's presidential nomination swore that they favored reparation payments to blacks and then tripped over each other in their race to sign their name on the dotted line. Even Herr Faust wasn't quite that anxious to trade his eternal soul for worldly treasure.

## ■ Tired-looking dog

Joe Neuner claims that an older, tired-looking dog wandered into his yard. The dog appeared to be well-fed and well cared for. "He calmly approached me. I patted him on the head and he followed me into the house. He slowly walked down the hallway, curled up in a corner and went to sleep.

"An hour later, he woke up, went to the door and I let him out."

"The next day, he was back. Again, he went to the corner, curled up and went to sleep for about an hour.

"We repeated this routine for about a week. Finally, one day, curiosity got the better of me and I attached a note to his collar that read: 'I would like to

know who the owner of this sweet dog is and if you are aware that almost every afternoon he comes to my house and takes a nap.

"The next day, he arrived on schedule, but I noticed there was a different note attached to his collar. It read: 'He lives in a home with six children, two of them are under the age of three. He's simply trying to catch up on his sleep. Would it be okay if I joined him tomorrow?'"



"Eye on the World" comment: The following list of articles consists of headlines of extra articles, which involve the United States. The articles were not posted, but the headlines give the essence of the story.

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### **Finances**

■ An article by Tyler Durden titled "Initial Jobless Claims Tumble to Fresh 50 Year Lows" was posted at zerohedge.com on April 18, 2019.

### **Green New Deal**

■ An article by Adam Forrest titled "Nancy Pelosi Dismisses AOC's Progressive Wing of Democrats As 'Like, Five People' " was posted at independent.co.uk on April 15, 2019.

### **Illegal immigration**

■ An article titled "Migrants Break Border Gate, Force Their Way Into Mexico" was posted at apnews.com on April 13, 2019.

■ An article by John Binder titled "Pew Research: Hispanics to Outpace Black Americans As Largest Voting Minority in 2020" was posted at Breitbart.com on April 16, 2019.

■ An article by Stephen Dinan titled "Arizona City [Yuma] Overwhelmed by Migrants Declares State of Emergency" was posted at WashingtonTimes.com on April 16, 2019.

■ An article titled "Cher Calls Trump An 'Ignorant Thug With a Lizard Brain' After He Applauds Her Immigration Stance" was posted at Yahoo.com on April 16, 2019.

### **Comments about weapons**

■ An article by Matt Vespa titled "Swalwell: I Will Jail Those Who Defy My Gun Grabbing Agenda" was posted at TownHall.com on April 15, 2019.

### **Comments about Trump support**

■ An article by Nikki Schwab titled "Trump Cracks Term Limit Joke After Mueller Report Released" was posted at NYPost.com on April 18, 2019.

## Comments about Trump opposition

- An article by Susan Jones titled "Schumer Omits Immigration From 'Priorities the American People Care About' " was posted at cnsnews.com on April 12, 2019.
- An article by Brian Slodysko titled "Democrats Raise \$75 Million So Far, Signaling a Drawn-Out Fight" was posted at dailyjournal.net on April 16, 2019.
- An article titled "House Democrats Subpoena Deutsche Bank for Trump's Financial Information" was posted at fox.com on April 16, 2019.
- An article by Shaquille Brewster titled "Sanders Releases 10 Years of Tax Returns Showing Income Bump From Campaign Book" was posted at cnbc.com on April 15, 2019.
- An article by Max Greenwood titled "Sanders Sees Path to Beating Trump in Rust Belt" was posted at thehill.com on April 13, 2019.
- An article titled "April National Poll: Bernie Takes Lead for Democratic Nomination, Mayor Pete on the Move" was posted at emersonpolling.com on April 13, 2019.
- An article by Brian Schwartz titled "Rising Democratic Star Pete Buttigieg Enlists Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton Fundraisers to Build His 2020 Campaign War Chest" was posted at cnbc.com on April 17, 2019.
- An article by Mark Z. Barabak titled "Mayor Pete Buttigieg Is the Hottest Thing in Politics; Can It Last?" was posted at latimes.com on April 12, 2019.
- An article by Carol Kuruvilla titled "Conservatives Are Trying to Claim Pete Buttigieg Isn't Actually a Christian [Because He Claims to Be a Gay Christian]" was posted at huffpost.com on April 12, 2019.
- An article by Kyle Moss titled "Pete Buttigieg Responds to Mike Pence: 'I Have a Problem With Religion Being Used As a Justification to Harm People' " was posted at yahoo.com on April 12, 2019.
- An article by Peter Wade titled "Rep. Jerry Nadler: Trump Has 'No Moral Authority' to Talk About 9/11" was posted at rollingstone.com on April 14, 2019.
- An article titled "Geraldo Rivera Has Little Doubt That Obama's DOJ 'Engineered' the Russia Probe" was posted at foxnews.com on April 12, 2019.
- An article by Calvin Woodward and Hope Yen titled "Trump Knew Wikileaks Until He Didn't" was posted at apnews.com on April 13, 2019.
- An article by Joshua Caplan titled "2020 Democrat Candidates Donated Only Tiny Fraction of Income to Charity in Recent Years" was posted at Breitbart.com on April 16, 2019.

## Harris and O'Rourke

- Looking back to March, an article by Jasper Scherer titled "At Kamala Harris' Houston Rally, Former Beto O'Rourke Supporters Weigh a New Option" was posted at chron.com on March 23, 2019.

## **Kamala Harris**

■ An article by Chelsea Janes titled "Sen. Kamala D. Harris Releases Tax Returns Showing Nearly \$1.9 Million in Household Income in 2018" was posted at [washingtonpost.com](http://washingtonpost.com) on April 14, 2019.

## **Irishman Robert Francis (Beto) O'Rourke**

■ An article by Michael Burke and Naomi Jagoda titled "O'Rourke Releases 10 Years of Tax Returns" was posted at [thehill.com](http://thehill.com) on April 13, 2019.

■ An article by John Nolte titled "Beto O'Rourke Says His Campaign Sacrifices Make Up for Miserly Charitable Donations" was posted at [breitbart.com](http://breitbart.com) on April 17, 2019.

## **News about the media**

■ An article by Victoria Gagliardo-Silver titled "Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Mentioned 3,181 Times on Fox in Six Weeks: 'We Have An AOC Segment Every Single Day' " was posted at [independent.co.uk](http://independent.co.uk) on April 12, 2019.

## **General interest**

■ An article by Madeline Osburn titled "Google Marks Pro-Life Film 'Propaganda,' But Labels Literal Nazi Propaganda Film 'History' " was posted at [thefederalist.com](http://thefederalist.com) on April 12, 2019.



***Isaiah 55:6-11***—"Seek you the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. 'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."